

This Week @ LGANT

Newsletter



1 AUGUST 08

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GOOD EARLY RESPONSE TO COUNCIL CONVERSATIONS ON CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

So far ALGA has received feedback from 59 councils that have taken part in Council Conversations – 40 electronically and 19 other responses. ALGA President Cr Paul Bell urged all councils to have their say.

The input from the conversations will inform the development of the business papers for the Local Government Constitutional Summit to be held in Melbourne 8-11 December 2008. In its simplest form we need to know:

- whether your council supports constitutional recognition of local government
- your views on what your council would like to see achieved from the constitutional recognition of local government
- what your council wants to see in the Australian Constitution
- what you think we need to do to gain sufficient community support to win a referendum, if and when one was put to the Australian people.

To assist us in this plan, we need input from all councils on a number of key issues. You can help by conducting a 'conversation' within your council on this topic. Materials, including facts sheets, to assist you and your council to conduct this conversation are available at www.alga.asn.au for download. Feel free to copy and distribute this material.

In providing feedback councils should consider:

- The relative benefits to your community
- The likelihood of gaining Commonwealth support for each objective
- The risks of taking multiple or complex issues to the electorate
- The likelihood of opposition.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT TACKLES KEY WATER ISSUES – BALLINA, NSW - AUGUST 2008

The inquiry into Local Water Utilities and the water buyback scheme will be a key focus at this year's annual Water Management Conference.

The conference will include a panel discussion with Minister for Water, the Hon Nathan Rees MP on the Inquiry, as well as debate on urban water reform.

Site visits to local water utilities and a presentation from the Federal Government on their 'Water for the Future' plan will also feature.

President of the Shires Association, Cr Bruce Miller says the panel discussion with the Minister for Water will be an important session for delegates.

Read the original media release article from the LGSA website (<http://www.lgsa.org.au>) or by [clicking here](#).

Local Government
Association of NSW



Shires Association of NSW

For more information contact **Fay Daoud – 0437 477 567**, or visit the Water Management Conference 2008 website at: <http://www.waterconference.lgsa.org.au>.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS – MAKE SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED ON THE NT ELECTORAL ROLL

Elections for Wagait Shire Council, Coomalie Shire Council, Barkly Shire Council, Central Desert Shire Council, East Arnhem Shire Council, MacDonnell Shire Council, Roper Gulf Shire Council, Tiwi Islands Shire Council, Victoria Daly Shire Council, West Arnhem Shire Council and the Litchfield Council are to be held on Saturday, 25 October 2008. The Belyuen Shire Council is to remain under administration.

Persons registered on the NT electoral roll in Council areas are eligible to vote and stand for election. Notices inviting persons to nominate for council elections are expected to be published by Friday, 12 September 2008. The close of the electoral roll is expected to be advised by 23 September 2008. Nominations will then close on 2 October 2008 and be declared on 3 October 2008.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!



For information on enrolment visit: <http://www.aec.gov.au/index.htm>

GIANT WALK 2008 – SEPTEMBER 1ST 2008 – REGISTER NOW

The goNT Giant Walk 2008 is the Northern Territory's contribution to the Guinness World Record attempt to be held on Monday 1 September. Territorians are being encouraged to join in on a 1km walk to try and beat the record set by Canada last year for the most number of people walking simultaneously in multi-venues. The number to beat is 231,635.

The Giant Walk 2008 website is now up and running!

Please visit www.thegiantwalk.com.au and either register a walking site or choose a walking site that you'd like to participate at. Contact the Walk Coordinator to let them know you're interested in coming to their venue.



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**.

WARRUWI AIRSTRIP SEALING PROJECT

The Warruwi community on Goulburn Island is to have its airstrip sealed which is critical to the Island which is in a cyclone prone region of the NT.

Works have started with the construction of a temporary strip as the main strip will be closed for approximately 6 weeks during construction and sealing.

The West Arnhem Shire is taking the opportunity while the contractor and sealing crew are on the Island to rehabilitate and reseal some of the worst pavement failure on the community's internal sealed road network. Funds to do the work are from the Australian Government Roads to Recovery Program which LGANT is managing on behalf of the West Arnhem Shire.

Projects will take approximately 10 weeks.



ROAD MAINTENANCE BY CONTRACT - SEMINAR – DARWIN 19TH SEPTEMBER

A workshop is being run by ARRB Group to discuss road maintenance delivery in the new millennium. Issues to be addressed at the workshop will include:

- Quality of service and value adding
- Contract periods
- Risk and risk sharing
- Contract models
- Customer issues
- Organisational change management
- Ownership, partnership and alliancing
- Information management

Course enquiries:

Email: training@arrb.com.au Ph: (03) 9881 1555 or visit: www.arrb.com.au/workshops

COMING EVENTS

- Water Management 2008 Conference – Ballina NSW, 13-15 August 2008
- Coast to Coast Conference – Darwin, 18-22 August 2008
- National State and Expert Forum – Constitutional Recognition – Canberra, 21 & 22 August 2008
- goNT Giant Walk 2008 – 1 September 2008
- Healthy Places & Spaces Forum – Darwin, September 2008
- Local Government Sustainable Development Conference – Sydney, 10-11 September 2008
- 10 Shires and Litchfield Council Elections – 25 October 2008
- Territory Tidy Towns Awards – Darwin, 6 & 7 November 2008
- ALGA Board Meeting – 18 & 19 November 2008
- LGANT General Meeting – Darwin, 4 & 5 December 2008
- Local Government Constitutional Summit – Melbourne, 8-11 December 2008

FOR BACK ISSUES AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION VISIT THE LGANT WEBSITE - www.lgant.nt.gov.au

LGANT recognises its major sponsors:

- [Telstra Country Wide](#)
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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.asn.au