



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

# MINUTES

Of the  
NINETY FOURTH SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION

Held

21 June 2006

At

Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart.



The Annual General Meeting  
commenced  
immediately following the  
General Meeting of the Association  
on Wednesday 21 June 2006.

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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**  
**Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia**  
**commencing**  
**Wednesday 21 June 2006**

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT**  
**a General Meeting**  
**of the Association will be held**  
**commencing at 11.00am on**  
**Wednesday 21 June 2006,**  
**to consider**  
**Local Government policy and motions**  
**from Member Councils**

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT**  
**the Association's**  
**Ninety Fourth Annual General Meeting**  
**will be held at the**  
**Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart**  
**Immediately following the**  
**General Meeting on**  
**Wednesday 21 June 2006**

**The Hon Paul Lennon MHA**  
**Premier Of Tasmania**  
**will address the Conference**  
**Friday 23 June, 2006**

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

# 2006 CONFERENCE PROGRAM



## WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE 2006

7.30am	ALGWA Breakfast	<i>This is an optional extra and not part of the program</i>
10.00am	Registrations Open	
11.00am	General Meeting	
	Annual General Meeting	<b>Immediately following the General Meeting</b>
1.00pm	Lunch	
2.00pm	Meetings continue	

## THURSDAY 22 JUNE 2005

8.00am	Registrations	
9.00am	Welcome and Opening	
9.20am	Graham Sansom	
10.15am	<i>Morning Tea</i>	<i>With thanks to KOMATSU</i>
10.45am	2006 Local Government Awards For Excellence Finalists	
11.00am	A word from our sponsors	<b>Telstra Country Wide</b>
11.05am	Dr Gillian Kay	
12.00pm	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>With thanks to KOMATSU</i>
1.15pm	Workshop Program	
2.30pm	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>	<i>With thanks to Commonwealth Bank</i>
3.00pm	2006 Local Government Awards For Excellence Finalists	
3.15pm	John Lennon and panel	
4.15pm	2006 Local Government Awards For Excellence Finalists	
4.30–5.30pm	Happy Hour	<i>With thanks to Commonwealth Bank</i>
7.00pm	Pre Dinner Drinks	
7.30	Civic Mutual Plus, Telstra Country Wide Dinner	

## FRIDAY 23 JUNE 2005

7.30am	<i>Breakfast</i>	<i>with thanks to SKM</i>
9.00am	Workshop Program	
10.15am	<i>Morning Tea</i>	<i>With thanks to Australia Post</i>
10.45am	The Hon Paul Lennon MHA, Premier of Tasmania & Minister for Local Government	
11.00am	Rod Brown	
11.50am	Institute of Chartered Accountants	
12.00pm	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>With thanks to Australia Post</i>
1.00pm	<i>Civic Mutual Plus Award -</i> Best Local Government Risk Management Initiative	
1.15pm	Patricia Cameron-Hill & Dr Shane Yates	
2.00pm	Conference wrap up and prize draw	



## 2006 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The President, Clr Lynn Mason, welcomed Members and declared the Annual General Meeting open at 2.35pm.

The Traditional Owners of the Land, the Mouheneenner People, were acknowledged and Members welcomed.

Apologies were received from -

Mayor Charles Arnold	King Island Council
Mr Andrew Wardlaw	King Island 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

It is my great pleasure to present the 94th Annual Report to the Local Government Association of Tasmania, and my thanks to all those who have contributed blood, sweat and tears to the furtherance of the cause of Local Government in the last 12 months.

This has been the year where to some extent we have been able to relax on a number of projects which kept us occupied in 2004 and 2005. I refer of course to the review of the Local Government Act, the financial reforms, and the settling of the communication protocol between Local and State government. Within the state at least, Local Government has been able to concentrate on its own house, and the order or otherwise therein.

Towards the end of 2005 the Association conducted three regional workshops, asking elected members and officers to come along for a free ranging discussion on the stuff that matters to us. One of the outcomes was recognition of the need to examine Local Government itself – to have a look at how it operates, where it excels, where it fails, and what can be done to take it forward and assist it to meet community needs over the next 10, 20, 50 years.

And I am proud to say that Local Government is driving this process. For me the most significant part of the project so far is the statewide acknowledgement that the place to start making changes to the way Local Government operates is within Local Government itself. This encapsulates a real and essential shift in the maturity of Local Government: no longer waiting for the axe to fall, no longer crying for help to other levels of government on issues which we have the power to address ourselves, no longer whining for relief from problems which we may have ignored for decades. Of course we do not operate in a vacuum, and certainly the State Government needs to be aware of any process adopted. It also needs to be aware that if Local Government determines on possible improved outcomes for the State, then we will want discussions on cost sharing in the process of bringing those changes about.

Several steps have already been taken to improve our sustainability. In March LGAT launched the Council Careers Kit and Website to enhance Local Government's attractiveness as a career opportunity, and to try to overcome skill shortages within councils. Ours was the first Association within Australia to tackle the problem so directly and so comprehensively.

In April LGAT followed up with the release of the first Tasmanian Council Cost Index. The CCI is a composite of the consumer price index and the construction index, and assumes that the work of a council falls roughly 50/50 between construction and maintenance of infrastructure, and provision of community services. The CCI gives an indication of the rise in revenue which a council will need if its work programme will be similar to that of the previous year. So, if the rates rise less than the CCI, the ratepayer may assume that either

- revenue from other sources will increase,
- or that work will be carried out more cost effectively,
- or that the balance of the work program is significantly altered or reduced,
- or that their council is not facing up to the real costs of doing the job.

It is now up to councils to use the annual Council Cost Index to convey to their communities the real cost of Local Government service.

Also this year councils agreed to undertake the Asset Renewal Gap Modelling Project: in brief, what do we own, and how big is the gap between what we are setting aside for renewal and the actual costs of renewal? This is likely to be a frightening number. The good thing is that Local Government is going to know what that number is, and will be able to share the knowledge with both State and Federal Governments in due course.

The fourth “take charge of our own destiny” step is the Association’s examination of the relationship between councils and the Local Government Board. The State Government has begun a review of the workings of the Board, but for us it is an opportunity to look not only at the Board, but also at the underlying reasons for its existence and the desired outcomes from any process of audit. This is a chance to consider how best councils can improve performance, be responsible to their communities, provide certainty of best practice, and give comfort to other levels of government. And all of these things are important. Continuous improvement is demanded if Tasmanian Councils are to compete effectively with their mainland counterparts – for largesse, for grants, for staff – and for ratepayers.

During the year elections were held both in Local and in State government, with a number of retirements from leadership within councils. Six mayors chose not to recontest the 2005 elections: Lawrence Archer, Cheryl Arnol, Roger Chalk, Cathy Edwards, Colin Howlett and Terry Martin. Local government is indebted to them for their exceptional service, and indeed, to all those who left Local Government throughout the year. With regret we record the death of Mayor Stephen Salter of Break O’Day Council, a man who led his community during times of rapid growth and change, and who will be missed by all in Local Government.

The return of the Labor Government in the State elections means that the Premier’s Local Government Council and other Labor initiatives are likely to continue, building on the knowledge each side has of the other’s operations. The Association was particularly pleased to learn that the Premier Paul Lennon has assumed sole responsibility for the Local Government ministry, and he has been thanked for this consideration of Local Government’s significant role in state affairs. The Association has also met with the new Leader of the Opposition, Will Hodgman, and will be working to build a strong relationship with both him and his shadow cabinet.

Tragedy strikes every day, somewhere, someone. Rarely has it been appropriate for this Report to detail two such events in one year. In Circular Head, Mayor Ross Hine and his Council helped rebuild their community after a devastating traffic accident early this year. And in April the attention of the world turned to Beaconsfield, West Tamar, where Mayor Barry Easter and West Tamar Council were critical to the maintenance of community spirit and community effort during the Beaconsfield Mine rescue. All Councils shared some of your grief; all Councils were proud of your resilience in tragic circumstances; all of us hope we could follow your example if the need arose. Thank you, Circular Head and West Tamar.

My thanks to the representatives of Local Government working at so many levels, and to the General Management Committee, which has again undertaken its responsibilities with care and good humour; I value the friendship and support of its members. Cr Robert Legge has been a great Vice President, always ready to provide sound advice. And the staff is marvellous – the Association is immeasurably strengthened by their diligence. We box well above our weight, and it is a tribute to our staff that we are able to do so.

My congratulations to Mike Gaffney, who will assume the Presidency at the conclusion of this Annual General Meeting. I can only hope that he will find the position as rewarding and as challenging as I have. I hope that he, like me finds inspiration in the tasks before him and I hope he has as much fun as I have had.

Thank you, I commend my Report to the meeting, and move that it be accepted.

**President/Central Highlands Council**

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

**Carried**

**2 MINUTES OF 93<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING \***

The Minutes of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Local Government Association of Tasmania, held in Hobart on 15 June 2005, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation.

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

**Central Highlands Council/Central Coast Council**

**That the Minutes of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting, held 15 June 2005, as circulated, be confirmed.**

**Carried**

**3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO 30 JUNE 2005 \***

The General Management Committee recommends consideration and adoption of the Association's Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005, an abridged version of which is included at **Appendix to Item 3.** A full version is available from the Association's offices.

**Break O'Day Council/Clarence City Council**

**That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 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.

#### **Dorset Council/Glenorchy City Council**

**That the President's and Vice President's allowance for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 be adjusted in accordance with the movement in the Consumer Price Index at 30 June 2006.**

**Carried**

## **5 COUNCIL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE 2006/2007 FINANCIAL YEAR \***

The subscription table for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, as included at **Appendix to Item 5**, is submitted to the Annual General Meeting for adoption.

Subscriptions are determined in accordance with Rule 44 that provides for subscriptions to be apportioned between Councils by a range of adjusted assessed annual value categories. There are seven ranges.

The General Management Committee has discretion to round upwards or downwards the percentage contributions by Councils to achieve a final calculation.

A decision was taken in 2003/04 to increase subscriptions by 13.5% per annum for a period of five years to ensure the financial security of the Association. Implicit within this decision was the need to review the financial circumstances of the organisation to assess the appropriateness of the subscription levels.

Last year the subscription levels were raised by 10% and an analysis of the organisation's current financial position reveals that this year it is possible to increase levels by only 5.5% rather than the agreed 13.5% increase.

The subscription schedule is submitted for adoption and provides total subscriptions of \$835,424.00 (plus GST), which is an increase of \$43,552.00, or 5.5%, above last year.

Two councils have moved up categories in the payment structure due to recent revaluations. The increases by these councils equates to notional marginal decreases for other councils across the board.

### **West Tamar Council/Break O'Day Council**

**That the subscription schedule for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, as circulated, be adopted.**

## **AMENDMENT MOTION**

### **Hobart City Council/West Coast Council**

**That the following words be added –**

**and that the Association investigate ways to mitigate excessive increases as a result of revaluations.**

**Carried**

### **West Tamar Council/Break O'Day Council**

**That the subscription schedule for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, as circulated, be adopted and that the Association investigate ways to mitigate excessive increases as a result of revaluations.**

**The Substantive Motion Was Carried**

**6 BUDGET FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS 1 JULY 2006 TO 30 JUNE 2007 \***

The March 2003 General Meeting of the Association acknowledged that subscription levels needed to be raised to remove, over time, the subscription subsidy that had been provided for the previous six years. The Meeting resolved that the GMC formulate a subscription strategy that would allow consistent increases over four years to achieve a modest surplus. GMC recommended a 13.5% increase for each year over a four year period, on the basis that an annual review be undertaken to assess the impact of the strategy.

Last year the subscription levels were raised by 10%. Following an analysis of the Association's current finances, the operational performance and the proposed budget for 2006/07, the General Management Committee has determined that the subscription level for the upcoming financial year should be reduced from the previously agreed 13.5% increase to a 5.5% increase.

The 2006/2007 Budget is at **Appendix to Item 6.**

**Circular Head Council/Clarence City Council**

**That the proposed budget for the 2006/2007 financial year, as circulated, be adopted.**

**Carried**

## **7 AMENDMENT TO RULES - ELECTION OF PROXIES**

Following Council elections in October 2005, a vacancy arose for the position of proxy to GMC for those councils in the Southern Electoral District having populations of less than 20,000.

When the Electoral Commissioner was invited to conduct a by-election to fill this vacancy, he pointed out that this is not provided for in the LGAT Rules.

**Rule 21 (d)** states that –

*'A casual vacancy on the General Management Committee shall be filled by the conduct of a by-election in accordance with Rule 20.'*

It does not address vacancies in the proxy positions.

**Rule 20 (n) and (o)** of the LGAT Rules provide:

- (n) *Where more than 1 nomination is received for a population category within an electoral district, the person polling second shall automatically be the proxy.*
- (o) *Where only 1 nomination is received, the Members in the population category shall nominate a proxy to the Chief Executive Officer.*

In the case in point, there were no further nominations from which to appoint a replacement proxy.

The following amendment to the Rules is proposed to provide a simple and equitable method to resolve vacancies in proxies to GMC.

### **Southern Midlands Council/West Tamar Council**

**That Rule 20 (o) be deleted and the following inserted:**

**(o) If following ordinary GMC elections there is only one nomination for a population category, or if the position of proxy becomes vacant and there were no further nominations at the last GMC election from which to draw a proxy, the Chief Executive Officer is to call for nominations from members in the population category and conduct a ballot if necessary.**

**Carried**

## **8 AMENDMENT TO RULES – PRESIDENT VACANCY**

### **Flinders Council**

Under the existing Rules, if the office of President becomes vacant, the Vice President assumes the office of President, no matter how much of the term is still to run.

Given that the Vice President is elected by the GMC, Councils are not involved in the selection of the new President.

Under the Local Government Act, if a vacancy in the office of Mayor arises more than six months from the date of issue of certificate of election in respect of an ordinary election, a by-election is held. Council considers that the election of President of the Association should reflect this process.

In addition, this would allow candidates not currently on the General Management Committee to stand for the office, but would not preclude the vice-president nor any other GMC member.

### **Flinders Council/Central Highlands Council**

**That the Rules of the Association be amended so that in the event of a vacancy in the office of President under Rule 27 (b) more than 6 months before the next ordinary election for President, the new President be elected in accordance with the procedures in Rule 26.**

**The following changes are proposed:**

**That a new Rule 27 (c) be inserted 'If the office of President becomes vacant more than six months before the next ordinary election for President, a new President be elected in accordance with the procedures in Rule 26.**

**That a new Rule 27 (d) be inserted 'If the office of President becomes vacant within six months of the next ordinary election for President, the Vice president shall assume office as President until the next Annual General Meeting.**

**That existing Rule 27 (c) be renumbered 27 (e)**

**That Rule 28 (b) be deleted.**

**Carried**

## 9 REPORTS FROM BOARD REPRESENTATIVES \*

Listed below are the bodies on which the Association had statutory representation in the 2005/2006 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 Sales, Devonport City Council
- **Assessment Committee for Dam Construction (ACDC)**  
Mr Bruce Cole
- **Building Appeals Board**  
Mayor Deirdre Flint, Central Highlands Council
- **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, Mrs Helen Cooper
- **Marine Farming Planning Review Panel**  
Deputy Mayor Jock Campbell, Clarence City Council
- **Plumbers and Gasfitters Registration Board**  
Mr John Palmer
- **Premier's Physical Activity Council**  
Mayor Kim Polley, Northern Midlands Council
- **Resource Planning and Development Commission**  
Ms Sandra Hogue
- **Rural Workforce Committee**  
Mayor Deirdre Flint, Central Highlands Council
- **State Fire Commission**  
Clr Marie Gill, Devonport City 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, Clr Jack Rheinberger, Sorell Council and Clr Roger McLennan, Dorset Council

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

**Launceston City Council/George Town 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**

**10 RESULTS OF ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND GMC MEMBERS**

The Chief Executive Officer read the Declaration of Election from the State Electoral Office for both the President and the General Management Committee positions as follows -

<b>President</b>	Mayor Mike Gaffney
<b>Committee Members</b>	
North West & West Coast Electoral District Over 20,000	Mayor Mike Downie
North West & West Coast Electoral District Under 20,000	Mayor Kevin Hyland
Northern Electoral District Over 20,000	Mayor Barry Easter
Northern Electoral District Under 20,000	Councillor Robert Legge
Southern Electoral District Over 20,000	Mayor Jock Campbell
Southern Electoral District Under 20,000	Mayor Deirdre Flint

**11 CLOSURE**

There being no further business, the President declared the Annual General Meeting closed at 4.05pm.

