This Week @ LGANT Newsletter

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

26 SEPT 08

26 SEPTEMBER 2008

REMINDER ELECTION NOMINATIONS IN THE UPCOMING SHIRE COUNCIL ELECTIONS CLOSE ON THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER

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**
Or call the **Toll Free Inquiry number 1800 019 159**

Visit the NT Government website for more information on the elections:
http://www.localgovernment.nt.gov.au/new/shire_elections

2008 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION TIMETABLE

Close of Nominations	**12 noon Thursday 2 October**
Declaration of nominations/draw for positions on ballot paper	**12 noon Friday 3 October**
Postal vote mail-out commences	**ASAP after 3 October**
Pre-poll voting commences	**Wednesday 8 October**
Mobile polling commences	**Monday 13 October**
Polling day	**Saturday 25 October**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTIONAL SUMMITT – A SPECIAL NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 8 – 11 DECEMBER 2008, MELBOURNE

Local government has been presented with the challenge - and opportunity - of developing a shared vision of what constitutional recognition should aim to achieve and the shape it should take.

While the decision to hold a referendum for constitutional recognition is one for the Federal Government, we must ensure that the type of recognition reflects local government's own wishes. We know our communities best and we know what type of recognition, necessary to secure their future, is most likely to gain their support. Please see the Constitutional Recognition website for full program information and online registration – **http://www.alga.asn.au/constitutionalrecognition/summit.php**

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/**

AUSLINK LEGISLATION PASSES

The AusLink Bill passed by the Senate yesterday has flushed out at least 55 strong supporters of Roads to Recovery in Parliament.

The legislation introduced by the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Anthony Albanese provides for the continuation of Roads to Recovery until 2014 and locks in increased funding from $300m to $350m per year. It was supported by the Opposition which, in government, was the architect of the program. ALGA President Cr Paul Bell said he was 'humbled and delighted' at the strong support for local government delivering safer roads in partnership with the Federal Government and thanked all those who have spoken in support of the Bill.

HEALTHY SPACES AND PLACES WORKSHOP IN DARWIN ON 10 OCTOBER

Healthy Spaces and Places is a unique collaboration between ALGA, the Planning Institute of Australia, and the National Heart Foundation, and is supported by funding from the Department of Health and Ageing.

The first of the consultation workshops was held in Tasmania. The second was held in the ACT, which featured an address by the National Planning Institute's CEO, Neil Savery, and presentations about the many dimensions involved in helping to promote healthier and more active Australians through design of the built environment.

The next consultation workshop is to be held in Darwin on 10 October 2008. To register for the remaining one day workshops, comment on the guide, or to obtain further information on the Healthy Spaces and Places initiative, go to: **http://www.planning.org.au/** and click on the link.

NATIONAL WALK TO WORK DAY – BETTER HEALTH, CLEANER AIR - NEXT FRIDAY!

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** 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.**

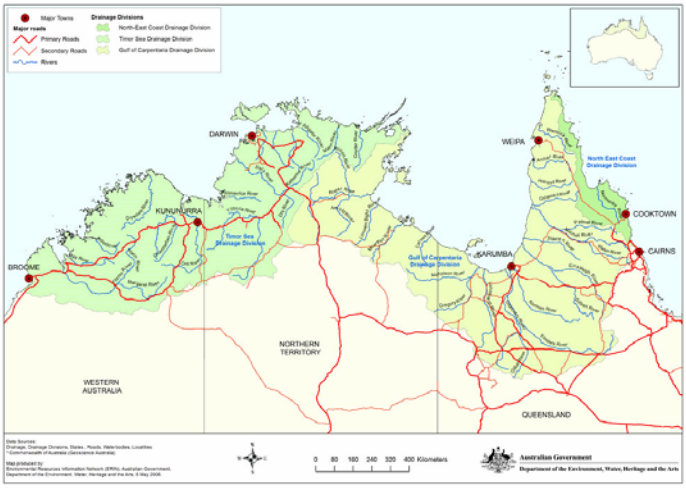
CHANGES TO THE NORTHERN AUSTRALIA TASKFORCE

The changes include new membership, removing all politicians from the group, and new terms of reference, tackling the environmental, economic and social challenges facing northern Australia in the 21st century. As part of the overhaul of the taskforce, the Government gave them two main responsibilities. They are:

- Finding new opportunities for economic development in the north based on water availability and sustainability; and
- Reporting on the potential impact of new development on water balance and quality, the environment, existing water users and the broader community.

Prominent Indigenous leader, Mr Joe Ross from Fitzroy Crossing in Western Australia will be the new chair of the Taskforce. The other members of the Taskforce include prominent individuals from indigenous groups, business groups, pastoralist groups and academics.

Under a revised timetable, the taskforce will present a mid-term report to Government by the end of this year, and its final report by December 2009. The new terms of reference and membership were prepared in consultation with each of the three northern jurisdictions. Further background on the Taskforce, including short biographies of the taskforce members can be found at **www.nalwt.gov.au**



HUMAN SERVICES TRAINING ADVISORY BODY

Human Services Training Advisory Council (HSTAC) is a Northern Territory organisation with membership drawn from industry and community. Our council provides leadership and advice in vocational education and training to ensure quality outcomes in the delivery of human services. Seven of the council places are allocated to local government.

HSTAC is funded by the Northern Territory Government to provide advice to industry about vocational education and training. This includes providing information about training packages, registered training organisations, skills recognition and how to map your workforce development needs to qualifications and units of competency. We also provide fee for service workshops for employers about how to use national training packages as a human resource and workforce development tool.

For further information about HSTAC visit the website at **www.hstac.com.au** or contact Barbara Pitman at **b.pitman@hstac.com.au** or by ringing **08 8981 2550.**

Human services
TRAINING ADVISORY COUNCIL INC.

moving forward

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Federal Minister for Local Government, the Hon Anthony Albanese, MP, announced on 18 September 2008 the government's decision to establish the Australian Council of Local Government with up to 25 members and the charter of assisting all governments to deal with the infrastructure backlog facing communities throughout Australia. Although final representation on the Council is yet to be confirmed, there is every possibility that it will be drawn from the following:

- Capital City Lord Mayors
- Local Government Associations
- State and Territory Ministers for Local Government
- Local Government Managers Australia
- Australian Local Government Women's Association.

The first meeting of the Council is expected to occur sometime in November 2008 and further announcements on representation and agenda will be made in the future.

THE ARNHEM LAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Telstra, the NT Government, Rio Tinto Alcan and the Northern Land Council announced the development of a fibre optic cable to Arnhem Land, from Jabiru to Nhulunbuy. The scope of work includes laying a backbone of 800km of optical fibre through tropical savannah terrain from Jabiru to Nhulunbuy. Multiple links will branch from the backbone route using fibre and radio technologies to reach coastal and other remote communities and mining sites. This infrastructure will provide additional capacity which will support a range of high technology services including high speed Broadband. This project will significantly improve access to education, health, justice and business services and contribute to regional growth.

For the first time, services like video-conferencing can be made available to northern Arnhem Land, so that medical specialists in other parts of Australia or other parts of the world can be consulted. In education broadband provides an opportunity to improve access to information and broadens options to deliver teaching, through virtual classrooms and pod casting.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

TRIBUTE TO GEOFFREY SELEMS

A loyal servant of local government across the NT.
As an Executive member of the Local Government Association of Northern Territory for three years he worked tirelessly to improve services in local communities. Sincere condolences to the Selems family from the President, Executive, members and staff of LGANT.

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** 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
- Healthy Places and Spaces Workshop – 10 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

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**.