

This Week @ LGANT Newsletter



16 MAY 08

16/05/2008

TERRITORY TIDY TOWNS AWARDS

The Keep Australia Beautiful Council of the Northern Territory is pleased to inform communities that the popular Territory Tidy Town Awards will be held in Darwin on the 6th and 7th of November 2008. The forum will be held at the Darwin Frontier Hotel and the awards will be held at the Casino on Friday night 7th November. Now is the time to start budgeting and planning for your community's participation. Don't forget to get your community entry in. All remote community entries will receive a free copy of the 'Remote Community Clean Up Book'.

For more information on the Territory Tidy Towns Forum and Awards or for assistance in community clean ups and litter management call Heimo Schober on 0407 186 461. More information on KABNT and the Territory Tidy Town Awards can be found on their web site www.kab.org.au/nt/

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

The Local Government Association of Queensland is hosting a National Environment Conference in Port Douglas on 9 - 11 July 2008. This is a national conference and councils from across Australia are invited to attend to hear the latest news and to share experiences with other councils.

Conference themes will include;

- Natural Resource Management
- Sustainable Purchasing, Sustainability Action
- Ecologically Sustainable Development
- Waste Management
- Water Management
- Climate Change (Mitigation, Adaptation, Litigation, Carbon Accounting and Trading)

To get more information contact Paul Barnes on (08) 8936 2879.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The first budget has been delivered by the Rudd government and has many items of interest to Northern Territory Local Government. Here are just a couple.

INQUIRY INTO A NEW REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING PROGRAM

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government is to conduct an inquiry into a new regional development funding program.

The inquiry, requested by the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Honourable Anthony Albanese MP, is to report on the Australian National Audit Office's Performance Audit of the Regional Partnerships Program and make recommendations on ways to invest funding in genuine regional economic development and community infrastructure with the aim of enhancing the sustainability and liveability of Australia's regions.

BUILDING AUSTRALIA FUND

An initial \$20 billion has been allocated to a new Building Australia Fund. This money will be used to build critical economic infrastructure such as roads, rail, ports and broadband.

These funds will be sourced from the budget surpluses expected in 2007-08 and 2008-09, with the possibility of further deposits being made from future surpluses. The Communications Fund will also be rolled into the Building Australia Fund.

The Fund is expected to be up and running by 1 January 2009, with the first allocations to be made in 2009-10.

Allocations from the Fund will be guided by Infrastructure Australia's national audit and infrastructure priority list the first of which will be presented to the March 2009 meeting of COAG.

INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA

\$20 million has been allocated over four years to develop a strategic blueprint for easing bottlenecks and addressing the nation's long term infrastructure needs.

Infrastructure Australia's immediate task will be to undertake a National Audit and determine the capacity and condition of nationally significant infrastructure, including transport, water, energy and communications.

By March 2009 Infrastructure Australia will deliver to COAG an Infrastructure Priority List which will help guide investment.

Infrastructure Australia will also develop nationally consistent guidelines for Public-Private-Partnerships by October this year.

SECURITY AT REGIONAL AIRPORTS

\$12.6 million (over four years) from 2007 08, to assist 29 regional airports with baggage security screening.

\$29.5 million to assist up to 150 regional airports to implement basic security measures required under the Aviation Transport Security regulatory regime.

SUBSIDY FOR FLIGHTS TO REMOTE AREAS

The Government is providing \$44.7 million over four years to subsidise weekly flights to remote communities in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, Queensland, South Australia and Cape Barren Island, under the Remote Air Services Subsidy Scheme.

MIXED RESPONSE TO ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF NATURAL DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM

The President of the Australian Local Government Association, Cr Paul Bell, welcomed the Federal Government's decision to extend the funding for the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) beyond 30 June 2008 but said he was baffled by the decision to extend the program for only a single year.

"Natural Disasters cost Australia well in excess of \$1 billion per annum and investment in mitigation measures is extremely cost effective in helping communities to cope," Cr Bell said. Under the Budget announcement, the NDMP will receive a one-year extension of funding of \$19.2m.

"There is increasing exposure to more severe storms and bushfires as a result of climate change and local government has been pressing over the past year for renewal of this program," he said. "The impact of the floods earlier this year in central Queensland, which affected many communities including my own at Emerald, would have been much worse without investment in mitigation measures such as flood levees and house relocations."

"The program was originally introduced as a recommendation of a report to the Council of Australian Governments in 2002 and involves a partnership approach to mitigation with funding provided by Federal, state and local government. The mitigation projects funded are often implemented over a number of years and to extend funding by just a single year, while welcome, will create uncertainty in councils about future mitigation works."

"The Government made a commitment in Opposition that it would update and improve the Disaster Mitigation Australia Package, particularly in the face of the challenges posed by climate change. The mainstay of the Disaster Mitigation Australia Package is the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program and it is unclear after tonight's announcement what Government intends for the Program. ALGA will seek the reasons behind the Government's decision and details of any future plans it may have for the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program over the coming weeks," said Cr Bell, President of the Australian Local Government Association.

CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Government has also firmly committed to Constitutional Recognition for local government and ALGA will be working directly with the Government and through the new Council of Australian Local Governments when it meets, to further the process for achieving this goal which is a long-cherished aspiration of local government.

COMING EVENTS

- Local Government Emergency Management Conference – Bunbury 28 May 2008
- National Local Government Shared Services Conference 5 – 6 June 2008
- Local Government Environment Conference – Cairns Qld. 9 to 11 July 2008.
- Coast to Coast Conference – Darwin August 2008
- Territory Tidy Towns Awards – Darwin 6 & 7 November 2008

RECRUITMENT NEWS & POSITIONS VACANT

Visit the LGANT website to view job vacancies currently advertised by LGANT Recruitment.

Finance Manager Barkly Shire

Closing Date: 26/05/2008

Community Services Manager

Closing Date: 30/05/2008

Mechanic - Alawa Aboriginal Corporation

Closing Date: 30/05/2008

Expression's of Interest - Sport & Recreation Officer - Timber Creek

Closing Date: 21/05/2008

Finance Positions - Central Desert Shire

Closing Date: 31/05/2008

Librarian - Barkly Shire Council

Closing Date: 30/05/2008 (16:00)

Works Manager - Aherrenge Association Inc
Closing Date: 30/05/2008 (17:00)

FOR BACK ISSUES AND FURTHER INFORMATION ON LATEST JOBS AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION VISIT THE LGANT'S WEBSITE.

LGANT recognises its major sponsors:

- Telstra Country Wide
- TIO
- Jardines
- CommonwealthBank

This newsletter is emailed direct to elected members and councils in the NT. For further information on any of the items in this newsletter, please contact the Officer concerned or LGANT on (08) 8936 2888.