



# Media Release

20 June 2017

## Developing Better Communities - the Focus of 105<sup>th</sup> Local Government Conference

*Imagination, Ideas and Innovation: Developing Better Communities* is the theme of the Local Government Association of Tasmania's 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, to be held at Wrest Point, in Hobart, from 26-28 July.

The three-day event will kick off at 11am, on Wednesday, 26 July, with the General Meeting of LGAT. The two-day conference program gets underway at 8.45am on Thursday, 27 July, with an opening address from LGAT President, Mayor Doug Chipman.

The Conference will feature an inspiring line-up of highly regarded Tasmanian, national and international speakers who will present on a range of topics in plenary presentations and workshops.

Dr Anton Kriz, a well-known innovation and regional development champion from the University of Newcastle, will be the keynote speaker opening the conference, presenting his views, experience and techniques for transforming regions. He will draw on his role in developing Tourism Australia's *2020 China Strategy* and current efforts in building innovation management capabilities in Northern Tasmania.

The conference will also hear from fifth-generation west coast Tasmanian, Travis Tiddy, Director of the award-winning arts festival, *The Unconformity*. Travis will talk about his work on the West Coast in his presentation entitled *An Unconforming Model for Community Change*.

Dr Greg Moore, former Senior Research Associate at the University of Melbourne's Burnley College, will talk about the role of trees in creating sustainable and liveable communities.

The new President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), Mayor David O'Loughlin, will update the conference about ALGA's activities, in particular progress in restoring funding levels to the sector.

An afternoon Panel Discussion entitled *The Next Big Thing* is certain to be a highlight of the day. The Discussion, to be facilitated by former ABC Radio Broadcaster - Tim Cox, features an exciting line-up of innovative thinkers including New Zealand tourism strategist and reformer - David Hammond, Tasmanian entrepreneur property developer - Errol Stewart, Matrix Thinking pioneer and innovator - Roger La Salle, and the former Lord Mayor of Adelaide - Stephen Yarwood.

The Conference will also hear from the youngest councillor currently serving in Victoria, 20-year-old Emilia Sterjova. As a councillor for the City of Whittlesea in Melbourne, Emilia was sworn in last year at just 19 years of age. She will speak on engaging youth to enrich the community.

Over the course of the two-day conference, there will be six topical workshops covering community resilience leadership, better transport, re-engaging communities, building literacy levels in Tasmania, preserving our heritage, and creating vibrant public spaces.

From 11.15am, on Friday, 28 July, the winners of the 2017 Local Government Awards for Excellence will be announced in two categories: *Delivering Excellence – Smaller Councils* (population under 15,000) and *Delivering Excellence – Larger Councils* (population over 15,000).

The official conference dinner, sponsored by MAV Insurance, will take place in the Boardwalk Gallery, Wrest Point, on Thursday, 27 July, from 7.15pm and will include the announcement of the winner of the 2017 Meritorious Service Award.

One of the largest Trade Exhibitions in recent years will take place in the Tasman Room throughout the Conference.

Ends....

**Note: Members of the media are invited to attend. Registration is free.**

**The General Meeting agenda will be available on the LGAT website from 29 June. Visit [www.lgat.tas.gov.au](http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au) (link to general meeting papers)**

**The Conference Program and Registration Form is attached.**

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