President’s Message

Water and Wastewater Forum
The recent water and wastewater forum co-ordinated by the Committee of Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) was well attended by representatives from industry, business, tourism, health, agriculture, Local and State Government.

Whilst the guest speakers Professor John Freebairn - Melbourne University, Michael Aird MLC, Kevin Young - Managing Director Hunter Water, and Laurie Gleeson - Managing Director Goulbourn Valley Water Corporation, presented an interesting variety of viewpoints and models, I was particularly impressed with the message delivered by LGAT CEO Allan Garcia.

Allan clearly identified the frustration experienced by Local Government throughout this process. He reinforced that Local Government accepts that some reforms are necessary and that councils are willing to be part of the discussion and solution.

Allan articulated that although there are no models yet to be considered, the impacts directly or indirectly on councils arising from ‘possible reform models’ could be quite dramatic. He also highlighted the potential for unnecessary community anxiety and ill feeling if all aspects of water and sewerage reform were not carefully considered. As Local Government has been the provider of these services for decades, it is reasonable to assume its knowledge, input and operational expertise would be beneficial and crucial throughout the decision-making process.

It was pleasing to hear the Treasurer convey that he was aware of the dissatisfaction with the process to date and that greater collaboration between Local and State Government would be a priority. He also confirmed that this is just the beginning of the process for Tasmania’s water and sewerage future. The Treasurer acknowledged that some communities do need extra financial and technical assistance to provide adequate infrastructure for the future.

Local Government looks forward to further discussion with the State Government and will keep members aware of the process and progress.

Government Action Required on Local Roads and Transport

ALGA President, Cr Paul Bell, has urged all political parties to commit to a road and transport agenda to address problems of greenhouse gas emissions, global warming, urban congestion, freight management and pollution in our cities, as well as meeting the access and transport needs of regional and rural communities.

Speaking at the National Local Roads and Transport Congress in Newcastle (July 8-10), Cr Bell called on our national and state leaders to work with Local Government to deliver safe, efficient, effective, equitable and sustainable transport services and infrastructure and to fully meet their funding obligations and responsibilities to deliver better outcomes for Australian communities.

The Local Government Roads and Transport Strategy has identified five core areas which need to be addressed: local road funding and management; urban transport solutions; mobility and access for regional Australians; freight management and long-term financial sustainability for Local Government.

All political parties are encouraged to commit to policies that will deliver:

- Permanent funding arrangements for Local Government to ensure a well managed and sustainable local road system that provides appropriate access and levels of service for all communities and the benefit of industry;
- Transport systems in urban areas that provide a balance between urban amenity, freight efficiency and viable alternatives to the use of private motor vehicles;
- Equitable access, particularly to essential services, through integrated planning and the provision of appropriate transport services for all rural and regional communities;
- Efficient movement of freight vehicles through local communities in a way which recognises community concerns for safety and amenity; and
- The long-term financial sustainability of local road and transport systems.

Passing of Cr Bernard Charles
Local Government is saddened by the passing of Cr Bernard Charles on 15 July. For the past 15 years, Cr Charles has provided a wealth of experience as an elected member with the Circular Head Council. Cr Charles was relied upon for his knowledge of meeting procedures and governance processes and was admired for his sense of fairness and equality that was portrayed through his decision-making. Management and staff of the Local Government Association of Tasmania would like to convey our heartfelt sympathies to Lorraine and family, and to the Circular Head Council and community for their loss.

2007 Local Government National Human Resources Conference
Australia’s premier professional development event for human resource professionals in Local Government will be held on the Gold Coast from 14-16 November. Under the ‘Hot Issues in HR’ theme, the conference promises an exciting line-up of speakers, workshops and activities. Don’t miss this exciting opportunity to learn, network, share ideas and to up-skill. Register online at www.lgaq.asn.au.

ALGWA Pre-Election Workshops
The Tasmanian Branch of the Australian Local Government Women’s Association has coordinated three workshops for all candidates. Details as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Devonport - Pontville</td>
<td>10 August</td>
<td>6.00pm – 8.00pm</td>
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<td>Devonport City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pontville - Pontville</td>
<td>11 August</td>
<td>1.00pm – 3.00pm</td>
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<td>Pontville Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hobart - Hobart</td>
<td>8 September</td>
<td>1.00pm - 3.00pm</td>
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<td>Women Tasmania Office</td>
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Bookings are not required. For further information, visit www.algwa.net.au.

One-on-One Coaching for Local Government Managers
Did you know that LG Performance Tasmania offers one-on-one coaching in the area of professional growth and development, with training tailored to support your council’s individual needs? Trainers Andrew Reimer and Dan Popovich also work with managers to support the development of talented people on their teams. To find out how LG Performance can help your organisation, please contact Deidre Parker on 0438 622 924.

Pride of Australia Medals
Nominations are now open for The Mercury’s Pride of Australia medals. The program aims to recognise and celebrate the extraordinary achievements and contributions of ordinary Australians. There are 10 Pride of Australia award categories including: Community, Spirit, Role Model, Environment and Peace. For a nomination form, please visit www.news.com.au/mercury/prideofaustralia.

Local Government Sustainable Development Conference 2007
The 2007 Local Government Sustainable Development Conference will be held in Melbourne on 11-12 September to assist Local Government practitioners to identify, plan and implement best practice sustainable development solutions. The conference will focus on reducing the carbon footprint, water sustainability, waste minimisation and developments in the built environment within the Local Government field. Details can be found at www.halledit.com.au/conferences/sustainability/2007.

Focus on Fraud
Fraud is a serious issue in organisations today and one to which the public sector is not immune. On 23 August, CPA Australia will be conducting a two-hour seminar in Hobart to highlight existing fraud governance frameworks that have been developed for the public sector, sources available to guide organisations in mitigating the risk of fraud, e-fraud and e-forensics, and ways of preventing and identifying fraud in organisations. To register, visit www.cpaaustralia.com.au/links?events.

Local Government and ABS
The latest issue of the newsletter ‘Local Government and ABS’ is now available from the ABS website at www.abs.gov.au under News and Media/Newsletters. The issue includes the first release of the 2006 Census Results, regional population figures, release of businesses counts, entries and exits data, and what’s happening in Local Government finance?

Daffodil Day
Friday, 24 August is Daffodil Day - a time to support family and friends with cancer and to remember those we have lost. Councils can assist this fundraising initiative by placing filler advertisements in their community newsletters in the lead-up to the event, or by making available Daffodil Day merchandise. For further information, please contact Lisa Burstall at The Cancer Council Tasmania on 6233 2172.

Upcoming Events

- Pre-election Workshop, Burnie: 7 August
- Pre-election Workshop, Launceston: 8 August
- Pre-election Workshop, Hobart: 9 August
- ALGWA Pre-election Workshop, Devonport: 10 August
- ALGWA Pre-election Workshop, Pontville: 11 August
- General Meeting, Launceston: 15 August
- ALGWA Pre-election Workshop, Hobart: 8 September