



# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

# **MINUTES**

**To be submitted to the**  
**NINETY SIXTH SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**Held on**

**18 June 2008**

**Commencing Immediately**  
**Following the conclusion of the**  
**General Meeting**  
**At**  
**Launceston Country Club Casino**



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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 in conjunction with**  
**Local Government Managers Australia**  
**and**  
**Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia**  
**commencing**  
**Wednesday 18 June 2008**

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT**  
**the Association's**  
**General Meeting**  
**will be held at the**  
**Launceston Country Club Casino**  
**Commencing at 11.00am on**  
**Wednesday 18 June 2008**

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT THE**  
**Ninety Sixth Annual General Meeting**  
**of the Association**  
**will be held**  
**commencing immediately following**  
**the conclusion of the**  
**General Meeting on**  
**Wednesday 18 June 2008**  
**To consider**  
**Local Government Policy and Motions**  
**from Member Councils**

**Allan Garcia**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

# 2008 CONFERENCE PROGRAM



## WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 2008

- 11.00am General Meeting  
Annual General Meeting Commences immediately following the General Meeting
- 1.00pm Lunch  
Conference Registrations Open
- 2.00pm Meetings continue
- 5.30 – 6.00pm ALGWA 30 Year Anniversary Celebration
- 7.30pm ALGWA Dinner

## THURSDAY 19 JUNE 2008

- 7.30-8.00am Find 30 – Morning Walk
- 8.00am Conference Registrations
- 9.00am Welcome and Opening
- 9.15am ALGA President Paul Bell, Constitutional Recognition
- 9.30am Moving Moment
- 9.35am Ian Plowman
- 10.30am Morning Tea *With thanks to Australia Post*
- 11.00am 2008 Local Government Awards For Excellence Finalists
- 11.15am Moving Moment
- 11.20am Dr Kate Crowley
- 12.00pm Lunch *With thanks to Australia Post*
- 1.15pm Workshop Program
- 2.30pm *Afternoon Tea* *With thanks to Commonwealth Bank*
- 3.00pm 2008 Local Government Awards for Excellence Finalists
- 3.10pm CMP Risk Management Awards
- 3.15pm Moving Moment
- 3.20pm Steve Barker
- 4.30-5.30pm Happy Hour *With thanks to Commonwealth Bank*
- 6.45-7.00pm Marsh Shuttle Service to Albert Hall
- 7.15pm Civic Mutual Plus Waves of Change Dinner
- 10.30-12.00pm Marsh Shuttle Service, departing half-hourly from Albert Hall

## FRIDAY 20 JUNE 2008

- 7.30am MARSH Recovery *Breakfast*
- 9.00am Workshop Program
- 10.15am *Morning Tea* *With thanks to OAK*
- 10.45am The Hon David Bartlett MHA,
- 11.00am Moving Moment
- 11.05 Allan Garcia
- 11.30 Neville Dean
- 12.00pm Lunch *With thanks to OAK*
- 1.00pm Institute of Chartered Accountants
- 1.10pm Moving Moment
- 1.15pm Oliver Freeman
- 2.15pm Conference wrap up and Country Club prize draw



## 2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The President, Mayor Mike Gaffney, welcomed Members, accepted apologies and declared the Annual General Meeting open at 3.48.

### APOLOGIES

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Mr Michael Boyd       | Flinders Council |
| Deputy Mayor Rockliff | Latrobe 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

Approximately twelve months ago when I delivered my first annual report I was anxious to reflect the work undertaken by LGAT however, I realised the presentation was a too long. The fact that I had to actually wake people up before I could continue with the AGM was not missed by this President.

This year I will endeavour to be more succinct and at the same time highlight the tremendous amount of work undertaken by our councils for their communities. It is also appropriate to acknowledge LGAT's role in coordinating sector responses and policy positions and facilitating the change which is occurring constantly within Local Government. LGAT has continued to support and effectively represent Councils and provide a conduit for interaction and discussion between elected members, councils and representatives of all spheres of government.

It is necessary to take the time to thank many elected members and council staff for their input and efforts in supporting the continued growth and vitality of Local Government in Tasmania. A number of our members volunteer their time to enable LGAT to be represented on a variety of committees, boards and working groups. The individual commitment and professionalism from individuals is greatly appreciated. Personally, I would particularly like to thanks members of GMC for providing support and sound advice throughout the year.

Some of the major tasks and accomplishments of the year have been:

- LGAT has played a leading role in developing strategies and options to address the twenty-six recommendations outlined in the Access Economics financial sustainability report. Recently all General Managers would have received an update on the direction and progress of the sustainability working group.

- The Local Government elections in October enable a number of new candidates to represent the community and it is heartening to receive fresh ideas and approaches. It is also most important that elected members strive to work together. Your community deserves a leadership team that is objective, hardworking, transparent and progressive. I would suggest that to be an effective leadership team all elected members must strive for collaborative and respectful decision making processes. The elected members workshop coordinated by LGAT in March was a very successful event with approximately 50 participants enjoying presentations and the opportunity to network.
- The national skills shortage is well documented and the decision by Councils at the March meeting to financially support a dedicated careers officer for the next two years is indeed commendable.
- Water and sewerage reform has been the “big issue” this past year and with the Corporations and Regulatory Bills both being endorsed by the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly. The next two years will witness significant developments and create many issues and more challenges for Local Government to address. Whilst there is still quite a long way to go on this journey it is important to note that Local Government will retain the ownership and management of Water and Sewerage which was very uncertain at this same time 12 months ago

One of the advantages of being a small state is the availability and accessibility of State and Federal Politicians to Local Councils. It is well known that the relationship between Local and State Government in Tasmania is envied by other states and there are many important factors necessary to enhance and maintain a positive relationship.

Whilst there have been significant changes within the dynamics of State Parliament recently, it is important to acknowledge the commitment, sound working relationship and effort by former Premier Paul Lennon. Even after passing the portfolio responsibility onto Minister Cox his commitment to Local Government was reinforced by his desire to chair the PLGC meetings. I am well aware that a number of Mayors, Councils and ultimately the community have appreciated the support of Paul Lennon.

It is pleasing however to be able to confirm that even though Parliament is sitting this week Minister Jim Cox will be attending the conference dinner tomorrow night and Premier David Bartlett will be addressing conference delegates on Friday morning.

As LGAT is a member of ALGA (Australian Local Government Association), our association can be assured that ALGA’s lobbying on our behalf is significant. Fair treatment, fair funding, formal recognition and meeting future challenges are themes underpinning ALGA’s discussions with the Federal Government. Both Mayor Easter and I have been asked to represent ALGA at Ministerial Conferences - Emergency Management & Ageing. For those of you pondering - I attended the ageing forum!

In finishing I congratulate LGAT’s CEO Mr Allan Garcia on his leadership role, advice and also the LGAT staff for their professionalism and commitment. It is imperative that in the months ahead, regardless of the challenges that Local Government will face that we continue, as a sector to be respectful, passionate, positive, responsive and representative of our communities at a local, regional and state level.

I have really enjoyed the challenges as President of LGAT and the opportunity to meet many elected members in person or via newsletters, magazines, meetings and workshops.

It is interesting to note that at times personalities in other spheres of Government express their thoughts and ideas via the media about their perception of the roles, responsibilities and future of Local Government.

As President of LGAT I make it very clear to one and all that Local Government in Tasmania is quite capable of managing its own affairs and will be continuing to search for opportunities to become even more efficient particularly with the somewhat limited resources it has at its fingertips. Perhaps, if advice and support from either State or Federal Government representatives could guarantee a greater share of dedicated revenue, Local Government may in fact be in a better position to address more effectively some of the issues to benefit our municipalities.

I am also most appreciative of the opportunity to act as your President for the next two years. I, like you, work very hard for the Local Government sector. I wish you well.

Thank you

**Hobart City Council/Glenorchy City Council**

**That the President's report be received.**

**Carried**

**2 MINUTES OF 95TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING \***

The Minutes of the 95th Annual General Meeting of the Local Government Association of Tasmania, held in Hobart on 30 May 2007, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation.

The Minutes are at **Appendix to Item 2.**

**Central Highlands Council/Meander Valley Council**

**That the Minutes of the 95th Annual General Meeting, held 30 May 2007, as circulated, be confirmed.**

**Carried**

**3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO 30 JUNE 2007 \***

The General Management Committee recommends consideration and adoption of the Association's Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, an abridged version of which is included at **Appendix to Item 3.**

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

**Clarence City Council/Glenorchy City Council**

**That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 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.

The 2005 Conference resolved to endorse the recommendations of an external review carried out by the Tasmanian Chamber Of Commerce and Industry, as detailed below:

- President allowance \$33,250.00 per annum.
- Vice President allowance \$8312.50 per annum.
- Allowances to be increased in line with adjustments to the Consumer Price Index for the financial years ending 30 June 2006, 30 June 2007 and 30 June 2008 after which a further review of allowances be conducted.

#### **George Town Council/Hobart City Council**

**That the President's and Vice President's allowance for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 be adjusted in accordance with the movement in the Consumer Price Index at 30 June 2008.**

**That a review of the President and Vice President Honorariums be conducted and information brought to the next Annual General Meeting.**

**Carried**

#### **5 COUNCIL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE 2008/2009 FINANCIAL YEAR \***

Subscriptions received from councils last year totalled \$881,372. Councils agreed to meet the additional cost of a dedicated careers officer for the coming 2 years at which time the position outcomes would be reviewed. This results in a \$100,000 increase in expenses to the Association per annum and would, if no other changes were made, result in increases in subscriptions to \$981,372.

It is proposed to increase subscriptions by the base \$100,000 for the careers officer and by an additional 1.5% for increased Association costs. The revised subscription levels for councils is at **Attachment to Item 5** and are submitted to the Annual General Meeting for adoption.

#### **Waratah/Wynyard Council/Launceston City Council**

**That subscriptions be increased by the \$100,000 previously endorsed for the Careers Officer position and an additional 1.5% to meet increased operating costs of the Association.**

**Carried**



## **6 BUDGET FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS 1 JULY 2008 TO 30 JUNE 2009 \***

The 2008/09 Budget is at **Appendix to Item 6**.

There are very few major shifts in the budget for the upcoming year. The largest increases relate to the building lease and salaries. At the last General Meeting member councils endorsed the engagement by the Association of a dedicated careers officer. Provision has been made for standard salary increases of Association staff within the budget.

In addition, with the cessation of funding by the Australian Government of the Local Government NRM Network there is an obligation to meet the cost of the present NRM facilitator at the Association for at least 5 months of the upcoming financial year. As the Association will not be funded for NRM activity it is intended to utilise this resource to focus on climate change issues as well as the broader suite of environmental issues. Given the agreement reached at the PLGC to work with the State Government on climate change matters it is proposed to extend this position until at least the end of the financial year to enable some of the groundwork and frameworks to be put into place for councils. The position would be reviewed at the time of budget preparation next year to assess the desirability of retention or cessation of the role. Funding for the remaining portion of the role will be met from unallocated grant funding from a previous project. It is considered an effective use of the funds and will provide a significant stimulus to Local Government's climate change action.

The subscription for ALGA has increased by \$5,500. A review of the President and Vice President emoluments is due this financial year and additional funding of \$9500 has been set aside for this function.

A range of downward adjustments have been made in the budget to offset some of these increased expenditures.

### **Glenorchy City Council/Launceston City Council**

**That the meeting note the key features of the proposed budget for 2008-09 and endorse its adoption.**

**Carried**

## 7 REPORTS FROM BOARD REPRESENTATIVES \*

Listed below are the bodies on which the Association had statutory representation in the 2007/08 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**
- Mrs Kym Curran, Launceston City Council
- **Assessment Committee for Dam Construction (ACDC)**
- Mr Bruce Cole
- **Building Appeals Board**
- Mayor Deirdre Flint, Central Highlands Council
- **Community Review Committee - Threatened Species Protection Act 1995**
- Mr Jay Wilson
- **Crime Prevention and Community Safety Council**
- Ald Sandra French, Burnie City Council
- **Environmental Management Pollution Control Board**
- Mr David Masters, Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
- **Forest Practices Advisory Council**
- Mr Tony Walker, Break O'Day Council
- **Forest & Forest Industry Council**
- Mayor Robert Armstrong, Huon Valley Council
- **LGAT Assist**
- Mr Kay Reeves
- **Local Government Board**
- Mrs Mary Binks,
- **Marine Farming Planning Review Panel**
- Mayor Jock Campbell, Clarence City Council
- **Plumbers and Gasfitters Registration Board**
- Mr John Palmer
- **Resource Planning and Development Commission**
- Ms Sandra Hogue
- **State Fire Commission**
- Clr John Lefevre, Break O'Day Council, Clr Richard Bowden, Central Highlands Council
- **State Fire Management Council**
- Mr Rod Sweetnam, Launceston City Council
- **State Grants Commission**
- Mr Barrie Southorn and Mr Hugh Denny
- **Tasmanian Cultural Heritage Council**
- Ald Sandra French, Burnie City Council, Mr Roger Howlett
- **Tasmanian Library Advisory Board**
- Clr Julian Bush Kingborough Council, Sandra French, Burnie City Council, Ms Lorraine Green, Northern Midlands Council and Clr Doug Chipman, Clarence City Council

The reports received for presentation are at **Appendix to Item 7.**

**Circular Head Council/Northern 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**

**8 CLOSURE**

There being no further business, the President declared the Annual General Meeting closed at 4.00pm.