



**Media Release**  
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## **Up Up Up – Local Government Focuses on the Future**

Tasmania's councils are working hard to make Tasmania a great place to live. Not content to rest on their laurels, this year's Local Government Association of Tasmania conference is all about striving for improvements to ensure a sustainable future.

Around 200 elected members, council general managers and officers from around the State will converge in Hobart from 12-14 May for the 98<sup>th</sup> Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) Conference to share knowledge and explore ideas about the long-term sustainability of Local Government.

LGAT President, Barry Easter, said the conference theme, *Up Up Up – a Focus on Excellence and Innovation*, appropriately highlights the necessity for Local Government to be continually mindful of the need for improvement in all aspects of their activities.

"Striving for improvement should be our constant goal," Cllr Easter said.

"Without the right focus in moving forward with the times, be it in the realm of information technology, health, sustainable planning or resource sharing, Tasmanian councils will be left behind."

Cllr Easter said the conference theme reflected the challenges our constantly changing world brings to Tasmanian councils and the need to be responsive to new innovations, ideas and suggestions.

"I've no doubt that many valuable opportunities and insights will be offered throughout the conference amongst a range of ideas that will benefit the long-term sustainability of Local Government," he said.

Conference workshops will address a range of issues, including community values, sustainable infrastructure, climate change, social innovation and more.

Keynote speakers and workshop presenters for this year's program include:

- **Dominic Thurbon** – Managing Director of the Centre for Skills Development and world top 10 speaker. Dominic's presentation will challenge what conference delegates think of as the norm, assisting them to look at today's rapidly changing business environment in a whole new way by exploring strategies for leading communities through embracing innovation and change.

- **Fae Robinson** – Principal Consultant and Futurist at Fae Robinson Futures. Fae's plenary address will explore how a council driven by in-house values and organisational culture can deliver higher performance results for Tasmanian communities.
- **Geoff Willis** – Executive Chair of Tasmania's Water and Sewerage Corporations. Geoff will discuss the impact of Tasmania's water and sewerage reforms 12 months on from the implementation of the three regional water corporations, as well as key issues for the sector in coming years.
- **Prof Graham Sansom** – Professor and Director of the Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government (ACELG). The next ten years are sure to be a time of great change and innovation across all sectors. Graham will explore ways that ACELG can partner with Tasmania's Local Government sector to support improvement, innovation and best practice in the search for better local governance in this timeframe.
- **Prof Niki Ellis** – CEO of the Institute of Safety, Compensation and Recovery Research at Monash University, and Presenter on ABC TV's *Stressbuster* television series. Niki will provide an understanding of how occupational stressors can affect health and productivity; knowledge of common occupational stressors arising from poor job design and people management; and an OHS approach to risk assessment and control of occupational stress.
- **Brad Wynter** - Manager Organisation Development at the City of Whittlesea. This workshop will examine why broadband is of key interest to councils and what councils and communities can do to make the most of it. Brad will also explore the rising use of social media and how the Local Government sector can take advantage of it.

The 2010 Tasmanian Local Government Conference, will commence with the LGAT Annual General Meeting and General Meeting on 12 May.

The Civic Mutual Plus Conference Dinner, to be held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart on Thursday 13 May, promises to be a highlight of the conference. The dinner will incorporate the announcement of the 2010 Local Government Awards for Excellence winners.

The conference will also feature an extensive trade exhibition with 40 exhibitors from national and state companies across a range of industries and government departments.

The Local Government Conference is coordinated by the LGAT in partnership with the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia and Local Government Managers Australia

**ENDS**

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**\*Conference program attached.**