



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.

<p>Burnie City Council/West Coast Council</p> <p>That the Minutes of the 99th Annual General Meeting, held 20 July, 2011 be confirmed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>



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.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2012

	Note	Assist 2012 \$	General 2012 \$	Assist 2011 \$	General 2011 \$
Assets					
Current assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	3	741,025	877,630	785,996	824,277
Trade and other receivables	4	-	132,119	-	367,140
Financial assets	5	288,288	2,288,575	231,301	1,855,947
Other assets	6	8,279	970,489	3,037	92,571
Total current assets		1,037,592	4,268,813	1,020,334	3,139,935
Non-current assets					
Financial assets	5	147,799	-	154,308	500,000
Plant and equipment	7	-	89,000	-	95,131
Intangible assets	8	-	2,448	-	280
Total non-current assets		147,799	91,448	154,308	595,411
Total assets		1,185,391	4,360,261	1,174,642	3,735,346
Liabilities					
Current liabilities					
Trade and other payables	9	5,141	373,765	6,064	259,657
Unexpended grants	10	-	879,943	-	617,561
Provisions	11	-	197,063	-	166,181
Total current liabilities		5,141	1,450,771	6,064	1,043,399
Non-current liabilities					
Provisions	11	-	31,472	-	18,597
Total non-current liabilities		-	31,472	-	18,597
Total liabilities		5,141	1,482,243	6,064	1,061,996
Net Assets		1,180,250	2,878,018	1,168,578	2,673,350
Equity					
Accumulated surplus		1,180,250	2,878,018	1,168,578	2,673,350
Total Equity		1,180,250	2,878,018	1,168,578	2,673,350

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2012

	General 2012	General 2011
	\$	\$
Note 17 Detailed statement of general account - revenue and expenditure		
Revenue		
Government grants	859,201	440,519
Fees and commissions	67,113	52,742
Interest - general account	161,918	133,932
Interest – building proceeds	50,348	56,010
Interest – Constitutional Rec	3,584	-
Surplus/(Deficit) on sale of plant and equipment	(3,259)	-
Sponsorship, conferences/seminars	240,194	7,522
Subscriptions	944,330	882,833
Other Subscriptions	245,254	138,767
Other	71	618
	2,568,754	1,712,943
Expenditure		
Advertising	209	2,210
Accommodation expenses	1,334	733
Accounts administration	13,030	12,113
ALGA	97,034	98,762
Amortisation - computer software	106	1,184
Auditors' remuneration	13,110	12,728
Catering	2,907	4,254
Cleaning	13,248	12,968
Consultancy fees	3,000	6,000
Council careers and skills shortage	163,145	113,789
Community Satisfaction Survey	26,000	-
Conferences and seminars	166,178	6,936
Cost Recovery - welfare administration	(24,000)	(24,000)
Cost Recovery - grant administration	(64,278)	(35,255)
Depreciation - computers	6,085	9,112
Depreciation - motor vehicles	16,917	21,828
Depreciation - furniture and equipment	507	422
Division 43 Deduction	21	-
Fringe benefits tax	17,539	12,886
Insurance	29,319	26,710
Members emoluments	58,305	55,237
Motor Vehicle - running expenses	8,814	9,061
Motor Vehicle - repairs and maintenance	2,508	1,409
Network and internet	16,391	12,792
Other expenses	24,826	9,359

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2012

	General 2012 \$	General 2011 \$
Note 17 Detailed statement of general account - revenue and expenditure (cont'd)		
Postage	7,496	7,723
Power	3,105	2,580
Printing and publications	6,631	5,991
Rates and taxes	16,556	9,278
Rentals	73,394	70,410
Relocation Expenses	9,909	-
Salaries, wages and employee benefits (incl. Grant Staff)	725,637	727,979
Software	2,003	2,003
Sponsorship	1,250	3,000
Stationery	3,111	3,166
Subscriptions - general account	9,222	10,083
Superannuation contribution (incl. Grant Staff)	84,154	85,475
Telephone	25,944	20,877
Travelling Expenses	17,353	10,749
Government grants expenditure (excluding wages and superannuation):		
Tasmarc - Climate Connect	226	-
Household Hazardous Waste	150,038	331,157
eDAIS	13,026	13,630
Coastal Adaption Pathway Project	385,707	10,000
LG Reform	215,428	23,458
LG IT Strategies	21,641	23,119
Total expenses	2,364,086	1,731,916
Operating surplus/(deficit) - general account	204,668	(18,973)

Charges incurred for the administration of both the LGAT Assist account and grant projects have been recharged to LGAT Assist or the specific project. The recovery of these costs is then shown as Cost Recovery so that the expenses on the General Account are more accurately reported.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2012

	Assist 2012	Assist 2011
Note 18 Detailed statement of general account - revenue and expenditure		
Revenue		
Interest on Loans	37,927	33,536
Other Interest Revenue	36,014	36,244
Other LGAT Assist Income	2,000	1,600
	<u>75,941</u>	<u>71,380</u>
Expenditure		
LGAT Assist Accounts Administration	28,904	27,828
Auditors Remuneration	4,370	4,243
Advertising	240	921
Bad Debts Written Off/(Recovered)	923	(403)
Donations and Research Projects	17,500	17,500
Grants to Members – Welfare	10,500	4,481
Printing/Publications	1,430	-
Other Expenses – Welfare	402	132
Total Expenses	<u>64,269</u>	<u>54,702</u>
Operating surplus – LGAT Assist account	<u>11,672</u>	<u>16,678</u>

Note 19 Commitments

On the 27th March 2012 LGAT signed a contract on a building in Macquarie St, Hobart. The building will be utilised in future years as the headquarters for LGAT's operations. The date of settlement is the 1st July 2012. To facilitate the settlement on this date the full settlement sum of \$880,000 less the deposit paid plus direct costs has been paid to LGAT's lawyers prior to the end of the financial year. The impact of this transaction at the end of the financial year has been to reduce the cash asset of LGAT and increase other assets by the dollar value of the full settlement.

On settlement the building will be recognised as a non-current fixed asset.

Subscription Table

Attachment to Item 5

Based on Assessed Revenue Category

Grp	Council	2012/13 Subs Paid		2013/14 Subscriptions		Careers Project	Const Rec	Survey	Total Contribution
		% of	Subs	% of	3.05%				
1	Flinders Island	1.85	17,907	1.86	18,503	2,309	1,391	260	22,462
1	King Island	1.85	17,907	1.86	18,503	2,309	1,391	260	22,462
1	Tasman	1.85	17,907	1.86	18,503	2,309	1,391	260	22,462
1	Central Highlands	1.85	17,907	1.86	18,503	2,309	1,391	260	22,462
1	Kentish	2.75	26,618	1.86	18,503	2,309	1,391	260	22,462
1	Southern Midlands	1.85	17,907	2.71	26,981	3,366	2,029	379	32,755
2	Break O'Day	2.75	26,618	2.71	26,981	3,366	2,029	379	32,755
2	West Coast	2.75	26,618	2.71	26,981	3,366	2,029	379	32,755
2	Latrobe	2.75	26,618	2.71	26,981	3,366	2,029	379	32,755
3	George Town	2.75	26,618	2.71	26,981	3,366	2,029	379	32,755
2	Glamorgan Spring Bay	2.75	26,618	2.71	26,981	3,366	2,029	379	32,755
2	Derwent Valley	2.75	26,618	2.71	26,981	3,366	2,029	379	32,755
2	Northern Midlands	3.66	35,427	3.61	35,958	4,486	2,704	505	43,653
3	Sorell	3.66	35,427	3.61	35,958	4,486	2,704	505	43,653
2	Dorset	2.75	26,618	3.61	35,958	4,486	2,704	505	43,653
3	Brighton	3.66	35,427	3.61	35,958	4,486	2,704	505	43,653
3	Circular Head	3.66	35,427	3.61	35,958	4,486	2,704	505	43,653
3	Waratah Wynyard	3.66	35,427	3.61	35,958	4,486	2,704	505	43,653
3	Meander Valley	3.66	35,427	3.61	35,958	4,486	2,704	505	43,653
4	Central Coast	4.20	40,653	4.11	40,946	5,109	3,079	575	49,708
4	Huon Valley	4.20	40,653	4.11	40,946	5,109	3,079	575	49,708
4	West Tamar	4.20	40,653	4.11	40,946	5,109	3,079	575	49,708
5	Burnie	4.70	45,493	4.61	45,933	5,731	3,454	645	55,762
5	Devonport	4.20	40,653	4.61	45,933	5,731	3,454	645	55,762
5	Kingborough	4.70	45,493	4.61	45,933	5,731	3,454	645	55,762
6	Clarence	5.30	51,301	5.11	50,920	6,353	3,829	715	61,817
6	Glenorchy	4.70	45,493	5.11	50,920	6,353	3,829	715	61,817
6	Hobart	5.30	51,301	5.11	50,920	6,353	3,829	715	61,817
6	Launceston	5.30	51,301	5.11	50,920	6,353	3,829	715	61,817
	Total Subscriptions	100.01	967,939	100.00	997,461	124,450	75,000	14,000	1,210,851

Increased - Southern Midlands, Dorset, Devonport City, Glenorchy City

Decreased - Kentish

The above amounts do not include GST

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA
ESTIMATES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

	2012/13	2013/14	Comparison
Income			
Annual Conference and seminars	200,000	230,000	30000.00
Fees and Commissions	50,000	65,000	15000.00
Interest (Excl. Interest on grants)	75,000	75,000	0.00
Interest on Capital from Building	4,000	3,000	-1000.00
Profit on Sale of Plant & Equip			0.00
Project Admin/Cost Recovery	12,000	7,500	-4500.00
Assist Revenue	30,000	31,000	1000.00
Subscriptions	967,939	997,460	29521.00
Careers Project	124,450	124,450	0.00
Extraordinary Income via Subscriptions			0.00
Community Satisfaction Survey	13,000	14,000	1000.00
Constitutional Recognition	75,000	75,000	0.00
Interest Constitutional Recognition Funds (4.5% approx)	3,500	-	-3500.00
Total Income	\$1,554,889	\$1,622,410	67,521.00
Expenditure			
Accommodation Expenses - GMC	1,500	1,500	0
Accounts Administration	13,000	13,000	0
Advertising	2,500	2,000	-500
ALGA Subscriptions	80,000	80,000	0
Auditors' Remuneration	17,000	18,000	1,000
Bank Fees and Govt Charges	2,800	3,000	200
Catering, receptions, etc	4,500	4,500	0
Cleaning and Supplies	5,000	5,000	0
Community Satisfaction Survey-Funded from Annual Contr	-	27,000	27,000
Conferences/Seminars	150,000	165,000	15,000
Consultants' Fees	10,000	10,000	0
Council Careers	124,450	124,450	0
Depreciation Building	3,000	3,000	0
Computers	7,000	7,000	0
Furniture & Equip	1,000	1,000	0
Motor Vehicles	19,000	21,000	2,000
Amortisation	1,000	1,000	0
Donations/Research/Scholarships	5,000	5,000	0
Equipment and Venue Hire	1,000	1,000	0
Fringe Benefits Tax	15,000	15,000	0
GMC Elections - Bi-annual	-	2,000	2,000
Insurance Fidelity Guarantee	1,800	1,800	0
General	12,000	12,000	0
Public Liability and PI	13,000	14,000	1,000
Workers Compensation	4,500	4,500	0
Land & Building Running Costs	-	4,000	4,000
Members Emoluments	60,000	60,000	0
Motor Vehicle Running Costs	10,000	9,000	-1,000
Repairs and Maintenance	3,000	3,000	0
Lease/hire	1,000	1,000	0
Network and Internet	23,000	18,000	-5,000
Office Requisites	2,500	1,500	-1,000

	2012/13	2013/14	Comparison
Other and Miscellaneous	2,039	2,000	-39
Other Employee Entitlements	9,000	9,000	0
Postage	7,000	7,000	0
Power	6,500	7,500	1,000
Printing and Publications	6,000	6,000	0
Rates and Land Tax	10,000	10,000	0
Rentals	5,000	2,000	-3,000
Repairs and maintenance	5,000	1,000	-4,000
Salaries (exc Grant Staff)	660,000	710,000	50,000
Software	3,000	2,850	-150
Stationery	4,000	4,000	0
Subscriptions - membership etc	4,000	4,000	0
Superannuation	82,500	90,500	8,000
Standards Panel	1,000	1,000	0
Telephone	20,000	20,000	0
Training	3,500	4,000	500
Travelling expenses ALGA	20,000	20,000	0
Interstate	10,000	10,000	0
President	5,000	5,000	0
TTC Subscription	6,000	6,000	0
Uniform expense	300	310	10
Total Expenditure	1,463,389	1,560,410	97,021
Community Satisfaction Survey-Funded from Reserves		-13,000.00	- 13,000.00
Adjusted Expenditure		1,547,410	84,021
Change in net assets from operations	91,500.00	75000.00	-16,500.00
Less			
Constitutional Recognition Funding transferred to reserves	-75,000	-75,000	0
Constitutional Recognition Funding interest transferred to reserves	-3,500	0	3,500
Community Satisfaction Survey transferred to reserves for bi-annual survey	-13,000	0	13,000
Net Result	0.00	0.00	0.00

All figures are ex GST

**LGAT ASSIST
ESTIMATES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2014**

	2012/2013	2013/14	Comparison
Income			
Interest	28,000	27,000	1,000
Interest on loans	38,000	37,000	1,000
Assist Loan Application Fees	2,000	2,000	0
Total Income	68,000	66,000	2,000
Expenditure			
Accommodation Expenses	500	500	0
Accounts Administration	31,000	34,000	-3,000
Advertising	1,000	1,000	0
Auditors' Remuneration	5,000	5,000	0
Bad Debts	12,000	12,000	0
Bank Fees and Govt Charges	250	250	0
Donations/Research/Scholarships	19,000	19,000	0
Grants to members	10,000	10,000	0
Other and Miscellaneous	500	500	0
Printing and Publications	1,000	1,000	0
Welfare Write Offs	200	200	0
Special Projects	2,000	2,000	0
Total Expenditure	82,450	85,450	-3,000
Change in net assets from operations	-\$14,450	-\$19,450	\$5,000

All figures are ex GST



REPORTS FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

to be presented to the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

Wednesday 24 July 2013

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ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE FOR DAM CONSTRUCTION

REPRESENTATIVE: Neil Blaikie

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2012/2013: 10

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

- To consider applications for dam permits, to grant or refuse permits and to determine any conditions to which the permits should be subject,
- to determine the size, type, location or purpose of dams for which the grant or refusal of an application for a permit may be delegated,
- to determine what type of additional information is to be provided by an applicant for a permit,
- to issue Notices requesting additional information when required,
- to make recommendations to the Minister on the sharing of costs between applicants and agencies for any additional information provided,
- to specify the appropriate level of on-going safety management of dams
- to provide for the conciliation of any matter arising from an application for a permit,
- to perform such other functions as are conferred or imposed on the Committee by or under the Water Management Act or any other Act, and
- to do such supplemental, incidental and consequential acts as may be necessary or expedient for the performance of its functions.

The ACDC considers natural and heritage values, and dam safety in its assessment of Dam Works applications.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

- The responsibilities of the ACDC have broadened considerably in the last 36 months. Under changes to the Water Management Act, the ACDC has become a “one stop shop” for dams in relation to impacts on threatened species, wetlands, clearance of forest and non-forest vegetation and fish passage. Expert advice from Departmental technical officers is available to the Committee. The Committee can require offsets to be established if there are impacts identified on threatened species such as a covenant over another area of land to protect the species. Permits for dam works are now only subject to any Aboriginal heritage approvals required and the issue of water licences.
- All decisions by the Assessment Committee to issue Notices and grant or refuse permit applications are open to appeal to the Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal. Since 2000, less than one percent of them have been subject to appeal, a record which reflects the Committee’s strict adherence to processes and judicious deliberations.
- The Water Management Act provides time limits in which the Committee must finalise its decisions to seek further information from applicants or to grant or refuse permit applications. The Committee not only strives to fully meet these limits but also to establish procedures to reduce the time taken to below these limits. To this end, decisions on applications for more simple dam works proposals of less than 100 megalitres, where no additional information is required from the applicant and there are no representations received, have been delegated to officers within the Water and Marine Resources Division of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

- The Committee's work in determining dam safety requirements for tailings dams at mine sites has also increased over the last year with increased mining activity in the State. The Committee provides expert input on dam safety for works on tailings dams directly to the relevant body responsible for their overall approval (the local council or the Environment Protection Agency).
- The ACDC's services remain strongly in demand. This is indicated by the following dam statistics :

1 July 2012 to 15 April 2013:	Number	Storage volume (ML)
New applications accepted	24	12,993
Applications approved by ACDC	19	7,090
Approved under delegation	10	233
As at 15 April 2013	Number	Storage volume (ML)
Applications under technical assessment	11	8,203
Applications under Notice for Further information	19	17,091

- LGAT's representative on the ACDC, Neil Blaikie, took special notice of any issue that would affect local council assets or operations. Mr Blaikie is a Chartered Professional Engineer, Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Australia and the Immediate Past Chairman of the Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD). Mr Blaikie is also Chair of the ACDC Strategic Planning Sub-Committee.
- Mr Blaikie's membership of the ACDC was extended for a further two years to 12 March 2015.

STATE GRANTS COMMISSION

REPRESENTATIVE: Grant Atkins, Hugh Denny

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2012/2013:

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

The State Grants Commission is charged with the responsibility of recommending the distribution of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants and Identified Local Road Fund Grants between the Tasmanian Councils. It also recommends the distribution of the amount allocated by the Tasmanian Government from heavy vehicle motor tax revenues (NRTC).

The Commission has four members two of whom, Hugh Denny and Grant Atkins are representatives of Local Government. The other two members are Rob Close (Independent Chairman) and David Hudson who represents State Treasury. David recently replaced Peter Williams who was a Commission member for five years.

John Wise replaced Commission Secretary Rod Malcomson who had been in the position for the past four years.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

The following amounts were recommended for distribution by the Commission for the 2012/13 grant year.

Base Grant - per capita component (30%)	\$10,304,055
Base Grant – relative needs component (70%)	\$24,042,799
Identified Local Roads Fund Grant	\$35,699,423
NRTC Funds	\$1,500,000

Total quarterly cash payments to councils in 2012/13 were smaller than in recent years due to a decision by the Australian Government to bring forward payment of 50 per cent of the allocation for payment in the 2011/12 year. There was also a negative adjustment to the 2011/12 grant pool due to lower than forecast CPI and population.

In making recommendations for distributing Identified Local Roads Fund Grants in 2012/13 the Commission used new methodological changes resulting from a review of the Roads Preservation Model. The new methodology hopefully reflects the current practices of Tasmanian Councils in the maintenance and construction of their road and bridge infrastructure. To assist the Commission in changing its methodology, advice was sort from a committee of local government engineers and the proposal discussed with councils.

As part of the next triennial review the Commission during its 2013 visits has been discussing with councils the issues of climate change, service diversity, severe economic impact and cost adjustors. The following cost adjustors which are used as part of the Commission's methodology are currently being reviewed - absentee population, dispersion, isolation, worker influx and unemployment.

The Commission is also monitoring developments in council valuation and rating policies to ensure that the Commission's determinations reflect average council policies in respect to rates and charges.

The Commission will again consider capping and collaring any changes to its 2013/14 grant recommendations so that grant variations are kept at to a reasonably manageable level.

STATE FIRE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVE: Stephen Bresnehan

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2012/2013: 5

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

The State Fire Management Council has the following functions, as per section 15 of the Fire Service Act 1979:

- a) to develop a State vegetation fire management policy to be used as the basis for all fire management planning;
- b) to advise and report regularly to the Minister on such matters relating to the administration of this Act, as it applies to vegetation fire management, as are referred to it by the Minister and on such matters concerning vegetation fire management as, in the opinion of the Council, should be brought to the attention of the Minister;
- c) to advise the Commission on such matters relating to the prevention and mitigation of vegetation fires as are referred to it by the Commission or land managers and on such other matters as, in the opinion of the Council, should be brought to the attention of the Commission;
- d) to perform such other functions relating to the prevention or mitigation of vegetation fires as the Minister may direct;
- e) to provide an annual report to the Minister on its activities, for inclusion in the annual report of the Commission prepared under section 107G;
- f) to provide an annual report to the Commission on the activities of the Fire Management Area Committees, for inclusion in the annual report of the Commission prepared under section 107G.

In addition to the above, the Council is to consider each Fire Management Area Committee fire protection plan submitted to it under section 20(1)(c) and may –

- a) approve the plan as submitted; or
- b) approve the plan subject to such modifications as it thinks fit; or
- c) reject the plan and instruct the Committee to recast the plan.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

As of 30 April 2013, amendments to the Fire Service Act 1979 have changed the role and responsibilities of the State Fire Management Council. These changes are primarily concerned with the reporting and support of Fire Management Area Committees as a key part of fire risk management in the State.

A major part of this expanded role will be coordinated by a newly-created executive team. A Manager was appointed earlier this year and as at early May the process is underway to recruit a Fire Risk Management Planner.

Current issues to receive significant attention in 2013-14:

- Fire Management Area Committees- Work is underway to determine the terms of reference for FMACs, the determination of membership, the boundaries of each FMAC and the form of the Fire Protection Plan that each FMAC is to produce.
- Tasmanian Government Bushfire Inquiry- A SFMC submission to this enquiry is to be presented.
- Redevelopment of the SFMC website
- Review and updating of the State vegetation fire management policy, and
- The development of a consistent specification and naming scheme for fire trails in Tasmania.

STATE FIRE COMMISSION

REPRESENTATIVE: Rod Sweetnam & Hannah Rubenach

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2012/2013: 10

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

The State Fire Commission formulates policy in respect of the administration and operation of Tasmania Fire Service through co-ordinating and directing the development of all fire services and to develop effective fire prevention and protection measures throughout the State.

To instruct the public in the wise use of fire, and to disseminate information regarding fire protection measures and other related matters.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

Fire Permit Periods

At midnight 28 November 2012 a fire permit period was introduced for the Northern and Southern Regions

At midnight 19 December 2012 a fire permit period was introduced for the North West Region.

Total Fire Bans

At midnight 29 November 2012 concluding midnight 30 November 2012 – for the Southern Region.

At midnight 7 December 2012 concluding midnight 8 December 2012 – for the Southern Region.

At midnight 2 January 2013 concluding midnight 3 January 2013 – for the Southern Region.

At midnight 3 January 2013 concluding midnight 4 January 2013 – for the whole of the State.

At midnight 7 January 2013 concluding midnight 8 January 2013 – for the whole of the State.

At midnight 5 February 2013 concluding midnight 6 February 2013 –Southern Region.

At midnight 6 February 2013 concluding midnight 7 February 2013 – Northern & Southern Regions.

At midnight 7 February 2013 concluding midnight 8 February 2013 – Northern & Southern Regions.

At midnight 17 February 2013 concluding midnight 18 February 2013 – Southern Region.

At midnight 12 March 2013 concluding midnight 13 March 2013 – whole of the State.

Major Legislative Amendments to the *Fire Service Act 1979* and or Regulations

Fire Service Amendment Bill 2012

The Commission approved the creation of a Fire Service Amendment (Bushfire Prone Areas) Bill in 2011-12. The Bill is designed to define the process which will be used to accredit practitioners under the Fire Service Act 1979 and ensuring the Chief Officer is empowered to accredit persons to approve Bushfire Hazard Management Plans for proposed developments. The Amendment Bill also ensures Councils are not liable for any damages arising from a plan provided by an accredited person. Final approval of the Bill by the Commission was provided in October 2012.

Major initiatives for the Commission for 2012-13 include:-

Fire Fighting Appliance Replacement Program

The Commission's major capital priority is its fire fighting appliance replacement program. Over the past few years this program has enabled the replacement of a significant number of older appliances. The new vehicles, which are designed and built locally, provide greater safety and efficiency for brigades responding to fires. For 2012-13 a total budget allocation including unspent carried forward funds of \$2.75m has been provided.

Fire Station Build Program

The fire station build program continues to be an important priority for the Commission. In 2012-13 an allocation of \$0.7m has been provided for Land and Buildings with the construction of fire stations at Collinsvale, Oatlands, Grassy and Tomahawk with upgrades for Franklin, Rocherlea, Launceston, Prospect, Lackrana, Memana, Branxholm and St Helens.

Information Technology Replacement Program

An allocation of \$0.8m has been provided in 2012-13 to enable the Commission to replace out dated information technology infrastructure. Two major projects for 2012-13 will allow an upgrade of the Storage Area Network (SAN) and blade server infrastructure at Hobart and disaster recovery sites to replace aging equipment and improve business continuity. The second major upgrade will see is the replacement of the "end of life" servers used for TFS's operational systems and the conversion of these systems to more cost effective operating environment. The desktop and laptop replacement program continues in 2012-13. The installation and replacement of the network infrastructure is an important project and will continue to occur over the next five years.

Communications Replacement Program

The second year of the major communications networks five year project includes the replacement of aging paging system infrastructure (paging transmitters and associated links) across the state, ensuring that high availability and serviceability for these critical systems are maintained in 2012-13. The base radio replacement project will continue in its second year of a five year program. This project replaces radio network infrastructure and equipment across the state ensuring that critical systems maintain high availability and serviceability.

Community Fire Protection Planning Program

The three year Community Fire Protection Planning Program commenced in 2009-10 and provides a total of \$1.3 million to enable the appointment of a community planner in each of the three regions. These community planners have and continue to support local brigades and oversee the development of Community Protection Plans as well as supporting community-based promotion and education.

Community Education and Awareness Program

The final year of a three year Community Education and Awareness Program to support the production of education and awareness materials, community maps for local level education and awareness activities at a total cost of \$0.3m.

TASMANIAN HERITAGE COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVE: Ald Sandra French

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2012/2013: 16

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

To provide leadership and direction for the Management of Tasmania's cultural heritage.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

For the Tasmanian Heritage Council the year has been one of continuity, consolidation and change of members. There is a growing awareness of the importance heritage is to the State's economy and also the importance of heritage tourism. Heritage is increasingly being viewed as a tangible community asset rather than an economic burden. The Tasmanian Heritage Council has focused on 20th Century architecture, 19th Century heritage places and convict heritage.

Two most unusual places entered the Tasmanian Heritage Register have been the Queenstown oval, known locally as "the Gravel" and R Stephens' Golden Been Honey Factory, Apiary, Nuclei and Residence at Mole Creek.

The Tasmanian Heritage Council has begun working on implementing the Legislative reform process. The Amendment Bill 2012 is designed to make the system easier to understand, remove red tape and ensure more consistent decision making.

Our heritage helps us discover who we are, where we have come from and in a sense, shapes where we are going. By choosing to protect and preserve tells us about the values we have as a Community.

Total entries on the Register as at 30 June 2012 is 5,549.

LGAT ASSIST

REPRESENTATIVE: Kaye Reeves (Chairman);
Allan Garcia (LGAT)
John Phillips (Australian Services Union)
Tony Wolfe (Southern Water/Australian Services Union)
Geoff Dodge (LGMA, Tas.)

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2012/2013: 11

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

For over 50 years, the Fund has continued to offer assistance to eligible Local Government employees by way of low interest loans, grants and access to financial advice.

In addition to these services, three University of Tasmania bursaries to the value of \$1,500 a year for two years are awarded each year to eligible Local Government employees or their dependents.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

This financial year, a total of 50 low interest loans to the value of \$ 405,142.32 were approved, and non-refundable grants to the value of \$9413.88 were provided. In recent years, an annual donation of \$10,000 has been made to the Menzies Institute towards its ongoing medical research.

LGAT supplies administration services to the fund and the Board wishes to record its appreciation for this support.

COMMUNITY REVIEW - THREATENED SPECIES PROTECTION ACT 1995

REPRESENTATIVE: Liz Quinn, NRM Coordinator, Kingborough Council

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2012/2013: Three

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

To ensure the social and economic impact of the implementation of management agreements for threatened species and a number of other issues are fully considered.

- To receive and consider draft recovery plans and listing statements;
- In respect of private land to assist in and make recommendations to the Minister on the preparation of land management plans and land management agreements;
- To provide for conciliation as may be required in any matter arising from a land management agreement or for the purpose of making any such agreement;
- To consider the social and economic impact of the implementation of land management agreements;
- To advise the Minister on the effect of Interim Protection Orders;
- To consider and advise on other matters that may be referred to it by the Minister

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

- Considered & provided comment on listing statements for eight threatened flora and twenty-eight threatened fauna species.
- Considered & provided comment on two draft Recovery Plans.
- Clarified the role of Land Management Agreements under the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*. It was agreed that the CRC Committee could provide advice to the Minister if it considered there were likely to be social and/or economic impacts to a landowner directly related to the listing of a threatened species and when a Land Management Agreement should be considered.
- The CRC received a number of recommendations from the Minister regarding the role of the Committee. In response to the suggestions the committee is preparing discussion papers on how it will:
 - Build awareness and capacity within the community and industry to respond to the impacts of climate change on threatened species
 - Build capacity and awareness in the local government sector to identify and respond to threatened species issues early in the development and land use planning processes. This includes access to current and accurate information on threatened species.
 - Assist community and industry to recognise the value of threatened species through a better understanding of the threatened species management system.
- The development and use of biodiversity offsetting by some Councils has been discussed by the Committee, however no formal comment has been prepared at this stage.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD

REPRESENTATIVE: Liz Gillam

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2012/2013: One

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

Established under the Local Government Act to

- (a) carry out reviews;
- (b) advise the Minister on any other matters the Minister may determine.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

In September 2011, the Minister for Local Government requested that the Board carry out a review of the numbers of councillors in accordance with section 214A (k) of the Act. This was in response to a request from Kingborough and Glenorchy Councils. Break O'Day, Central Coast, Devonport, Glamorgan-Spring Bay and Tasman Councils accepted the invitation that their numbers also be reviewed.

In early July 2012 the Board provided the Minister with its report and recommendations and in October 2012, the Minister accepted the recommendations of the Board:

- a reduction from 12 councillors to 9 for the Central Coast and Devonport City Councils;
- a reduction from 9 to 8 for the Glamorgan-Spring Bay Council;
- a reduction from 12 to 10 for the Glenorchy City and Kingborough Councils; and
- a reduction from 9 to 7 for the Tasman Council.

The Board recommended no change in the number of councillors elected to the Break O'Day Council.

The Board has commenced a review of councillor numbers for Southern Midlands Council Dorset, Derwent Valley, Launceston and other councils who may elect to participate in the review.

At the time of writing this report, a Background Paper is being prepared with public consultation expected to commence in late May.

LIBRARY BOARD

REPRESENTATIVE: Alderman Chipman, Alderman French, Mr Brown

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2012/2013: four

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

The role of the board is to provide advice to the Minister on any issue relating to library services.

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

1. Resource Allocations
2. De-selection and Disposal of Library Materials
3. ebooks
4. Community Knowledge Network
5. Strategic Planning and Performance Framework
6. Governance
7. Branding
8. Literacy Service
9. Review of Libraries Act
10. Collection Storage
11. Digital Preservation
12. Parliamentary Library Management
13. State Library Holds Service
14. Library Fines Amnesty
15. Book Groups Tasmania
16. Premier's Reading challenge
17. Learning and Information Network Centres

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REPRESENTATIVE: Mr David Moser

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2012/2013: Five

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD:

Sections 39 and 40 of the current *Animal Welfare Act 1993* set out, respectively, the membership composition and functions of the AWAC. The Committee principally advises the Minister on any matter (generally) relating to animal welfare; conducts ongoing reviews of the laws relating to animal welfare; and recommends any changes in the laws relating to animal welfare

Members are appointed by the Minister for a period up to three years, and include representatives of the intensive animal industry, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, RSPCA, Animals Australia, the Police Department, University of Tasmania, the sporting and recreational users of animals, the Municipal Association of Tasmania (LGAT) and a veterinary surgeon. The three-yearly membership of most AWAC members will expire at the end of 2013 and LGAT will be asked to nominate a new member and alternative member (currently Cr Jeff Carins, Northern Midlands).

MAJOR ISSUES DEALT WITH AND DECISIONS MADE:

AWAC met five times in 2012-13, including one phone hook-up meeting to review proposed changes to the Animal Welfare Act. Meeting venues alternate between Hobart and Launceston. Issues discussed and reviewed during this period have included:

- (a) finalisation of the review of the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*, including a review of penalties;
- (b) finalisation of the development of the draft code for the breeding and keeping of dogs;
- (c) review and/or assessment of cattle and sheep standards and guidelines; seal deterrents; the guide to dairy cattle welfare; pig farrowing crates; the effect of the January bushfires on farm and native animals; guidelines for hunting of fallow deer and the field shooting of brushtail possums; and chicken welfare and production system definitions.

While most of the issues discussed at AWAC are only of indirect interest to Local Government, the proposed code for breeding and keeping of dogs, and the review of the *Animal Welfare Act* have most direct relevance.

The Office of Parliamentary Counsel is assessing the proposed changes recommended by the review of the Animal Welfare Act. This assessment will determine the effectiveness of the changes and the practicality of their implementation into law, including onus of proof and definitions (e.g. animal research). The review included a comparative assessment of penalties for offences to bring them in to line with those in other states.

The draft code for breeding and keeping of dogs, which is available on the DPIPW website, has been developed directly from the current NSW code. As noted in last year's report, a copy of the draft Tasmanian code was circulated to identified stakeholders last year for feedback before a final draft was produced for ratification by AWAC. AWAC was advised this year that the Minister is satisfied with the draft and it is likely to be assessed by Cabinet in a few months. Finalisation of the code should be undertaken by AWAC later this year. The code should provide a practical mechanism for relevant council officers when assessing applications for kennel licences, and for the ongoing management and control of dogs in their municipalities. It is likely that dog breeders who advertise puppies for sale will need to include the (council) dog registration number of the mother. For this to be effective, a mechanism for coordinating and accessing council dog registration databases will be needed.

At the last AWAC meeting, members were provided with an extensive information session by DPIPW and industry researchers on the control of fur seals near fish farms, and the new developments that operators are taking to reduce seal interactions. The use of OC/capsicum spray is no longer considered an option as the high concentration of the spray used in trials did not prove effective, was an animal welfare concern, and was also an OH&S issue for farm staff. Operators are developing better netting and framing enclosures as well as using bear scare darts and seal control crackers that frighten the animals. Seal control crackers are being regulated as a prescribed item under the Firearms Act.