

Key LGAT Activity– December 2014

Key Outputs and Outcomes

- Successful tender process attracting offers from two retailers for the supply of energy for unmetered public lighting, offering savings of around \$500 000 annually to the sector. While legal advice prevented the acceptance of initial offers until negotiations are undertaken, prices will be called for again in mid January 2015.
- Completed analysis of 2013 workforce data gathered from 19 councils in a survey in 2014. The addition of information on resignations has yielded a fuller picture of staff turnover in Tasmanian council's throughput a whole year. The Workforce Plans will help participating councils understand their priority occupations and to strategically combat turnover due to resignations and retirements from now to 2030.

Policy/Project Activity

- Hosted a meeting of the National Procurement Network (2 days). CEO's of Local Government Association, procurement areas attended (QLD, VIC, NSW, NT, SA and WA). Focussed discussion on contract management, new contracts that are to be tendered on behalf of councils across Australia and contract reporting arrangements.
- Discussions and meetings with Launceston City Council and TasNetworks progressing options to develop a business case examining council ownership of public lighting as well as options to fast track TasNetworks' roll out of LED lighting.
- Standards Panel activity
- Developed a template for the Financial Sustainability Practice Summaries.
- Commenced consultation on the OTTER Review, the State Budget, Electoral Reform, Heritage Tourism
- Drafted a Local Government Glossary of Terms and Acronyms (will be added to the extranet when finalised)
- Developed an electronic version of the Elected Member Census.
- Prepared papers for the Role of Local Government Working Groups
- Provided Feedback on the Tasmanian Emergency Management Plan Review

Training and Workforce Development

- LGAT partnered with TasTAFE and four councils, to apply for a Skills Fund grant, to provide 80% funding for the cost of training ten staff in 2015. LGAT has obtained three similar grants from the State or Commonwealth since 2010.
- Provided council human resources units and their partner Registered Training Organisations, with information to assist with their own applications for a Skills Fund grant.
- Met TasTAFE to discuss the new *Certificate IV Engineering Drafting* which should be available from TasTAFE in 2015. Students will gain skills in CAD drafting and various aspects of working in an engineering team. The Certificate should provide a pathway into a Diploma of Engineering and or a university degree. LGAT has been negotiating with TasTAFE to have civil engineering offered locally/conveniently to as many councils as possible, and to develop the course into a distance package to help isolated and remote councils in Tasmania and Australia generally.
- Presentation to key staff at Latrobe Council about the National Procurement Network, the products that are available to councils through the Network, how the Network can provide benefit to councils and how the Network can be accessed.

Meetings and Communication

- Austroads Workshop
- Collaborative Leadership SubCommittee meeting
- General Management Committee
- Healthy Food Access Tasmania Reference Group
- Institute of Public Administration Divisional Council
- Justice regarding review of Building Regulations.
- Learner Driver Mentor Program Panel
- LGAT Assist Board Meeting
- *LGAT News Magazine*
- LGAT Sponsor BBQ
- LGMA Board
- LGMA Legal and Property Special Interest Group
- Local Government Division Monthly Meeting.
- Meeting of Association CEO's hosted by ALGA
- Nomenclature Board
- Office of the Economic Regulator Customer Consultative Committee Meeting
- Planning Reform Taskforce
- Premier's Local Government Council
- Procurement Training (Latrobe)
- Recovery and Resilience Subcommittee Meeting
- Role of Local Government Legislation Working Group Meeting
- Role of Local Government Project Collaboration Working Group
- State Growth regarding NHVR
- Stormwater Management Plans Working Group.
- Tasmanian Training Consortium Executive Meeting
- Transport Access Strategy Reference Group

Media

- Maintained website advertising of council careers and training options with the www.thinkbigworklocal.com.au website
- Twitter: *@LGATasmania* now has 199 followers!
- Media on:
 - Amalgamations
 - Hobart City Council Membership
 - Compulsory voting and other possible electoral reforms