General Management Committee

Minutes

Tuesday 24 February 2004
1. NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the General Management Committee was held in Hobart in the Boardroom of the LGAT office, on Tuesday 24 February 2004 commencing at 1.00pm.

PRESENT:

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 Janie Dickenson Northern Region
Clr Robert Legge Northern Region
Mayor Deirdre Flint Southern Region
Mayor Terry Martin Southern Region

APOLOGIES:

Mayor Daryl Gerrity West Coast Council
Mr Brian Inches LGMA

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Allan Garcia LGAT
Mrs Liz Gillam LGAT
Ms Christine Agostinelli LGAT
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* Denotes attachment to item.
1.1 SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES *

Minutes of the meeting of 10 December 2003 were at Attachment to Item 1.1 coloured buff for consideration.

Mayor Mike Downie/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the Minutes of 10 December 2003, as amended, are confirmed.

Carried

The Minutes were amended to reflect the order of business, attendance and departure of members.

Minutes of the meeting of 10 December 2003 are at Attachment to Item 1.1 coloured buff for consideration.

1.2 SUBJECT: BUSINESS ARISING *

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

Noted

An update of Policy items from the last meeting - not covered in this Agenda were at Attachment to Item 1.2 coloured pink.
1.3 SUBJECT: PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mayor Mike Downie/Clr Robert Legge

That the President’s report be received.

The President reported on her activities as follows:

Dec 11 2003  PLGC meeting, Hobart
Jan 8 2004  Rules Review committee meeting with Lord Mayor and Mayor Gerrity
Jan 12  Briefing with Minister Jim Cox re Review of the LG Act
Feb 2  Meeting with LG Division on Meeting Procedures regulations
        Kingborough Council meeting
Feb 3  National Packaging Covenant meeting, Melbourne (ALGA)
Feb 4  Meeting with ICLEI officers to discuss possible MoU with LGAT
Feb 20  Cradle Coast Authority Sustainability workshop
Feb 24  Local Government Division on review of LG Act
        Legislation Committee meeting

1.4 SUBJECT: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT DECEMBER 2003 – FEBRUARY 2004

That the Chief Executive Officer’s report be received.

Notable occurrences over the period since the last GMC Meeting in December 2003 are reported in the following comments.

Intergovernmental Relations Activity
During the reporting period LGAT was involved with a number of intergovernmental committees, working groups and meetings. These included:
- Steering Committee and Project Team for Tripartite Agreement on Positive Ageing;
- Tasmania Together Employment Coalition;
- Year of the Built Environment Steering Committee;
- Natural Resource Management Council;
- Tasmanian Road Safety Council;
- State Coastal Policy Steering Committee;
- Premier’s Physical Activity Council;
- Affordable Housing Reference Group; and
- Valuation Steering Committee and Working Group.

Met with DIER to discuss issues for Local Government re the current Speed Zone Review and DPIWE to discuss range of proposed amendments to environmental
regulations and position of State Government on the Development Assessment Forum (DAF) related issues.

**ALGA Activities**

Attended Roads and Transport Advisory Council meeting and Policy Directors’ forums as well as being involved in telephone conferences on cost shifting and issues related to the DAF.

Hosted Chief Officers’ Group Meeting in Hobart in December.

**Interviews**

Conducted interviews for Policy Officer position with selection process complete. Preferred candidate to commence late March.

**External Organisations**

Met with RACT to discuss issues of mutual strategic significance – road funding, AusLink, respective Budget Submissions and Speed Zone Review.

Discussions with Insurance Council of Australia and representatives of Community Care about facilitating access and exposure of insurer of NFP activities.

Meeting with HIA to discuss mutual concerns re Building Act and regulations implementation

Attended normal and special meeting of CMP Board.

**Major Activities**

Legislation remains the most significant issue outside the activities related to the above. In particular the Building Act and Regulations have created significant angst and work, particularly with regard to the short timeframe before implementation. Sex Industry reform has required some effort in terms of appraising councils of the key issues and seeking to solicit appropriate and adequate responses.

Implementation issues associated with the package of financial reform legislation continues to be a big call on Association resources. Constant liaison with Treasury, councils and the State Revenue Office has been necessary in respect of issues arising with many officers in councils being faced with the policy issues for the first time. Training sessions have been organised for councils on a regional basis.

The review of the Association rules has required more than the initial cursory effort and has resulted in a detailed agenda item for this meeting.

Significant input has been provided to the regional NRM strategies as well as responding to a host of discussion papers.

Attended meeting of Tasman Council providing broad overview of governance related matters.
2. POLICY

Policy Items for Discussion & Decision.

2.1 SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE RULES **

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine/Mayor Ross Hine

That the Committee consider the issues raised by the sub-committee in relation to the review of the Association’s Rules.

That the current provisions for the election of the General Management Committee be retained except that, all councils in an electoral district to vote for both GMC representatives, not just the one in their population category.

Carried

Mayor Janie Dickenson left the meeting at 3.30pm.

Background

In 2003, a sub-committee consisting of the President, the Lord Mayor and Mayor Martin was established to review and make recommendations on the Association’s Rules for consideration at the 2004 Annual General Meeting. Mayor Gerrity later replaced Mayor Martin on the subcommittee.

A draft of the amended Rules is at attachment to Item 2.1 coloured grey for Committee Members. This document does not track changes because, as there have been extensive editorial changes and re-ordering of some sections of the Rules, this would make the document very long and very difficult to follow. The draft Rules still need tidying up work.

However, to assist in making a comparison with the existing Rules, a copy is enclosed for Committee members. Also, a draft Commentary at attachment to Item 2.1 coloured yellow, on the changes has been prepared for Committee Members. This includes a table comparing old and new Rule numbers. Neither of these documents has been circulated to Councils.

There are a number of policy issues that arose during the review (see dot points below). Some of these the subcommittee recommends are not opened for debate with Councils, namely - membership, voting categories and subscriptions. However, it is suggested that Councils are asked for input on the rules relating to agendas/business of meetings, the composition of GMC, election cycles for GMC and filling of vacancies on GMC. In the text of the draft amended rules, these issues are highlighted in bold italics.
- **Membership of the Association (new Rule 6)**
  The subcommittee considered whether the membership base of the Association should be extended. It recommends that membership should continue to be restricted to Councils, considering that there are other mechanisms for consulting/working with other bodies that have an interest in Local Government.
  In recognition of the importance of these other groups, former Rule 35 has been brought forward into this part of the Rules.

- **Function of the Annual General Meeting (new Rule 8)**
  The subcommittee considered that the business of the AGM should be restricted to that normally associated with AGMs. General Business has been removed. This is in fact what is occurring in practice, as ‘general business’ is considered at the General Meeting immediately following the AGM.

- **Business of meetings (new Rule 12)**
  The sub-committee felt that existing Rules 14 and 15 are confusing in terms of notice of items, supplementary agendas, late items, items from the floor etc. In the text of the draft rules, Councils are asked to consider a number of questions relating to these issues.

- **Attendance at General Meetings (new Rule 13 & Rule 35)**
  The subcommittee considered that observers at meetings should be allowed to speak, after introduction by the voting delegate.

- **Voting (new Rule 16)**
  The subcommittee did not consider that there should be any change to the voting categories.

- **Functions of the General Management Committee (new Rule 17)**
  These have been re-ordered but changes are primarily editorial. However, the role of the GMC in relation to the Welfare Fund (see also new Rule 52) and references to Municipal Assurance Scheme need to be clarified.

- **Composition of GMC/Electoral Districts (new Rules 18 & 19)**
  The sub-committee considers that Councils should be consulted on possible changes to the composition of GMC:
  - Given Hobart has automatic representation, should Launceston, with its significantly higher population be treated similarly?
  - Or alternatively should the automatic membership of the Lord Mayor be reviewed.
  - Is the current Electoral District basis appropriate (Rule 19)?
  - Is 20,000 population cut-off still appropriate, given the population size of some southern Councils?
  - Could a different population cut-off be applied in the electoral districts.
  - Is it appropriate that the mandatory observer status of West Coast be continued (this was introduced at the time of the 1993 amalgamations).

  A number of alternative models will be proposed for consideration by GMC.
• Election cycles for GMC and President (new Rules 19 & 25)
These are currently held every second year. If Council election cycles become three yearly, should the cycle for GMC and President also be three yearly, to be conducted in the year immediately following Council elections.

• Conduct of elections for GMC and President (new Rules 20 & 26)
There is no provision in the Rules for replacement of GMC members during their term. Councils have been asked to consider how vacancies on GMC should be filled. It is also recommended that the Chief Electoral Officer be asked to review these provisions.

• Vice President (new Rule 28)
The subcommittee queried why the Vice President wouldn’t complete the President’s full term of office, rather than just until the next AGM (sub-rule (c) ) – this could put the election cycle for President out of cycle with GMC elections.

• Rules for Conduct of Debate (new Rules 31-40)
These have been moved forward in the Rules. It is considered that they need further work.

• Subscriptions (new Rule 30)
The subcommittee did not consider that there should be any change to the existing system for setting subscriptions.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Existing Rules
2.2 **SUBJECT:** LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT REVIEW

That the Committee note the processes proposed for developing and reaching an Association position on specific policy and technical aspects of the legislation and considered that –

- Councils be given a minimum of six weeks to consider and respond to the Association on the Draft Exposure Bill;
- The Association will require at least five days to collate the responses;
- Councils will be notified of the collated data;
- If there are unresolved issues a special meeting of the Association will be held, or alternatively, a series of regional workshops will be held and;
- Responses will be forwarded to the Local Government Division, Legislative Council and the Opposition.

**Noted**

**Background**

The review of the Local Government Act has involved a comprehensive process of consultation and input across Local Government and the community. The point has been reached where a draft exposure Bill detailing the outcomes of these processes is due for release at the end of February. It is then intended that a period of 5 weeks will be available for comment on the draft prior to finalisation and introduction into Parliament.

During the 5 week consultation period a range of actions are proposed. The Local Government Division is to conduct a series of information workshops. These sessions will be open to the public and Local Government. The Association will seek to “piggy-back” these sessions providing more interactive forums to ensure that key issues are understood and clarified and major concerns taken up as part of the Local Government response to the Bill.

The 24 March 2004 General Meeting is intended to address the key policy issues that remain outstanding. Among others, these are likely to include the issue of all in–all out elections, the compulsory taping of meetings and disclosure of key officer remuneration details.

A detailed written response will be collated by the Association, based on input from member councils, at the culmination of the 5 week consultation period. This response will address not only the key policy issues but will also provide detail on the more technical aspects of the legislation.

Once clear positions have been developed and reached, it is the Association’s intention to brief both the Opposition and Legislative Council to ensure that the reasons for particular stands are clear and well understood.
**Budget Implications**

Does not apply.

**Current Policy**

Relevant sections of the Association Policy Document have been referred to State Government as part of the review.

### 2.3 Subject: Elected Members Allowances

| Noted |

That the Committee note correspondence has been forwarded to the Minister Assisting the Premier on Local Government seeking support for the conduct of the previously agreed four yearly independent review of elected member allowances and that the terms of reference should also be reviewed.

**Background**

An independent review of elected member allowances was conducted in 2000. The review was conducted by a panel of members of the Industrial Commission and heard evidence from a variety of parties. The terms of reference were agreed between the Association and the State Government and the process agreed to be moved away from the previous arrangement of councils being placed in the position of having to consider their own allowances within certain parameters.

The outcomes of the review were generally accepted although there were some concerns expressed about the inadequacy of the level of allowances paid to members of larger councils in particular.

Four years have passed since the conduct of the last review and it has been proposed to the Minister that it would be appropriate to conduct the review as soon as possible to ensure that the levels of allowances are known prior to the October elections of councils.

It has been proposed to the Minister that the cost of the review again be funded by Local Government (although no actual charge was made last time) and that a meeting with the Director of Local Government be sanctioned as soon as possible to discuss any amendments to the original terms of reference, the appropriate body to conduct the review and an indication of the likely cost to allow councils to make provision in their budgets.

**Budget Implications**

Likely to be some cost to councils for funding the actual review.

**Current Policy**

In accord with the previous resolution for independent four yearly review.
2.4 SUBJECT: VALUATION WORKING GROUP

That Members note the progress of the Working Group and related developments.

Background
The Association is working in collaboration with DPIWE to undertake the review of the municipal re-valuations system. In December 2003, a Steering Committee was created to oversee this process comprising representatives from both levels of government with Allan Garcia (LGAT) and Stephen Godfrey (DPIWE) as joint chairs. The Steering Committee has met on one occasion to resolve the framework for the review and is scheduled to meet again in early March.

The existing Local Government Valuations Working Group has been subsumed into the above process and expanded to include representatives from State Government and the valuation industry, with Glenn Appleyard appointed as independent chair. In its initial meeting, the Working Group was accorded the task of reviewing the draft Discussion Paper and making amendments to the document where necessary. The final version of the Discussion Paper was released in late December 2003 and submissions closed on February 16th 2004. Further consultation via workshops with councils are scheduled for the second week of March.

DPIWE hosted workshops in the north and south of the state with members of the Australian Property Institute in January in order to gain a better understanding of how this industry group sees the current valuations system. These seminars proved to be very insightful and raised a number of issues that had not been covered in the Discussion Paper. An invitation has subsequently been put to the API to nominate one member for representation on the Steering Committee and two for membership on the Working Group so that they can have greater input into the review process.

The Working Group will be meeting in late February to review the content of submissions from key stakeholders with a view to linking these issues back to the terms of reference of the Review. Following the completion of the council workshops, the Working Group will again meet in late March and begin the process of compiling information in a final report together with developing recommendations.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Builds on the previous resolution to establish a Local Government Working Group to consider valuation issues.
2.5 SUBJECT : PLGC

Mayor Terry Martin/Mayor Ross Hine

That the Committee note the action undertaken to seek nominations from the regions of officers to represent the regions on the Officials Group of the PLGC.

The Committee also noted it is important the Premier be aware that members of GMC are keen that existing consultation structures are maintained and they look forward to meeting with the Acting Premier on 2 April 2004 at the PLGC meeting.

Background
The PLGC comprises the Premier and the elected members from Local Government that make up the General Management Committee. The GMC members are subject to election each two years and their continuing membership is dependant upon their retaining their position on GMC.

No similar arrangement exists at the officer level with only one change to membership being effected as a result of resignation. It is therefore proposed that all regions be requested to consider their membership at officer level and provide a nomination to the official’s group, the tenure of which will be for two years in line with the GMC tenure period.

This arrangement does not reflect on those presently serving on the Officials Group but provides for discipline and a defined process for the regions to be represented.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Not applicable at this time although alignment with Rules requirements re election of GMC is considered appropriate.
2.6 Subject: Development Assessment Forum *

That the Committee note the proposed release of the “Model Development Application Process” by the Development Assessment Forum, its potential implications and the intended actions by the Association.

Noted

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine left the meeting at 4.15pm.

Prior to doing so he submitted his vote for the Local Government Board Representative, item 3.2 on the agenda.

Mayor Flint took this opportunity to inform the meeting that she had attended her first meeting of the Regional Health Services Advisory Committee and Working Party as the Association’s representative and that the issues raised were relevant to both rural and urban areas.

Background

The Development Assessment Forum (DAF) is an industry-government body formed six years ago to reform planning processes. Largely focussed on bringing about consistency of process the DAF has also sought to develop appropriate standards and innovation across jurisdictions.

It has recently developed a “Roadmap to a Model DA Process” and is proposing to engage shareholders in discussion on its contents. The matter was considered at the recent Local Government and Planning Ministers’ Council meeting in Perth.

The document proposes a model arrangement that represents a significant departure from current arrangements and purports to be able to deliver a more efficient approvals process at less cost that will stimulate more investment and jobs while delivering a quality built environment.

Among other recommendations, the proposal advocates a separation of powers in respect of development decisions. This translates to councils no longer being planning authorities in their current form but rather taking a role of establishing planning policies via the planning scheme and other related instruments such as council strategic plans. The assessment of planning applications against these policies is proposed to be undertaken by independent bodies (such as panels, which may include elected members).

There are a range of other factors which seek to totally alter the present arrangements including the development of assessment criteria, involvement of experts in assessment and private sector involvement in the assessment process. A copy of the stakeholder engagement process is at attachment to item 2.8 coloured mauve for your reference.
At a policy level this issue is being considered at the next meeting of the ALGA Executive to determine a broad based national position and to give consideration to the best way to tackle the matter at that level.

From a Tasmanian perspective the Association is in the process of forming a Working Group to consider and respond to the items canvassed in the attachment. It is not clear at this time as to the length of time that will be available for input to this process but it is considered that there is a need to move quickly on this matter to ensure that a well agreed and supportable Local Government position can be publicly presented.

**Budget Implications**

Does not apply.

**Current Policy**

Does not apply.

### 2.7 Subject: State Coastal Policy Review

That the Committee note that the above process has commenced and that the Association is represented on the Steering Committee.

**Noted**

**Background**

The State Coastal policy came into operation in 1996. The State Policies and Projects Act 1993 provides that the State Coastal Policy 1996 should be reviewed within five years of it coming into operation.

Issues associated with the validity of the policy and the effectiveness of its operation resulted in validating legislation in 2003 and the delay of a formal review until now.

The objective of the project is to review and prepare a Draft State Coastal policy and associated documentation for referral to the Resource Planning and Development Commission (RPDC).

A major aim of the Project is to improve community, council and government understanding of how to interpret and implement the State Coastal Policy. Public documents to be produced include an Issues and Options Paper, a draft State Coastal Policy and Guidelines, all of which are to be released for public consultation.

A Working Group/Reference Group is also proposed and Local Government will be represented, likely by planning officers. A series of communication arrangements will support the Project including detailed workshops for councils.
It is anticipated that the process for developing the draft policy, guidelines and associated documents will take 12 months after which the matter will be referred to the RPDC.

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
Does not apply.

### 2.8 SUBJECT: CAT CONTROL

That the Committee note the following report.

| Noted |

**Background**
At the General Meeting in December, Members reviewed the existing Association policy in relation to cat control.

The development of general cat control legislation was not supported.

However, Members considered that there is a significant problem with the control of feral cats and that this matter should be raised with the State Government.

The letter has only recently been written to the Minister. It is hoped to be in a position to report on the Government’s response at the next meeting.

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
Current policy was re-confirmed at the last General Meeting.
2.9 SUBJECT: DOG CONTROL

That the Committee note the following report.

Background
At the last meeting of GMC, it was reported that Central Coast Council was seeking advice on interpretation of the *Dog Control Act 2000*, specifically in relation to effective control.

Advice was sought from the Local Government Division.

The Division stated that, in their view, the legal advice provided to the Central Coast resident in relation to effective control was incorrect:

‘It is clear that if a dog is on a road or road related area then under Section 4 (2) of the Dog Control Act 2000, the dog is under effective control if it is restrained by means of a lead. The Minister for Local Government, Premier Jim Bacon MHA in the Second Reading Speech on the Dog Control Bill said that “the Government believes that every Tasmanian should be able to walk the footpaths around his or her neighbourhood, without feeling threatened by dogs running loose. This Bill consequently includes a provision that a dog is required to be on a lead when on a road or road related area.”’

The Division concedes that the drafting of Section 4 is not helpful. This will be addressed at such time that the Dog Control Act 2000 is reviewed.

This advice has been relayed to Central Coast Council. It is not intended to take any further action on the matter at this time.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
Does not apply.
3. PROJECTS & SERVICES

Projects & Services Items for Comment and Decision.

3.1 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

That the Committee note the following report.

Noted

Background
The initial response to conference sponsorship is encouraging. At the time of writing, two out of the three platinum packages are sold, two of the four gold packages and three of the four silver packages are also taken. Nine trade booths are confirmed. These figures represent 63% of the 2004 sponsorship target.

The committee has been active in seeking out potential speakers and workshops for an innovative and thought-provoking program and the IPWEA and LGMA are using their Australia-wide networks to support this process.

Three keynote speakers are confirmed and six of the eight workshops are in place. The GMC will be aware that the theme for the 2004 is *Rattling the Three Rs, Redefining Local Government* and topics that will be covered in the program include:

- A keynote on the principals of ‘futures thinking’ and its relevance and application to Local Government in Tasmania
- The experiences of the dynamic and innovative ex-Christchurch (NZ) mayor Vicki Buck and messages for Local Government in Tasmania
- Understanding the trends and future for eGovernment and what Local Government needs to be doing to be able to maximise its returns and outcomes for the community
- Case study on DOTARS Local Government Awards winner, Indigo Way Services, for alternative models of service delivery
- Case study on Whittlesea Council economic development – collaboration between councils for supply chain efficiencies
- Lori Rubenstein on building community capacity

It is hoped to have the program and major sponsorships resolved by the end of February.

Budget Implications

Current Policy
Does not apply.
3.2 SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES *

Clr Robert Legge/Mayor Mike Downie

That Mrs Mary Binks be nominated as the Association representative on the Local Government Board, with Mr Roger Howlett as proxy.

That a letter of appreciation be forwarded to Christine Mucha and Brian Dowse for their work as the Associations’ representatives in the past.

Carried

Background

The Association has been requested by the Minister Assisting the Premier on Local Government to put forward a panel of three nominations for the position of Local Government representative and proxy to be appointed to the Local Government Board. The Local Government Board’s key functions are to carry out reviews of councils and to advise the Minister on any other matters the Minister may determine.

Ms Christine Mucha has been representing Local Government and Mr Brian Dowse has held the proxy position. Both terms are due to expire this month.

Ms Mucha has advised the Association that she wishes to be considered for reappointment. Mr Dowse does not wish to be considered for renomination.

A further six nominations (listed below) have been received.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jill Burbury</td>
<td>Former Councillor, Southern Midlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Howlett</td>
<td>Former General Manager, Clarence City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Ransom</td>
<td>Former General Manager, Dorset Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Collidge</td>
<td>Former Councillor, Derwent Valley Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Binks</td>
<td>Former Mayor, Devonport City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Michael Weldon</td>
<td>Councillor, Circular Head Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Copies of the nominations were at attachment to Item 3.2 coloured blue for consideration by the General Management Committee.

* Michael Weldon has recently been reappointed as a councillor at Circular Head Council on a count back following a vacation of office. On the basis of the Association’s policy to not nominate serving councillors or officers, Mr Weldon therefore becomes ineligible.
Budget Implications
Does not apply.

Current Policy
It has been the practice of the Association in respect of the Local Government Board to nominate its preferred candidate and preferred proxy rather than providing the Minister with a choice. This has generally been accepted by the Government in the past.

3.3 SUBJECT: PROTOCOLS INVOLVING TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Cllr Robert Legge

That the General Management Committee determine to adopt the welcome used by the Glenorchy City Council as its preferred acknowledgement of Indigenous Australians, for use at LGAT meetings and events.

Carried

Background
At the December meeting of the GMC, further examples of Indigenous acknowledgement were requested to assist the GMC to determine an acknowledgement for use by the LGAT.

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs has suggested the following, which can be applied across Tasmania as appropriate:

I would like to pay respect to the traditional and original owners of this land, the XXXXXXX people and also acknowledge today’s Tasmanian Aboriginal community who are now the custodians of this land. On their behalf, I welcome you here today.

The Glenorchy City Council uses the following welcome:

"We wish to acknowledge that today we stand on the land of the Mouheneenner (pronounced Moo-ne-neen-nar) Aboriginal people, the Tasmanian Aboriginal people who called this area home."

The Hobart City Council recognises original owners and occupiers of the land in the following way:

“Firstly I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on the country of the Mouheneenner people and acknowledge that their ancestors have performed age old ceremonies on this land and continue to have an association with it.”

The Launceston traditional and original owners are the Leterreirrenner (Leter rem air rener) people and the Burnie traditional and original owners are the Plairhekehillerplue (Plee ree kee yee lah plu) people.
3.4 SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH ICLEI *

Mayor Mike Downie/Mayor Deirdre Flint

That the Committee support ongoing dialogue between LGAT and ICLEI Australia/New Zealand, leading to the development of a Memorandum of Understanding on co-ordinated actions.

Background

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) is an international democratic association of Local Government implementing sustainable development. Founded in 1990 ICLEI’s mission is to build and serve a worldwide movement of Local Governments to achieve tangible improvements in global environmental and sustainable development conditions through the cumulative impact of local actions. Key ICLEI campaigns include Cities for Climate Protection, Local Agenda 21 and the Water Campaigns. ICLEI Australia/New Zealand is hosted by the City of Melbourne, see attachment to Item 3.4 coloured gold.

To date, LGAT has had little formal involvement with ICLEI. ICLEI’s Tasmanian activities are limited to the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign activities with three Councils, Hobart, Glenorchy and Brighton.

In November 2003 Allan Garcia and Timothy Phillips met with ICLEI’s Martin Brennan, Partnerships Manager, for a discussion on respective organisational activities and priorities. Coming from this meeting was an agreement to hold further talks and in January 2004 ICLEI approached LGAT with the idea of establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two organisations. The MoU would provide a framework for identifying coordinated actions towards increasing Tasmanian Local Governments capacity to address sustainability issues.

A phone meeting between ICLEI and LGAT was held on Wednesday 4 February with participants being

- Lynn Mason, LGAT President
- Liz Gillam, LGAT Policy Manager
- Timothy Phillips, Local Government NRM Facilitator
- Wayne Wescott, ICLEI Chief Executive Officer
- Maria Simonelli, ICLEI Executive Manager
The outcomes of the meeting are summarised below.

1. Current status of ICLEI-A/NZ
   - Moving towards local delivery of ICLEI programs and campaigns, ie not just from the Melbourne office.
   - Establishing partnerships with State based organisational organisation to host ICLEI officers, this has included ICLEI officers in WALGA, the City of Adelaide and in New Zealand. Presently negotiating position with South East Queensland Region of Councils.

2. Current status of LGAT
   - Previous Environmental Resource Officer project finished
   - Timothy Phillips appointed at Natural Resource Management Facilitator
   - LGAT does not presently have a dedicated Environmental Policy Officer. Environment and sustainability issues are dealt with by existing and future policy staff.
   - Environment and sustainability issues are dealt with as they arise

3. Opportunities: Cities for Climate Protection
   - Noted existing ICLEI activities with Hobart, Glenorchy and Brighton.
   - Need to disseminate results of existing CCP work and to coordinate and integrate activities with the State Government’s Greenhouse Strategy.

4. Opportunities: LGAT conference
   - ICLEI asked if they wanted to attend the conference as a “Not for Profit” booth. Slightly interested and asked for more information on costs.
   - ICLEI asked if they would be interested in presenting in a workshop session.

5. Opportunities: Triple Bottom Line
   - ICLEI gave an overview of TBL activities and
   - LGAT advised that TBL may be perceived as too sophisticated a management tool for the majority of Tasmanian Local Governments, more relevant for larger Councils.

6. Other
   - ICLEI reiterated the point that although they are not a funding organisation they may be able to work with LGAT to acquire funds for the delivery of programs to Local Government, either from the Australian or State government.
   - Participants agreed to identify key priority areas and to continue dialogue

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
Does not apply.
Subject: Councillor Development Program

That the Committee note the following report.

Background
The Association has surveyed elected members with a view to developing a councillor development program for the period 2004/05. Surveys were circulated late last year and the responses have now been collated.

It would appear that a program comprising of a number of different delivery elements will attract interest, for example, a program that includes a weekend workshop, ½ day seminars and early evening presentations. The survey results also indicate that the Association or its agents will need to be able to travel into the three main regions of the state in order to optimise attendance.

As this year is an election year and the Association will be committed to pre-election and post-election workshops, it is likely that councillor development during 2004 will be restricted to just a few activities including a weekend workshop, possibly during July.

The survey encouraged respondents to supply additional comments to assist the Association to further understand councillor perceptions and attitudes. Respondents made comment on the need for longer-serving ‘experienced’ councillors to continue with development, and that councillors have a tendency to choose to attend activities with topics that reflect personal interests.

Motivation does remain a challenge. Previous councillor development activities have at times, recorded disappointing attendance levels. Assuming the survey feedback is correct and longer-serving councillors do not perceive a need to attend development activity, together with a unpredictable target audience that is motivated by personal preference, rather than ‘professional’ imperatives, then the prospective market for councillor development is substantially narrowed. (It is recognised that other factors will also influence attendance at development activities and the survey has assisted in clarifying options to address these with a view to developing a program that best fits the sector.)

It is therefore proposed to investigate further, the viability of introducing a system that rewards councillors for the time they spend attending councillor development program events and should such a system gain support, it would be introduced in 2005 as part of a two/three year development program.

The Association will also be investigating the potential for sponsorship of the councillor development program in order to keep attendance fees to a minimum (such that price is
not a barrier to attendance). It is believed that any reward system that aims to motivate increased attendance will be considered attractive to sponsors.

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
Does not apply.

### 3.6 SUBJECT: LOGONS REPORT

That the Committee note the following report.

**Background**
Funding received under the NTN project was $754,772.73 for the initial ten projects and $3,076,333 for the remaining projects. There was still some $1,854,600 to be received. Funds expended to 31 January 2004 were $2,823,387.81

**Trial Of Content Management System For Councils Successful**
Kingborough and Sorell councils acted as pilot sites for the DCW Unity system developed by the Local Government Association of South Australia under their NTN program. The trials have proved to be highly successful and from this nine councils have signed on to use this system: Glenorchy, Clarence, Huon Valley, Break O’Day, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Dorset, GeorgeTown, Central Coast and Circular Head. A further meeting is being held this month with more councils and it is expected that at least a further five will sign up.

**Progress**
The CouncilConnect website was successfully launched on 12 November 2003 with brochures being sent to all households. Since that time, councils have been loading tenders, jobs and the public are using the system to transact with councils. Councils who have provided all content to support their services as required have been sent a cheque for $6,000 to cover expenses related to putting mechanisms in place so the services they have signed up for will interact with their council processing. The amount will also cover extraction of lookup files for the dog registration renewal service under construction.

Telstra has been trialing new software related to the dog registration renewal service at three pilot sites: Kentish, Central Coast and Glamorgan Spring Bay with a view to then implementing this for other councils. However due to Telstra’s lack of delivery of this service in time for payments in 2003 and subsequent lack of attention to project management, an Expression of Interest was released late in 2003 to other providers. Following the successful implementation of the Telstra service, councils will be offered a choice as to which provider they wish to use for this service.
The second round of services (24 in total) for CouncilConnect has been reviewed and functional specifications written for their development. Councils will be consulted about these in the next month and development will commence with their delivery expected in May 2004. There are a further 26 services to be developed in Round 3 along with some new features for CouncilConnect.

**Online services on “theLIST”**
A total of 26 councils are now subscribed to this service. The processing of these requests by electronic means is progressing very well however the reconciliation of payment remains an issue. LOGONS has had discussions with DPIWE about this and a final resolution now looks in sight. We have appreciated the patience of councils in this matter.

**Future Development Of Councilconnect**
The portal site will be further enhanced with extra features that will prove useful to councils. Currently we are investigating data extraction from Tasmanian Communities Online on community groups, Yellow Pages for business listings as well as enhancements to allow councils to load jobs, tenders and public notices directly from their websites.

**Project Extension**
Approval to extend the project until December 2004 has been agreed to in principle by Networking the Nation. It was necessary to seek this extension so that further services could be delivered on CouncilConnect in Rounds 2 and 3. The budget allocation for these projects remains the same.

**Budget Implications**
Does not apply.

**Current Policy**
Does not apply.
4. ADMINISTRATION

Administration Items for Discussion & Decision.

4.1 SUBJECT: PROFIT AND LOSS REPORT TO 17 FEBRUARY 2004 *

Mayor Mike Downie/Cplr Robert Legge

That the Profit & Loss Report to 17 February 2004 be received.

Carried

Background
A Profit & Loss Report to 17 February 2004 was at Attachment to Item 4.1 coloured light green for consideration.

4.2 SUBJECT: WELFARE FUND BOARD MEMBERS

Mayor Deirdre Flint/Mayor Mike Downie

That the Committee confirm the reappointment of Mr Max Doyle as independent Chairman of the LGAT Welfare Fund Board for a one year term.

Carried

Background
In order to ensure an incremental system of appointments, in February 2003 the GMC appointed the current Chairman for a one year term, to be eligible for re-appointment in 2004.

The term of office for all other board members is 3 years, expiring in 2006.

These members are subject to appointment by the LGMA (1) and ASU (2), with the LGAT Chief Executive Officer taking a position on the Board by virtue of office.

Budget Implications
Does not apply.
4.3 SUBJECT: DATE OF NEXT MEETING & MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2004 *

That the Committee meet at 9.00am on 12 May 2004, in Hobart, prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

Noted

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.
- The events calendar for 2004 has been finalised and is at attachment to Item 4.3 coloured caramel.
- Dates for GMC and General Meetings are as follows:
  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 April</td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
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<td>12 May</td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
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<td>Annual General Meeting</td>
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<td>General Meeting</td>
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<td>18 August</td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
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<td>General Meeting</td>
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<td>29 November</td>
<td>GMC Meeting</td>
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<td>General Meeting</td>
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4.4 SUBJECT: OTHER BUSINESS & CLOSE

There being no other business, the meeting was declared closed at 5.45pm.