



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes

To be submitted to the

ONE HUNDREDTH SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION

Was held on

11 July 2012

Commencing immediately following the conclusion
of the
General Meeting

At

Wrest Point Casino
Hobart



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* Denotes Attachment

FORMAL NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

***The Annual Conference of
Local Government in Tasmania
will be held
commencing
Wednesday 11 July, 2012***

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT
the Association's General Meeting
will be held at the
Wrest Point Casino, Hobart.
Commencing at 11.00am
on
Wednesday 11 July 2012**

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT THE
One Hundredth Annual General Meeting
of the Association
will be held at the
Wrest Point Casino, Hobart
commencing immediately following the conclusion
of the General Meeting
on Wednesday 11 July, 2012.**

**To consider
Local Government Policy and Motions
from Member Councils**

**Allan Garcia
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

2012 CONFERENCE PROGRAM



WEDNESDAY 11 JULY 2012

10.00–2.00pm	Registration Desk Open	
11.00am	General Meeting	
	AGM	Commences immediately following the conclusion of General Meeting
1.00pm	Lunch	<i>With thanks to Stornoway</i>
2.00pm	Meetings continue	
5.00pm	ABS/ALGWA Networking Hour	

THURSDAY 12 JULY 2012

7.25-8.00am	Find 30 – Morning Walk	
8.00am	Conference Registrations Open	
9.00am	Welcome and Opening	
9.10am	Official Opening	
9.25am	Moving Moment	
9.30am	Michael McQueen	
10.30am	Morning Tea	<i>With thanks to Marsh</i>
11.00am	Prof Brian Dollery	
11.45am	Allan Garcia	
12.00pm	Lunch	<i>With thanks to Marsh</i>
1.00pm	Workshop Program	
2.30pm	Afternoon Tea	<i>With thanks to Commonwealth Bank</i>
3.00pm	Rod Whitehead	
3.05pm	Panel Discussion	
4.30-5.30pm	Happy Hour	<i>With thanks to Commonwealth Bank</i>
7.30pm	MAV Insurance Conference Dinner	

FRIDAY 13 JULY 2012

8.30am	Workshop Program	
10.00	Morning Tea	<i>With thanks to GR Design & Construct</i>
10.30am	Clr Genia McCaffrey	
10.50am	Prof George Williams AO	
11.30am	The Hon Bryan Green MP	
12.00am	2012 Local Government Awards for Excellence	
12.30pm	Moving Moment	
12.35pm	Rod Radenbach	
1.25pm	Conference wrap up and Wrest Point prize draw	
1.30pm	Lunch	<i>With thanks to GR Design & Construct</i>



2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The President, Mayor Barry Easther, welcomed Members and declared the Annual General Meeting open at 2.46pm.

Apologies were received from –

Mayor Deirdre Flint	Central Highlands Council
Mayor Steve Kons	Burnie City Council
Councilor Paula Wreidt	Kingborough Council
Deputy Mayor David Downie	Northern Midlands Council
Clr Ian Goninon	Northern Midlands Council

A copy of the Rules of the Association are available on the Association's website at - <http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=215>

1 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President will present his report to the 2012 Annual General Meeting.

Central Coast Council/Hobart City Council

That the President's report be received.

Carried

In what has been a year where Local Government has been under the microscope through the watchful eyes of the media and our dear friends from the Property Council, I am pleased to report that there were some good things that occurred during the year.

The valuation and rating review continued, taking on board the requirements of councils for more modelling and more detail in relation to possible impacts from a change of valuation base and a more comprehensive application of the tools that are available for councils to address the rating task. While there is still a way to go based on Mat's presentation today, it is clear that with enhanced training and exposure to previously under-utilised tools, there are some real opportunities ahead. I say that with some trepidation of course because we all know that the devil is always in the detail and I don't expect anyone in the room sees an easy transition on the horizon.

Planning reform came into its own through the year with the three regional planning strategies being “adopted” by the Minister and councils continuing to progress their interim planning schemes. I would take this opportunity to congratulate the regional planning committees and on behalf of all in Local Government acknowledge the significant effort that has gone into this important reform. Planning directives continue to flow from the Tasmanian Planning Commission and while significant lobbying was undertaken on behalf of councils, it is fair to say that they continue to cause consternation and confusion. I expect that the latest instalment in relation to multi-dwellings will involve an even more fascinating journey.

On matters planning, the Association oversaw a pilot involving funding from the Commonwealth aimed at improving development application and assessment processes and reducing delays in planning approvals and costs for builders and developers and ultimately home buyers. Two councils, Hobart and Northern Midlands have been involved in the pilot to implement an electronic development assessment process and while the project is now complete, it has to be said that the results have been mixed.

Asset management and long term financial planning gained a head of steam through the year with the Association led project embraced by all councils in the state, including our recently returned colleagues from Glenorchy. Maturity assessments of councils were welcomed with councils overall faring pretty well. They now have an even clearer picture of what should happen next. Feedback from participants in the process has been most supportive but we would have liked greater attendance at the workshops. All we have to do now is ensure that by the completion date of 30 September, our promise of having 29 councils with asset management plans and long term financial plans is a reality. Of course there will be differing levels of detail in these outputs but once adopted by councils it is hoped that continuous improvement will lead to a vastly improved understanding of the requirements of council assets and long term financing requirement for council assets and services.

The PLGC met on 3 occasions throughout the year and the Premier has been particularly supportive of furthering the work program that has been outlined. The forum continues to provide a good opportunity to oversight and input to key projects, to raise issues of concern, to be briefed on major strategic projects and efforts being initiated by the State Government and to put into place joint strategies to address problems and shortcomings.

The Metropolitan Councils Group had a successful series of meetings through the year and while cautious at first as to its function, has embraced the opportunity for greater cooperation and understanding of urban and metropolitan issues. Mayor Van Zetten is the new chair replacing former mayor, Jock Campbell.

Unfortunately, the Standards Panel kept us busy at the Association again this year and while we were hopeful that a few simple legislative fixes may address some of the issues associated with this process, it seems that there are some major elements of the legislation that require attention and it will be a little while yet before we get this matter under control. We can simply hope that councillors continue to seek to uphold the standards of behaviour expected of them and that they respect the views and opinions of those around them while working for the greater good of the community, but as a back-up we will continue to lobby for improvement in the legislative provisions, particularly as they relate to frivolous and vexatious complaints.

Successful learning and development opportunities were provided for Mayors, General Managers and elected members through a series of workshops and a number of facilitated meetings on camping fees and competitive neutrality sparked significant enthusiasm and participation but not general agreement.

Rising prices for electricity prompted efforts to address the long standing arrangements for street lighting charges and while some progress has been made, the regulated arrangements or lack thereof, continue to frustrate councils. The State Government's announcement on retail contestability offers some hope in this space but it is not expected to be resolved quickly. The Association will continue to lobby Aurora on behalf of councils and keep councils informed on the broader implications of moving to contestability and opportunities that become available for council energy savings.

Water and sewerage was again a key issue through the year with owner councils ultimately agreeing in principle to moving to a single water and sewerage corporation for the state. The initial proposition floated by the Chair of the regional corporations created significant consternation initially and while there remain concerns, the relative maturity with which owner councils considered and addressed this important matter was pleasing. Councils have taken ownership and responsibility for this next important phase of reform and I know will work collectively and diligently to get the result that we all want. I was pleased during a recent meeting with the Premier to obtain unequivocal support for legislation to put into place the governance arrangements proposed by Local Government and to give the matter the priority it required to allow the new corporation to be operating by 1 July 2013. We collectively have a lot of work to do and I trust that when emotions get charged through the coming year, we take a deep breath and focus on the outcome we are seeking and not the occasional interruption and annoyance that will no doubt confront us from time to time.

The Association progressed discussions on the waste levy on behalf of councils and working with the regional waste bodies and the State Government, delivered a proposal that seeks to provide funding for waste initiatives into the future while providing councils with an ongoing source of funding for waste activities. There is still some way to go in terms of agreement on final arrangements and the legislative provisions but the process has been without major hiccup and it is hoped that it can be finalised in the near future.

Very successful collections of household hazardous waste were undertaken so much so that the project has become a victim of its own success with the majority of the funding allocation being utilised already to remove and treat harmful products.

The Association has been involved in collaboration at the local, regional and state level across a range of climate change projects, including an expansion of the state-wide shoreline monitoring survey, extension of the Southern Regional Councils Climate Adaptation Project (RCCAP) to a number of northern councils and the Tasmanian Coastal Adaptation Decision Pathways (TCAP). The Association has also been involved in assisting councils to identify their obligations under the Federal Government's new Carbon Pricing mechanism.

The Association has liaised with State and Federal Governments across a range of issues in relation to roads, including a series of consultations with the Project Office for the new National Heavy Vehicle Regulator in relation to access issues for local roads, discussions with the COAG Road Reform Pricing Project team concerning road pricing for transport vehicles, and the State Government and industry in relation to the development of state-wide and local access networks for cranes.

The Association is seeking to build on its procurement base and has distributed a survey to all councils seeking details of current practices, spend and system capability. It is hoped that this information will provide improved data and scope to respond to council procurement needs and deliver better products at improved pricing. The Association has agreed to join with the majority of other states to tender for petrol, bulk fuel and lubricants to provide councils with access to cheaper supplies.

Four editions of the LGAT News were published this year and fortnightly newsletters were distributed to all elected members, many council officers and many stakeholders of Local Government. The Association's Monthly Report is now distributed electronically to all elected members and the feedback has been most pleasing in terms of the improved communication and understanding of Association activities.

LGAT Assist processed 80 loans to a value of \$ 427,300 ensuring council employees were able to pay debts, take holidays, undertake house renovations and attend to vehicle purchases and repairs.

Nationally, Constitutional Recognition remained the main focus of attention and while momentum remains with us in terms of both the enthusiasm and desire of councils to rally for the cause, with the time until the next election drawing ever closer and questions remaining outstanding about the impacts and responses to the Williams case, concerns are beginning to arise in terms of the likelihood of a referendum at the next election. ALGA is leaving no stone unturned and is seeking to ensure that every possibility is considered in terms of a successful campaign to achieve the end goal but it is imperative that all the stars are aligned and there remain a few pesky obstacles at the moment. We will hear more on this issue tomorrow at the Conference.

The other big win nationally was the extension of the Roads to Recovery Program until 2019 – a great achievement and through no little effort on the part of ALGA.

In closing, I commend the team at the Association, under the leadership of CEO Allan Garcia, for the dedication and professionalism they continue to give in their support of Local Government.

I am personally most appreciative of the support given to me by Allan and his team and on behalf of all Members of the Association I thank you for your commitment as together we work to strengthen Local Government here in Tasmania.

Finally, I thank you for returning me as President, it is indeed a great privilege that you have given to me.

2 MINUTES OF 99TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *

The Minutes of the 99th Annual General Meeting of the Local Government Association of Tasmania, held in Hobart on 20 July, 2011 as circulated, are submitted for confirmation.

The Minutes are at Attachment to Item 2.

Burnie City Council/West Coast Council

That the Minutes of the 99th Annual General Meeting, held 20 July, 2011 be confirmed.

Carried

3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO 30 JUNE 2011 *

The General Management Committee recommends consideration and adoption of the Association's Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, an abridged version of which is included at **Attachment to Item 3**.

A full version is available from the Association's offices.

A copy of the Association's Profit and Loss report for the period 1 July 2011 to 8 June 2012 is also included at **Attachment to Item 3** to provide members with an indication of the current financial position of the Association. At the time of preparation of the report three weeks remained to the end of the Financial Year with year end adjustments also pending. It is anticipated that there will be a minor surplus.

The financial statements will not show expenditure associated with the recent purchase of Association premises as settlement for the property did not occur until 1 July 2012. Some relocation and end of lease expenditure is still required to be brought to account.

Hobart City Council/Circular Head Council

That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 be received and adopted.

Carried

4 PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT HONORARIUMS

The Rules of the Association provide that the Annual General Meeting will grant an annual allowance to the President and Vice President.

It has been practice to undertake an independent review of the allowances of the President and Vice President in the same financial year as the four yearly review of allowances of Local Government Elected Members. The last review was undertaken in 2009 by the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The result of that review was a proposal to retain the basis of the present allowances unchanged for the two positions with annual movements for the next four years being in accord with the wages price index, bringing the allowances into line with the escalation factor used for elected member allowances across councils.

The President and Vice President allowances have been increased in line with adjustments with the Wages Price Index for the financial years ending 30 June 2010, 30 June 2011 and 30 June 2012 after which a further review of allowances was to be conducted. However, as the escalation factor used for elected member allowances remains the wages price index it is deemed appropriate that the President and Vice President Honorariums escalate on the same basis going forward.

If in the future, the escalation of the Elected Member Allowances are reviewed or alter, the Honorariums can also be reviewed.

The resultant application of the wages price index has meant allowances for the 2011 - 2012 were:

- President allowance \$40,476 per annum.
- Vice President allowance \$10,119 per annum.

The wage price index will also be applied to GMC sitting fees.

Huon Valley Council/Southern Midlands Council

That the President's and Vice President's allowance for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 be adjusted in accordance with the movement in the Wages Price Index.

Carried

5 CHANGE TO THE RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION

At the July 2011 General Meeting the following motion was passed:

That LGAT amend its current policy position of holding General Meetings to:

- a) *Two times per year alternating from Hobart (with AGM) and Launceston with any additional General Meeting to be held in the North-West; and*
- b) *Special General Meetings called at the request of the President or motion of GMC, with Special General Meetings to be held in Launceston.*

In order to enact that motion, the Rules of the Association have to be amended. Changes to the rules can only be passed at an Annual General Meeting (s8(1)(x)).

The proposed changes are indicated below using strike through to indicate old text which would be removed and bold underline to indicate new text which would be incorporated.

11 WHEN AND WHERE MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE TO BE HELD

- (a) The Annual General Meeting of the Association is to be held, if possible, in July of each year.
- (b) There shall be at least ~~2~~ **3** General Meetings in addition to the Annual General Meeting, in every financial year of the Association, **with one to be held in Hobart and one to be held in Launceston. Any additional General Meeting will be held in the North-West of Tasmania.**
- (c) **Special General** Meetings of the Association are to be held **Launceston** ~~in a city or town in Tasmania as determined by the General Management Committee.~~

While noting the Meeting indicated a preference for a reduced number of General Meetings, the Association is concerned that this constrains ability for councils to raise emerging issues and for the Association to keep councils abreast of State Government policy in a timely fashion. While the ability to call an extra General Meeting remains intact, it can be difficult to schedule a meeting at short notice that allows all Members to attend (as opposed to cancelling a meeting that is already scheduled).

It is considered that the business of Local Government at a state-wide level commands more than meeting twice a year. There are a series of policy and political issues that arise throughout the year that would necessitate the meeting of councils on a sector basis to ensure that policy positions are thoroughly debated, understood and prosecuted.

It is acknowledged that the opportunity exists to call meetings at any time but this is not considered to be the optimum position given the above.

Budget Implications

There will be minor administrative savings.

Circular Head Council/Burnie City Council

That the Meeting agree that the Rules of the Local Government Association of Tasmania be amended to reflect the following:

- a) **Meetings to be held two times per year alternating from Hobart (with AGM) and Launceston with any additional General Meeting to be held in the North-West; and**
- b) **Special General Meetings to be called at the request of the President or motion of GMC, with Special General Meetings to be held in Launceston.**

Lost

6 SUBSCRIPTIONS 1 JULY 2012 TO 30 JUNE 2013 *

In framing its budget for this year the Association has applied a 2.5% increase to subscriptions resulting in a call of \$967,939. The levels of contributions from individual councils have been adjusted in accordance with the shift to total assessed revenue of councils with one council moving up a category in that process.

At the time of preparing documentation formal advice had not been received from Glenorchy City Council as to its return to the Association. In the spirit of inclusiveness and on the basis of early informal advice from Council, Glenorchy City Council has been included within the subscription calculations. It should be noted that in the event that formal advice is not received as to Glenorchy's return, subscription levels for individual councils will be recalculated and re-issued prior to the Annual General Meeting.

While not forming part of the subscriptions proper, an extension of the table has been provided outlining previously endorsed member contributions to the careers project, the statewide household survey and the fighting fund for constitutional recognition.

The subscription levels for councils is at **Attachment to Item 6** and submitted to the Annual General Meeting for adoption.

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council/Dorset Council

That subscriptions be increased by 2.5% to meet the operating costs of the Association.

Carried

7 BUDGET FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS 1 JULY 2012 TO 30 JUNE 2013 *

There are very few major shifts in the budget for the upcoming year.

At the last General Meeting member councils endorsed the extension by the Association of the careers and workforce development activity and agreed to funding on top of standard subscriptions of \$124,450.

A further \$75,000 has been requested for Constitutional Recognition. The latter funds will be held in a special reserve by the Association on behalf of members and will only be utilized if and when the Constitutional Recognition program is mobilized.

Provision has been made for standard salary increases of Association staff within the budget with most line items remaining constant for the coming year.

A major shift in the budget arises from the purchase of new premises for the Association at 326 Macquarie Street, Hobart. A reduction in expenditure for lease of premises has resulted. No significant major expenditure is expected for any particular activity but the reduced expenditure is partially offset by the obvious reduction in interest income from the building reserve fund, an expected reduction in general interest income due to lower interest rates and a decrease in the levels of income derived from commissions.

Under its lease arrangements for Patrick Street, the Association was liable for its share of land tax, rates, water and sewerage and electricity and it is anticipated that these will remain fairly constant at the new premises.

A copy of the budget is at **Attachment to Item 7.**

Kingborough Council/Latrobe Council

That the Meeting adopt the Budget as presented.

Carried

8 REPORTS FROM BOARD REPRESENTATIVES *

Listed below are the bodies on which the Association had statutory representation in the 2011/2012 financial year.

Representatives on Statutory Bodies are requested to provide a report for Conference and are also requested to provide regular reports back to the Association during the year.

- **Animal Welfare Advisory Committee**
Mr David Moser
- **Assessment Committee for Dam Construction (ACDC)**
Mr Neil Blaikie
- **Community Review Committee - Threatened Species Protection Act 1995**
Ms Lisa Nelson, Circular Head Council
- **Environmental Management Pollution Control Board**
Mr David Masters, Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
- **Forests & Forest Industry Council**
Mayor Robert Armstrong, Huon Valley Council
- **LGAT Assist**
Mr Kay Reeves
- **Marine Farming Planning Review Panel**
Mayor Jock Campbell, Clarence City Council
- **Tasmanian Planning Commission**
Ms Sandra Hogue
- **State Fire Commission**
Mr Rod Sweetnam, Launceston City Council, Mayor Carmel Torenus, Sorell Council
- **State Fire Management Council**
Dr Stephen Bresnehan, Hobart City Council
- **State Grants Commission**
Mr Grant Atkins and Mr Hugh Denny
- **Tasmanian Heritage Council**
Ald Sandra French, Burnie City Council, Mr Roger Howlett
- **Tasmanian Library Advisory Board**
Ald Sandra French, Burnie City Council, Mr Stephen Brown, George Town Council, Ald Doug Chipman, Clarence City Council and Ms Narelle Calphy, Glenorchy City Council

The reports received for presentation are at **Attachment to Item 8.**

Burnie City Council/Southern Midlands Council

- (a) **That the reports from representatives on various bodies be received and noted.**
- (b) **That Conference acknowledges the time and effort put in by all Association representatives on boards, working parties, advisory groups and committees etc.**

Carried

The CEO advised the following representatives had been elected to the General Management Committee for a two year term, until July 2014.

President

Mayor Barry Easter

Committee Members

Mayor Daryl Quilliam

North West & West Coast Electoral District
Population <20,000

Mayor Jan Bonde

North West & West Coast Electoral District
Population >20,000

Mayor Barry Jarvis

Northern Electoral District
Population <20,000

Mayor Albert van Zetten

Northern Electoral District
Population >20,000

Mayor Deirdre Flint

Southern Electoral District
Population <20,000

Mayor Graham Bury

Southern Electoral District
Population >20,000

Lord Mayor Damon Thomas

There being no further business, the President declared the Annual General Meeting closed 3.15pm.