General Management Committee

Minutes

Wednesday 6 April 2005
1. NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the General Management Committee was held at Doherty’s St Helens Hotel on Wednesday 6 April 2005 commencing at 10:05 am.

Immediately following lunch, Mr Ed Wensing, formerly the Indigenous Affairs Officer with ALGA, addressed members on the relationship between Local Government and the Aboriginal Community.

ATTENDEES:

- Clr Lynn Mason  President
- Lord Mayor Rob Valentine  Hobart City Council
- Mayor Ross Hine  West - North West Region
- Mayor Mike Downie  West - North West Region
- Mayor Barry Easther  Northern Region
- Clr Robert Legge  Northern Region
- Mayor Deirdre Flint  Southern Region

APOLOGIES

- Mayor Cathy Edwards  Southern Region

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr Allan Garcia  LGAT
- Mr Ben Ikin  LGAT
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* Denotes Attachment
1.1 Subject: Confirmation of Minutes *

Mayor Mike Downie/Clr Robert Legge

That the Minutes of the meeting held 16 February 2005, as circulated, be confirmed.

Carried

Minutes of the meeting of 16 February 2005 are at Attachment to Item 1.1.

1.2 Subject: Business Arising *

That the Committee receive the report on business arising from the previous meeting.

Resolved

Update of Policy items from the last meeting - not covered in this Agenda are at Attachment to Item 1.2.

1.3 Subject: President’s Report

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Ross Hine

That the President’s report be received.

Carried

The President reported on her activities as follows –

Feb 18       Quadrant Investment Committee.
Feb 22       Meeting of the Meeting Regulations Working Group.
Feb 23-24    ALGA strategic planning, ALGA Board meeting.
Feb 24-25    Quadrant Strategic Planning, Quadrant Board meeting.
Feb 26-27    Councillor Development weekend, Launceston.
Mar 07       Waratah-Wynyard Council meeting.
Mar 08       Opposition Spokesman on Local Government Act 1993, in relation to Act amendments; Legislation Committee meeting.
Mar 09       General Meeting.
Mar 31       Food Regulation Ministerial Council Meeting.
Apr 01       Quadrant Investment reviews.
Apr 05       Regional Forums, North-west and Launceston.
1.4 SUBJECT: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT FEBRUARY 2005 - APRIL 2005

That the Committee note the report to be tabled on the day.

Noted

The Chief Executive Officer provided a brief oral report to the committee.
2. POLICY

Policy Items for Discussion & Decision.

2.1 SUBJECT: SEX INDUSTRY LEGISLATION

That the Committee note the verbal report to be presented on the day.

Noted

Allan Garcia brought to the attention of the Committee that the Association, through the Legislation Committee, has written to Minister Judy Jackson on particular matters in relation to the proposed sex industry legislation.

The Association is awaiting a response from the Minister.

2.2 SUBJECT: GREEN WASTE UPDATE *

That the Committee note the following report.

Noted

The Committee held considerable discussion in relation to the green waste issue.

Mayor Deirdre Flint noted the Association’s letter requesting information from Councils on green waste, and suggested that the low response rate (only 14 out of 29 Councils) may be partly attributable to the fact that Southern Councils had passed on the letter to the Southern Waste Strategy Authority (SWSA). She noted that this was the situation for Central Highlands Council.

Mayor Flint also drew the attention of the Committee to the correspondence between the Association and the SWSA. Mayor Flint acknowledged the good work done by the SWSA for the Southern Councils and reiterated concerns raised by Councillor Jock Campbell in relation to the role played by LGAT in negotiating an interim arrangement with the Director of Environmental Management.

In response, Allan Garcia also acknowledged the good work done by SWSA and confirmed the Association’s position as presented in its correspondence. Allan Garcia suggested this was essentially a matter of communication breakdown, which necessitated the Association’s response to SWSA in order to clarify the situation.
Allan Garcia noted that the next step was to bring the findings of the report to the attention of the Director of Environmental Management. The Lord Mayor suggested a dialogue between the Committee and SWSA occur in order to achieve an effective Statewide solution for the green waste issue, and that Councillor Jock Campbell be included in this process.

The Committee was of the general opinion that burning was the best option for green waste disposal and Clr Robert Legge raised the issue of Forestry burning and suggested that a ‘level playing field’ was not being presented by the State Government. Allan Garcia agreed, and suggested to the Committee that if an appropriate solution could not be achieved with the Director of Environmental Management, discussions be held with the Premier with a view to achieving a positive outcome for Local Government.

Background
A: Research into green waste disposal methods
As previously reported the Association has negotiated an interim arrangement with the Director of Environmental Management such that the burning of green waste will be permitted but only for a limited time and only in strict accordance with a number of conditions. These conditions have been communicated to all Councils. The interim arrangement was also negotiated on the basis that LGAT conduct an in-house study of various alternative green waste disposal options.

That study is now nearing completion. Its primary aim is to investigate alternative methods of green waste disposal for potential application by Local Government in Tasmania and thus assist in the development of a comprehensive strategy. This research will also help determine whether a further and more detailed cost benefit analysis needs to be conducted. If LGAT considers further research is required there is an option to extend the interim arrangement permitting the limited burning of green waste for a further six months pending completion of that research.

Preliminary research findings indicate three green waste disposal alternatives that may have some applicability for Local Government.

1. Composting offers a potentially long-term solution to the green waste disposal issue. A method adopted extensively internationally (Europe, UK, New Zealand), as well as interstate, it presents an environmentally friendly but financially burdensome option, with potentially large outlays for required infrastructure. As a consequence, interstate experience suggests that extensive community consultation is required to ensure that the process of implementing the composting option is open and accountable and gains the acceptance of the general public.

2. Mulching or chipping appears to provide the best short-term option for Councils. It is possible that mulching or chipping could occur on a regional basis (coordinated by appropriate bodies such as Southern Waste Strategy Authority) with each region contributing to purchase chipping equipment or engaging a subcontractor to process the green waste material. (Collex already provides this service to West Tamar Council and some other metropolitan councils and advises it has the capacity to service the majority of the State in a similar fashion). Depending on the quality of the mulched or
chipped product, it can be utilized in a number of different ways, including on Council land, such as parks, as well as ground cover at landfill sites.

3. A form of combustion (or incineration) that uses green waste as fuel to generate electricity provides perhaps the most comprehensive longer-term option. Green Pacific Energy (GPE) is a Sydney-based company with a vision to become the leading green waste-to-energy company in Australia. GPE builds and manages renewable energy plants, which are specifically designed to take green waste like that collected by Councils. GPE already has a fully operation plant in Stapylton, Queensland, which is servicing councils in that area. A plant in Bell Bay, Tasmania, is expected to be completed within 16 months, with two more plants, one at Boyer and one at Huonville, still in the formative stages. The green waste-to-energy service being provided by GPE allows for sustainable, flexible, efficient and long-term management of green waste.

The completed study will be published on the LGAT website in early to mid-April.

B: Related correspondence from Southern Waste Strategy Authority (SWSA)
The Association received a copy of correspondence addressed to the Director of Environmental Management by the Chairman of the SWSA in which it was suggested that the Association had exceeded its authority in negotiating with DPIWE an interim arrangement concerning the burning of green waste and in conducting a preliminary study into alternative methods of disposal.

It was also suggested that the resulting guidelines provided to Councils were too restrictive, that Councils had not been consulted in their development and that the SWSA was the most appropriate authority for policy development with respect to issues of green waste.

The Association wrote to the SWSA addressing these issues. Copies of SWSA correspondence and the Association’s response are at Attachment to Item 2.2.

Budget Implications
There has been no budgetary impact as the current study has been conducted in-house using existing staff. There may be some future costs depending on whether there is a need for further research.

Current Policy
The current study flows from a motion passed at the 2004 Conference requesting the Association to liaise with the State Government with a view to developing a statewide approach to green waste disposal following DPIWE’s decision to ban burning.
2.3 SUBJECT: BETTER PLANNING OUTCOMES

That the Committee note the following report.

Noted

Discussion
Allan Garcia commented that only eight Councils had responded to the Association’s request for submissions in relation to the Better Planning Outcomes paper. He suggested some Councils may have responded directly to the State Government and while Councils should be encouraged to respond to matters such as this, responding directly to the State Government makes it more difficult for the Association to present a unified Local Government position.

Allan also noted that it is now a matter of waiting for the next iteration of the process, and to then form a policy direction on that basis.

The Lord Mayor raised some concerns in relation to regional planning and the potential erosion of Local Government as a planning authority. Mayor Downie also raised concern in relation to this issue and suggested regional planning may be a mechanism for hidden agendas. Allan Garcia responded by noting these concerns, and suggested that as long as Local Government is part of, and approves the model, regional planning ought to be applauded.

Background
The period for commenting on the Better Planning Outcomes Discussion Paper prepared by DPIWE has closed. The Association received comments on the paper from 8 councils and these were incorporated into its submission.

The Association’s submission stressed the following key themes, which emerged as being of central importance to Local Government:

- The need to maintain the current role and integrity of Councils as local planning authorities.
- The development of an effective State Policy framework with input from Local Government to ensure its relevance at a local level.
- The development of an integrated State/regional/local planning framework that includes comprehensive planning strategies to guide the preparation and review of planning schemes and investment in infrastructure.
- Cooperation between State and Local Government in jointly exploring opportunities offered by regional initiatives such as regional planning, NRM and planning scheme template improvements to contribute to the integrated planning framework.
- Adequate resourcing for both State and Local Government to provide an effective and professional planning regulatory function, including addressing the current shortage of qualified planners.
- Improved enforcement powers for Local Government.
LGAT’s submission was one of 68 received by DPIWE. These will be analysed and used to inform a Response Report, scheduled for release in April/May, which will identify priority areas for further consideration.

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply

**Current Policy**
Does not apply

### 2.4 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

| That the Committee note the verbal report to be presented on the day. | Noted |

Regulation 30 was raised by Mayor Downie as an issue worthy of consideration.

### 2.5 SUBJECT: CROWN LAND ASSESSMENT AND CLASSIFICATION PROJECT

| That the Committee note the following report. | Noted |

**Discussion**
Mayor Flint raised concern that some Councils (Tasman/Sorell) were unaware of land being handed back to them through the CLAC process and that this may be a means of rate payment avoidance. Allan Garcia commented that land can only be returned to Councils if Councils want it back and that considerable dialogue had taken place with General Mangers and council officers. Elected Members are encouraged to participate but that involvement is dependent upon the General Manager.

The Lord Mayor also expressed concern in relation to the rigour of the consultation process that occurs between the CLAC Project Team and Councils.

**Background**
The State Government, through DPIWE, is conducting a 2-year project to assess and classify approximately 9,000 parcels of Crown land, comprising both unallocated Crown Land and land currently classified as Public Reserve under the *Crown Lands Act 1976*. 
The project completes land assessment undertaken as part of the Regional Forest Agreement and relates to commitments in the Statewide Partnership Agreement between the Government of Tasmania and Tasmanian Councils on Financial Reform 2003 to identify and classify all Crown land.

The 9,000 parcels of land are scattered throughout the State and make up about 3% of Tasmania’s total area. The parcels have been mapped through spatial data processes on the LIST and each has been allocated a property identification number (PID). As a result there are approximately 7,000 unique properties to be assessed and classified.

The CLAC project will investigate these properties and recommend whether they are to be:

- Reserved under the Nature Conservation Act 2002
- Reserved as public reserve under the Crown Lands Act 1976;
- Transferred to Local Government
- Transferred to other Government Agencies
- Considered for sale

The CLAC project team is conducting its investigations in groups of municipal areas and is consulting intensively with Councils involved. To date it has completed assessments in King Island, Sorell and Tasman and made recommended allocations on the properties in those areas. These recommendations can be viewed at www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au/clac.

Overall 108,25 ha comprising 21 properties have been recommended for transfer to Local Government in King Island; 12.35 ha or 13 properties in Sorell; and 12.72ha or 15 properties in Tasman.

Assessment of properties in the next group of municipal areas: Burnie, Circular Head, Waratah-Wynyard are nearing completion with other areas to follow.

Both the CLAC project team and Councils report that the consultation process has been proceeding smoothly so that is has been possible to reach agreement on the majority of suggested allocations that might involve transfer of land to Councils. The transfer of Crown Land to Councils will ultimately be governed by guidelines developed in consultation with the Association and approved by the Minister in October 2004.

**Budget Implications**

Does not apply.

**Current Policy**

This project flows from the 2003 Statewide Partnership Agreement on Financial Reform.
2.6 SUBJECT: CAREERS INFORMATION KIT

That the Committee note the following report.

Noted

Allan Garcia noted that the Association is spending $15,000 on developing a Careers Information Kit in the face of an across-the-board absence of promotional material relating to Local Government careers.

Background
As previously reported, the Association is pursuing a range of strategies to address the current skills shortages in Local Government professions. Key amongst these is the development of a Careers Information Kit which can be used to promote Local Government as a career option in schools, colleges, University and the wider community.

The Association has engaged consultants to develop the information kit and they will work with a Steering Committee, drawn from Councils, who will oversee the content development. All Councils have been advised of this process and invited to provide input and identify relevant examples of young officers employed within their organizations that can serve as case studies.

Budget Implications
The consultancy is to be jointly funded by LGAT and LGMA and the Association’s share will be met within this year’s budget.

Current Policy
Does not apply.

2.7 SUBJECT: CLIMATE CHANGE

That the Committee note the following report.

Noted

President Lynn Mason drew the Committee’s attention to the report on climate change released by Minister Judy Jackson on 5 April 2005 and suggested that from a Local Government point of view a major issue related to the potential inundation of sewage treatment plants. The President also praised the Report for its potential to help identify sites that may be susceptible to future climate change repercussions.

President Mason noted that it was necessary to draw the attention of elected members to Minister Judy Jackson’s Report.
Background
An information seminar for Local Government on Climate Change was held at Campbelltown Town Hall on February 25 2005. The Seminar was organised by the Department of Primary Industries Water and Environment (DPIWE), in partnership with LGAT, to give Councils the most up to date information and data in relation to Climate Change. Full copies of all presentations are available from the DPIWE website, www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au/climatechange.

The Information Seminar included speakers from the CSIRO, University of Tasmania, Bureau of Meteorology, Insurance Australia Group (IAG), DPIWE and the ABC. Feedback has been positive with a number of follow up enquiries from Council representatives to DPIWE and LGAT.

Despite significant national and international debate over the causes of climate change and magnitude of impacts, there is a consistent message from scientists and government that changes in our climate are occurring and that adaptive measures must be taken to minimise the impacts.

Changes in the climate and associated systems are predicted in a number of areas, including
- sea level rise
- changes in mean global surface temperatures
- decreased rainfall
- patterns of rainfall will change
- increased frequency of extreme weather events

Potential implications are significant for Local Government, as both a planning authority and an asset owner and manager, including:
- retreat of the coastline in vulnerable areas, impacts on existing and future development potential
- increased risks to Council assets in the coastal zone, including parks, roads, bridges, reserves, water/wastewater treatment plants
- impacts on stormwater infrastructure due to potential saline water intrusion
- greater risk to public and private assets and infrastructure from extreme weather events.

DPIWE has established a Climate Change project to progress and coordinate State Government activities on Climate Change, including the proposed Climate Change Strategy for Tasmania. One of the first tasks of the Climate Change project has been to investigate the impacts of climate change on sea levels. DPIWE is also soon to release a scientific report on the vulnerability of Tasmania’s Coastline to sea level rise. A leading Tasmanian consultant coastal geomorphologist is undertaking the identification of vulnerable areas using the best available State-wide coastal geomorphology mapping. LGAT is working with DPIWE to ensure that roll out of the information and associated coastal vulnerability mapping is appropriate and supported with technical and planning advice.
LGAT will continue to work with DPIWE, other State agencies and the Australian Government to ensure adequate advice and support is provided to Councils to address climate change at the local level.

### 2.8 Subject: Tasmanian Aboriginal Community & Local Government

**That the Committee note the attendance of Ed Wensing at the meeting to discuss the relationship between Local Government and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community.**

**Noted**

**Background**
A report on a possible Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Tasmanian Councils and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community was discussed at the 29 November 2004 General Management Committee (GMC) meeting. The Committee moved to endorse continued dialogue between the Association and appropriate representatives of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community and that the item be carried over to a later GMC meeting for further discussion.

The discussions at the 29 November GMC meeting highlighted the range of complexities around this issue, in particular issues around representation when dealing with the Aboriginal community. Furthermore, there were a number of questions regarding the scope of the MoU.

To assist in discussion on this matter the Association has been conducting research into similar activities in other States, via the other State LGAs. This research has been beneficial and revealed that there are a number of agreements and MoUs between individual Councils and their indigenous communities. Furthermore, ALGA has produced a range of documents around indigenous issues and native title from a Local Government perspective. The author of much of this work, Ed Wensing, has also assisted with this research through the provision of informal advice and referrals to other agreements and initiatives of a similar nature.

Although no Longer with ALGA, Mr Wensing has been asked to attend the April meeting of the GMC to provide additional perspectives and help inform the GMC’s continued discussion on this matter. Mr Wensing’s attendance at the GMC provides an opportunity for the GMC to look beyond the issue of just an MoU and consider the broader issues around Local Government/Tasmanian Aboriginal Community relationships.

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply

**Current Policy**
Does not apply
2.9 **SUBJECT**: **TASMANIA TOGETHER PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT** *

That the Committee note the discussions with the Tasmania *Together* Secretariat.

Noted

**Mayor Mike Downie/Clr Robert Legge**

That the Committee endorse a Partnership Agreement with the Progress Board.

Motion Lost

The Committee noted that this was essentially formalising a spirit of cooperation and suggested that it may be appropriate for Bob Campbell to address a GMC meeting when the process has been formalised.

**Background**

In recognition of the active part Local Government plays in furthering the Tasmania *Together* process and the specific interface it has with the community to enable further encourage and facilitate actions, the Tasmania *Together* Board is anxious to work more closely with the Association to assist with a range of issues and matters linked to Tasmania *Together* goals and benchmarks.

The Association is already involved in the development of specific actions in Local Government that relate to the achievement of some of the targets associated with Tasmanian youth. Individual councils have also embraced the concept of Tasmania *Together*, conducting search conferences that include representation from the Tasmania *Together* Board and including specific references to goals and benchmarks within their strategic plans. Provisions of each of the bilateral, regional and state wide partnership agreements also link to Tasmania *Together* goals and benchmarks.

The Tasmania *Together* Board has already developed a range of partnership agreements with community and business organizations and sees Local Government as a critical element of its further development. The five year review of the process is due this year and there is some merit in having Local Government on board through some formal support process.

In relation to the specific obligations that arise as a result of the Partnership Agreement, the task is not onerous and really only formalises the facilitative and supportive role the Association has played in promoting Tasmania *Together* to councils.

It is expected that if the Partnership Agreement is endorsed there will be a formal launch in the middle of the year involving the Progress Board and the Association.

A copy of the draft Partnership Agreement is at **Attachment to Item 2.9** for reference.
Budget Implications
Does not apply

Current Policy
The Association has no formal policy position in relation to Tasmania Together but Local Government has been very supportive of the process with individual councils adopting benchmarks and targets in corporate and strategic plans.

2.10 SUBJECT: REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – SUPPORT FOR COUNCILS

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine/Cllr Robert Legge

• That the Association write to the Australian Greenhouse Office and enquire about opportunities for extending support to Tasmanian Councils to be involved in greenhouse gas reduction initiatives such as Cities for Climate Protection (CCP).

• That the Association work with CCP Councils to promote the benefits of greenhouse gas reduction initiatives and programs such as CCP, to other Tasmanian Councils, particularly where there are demonstrable cost savings through increased energy efficiency.

Carried

Discussion
Lord Mayor Rob Valentine spoke to the Report providing examples of Hobart’s experience with CCP and Tim Phillips provided the Committee with an additional overview of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives and the CCP program.

Background
Local Governments around the world are responding to the threat of climate change by reducing the greenhouse gas emissions they produce from their own activities. Furthermore, their planning powers, spending policies and community and business links can influence households and businesses and have an effect on energy use, transport, waste and land use.

Hobart, Glenorchy, Brighton and now Clarence Councils are involved in greenhouse gas reduction initiatives through the Cities for Climate Protection program. The Cities for Climate Protection™ (CCP) is a program that assists Local Government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and their impact with over 600 local governments from around the world participating.

In Australia, the Cities for Climate Protection™ program is delivered by International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) in collaboration with the Australian Government’s agency, the Australian Greenhouse Office. As at June 2004 one hundred and ninety-four (194) councils covering over 75% of Australia’s population had joined the CCPTM program - 70% metropolitan and 30% rural.
The strength of the Program is based on the strategic achievement of five milestones and the use of software to measure and monitor impacts and to evaluate and report on previously completed initiatives in energy, waste and transport.

**Milestone 1:** Establish an Inventory and Forecast for key sources of greenhouse emissions for Council operations - buildings, vehicle fleet, street lighting, and waste and the Community - residential, commercial, industrial, transport.

**Milestone 2:** Set an Emissions Reduction Goal.

**Milestone 3:** Develop and adopt a local greenhouse action plan to achieve those reductions.

**Milestone 4:** Implement the local greenhouse action plan.

**Milestone 5:** Monitor and report on greenhouse gas emissions and the implementation of actions and measures.

Participation in the CCP program has shown that greenhouse gas reduction can go hand in hand with direct cost savings, with many initiatives and actions undertaken through CCP resulting in increased energy efficiency.

Any Council can pursue actions and initiatives towards greenhouse gas reduction. However CCP provides a ‘ready to go’ framework, which with support and advice through ICLEI assists Councils to work through the milestones. Participation in the program requires a one off participation fee, and depending on the size of the Council ranges from $500 - $2000. Participation in CCP also requires organisational commitment and resourcing. Experience across participating Councils indicates that the achievement of Milestones 1 and 2 takes two days per week for 12 to 16 weeks. ICLEI staff work through a Council Contact Officer and a Councillor Contact nominated by Council on joining the program.

To date ICLEI has not actively promoted CCP outside the already participating Tasmanian Councils. CCP is delivered by ICLEI with funding from the Australian Greenhouse Office, which in recent years has been directed towards extending CCP in existing CCP Councils. However, due to the direct benefits to Councils and their communities from greenhouse gas reduction programs such as CCP a greater effort could be put towards communicating the benefits and investigating funding opportunities for Councils to become involved.

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply

**Current Policy**
Does not apply
Background
Bushfires are a continuing part of the Tasmanian landscape and all members of the community need to be appropriately prepared for when bushfires come. The planning and development of subdivisions and buildings greatly influence the area in which a bushfire will eventually run and so have a great impact on the inherent safety of the area. Good planning and development will include a series of measures for minimising the bushfire threat and reducing the physical and emotional costs that bushfires can produce.

The Tasmanian Bushfire Planning Group was established in 1998 to provide better integration of bushfire hazard management and development issues between State Government agencies, Local Government and the development industry. Local Government is well represented on the group and has been a strong driver behind the Group’s activities.

The Group has produced Bushfire Development Guidelines to better inform Councils, developers and the community on design and management approaches to minimise bushfire risks to existing and new developments. These new guidelines will replace the previous Tasmanian Fire Service guidelines, Planning Conditions and Guidelines for Subdivisions in Bushfire Prone Areas 1995.

The Guidelines are not a regulatory tool, but have been developed to assist users in interpreting and applying existing bushfire related codes, standards and policies and importantly, for new developments, will facilitate the better integration of bushfire management issues during the early design phase.

The Guidelines have undergone extensive development and consultation among Bushfire Planning Group members, and were also formally circulated to all Councils in August 2004 for comment.

The Association is working with the TFS and other members of the Bushfire Planning Group, in particular Hobart City Council, to finalise the guidelines. Production costs are to be met by TFS. It is expected that the guidelines will be released in May/June this year.

Budget Implications
Does not apply

Current Policy
Does not apply
2.12 SUBJECT: GENERAL POLICY DISCUSSION

That Committee members note the intent of this session and contemplate any matters that they consider worthy of raising.

Noted

Discussion
President Mason and Allan Garcia raised the issue of Local Government sustainability. They suggested that on a broad scale Local Government, as a tier of government rather than 29 individual Councils, needs to consider its future strategic direction. In the context of the Local Government Board and Local Government reviews, Local Government in Tasmania needs a strategic direction that allows it to be proactive.

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the Association prepare a background report on Local Government sustainability.

Carried

Allan Garcia noted that PLGC meetings were not currently being utilised to their full potential. He noted that the current Agenda was shallow and that there was a need to bring more issues to the table to discuss with the Premier in order to take full advantage of the PLGC process.

The Lord Mayor raised a general concern that Councils were not taking advantage of opportunities presented to them, and more specifically opportunities in relation to IT and fibre optics.

Background
This is a standing agenda item intended to allow members the opportunity to raise any matters of strategic policy not addressed elsewhere in the agenda.
3. PROJECTS & SERVICES

Projects & Services Items for Comment and Decision.

3.1 SUBJECT: 2005 Local Government Annual Conference

That the Committee note the following report.

Background
At the time of writing, the organising committee is finalising the conference program.

The Organising Committee is very keen to attract some younger delegates to the Conference, after the very positive feedback when young people participated a couple of years ago. To this end, it is intended to make the program on Day 2 attractive to younger delegates and to encourage Councils to consider sending a wider group of delegates to the second day of the Conference. Conference partners, IPWEA and LGMA will also be encouraging younger members to attend. LGMA has indicated that it will subsidise attendance of some younger members.

Pre-event promotion has commenced through the newsletter and in the March issue of the magazine.

Budget Implications
Conference is fully budgeted and is run on a cost recovery basis.

Current Policy
Does not apply.
3.2 **SUBJECT:** Pre Election Workshops

That the Committee note the timetable and proposed format of the series of workshops.

**Noted**

**Discussion**
The Committee commented generally that it was important for representatives from GMC to attend these workshops.

**Background**
It has long been the practice of the Association to conduct workshops on behalf of people considering standing for council elections. The Association has tended to enlist the support of both the Electoral Office and the Local Government Division to ensure that appropriate information is provided and relevant expertise is available to respond to queries or concerns raised by participants.

This year it is intended to conduct the workshops on a regional basis in the week commencing 11 July 2005. Sessions will be held in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie in the early evening to enable maximum attendance. In addition to the standard delivery, which focuses on the role of the council, the role of the councillor and the election process, it is intended to have at least one councillor from each region attend to briefly outline life as a councillor. This aspect of the presentation is intended to provide a brief reality check on the actual job itself, the time involved, the interface with constituents, the amount of reading and the things that a councillor needs to think about in terms of improving his or her knowledge of issues and understanding of the matters under consideration.

Participants in this process will be encouraged to attend post election workshops, if elected, to improve their understanding of council functions and responsibilities and will also be given an insight into the councillor development program that will be available to them.

Fundamentals such as allowances, spending limits in relation to elections and broad based legislative matters will also be covered during these sessions.

**Budget Implications**
The cost of conducting the workshops is minimal and will be met from Association resources.

**Current Policy**
It is the practice of the Association to conduct information sessions for intending councillors.
3.3 SUBJECT: REGIONAL FORUMS

That the Committee note the verbal report to be presented on the day.

Noted

3.4 SUBJECT: COUNCILLOR WEEKEND WORKSHOP

That the Committee note the following report.

Noted

Background
The Association held a two day councillor workshop on February 26 and 27 at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, Launceston.

26 councillors from 16 councils registered, either for the full two days, or for either the Saturday or the Sunday.

We received 14 feedback forms and these represent 67% of delegates who registered for the full two day workshop (21).

15% rated the workshop 10 out of 10. 31% rated the workshop 9 out of 10. A further 31% rated the workshop 8 out of 10. Overall, 77% rated the workshop a score of 8 or higher.

100% of respondents would attend a future workshop and 100% would recommend a councillor weekend workshop to their colleagues.

69% rated the organisation of the event as 5 out of 5 and a further 23% rated it 4 out of 5. Overall, 92% rated the organisation of the workshop a score of 4 or higher.

Comments include:
• The best of 3 I have attended.
• I love them, I always get my 1%.
• Very worthwhile weekend.
• Will not miss the next one, excellent speakers.
• Marvellous learning experience & ability to network.

The top three presentations ranked as most valuable were planning, asset management and emergency risk management.
Delegates also provided feedback on which topics they would like more information about and this data will be supplied to the Councillor Program Committee for its consideration.

Two members of the Councillor Program Committee, Mayor Janie Dickenson and Councillor Bruce Wiggins (Tasman), attended the weekend workshop and were able to speak to delegates about their needs and preferences.

The 2003 survey of councillors identified the months of February and March as the most preferable times of year to attend a weekend workshop so it is recommended that the next weekend workshop is scheduled for the same time in 2006.

**Budget Implications**
The workshop is managed on a cost-recovery basis.

**Current Policy**
Does not apply

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### 3.5 SUBJECT: COUNCILLOR PROGRAM COMMITTEE *

**Mayor Ross Hine/Cllr Robert Legge**

That the GMC endorses a schedule of councillor workshops as proposed by the Councillor Program Committee.

Carried

**Background**
The newly formed Councillor Program Committee (CPC), chaired by Lord Mayor and GMC member, Rob Valentine, has met on two occasions. The Minutes of these two meetings are at Attachment to Item 3.5.

The committee has determined a set of core learning areas and three of these are to be offered over the next 12 months. The CPC has also devised a workshop format which, it believes, addresses a number of barriers to attendance and provides additional incentives to attend.

The new workshop format is untested and the CPC will monitor the proposed program to evaluate its success.

The CPC has also endorsed a weekend workshop to be held in February 2006.

**Proposed Saturday Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 13 2005</td>
<td>Financial Reports. Dismal Swamp/Circular Head</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Format
10.30am – 12.30pm   Pre-workshop Activity
12.30pm – 1.15pm    Lunch
1.15pm – 5.00pm     Workshop (15 min break).

Budget Implications
The workshops will be managed on a cost-recovery basis.

Current Policy
The Association has as an internal policy a requirement to provide Elected Members
with the information and resources necessary to maximise their representation.

3.6 SUBJECT: ELECTED MEMBER MENTORING

That the Committee note the following report.

Noted

Background
Investigations are currently underway for the establishment of an elected member
mentoring program. In February 2005 the Association sent a letter to all elected
members asking them to indicate whether they would be prepared to participate in
such a program, and to indicate those areas in which they felt they would be able to
provide assistance to new or existing elected members. More than 30 responses have
already been received, and the responses show that elected members possess
substantial expertise and experience across a broad range of areas.

The Association is still considering the best way to manage the information received
from elected members. It will be necessary to put into place processes and structures to
ensure that those elected members requiring assistance can be put in touch efficiently
with those prepared to provide assistance. It is envisaged that LGAT will maintain
some form of register or database of participating elected members.

The Association is also considering developing a training program for those elected
members who wish to become mentors. It is envisaged that such a training program
would provide participating elected members with an introduction to mentoring skills
and strategies with particular reference to the Local Government context. The
Association has contacted a number of consultants with a view to developing such a
program and LGAT will continue to pursue this course of action.

Budget Implications
At this stage there is no significant impact. The current resources of the Association are
sufficient to continue the development and maintenance of the database/register with
some time required by the CEO to facilitate introductions.

Some costs may be involved in the delivery of the training program.

Current Policy
The Association has a key role in assisting with the development of elected members.
3.7 SUBJECT: Elected Member Municipal Bowls Event

That the Association liaise with the organisers of the Tasmanian Elected Members’ Municipal Bowls Event to offer suggestions for promoting the event including maximising exposure of the recently held event.

Noted

The Committee considered the following alternatives and suggested that these be raised with the event organisers -

- Holding the event on a weekend.
- Holding the event at the end of the Bowls season to ensure there are free greens.
- Holding the event during the middle of the day (11am-3pm).
- Explore the possibility of holding an evening meal to conclude the event.
- Running an article in the LGAT September magazine promoting the event.

Background
In the past this has been a well attended event, providing an important social opportunity for Tasmanian Elected Members. This year only 14 teams attended, and four of those teams came from one Council.

The traditional method of promoting the Event has been for the Association to inform all Council’s by written correspondence. Given the limited amount of social events for Local Government elected members, the Committee is asked to consider alternative options for the promotion of the event in order to enhance attendance and ensure the continuance of this fixture.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.
3.8 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE AWARDS CRITERIA

Mayor Barry Easther/Mayor Deidre Flint

That there be no variation of the Local Government Service Awards criteria at this time.

Carried

NOTE: The Committee considered this matter in conjunction with Item 3.9, please refer to Item 3.9 for further discussion and outcomes.

Background
The Central Coast Council has nominated Councillor Terry McKenna for a Life Member Service Award.

Whilst the Council recognises that Cr McKenna’s achievements do not directly relate to the listed pre-requisites for Local Government Award nominations, it is suggesting that his contribution to Local Government, which spans some 64 years, is considered worthy of consideration for an award.

The Service Award criteria and guidelines are included with the attachments to this agenda at Item 3.9 (attachment refers to Items 3.8 and 3.9)

Specifically, the criteria for Life Membership are as follows:

Life Membership: For Long And Outstanding Service To Whole Of Local Government
Nominations may be made by Councils or by Elected Members or General Managers and seconded by an Elected Member or General Manager. GMC may determine an award without a nomination.

An Elected Member
- Minimum service of 15 years
- Served as Mayor
- 2 terms as President of The Local Government Association of Tasmania

An Officer of Local Government
- Minimum service in Local Government of 25 years
- Served as CEO
- Represented Local Government with distinction at a National level
- Significant achievement and contribution to Local Government, eg PLGC Officials, Legislation Committee, Local Government Board, State Grants Commission, High Level Working Parties (eg EMPCA)
LGAT has received subsequent correspondence from Mayor Mike Downie requesting a review of the Life Membership Service Award criteria. The last review of the Service Awards was undertaken in 2002.

Mayor Downie suggests that Cr McKenna is an exceptional case, however, there may be others within Local Government who may, at some point, deserve recognition which the current criteria precludes.

Specifically,

- the requirement to serve two terms as President is too restrictive ("….there would be many members who, because of their personal circumstances (work etc), could not possibly be President, but could be involved with GMC, PLGC and other committees, and serve their communities in a huge way and are denied any chance of receiving Life Membership of the peak LG body in this State.")
- if someone serves as President for three (3) terms they should automatically qualify for life membership ("….this could be another section of the life membership award category")
- if the clause is removed, the minimum years of service could be increased to 20 or more years, and served as mayor for two or more terms, plus as a member of GMC for two or more terms.

“So when we have a person such as Cr Terry McKenna come along (which would not happen very often) we are able to award them with the appropriate award.”

**Budget Implications**

Does not apply
3.9 Subject: Local Government Service Awards Nominations

Mayor Mike Downie/

That the nomination of Councillor McKenna for the Local Government Award for Life membership be accepted by the Committee.

Due to there being no seconder the motion was Lost

Clr Robert Legge/Mayor Ross Hine

That this is a matter that should move into a closed session.

Motion Lost

Mayor Mike Downie/ Mayor Ross Hine

That Councillor McKenna be awarded the Local Government Service Award for Life Membership.

Motion Lost

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine/Clerk Robert Legge

That the matter of giving consideration to the nomination for a Local Government Award lay on the table, and the previous Item 3.8 be recommitted on the grounds of needing an additional Awards category.

Carried

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine/Mayor Barry Easther

That a category be created within the Awards structure that recognises service to Local Government in the State of Tasmania deserving of life membership.

Carried
Mayor Ross Hine/Mayor Barry Easther

That the previous motion be amended to read:

That a category be created within the Awards structure that recognises 40 years or greater service to Local Government in a management or elected capacity to the State of Tasmania deserving of life membership.

Carried Unanimously

The Committee noted that any changes to the newly created Awards category will have to follow normal meeting procedure at the next GMC meeting in June and go through as an amendment to the original motion.

Background

- One nomination has been received –
  (i) Clr Terence James (Terry) McKenna, Central Coast Council – Life Membership Award.

Documentation in support of this nomination, a table outlining the award criteria and relevant service details and the guidelines are at Attachment to Item 3.9.

Budget Implications

Does not apply

Current Policy

Current policy is contained in the attached guidelines.

3.10 SUBJECT: CENSUS OF ELECTED MEMBERS

That the Committee note the following report.

Noted

Background

The inaugural LGAT census of Tasmanian Local Government elected members received a 69% response rate and has provided the Association with important baseline information on a variety of social and demographic features. The census was conducted over November and December of 2004 and the results were collected and collated early in 2005.

Some of the key findings were as follows:

- Nearly three quarters of elected members are male (72%).
- The most common age of elected members is in the range of 56 and 65 years of age (34%).
- 86% of elected members are married or living in a de facto relationship.
• More than a third of elected members do not have post-secondary qualifications (38%).
• Almost three quarters of elected members are in some kind of paid employment (74%).
• The largest occupational category is that of primary producer (23%).
• 71% of elected members work in the private sector.
• 40% of elected members spend more than 15 hours per week on Council activities.
• 47% of elected members have access to the internet at home, and 37% have access to the internet at Council.

The 2005 census was conducted as a trial to test the questionnaire, the distribution and collection methodology and the willingness of elected members to participate. As such, it has provided an important insight into the strengths and weaknesses of the census process.

Other Australian states conduct censuses, however, a number of these are managed utilising specific database or social research skills. An approach adopted interstate is to partner with professional social researchers in order to guarantee integrity and more complex statistical analysis, both of the current census and when comparing previous years. Through this approach, the census questionnaire can also be adjusted to reflect the specific information requirements of the time. Professional social researchers are not only qualified to assist with the development of the census questionnaire, they are able to make comparisons with other available data if this is desired, and they have the personnel and infrastructure to manage more complex data. The South Australian Local Government Association, for example, partners with the University of South Australia. Other interstate associations with a greater number and range of employees, utilise sophisticated databases to interrogate the census findings.

Interstate censuses are run every three to 10 years. The next Municipal Association of Victoria census is set for 2006, and South Australia, within the next six to eight years.

The 69% response rate for the inaugural Tasmanian census is considered an excellent outcome. Future censuses will be able to build on the baseline data now available. When considering its approach to the next census in 2007, LGAT may wish to consider adopting a similar approach to that which is taken interstate. To that end, it is suggested that GMC reconsiders the matter closer to 2007.

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply

**Current Policy**
Does not apply
3.11 SUBJECT: LOGONS UPDATE

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine/Mayor Ross Hine

That the Committee move to accept the following report.

Carried

Funding
Funding received under the NTN project was $4,623,733.00. There is still some $350,600.00 to be received. Funds expended to 31 December 2004 were $3,816,917.53.

Progress
The Dytech Consortium has completed the development and delivery of the third and final round of development of CouncilConnect. This round of development incorporated further interoperability between CouncilConnect and the Councils’ Content Management Systems as well as delivering the final 24 services.

To date, 23,793 unique users accessing a total of 819,790 pages have used the CouncilConnect site.

Of the full suite of services the most commonly accessed services are Employment (33,574 visits) and Dog Info (11,940 visits). The council that has been interacted with the most is Glenorchy City Council with 8,680 interactions.

The most commonly used search term with 67 requests is now "trees".

It would appear that the utilisation of the CouncilConnect web site has stabilized and users are now interacting with the services rather than merely browsing or surfing.


The Council Conveyancing Certificates service has undergone a review with the result that the service will continue to be offered in the existing format, with minor upgrades. The updates to the Council Conveyancing Certificates services are well underway and should be completed in April 2005.

The eProcurement Scoping project has been extended to the end of April 2005. This variation is to allow for a pilot study of an eProcurement implementation in Burnie City Council. The first phase of the Pilot (Procurement Business Process Analysis) is now well underway and has received a good deal of encouraging assistance from the staff of Burnie City Council.

The outputs from this pilot study will be the development of a set of identified council procurement transactions, procurement benchmarks, the identification of critical success factors in procurement and an abstracted set of procurement business
processes. It is anticipated that these outputs will be applicable to all Tasmanian councils.

In consequence of the extension of the eProcurement Scoping project and the Website Management Tools project, an extension has been sought to the Project Management and Common Elements project to ensure that there is sufficient Project Management support to these projects until their completion.

The initial Business Process Analysis of the Burnie City Council Procurement business practices has completed and is available upon request. Strategic Ecommerce will commence their implementation of the StraightBUY product on the 11th of April 2005. This phase will be followed by a post implementation evaluation of the procurement process from the findings of the initial analysis.

Local Government Online Services User Group
Following on from suggestions from several councils, the proposed Content Management System User Group will now encompass all online services delivered through the LOGONS Project. The first meeting of the LOGOUT (Local Government Online Users Tasmania) were held in Burnie, Launceston and Hobart with attendees from 14 councils.

The LOGOUT group met and discussed the governance, scope and purview of the groups’ role. Each council was asked to discuss the outcome of the meeting with their individual council to report back to the group at the next meeting at the end of April 2005.

Reporting Outcomes from LOGONS Projects
Following the completion of the Local Government Entry Point – Services Remaining project, the LOGONS Project commissioned the independent analysis of all projects undertaken by the LOGONS Project. This analysis will be conducted on both the technical outcomes and the strategic outcomes of the LOGONS Project. It is anticipated that these reports will provide a strong basis for future planning of Tasmanian Local Government Online Services and will be written for multiple audiences (Federal Government, Councils and Elected Members).

The Technical Evaluation has been completed and is available upon request. A copy of the Technical Evaluation will be sent to each council upon the completion of the Strategic Evaluation (due for completion mid April 2005).

Budget Implications
The project costs are met from Australian Government grant funds.

Current Policy
The Association is committed to the provision of an aggregated, customer-focussed suite of online services that can be accessed by all Tasmanian ratepayers.
3.12 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

That the Committee note there have been no Local Government Representative appointments.

Noted
4. FINANCES

Financial Items for Discussion & Decision.

4.1 SUBJECT: PROFIT & LOSS REPORT TO 31 MARCH 2005 *

Mayor Mike Downie/Lord Mayor Rob Valentine

That the Profit & Loss Report to 31 March 2005 be received.

Carried

Background
A Profit and Loss Report to 31 March 2005 is at Attachment to Item 4.1 for consideration.

4.2 SUBJECT: CASH FLOW STATEMENT *

That the Committee note the reports as presented and the intention to provide this form of report at each meeting

Noted

Background
The Committee has traditionally been provided with a profit and loss statement at each meeting detailing revenues and expenditures against budget. It is not provided with asset information other than a balance sheet at the finalisation of the year end financial statements.

It is considered appropriate that the Committee should have access to information relating to the cash position of the Association detailing cash on hand, reserves, amounts held for projects and expenditures and revenues pending.

Detailed cash flow statements have been prepared for the information of the committee and are at Attachment to Item 4.2.

Budget Impact
As above.

Current Policy
The Association has a responsibility to manage the assets of the organisation in a responsible and transparent manner.
4.3 SUBJECT:  OVERVIEW OF LGAT BUDGET 2005/2006 *

That the Committee consider the draft budget at the meeting.

Endorsed

The draft budget was considered, and the Committee discussed generally issues surrounding:
- reduction in subscription rates;
- capital renewal and expenditure;
- LGAT Officer salary increases;
- increased audit costs;
- removal of PLGC costs; and
- building purchase.

Background
The draft budget will be presented and discussed on the day.

4.4 SUBJECT:  OFFICE BEARER ALLOWANCES

Mayor Mike Downie/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the Committee endorse the review of the President and Vice President’s allowances.

Carried

Background
Prior to the review of elected members allowances an indication was given of the timeliness to review allowances paid to the President and Vice President of the Association. While there is no direct correlation to the functions performed by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of a council it was considered that the review and its findings may lend some direction to the consideration of allowances for LGAT roles.

It has been some four years since the last formal review of allowances for the President and Vice President with allowances being adjusted annually in line with the CPI since that time.

In terms of a formal mechanism to review payments, the TCCI has been engaged to give consideration to the tasks and responsibilities of the positions and to make a recommendation to the Association on an appropriate level of stipend. It was not considered practicable to seek the three members of the Industrial Commission that formed the review panel for elected member allowances to convene to consider the matter and the basis for consideration of workload and responsibility is quite different.
It is expected that the report from the TCCI will be available prior to the Annual General meeting and it is proposed that, in line with the requirements of the constitution, a recommendation be presented to the AGM for consideration.

The present levels of allowances paid to the President and Vice President are $24,932.70 and $6233.24 respectively. The President is not provided with a vehicle but has access to a hire car for official use. The cost of all airfares for official duties is also met. The Vice President uses his private vehicle when travelling on LGAT business and is paid a mileage allowance.

**Budget Implications**
Provision will be made in the budget for a likely increase of allowances.

**Current Policy**
The requirements in respect of allowances are detailed within the constitution although it is silent on the mechanisms and periods for review.
5. ADMINISTRATION

Administration Items for Discussion & Decision.

5.1 SUBJECT: QUADRANT SUPERANNUATION SCHEME - BOARD STRUCTURE

Mayor Barry Easther/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the Committee endorse the recommendation of the Trustee Board to amend the structure of the Board of Directors.

Carried

Background

As a result of regulatory reforms and structural changes occurring in the superannuation industry the Trustee Board of the Quadrant Superannuation Scheme must apply to the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) for a Registrable Superannuation Entity (RSE) Licence to operate a public offer fund.

The Trustee Board will be required to meet the requirements of APRA’s fit and proper policy in the future and has accordingly reviewed the current structure and composition of the Board of Directors. The Trustee Board is giving consideration to becoming an Independent Trustee. The impact of this is to shift away from the equal representation arrangements that presently exist and to allow a mechanism that provides for the recruitment/appointment of members with necessary expertise as required. Provided an RSE Licence to operate a public offer fund has been issued by APRA prior to the conclusion of the current terms of office of Directors (28 February 2006) it will not be necessary to meet the current equal representation (employer/employee) requirements in respect of directors.

The current Board of Directors consists of five Member Directors and five Employer Directors with the proposed structure to become:

- Four Member Directors directly elected by the membership of the Scheme;
- Four Employer Directors appointed by the General Management Committee of LGAT; and
- Two Trustee Appointed Directors appointed by the Trustee Board.

The Trustee Appointed Directors are to be appointed with the objective of ensuring the overall skills and experience of the Trustee Board are appropriate for the effective corporate governance of the Scheme.

Budget Implications

Does not apply

Current Policy

The Trust deed of the Scheme currently stipulates that the Board Membership is equally represented by member and employer Directors and that the latter are appointed by the LGAT GMC.
## 5.2 Subject: Strategic Plan *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lord Mayor Rob Valentine/Mayor Deirdre Flint</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>That the Committee note and endorse the draft framework for the Strategic Plan for the Association</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Carried**

### Background
Following the Committee’s consideration of the broad based directions and opportunities for the Association and Local Government, officers of the Association considered the inputs and added further to a potential framework for adoption, a copy of the Strategic Plan is at Attachment to Item 5.2.

The basic outline details a mission and goals with some focus on key issues. The activities under each effectively are the key drivers or endeavours envisaged for the Association over the next three years.

The strategies are not exhaustive but provide a framework in which to conduct the business of the Association going forward.

### Budget Impacts
The framework as presented does not impact significantly on the operating budget of the organisation.

### Current Policy
The strategic plan of the organisation underpins and drives the broad policy efforts of the Association
5.3 SUBJECT: CORPORATE IMAGE

That the Committee considered the Corporate Image options and endorsed the new logo for the Association.

Endorsed

The Committee considered the various options, and preference was given to a stylised Tasmania with stylised King and Flinders Islands.

Background
A key contributor to how an organisation is perceived is its corporate image. An organisation’s corporate image sends messages about what the organisation does and how it wishes to be perceived.

The corporate image is made up of a number of components such as the logo, website, letterhead, business cards and other documents such as the annual report, and, central to a successful “image” is:

- Consistency: across all corporate materials
- Relevance /appropriateness: conveys values appropriate to the sector, recognisable as belonging to the sector
- Quality: reinforces status of the organisation, demonstrates professionalism.
- Easily recognisable: it is clear and encourages quick and ready identification of the organisation.

Today it is widely accepted that corporate image should be treated as an asset and should be planned, developed and managed along with other valuable assets. The right image greatly enhances an organisation’s sphere of influence and is as important as other corporate assets.

The recent redesign of the LGAT website provided an opportunity to review LGAT documents including the LGAT logo, to identify whether LGAT was projecting a consistent, relevant, quality and recognisable ‘image’.

We found that over a period of years, LGAT has amassed a mixed-bag of ‘looks’ and there was little consistency, varying degrees of quality, and dubious relevancy. Subsequently, we found that LGAT has no definitive corporate image.

Using the look of the new website as the foundation, we have used a designer to prepare a suite of items including a new look newsletter, new look business cards and new look member information sheets. In addition, the designer has prepared a new look logo.

The proposed logos retain the best element of the current logo, the easily recognisable LGAT. However, we have eliminated the weaknesses of the previous logo which includes small type (can’t be read), and a design that doesn’t reproduce well in black and white.
Budget Implications
To minimise waste, we will continue to utilise existing stocks until the end of June, at which point, most of it will have been used up. From July 1, all printed materials will reflect the new corporate image.

Current Policy
Does not apply.

Cllr Robert Legge left the meeting.

5.4 Subject: LGAT Assist

That Members note the appointment of the new Chairman.

Background
A new chairman, Mr Kaye Reeves, has been appointed to the LGAT ASSIST Board to replace long-serving chairman Max Doyle.

Kaye has extensive experience in Local Government finance administration having served 19½ years with Glenorchy City Council and more recently, providing consultant financial planning services as well as undertaking relief duties with a number of councils.

Kaye was a board member of the Southern Regional Cemetery Trust from 1981-1998 representing the City of Glenorchy. He provides audit services to a number of community and sporting associations.

Former chairman, Mr Max Doyle, resigned due to health reasons. A reception was held and a presentation made to Max in recognition of his service to the Board.

Budget Implications
Does not apply

Current Policy
Does not apply
5.5 SUBJECT: DATE OF NEXT MEETING & MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2005

That the Committee meet on Wednesday 15 June, prior to the AGM and General Meeting in Hobart, commencing at 9.00am.

Background:
The Committee may review the meeting policy and dates at any time, along with any changes on the distribution, nature or extent of information provided to members and meetings of the Committee.

Dates for GMC and General Meetings for 2005 are as follows:

- 15 June  GMC Meeting, AGM, General Meeting
- 16 – 17 June  LGAT Annual Conference
- 17 August  GMC Meeting
  General Meeting
- 19 October  GMC Meeting
- 2 November  General Meeting
- 8 December  GMC Meeting

5.6 SUBJECT: OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE

There being no further business, the President declared the meeting closed at 17:55.