This Week @ LGANT Newsletter

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15 AUGUST 08

15 AUGUST 2008

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2008 – 'YOUTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE: TIME FOR ACTION'

Darwin youth get together to discuss climate change - 17 August 2008. This year, International Youth Day on 12 August 2008 has the theme **Youth and Climate Change: Time for Action.**

The selection of this theme is in recognition of the fact that climate change has already begun to devastate communities and deepen the effects of poverty and hunger. This situation complicates the challenges that youth face. However, young people are increasingly adding their voices to the call for action on climate change. To encourage and empower young people in Darwin to have their say on climate change, Miss Katie Chatto from the Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians, with support from the Environment Centre NT has organised a presentation and discussion session. Young people (12-25 years) are invited to come along and hear Al Gore's Climate Change presentation, voice their concerns and discuss actions to engage young Territorians to take action.

So come along on **Sunday 17 August 2008 from 2:00 till 4:00pm** at the Casuarina Shopping Centre Community Room.

INDIGENOUS ROAD SAFETY FORUM, CAIRNS – 29-31 OCTOBER 2008

The Federal Government's Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government is arranging a forum in partnership with Queensland Transport. The forum is an initiative of the National Road Safety Strategy 2001-2010. It provides an opportunity for practitioners in a variety of fields to collectively assess and progress actions to improve road safety for Indigenous Australians. The aim of the forum is to share resources and information to maintain an ongoing national commitment to addressing road safety issues that affect Indigenous people. Outcomes of the forum include making recommendations to produce practical and locally-relevant initiatives. Individuals and representatives of organisations who have an interest in improving Indigenous road safety should attend. For more information visit:
http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/safety/indigenous_road_safety/index.aspx

NATIONAL CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Developed jointly by the Australian Procurement and Construction Council and the Department of Workplace Relations Advisory Committee, National Code of Practice for the Construction Industry has been endorsed and adopted by the Australian Government State and Territory Governments.

The Guide lines provide a clear statement of Australian Government policy and sets out the workplace relations and administrative requirements of those parties with whom the Australian Government wishes to do business.

One of the changes to the Guidelines that came from the review in 2005 was a requirement for Australian Government and State and Territory agencies to only accept tenders or expressions of interest from contractors for Australian Government projects that are compliant with the Code and Guidelines at the time they lodge their tender or expression of interest.

Local Government needs to be across the Code and implication it may have on programs they deliver on behalf of the Australian Government Agencies.

Code and Guidelines can be downloaded from **www.workplace.gov.au/building**

WAGAIT SHIRE ROAD PROJECT COMPLETED

Wagait Shire formerly Cox Peninsula Community Government Council in partnership with the Power and Water Corporation sealed the access to the Imalik Springs. Imalik Springs is the water supply for the Communities of Wagait and Mandorah.

Works included culvert and road realignment, upgrading of the gravel access to sealed road, and turnaround at the water point. The project has improved the amenity for the local community.

The Australian Government Roads to Recovery Program allowed the Wagait Shire to leverage funds from the Northern Territory Government to complete the project with the assistance of the program managers, the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGERS FORUM 2008

The inaugural professional development program for Human Resource Managers of local governing bodies in the Northern Territory will be held in Darwin on August 18th & 19th, 2008. This two day program has been developed by LGANT to provide specific support for local government Human Resource Managers in a Northern Territory context. For more information call **LGANT on (08) 8936 2888**.

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**.

AUSTRALIAN LEARING COMMUNITIES NETWORK CONFERENCE 2008
CONNECTING FACES, SPACES & PLACES

The 5th Biennial Australian Learning Communities Network Conference is to be held Sunday 26 – Tuesday 28 October 2008 in Adelaide, South Australia. Connecting Faces, Places and Spaces is the theme for the 2008 conference. Learning communities are defined as a learning city/town/community/region addressing the learning needs of its locality through partnerships. Learning communities use the strengths of social and institutional relationships to bring about cultural shifts in perception in the value of learning and to promote social cohesion, urban regeneration and economic development.

The conference aims to create an increased awareness, interest and engagement in the growth and development of sustainable learning communities in Australasia. Through a series of keynote lectures, plenary, paper sessions, posters and workshops we will explore best practice models of learning communities, internationally and nationally, the development of learning communities, the impact of learning communities on the human, social and economic capacity and workforce development within organisations. For more information visit **http://www.alcnconference.com/**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING MINISTERS' COUNCIL DISCUSS COAG ISSUES

The seventh meeting of the Local Government and Planning Ministers' council (LGPMC) met in Hobart on 13th August. Many issues of interest were discussed. The communiqué from the meeting included the following:

Development Assessment Reform
The Council agreed to the Development Assessment Forum (DAF) developed protocol (or standard) to support the electronic processing of planning and development applications.

Members noted that for a fully integrated electronic development assessment (eDA) to be possible, all organisations involved will need to develop eDAIS compliant systems. To support the swift introduction of the eDA Interoperability Specification (eDAIS), the Australian Government has agreed in principle to commit up to $3.6 million from its $30 million eDA Program, a part of the Housing Affordability Fund (HAF).

The funds will be made available over the next three years, commencing in 2008-09, to support the further development of the eDAIS, including funding for State-based program officers to help deliver eDAIS. It is expected that states and territories will match the program officer funding for the third year.

The Council also agreed to the establishment of a Ministerial sub-group, chaired by New South Wales and including Victoria, Queensland and South Australia, to develop proposals for further streamlining development assessment reform for circulation and agreement on a work program, within 30 days out of session.

COAG Housing Affordability
In addition to noting the funding announced on eDA from the Housing Affordability Fund (HAF), the Council noted the release, on 11 June 2008, by the Australian Government of a Consultation Paper seeking submissions and comments to assist in finalising the design of the HAF program, including processes for selecting suitable projects. They further noted the release on 16 June 2008 of the Senate Select Committee report - *A good house is hard to find: Housing affordability in Australia*.
http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/hsaf_ctte/report/index.htm

NOMINATE NOW FOR THE AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2009

Nominations for the Australian of the Year Awards 2009 are now open. Anyone can be an Australian of the Year, but first they have to be nominated. Just think, if the person you nominate receives the Australian of the Year Award, you will have helped create history. Your nomination could mean the world to someone you admire.

There are four categories in which you can nominate:

- Australian of the Year
- Young Australian of the Year (16 - 30)
- Senior Australian of the Year (over 60)
- Australia's Local Hero

Australian of the Year Awards

Nominate online at **http://www.australianoftheyear.org.au** or pick up a form from major sponsor the Commonwealth Bank. Nominations close 31 August 2008. State and Territory award winners will be announced in November, with the four national award recipients announced on 25 January 2009.

NEW FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT – REMOTE AIRSTRIP IMPROVEMENTS ACROSS THE TERRITORY

Lighting, grading, sealing and fencing of remote airstrips will improve the safe access to 19 communities from Croker Island through to Ti Tree via the Remote Aerodrome Safety Program. These projects are funded through round two of the RAS Program, which will deliver $20 million over four years to improve the safety of aerodromes in remote and isolated areas of Australia.

Funding Details:

- Croker Island – $1.4 million to West Arnhem Shire Council to upgrade the airstrip from gravel to bitumen and install lighting with a total cost of $1.8m.
- Robinson River – $800,000 to Mungoorbada Aboriginal Corporation to level and seal the airstrip and improve drainage with a total cost of $800,000.
- Nyirripi - $180,000 to the NT Government to upgrade the gravel airstrip and install a camel proof fence with a total cost of $185,000.
- Ti Tree - $65,000 to the NT Government to upgrade the gravel airstrip.
- Victoria Downs - $8,661 to the Victoria River Downs Station to install solar powered lighting with a total cost of $17,322.
- Eva Valley - $202,264 to the Nyirrunggulung Mardrulk Ngadberre Regional Council for earthworks to repair the western end of the runway with a total cost of $404,528.
- Bamyili Aerodrome - $42,764 to the Nyirrunggulung Mardrulk Ngadberre Regional Council to clear trees, train personnel and grade the runway with a total cost of $85,528.
- Delara - $23,500 to the Nyirrunggulung Mardrulk Ngadberre Regional Council to reposition lighting with a total cost of $47,000
- Maningrida - $25,000 to the Maningrida Council to erect a new fence with a total cost of $50,000.
- 12 other airstrips - $375,000 to install lighting at a number of airstrips, including Apatula, Palumpa, Peppimenarti and Milyakburra to enable services to land at night, with a total cost of $380,000.

OFFICE OF NORTHERN AUSTRALIA – CONSULTATION WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Federal Government has established the new Office of Northern Australia to provide high level policy advice to the Government, and to improve coordination across the Government, and between government, business and communities on issues affecting sustainable development in Northern Australia. LGANT was involved in consultations along with the NT Government, the Northern Land Council, Charles Darwin University, environmental groups, and representatives of the pearling industry.

The issues discussed include:

- skills shortages and housing affordability;
- the future of agriculture and development in the Northern Territory;
- transport infrastructure needs and routes to market;
- water, land care and climate change risks and opportunities; and
- developing sustainable indigenous business opportunities.

Consultations are also occurring in Mount Isa, Normanton, Cairns, Brisbane, Townsville, Perth, Broome, Derby, Karratha, Roebourne and Kununurra.

DARWIN SEMINAR – WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A FITTER AND HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER, 2008

Councils and Government in the Northern Territory maintain and develop millions of dollars worth of assets and infrastructure on behalf of various communities. Careful planning is required to ensure infrastructure is relevant to the communities' needs, is sustainable, meets community expectations in terms of environment and accessibility and is adequately maintained.

This seminar focuses on a number of successful projects and plans designed to ensure maximum usage of open space facilities, along with plans and programs outlining the engagement of local communities in embracing healthy lifestyle change and education of at-risk populations. The seminar is of particular interest to Parks, Recreation, Planning, Technical and Asset Management professionals looking to plan for the future needs of the Territory in a sustainable and relevant manner.

For more information, call Lyn Fullgrabe from **LGMASA on (08) 8100 9975** or **admin@lgmasa.org.au**

COMING EVENTS

- LGANT HR Managers Forum, Darwin 18 & 19 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
- Working Together Towards a Fitter & Healthier Lifestyle – Darwin, 18 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**
- **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**.

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**