PRESIDENT’S REPORT

The amendments to the Local Government Act are in Parliament. There have been times when the sheer size of the undertaking to review the Act has threatened to overwhelm all participants. In the end, the juggernaut has been negotiated through the process, and is now to be debated in the House and the Legislative Council.

I have discussed the Amendments with the Leader of the Opposition, and last week Liz Gillam and I met with Brett Whitely, Opposition spokesman on local government, to talk about the proposed changes. I have also had informal discussions with a number of members of the Legislative Council, whose members have been invited to request a delegation from LGAT should they wish to have formal representation made. At the moment this seems unlikely to be necessary.

A huge number of people have helped in sorting through this review, within the Association, in every council in the State, and in the Local Government Division. In combination there has been the right recipe for successful negotiation. It has taken “as long as it takes”; and the participants have been willing to think, have accepted the need to compromise or find alternatives, and have remained engaged in the process. Consultation or negotiation over a long period means absolutely nothing if the “timeouts” are not continually used to progress the matter in hand. That has been one of the strengths of this process. Thanks, everybody.

New Chairman for LGAT ASSIST

A new chairman has been appointed to the LGAT ASSIST Board to replace long-serving chairman Max Doyle. Kaye Reeves received a warm welcome when he attended his first meeting in this role on February 9. Kaye has extensive experience in local government finance administration having served 19 ½ years with Glenorchy City Council and more recently, providing 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. For more information about LGAT ASSIST, contact Janet Storan on 6233 5970 or your council pay supervisor.

Local Government Human Resources Focus for National Event

LGAT has joined with the other interstate local government associations to cooperatively present a national human resources conference. The Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW will manage this inaugural event to be held in Sydney in November 2005. Subsequent national events will be held every two years on a rotation basis through the states.

The national human resources conference is aimed at human resource managers, general managers, directors, safety officers, training staff and consultants, who are interested in exploring performance and productivity issues. With the growing problems around workforce planning and skill shortages, the theme for this year’s event is Building the workforce of the future. The conference is being held 23-25 November at the Stamford Plaza, Double Bay, Sydney. Registration is $880 per head inclusive of GST early bird rate (to be booked by 14 October). For more information please contact conference convenor Darryl Rubiolo at darryl.rubiolo@lgsa.org.au or 02 9242 4182.

Regional Forums

In a year long trial, LGAT is hosting a number of regional forums to provide an opportunity for elected members and officers to participate in an informal setting to air views about issues impacting on local government. The forums will largely focus on information sharing and exchange and will have no policy standing. It is intended that the issues available for discussion will include items put forward by the Association as well as from attendees. Formal motions will not be required and there will be no expectation to vote on matters under discussion. The first round of forums are scheduled for April 5 at 9.00am Burnie Civic Centre and 2.00pm Launceston, Riverside Council Meeting and, April 7, Brighton Council Chambers. For more information, contact Allan Garcia on 6233 5966.
MARTH BEST PRACTICE FORUM

Councils are being encouraged to attend the next best practice forum being hosted by local government insurer, Marsh. The forum will provide information on liability issues and will also facilitate open discussion about matters of concern and interest to councils. The forum is being held in the Lady Osborne Room, Hobart City Council on April 14. For more information, phone Jo Lovell on 6281 3131.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FORUMS STATE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PLAN

The Premier’s Physical Activity Council will conduct a number of regional forums across the state over the next two months with the intention of developing a State Physical Activity Plan. Forums will be conducted in the following locations: Kingston 22 March, Sorell 23 March, St Helens 12 April, Launceston 13 April, Burnie 14 April, Queenstown 19 April. For more information about these forums please contact Narelle Smith at the Premier’s Physical Activity Council on 6233 5629.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS PROGRAM

The Australian Government’s Community Partners Program (CPP) aims to facilitate increased access to aged care support services by culturally and linguistically diverse communities with significant aged care needs. Projects funded under the CPP will assist equity in the provision of residential and other aged care services. Applications close on 15 April 2005 and should be in the format detailed in the Application Information Booklet found on the website www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/ageing-cpp-index.htm.

COMMENTS INVITED ON CONTROLLED WASTE TRACKING SYSTEM PAPER

The Gaining Traction project, part of the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIWE) Controlling Waste 6 point action plan, has released a policy paper, Proposed Controlled Waste Tracking System for Tasmania and councils are being invited to provide comment. The paper outlines the intrastate tracking system that is proposed for monitoring and recording the movement of controlled waste from the waste generator, through transport to an approved receival facility. The proposed tracking system will bring Tasmania into line with systems operating in other states. Tracking will require participation by council operated landfills and waste water treatment plants as well as controlled waste generators, transport businesses and private waste treatment and disposal facilities.

The paper is now available on the DPIWE website. For more information contact Samantha Brown, 6233 6518, email EnvironmentEnquiries@dpiwe.tas.gov.au or visit www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au/controlledwaste.

PAVEMENT MARKINGS AND SIGNS SEMINAR

The Roadmarking Industry Association of Australia (RIAA) is holding a Pavement Markings & Signs Seminar in Hobart on Monday May 23. The full day program will cover using signs for visual impact; standardisation of signs and removal of non conforming signs; auditing existing signs and addressing overuse of signs; economics of brighter & more visible markings; roadmarkings role in traffic calming; and specifications and what to look for in inspections. Contact the RIAA on 03 5982 3068 or by email at ceo@riaa.com.au.

NEW COUNCILLORS

Following the resignation of Clarence City Council Alderman Deidre Wilson, Kay McFarlane has been elected to serve until the next general election of the council. Helen Burnet has been elected to the Hobart City Council following the resignation of Alderman Mat Hines.

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSE

The Centre for Environmental Training is holding an on-site wastewater management training course in Hobart on 11-13 April. The course is designed for those involved in site and soil assessment, planning, design, regulation, management, installation and performance supervision of on-site and decentralised wastewater management systems. For more information phone 02 4954 4997 or email mail@environmentaltraining.com.au.

NATIONAL CRIME AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION AWARDS

Councils, community organisations and individuals who have made a significant contribution to a project designed to reduce violence and crime in the community are eligible for entry in the 2005 Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards. Projects may address specific groups such as rural and regional communities, women, children, youth or the family, or specific problems such as alcohol-related violence. Award applications close on May 20. For more information visit http://www.aic.gov.au/avpa/2005.html.

CREATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) is USA based and provides a useful resource for local government in the form of research papers and reports. Just released, Active Living and Social Equity: Creating Healthy Communities for All Residents. A Guide for Local Governments describes how local governments can design healthy communities for all residents, regardless of income, race or ethnicity, age, ability or gender. It is available as a free PDF download at http://bookstore.icma.org/obs/showdetl.cfm?&DID=7&Product_ID=1247.

COMMENTS INVITED ON NEW CLINICAL & RELATED WASTE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

Developed under the Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Waste Management) Regulations 2000, the draft Approved Management Method (AMM) for Clinical and Related Waste specifies new minimum standards and recommended controls in relation to waste classification, segregation, safe packaging, labelling, storage, transport and disposal of clinical and related wastes to minimise risks associated with the management of these wastes. A key feature of the draft AMM is a ban on landfilling untreated clinical and related wastes which will take effect from the end of 2007.

The deadline for comments is 8 April 2005. Copies of the draft AMM have been sent to all councils and additional copies can be accessed at www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au. For more information, contact Carinda Rue DPIWE 6233 2782.

IMPORTANT DATES

Planning for Active Communities Forum April 4
Fostering Sustainable Behaviour Workshop May 6
Annual Conference / AGM June 15 - 17
The National Local Roads and Transport Congress July 3-5

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