

Key LGAT Activity – August 2015

With Presidential elections soon to draw to a close, the Association is preparing for a strategic planning session with the General Management Committee in October. We are seeking the input of Members (Councillors, General Managers, Senior Officers) as well as other stakeholders to inform our strategic review and development of the operational plan. We would appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete the survey that can be found at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Lgatfuture>

Key Outputs/Outcomes

- LGAT is very pleased to note that the Local Government (Code of Conduct) Amendment Bill has passed the Legislative Council. A number of amendments have been made and the Bill now has to be returned to the Lower House. While the Association is disappointed that not all the changes advocated by the Local Government sector were agreed to by the Legislative Council, we are confident that the revised legislation will deliver a more robust Code of Conduct process.
- The verification of the first round of bills under the new energy contract for public street lighting has confirmed that there are no significant issues arising and that the likely annual savings to the sector are \$500,000. This is a fantastic outcome.

Policy/Project Activity

- Continued advocacy with and through ALGA in relation to the payment of rate equivalents by Tasmanian airports.
- Continued Standards Panel activity.
- Draft MOU developed to guide a partnership between LGAT and Local Government Managers Australia (Tasmania) following in principle approval by the GMC and the LGMA Board.
- Letters of support provided to nine councils for grant applications under the Federal Bridges to Renewal Project.
- LGAT continuing to work closely with councils state-wide and the Department of State Growth on the State Funded 'Oversize Overmass' (OSOM) project, assisting councils in the assessment of critical bridge infrastructure and the development of strategic heavy vehicle access networks.
- NRM review submission.
- Progression of initiatives under the Role of Local Government Project including the Good Governance Guide and the Continuous Improvement Framework.
- Significant advocacy regarding the Code of Conduct Amendment Bill including out of session meeting papers, letters to the Legislative Council, briefings and consideration of proposed amendments.
- Submission on the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act Amendment Bill* following consultation, including teleconferences with council planners.
- Work undertaken towards Infrastructure Australia Audit submission

Training and Workforce Development

- Local Government Associations are seeking a share of unspent funds from the Skills Councils, which are being dissolved as the Commonwealth Government makes some major changes to how VET training is running Australia.
- Met TasTAFE re new distance Engineering Drafting course available in 2016 and new Building Surveying and Engineering courses. LGAT is using workforce data to negotiate delivery in suitable format/locations and working with staff/professionals/associations, to customise courses so that they deliver appropriate content for Tasmanian councils and TasTAFE's interstate council customers.
- Presented an outline of the National Procurement Network - how it works and what goods and services can be purchased through Network contracts in Tasmania, at a Procurement Master class for LGMA members.
- Provided analysis of Tasmanian Council workforce data obtained from the 2011 ABS Census which is being used to make a presentation on the aging workforce in all states and territory councils, at the National Local Government Human Resources Conference in Melbourne.
- Received feedback from councils regarding the 'Tasmanian Local Government Workforce Report 2014', LGAT have acted on that feedback and made some changes and corrections totals the report.
- Screened 'Think Big Work Local' council careers TV advertisement on commercial channels and SBS from 9 August, and reaching around 75% of the Tasmanian adult audience 3 times.
- Tasmanian Councils had 45 job vacancies on 15 August, this is the highest since LGAT began monitoring in July 2010, and it appears August was a good time to screen TV advertising to assist councils to fill a record number of vacancies.

Communication

- *The Pulse* newsletter

Media

- Carbon Tax Repeal – The Advocate
- Code of Conduct – The Mercury, ABC Radio, Press Release
- Councillor Training/Land Use Planning –The Examiner
- Donation to Bright Stars – The Advocate
- Donor Disclosure/Review of Local Government Act – The Mercury, ABC Radio
- Elected Member Census – The Advocate
- Review of the ACELG Symposium in Hobart for the Town Crier (ACELG Blog).

Meetings

- ALGA's CEO Meeting (Sydney)
- Bicycle Network Tas re cycling infrastructure and strategic planning
- Building Community Emergency Capacity (Tasmanian Health Action Plan for Pandemic Influenza) Reference Group meeting
- Bureau of Meteorology re Flood warning national standardisation project and new products
- Clarence City Council re planning

- Collaborative leadership sub-committee of State Emergency Management Advisory Group
- Department of Premier and Cabinet regarding the Sharing Economy
- General Management Committee
- GIC training re operational skills training.
- Glenorchy City Council re planning
- Graham Bury re Tas Health Council
- Heart Foundation
- Infrastructure Australia with ALGA Roads and Transport Advisory Committee (Sydney)
- Infrastructure Tasmania re Local Government interface with ITas and implications for sector
- Institute for Public Administration State Council meeting
- Integrity Commission and Local Government Division re Code of Conduct for Audit Panels
- IPWEA and LGMA re November asset management forum planning
- Legislative Council briefing on Code of Conduct
- LGAT Assist Board Meeting
- LGAT CEO meeting with Minister Gutwein re planning
- LGAT CEO Meeting with Meander Valley Council
- LGAT CEO Meeting with George Town Council
- LGAT CEO Meeting with Northern Midlands Council
- LGAT CEO Meeting with City of Launceston
- LGAT CEO Meeting with Sorell Council
- LGMA Tas Board Meeting
- Local Government Division regular monthly meeting
- Manager Engineers Australia (Tasmania Branch)
- Mary Massina re planning taskforce
- Meeting with Taswater CEO (Mike Brewster)
- NBN Co re NBN
- OSOM Project technical reference group meeting
- OSOM Project steering committee meeting
- OSOM Project meeting with industry reference group
- Page Seager re planning enforcement
- Planning Taskforce Technical reference group
- Policy and Projects meeting
- Procurement Master Class with LGMA
- Public Sector Management Program Reference Group
- Regional council meetings (South, North East and North West) re OSOM heavy vehicle access routes and bridge assessments project (OSOM Project)
- Road Safety Advisory Council
- Role of Local Government - Continuous Improvement Program
- State Growth re OSOM Project

- Southern Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI) meeting
- Searchlight Recruitment
- Tasmanian Climate Change Office re State Government Action Plan
- TasPorts re 30 year strategic plan
- Tas Fire Service and State Emergency Service re funding model
- Teleconference with planners reference group re LUPAA Amendment Bill submission
- Teleconference with ALGA
- Teleconference with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator
- Tasmanian Training Consortium Executive meeting
- Vision Super
- Volunteering Tasmania re spontaneous volunteers project.