

# This Week @ LGANT

Newsletter



19 SEPT 08

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## REMINDER ELECTION ROLLS IN THE UPCOMING SHIRE COUNCIL ELECTIONS CLOSE ON TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

GO TO <http://www.aec.gov.au/index.htm> FOR MORE INFORMATION

### TERRITORY TIDY TOWNS AWARDS AND FORUM - GET INVOLVED!!

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.

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/](http://www.kab.org.au/nt/)



### ELECTION NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN!

Election nominations are now invited for candidates in the upcoming Shire and Litchfield Municipality elections. For more information please visit the Northern Territory Electoral Commission [www.ntec.nt.gov.au](http://www.ntec.nt.gov.au) Or call the **Toll Free Inquiry number 1800 019 159**

### NEW POSITION AVAILABLE – SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS COORDINATOR @ LGANT

Please visit the LGANT website for details on this new position  
[http://www.lgant.nt.gov.au/home/about\\_lgant/employment\\_vacancies/](http://www.lgant.nt.gov.au/home/about_lgant/employment_vacancies/)

Or call LGANT on (08) 8936 2888 for more details

## **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 Municipality are to be held on Saturday, 25 October 2008. The Belyuen Shire Council is to remain under administration.

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

**Close of the Electoral Rolls is on Tuesday 23 September 5pm**

## **2008 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION TIMETABLE**

<b>Nominations invited</b>	<b>Friday 12 September 2008</b>
<b>Close of rolls</b>	<b>5pm Tuesday 23 September</b>
<b>Close of Nominations</b>	<b>12 noon Thursday 2 October</b>
<b>Declaration of nominations/draw for positions on ballot paper</b>	<b>12 noon Friday 3 October</b>
<b>Postal vote mail-out commences</b>	<b>ASAP after 3 October</b>
<b>Pre-poll voting commences</b>	<b>Wednesday 8 October</b>
<b>Mobile polling commences</b>	<b>Monday 13 October</b>
<b>Polling day</b>	<b>Saturday 25 October</b>

## **NATIONAL WALK TO WORK DAY - FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER 2008 – BETTER HEALTH, CLEANER AIR**

Walk to Work Day (WTWD) is an annual event held around Australia which promotes regular walking and a cleaner environment. By registering for participation at [www.walk.com.au](http://www.walk.com.au) individuals, businesses and organisations can take the first step to improve our nation's health and environment. For further information call the Pedestrian Council of Australia on (02) 9968 4555.

## **NEWS FROM ALGA - HOUSING AFFORDABILITY FUND GUIDELINES RELEASED**

Councils and state governments are eligible for funding under the application guidelines for the Government's new Housing Affordability Fund (HAF) launched this week by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Housing Minister Tanya Plibersek. The HAF invests \$512 million over five years to target the planning and infrastructure costs that are incurred when building new housing developments.

ALGA President Cr Paul Bell welcomed the announcement of the HAF program and its guidelines, saying that ALGA had been working with the Australian Government on the initiative, through the COAG Housing Affordability Working Group.

Cr Bell urged councils to examine the guidelines carefully and decide whether they would make an application under the program. "Housing affordability is an issue for councils and local government welcomes the flexibility for the program," he said. "We are particularly pleased that the Australian Government is prepared to fund community infrastructure related to HAF projects."

"It would defeat the program's purpose to fund affordable housing that did not have access to transport, adequate sewerage and water, playgrounds and library services. These basic services need to be funded. Without Federal Government funding, local government would expect developers to make a contribution to this sort of community infrastructure. Local government could also benefit from access to funding to speed up the release of land and undertake the necessary planning work associated with HAF projects."

Minister Plibersek said 'tens of thousands' of new home buyers would directly benefit from the Fund, with savings coming from grants of up to \$10 000 per home, reduced holding costs, and contributions from other levels of government. The grants would be targeted towards areas with high demand for new, entry-level housing and applicants would have to be able to demonstrate that their cost savings were passed on to new home buyers. For further information on the Housing Affordability Fund and the application guidelines please visit [www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/housing/haf.htm](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/housing/haf.htm).

## **FIRST MEETING OF AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT: A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT – NOVEMBER 28, 2008**

All Australian mayors and shire presidents will be invited to attend the first meeting of the Australian Council of Local Government at Parliament House this year. This unprecedented gathering of the nation's 565 local councils will be held on November 28 and is the Rudd Government's next step in forging a new, nation-building partnership with local communities. Local government represents the third arm of the Australian Federation – and the Rudd Government is committed to a new cooperative engagement with that level of the government closest to local communities.

The one-day meeting will address issues of national and local significance including:

- Building national and local infrastructure to boost our economic capacity and improve the quality of life in our communities;
- Tackling immediate challenges facing major cities and growth corridors, including urban congestion, urban planning and design; and
- Steps towards constitutional recognition for local government.

## **PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Do you have a community event that you want to promote across the Territory? The LGANT newsletter is distributed to member Councils, staff and elected members all over the Territory. Please email the details of your community event to [info@lgant.asn.au](mailto:info@lgant.asn.au) or call **LGANT on (08) 8936 2888**.

## **COMING EVENTS**

- Close of Nominations for Shire Council Elections - 12 noon Thursday 2 October 2008
- National Walk to Work Day – Friday 3 October 2008
- 10 Shires and Litchfield Council Elections – 25 October 2008
- Territory Tidy Towns Awards and Forum – Darwin, 6 & 7 November 2008
- ALGA Board Meeting – 18 & 19 November 2008
- Australian Council of Local Government Meeting – 28 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](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**.