



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tasmanian Local Government Focus on Building Stronger Councils and Communities

Exploring the issues to creating a better platform for future growth and building stronger councils and communities will be the focus of the Local Government Association of Tasmania's 102nd annual Local Government Conference, to be held at Wrest Point in Hobart, from 23-25 July 2014.

Delegates will hear from a range of highly regarded Tasmanian, national and international speakers covering a range of topics in plenary presentations, a panel discussion and workshops.

Keynote speaker, Craig James, Chief Economist of Commonwealth Securities will present his assessment of the recent performance of domestic and national economies and focus on the opportunities and challenges facing Tasmania.

Leadership strategist and performance expert, Tarran Deane will look at the critical impact on communities when perceptions rule and trust in leaders has diminished, and reveal how community leaders have the power to address it.

With planning reform identified as a key focus of the new Tasmanian Government, the conference will hold a panel discussion including the newly appointed Executive Chair of the Planning Reform Taskforce, Mary Massina. With the commitment to build on work already undertaken while seeking to create an entirely different approach to the way the system is manoeuvred, the discussion promises to provide unique insight and make for a lively exchange between panel members and delegates.

The conference will also have an international flavour with UK-based Tony Morris addressing the fascinating subject of body language and improving inter-personal communication skills. He will explain how to recognise, interpret and manage your own body language and most importantly, that of others. Over the past 15 years, Tony has taught more than 16,000 people in 59 countries about body language for day-to-day business.

Other topics to be covered during the conference include: strategies to developing a thriving home town; avoiding community outrage and emotion through good community engagement; building resilient local food economies; the role of debt in Local Government; and how to manage public risks from natural hazards.

Delegates will also be updated on the campaign to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in the Australian Constitution by the Campaign Director of RECOGNISE, Tim Gartrell.

On 25 July, the winners of the 2014 Local Government Awards for Excellence will be announced in two categories: *Delivering Excellence – Smaller Councils (populations under 10,000)* and *Delivering Excellence – Larger Councils (populations over 10,000)*.

LGAT's Annual General Meeting will commence at 11am on 23 July, followed by the General Meeting.

The official Conference Dinner will be held in the Boardwalk Gallery on 24 July and a large Trade Exhibition will be held in the Tasman Room on 24 and 25 July, featuring the latest services available to Local Government from around the country.

For a copy of the Conference Program and Registration Form, please visit the LGAT website at www.lgat.tas.gov.au, or phone (03) 6233 5966.

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