



27 June 2008

## FAREWELL AND ALL THE BEST TO PHIL MAYNARD

Phil Maynard has resigned from LGANT effective from 1 July 2008. Phil began his employment with LGANT on 31 July 1995 and has performed duties mainly in Aboriginal policy and member services principally to do with the dissemination of information and liaison with elected members and staff.

Phil decided while on recent long service leave that he would help his son in business running 'Gibbo's Tyres' in Katherine. The Executive, CEO and LGANT staff wish Phil all the best in his new endeavours with his family and to thank him sincerely for all his work efforts during his almost 13 years of service with LGANT.



## ALGA NATIONAL LOCAL ROADS AND TRANSPORT CONGRESS 2008

From 15-17 June 2008, LGANT's manager of Transport & Infrastructure Services, Peter McLinden and Project Management Engineer, Kris Dietze attended the 2008 National Local Roads and Transport Congress meeting in Shepparton, Victoria. The conference delegates emphasised the importance of sustainability of the local road network and the Roads to Recovery and Strategic Regional Programs and reaffirmed local government's commitment to the Local Government's Roads and Transport Strategy 2006-2016.

Whilst local roads and transport are core deliverables for local government, they cannot, delegates argued, be viewed in isolation from the broader issue of local government financial sustainability. Delegates continued the call for long-term financial sustainability for local government by the provision of a fair share of at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue (excluding GST) to local government as an untied intergovernmental transfer.

### Congress Communique

The following communiqué was issued after the Congress.

*Local government calls on the Commonwealth, states and territories and the road transport industry to recognise that:*

- *local government has responsibilities to its communities on how it spends its available resources and how it meets all of the other expectations of communities including the access, safety and amenity of its citizens;*
- *many councils are financially constrained (confirmed by the Productivity Commission);*
- *local government receives no direct funding for the use of local roads by heavy vehicles;*
- *the need for partnerships between all levels of government and industry to fund local transport solutions;*
- *existing and growing skill shortages in local government;*
- *rail has an appropriate and important role to play in transporting freight to reduce road traffic on local roads and improve road safety; and*
- *there is an essential role for strategically-located multimodal transport hubs.*

## **Mobility and equitable access for all Australians**

The communiqué also recorded the following:

*Local government notes the Government's recognition for urban access and mobility but calls on the Government to recognise the equally important need for access to employment, recreation, tourism and other services in regional and remote areas, especially where there are no public transport alternatives.*

*Government can do more to ensure that local roads meet the standard expected by the Australian community and the emerging needs of industry, by:*

- *making Roads to Recovery a permanently funded program and maintained in real terms;*
- *dedicated funding of timber bridge maintenance and renewal;*
- *an active policy to address widespread technical skill shortages; and*
- *funding for asset management systems and the development of a national local roads data system*

*Local government acknowledges the Australian Government's 2008-09 Budget announcements to assist up to 150 regional airports to implement basic security measures and subsidies for weekly flights to remote communities and calls for an ongoing program to fund security requirements and capital upgrades for local government airports.*

## **NEW ROAD SEALING PROJECT IN KYBROOK**

Work has been completed on the road sealing at Kybrook near Pine Creek. The project is the result of funding from the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) Taskforce. The sealing is along Umbrawarra Gorge Road from the Stuart Highway to the community. The project was managed by LGANT on behalf of the Pine Creek Community Government Council. The sealing will improve the lives of the entire Kybrook community with better access and the benefits of dust suppression (see photos below).



## **COMMUNITY COASTCARE GRANTS**

The Australian Government has opened a new grant program called Community Coastcare. Community Coastcare is part of the **Caring for our Country** package of activities contributing to the coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats priority outcome. Applications are being sought now for funding in 2008-2009.

Applications must be received by **5.00 pm Friday 25 July 2008**. Information can be found by accessing the Australian Government website at [www.nrm.gov.au/funding/coastcare.html](http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/coastcare.html)

## **WORKING ON COUNTRY GRANTS**

Working on Country is part of the **Caring for our Country** initiative that builds on Indigenous knowledge of protecting and managing land and sea country. It provides funding for Indigenous people to deliver environmental outcomes to the Australian Government. A local government authority or a natural resource management body can act as a contract manager and apply for funding (however works that are considered part of the local government's normal responsibility are not eligible).

Applications must be received by **5.00 pm on Monday 11 August 2008**. More information can be found at: [www.nrm.gov.au/funding/woc.html](http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/woc.html)

## **HOUSING AFFORDABILITY FUND**

The Federal Government has announced the \$512 million Housing Affordability Fund which will be distributed by direct grants, primarily to local governments, local government associations and State or Territory Governments, through a competitive selection process. Up to \$30 million from the HAF is being used to develop IT infrastructure and software to roll out nationally, electronic development assessment systems and online tracking services to reduce red tape and streamline planning approvals. Housing Minister Tanya Plibersek has launched a Housing Affordability Fund (HAF) Consultation Paper. Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) will make a submission but councils are also encouraged to have their say. The draft can be found here – [www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/housing/haf.htm](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/housing/haf.htm). Contact LGANT for more information or if you wish to make a submission on the draft.

## **DIESEL FUEL REBATE REVIEWS**

LGANT is pleased to offer your council a consultancy based service for the review and collection of outstanding diesel fuel rebates. AIT Specialists Pty Ltd have developed a simple and unique assessment system which they now offer through LGANT to Local Government in the Northern Territory with regard to diesel and fuel rebates. This 'no obligation' assessment will include advice to your Council on whether AITS can be of any further assistance to you. There is NO cost to your Council. If you would like to take advantage of this service, please contact **Peter McLinden at LGANT on (08) 8936 2891**.

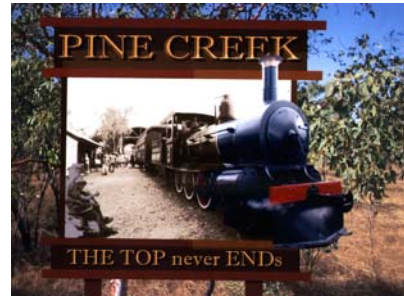
## **NOTICE FROM OUR PINE CREEK COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT MEMBER**

Pine Creek Community Government Council extends an invitation to all local government council members to attend a function to mark the disbanding of Pine Creek Community Government Council after 21 years.

**Where:** Pine Creek Hall

**When:** Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 – 3.30 to 6.30pm

Drinks & Nibbles & reminisce with old newsletters, newspaper articles, digital archives and photo displays.



## **LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' NEW ORDER**

LGANT wishes all the outgoing Councillors and Officers across the Territory all the best in their future endeavours. The Association acknowledges the great support it has received over the past 15 years from all councils, especially in the last 18 months, which has involved phenomenal and difficult change.

At 30 June 2008 there will be 57 Local Governments in the Northern Territory and on 1 July 2008 there will be just 16. To all Shire Managers, CEOs and staff, LGANT extends a warm welcome, best wishes and keen support to now make the new order in local government function effectively.

As some members would be aware, a Special General Meeting held at Darwin City Council on 20 June 2008, the changes to the LGANT constitution were approved. These changes were necessary due to local government reform and the need for LGANT to move the date of its annual general meeting. A copy of the LGANT constitution will be placed on the LGANT website next week.

## **LOCAL SUPER REPRESENTATIVE NOW IN DARWIN**

Tony McGovern is now working full-time for Local Super. He is based in the LGANT office. He can be contacted on 8941 0082 or preferably via email [tmcgovern@localsuper.com.au](mailto:tmcgovern@localsuper.com.au). Tony will be covering the entire Northern Territory. Please contact Tony should you have any queries regarding your superannuation.

## COMING EVENTS

- Local Government Environment Conference – Cairns, 9 - 11 July 2008.
- 2nd Annual Climate Change Summit Sydney, 23 - 24 July 2008
- National State and Expert Forum – Constitutional Recognition – Canberra, August 2008
- Coast to Coast Conference – Darwin, 18 - 22 August 2008
- Territory Tidy Towns Awards – Darwin, 6 & 7 November 2008
- Local Government Constitutional Summit – Melbourne, 9-11 December 2008

*FOR BACK ISSUES AND FURTHER INFORMATION ON LATEST JOBS AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION VISIT THE LGANT'S WEBSITE [www.lgant.nt.gov.au](http://www.lgant.nt.gov.au)*

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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.

If you would like to contribute an article to the "This Week at LGANT" newsletter, or need to get some information out to our members, please email Jim Fraser on [jim.fraser@lgant.nt.gov.au](mailto:jim.fraser@lgant.nt.gov.au)