Local Government Association of Queensland Inc
109th Annual Conference

Host: Brisbane City Council

Official Opening

Ceremony

Tuesday 30 August 2005

Held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Cnr Glenelg and Merivale Sts, Southbank, Brisbane

Commencing at 8.30am

With the Official Opening by

Hon Desley Boyle MP
Minister for Environment, Local Government Planning and Women
PROGRAM

Sunday, 28 August 2005
12.00pm to 4.00pm
Registration
Delegates, Observers and Partners
Plaza Terrace Level, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre,
Cnr Merivale and Glenelg Streets, Southbank, Brisbane

Monday, 29 August 2005
8.30am to 1.00pm
Executive Meeting

8.00am to 6.00pm
Registration
Delegates, Observers and Partners
Plaza Terrace Level, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre,
Cnr Merivale and Glenelg Streets, Southbank, Brisbane

1.00pm to 1.30pm
Executive Lunch with LGMA State Council

1.30pm to 4.00pm
Regional Roads Group Assembly

4.00pm - 4.30pm
Annual Conference Briefing for first time conference attendees

6.00pm - 7.30pm
Welcoming Ceremony
Hosted by King & Company
Roma Street Parklands - Drinks and Finger Food
All Partners Welcome Free of Charge

6.30pm
Welcome to Country
Monica O’Callaghan

6.35pm
Welcome to Brisbane
Rt Hon Campbell Newman, Lord Mayor of Brisbane

6.45pm
Response
Cr Paul Bell, President, LGAQ and ALGA

6.50pm
Sponsors Address
Mr Tim Fynes-Clinton, Managing Partner, King & Company

7.30pm
Program concludes
FREE EVENING
Tuesday, 30 August 2005

8.00am  Registration  
Plaza Terrace Level, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre,  
Cnr Merivale and Glenelg Streets, Southbank, Brisbane

8.30am  Call to Order by President

8.35am  Presentation of Executive and Office Bearers

8.45am  Official Opening  
by the Hon Desley Boyle MP  
Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women

9.15am  Presidential Address  
Cr Paul Bell  
President, LGAQ and ALGA

9.30am  Keynote Address: “Climate Change And Sustainability”  
Professor David Bellamy OBE, Internationally Acclaimed UK  
Environmentalist

10.15am  Debate

10.30am  Launch of Local Government Infrastructure Services  
Corporation  
Hon Peter Beattie MP  
Premier and Treasurer

10.45am  Debate

11.45am  Address: “Queensland’s Future Climate And Weather”  
Dr Roger Stone, Climatologist, Department of Primary Industries

12.15pm  Lunch  
Hosted by Telstra Countrywide

1.30pm  Address  
Hon Paul Lucas MP  
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

2.00pm  Queensland’s Multicultural Future  
Hon Chris Cummins MP  
Minister for Small Business, Information Technology Policy and  
Multicultural Affairs

2.15pm  Debate

3.00pm  Address: “Our Changing Population”  
Dr Bernard Salt, Partner, KPMG

3.30pm  Debate

4.45pm  Address: “Be A Learning Organization Or Be Extinct”  
Professor YT Kee, Consultant

5.15pm  Adjournment

6.30pm for 7.00pm  Gala Dinner - Plaza Ballroom, Brisbane Convention and  
Exhibition Centre, Cnr Merivale and Glenelg Streets, Southbank,  
Brisbane  
Hosted by Hastings Deering  
(Dress: Coat and tie)  
Long Service Certificate Presentations

11.30pm  Program concludes
Wednesday, 31 August 2005

8.30am  Conference Resumes

8.45am  Address: “Communities In A Climate Of Change”
        Dr Michael Woolcock
        Social Scientist, World Bank and Harvard University

9.15am  Debate

10.30am Address: “Challenges For Change”
        Dr Danah Zohar
        Oxford, England, Author of Quantum Self and Quantum Society

11.15am  Debate

12.15pm  Lunch
        Hosted by Department of Public Works

1.30pm  Conference Resumes

1.30pm  Split Plenary Forums:
        Forum One: “Community Consultation Sucks! They can go and get stuffed!”
        Forum Two: “If I ruled the world I would…”

2.45pm  Address
        Mr Ted Malone MP
        Shadow Minister for Local Government

3.15pm  Debate

4.45pm  Address: “It Pays To Laugh”
        Ms Kerry Cue

5.15pm  Adjournment

7.00pm  Evening Program: “Gangsters & Molls”
        City Hall
        Hosted by Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd
        (Dress: Smart Casual or in Theme i.e Chicago & Godfather)

11.30pm  Program Concludes
Thursday, 1 September 2005

8.45am Workshops
Session 1: 8:45am - 10:15am
Session 2: 10:30am - 12:00pm

12.00pm Consideration of:
(a) Executive Report
(b) President’s Annual Address
(c) Hon Treasurer’s Report

12.15pm Selection of 2007 Annual Conference Venue

12.20pm Address:
Li Cunxin
Stockbroker and best selling author of ‘Mao’s Dancer’

1.00pm Closing Ceremony

1.15pm Lunch
Hosted by Powerlink

6.00pm Evening Program:
Farewell Dinner - Powerhouse, New Farm

11.00pm Program concludes
“Policy” Motions

NO. 1

REDCLIFFE/EXECUTIVE

ASBESTOS - REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL IN NON-WORKPLACE SETTINGS

MOVED: Cr A Sutherland (Redcliffe)  
SECONDED: Cr K McDuff (Bundaberg)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland Policy Statement be amended by the insertion of a new policy as follows:

5.4.6 Asbestos in Non-workplace Settings
5.4.6.1 Local Government recognises that asbestos in non-workplace settings represents a significant public health risk to Queenslanders.
5.4.6.2 To ensure the risks posed by asbestos in non-workplace settings are adequately managed, Local Government supports the introduction of a proactive regulatory regime and public awareness campaign that ensures that all Queenslanders that may be exposed in this setting are made aware of the likely risks and the necessary actions required to protect themselves, other occupants and tradespeople.
5.4.6.3 A proactive regulatory regime introduced by the State Government should, as a minimum, include the following requirements:
   • Asbestos removal in non-workplaces settings should only be undertaken by licensed asbestos removalists;
   • Certification be required as to the presence or otherwise of asbestos in a building as part of property sale processes and/or building lease arrangements.
5.4.6.4 Due to the extent and nature of the potential health risks, Local Government affirms that the State Government should be the sole tier of government responsible for the ongoing monitoring and regulation of asbestos in non-workplace settings.

CARRIED

NO. 2

CQLGA/LIVINGSTONE/REDCLIFFE/EXECUTIVE

FLUORIDATION OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

MOVED: Cr B Dorey (Livingstone)  
SECONDED: Cr J Chapman (Atheron)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland Policy Statement be amended by the insertion of a new policy as follows:

5.4.7 Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies
5.4.7.1 Local Government believes it is a principle of ethical public health policy that mass, involuntary medication must never proceed without the express consent of the community.
5.4.7.2 Express consent of the community to fluoridate public water supplies should be sought either by the State Government or Local Government, if they choose to do so.
5.4.7.3 As oral health is a State Government responsibility and the State will receive a direct financial benefit from the fluoridation of public water supplies, the State Government should fully fund Local Government for the capital and recurrent costs of its introduction.

CARRIED
NO. 3

EXECUTIVE

REGIONAL PLANNING POLICY
MOVER: Cr R Abbot (Noosa) SECONDER: Cr M Brunker (Bowen)

“That section 6.1 (Planning Policies) of the Local Government Association of Queensland Policy Statement be amended by the deletion of the current regional planning policy, 6.1.2.2, rewording of the heading 6.1.2 to read “State Planning Issues” and inserting a new section on Regional Planning as follows:

6.1.6 Regional Planning

6.1.6.1 Local Government supports the retention of regional planning processes that have voluntary membership and are advisory in nature.

However, if the State Government moves to the introduction of statutory regional planning arrangements in any part of Queensland, Local Government will support such arrangements provided they are based on a model representing a true partnership between State and Local Government.

Local Government seeks a regional planning model containing the following elements:

6.1.6.2 Establishment of a high level regional decision making body on which mayors represent Local Governments and specified ministers represent State Government. This body to have primary responsibility for developing and monitoring implementation of the regional plan.

6.1.6.3 Responsibility for final approval of the regional plan should be with the Governor-in-Council following consideration by State Cabinet as a proper reflection of the “whole of government” significance of managing regional growth and development.

6.1.6.4 Introduction of legislation ensuring the compliance of State departments and agencies including Government Owned Corporations with the approved regional plan.

6.1.6.5 The regional planning portfolio to be permanently linked to the Treasurer or Premier ensuring whole of government compliance with the regional plan and direct influence on budgetary decisions related to its implementation.

6.1.6.6 An annual report on achievement of regional planning outcomes to be prepared by the State Government in consultation with regional body and individual Local Government, with the report to be tabled in State Parliament.

CARRIED
“A” Motions

Association Matters

NO. 1

RECEPTION OF PRESIDENT’S ANNUAL ADDRESS
MOVER: Cr M Brunker (Bowen)  SECONDER: Cr M Forman (Bundaberg)

The President’s Annual Address will be read on Tuesday morning 30th August 2005 and needs to be formally received prior to consideration latter in the Conference.

“That the President’s Annual Address for 2004-2005 be received.”

CARRIED

NO. 1A

ADOPTION OF PRESIDENT’S ANNUAL ADDRESS
MOVER: Cr M Brunker (Bowen)  SECONDER: Cr M Forman (Bundaberg)

The President’s Annual Address remains before the Conference during proceedings and is considered on Thursday 1st September 2005.

“That the President’s Annual Address from 2004-2005 be adopted”.

CARRIED

NO. 2

RECEPTION OF THE 109TH ANNUAL REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE
MOVER: Cr A Ricciardi (Ipsis)  SECONDER: Cr R Buchan (Balonne)

The Annual Report of the Executive to needs to be formally received prior to consideration latter in the Conference.

“That the Annual Report of the Executive for 2004-2005 be received.”

CARRIED

NO. 2A

ADOPTION OF THE EXECUTIVE REPORT
MOVER: Cr A Ricciardi (Ipsis)  SECONDER: Cr R Buchan (Balonne)

The Executive’s Annual Report remains before the Conference during proceedings and is considered on Thursday 1st September 2005.


CARRIED
RECEPTION OF THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITOR’S REPORT
MOVER: Cr B McNamara (Flinders)  
SECONDER: Cr D Edwards (Quilpie)

The Annual Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report need to be formally received prior to consideration latter in the Conference.

“That the Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 May 2005 and Auditor’s Report be received.”  
CARRIED

ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITOR’S REPORT
MOVER: Cr B McNamara (Flinders)  
SECONDER: Cr D Edwards (Quilpie)

The Annual Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report remain before the Conference during proceedings and are considered on Thursday 1st September 2005.

“That the Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 May 2005 and Auditor’s Report be adopted”.  
CARRIED

ASSOCIATION RULES - ALTERATION - NOTIFICATION OF DELEGATES
MOVER: Cr R Duffy (Burnett)  
SECONDER: Cr D Neilson (Cooloola)

“That existing Rule 21 of the LGAQ Constitution and Rules be deleted and replaced with the following:

Appointment of Delegates

21. Delegates must be appointed in accordance with the provisions following:

(a) A delegate must be either a councillor of the appointing Member or the Chief Executive Officer of the Member;

(b) The appointment will be validly made if it is either:

(i) by electronic submission in a way prescribed by the Executive and notified to members from time to time, and the Member concerned receives electronic confirmation that the electronic submission has been received; or

(ii) in writing signed by the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer of the Member concerned;

(c) in respect of a Member which has more than 2 votes and appoints 2 delegates, the appointment may specify the number of votes which may be exercised by each of those delegates;

(d) the appointment must be actually received by the Executive Director at least 14 days prior to the commencement of the conference.”  
CARRIED
NO. 4A

EXECUTIVE

ASSOCIATION RULES - ALTERATION - MEMBERSHIP AND ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

MOVER: Cr B McNaRara (Flinders)  
SECONDER: Cr M Forman (Bundaberg)

“That existing Rules 4, 36, 37 of the LGAQ Constitution and Rules be amended and new Rule 37A be inserted as follows:

1. In rule 4 (Membership), in paragraph 4(b), delete:-
   “Aboriginal Councils constituted under the Community Services (Aborigines) Act 1984 and”.

2. In rule 4 (Membership), in paragraph 4(c), delete:—
   “The Aboriginal Co-ordinating Council constituted under the Community Services (Aborigines) Act 1984 and”

3. In rule 36 (Division of State into Districts) in paragraph 36(c)(iii) :-
   a. In the first line, delete “cases” and replace with “case” and delete “District No. 13 (Aboriginal Councils) and”;
   b. In the second line, delete “Aboriginal Co-ordinating Council and the”; and
   c. In the third line, delete “respectively”.

4. In rule 37 (Election or Appointment of District Representatives), in paragraph 37(b):—
   a. In the first line, delete “ Aboriginal Co-ordinating Council and the”;
   b. In the second line, delete “names” and replace with “name”, delete “representatives” and replace with “representative” and delete “District No 13 and”; and
   c. In the third line, delete “respectively”.

5. Insert a new rule 37A as follows:—

   “Transitional Rule for District No. 13 consequent upon the commencement of the Local Government (Community Government Areas) Act 2004—

   Upon the adoption by the Association of this Rule 37A, the Executive Director must take action to provide for the election of a District Representative for District No 13 as provided by Rule 37, as though the Executive were being constituted following a quadrennial election.

   The District Representative elected in accordance with this rule will take office on the date of the first Executive Meeting convened after the conclusion of the election and, subject to these Rules, will remain in office until the thirty-first day of May following the next ensuing quadrennial election”.

CARRIED
Governance

NO. 5  NQLGA/CARPENTARIA
COUNCIL MEETINGS - TELECONFERENCING AS LEGAL MEANS OF HOLDING MEETINGS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MOVER: Cr A Gallagher (Carpentaria)
SECONDER: Cr C Casey (Carpentaria)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland make representations to the Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation to amend the Local Government Act 1993 to permit Local Governments to use teleconferencing as a legal means of holding meetings of the Local Government.”

CARRIED

NO. 6  SARINA
DEFAMATION - SUPPORT FOR COUNCILLOR TAKING DEFAMATION ACTION
MOVER: Cr K Morgan (Sarina)
SECONDER: Cr P Steindel (Sarina)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to investigate either by review of Local Government Act or other legislation, the ability of Councils to initiate action against a person who may have defamed or slandered an individual Councillor in relation to a whole of Council decision.”

CARRIED

Environment and Health Services

NO. 7  EXECUTIVE
WASTE MANAGEMENT - STRENGTHENED NATIONAL PACKAGING COVENANT
MOVER: Cr T Mooney (Townsville)
SECONDER: Cr R Clarke (Gold Coast)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland confirm its continued support for and participation in the Strengthened National Packaging Covenant.”

CARRIED
NO. 8 MAROOCHY

WASTE MANAGEMENT - INTRODUCTION OF EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY TARGETING E-WASTE
MOVER: Cr J Natoli (Maroochy)  SECONDER: Cr D Smith (Caloundra)

That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the Federal Government to move as quickly as possible to introduce Extended Producer Responsibility targeting the dumping of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE, also known as E-Waste)

CARRIED

NO. 9 WHITSUNDAY

FLUORIDE SUPPLEMENTS - STATE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE
MOVER: Cr M Demartini (Whitsunday)  SECONDER: Cr R Debnam (Whitsunday)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland make representations to the Queensland Minister for Health to intervene and provide assistance in dealing with industry and relevant agencies or authorities to progress the provision of fluoride supplements for Local Governments.”

CARRIED

NO. 10 LOGAN

DOG CONTROL - CONSISTENT STATE WIDE POLICIES TO DEAL WITH PROHIBITED/DANGEROUS DOG BREEDS
MOVER: Cr J Freeman (Logan)  SECONDER: Cr A McLindon (Logan)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland calls upon the State Government to:

1. Develop and implement state wide policies, guidelines and training to manage prohibited and dangerous dog breeds.
2. Introduce a state-wide ban on the following breeds:
   (a) American Pit Bull Terrier;
   (b) Dojo Argentino;
   (c) Fila Brasileiro; and
   (d) Japanese Tosa.

CARRIED

NO. 11 KILCOY

PEST MANAGEMENT - DECLARED PEST STATUS ADVISED TO POTENTIAL PURCHASERS
MOVER: Cr T Dredge (Kilcoy)  SECONDER: Cr L Devereaux (Caboolture)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland, with the support of all Queensland Councils, lobby the State Government for amendments to the appropriate legislation for the introduction of a mandatory requirement for a landholder to provide information to a potential purchaser about the declared pest status of the land for sale, prior to the sale of the land being finalised.”
AMENDMENT
MOVER: Cr A Frizzell (Jondaryan)  
SECONDER: Cr P Taylor (Jondaryan)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland, with the support of all Queensland Councils, lobby the State Government for amendments to the appropriate legislation for the introduction of a mandatory requirement for a landholder to provide information to a potential purchaser about the declared pest status of the land for sale, prior to the sale of the land being finalised.”

LOST

The original motion was then put to the Conference and was LOST.

NO. 12  
PINE RIVERS

SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES - DELEGATION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MOVER: Cr R Millar (Pine Rivers)  
SECONDER: Cr G Ashworth (Pine Rivers)

“That the Local Government Association Queensland Inc record its objection to the State Government’s Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Act 2004 where regulatory responsibility is delegated to a Local Government.”

CARRIED

NO. 13  
CQLGA/DUARINGA

RESERVE LAND UNDER TRUSTEESHIP - REVENUE TO BE DISCRETIONARY FUNDING FOR COUNCIL
MOVER: Cr G Howard (Duaringa)  
SECONDER: Cr G Rogers (Stanthorpe)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland make representations to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines that revenue obtained from the management of Reserve Land under Local Government trusteeship be considered discretionary funding of the Local Government and excluded from the requirement that the revenue be applied solely to the land from which it was gained.”

CARRIED

NO. 14  
CQLGA/JERICHO

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT - CLEARING ON ROAD RESERVES
MOVER: Cr M Wells (Jericho)  
SECONDER: Cr S Loudon (Jericho)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland seek changes to the Integrated Planning Act 1997 (Schedule 8 part 1D) to permit vegetation clearing on road reserves to a width of 4 metres to protect boundary fences.”

CARRIED
Finance and Administration

NO. 15

COST SHIFTING - SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT
MOVER: Cr D Smith (Caloundra)       SECONDER: Cr J Natoli (Maroochy)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland seek a commitment and a timeframe for the Federal and State Governments, through the Prime Minister and the Premier respectively, to relieve the financial burden placed on Queensland Local Governments by continued cost shifting from their spheres of government to Local Government.”

CARRIED

NO. 16

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS - PROTOCOLS AND GUIDELINES APPROPRIATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MOVER: Cr J Natoli (Maroochy)       SECONDER: Cr D Smith (Caloundra)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State to be more proactive in working with Local Government on alternative models for service delivery and projects where such models include public private partnerships, and publish a set of guidelines appropriate for Local Government to enter into such partnership models.”

CARRIED

NO. 17

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS - APPLICATION OF A LEVY ON RATES AND CHARGES PAID BY CREDIT CARD
MOVER: Cr G Ashworth (Pine Rivers)   SECONDER: Cr R Millar (Pine Rivers)

“That the Local Government Association Queensland Inc. make representations to the Department of Local Government and Planning on behalf of Local Government to create the changes necessary to enable councils to charge a credit card levy on payment of rates and charges.

CARRIED

NO. 18

VALUATION OF ASSETS - ADOPTION OF ALTERNATIVE METHODOLOGIES
MOVER: Cr N Clark (Johnstone)       SECONDER: Cr W Kimberley (Johnstone)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the Department of Local Government and Planning that Queensland Councils be allowed to adopt the Cost Model or the Revaluation Model per AASB 116 for all classes of assets (including infrastructure assets) and that in future the Local Government Finance Standards be amended to remove S36(1) completely and the adoption of either methodology should be at the sole discretion of Councils.”

CARRIED
NO. 19  
NQLGA/HERBERTON  
PUBLIC LIABILITY - REDUCTION OF EXPOSURE TO CLAIMS FOR SKATEPARKS  

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to legislate to reduce the exposure of Local Government to public liability claims for recreation facilities where those Local Governments have in place an approved Duty of Care Guideline System, and further That the Local Government Association of Queensland be requested to approach LGM Queensland to develop Duty of Care Guidelines in relation to recreation facilities design, construction, signage and inspection procedures.”

WITHDRAWN

People and Performance

NO. 20  
NQLGA/DOUGLAS  
SKILLS SHORTAGES - DEVELOPMENT OF A POLICY TO ADDRESS SHORTAGE OF TRAINED TRADESPERSONS AND PROFESSIONALS  
MOVER: Cr D Egan (Douglas) SECONDER: Cr B Beveridge (Charters Towers)  

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State and Federal Governments to urgently develop training policies and regimes, which address what is now a critical need for an increase in trained Tradespeople and skilled Professionals.”

CARRIED

NO. 21  
CQLGA/MONTO  
SKILL SHORTAGES - INCREASING INCENTIVES TO EMPLOY TRAINEES/APPRENTICES  
MOVER: Cr P Lobegeleir (Monto) SECONDER: Cr G Howard (Duaringa)  

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby State and Federal Governments to increase incentives for employing apprentices and trainees.”

CARRIED

NO. 21A  
KINGAROY  
SKILL SHORTAGES - CONTINUATION OF FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR TRAINEESHIPS AND APPRENTICES  
MOVER: Cr B Carroll (Kingaroy) SECONDER: Cr P Lobegeleir (Monto)  

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to continue the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle funding programs for traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities for the primary purpose of retaining local people (both the young unskilled and re-skilling mature age/returning to the workforce) and also to support community and social development during a time of increased skill shortage, particularly in rural and regional areas.”

CARRIED
NO. 22

CQLGA/BANANA

SKILL SHORTAGES - ADDITIONAL EDUCATION MODULES FOR CAREERS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MOVER: Cr G Churchill (Banana)  
SECONDER: Cr P Bienek (Banana)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland continue to investigate introducing educational modules for careers within Local Government.”

CARRIED

Planning and Development

NO. 23

IPSWICH

PLANNING PROCESSES - RECOGNITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL (GREEN) ASSETS
MOVER: Cr P Tully (Ipswich)  
SECONDER: Cr P Pisasale (Ipswich)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the Queensland Government to recognise environmental (green) assets as essential infrastructure in the SEQ Regional Plan and other planning processes.”

CARRIED

NO. 24

IPSWICH

PLANNING PROCESSES - DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING INSTRUMENTS BY THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT
MOVER: Cr P Tully (Ipswich)  
SECONDER: Cr P Pisasale (Ipswich)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland make representations to the State Government, seeking to ensure that any future environmental planning instruments developed by the Queensland Government are soundly based and that the Queensland Government commits to providing appropriate financial and in-kind support to Councils that are involved in the implementation of the environmental planning instruments.”

CARRIED

NO. 25

HERVEY BAY

DISABILITY STANDARDS - ACCESSIBILITY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT FACILITIES
MOVER: Cr T Sorensen (Hervey Bay)  
SECONDER: Cr B Hovard (Maryborough)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland express its concern about the ambiguity established by recent and past drafting of state and federal disability discrimination legislation and related acts and standards, and request that:
1. The legislation be amended to address trivial, vexatious and misconceived complaints to allow adequate opportunity for those against whom the complaint is made to respond to relevant agencies at an early stage;

2. The Federal legislation be referred to the Commonwealth Law Reform Commission for review as a matter of urgency;

3. The Federal Minister direct Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) to report on the problems that the Disability Standards are causing in practice; and

4. The Federal and State Ministers liaise more closely and that there are more regular referrals of cross-jurisdictional complaints in the matters of Disability Discrimination Acts and standards.”

CARRIED

Roads, Transport and Infrastructure

NO. 26

ROAD FUNDING - AUSLINK - INCREASED FUNDING FOR NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AND PASSENGER TRANSPORT
MOVER: Cr P Taylor (Jondaryan) SECONDER: Cr D Davidson (Tambo)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland, in collaboration with ALGA, seek an agreement from the Australian Government to review Auslink with the intent to:

- Recognise its role in assisting State and Local Government in planning and funding passenger transport especially in urban areas; and
- Increase funding commitment for the National Highway System (NHS) within Queensland.”

CARRIED

NO. 27

STATE ROAD FUNDING - REVIEW OF COST SHARING PROTOCOL ON RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN STATE-CONTROLLED ROADS
MOVER: Cr D Rolls (Mackay) SECONDER: Cr J Williamson (Mackay)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland review the current agreement between LGAQ and Department of Main Roads with a view to reducing cost shifting to Local Government in the provision of infrastructure associated with State controlled roads through built up areas.”

CARRIED
NO. 28 MACKAY

STATE ROAD FUNDING - RMPC MAINTENANCE FUNDING TO REFLECT REAL COSTS
MOVER: Cr D Rolls (Mackay) SECONDER: Cr J Williamson (Mackay)

"That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the Minister for Transport and Main Roads with the objective of:

1. Ensuring that Councils receive the funding necessary under the Road Maintenance Performance Contract (RMPC) to enable the levels of service identified by Main Roads under the contract to be implemented.
2. Ensuring that the Department of Main Roads meets the full maintenance cost of roadside verges and median strips particularly on the approach to and through urban and rural residential areas.

CARRIED

NO. 29 CQLGA/LIVINGSTONE

WATER SUPPLY - STRATEGIC RESERVE FOR FUTURE URBAN SUPPLIES
MOVER: Cr B Ludwig (Livingstone) SECONDER: Cr B Dorey (Livingstone)

"That the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) lobby the State Government such that all water allocations for urban use by Local Governments remain exempt from open market competitive tender processes. Further, there needs to be a strategic reserve for future urban supplies, and as such allocations be made available to Local Governments through a Community Service Obligation (CSO) process."

CARRIED

NO. 30 CQLGA/BROADSOUND

WATER PRICING - NATIONAL WATER INITIATIVE FULL COST RECOVERY POLICY
MOVER: Cr C Marshall (Broadsound) SECONDER: Cr C Hobi (Broadsound)

That the Local Government Association of Queensland call upon the Federal Government to consider the implications of its current full cost recovery policy on water storage and usage, and amend the policy to support and sustain economic development in Australia in recognition of its community service obligations as it exists in other economic sectors.

CARRIED

NO. 31 EXECUTIVE

WATER CHARGES - WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CHARGES IMPOSED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT
MOVER: Cr R Clarke (Gold Coast) SECONDER: Cr K McDuff (Bundaberg)

"That the Local Government Association of Queensland, whilst not objecting to the principles of sound water resource management, opposes the imposition of Water Resource Management Charges onto Local Government by the State government unless:

1. they are assessed utilising a clear and transparent methodology developed in conjunction with and agreed to by Local Government, and
2. funds derived from the water charges are directly returned into water resource management and activities."

CARRIED
NO. 32

REDCLIFFE

POWER SUPPLY - INCREASED SUBSIDY FROM ENERGEX FOR UNDERGROUNDING OF POWER LINES

MOVER: Cr A Sutherland (Redcliffe)  
SECONDER: Cr G Chippendale (Caboolture)

“That the Minister for Energy be requested to provide increased subsidies payable to Local Governments for the undergrounding of power to a minimum of 50% for all capital works in urban areas of Local Governments where Energex is the power authority.”

AMENDMENT

POWER SUPPLY - INCREASED SUBSIDY FROM POWER AUTHORITIES FOR UNDERGROUNDING OF POWER LINES

“That the Minister for Energy be requested to provide increased subsidies payable to local governments for the undergrounding of power to a minimum of 50% for all capital works in all local authority areas and for all power authorities.”

MOVER: Cr A Morris (Maryborough)  
SECONDER: Cr R Duffy (Burnett)

Amendment accepted by Conference - The Amendment was then voted upon and was LOST

NO. 33

LOGAN

EMERGENCY SERVICES - ALIGNMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL BOUNDARIES

MOVER: Cr A McLindon (Logan)  
SECONDER: Cr G Freeman (Logan)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government so that the administrative and service boundaries of all State Government Emergency Services Departments (Police, Fire & Rescue Services and Ambulance Services) be adjusted so that they align with each other and where possible follow Local Government boundaries.”

AMENDMENT

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government so that the administrative and service boundaries of all State Government Emergency Services Departments (Police, Fire & Rescue Services and Ambulance Services) be adjusted so that they align with each other and where possible follow Local Government boundaries and regions.”

MOVER: Cr A Jones (Redcliffe)  
SECONDER: Cr A Sutherland (Redcliffe)

Amendment accepted by Conference - The Amendment was then voted upon and was CARRIED

NO. 34

CQLGA/MONTO

TELSRA - FULL SALE DELAYED UNTIL BROADBAND ACCESS IS AVAILABLE IN RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES

MOVER: Cr P Lobegeier (Monto)  
SECONDER: Cr P Francis (Monto)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) request the Federal Government to “put on hold” the proposal to sell Telstra until all areas of rural and remote communities in Australia have access to Broadband facilities.”

LOST
“B” Motions

Community Development and Human Services

NO. 35

COMMUNITY SAFETY - INCREASED STATE FUNDING FOR SERVICES AND PROGRAMS
MOVER: Cr A Sutherland (Redcliffe)  
SECONDER: Cr L Devereaux (Caboolture)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government for increased funding support to Local Government in recognition of the cost shifting occurring in the provision of community safety services and programs by Councils.”

CARRIED

NO. 36

SCHOOL FACILITIES - COMMUNITY USAGE OF SCHOOL SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES
MOVER: Cr B Lindfield (Noosa)  
SECONDER: Cr D Smith (Caloundra)

“The Local Government Association of Queensland review existing joint usage agreements and develop a policy on community use of school facilities in consultation with Education Queensland and Sport and Recreation Queensland as a matter of priority.”

CARRIED

Environment and Health Services

NO. 37

FAUNA MANAGEMENT - DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES
MOVER: Cr P Tully (Ipswich)  
SECONDER: Cr P Pisasale (Ipswich)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland make representations to the State Government, seeking to develop urban fauna management planning instruments for inclusion within the Integrated Planning Act 1997 to better manage and reduce future urban fauna conflicts.”

CARRIED
NO. 38

**REDCLIFFE**

**WHALING - BANNING OF COMMERCIAL WHALING BY JAPANESE FISHERIES AGENCY**

MOVER: Cr A Sutherland (Redcliffe)  
SECONDER: Cr B Lindfield (Noosa)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland strongly request the Federal and State Governments to lobby the Japanese Government to end the Japanese Fisheries Agency’s de facto commercial whaling proposal to embark on a new whaling program in the Southern Ocean under the pretext of scientific research and to utilise non-lethal research methods in their research of whales.”

CARRIED

NO. 39

**NQLGA/TOWNSVILLE**

**REGIONAL TRAINING - PROVISION AND FUNDING BY APPROPRIATE STATE AGENCIES FOR ALL LEGISLATIVE CHANGES AND STATE INITIATIVES DEVOLVED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

MOVER: Cr L Walker (Townsville)  
SECONDER: Cr D Egan (Douglas)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby all relevant State departments and agencies, to ensure that where new legislation (or amendments to existing legislation) or State initiated projects are introduced, that timely and appropriate training be funded and provided to all regions.”

CARRIED

NO. 40

**PINE RIVERS**

**PEST MANAGEMENT - CONTROL OF WILD DOGS**

MOVER: Cr R Millar (Pine Rivers)  
SECONDER: Cr G Ashworth (Pine Rivers)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland make representations to the Environmental Protection Agency (QPWS) on behalf of Local Government, requesting that a review of procedures and resourcing for wild dog management in the areas governed by QPWS be undertaken, with the view of increasing on ground management strategies as per their responsibilities under the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002.”

CARRIED

NO. 41

**ULGA/TOWNSVILLE**

**PEST MANAGEMENT - 1080 BAITING SERVICE**

MOVER: Cr L Walker (Townsville)  
SECONDER: Cr G Jones (Flinders)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to revise Item 11 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the LGAQ and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) for the administration of the Land Protection Act 2002 to achieve alternative and more flexible options for the management of pest animals.”

CARRIED
NO. 42  
NQLGA/JOHNSTONE

PEST MANAGEMENT - CANE TOAD ERADICATION - CONTRIBUTION TO RESEARCH PROJECT  
MOVER: CR N Clark (Johnstone)  
SECONDER: Cr L Walker (Townsville)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland urge member councils to offer some financial contribution towards the Queensland Government project to stop the spread of or eradicate the cane toad.”

LOST

NO. 43  
CQLGA/JERicho

WEED MANAGEMENT - ROADSIDE SPRAYING OF PARTHENIUM  
MOVER: Cr J Brown (PeakDowns)  
SECONDER: Cr J Lanyon (Peak Downs)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland pursue the urgent need for the State and Federal Governments to provide funding for Roadside Spraying of declared weed Parthenium for all high traffic roads within heavily infested areas of the Queensland.”

CARRIED

Finance and Administration

NO. 44  
CALOUNDRA

FUNDING - SECURING CERTAINTY OF AN EQUITABLE SHARE OF FEDERAL FUNDING  
MOVER: Cr D Smith (Caloundra)  
SECONDER: Cr J Natoli (Maroochy)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland seek a firm commitment and a timeframe from the Federal Government, through the Prime Minister, to provide at least 1% of Commonwealth Taxation revenues to Local Government in Australia under the Financial Assistance Grants scheme.”

CARRIED

NO. 45  
NQLGA/COOK

RATES EXEMPTION - COMMERCIALALLY OPERATED LAND OWNED BY THE INDIGENOUS LAND CORPORATION  
MOVER: Cr B Sullivan (Cook)  
SECONDER: Cr R Logan (Cook)

“That the Local Government Association investigate the issue of exemption from rates on commercially operated land owned by the Indigenous Land Corporation, the recovery of outstanding rates on that land and also what constitutes “reasonable time” for the transfer of ILC land.”

CARRIED

NO. 46  
PINE RIVERS

VALUATION OF LAND - DISCREPANCY IN 2005 VALUATION OF VACANT LAND  
MOVER: Cr G Ashworth (Pine Rivers)  
SECONDER: Cr R Millar (Pine Rivers)
NO. 47 CQLGA/BANANA/LOGAN

POWERS OF ENTRY ACT - CONSOLIDATION OF MULTIPLE “POWERS OF ENTRY” PROVISIONS
MOVER: Cr G Churchill (Banana) SECONDER: Cr P Bienek (Banana)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland pursue the need to consolidate the various sections of ‘Powers of Entry’ provisions contained in numerous Local Government acts and regulations into a single new ‘Powers of Entry Act’; and

That the 1998 Department of Local Government and Planning Manual - ‘A Guide for Local Government - Gaining Entry to Land’ be updated in order to maintain its ongoing relevance to Local Government, preferably in synchronisation with the legislative reform proposed above if this proposed reform can be expedited.”

CARRIED

NO. 48 CQLGA/MONTO/NQLGA/MAREEBA

PUBLIC LIABILITY - INSURANCE PREMIUMS REVIEW FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION
MOVER: Cr P Francis (Monto) SECONDER: Cr P Lobgeieler (Monto)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland approach the State Government again, to formulate a method whereby non-profit organizations can be subsidized for their liability premiums or that the basis of assessment of liability of each groups’ activities be reviewed as these groups will soon be in a position whereby they will be unable to operate as a community organization and will cease to exist.”

CARRIED

Governance

NO. 49 LOGAN

ELECTIONS - ELECTRONIC VOTERS’ ROLLS AND PROOF OF IDENTITY FOR VOTING
MOVER: Cr G Freeman (Logan) SECONDER: Cr J Drescher (Beaudesert)

That the Local Government Association of Queensland write to the Australian Electoral Commission and the Electoral Commission of Queensland requesting that they investigate:

1. making it necessary for voters to provide identification when voting to increase the integrity of the voting system and reduce the possibility of electoral fraud; and

2. the introduction of an electronic voters roll which would automatically remove voters from the electoral roll once they have recorded a vote.

LOST

NO. 50 NQLGA/COOK

CONSULTATION - STATE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE TIME FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUBMISSIONS
MOVER: Cr B Sullivan (Cook) SECONDER: Cr R Logan (Cook)
Local Government association of queensland incorporated
109th annual conference/PROCEEDINGS

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland hold urgent discussions with State Government Departments to ensure that all Local Governments affected by legislative changes are properly notified prior to those changes and have ample time to submit submissions to those changes.”

CARRIED

People and Performance

NO. 51 IPSWICH

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY STATISTICS - DEVELOPMENT OF A REGISTER
MOVER: Cr P Pisasale (Ipswich) SECONDER: Cr P Tully (Ipswich)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland develop and maintain a Register of Industry Workplace Health and Safety Statistics which should include details such as average time lost per accident/illness and accident frequency rates and that this information be accessible by all Queensland Local Governments.”

LOST

Roads, Transport and Infrastructure

NO. 52 INGLEWOOD

LIVESTOCK TRANSPORTS - INTRODUCTION OF BELLY TANKS TO CONTROL LOSS OF LOAD
MOVER: Cr J White (Inglewood) SECONDER: Cr M Moffitt (Inglewood)

“That Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State and Federal Governments for the mandatory introduction of “belly tanks” on all livestock transports.”

LOST

NO. 53 NQLGA/THURINGOWA

BOAT RAMPS - STATE GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY FOR PROVISION AND UPGRADING FACILITIES AT APPROVED PUBLIC BOAT RAMPS
MOVER: Cr L Tyrell (Thuringowa) SECONDER: Cr R Duffy (Burnett)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to initiate a policy on cost sharing with Councils to provide 50% of the cost of providing or upgrading onshore facilities at approved public boat ramps.”

CARRIED
“C” Motions

Environment and Health Services

NO. 54

CONTAINER DEPOSIT LEGISLATION - INVESTIGATION OF SUITABILITY FOR QUEENSLAND
MOVER: Cr L Devereaux (Cabooolture) SECONDER: Cr M Berwick (Douglas)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland request the State Government to investigate the suitability of Container Deposit Legislation (CDL) in Queensland.”

CARRIED

NO. 55

MOSQUITO CONTROL ON CROWN LAND - STATE GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT ITS RESPONSIBILITY
MOVER: Cr D Secombe (Redland) SECONDER: Cr J McKay (Maroochy)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland continue representations to the State Government for funds to cover costs incurred by Local Governments for mosquito control on State Government Lands.”

CARRIED

NO. 56

UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (UXO) - FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR REMOVAL
MOVER: Cr D Smith (Caloundra) SECONDER: Cr J Natoli (Maroochy)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland seek a commitment and a timeframe for the Federal Government, through the Minister for Defence, to accept full financial and operational responsibility for the location and removal of unexploded ordnances in contaminated areas of Queensland.”

CARRIED
Finance and Administration

NO. 57 CALOUNDRA

VALUATION OF LAND - OPTIONS FOR VALUATION METHODOLOGY
MOVER: Cr D Smith (Caloundra) SECONDER: Cr J McKay (Maroochy)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland seek a commitment and a timeframe from the State Government, through the Premier, to a review of the Valuation of Land Act 1944 to enable options for Queensland Local Governments to levy rates on valuations based on unimproved capital value or other property based value (e.g. site value) as they determine to be appropriate for their communities. The necessary legislative amendments to be in place in time to allow Local Governments to consider options in the levying of rates for the financial year 2006/7.”

CARRIED

NO. 58 MIRIAM VALE

VALUATION OF LAND - REVIEW OF METHODOLOGY

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland together with Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation undertakes research through peak organisations of Local Government and relevant agencies in other Australian States to assess whether there are more equitable, cost effective and more easily understood valuation systems that could be applied in Queensland to overcome the shortcomings of the present system and if such a system is found, representations be made to the State Government to amend the Local Government Act.

WITHDRAWN

Governance

NO. 59 NQLGA/JOHNSTONE

ELECTIONS - CHANGE OF DATE
MOVER: Cr N Clark (Johnstone) SECONDER: Cr W Kimberley (Johnstone)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government and in particular the Minister for Local Government, Planning, Environment, Sport and Recreation to change the Local Government Act Section 269(2) and the Electoral Act, if necessary, to change the timing of Local Government elections from “the last Saturday in March” to the last Saturday in October or November.”

LOST
Planning and Development

NO. 60

PLANNING APPEALS - REDUCED COSTS
MOVER: Cr D Smith (Caloundra)
SECONDER: Cr J Natoli (Maroochy)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland seek a commitment and a timeframe from the State Government, through the State Attorney-General, for legislative reforms that would significantly reduce the cost of planning matters brought before the Planning and Environment Court and/or to recover legal expenses where appropriate.”

CARRIED

Roads, Transport and Infrastructure

NO. 61

EMERGENCY SERVICES - ADDITIONAL STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR THE STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE
MOVER: Cr G Ashworth (Pine Rivers)
SECONDER: Cr R Millar (Pine Rivers)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland seek further financial support from the State Government for Local Governments' support of State Emergency Services.”

CARRIED

NO. 62

STATE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING - SUPPORT FOR COST OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MOVER: Cr J Natoli (Maroochy)
SECONDER: Cr J McKay (Maroochy)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland while acknowledging the commitment of the State Government to the provision of infrastructure in south east Queensland, as demonstrated in the SEQ Regional Infrastructure Plan, lobby the State Government about the need for other levels of government to meet the costs of supporting infrastructure (water supply, sewerage, public transport, local road networks) associated with Federal and State sponsored development such as hospitals, rather than imposing additional financial burdens on local communities.”

CARRIED
NO. 63

CQLGA/BROADSOUND/TOOWOOMBA

WATER RESTRICTIONS - REVIEW OF THE PENALTIES FOR CONTRAVENING WATER RESTRICTIONS

MOVER: Cr L Shelton (Toowoomba)  
SECONDER: Cr C Marshall (Broadsound)

“That the Local Government Association advise the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, the Hon. Stephen Robertson, MP its concern about the relatively insignificant fines for contravening water restrictions that can be imposed under the provisions of Sections 388 and 389 of the Water Act 2000 and Schedule 5 of the State Penalties Enforcement Regulations 2000, and seek the following legislative amendments such that an appropriate inclining scale of penalties can be introduced as follows:

• First offence $75 (1 penalty unit)
• Second offence $150 (2 penalty units)
• Third offence $225 (3 penalty units) and so on.

CARRIED

“Late” Motions

NO. 1

BOORINGA

HEALTH SERVICES - OPPOSITION TO POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF ONE-DOCTOR HOSPITALS

MOVER: Cr W Wilson (Booranga)  
SECONDER: Cr T Hartley (Booranga)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland Inc vehemently opposes the following comments made recently by the Queensland Health Inquiry Commissioner Mr Tony Morris ‘that we may have to abandon the idea of small, one-doctor hospitals in country towns.’”

CARRIED

NO. 2

COOLOOLA

FUNDING - CRIMESTOPPERS

MOVER: Cr M Venardos (Cooloola)  
SECONDER: Cr S Jocumsen (Cooloola)

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland Inc be asked to approach the Premier of Queensland requesting that the State Government approve a proportion of the proceeds of cash/goods confiscated in successful criminal prosecutions be made available to assist in funding the activities of Crimestoppers Queensland.”

CARRIED
ADDRESSES

Opening Address

Hon Desley Boyle MP
Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women

President of LGAQ Cr Paul Bell, Lord Mayor of the host city of Brisbane, the Right Honourable Cr Campbell Newman, State Parliamentary colleagues, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, the LGAQ staff and not to be forgotten all around us the staff of the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, it is great to be with you all.

You are often beaten up in the media when your council isn’t operating so well. They forget that while Queensland is growing rapidly - the population is expected to hit 4 million by the end of the year - every day of the week councils are delivering essential services.

I thought you could turn out the same old boring statistics - how Local Government is well supported in Queensland, by Queensland Government. They get four times the funding that NSW gives per capita and twice as much as Victoria. I thought they don’t want to hear that again, they know that very well, come up with a few different statistics and I have. How about this one.

Queensland councils are responsible for over 150,000km of roads. That means if you ripped them all up, put them in one line you could drive around the world nearly four times or almost half way to the moon. If you think you have a lot of trouble with roads, you are right.

How about this one in terms of rubbish? Each year Queensland councils collect more than one billion kilograms of domestic household rubbish. That’s about the weight of 185,000 fully grown African elephants or about the equivalent of the combined weight of four Empire State Buildings. If you thought the job was huge, you are right, it is absolutely huge.

I need to put in a little bit too, as Minister for Women. Instead of leaving it for the end this time I will have that bit of a say up front. As I look around I see that the numbers aren’t too bad, but they aren’t too good either, I have got to tell you. There are some very good looking female faces dotted around the audience, but not enough of them. We should, all of us at various levels, continue to work both on the elected member side and within the staffing profile of councils to look for the way to better balance our genders.

Might I mention to you, in case you had not noticed, this is the year in which Queensland celebrates 100 years of the vote for women. It took something like 12 rounds in the Queensland Parliament a hundred years and a few more ago before finally the blokes of the Queensland Parliament decided, all right, all right, we will give women the vote. There has been some who have been regretting it ever since. There are many others who see that society is better for the fuller participation of women.

In any case it is an opportunity this year with the centenary of Suffrage to celebrate the women of your community. I am pleased to tell you that already we have had about 200 events around the State and very many of them, sponsored or hosted by local governments. What I am not so pleased to tell you, is that the ones who are doing that; who are recognising maybe the women pioneers in their community; producing a little book or having a morning tea for the senior women of their community; bunging up a display in their library, whatever it might be, it is the small under resourced country councils who are leading the way. I have been noticing those who have been holding events and in fact keeping a little record of which ones have held events to celebrate the women in their community. I keep that list handy with me just in a drawer to the right hand side of my desk. I would like to reassure you that it is
In a different drawer to that list of councils that want funding through SCAP or capital works, so the two lists won't of course in any way influence the other.

Let's get on with some of the every day work that is confronting you. Yes the demands are out there, no argument. What are the words? You have to be more professional than you used to be in your services, more innovative, more co-operative in your arrangements, partnering with other local governments, partnering with organisations in your community, State, or Commonwealth or for that matter statutory bodies or even the private sector and partnering with your community. There are tremendous demands on you for these innovative kinds of ways of delivering the same old services. The pressure is on with the biggest topic of all and that is water.

There are some amazing initiatives. My department is working at the moment on a kind of "easy reference guide" whereby at a glance, topic by topic where you can think water - who is doing what? Have a little bit of a guide as to whose website you might like to get on and have a look at their projects. It is really hard for us, let alone for you to keep track of all the wonderful things being done by 157 councils.

On the water story for example, do you know Gold Coast City Council is spending $10 million to fix leaky pipes? That is going to save the City the equivalent 300 backyard pools of water each day. That is really substantial and good work. Some other councils are working on the leaks. I mentioned that one particularly, not only because it is a good innovative project, that it is a leading project but also to say to you, as Environment Minister, the water story is not just about supply, it is about demand. Demand is less glamorous. Some of you think demand is just tinkering at the edges, so what if you save a few litres here and there? The amount that you can save in terms of the waste of potable water is tremendous and can well extend the life of your infrastructure if you look at it.

Another one, congratulations to Di Thorley in Toowoomba. They have taken the courageous step of looking at recycling treated waste water for drinking. Good on them for taking that argument to their community and to developing their project.

On other projects you should know that it is just not the cities that do the good jobs. Up in the Torres Strait some of the councils are looking at opportunities to share resources like professional contractors, heavy equipment, draining providers and project staff. Since, in fact, the Aboriginal Councils came into the portfolio; you should definitely click on to their websites and have a look at the amazing initiatives that they are coming up with.

I recognise Cr Desmond Tayley, the Chair of Wujal Wujal Council who recently won an Australian Institute of Management Award. Another example - Wondai, attracting new residents to Wondai and more ratepayers therefore, by promoting itself as “tree change” rather than “sea change”.

There are ways that you can enjoy this crew of innovative local governments.

That word “partnering” well, we all know about that. That is the big word isn’t it? Call it regional arrangements, as I was for a while. Talk about the bigger picture in Size, Shape and Sustainability. For the future there is absolutely no doubt that is the big story isn’t it? Already many councils are working regionally on one or may be even two issues. But the push is there for you to look more closely. Yes there is a great nervousness out there about the structure of local government and in particular about the “A” word.

Can I tell you I was out and about travelling in Western Queensland, I won’t say where exactly, but it was a few months ago. So much was the nervousness in one council that I had of course, quite properly through my office, let the councils know that I was going to do a circuit. I let them know that I would be there and the approximate time and hoped for a cup of tea and a bit of a chat with the council, with as many as were able to come in on that day. I rolled up to a council as was expected, for afternoon tea actually. As I went into the main door all the councillors were lined up in a row. I thought this is just like being the Queen or something but they were very serious indeed in their demeanour and standing almost to attention. I said “lovely to see you, are we going to sit down and have a chat?” “All right” said the Mayor and he took me into the council boardroom. They clearly had had some kind of meeting,
everything was nicely piled up and tidied, they were clearly finished their business and sat down. The Mayor said “welcome, have you something to tell us Minister?” “Not particularly no”, I said, “I hope you were going to tell me some things”. He said “We thought that you had an announcement or something for us”.

It turned out that they were absolutely convinced, because they couldn’t remember the last time a Minister had visited the council, that the only reason I could be visiting the council was to give them letters, thank you very much for your good service, you are out of here, your council is being amalgamated. Of course, that wasn’t my agenda at all. Nonetheless it is time and you said that my absolute respects to you, at your own conference hosted by the LGAQ to have a look for the long term future.

I am pleased to tell you today that out of the money that had been announced in the funding programs $25 million over five years for regional collaboration projects; that, at your request, pressure from the LGAQ, LGMA and many of you as individuals and groups of local governments, I do have the Premiers and Treasurers permission to bring that funding forward. Immediately therefore, some 300,000 will be made available to the LGAQ. What the LGAQ are going to do with that is to put together a kind of blueprint on how you can examine different kinds of options. They will do the guidelines, they will do some research, they will develop an action plan, develop resources to assist you in your expirations, work on training up a panel of accredited consultants. The reason we need the LGAQ to do that work and I was pleased to support their submission to the department, is because if we all just fire off in different directions, hiring different people, going for one solution then it will be a dog’s breakfast. We do need some underlying distant parameters.

The other hard news I have to give you is to why the LGAQ’s underlying work has to go first, is because in truth with some of the proposals coming to you, I think that groups of councils have too quickly settled on a “we’ve already decided which is the best options for us and we just want the money to firm up that study, thank you and they are not dinky die looking at a range of options”. I think you should. That is why we will go in the second half of this year with the LGAQ’s underlying work, benchmarks, parameters, guidelines, resources, accredited people to assist you and then from 1 January 2006 the funding will be available, to you in your groups to follow through with more specific studies.

In the meantime you have got to get on with the job. Of course you do. The biggest area of work or the most difficult area of work, particularly for the growth councils is in planning. Many of you are close to the end with your IPA schemes, not before time, I am sure you will agree with me. I ask you to keep the pressure on your council as far as you possibly can, whether it is yourselves in reviewing the submissions that have come in during the display period, or in terms of your planners really engaging with you and getting those plans on the table. We are expecting that 100 out of the 123 councils that are having IPA schemes will have them in place by Christmas. But a few of you in these last few months are dragging a bit, please do keep the pressure on.

It is really important that not only do you get those schemes in place, but that your have priority infrastructure plans in place, that you are ready for the next stage in IPA. This is not the end, this is the guts of it done, the hard part, but it is really the beginning then of further work that will refine IPA. Yes there is good money through the budget into my department to help you with the next stage which is going to be an audit on how the process is working.

That brings me to talking to you for a few moments about issues of concern to the community about planning decisions. This is happening in the growth spots around the State more than it necessarily is in all councils. Biggest of course in south-east Queensland where the population growth pressures are huge. It means that there are allegations made, very many of them, if not all of them, unfounded from time to time by disappointed residents or concerned resident groups about whether councillors are making their decisions wisely and properly. I encourage you all to have a good look at your planning committee, how it works, how those decisions are made and make sure you are making them with full scrutiny and accountability and transparency. There is nothing to hide. Making sure that your systems are really clear through your media and to your concerned residents groups is just a very sensible idea.
Because of the concerns expressed particularly in the south-east Queensland, my department and I are working on coming to you with a draft of some type of standards about planning decisions. These will include, they are pretty obvious things, but they will come to you of course for discussion before we attempt to in any way mandate them through any form. We are no where near doing that yet. The general principals I encourage you to adopt right now, rather than waiting for any discussion paper or formalisation. Probably most of you are doing most of these things. The recognition that your Planning Scheme is a statutory document and that by enlarge it should inform very substantially your planning decisions.

If you are making many decisions against your scheme then you have to ask whether the scheme is right and whether you shouldn’t change it or otherwise whether you have got a bit of a rogue council that is not attending properly to its duties to conform to what the planning scheme is about. Your communities can reasonably expect you to stand by your planning schemes. Yes there may be certain circumstances where the recommendations will come in favour and you decide to pull them back or even on occasion, overturn them or vice versa that the recommendation is against and you are going to decide to approve. You need very clear reasons.

In one council the reason given the meeting for why a councillor for the division lead overturning a recommendation to refuse was because the development applicants are good people. Ladies and gentlemen that is no reason at all to decide a planning decision. The other councillors said “you know, and it is your division so we will all go with you”. That is crummy stuff and your residents can expect better and I certainly do.

I am working on for example things like asking you to, as a matter of course, if you are not going to accept the recommendations of your planners on the spot at the council meeting; not later, not through planners having to go back and scramble, give reasons very clearly on the record for why in fact you are varying from the decision recommended by your planning officers.

The reason that I hammer this point to you, is because this is where community groups have suspicions about whether our council is in the hands of developers, they get their fuel by saying “the plan said this but when this development application came in, they took no notice of their plan, they voted in favour of that developer”. You need to make sure that the scrutiny and accountability is there that will demonstrate that, that is not so.

The other thing that I would say to you as councillors, you know, and I know as an elected member, your reputation is everything. If there can be in the perception because of your association with a particular development company, a particular person in your electorate, whether through election donations or any other way, through your employment or previous connections, if there can be a perception that you are bias in their favour, then don’t vote on the planning decision. It is a choice that you have to say “for fear of any suggestion of bias I will stand down from this decision” to your CEO and that can be recorded in the minutes and your reputation can be protected.

Off that heavy level of discussion and on to an area I might say you have all had some considerable success, and that is in regional planning. There has been a greater activation of regional planning, in some regions that hadn’t been previously identified as growth regions and hadn’t had the history of working on a regional plan. In areas that have had regional growth management framework plans developed some years ago, it needed reactiving.

Interestingly in those areas and F&Q 2010 had an Executive meeting last week, (so I know it well from my own part of Queensland, where these regional projects, regional planning documents are going now to identifying key projects that need really hammering through), instead of the broad brush plan with hundreds of actions that everybody should work on equally, all of the time. In fact it is really clear that the leadership of the regional organisations of councils is to pick the priority projects that need sorting.

For example at last week F&Q 2010, we are talking about long term water planning projects; we are talking about a review in light of transport infrastructure up the Kuranda Range and a community that
is saying the regional plan has not got it right, it needs to review our part of the community. They are
good specific projects for that regional planning process to be addressing.

In the WHAMB plan, there are two projects coming on to their agenda. One of them is how to assist
the Whitsunday Shire Council with the pressures of growth in the Whitsunday, mostly to do with
tourism. Another is related to the tremendous impacts right across the Bowen Basin and through to the
coastal cities that support the Bowen Basin, particularly focussed on housing.

I encourage you to continue to work regionally that way; there is no doubt that it is the way of the
future. Might I take a moment to encourage you to do your best to find staff but also to put the money
into your inspectorial functions. We might have all these big and strategic jobs ahead of us but at the
same time the everyday business of councils, ensuring that proper standards are there eg Fire Safety
and Budget Accommodation must be attended to and most of you have in light of recent changes to
legislation and to standards.

Can I give you an encouragement at this time of year, to particularly pick up the ball with pool fencing
and safety around backyard swimming pools. You know how dreadful the story can be and how tragic
and you don’t want you, your council or staff to in any way feel that they could have done more should
there be a toddler drowning in your area. You want to make sure that those silly people out there,
that haven’t got the message yet, that you keep your pool gates closed. Make sure they get that
message; you want to use your powers to slap fines on and have an ugly story in the media because it
sends a very strong message to residents throughout the community that you mean business about pool
fencing.

Building Certification

I hope you have noticed the story that again your voices have been heard. I must say it has been
mostly from the CEO part of council that I have been getting the message that the building
certification system is not working. We need to fix it and so out has gone a preliminary announcement,
with the LGAQ a Discussion Paper which will be ready soon to put to you how we might fix the system.

As Environment Minister, I have to say to you that I am having a wonderful time having the
departments work together and truly trying to bring together environment’s integration with planning
up front rather than as a kind of nuisance regulator down the track. It is generally going well. It is
going well to the extent that you are all accepting your responsibilities about the standard of sewerage
treatment for example, your outfalls into water ways or even on to the Great Barrier Reef, the capital
works imperatives there are for you in that regard. I welcome your tremendous participation in the
discussions we have had about sustainable housing, about the use of grey water, the opportunities for
the recycling of water. I encourage you to stay on that particular line of thinking.

In terms of the roles and responsibilities under the Environmental Protection Act I am pleased to tell
you we are about to give you a discussion paper saying we think we have worked out, what should be
the State’s responsibility, what should be yours, how we can work together on this. It has been a long
time coming for those of you who have been watching. I think the project goes back two - three years
and got lost for a bit of a while. Again, with the LGAQ, we have activated it. There are some staff in
some councils, I am discovering, that is up and down the length of Queensland - In fact last week I had
three reports in the one day, one from Brisbane City, one from Mackay City and one from Cairns City all
in the one day where a council staff member was telling the council that it was the EPA’s fault when it
wasn’t.

I am not saying the EPA is perfect, but because I know it isn’t perfect I am on guard and ready to
discover system problems, performance problems with the EPA. When there is a criticism of the EPA’s
performance in relation to you, I want to know about it because I will fix it.

The ones I investigated on that one day, it was not the EPA at all. The council officer was dumping on
the EPA. We are a good fall back sometimes when council staff gets into tight positions, or aren’t
themselves busting a gut. I do ask you to play fair and when you think it is the EPA, good! Track it
down, but make sure your staff isn’t just too busy, or not interested, batting it away and trying to blame the other level of government.

Hopefully this roles and responsibilities under the Environmental Protection Act will get our roles really clear. The Discussion paper will come to you and my strong encouragement to you is that you don’t just hand it in to your CEO and staff to bring you back a consultation document that you might send in. The perspectives of elected members on the roles and responsibilities under the Environmental Protection Act are quite different as to those from a management or administrative point of view. I hope you will therefore, as elected members, give consideration to it as well so as the type of response that I get from council, will take account of those differing responsibilities or interfaces that elected members have as much as they will the management or administrative issues that your CEOs might be more preoccupied with.

The last big area I want to address with you this morning is to raise an issue I am working on. I haven’t yet really discussed with you in any concerted fashion, but will be over the next year and ask you to consider. I think we can do better, we the world of Local Government, in terms of community engagement. Particularly, in the growth areas throughout the State, I am seeing various groups of residents who are concerned about the pressures of growth. Some of it in truth is I think, a bit like I was when I first got to Cairns, so I can’t blame them for it. They have arrived from wherever they have; they have invested their money in that place and so now I am here, close the gate. We don’t want anyone else thank you. Here I am living in a high-rise unit on the Gold Coast, and I don’t want anybody else building a high-rise unit that might spoil my view. Here I am, I bought into this area because just down the road, and no I didn’t check it was in private ownership and there are development rights, but now that I am here, I like seeing that nice green hill, well I want the council or State Government, council or somebody to keep it green for me.

I think in fairness to them that is because there is a great nervousness in a lot of our communities, all the way from the Gold Coast through to Noosa, out to Ipswich, up to all of the regional cities throughout the coast I hear it; Maleny is another one, Kuranda is another one in Cairns where resident groups get together and decide they are going to protect what they have got now. At some level that is not quite fair or rationale, because they don’t take into account what you have to take into account which is existing development commitments and sometimes private ownership. The way I suggest to you to deal with that is to have as a matter of routine, better community engagement processes.

Some councils’ like for example, Thuringowah, I am really impressed with. Their community engagement protocols have an ongoing way of having groups in the community who are routinely available, designated as such, people who nominate to be on the email list, or have a cup of tea once every six months, or call if there needs to be consultation on some particular matter, kinds of groups in their community, who are the community engagement people for that council. That doesn’t lock out others who might get interested in specific matters but it means Thuringowah council has a pool of 350 community residents who are a permanent reference committee and available for consultation. They are a tremendous source of information to the council as to what is going on, they allow the council to work with those resident groups on a regular basis and so I hear, for the price of a cup of tea, once or twice a year. There is not a big cost in it, after it is organised. It is a better way, I think, to look at those types of mechanisms, to engage your community than simply dealing with resident groups when they spark up in response to a particular development application. You are better to look for a consistent and thorough way of routinely engaging with your community.

One of the other things that some councils do is to conduct a serious business community survey every couple of years. That really gets down to things like, how do you reckon the footpaths are? Are you pretty happy with the drains? What about the amount of parks we have got? How do you like the library facilities? And so on. They really use those community surveys to then form their budget priorities and then demonstrate to their communities how they do.

Hopefully I will be able to do some more good work on what are the leading edge ways of engaging the community and get that information to you and encourage you to think further about it.

Before I finish up you should have an announcement, bit of good news.
Back to the most important topic of all – Water. I daresay you already know this story but the way you are all collecting your water information is various. 157 councils all doing their bit but through their own historical systems they have developed their own ways of collecting water information. Here are we in State Government needing to really get a hold of what is happening with water; different departments in the State Government were all deciding individually that we better get a hold on water and we are all ringing councils everywhere saying have you got this information or that information and it is just a dog’s breakfast. I was told in fact that currently, council water service providers collect, organise and store data for at least 35 reports, requested by nine different organisations each year. The good news announcement is we are going to fix it.

The State is working with the LGAQ and the Queensland Water Directorate on the Water Information Management Project to cut red tape, to streamline water reporting requirements. This is good news, because it is going to make it easier for you and clearer for you. It is going to make the State work together as a coordinated body across departments and we are all going to have timelier and better quality information. A good project that I don’t doubt you will cooperate with.

Premier Peter Beattie is going to be talking to you a little later in the morning and he has some further good news on the infrastructure story but I will leave that for him.

Ladies and gentlemen I will be around for the rest of the day and tomorrow, most of you have me in the back room, so to speak, this afternoon so you are seeing me now without the bruises. Although, the ULGA gave me a bit of a touch up over breakfast I have got to tell you, but never mind, I have put on some more makeup and have recovered from that. I will be around to share the conference with you tomorrow and hopefully to have more informal cups of teas and chats along the way.

Thank you very much for your good work; it is still some 16 months into being the Minister for Local Government. My great, great fortune to by your Minister, I love the job, I really hope that I, and my department can really add value to what you are doing and for your communities.

Thank you.
President’s Address

Cr Paul Bell AM
President, Local Government Association of Queensland and Australian Local Government Association

Lord Mayor of the host city of Brisbane, the Right Honourable Cr Campbell Newman, Minister for Local Government and Planning, Minister for Women and Minister for the Environment, the Hon Desley Boyle, Shadow Ministers, other members of parliament, ULGA President Cr Tony Mooney, ALGWA State President Cr Julie Arthur, LGMA State President Terry Brennan, other distinguished guests, colleagues in local
government, welcome again to conference 2005.

I deliberately kept my President’s Address short last year, and when you are on a good thing you stick
with it.

Let me thank Brisbane City Lord Mayor Cr Campbell Newman and his council staff for the cooperation and
assistance extended to the LGAQ in organising this year’s event. Well done. It is important that from
time to time we hold this conference in the state capital.

A special thanks to our Ministers and Shadow Ministers for their attendance at this event. Especially to
you Desley, who I know is receiving countless delegations over the next three days. For the conference
first timers, a very special and warm welcome. You are literally becoming part of a 109 year tradition
with your attendance. Let’s make them all very welcome.

Today I have entitled my speech “LGAQ - The Whole Box and Dice”.

Why have I done that? My intention is to open a few windows into Local Government House so you can
see inside what is the totality of your organisation. Many elected members and staff never see the whole
box and dice that is the LGAQ. In truth, you deal with one aspect or the other of the Association from
time to time. Notwithstanding the fact, that in some form or other your council interacts with the
Association on a daily basis.

My hope is, that as a consequence of this address, you can develop a better appreciation of what the
LGAQ is and isn’t and, what you get for your $2.7m direct investment through payment of the annual voluntary membership levy.

Colleagues, when it’s boiled down LGAQ does three things. We are a lobbyist and advocate for councils,
that’s a highly visible exercise. We are also a sustainer of councils, a far more private affair, yet
conversely a massive part of our day, week or year. Finally, we are a provider of services, either free of
cost or on a user pays basis, through the Association itself, or one of our owned or operated entities.
Underpinning all of that is our engagement of you, our members. When you sign up as a member council
you get the lot - engagement, advocacy, support and free services; the whole shooting match.

When your 18 person Executive meets in one form or other every six weeks or so in Brisbane, our job is to
set the direction and oversight the operations of the entire LGAQ family including, LGM, LGW, Resolute,
Local Buy and soon to be LG Infrastructure Services. Believe me, it’s a large complex beast with all of
its component bits, as it needs to be to meet the varying demands and diversity of situations that occur
in our sphere of government. However, the LGAQ family of companies has serving and sustaining local
government, as it’s only focus. LGAQ is owned by councils, run by councils and exists just for councils.

ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING

By any account the last year has been a stellar year for attracting additional resources to local
government and I stress the word local government. Realising there is important infrastructure in some
areas that councils would like the state or Federal government to fund that as yet has not been
addressed, as I am sure the Lord Mayor or Toowoomba Mayor Cr Di Thorley would agree!

Let me quickly recount our wins over the last year:
• R2R2 secured its original form. That is, you get to keep all the money. It was a tough fight but with your help we had a big win. A big thanks to Senator elect Barnaby Joyce, as he was at the time, for his help in that regard.

• An additional $150M on top of R2R2, to fund the strategic component enabling projects such as the Outback Highway through Western Queensland, the Northern Territory to Western Australia to proceed.

• A further $120M for the National Highway in Queensland, beyond the original AUSLINK program and following the successful LGAQ/RACQ Mayors and Motorists Campaign late last year.

• Renewal of all of our major State Infrastructure Capital Subsidy Programs on Anzac Day 2005 with a $100m top up amounting to $700m over the next five years i.e. includes SCAP, RUP, RCP, SIP, Showgrounds Improvements, 40% water and sewerage subsidy, a new environment fund etc.

• $31 million in 2005-2006 for projects to assist Aboriginal Shire and Island Councils to assist with provision, operation and maintenance of essential environmental health infrastructure in the Torres Strait region.

• Up to $200 million in Commonwealth-State funding to assist Aboriginal Shire and Island Councils over five years for new infrastructure, operation and maintenance of health facilities in mainland indigenous communities, contingent on joint Commonwealth funding.

• $25 million through State Government Financial Aid program to Aboriginal Shire Councils and Island councils to assist with delivery of local government services and to the Island Coordinating Council to assist with operational costs.

• $2.1 million for employment of Environmental Health Workers to all 32 Aboriginal shire councils and Island councils, plus Mornington and Aurukun Shire Councils.

• Council access to the $100m Queensland Sesqui Centenary celebration fund for capital projects on a 50/50 funding basis.

• The creation of a $200M Communities Fund under the $1.6b National Water Fund which Councils can access to fund innovative water and sewerage projects.

• $33M new money for disaster mitigation projects across Australia.

• A $50M new Local Government red tape reduction program.

• A $15M new Fund to assist Councils attract and retain rural doctors.

• Extension of the federal diesel fuel rebate to Council off road vehicles at a saving of $20M per annum to Queensland Councils.

• A renewal and expansion of the State Government’s ‘Breaking the Unemployment Cycle’ Program for councils for a further three years at a cost of $34m and 1100 positions.

• Extension of ADSL broadband technology to a further 83 Queensland communities.

• A council Code of Conduct to our liking. The State Government actually listened to what we said in our submission. The unfair and onerous bits you didn’t want were removed following LGAQ representations.

• Defeating a concerted push by the Property Industry to have elected members removed from determining development applications.

• And salary sacrificing for elected members for superannuation purposes from 1 July this year.

Colleagues that money or those victories just didn’t fall out of the sky. They are the result of years of hard work by the LGAQ through; major research consultancies, public inquiries, 10 point state election plans, agenda setting, public campaigns, behind the scenes lobbying and of course ‘grass root’s support from you our member councils.

Over the last 12 months the LGAQ produced 100 news releases and was mentioned over 3000 times in all forms of the Queensland media. The results of all those efforts are plain to see. According to the Federal Government’s, ‘Local Government National Report’ to Federal Parliament this year, by either aggregate or per capita funding measures, Queensland councils are the best resourced in Australia and the gap between us and the rest is getting bigger. That’s not to say things are perfect and that we can’t do better, especially at the federal level in securing further financial assistance.

The process of lobbying is never ending, your Executive is already pursuing the next round of wins, mindful it’s often a two to three year process. In the last year alone, LGAQ made 63 full blown submissions to state and federal governments. Hopefully, the fruits of those efforts on your behalf will also materialise over the next few years.
As you know LGAQ is not frightened of a stoush. We will always negotiate first, but go to the barricades if we have to. Asbestos is a great example of that, and state bulk water charges will be our next cab off the rank. We are patys for no one.

I am particularly proud of LGAQ’s advocacy on behalf of elected members over the last year. When I campaigned for the job as President I committed to do more for Mayors and councillors. I can proudly say I’ve done that. Worker’s compensation cover, salary sacrificing for superannuation for elected members, defeating the development industry’s concerted push to remove elected members from the development assessment process to name a few. I am still in the ring on increasing the tax deductibility for your election expenses.

Friends I do listen to what you tell me on my rounds!

SUSTAINING COUNCILS

This is a story that needs to be told and I want to tell. It’s the secret untold, true story of the work of the LGAQ.

As the world grows more complex, as councils are harder pressed, they are increasingly turning to the LGAQ for help.

Before we undertake any of the higher profile or big picture policy or service initiatives, LGAQ supports and sustains councils every day, every week, every year.

Each and every day the LGAQ receives 700 incoming calls, that’s 700, or over 180,000 phone calls a year.

LGAQ also received 6100 items of correspondence in the last year.

Your Association received a staggering 860,000 emails up from 550,000 the year before. Councils and for that matter state and federal governments now use e-mail as their preferred method of communication with us.

The LGAQ’s industrial relations and human resource management staff dealt with 4900 matters for councils during the year, for some council’s we acted on more than 100 occasions! Those figures exclude the 139 appearances in the state or Federal Industrial Relations Commissions.

To top that the LGAQ wrote 7600 letters and produced over 400 information circulars to answer your requests of us and keep councils informed.

Under the cover of LGAQ’s legal retainer with King & Company we provided a couple of hundred free legal opinions to councils. Any legal opinion that can be completed by King & Company under four hours is completely free to members via this service.

Folks all of that was, on the tab, covered by your subs. Not bad value.

I add one more comment to complete the picture. As Mayors and CEOs know there is no limit to the help your Association offers. When councils need us most, LGAQ does gladly work day or night and weekend or from any part of the state, whenever or wherever you like. You can bank on that.

SERVICES

The LGAQ is a very large services organisation. With LGAQ proper there is Industrial Relations, Human Resource Management, Organisational Reviews, Workplace Health and Safety, Recruitment, LG OGrad, LG Online, Training, Conferences, Seminars, Rating Advisory Service, Legal Opinions; then through our subsidiary entities we provide worker’s compensation, insurance, bulk purchasing, IT and network support, LGONE and from today local government capital infrastructure project analysis, assessment, training and support through LG Infrastructure Services in partnership with the Queensland Treasury Corporation.
The two common threads through all these services are the benefits of economies of scale (the power of many) and addressing market failure where it exists. Only LGAQ can harness and optimise those potentials from our state-wide vantage point.

Over the decades, all these services have cumulatively either saved and or added billions of dollars of value for member councils.

LGM and LGW alone have saved councils $200m in the last number of years and it just gets better. The Executive on the LGW Boards advice signed off yesterday on a $2 million special dividend to be paid to LGW members over the next month. That’s after premiums fell for the seventh year in a row.

Local Buy likewise saves councils a fortune in transactional costs and through bulk purchases. LG Infrastructure Services will add even more value in the years ahead.

In the last year a staggering 6101 elected members, council’s staff and related parties attended LGAQ conferences, seminars, and training events up from 4600 the previous year. On top of that there were innovative programs like LG QGrad to attract graduates to Queensland Local Government and the para-planners TAFE certificate IV course that was developed and conducted by us to meet emerging labour market needs in local government.

In short, LGAQ is here to serve you our member councils.

ENGAGEMENT
As Executive Director Greg Hallam jokingly puts it, if LGAQ was any more engaged with our member councils it might be deemed immoral or illegal!

Your new Executive and I have well and truly upped the ante on getting closer to member councils. Importantly, we have made special efforts to embrace newer councillors, women councillors, indigenous councils and Regional Organisation of Councils, as well as looking after our old mates.

In the last twelve months I have personally visited over half of the councils in Queensland. This calendar year the figure will be 72 while LGAQ staff have made a further 400 visits to members over the same period.

Additionally Executive members and association staff have attended exactly 50 district association, ROC, other council groupings and professional body meetings between Annual Conferences.

All of our new policy reference groups were formed and met at least twice during the year providing opportunity for over 100 non-Executive elected members and council staff to directly influence the Association’s work. But wait there is more; the LGAQ formally sought its member’s views on important issues 50 times during the year. Councils are well and truly in the Association’s decision making loop.

Very importantly for me, Local Government House has become a hub for all sorts of local government meetings. In the last year 99 non LGAQ auspiced meetings were held at Newstead; professional bodies, special interest groups etc. A great sign of unity and engagement.

Finally, on engagement, the Association is about to roll out its biannual Member Attitude Survey to Mayors, councillors and a randomly selected quarter of councillors. This survey will be conducted from mid September into early October by independent market research firm Marketfacts. So please participate, tell the market researchers what you really think about the LGAQ, what we do well and what you don’t like, remembering what you say remains confidential. Your say counts and drives where your Association heads into the future.

Colleagues we live in a world that is constantly changing. It’s usually the change that others want to impose on us, but the best kind of change is that which we choose for ourselves. I’d briefly like to highlight three areas of change where Local Government and your Association is seeking or determining the change that it wants.
Finally we are getting action on the key outcome from the Cost Shifting Inquiry. Earlier this month we got the green light from state and federal local government ministers to progress work on an intergovernmental agreement, the so-called IGA, to address cost shifting. The Local Government and Planning Ministers Conference, on which I represent Local Government, agreed to the development of an IGA with the draft to come back to the ministerial council in March next year. There is still a fair way to go but we’re over the first major hurdle. I have made it clear to the ministers that cost shifting has got to stop and that we want an agreement that has got teeth. They understand where we are coming from and I’m hopeful that by this time next year we will have the result we want.

I’d like to once again congratulate you for showing true leadership on the issue of the future size, shape and sustainability of Local Government in Queensland. At the Special Conference at the end of May you choose to be the masters of your destiny showing a level of maturity that makes others sit up and pay attention. Through the Communiqué you agreed upon a course of action to make the changes on how local government is structured and operates over the next two decades.

We councillors know what is best for our communities and we have demonstrated that we are capable of making the changes necessary to shape the future not only sustain, but also strengthen the effective operation of Local Government in Queensland. On this issue, more that anything else, elected members need to lead the change we want and not have it driven by business interests or imposed on us by the state or federal governments.

How many times have you been told in a council meeting that you have got to do something because it’s in the “Act” when it doesn’t make a lot of sense at all. I always thought that legislation was to enable things to happen, but I’ve come to the belief that they are more about disabling our operations.

Since becoming President I’ve been constantly on about the need to have the Local Government Act and the dozens of other pieces of legislation that control our operations reviewed to get rid of the excessive burden of compliance and reporting - a CEO’s nightmare.

Don’t get me wrong, I agree with the need for us to be accountable, but the legislative demands must be realistic, justified and relevant. The “fit’em all sizes” model does not apply across the diversity represented by the state’s 157 local government bodies.

I’m pleased to report that yesterday, following extensive consultation with councils and the LGMA, your Executive approved a Position Paper to Minister Boyle identifying were we believe changes could be made to the Local Government Act. Quite simply, we don’t need exactly the same rules on everything from Brisbane to Bouli. Minister, I ask for your close consideration of the issues we have raised.

Work is now underway on a review of the other legislation that impacts on us. As an example the Association, in conjunction with the Queensland Water Directorate, has initiated a project to rationalize 25 different water related reporting tasks into one. This project, now being led by the Department of Local Government and Planning, will pull together the requirements of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and produce the information that is needed in one simple online reporting task. Thanks Minister for supporting our calls and taking the lead on this project. This is the kind of cooperation that is necessary if we are to ease the burden on councils.

In finishing up I want to give you all a big pat on the back for your efforts over the last eighteen months. The 2005 LGAQ Community Attitude Survey the results of which were released yesterday is unmistakably good news. This is the fifth community attitude tracking study we have conducted over the last eight years and the results were the best. You are doing well, getting better even. The community holds local government in increasingly high esteem. Every councillor will get a colour Executive Summary of that report when you return home. The poor old CEOs will have to churn through the full document.

I wish you all well over the next two and a half days and want to personally thank you for your kindness and hospitality when I have visited and for your messages of support during the year.

Thanks everyone!!
Keynote Address: “Climate Change and Sustainability”

Professor David Bellamy OBE
Internationally Acclaimed UK Environmentalist

Due to copyright laws this speech was unable to be published.

Launch of Local Government Infrastructure Services Corporation

Hon Peter Beattie MP
Premier and Treasurer

Thank you very much Paul. Can I acknowledge Desley Boyle the Minister for Local Government, Cr Paul Bell of course, the President of the Local Government Association of Queensland and acknowledge Geoff Seeney, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and we have a number of opposition members in the front and I acknowledge them. Can I acknowledge Sir Leo Hielscher, the Chair of the Queensland Treasury Corporation? He does a great job in raising money for this State so I need to be very nice to him and you do too, because he raises money for you, so please be nice to him. Can I acknowledge Greg Hallam, the Executive Director, of the Local Government Association of Queensland, Steve Rochester, Chief Executive Officer of Queensland Treasury, Graham Matthew who is the Chief Executive Officer of the Local Government Infrastructure Services Corporation who will speak briefly after me on the Local Government Infrastructure Services that we are launching today.

There are three things I want to talk about. Firstly I want to talk about water, and yes I brought the rain, you didn’t. Paul Bell was out there trying to take credit for the Local Government Association in bringing rain to Brisbane, but I am afraid he is a bit late, I have already taken credit. The second thing I want to talk about is the LG Infrastructure Services and the third thing relates to some of the issues relating to Local Government integrity and I will do that very briefly.

Firstly, let me start about water. In doing that I want to say a couple of things. We have a very good relationship with the Queensland Local Government in this State and I want to see that continue. That doesn’t mean we will agree on everything, it would be a bit bizarre if we did. One of the issues we need to work together on is water. Water is easy politics. It is easy to get up and knock long term strategies on water and it is easy on party politics to do the same thing. But this is an arid nation and we have to face up to the issues involving water. If we don’t do it collectively, together, all you do is betray this State for your children. I would urge all of you as leaders of your community to face up with the Government, to the issue of dealing with water.

As I have said, and I will say it again, water is like liquid gold. We have to get the mechanisms right. Your Chair man is now part of COAG, he is the Local Government representative and I am delighted to see that because the Local Government representative has come from interstate in the past. I am pleased to see we have a Queenslander there.

Paul knows at the last meeting with the Prime Minister that there was an agreement reached that certain work was going to be done in relation to water pricing. Both sides of politics are facing up to this issue at a National and State level. That is why in Queensland we need to be very careful not to play stupid politics to undermine what will happen. We have a responsibility, not just a direct one as elected representatives, we have a moral obligation to do something about water planning and my Government is determined to be part of that in partnership with you. As I have said water is liquid gold. We have to learn to treat it as a scarce and precious resource, treasure it, make sure we don’t waste it, make sure we use it very wisely. One way of achieving this change of heart is to charge a sort of price which makes people value the resource and think about how much they are spending on water, and if they can save water and save money.
Another aspect we have to keep in mind is that supplying water is an expensive business. It is expensive, it is not cheap. In future the price of water must reflect the cost of supply, maintaining pipes, equipment and storages and managing the resource. This is just not my view, this is a view shared by the Prime Minister. Urban residential and businesses users already pay the full cost of supplying water but irrigators have only being paying the basic costs of operation and supply for the last five years. Some of you won’t like me saying that, but that is a fact, an irrefutable fact and that is what we are going to be dealing with today.

There does need to be new pricing arrangements for all users. In terms of the current water crisis in south-east Queensland, I want to assure you that the Government has recognised that the current drought is becoming the worst on record and has reduced long term yield from dams. We have made it clear, that we support the 13 councils in south-east Queensland in implementing level two water restrictions including a whole sprinkler ban across the whole Wivenhoe Dam service area in October. We support the Local Government in doing it.

We are also working with all councils in the south-east, including the Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba, to review institutional arrangements for water distribution management, across the south-east to ensure reliable supplies for all Local Government areas. We have announced we will accelerate water supply and water infrastructure developments on the Logan, Albert and Mary Rivers under the SEQ Infrastructure Plan, and you know how much money we are investing there. There is a new dam, lifting of spill ways; there is a range of initiatives.

We will bring forward $10 million in subsidies to Local Government for water conservation measures such as pressure reduction and reducing water distribution losses. That water distribution losses, and I was surprised when we examined this, actually costs us a lot of water. This is more than I first thought. When I say to people you have to pay the appropriate price so that we value water, the Government has to sort out a number of inadequacies ourselves and this is an area that we will address. You will be hearing a lot more about it in the future because we still have too much water being lost. We will be releasing a strategy about the reduction of water distribution losses.

We said we would look into the feasibility of desalination and explore water purification and reuse proposals and we will do all of that. Both the SEQ Regional Plan and the Infrastructure Plan make clear reference to my Government’s commitment to deliver regional water supply strategies. The regional water supply strategy being developed now in partnership with Local Government and other stakeholders aims to balance water demands and supplies in the region. We will examine alternative water sources and demand management options, developing a strategic direction for water supply in the region through to 2050. Stage one of this strategy is complete and stage two will be finalised by the end of 2006. It will provide a comprehensive policy framework and identify further investment priorities for water in south-east Queensland and I urge you all to think about outside the square in relation to water conservation and reuse. We have to do this together, everyone has a responsibility in this room, and no one is exempt.

Now for example, the Toowoomba Mayor, Di Thorley, has stuck her neck out with an innovative plan to recycle waste water. It caused a stir, but at least she is tossing up ideas and set people thinking and talking. It is generally accepted internationally that technology exists to treat waste water to drinkable standards. Many of the concerns that exist today relate to prejudices rather than safety or health issues. We need to change people’s minds about those things.

Gladstone is sending waste water to industry, reducing ocean outfall and most importantly reducing the use of drinking water. There are advantages of working cooperatively on a regional basis. The SEQ Regional Organisation of Councils has formulated some water strategies and I am told these are currently being implemented.

The grey water legislation which we have just enacted, makes it possible from March next year for people in sewer areas to use grey water from showers, baths, laundries on gardens and lawns in under ground irrigation systems. This is long over due. The amount of water we spend, or use on our gardens is extraordinary. We waste a lot of fresh water. If we can start using this grey water that will take a huge amount of pressure off the water uses that currently exist. Our problem was, we were settled by
Europeans and from everyone’s point of view, thank heavens for that. The difficulty is of course, we brought a lot of European plants with us and spend a lot of water on them. That is why we have to do all sorts of things - encourage people to use Australian Native plants and using grey water. But it will only be legal in those Local Government areas who decide to have a grey water system. We have set the rules and the ball is now in your court.

Let me deal in some detail now, with the water plan I am releasing today. Copies of it will be provided to the councils. It is the Queensland Water Plan 2005-2010. Let me talk about what is in this five year plan.

It is an action plan to meet the State’s future water needs for consumption and the environment. There are seven key strategies.

The first one, securing water for the environment and users through catchment based water resource plans, encouraging water trading to providing access to water when supplies are limited and passing legislation to protect Queensland wild rivers for future generations.

We understand the importance of water trading and recently you would be aware that the Howard Government supported by John Anderson suggested a water trading regime. All States except Western Australia signed up. We signed up, even though there was no money in it for Queensland, because we felt we should be part of a national initiative and because it provided for water trading which is what a lot of people in the bush said to me that they wanted. We signed up for the bush, so in all this we have tried to be fair to everybody.

The second point of this seven point plan, is planning for future water needs by developing regional supply strategies, drought management practices and where appropriate, building new water and supply infrastructure.

Third point making smarter use of existing supplies by reducing water use, adopting water conservation measures, reusing and recycling water.

Fourthly introducing new water prices and I will come back to that, cover the cost of water supply and management, and encourage people to use water more efficiently.

I know this is one of the most controversial parts of this plan. I want to be very clear to everybody. Again it is the basis of what could be cheap politics, but unless we actually get the pricing right we are never going to get the use right. Out of that we will continue to waste water. We do not manage water well in this country. If you look at what happens in places like London, they reuse water 11 times, we hardly do it just under two, and it’s about one and a half.

Fifth point, protecting water supply so our water is fit for drinking and growing crops while protecting river catchments and the environment; introducing education and enforcement programs to make sure all users get a fair go; dams are safe and the environment is protected; and investing in water and climate change science and technology so the right decisions are made about how much water can be used and the best methods used to extract, share and reuse available supplies of water.

They are the seven points. Let me talk more specifically about water pricing because I want to be up front with everybody today about this.

The strategies include a new range of prices to better reflect the cost of supplying water. The price of water must reflect the cost of supply, maintaining pipes, equipment and storages as I said before. It must also reflect the cost of managing the resource. Urban residential and business already pay the full cost as I have already indicated. The irrigators have been paying only the basic cost of operation and supply for the last five years. I made that point before, but I am making it again. We are aiming for new pricing arrangements for irrigators to be in place by April 2006. Most irrigators will continue to only pay the operation, maintenance and refurbishment costs for supply for the next three years. That is while the National Water Commission that was set up by COAG, considers a uniform national approach to the difficult issue of valuing assets for the purposes of charging a return on capital.
In other words we are giving irrigators preferential treatment while that is being assessed by the National Water Commission. I do that because I am not stupid. I understand the politics that will be played in the bush on this issue, but I am being as fair as I can to irrigators. They will be considered as part of the National Water Commission and we will do this hand in hand with the Prime Minister.

New water resource charges for Local Government will start from July 2006 to fit in with council budget cycles. Everyone is being given plenty of notice. Charges for all users will begin from January 2006. These charges will cover part of the cost of water planning and management for the first time. If you don’t factor in that cost, you don’t get the real cost. If you don’t get the real cost, you don’t value water and out of that, we go backwards. That is why for the first time we are going to do it, and we are going to do it in a very transparent way.

These charges will cover part of the cost of water planning and management for the first time. The charges will be placed on the volume of water taken, with different rates determined and here they are:

Urban and Commercial users who will pay $15.00 per mega litre which equates to 1.05c per kilo litre, mining and petroleum users $10.00 per mega litre or 1.00c per kilolitre and irrigation and other users $4.00 a mega litre or 0.04c per kilolitre. For those of you who don’t know, and I am sure you do, a kilolitre of water equates to 1,000 litres and a mega litre is 1,000,000 litres or roughly the size of an Olympic swimming pool. People with licences for rural stock and domestic will be charged with $100 flat annual charge and discount for pensioners.

What does this mean in practical terms? And we will talk about Brisbane. Based on current water use the average Brisbane household will pay just over a $1.00 extra on their quarterly bill, i.e. $4.50 a year. We are not talking about huge amounts of money. What we are talking about is getting to a sensible arrangement.

I want to make this point again, before I move off water. I have been blunt with everybody about water today, every council here and every Mayor here understands the importance of dealing with water head on and frankly we have been shadow boxing about it for a long time. It is absolutely imperative we face up to this head on. I have done it today. We want to do this in partnership with you and what we have come up with is fair and reasonable and I just underline what I have said about this whole address about water, just remember this. This will be part of a national initiative supported by both sides of politics. When we get into this argy bargy about it, don’t think this is some strategy being developed simply by my Government, this is a national approach supported by both sides of politics.

Let me get on to the Local Government Infrastructure Services. This is the second thing I wanted to talk to you about.

This new body is a joint venture between the Local Government Association of Queensland and Queensland Treasury Corporation which my Government thoroughly endorses and supports. In fact, we have shown our support by committing a repayable grant of up to $750,000 over three years to cover LG Infrastructure Services establishment costs. There are increasing pressures on Local Governments in delivering infrastructure which include increasing demand which stems not just from a rising population, but from new regulatory requirements and changes in demographics; rising costs; lack of access to skills and resources and that skills issue is a huge problem as a nation, not just Queensland; difficulties in creating economies of scale due to the size of the council or the size of the project; and the State’s Infrastructure Plans as well as those of the Commonwealth Government and private enterprise which all place demands on Local Government’s ability to deliver.

This is the first time such a comprehensive service has been offered to Local Government in Australia and is modelled on an organisation in the UK called the “4p’s”. Basically, LG Infrastructure Services will deliver value to Local Government by reducing the costs of planning infrastructure and of implementing State and Local Government plans. This is one of the things that a number of you have whinged to me about. We think this will help. It will do this by harnessing the fire power and knowledge that already exists within the Local Government Association of Queensland, the Queensland Treasury Corporation and the Local Government community. We will also call upon external expertise if necessary. This will
create a pool of skills and knowledge that many councils would find very difficult to replicate at a fraction of the cost. Indeed, costs will be kept to a minimum because clients will only be charged enough to recover costs.

LG Infrastructure Services will be a one stop shop providing a comprehensive range of services at every stage of the project’s delivery life cycle. The services will range from this
- providing assistance with establishing procurement plans,
- raising capital, and
- restructuring project that run into difficulties.

These are the three major areas.

It is important to note that the Local Government Authorities will not be surrendering their powers to this new Body. For those who were worried about that, don’t! That is not what the agenda is.

LG Infrastructure Services will provide councils with information relating to key decision points, but all key decisions will be made by the council or councils concerned. In other words, you get the advice, it will enable you to make whatever decision you want to make.

The new entity will have an independent board chaired by consultant David Jay who brings to the role a wealth of experience in infrastructure provision, other directors are lawyer Roger Short, who specialises in the construction industry; Brian Guthrie, Chief Executive Officer, Townsville City Council; Greg Hallam, Executive Director, LGAQ; and Stephen Rochester, Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Treasury Corporation; all of whom that know them are a pretty talented group of individuals. Graham Matthew from the Queensland Treasury Corporation is being seconded to be Chief Executive of LG Infrastructure Services, a role to which he brings a wealth of experience in major infrastructure procurement and he will talk to you in a minute.

I am sure you will find this new comer to Queensland an extremely useful tool in preparing infrastructure strategies and deciding on the best way to approach new projects. I hope you will make use of this one stop shop and I wish LG Infrastructure Services and its people all the best for the future.

I have to at this point declare LG Services well and truly launched. I am not too sure how to do that, but it is launched.

The final thing I want to raise with you relates to councillor integrity. One of the lessons from high profile allegations is that all people in public life have to be careful with what they do. After the Fitzgerald Inquiry in 1988, we ended up with a new level of accountability in this State and we all have to live by it, I live by it, you live by it. There is times we regard it as a pain, and I have to say in recent times, so have I, you are not alone in any of this, but we all stick by these rules. Councillors need to be extremely vigilant in all their dealings. You know, in this business the only thing you have got is your reputation. Anything that could raise a perception of a lack of accountability could lead to a series of complaints and can also shake the trust of your constituents. Councils have shown a widespread willingness to be more accountable and I think you should be very proud of what you have done.

When Desley Boyle consolidated the new Code of Conduct legislation, she heard in no uncertain terms that councils wanted an enforceable code of conduct, and I thank you for that. That Legislation took affect on 31 May and is based on six sound principles which are an excellent guide to a proper conduct. They cover integrity of the system of government, primacy of the public interest, independence of action, appropriate use of information, transparency in sufficiency and appropriate use of entitlement.

Why did I raise it with you today? I raised it with you today because the CMC is being involved in consideration of investigation of two councils; it is in the media, so I am not sharing anything with you that you don’t know. Inevitably what happens when this takes place, people come to the Government and say we should do this, and we should do that, and we should set up this Inquiry and we should set up that Inquiry. The facts of life are that is the CMC’s job. Yes the Local Government Minister has certain responsibilities, but frankly, we do not want to be in that position. Our responsibility is to work with Local Government. I wanted to raise that with you because I have spent some time going to a meeting
this morning and on the way back, one of the local radio programs spent most their time talking this morning about one of the local councils and what had happened in it. I hate seeing that happen and I hope you do as well.

I just to say to you we need to be really careful in this area of accountability, we need to live up to those standards. I know it is tough, even more than you do. I just say to you be very careful. Local Government should be proud of what it does, you have done a great job in the past and I want to see you continue to do it in the future.

Thank you for inviting me today. I conclude by saying I value the relationship the State Government has with Local Government. We have the best relationship with Local Government of any State Government in Australia and I want to keep it that way. Let’s work together.

Mr Graham Matthew  
Chief Executive Officer  
LG Infrastructure Services

I certainly won’t speak for long. I just wanted to say that we are looking forward to working with you at LG Infrastructure Services in adding value to your infrastructure procurement. In the next few months we plan to come and see each and every one of you. We want to listen to you, understand your needs and see how we can work with you to add value.

We do think there is a lot of fire power we can unleash if we work together. In particular what we are keen to do is work with councils who have procured successful projects in helping the next council procure a successful project. That is across all forms of infrastructure including water as well, to which the Premier referred.

As the Premier mentioned we are open for business now. We do have a booth outside which some of you may have seen was under construction. It is no longer under construction, it is open. As much as we are going to be seeing you soon, we encourage you to come and see us throughout the conference to make contact for those of you who don’t know us, so that we can make a time to come and see you and talk about your needs in more detail.

We look forward to working with you.
Queensland’s Future Climate and Weather

Dr Roger Stone
Climatologist
Department Of Primary Industries &
Southern Queensland University

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you very much for the kind invitation to attend today’s meeting. I would like to acknowledge, if I may, my colleagues, particularly Steve Crimp but also Jim Davidson, the Bureau of Meteorology and the National Climate Centre, CSIRO, Division of Marine Research, this is a joint effort although I have to say that this is largely my attempt to make the whole issue of climate change and rain fall variability for Queensland fair dinkum. If we can sort out the discussion, where we can move forward and at least understanding what the issues are. I am not necessarily going to approach the point of how we are going to move forward in terms of adaptation, but I think that is probably, as Professor Bellamy has said, it is an important issue, certainly from my point of view. So there are some personal views in here to try and make our way through the quagmire of information.

I will be talking about climate variability and climate change. Not so much about future weather, that is a bit of a tough call I am afraid, so this is more the longer term patterns. Some statements from the inter-governmental panel on climate change; what we call a couple of models, what we know and don’t know, and what are our considered opinion. A few short introductions I guess to what makes up the climate system. It is a fairly complicated system and there is a short exam actually, after this presentation on some of these points.

On the particular components of climate they extend right from something called the Madden Julian Oscillation or the 40 day Oscillation as it is discussed in Queensland. The infamous El Niño southern oscillation which has a return frequency of about five years, it is slightly increasing over more recent years. There is something called the quasi bi annual oscillation, the Antarctic circum polar wave, the latitude of the high pressure belt, the interdecadal pacific oscillation, multi decadal, the rainfall variability and then we have climate change. So the key issue for us, for folks like myself is how on earth we untangle all this. Because they are all having their own influences, the El Niño pattern gets the headlines, the others don’t because it is too much to get into a 20 second television grab I suppose, but they are all having their role to play in influencing our climate.

I am going to show a lot of wriggly lines and coloured maps and so on in this short presentation. Bear with me as we uncover some of these patterns and points of interest.

The first one is the map of climate of variability from Neville Nichols in the Bureau of Met Research Centre. It is not the usual one we see because it shows what our variability is like giving our average rain fall wherever you may be on earth or in Australia and your latitude. So the way you read this, if you are living in an area shaded white in this diagram, then you have less variability given your latitude and annual average rain fall than you would expect. The folks in Victoria and Tasmania don’t suffer too much from climate variability at all. Look at the rest of Australia, any where that it is not shaded white has more variability than we would expect given the latitude and annual average rain fall. The key point there is that Queensland pretty well suffers the most from variability in rainfall.

I was up in Proserpine last week where it was pointed out to me that in February in one year there was 1172 mill lustres and the following year 0 mill lustres. That sort of variability in rain fall does not happen to that degree on anywhere else on earth. I think it is actually part of the Queensland character that we have managed to cope with the year in year out switches and changes in rain fall and temperature are quite massive. That is the first thing we have to face. That is all happening in the background as you might say.
While we have some longer terms trends or shifts, or patterns that are taking place remember we have this massive variability going on at the same time. Actually the variability is increasing as one of these slides will show. The variability we are looking at here is showing some increase as well.

This map of rain fall shows shifts or trends over the last 50 years. It is particularly important because the model is people understand the earth and the atmosphere and how it varies with increased carbons or greenhouse or other gases say this is the time we have anthropogenic input into our climate so it is particularly interesting to look at this sort of period in its detail. When we open the book as we did a couple of years ago, this is from Australia 2001 State of Environment which you can find and from the Bureau of Meteorology yet again, and from ourselves Primary Industries and Fisheries, we put all this together and this is the sort of map we see for the Australian rain fall. There is a much misused statistic that Australian rainfall is on the increase.

As you can see there the area shaded blue, is where it is all happening. This is in millimetres a decade, that is 50 or more, I think it gets up to 80 millimetres a decade increase in rainfall around north-west Australia. You can see why the pipe line manufacturers are lining up and that is at our expense. That is the expense of rainfall in Queensland, and a lot of New South Wales and the south west of Australia. The south-west of Australia has received all the attention and this has been a main recipient of poor rain fall but look what has happened in Queensland. Notice though, it is not uniform in the devil of detail here, and I can’t quite make it with the laser pointer.

Around southern Queensland, northern NSW, Goondiwindi, Weewah, Moree, stretching into the north-west, that part of Eastern Australia is not undergoing the same sort of rain fall deficit that the rest of us have to contend with and there is some good reasons for that. If we had another three hours to spend I could happily discuss why some these things are happening but occasionally we get a tropical system come down into from the north-west of Western Australia and tucked into the area around the Macintyre and so on. It is not uniform; the devil is in the detail of much of this work, the shifts are occurring much more significantly in eastern Queensland than in the far west. This is over the last 100 years, so the central Queensland is at the epicentre without trying to be over dramatic of the problem. The shift of rain fall, more or less not every year of course, you get the occasional bountiful year, but over the last 50 years especially that down turn, is about 50-80 millilitres a decade around the Mackay Rockhampton region it is a major shift. Not so the West which is almost counters intuitive and not necessarily the whole State or Cape York. There are some interesting issues there as to where there little shift is occurring. That is again far southern Queensland is not undergoing the same problem, around the border districts.

Now what we have done is have a closer look at some of these shifts and trends and if anyone is interested we have some thoughts of perhaps over simplified diagrams showing the long term shifts in rainfall for Rockhampton. It is only picking up the long term 20 year running mean. Every point as you take your way along this is the average for the previous 20 years. There is Rockhampton and I had a good opportunity to be with Rockhampton City Council and others discussing a couple of weeks ago discussing this and the agricultural industries in that region, that a lot of industry sets up business expecting what you might call the long term mean, or medium, long term average but that almost is not the case these days. We have to be aware of the massive variability that goes on from year to year, around that figure but also this rather insidious shift downwards.

You notice I am not attributing cause and effect here, in saying this is all greenhouse induced, climate change, the world is about to come to an end. It is probably in my considered opinion a combination of the natural variability in the system but is also some of the impacts of long term climate change eating away in there as well.

There are some others, if anyone would like this CD we would make it available. Even back in 1920’s when we had the previous major drought period, (and this drought period exceeds that), but notice those as we move through, this is a twenty year running mean, not every period is showing a down turn but certainly since the late 1950’s -1960’s there has been this insidious shift downwards and the Queensland region particularly is showing this. Jandowae, on the Downs showing again, this is pretty characteristic of the shift since the late 1950’s. It has almost gone unnoticed I guess until this fairly massive downturn in more recent years or decades.
Cleveland Bowls Club, they have problems there as well, it is nice to see, for someone who has come from Toowoomba that the issues have reached the Coast as well and Bundaberg, I guess epitomises the issue in the State that since in this particular region since the 1970’s has been this massive shift downwards.

There are others though, the bottom wiggly lines, the graphs, the same sort of analysis for Roma and Goondiwindi. You notice there they are not showing the same sort of down turn, so it is not the same for the entire State. It is not exactly as you would expect because of the local climatic influences and local effects that are particularly important in understanding this.

The more you get to the northern downs and head towards central Queensland area the problem seems to be exacerbated, not so far western Queensland which is almost counter intuitive and recall not so for Northern Territory or Western Australia.

I don’t know if you can see this too closely, this is just showing the bottom two lines are rain fall duration which is showing a downward shift. This is from Steve Crimp, in Natural Resources and Mines, the bottom left-hand side shows the duration of rainfall events is actually decreasing but the intensity of when rain fall does occur seems to be increasing, so when it does happen, perhaps a coincidental incident at Carrara a few months ago when rainfall tends to fall over our region now, it tends to be in short sharp and intense falls rather than nicely spread out through the cropping season or otherwise.

On a slightly more positive note, excuse me from going to different types of graphs; this is the first of the last frost of Emerald. The way you read that is the top line is date of last frost which is shifted over the last 100 years downwards by almost a month, so I think is 2 degrees on the screen, which is almost close to zero on the ground and the date of the first frost getting later, with some slight warming which seems to be taking place more at minimum temperature rather than maximum temperature. The frost season is just about disappearing certainly for this particular threshold for some parts of the State, certainly for central Queensland. That may have implications positive or negative I suppose depending on the industry. The minimum temperature trends are shifting up a little bit largely due to warmer overnight temperatures, a little bit of increased cloud. This is only going back over the last 50 years and I emphasise that.

We can also show of course, this is a CSIRO slide. The reason for concern is the current carbon dioxide levels and looking at the at the far right-hand side, the redline is from the appropriately named Cape Rim in North West Tasmania which measures carbon levels in the atmosphere. They are about the highest in the last 400,000 years at the moment and you can see glacial and interglacial variations that have occurred in the past. I think they can take this back to 800,000 years.

One of the reasons I don’t really like showing a lot of these slides is because I always get into debate, well this goes back 400, 000 years, what about the glaciers here, or the icebergs there, my iceberg is bigger than your iceberg and you can really only go so far with that. This is a famous CSIRO slide and shows the South Pole temperature change in red. You can see the global temperature which masks a lot of the local variation that is particularly important. That is the attention I need to give and consider important for Queensland but we have an increase in temperature and an increase in carbon levels over the last one thousand years in particular.

That is drawing a little bit closer to the current times in terms of going back in time. What did they say? In the past 200 years concentration of greenhouse gases has continued to increase and the earth has slightly warmed in places.

What do we do next? There is an interesting document that some may be interested in seeing. It’s an IPCC website, the intergovernmental panel on climate change. Some brief for policy makers to the synthesis report. This cuts down about ten volumes of information down to about 40 or 50 pages so it is one way of sifting through a lot of the scientific information. They are a fairly conservative bunch I must say, they don’t put statements out like this too lightly. So IPCC and their third assessment report made this statement “There is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming over the last 50 years is
attributable to human activities””. For a group like IPCC, that is not lightly said so that is a fairly blunt sort of statement.

They go on to say this sort of thing. Now remember in Queensland the El Niño system tends to have a very major impact. Remember the very first figure I displayed there it showed that massive amount of rainfall variability taking place from year to year. The main culprit for that variability is the El Niño system in the central pacific. It has a major effect on us. It is not the only system of course, as I also highlighted but has a major influence on our rain fall particularly and temperature patterns. So IPCC also say to this “El Niño events are becoming more common and more El Niño like mean conditions may prevail in the future”.

So what can we do with that “El Niño like mean conditions”. This in a sense cuts through a lot of the sophisticated modelling and comes to the hub of the issue. Now for folks in parts of Europe that might not be of much concern, although they intend to get higher rainfall down in Europe especially in the Rhine River and so on, affecting El Niño events so they might have some interest. For us and for Southern Africa, Zimbabwe, Central America, north east Brazil, and Western Africa this is a fairly major statement. “More El Niño like mean conditions” doesn’t mean necessarily the classic El Niño events might emerge exactly the same way because the warmer the atmosphere is, the more moisture it can take. It might have some more compensatory factors, it may not. “More El Niño like mean conditions” is something that started me when I looked through this literature.

El Niño events (which have a major impact in Queensland rainfall and river systems) have become more frequent in drying in the last 20-30 years compared to the last 100 years. Again not necessarily attributing direct cause and effect but since we know the El Niño impact on Australia; remember not all El Niño produces drought, about 70% of them do, not all of them. I am trying to show a positive view to this where I can. This to me, since we know very much the impact of El Niño events on Queensland river and rainfall systems, then that shift in rainfall, would I think, the first culprit we would claim would be this sort of pattern. Many world climate models predict more El Niño like mean conditions.

This is one of the global statements that IPCC put out, “projected changes expected during the 21st century including increased summer drying over most continental interiors, with decreased crop yields, decreased water resource quantity and quality and increased risk of forest fire”. I think we should treat that carefully. Some crops may do a little better with increased carbon unless the temperature effect and the moisture stress does not outweigh that of course, and provided we can keep the water up to the plants, then we might have slightly increased yields but only up to a point. It depends on where you live on how those impacts might apply.

The better way forward, I think, rather than going back in history and looking overly much at long term shifts in occupant acetone levels, or what happened in the glacial or de glacial periods, it is very very useful information, but we have to somehow move forward in our understanding at least. This is out of the National Centre for Atmospheric Research in Boulder in Colorado. Its funny whenever you mention Boulder in Colorado it sounds more impressive if it is out of the US. In fact we do the same thing here, it always sounds more important. They are a fairly hefty scientific group. The way you read this line, the black line is the absolute global temperature that has increased over the last 100 years, and that as I say, spread out over the globe that masks many variations and interesting points.

The next part is the blue line, and that is if you run an ocean atmosphere model. Instead of overly relying on history to say 100 years rainfall, what can we make of that, if you take the ocean atmosphere and put it together, and all the physical processes that take place between those two systems and in this case, the blue line containing volcanic troposphere and stratosphere, solar radiation that is going on, all the natural sort of systems that would effect our climate, then you end up with the blue line. It levels off about the 1950’s so in other words if we run an atmospheric modelling system like this, it picks up the natural emissions then we end up with a blue line. Once we introduce all the anthropogenic gases and we still have solar radiation, sulphates, volcanic aerosols and different levels of the atmosphere we end up with a red line which very closely parallels the observed pattern. In other words this is a hind cast as we call it, how well can these climate models run just on something like global temperature.
Another point I would like to make, its only a tiny shift in temperature globally, but for a El Niño event it only needs a .7 of a degree increase in temperature in the central pacific and sea surface temperature so these tiny changes can have a fairly major impact once we take it through to something like an ocean atmosphere system, thanks to Julie Arbister from the MRC for that.

With that in mind, there is a particular map here I would like to point you to, this is from the CSIRO Atmospheric Marine Research, this is the modelled ocean. I don’t know if you can see the earth there, Australia is the little area in white at the bottom left-hand side of the lowest figure there. It says modelled there in 1998 - 2030. That is Australia in the bottom left and the US in the top right. That area of global ocean of the tropical pacific is shown by the CSIRO model to have this sort of El Niño type pattern as more often than not that the type of pattern to prevail over that time. It is running these sorts of ocean atmosphere modelling systems forward.

Then out come all these temperature projections which generally show an increase which you might expect, mostly inland, depending on the particular area we are interested in. Model simulations indicate increases in average temperature .3. That doesn’t seem very much of the 1990 average conditions greater warming inland regions rather than the coast, but also from CSIRO if you take that to the next stage, a little shift in the mean can actually represent quite a different story if you look in more detail. This is some work we did for the cotton industry. If you go to Dalby for example, number of days over 35 is currently at 14 during the summer period, through this slight increase in temperature that increases the number of days exceeding a certain threshold. I am not sure about this; I think the cotton crop is locked down at 36, the cotton flower. There are some issues there in terms of viability for our rural industries; there may be ways of coping. On a slightly more positive note, in terms of frost risk that tends to decrease of course, although some of the stone fruits need a certain amount of chilling, I am sure wine would as well.

There are water balance change diagrams that are slightly dramatic. Australia gets dry, this is not from me, I have to gratefully point to CSIRO for this, with annual water balance change overall because of the increased evaporation rates and so on.

On another tack perhaps, rather than concentrating on the rainfall deficit, the interesting issue of more extreme events, particularly for the coastal folks. This is out of the latest run of models by the CSIRO; this is the mark III model output. If you can just make out the coast there between Fraser Island and the Southern Coast, where you have increased levels of high blue colours, that is the agreement of a lot of these models that they are in the same camp as it were to show more extreme rain fall events occurring in particularly coastal areas, and that is the breakdown by the seasons December, January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October and November and “an” stands for annual.

Again it is worth taking a bit of note that just because most models agree; it doesn’t mean they are all good models. It might just be a fortuitous modelling exercise going on there to pull all these together. I guess it would increase some degree of confidence of where these are going according to our CSIRO colleagues. If you look at rain fall to the future most show, the way you read this where the red is, it is increasing confidence, if I could put it that way, from less rain, so more models show reduced rain fall in the area shaded red, and as we saw in the rain fall patterns that are already occurring in the top part of Cape York seems to be not fairing so badly. It doesn’t cover that border river district which is also not doing too badly.

There is also if you run these through crop simulation models which the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries love to do, this is predicted impacts on yields in central Queensland for winter wheat crop and sorbent crop for Banana and so on and this shows a general reduction. This includes the beneficial affects of carbon and also the increased problems with moisture stress. If we can get the water into the system it helps enormously, without that though, we still have issues to contend with let alone whether you get a planting rain or not, that is potential yields.

What is the El Niño mean state? This is slightly over dramatised but is one of the patterns of a particular time of the year because it shows when we have the most impact from El Niño and that is July-September rainfall. The area shaded in red or yellow about 10-20 percent chance of receiving normal winter spring rain. Forget the area in blue, because the long term median is about 0 millilitres up there.
at that time of year. That is an artefact of the analysis. The El Niño controls our climate so it varies enormously on its impact, depending on which shire we live in and which time of the year. If you are looking at El Niño mean state for Queensland in late winter spring this is how it looks.

In terms of water allocation, the way you read this, the probability of getting a certain irrigation allocation, the orange line is for the McIntyre for example, if you were looking for a 60% allocation and you have got an El Niño already in existence in the Pacific Ocean there is about 30% chance of getting your initial allocation compared to about an 80% percent chance if you had the opposite extreme of the El Niño type patterns. The reason I am showing this in terms of irrigation allocation systems there is some major issues developing, I think, in terms of how we cope with this sort of issue.

So what do we know? To sum up Mr Chair, there are significant shifts in rainfall occurring for most locations in eastern Australia. The IPCC statement as many climate change models show there is an El Niño mean state, we know the general impacts of El Niño and La Niño in rainfall in stream flow in Queensland, so there is some concerns, but I think the value of the coupled ocean atmosphere model is just the way to look ahead rather than looking at past data. Certainly for the next 50 years even if it isn’t all in anthropogenic sort of influence if it is part of the natural ability we certainly need to grab that by the throat and see what to do with it.

What don’t we know? Will an El Niño mean state, assuming most models are on the right direction, necessarily mean substantially less rain fall given the higher temperatures. We may find some respite occasionally. We don’t know and someone has asked me to put this in. What about vegetation clearing? There is some work being done at Macquarie University, whether that has any impact, I think the El Niño system from the Pacific is the overriding system we have got to somehow fix as well as the regional impacts. As I tried to point out the issues, if you are in Rockhampton, Mackay or Banana they are quite different to what is happening in Goondiwindi in this sort of pattern. There are little local issues and local variability’s we need to capture.

What are the opportunities? I understand coastal real estate keeps going through the roof possibly we are not getting the tropical cyclones we used to get. That is the major reduction in the rain fall. We might not have the water to feed them. Nevertheless when I first remember Queensland in the 1950’s you wouldn’t go to the coast in summer because you would be covered in toads, mosquitos and long grass and pouring rain. That doesn’t happen so much any more does it?

So may be there is some opportunities there for Sunbelt migration and with homage to the Pacific Ocean, I thank you very much.
Hon Paul Lucas MP  
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Thanks very much Paul, I see Ted Malone is here, gidday Ted, any other of my parliamentary colleagues, I am not sure who are here but hello if you are here. Thanks very much for giving me the opportunity to say a few things to you. I have written out a whole lot of things that I need to say, so I do apologise for reading speeches. I do not like reading speeches, I am not in the habit of doing it, but I will muddle my way through it.

I look forward this afternoon to having a chat with a number of deputations. I think I have 16 in all to see, including a number of groups of councils as well as individual councils and I see it as a wonderful opportunity to actually have a good talk on how we can work cooperatively together. The vast majority of councils that I have dealt with as Transport and Main Roads Minister in this State, are very focussed on our common outcomes, the need for us to work together cooperatively and I think if you actually have a look at what goes on in the public domain when levels of government work together cooperatively, it reflects well on both of us. A little bit like what happens at the present time in the city of Brisbane. It is funny that a Labor Government can work together with a Liberal Mayor and a Labor administration. They can work with us but neither of us can work with the Federal Government but any way we will do the best that we can.

I just wanted to say something to you about our roads. The extent of our roads network is 177,000kms, 35,000kms are State controlled roads. That is about 20% of them, but that is about 80% of the traffic volumes. The majority of the roads in the State carry less than 500 vehicles a day that is an idea of the challenges we are facing. You need to note that we are actually in a situation where we have not only traffic congestion issues in our south-east corner in particular, but in other parts of Queensland as well, but indeed service level issues with many of our rural and remote roads are significant challenges to us as well. It means we have had to be focussed on making the best choices in terms of building and maintaining a vast network. The Roads Alliance as Paul has indicated, and as what my people has said to me, has been an excellent example of the fact of working between our two levels of government. Frankly, when people are driving along any of our roads they are not too interested of whether it is a national highway, a State road, or a Local Government road. They are just interested in the quality of the road. It behoves us to work cooperatively together in that.

What are some of the challenges that face us? You only have to have a look at some of the ABS figures in terms of our population growth. 1000 people per week in the south-east corner, 1200 a people a week in total. I think one of the really interesting statistics is the one for the March quarter of the economic growth in this state- 3.5% in Queensland compared to 1.1% Australia combined excluding Queensland. That economic growth is a significant challenge to us but it is also a significant opportunity. It means we can actually pay for things in the future because we are growing. We haven’t got statistical falling population levels, but it does mean that we need to very much keep our eye on the ball and our need to continue to build on our expenditure needs.

The implication from the growth for the economy is obvious and it is producing demands that we have to meet. It is predicted the current range of coal infrastructure projects in the pipeline will increase the State’s capacity by 27 million tonnes per annum over the next two years to 175 million tonnes. That is more projects in road as well as rail, particularly in central Queensland to sustain that growth. International tourism we are leading the way with 13.5% growth in international visits for the year ending March 2005.

The now largest government owned airport in Australia is Cairns, which is owned by the Queensland Government. The Federal Government flogged it all off, and we actually own 38% of Brisbane as well because we bought what they flogged off. There are significant investments required in those airports. Cairns for example $57 million for works in its current budget as part of the $190 million to be spent upgrading the airport over the next six years.

So all of those sorts of growth predictions are issues that we have to manage and our infrastructure planning is obviously conducted in that light. What are we doing at the present time? And how can we actually sustain the required increased expenditure? Initiatives such as the SEQ Regional Plan and the
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Roads Alliance indicate our levels of government working together to address the challenges ahead. I will go on to talk about those examples in a minute, but I want to talk about the levels of spending that have brought to us to our present position.

Last week I was in Sydney to address the Australian’s Financial Review’s Infrastructure Summit and you would be pleased to know on your behalf it was a typically robust Queensland contribution. I quoted from the Financial Review’s Mark Ludlow who on 4 August wrote about the Queensland’s economy. You can all read English and you can see what it says.

As with any good sporting team, good form is a result of years of hard work, and I am not going to be political about this. The fact is our strong economic foundations were laid a long time ago, in fact, even before the Goss Government. From the days of the National Party Government and in particular under the stewardship of Sir Leo Hielscher, this State has had a very strong economic base. What has happened in the last few decades is we have diversified it to make it even more resilient. It is less dependent upon primary production as it once was, even though it was a cornerstone of our economy, but our share strength is the envy of other States. When you look at other projects such as the Gateway, what we can borrow at, we can borrow at a rate far, far better than any other State and indeed only one or two points below that of the Commonwealth and it’s a Sovereign Government. We actually are reaping the benefits of that continued sound economic management but as I have said, it is not a political issue that is something we have done across Queensland Governments for a very long time.

At last year’s conference I showed you a series of graphs that outlined Queensland’s per capita spend compared with other States. I won’t go through them all again but I will remind you of one point. The graph shows the ABS statistics data outlining spending on all categories of infrastructure and it shows that Queensland has been at the top of the spending tree for the past 15 years. Indeed, that would be prior to the infrastructure initiatives that we announced a little while ago. We can all take credit for that. Some of that is not only Government, including, State, Federal and Local Government expenditure but private expenditure as well.

The average annual spend per capita on State roads in Queensland gives you an idea of what we are doing compared to other States. Not only do we spend twice per capita what Victoria does, we spend more money in real terms than they do. I get a bit cranky when people say “we have to do more, this, that and the other”. We do have to do more, but it is important also to acknowledge the level of expenditure that we undertake in this State, and we lead Australia when it comes to that. Those figures are before the infrastructure initiatives particularly in south-east Queensland, we announced and also under the Roads Implementation Program we announced just recently.

Because you don’t believe everything I tell you and I accept that, you want to make your own decisions; you the LGAQ commissioned a report on “Roads and Public Transport Infrastructure Spending” and it indicated that an extra $1.1 billion in roads and transport infrastructure was available in real terms for Queensland roads and transport infrastructure from 06-07 to 08-09 than was budgeted for 03-04. More specifically it says “the recent State Budget has delivered a substantial increase in road and public transport funding across the State in particular in south-east Queensland”. It goes on to say “when measured against the funding gap identified in the roads solution, the total funding for south-east Queensland roads and public transport identified over the next four years, more than covers the $700 million of annual funds identified in that report”. In other words, you commissioned the report, it said what had to be done, and we did it. In fact we more than did it. I don’t think you can ask for better than that. It notes that “State wide 03-04 Main Roads budgeted funding for capital roads works excluding Ronnie’s NHS and black spots amounted to $550 million”. In 05/06 $990.5 million will be available for the same program, an increase of 80%; capital funding for public transport initiatives has also substantially increased to 272%. I will not go on and on about them but resolution 38 in the Agenda at this conference, calls for your group to make strong representations to the State Government to increase funding for capital works - well thank you for the resolution. Can I say we are doing it, and doing it on an acknowledged basis from the people and the experts you have commenced to do it.

As your report again identifies, the Commonwealth Government is being slow to meet the need for additional funding for transport infrastructure in Queensland. It shows that Commonwealth funding to Queensland fell by $2.5 million in real terms in the last budget. That reinforces the disparity that you
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can see in the slide displayed. It compares State and Federal funding since 1995-96 and it shows that the over whelming majority of funding is being provided by the State, that is self explanatory. This year’s budget $2.83 billion for roads and transport capital expenditure and I have already outlined it is a significant increase in funding; 1.25 billion in road works for the State, importantly half of that figure $630 million is being spend on roads in regional Queensland. Budget to budget that represents an increase of 12% in funds outside the south-east corner over and above normal allocation. There is that increase significantly above normal allocations outside the south- east corner as well. It means jobs for 10,700 people living and working in rural and regional Queensland. Much is made into that SEQ Infrastructure Plan and Program and its allocation of $55 billion over twenty years to address infrastructure needs in the south-east corner. It is an important initiative but it is seen as an example of how governments can work together to actually achieve good outcomes in infrastructure.

In rural roads, the current budget allocates an extra $359 million over four years under the rural and regional roads funding initiative. Some specific projects I will mention are $23 million for the widening and rehabilitation on the Maryborough / Hervey Bay Road; $28 million to upgrade sections of the Burke Developmental Road; $54 million for projects in Bundaberg including the Ring Road, which is an important project when you get on the ground, you can note that with the development occurring in the area; $18.5 billion to continue the duplication of the Mackay Bucasia Road. Also an extra $88 million over three years from this year has been allocated as part of the acceleration road rehabilitation program. That is an important one for you in rural and regional areas. We are going to use that to rehabilitate 71kms to the Dawson Highway between Gladstone and Banana and replace 36 timber bridges in central and southern regions.

Recently I announced the major new program to replace old and obsolete road bridges throughout regional Queensland. The Regional Bridge Renewal Program aims to replace 100 bridges as a priority with $500 million provided this financial year for design and planning work. The first bridges to be updated will be announced in the next few weeks.

The Federal Government are very keen to promote the role out of higher mass limits on our roads. I am fully aware of your concerns with that and we share your concerns. I in fact spoke with the NSW Roads Minister the other day with his as well and have made the point repeatedly to the Commonwealth Government, that in principal we would all love to see higher mass limits on our roads, but there are implications for our road structures and the like if we want to do that. I am a very keen proponent on what we call the “intelligent access program” which is about using satellite and modern technology on heavy vehicle fleets to better understand where they are going. In conjunction with additional funding from the Commonwealth Government to further role out higher mass limits, if you can actually get the higher mass limits it is more efficient for our primary producers which is good news. It helps them earn a dollar, which we all want to do. It also of course, reduces a number of road movements on our roads because they could be more efficiently loaded.

I did say to you that I did want to work with you in terms of talking to the Federal Government on how we might continue to do that, but we need to be sensible with it as well and I have had some good discussions with Warren Truss.

I should say I welcome very much, a Queensland based Federal Transport Minister. I think it is particularly important for us that you have someone who drives on our roads all the time. Some times I suspect a little bit we had the problem that the former Federal Transport Minister did not always like Queenslanders whether they be Labor Ministers or indeed National party ones. It is really handy to have someone I think who obviously has a very good handle of what is happening in Queensland and I am looking forward to developing a good working relationship with Warren.

The SEQ Infrastructure Plan, I think is something that is the hallmark of Terry Mackenroth’s many achievements in Government. We had a bit of an easy ride in Queensland because in 1924 we had the City of Brisbane Act and so the twenty odd councils they were, were amalgamated into one large council with its level of professionalism that exists within an organisation of the size of the Brisbane City Council. That saw us through for many years but now we have grown significantly and substantially outside the boundaries of the Brisbane City Council so the issues are far, far more regional. In other States they never thought to address them because they had these inner urban councils, we got off the hook for a while because we had an organisation, the size of Brisbane City Council managing the whole of city
affairs, now it has gone way beyond that. The need to plan on a regional basis has been a real win and understanding and I know that councils in the area certainly have a shared view in relation to that.

Just some major projects that I wanted to very briefly talk about that I think are very important in south-east Queensland. The Gateway Bridge duplication $1.6 billion, the extension of the Centenary Highway all the way to the Cunningham Highway, that matter is not just for people in Ipswich and Brisbane of course, but for any of your municipalities that rely on trade and commerce within the south-east corner will be a significant improvement in that. Our rail corridors to the north and to the south, Camcoss corridor being rolled out, extension of the Gold Coast corridor and the Springfield corridor; Tugan bypass which you will be pleased to know is all going well and the significant expenditures on the Sunshine Coast.

It is not just the money that is going to the SEQ Infrastructure Plan but also the level of cooperation between levels of government, particularly state and local government. It is a relationship I want to continue to foster as Transport Minister. I will give you an example of one we are working on. Bill Ludvig and I have been working on the future of the Yeppoon rail line. This line is essentially not used by anyone any more and we have been working very closely at how we might divert the significant amount of money that is being spent by the State in maintaining the line that no one wants to use any more, in to some good outcomes for the local business community and indeed the local area.

There is another one that is in fact more advanced on that but I am not going to tell you what that is because we are going to publicise that very shortly. Those of you who know of some work we are doing don’t think we have forgotten you; we will talk about that publicly in the not too distant future.

I wanted to say this, this about sitting down with the Livingstone Shire Council and saying “how can we get some win win out of this situation?” and I want to urge you to think and look in your own areas for what you can get as well. I know a couple of you try to hang things on me that is not a State responsibility and if you want to do that to me, I will do it right back to you. I think it is a lot better if we work cooperatively and we understand that we have responsibilities. I know that you have areas where you would like to extend what you are doing but finances don’t always dictate it, just as I have as well. I am not going to cop one or two councils, fortunately only one or two, putting it on the State for what is not our responsibility, particularly bearing in mind the enormous increases in funding we have got to do. Of course we will disagree with things from time to time, of course we will and that is natural, but also let’s have some maturity in our relationship. As I have said, that doesn’t relate to very many at all because most of us have a very good relationship which I have certainly enjoyed working on.

Just a couple of other things in transport that I wanted to mention quickly. The Jet Ski legislation was put through Parliament this year and certainly a number of local authorities throughout Queensland were very keen to push us to do that. I also saw there was a bit of discussion about council saying “that is typical State Government, what you are doing is bringing in laws and expecting us to enforce it”. The simple provision is this, if you don’t want to have a Jet Ski exclusion zone, don’t apply for it and you don’t have to enforce it. The issue and threat to jet skis was an amenity issue. It wasn’t an issue in respect of Marine Safety, it was an amenity issue. You asked us to address that issue and we have done it. When you talk about the framework on having to enforce it, relates to the presence of people and jet skis in particular areas, it is not a difficulty for local officers to actually take some notes about who was in that area and use that as a basis for people who break the law. For me, if you want to have people just to enforce jet skis, in every local authority no doubt you will be supportive of my request to the Premier for a substantial increase in boating registration and licence fees. In fact what we do at the moment, even in infrastructure, we put about $26 million a year in and get $10 million. There is a significant subsidy there at the moment. I see that as a good example, listening to a local government call, the issue amenity and those sorts of things which really relate to the presence of houses near where jet skis are operated, as I said to you rather than where jet skis are operated and giving you the powers to deal with that.

I mentioned before the Roads Alliance and the success in the context of our cooperation, let me give you some specific examples. Through the Alliance we are making the best attempt ever in this State to get a set of agreed priorities on how we will meet the infrastructure tasks confronting us. That is made possible through the Alliance funding that has gone through developing common data sets state-wide and
by the training that underpins that. Through the Road Systems Safety Manager and the Roads Systems Risk Manager, we are all becoming better at identifying and prioritising our investment choices. That work is bringing clear results, informing initiatives of the type I have outlined above such as the accelerated roads rehabilitation program.

I think its success can be seen in the levels of funding that have been going towards the roads alliance. In 2002-03 we provided $2 million per year for two years for regional roads groups to help them with capability issues, which is very important. In 2004-05 we added a further $2 million to be rolled out over two years, a total of $6 million available for capability and from 2004-05 the State Government announced a further $7 million to be given to Regional Roads Groups for local roads of regional significance. When you are on a good thing stick to it, you asked me for another $20, I can’t give you another $20, but today I will give you another $7 million. That additional funding will be available for regional rural roads. For roads on state controlled roads in this category it will be 100% and on council controlled roads it will be provided on a 50/50 basis. That will significantly boost our ability to jointly deliver on LWRS projects.

I want to add a brief point here. The funding will be conditional on local government providing details of their historic spending levels on their local roads of regional significance. This has been agreed previously and the State is looking for that advice before it can plan further. When I have a go at the Federal Government about not spending enough money on our roads, I can actually do that from a position of some strength because even in the documents you have commissioned, they indicate the substantial increase in state government funding. What I want you to do too, particularly when you are asking me to put more money in, I would hope you would be putting in more money as well and many of you are. I am not suggesting that you are not, but increasingly we are in this together and we all need to look at our individual level of spend.

The Roads Alliance is a good example of our intention to work out where our money can be best spent to achieve our joint goals and to allocate accordingly.

Figures on speed cameras and the effect that they have had on casualty crashes.

Speed cameras prevented 136 fatal crashes in 2001, 102 hospitalisation crashes. No one likes paying speed fines but that is what the research indicates.

One of the things people have been saying repeatedly and I acknowledge the RACQ role in this as well, was that they did not like to think the money they are paying in speed camera fines was just going into State Government coffers. It was actually by virtue of the law, going into one of three areas; in this case it went into road safety programs. What we have agreed to do from now on is from after taking the collection and other costs and also money for the blood bank, it will be about $17 million a year extra for black spot eradication on our State roads. We have asked the LGAQ to participate in, much like the Federal Black Spot funding, except we are putting in $17 million, what do they have in Canberra $8.9 million? And ours, ultimately $47 million for eradication of black spots. As you know that is a goal line that is forever shifting because as we go to one, we have others to do as well. I think that is a major initiative. Why am I so pleased about that? Because we can actually physically demonstrate to members of the community that your speeding fines, your red light fines paid for the elimination of that black spot. I think that is an important aspect of public confidence in the program. We are also working with the Police as to how we might improve the efficiency of the program. What that means at the present time for example, we use wet film and someone has got to climb a pole to get it down, that costs. To actually go to electronic cameras and the like there are many other things that we are doing on how to improve that collection.

I have got to tell you that in terms of our road statistics, any road death of course is a tragedy, but our deaths per 100,000 in Queensland is the lowest of any State and only slightly above that of the Australian Capital Territory and that is amazing that the figure could be that good. Why is that the case? More spending on roads, 50km local speed limit, significant, don’t think all crashes that happen, happen at high speed; better design of cars; better health system and they are all the factors. I will tell you now I would rather have a road accident in Queensland than most other parts of Australia or the world. I know we have our problems but I still have got to say I’d rather be here. Thank you.
Queensland’s Multicultural Future

Hon Chris Cummins MP
Minister for Small Business, Information Technology, Policy and Multicultural Affairs

I would like to acknowledge the original custodians, my cabinet colleagues, Paul Lucas who has just spoken; obviously Desley Boyle is taking delegations I believe, Cr Paul Bell who I do work very well together with on Ministerial councils.

I would like to acknowledge all Mayors and councillors here today and I will specifically mention the LAMP program participants and the workers. It is a privilege to be here as Minister for Multicultural Affairs Queensland and I’m looking forward again to getting around the State in the coming months and experiencing first hand the fantastic diversity we have across Queensland and touching base with local councils as we can work together in delivering for all Queenslanders.

Encouraging and fostering multiculturalism has been a priority of our government since we were elected in 1998; involving local government was a key element from the multicultural policy from the start. It is not surprising considering that Queensland is home as you well know for many thousands from diverse backgrounds. We can say here in Queensland we have people from over 200 different birth places; they speak more than 150 different languages and identify with more than 100 religions.

We should be proud to be actively promoting the benefits of diversity for a number of reasons. We must continue to build on our reputation here and both overseas as being a welcoming and pluralist society. We must create a society where religion, country of origin and race are no impediment to social and economic advantage. We feel that all Queenslanders want, not just to tolerate different cultures and beliefs, but to respect the traditions of our fellow citizens. We must remove the barriers to equal enjoyment of opportunities and prosperity of the great State that we live in.

Down South we had a significantly racist incident this week, I am sure that everyone is aware of, and proved that ignorance and tolerance is not accepted in our community, and it has no place in it. We want Queensland the Smart State, to be a diverse State, to be renown for our sophistication and inclusiveness. Local Governments are our partners in implementing multicultural strategy and that is why the local area multicultural partnership which we refer to as LAMP was established in the first few months of government.

For those of you who don’t know LAMP broadens the inclusion of diverse cultural and linguistic groups in community building strategies and increases the level of understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity throughout Queensland. It also improves access to Government service providers, for ethnic groups and the participation of those groups in government service delivery at all levels. The program has been so successful that it has been expanded considerably beyond its original parameters and now a partnership between the Queensland Government and the Local Government Association and 16 councils across Queensland.

This year LAMP won the inaugural transformation award for excellence in supporting cultural diversity which was sponsored by the Australian Local Government Association, the Federation Of Ethics Community Council of Australia and no less than UNESCO, so it is something that we should all be very proud of. After seven years of operation, Multicultural Affairs has published this booklet highlighting the LAMPS many and varied activities and achievements throughout the State and I am here to officially launch this publication and commend it to you. I believe it will be posted out to everyone and we do have copies here today. We believe it will be a catalyst for further implementation of our multicultural strategy. I would like to congratulate every one who has been involved in making LAMP such a great success.
As Belly mentioned, coming from the Sunshine Coast, we had a great multicultural festival at the weekend which we call “Festury” and I commend Mayor Joe Natoli who is here with us today from Maroochy Council they contributed significant funds as did Caloundra and Noosa I believe and we took it not just from the Sunshine Coast University but also down in Caloundra down to Kings Beach. We had that one weekend a year that we have of bad weather down the Sunshine Coast just gone, but apart from that it went over very well.

Multiculturalism is a core business for all of us, making our communities safe, welcoming places in which people from all areas should be able to live and so we can all express and practice our belief from intolerance and fear. I would like to thank each and every one of you here today for the efforts you make towards the support on your behalf of the communities for multiculturalism. All I will say is thank you very much keep up the good work and God Bless.

Address: “Our Changing Population”
*Dr Bernard Salt*
*Partner, KPMG*

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Address: Be a Learning Organisation or be extinct”
*Professor Y T Kee*
*Consultant*

Due to copyright law, this speech is unable to be published.
Good morning to you all. Thank you very much for coming. I am the opening batsman for today which means I hope I can do a better job than our current lads. I think my main role here today is to try and put some general ideas and a framework on the table. You have a whole raft of fascinating speakers for the rest of the day who know much more about the intricacies and the specifics of how these issues play out in regional and urban Queensland. Like you I sit through lots of conferences where people who have lofty titles and nice resumes and all that sort of thing, proclaim that they are going to tell you also sorts of things about the solutions to the problems that you have.

I want to have two main messages this morning. One is that a culture of experts, or an expectation that technocratic type decision making is the solution, is in fact, in many instances, the problem. That in itself I think is an important message and I will try and get to that by way of looking at what the dynamics are in processes of social change and then what role I think public policy instruments in communities can play in trying to manage those transitions as effectively and as equitably as possible.

The second given that this is a mere 20 minute presentation, I am going to put a lot of ideas, I hope, on the table, much of which will frustrate you in the sense that they won’t be able to have justice done to them as a rich literature that informs and underpins what I am going to say this morning. As such the final slide of the presentation today contains a list of suggested additional readings that you might want to follow up if you want to go into the details of what I am going to talk about.

I will frame the conversation that subsequent speakers will be able to connect up and give you some resources for thinking about some of these areas in more detail. I think that is the main thing I can do this morning.

Let’s give a general overview of how I want this to go. First of all I am going to talk about what I think are three core problems associated with change in general. Change is normal, change has been a feature of human existence since we walked on to the Savannah many hundreds and thousands of years ago. How do we in the 21st century look at the manifestation of these core problems and what do they look like? I then want to talk about the standard responses, the typical ways in which Western countries, at least, think about these problems but no less than indeed many other countries and governments around the world as well. Perhaps, most especially how the World Bank, my employer, tends to think about these particular issues by virtual of the institutional apparatus that surrounds itself. It is not a punished function of being driven by a particular ideology or of being a slave for capitalism or any of those other things, it is a function of the very nature of the organisational structure that it has. All organisations above local communities tend to exhibit these features and I want to talk about some of them.

Given the nature of the challenge and the standard way in which we respond to these, I then want to talk about how we can perhaps think about some alternative ways of addressing these problems that recognise the strengths of these standard responses but also recognise the really crucial limits. It’s into the space created by those crucial limits that I think a large part of the role for local government can really come in.

I spend most of my time, as you can imagine, working in and speaking and developing country contacts where the whole concept of a local government is completely alien, let alone one that has been around for a 109 years. In that sense this is a real privilege to speak to a group of you who have, I think, one of the key roles and opportunities in this century to try and really start reimagining the whole process of decision making in government more generally. Having laid that out, I obviously want to bring it together at the end and as I said previously, I have provided some suggested readings for you to take on further.
The Three Key Challenges.

The first one I think which is not that different to those of us who are parents, the first challenge is providing simultaneously routes and wings. Which is to say balancing the task, providing a sense of identity and social cohesion at one level, a real rich sense of being part of an integrative and coherent community with a challenge of announcing the diversity of opportunities and indeed the demographic diversity of the people, that live in a particular geographic space and those particular tensions have, as I indicated in my opening remarks, been with us for ever. They are only going to keep being with us. The process of globalisation essentially supercharges this perennial challenge for all people every where. The very nature of it being attention essentially means I don’t think there is a single answer to that. These are attentions and as such they need to be recognised and managed accordingly.

How do we do that? The second challenge I think is crafting effective conflict mediation mechanisms. Why? Because change essentially is risky and risk leads to misunderstanding and creates lots of opportunities for micro and indeed in many cases in developing countries today, macro which is to say civil war conflict.

If you are into movies I would thoroughly recommend you go and see an American film called Crash which came out just a couple of months ago. A fascinating film which is based in the city of Los Angeles that opens with a very minor car accident, an every day sort of affair where two cars just misjudge their turn at an intersection and hit each other. They look at both the events that lead up to that and the events that follow from that, all of which are every day problems but which are all exacerbated and made more problematic both by the individual stresses of the people who are involved in that incident and the very hyper diverse environment that is Los Angeles. You have people from virtually every corner of the planet occupying the same space, trying to get along with one another.

I think in that sense Los Angeles is a thin edge of a long wedge over the next couple of centuries wherein crashes are going to be ever more likely. Because if we know anything about social science over the next hundred years or so, diversity is only going to increase. If we also know enough about our history we will also know with those attempts of trying to manage that diversity, there are lots and lots of opportunities for conflict. I would suggest that one of the major challenges of developing country contacts, at least at the moment, is the challenge of trying to devise effective and accessible and legitimate mechanisms for dressing the conflict that change inherently produces.

Some of the most important work down in the 20th Century on the nature of major revolutions actually shows that whole scale social and political revolutions actually occur in countries when things are getting better, not when things are getting worse. To the extent that our tasks as development professionals, as local government people are to actually improve the lives of people, we are in no trivial sense in the revolution’s business. We are in the business of changing in a positive way, hopefully, the dynamics under which people live and with those changing rules and changing demographics go a huge risk for conflict and as such a really vital political challenge of figuring out how we re-imagine us and them. Who are us? And who is the we?

The third big challenge stems from both of these. Two things, we need to have a constant need for aligning the policy tools and instruments that we have with the prevailing problems. The institutions and instruments that we have nearly always lag behind. The current education system that we have for example, in the way in which we structure the school day, the way in which the whole school year is set up is largely a product of a system of education designed to deal with the industrial revolution, not necessarily with the 21st century kind of problems. That is just one example of a whole range of different ways in which necessity in some senses, indeed the mother of invention, those are always occurring out of lock step with one another. The problems are usually preceding the institutional tools that we have for addressing these things.

The faster change becomes then, the inherent policy frustration that accompanies it because of this lag, of this mismatch if you like, between the instruments and the tools that we have for addressing the problem and the fact that we are trying to hit a moving target. The problem we are addressing itself is one that is under constant change.
There are many others obviously we could put on the table, given my space this morning; I thought I would talk about these three problems in particular.

More importantly perhaps, I thought no matter what the problem is, I think there tends then to be two primary ways in which organisations, whether they be in a public or private sector, respond to these particular challenges. The first we might call a technocratic response. This is a response that is driven by external experts and consultants, people who have fancy degrees and nice job titles if you like. This kind of approach is one that is very prevalent in my own organisation and I suggest through most layers of decision making in large organisations around the world. Why does it happen? It is largely because it perfectly suits very strong organisational imperatives for control, management and planning.

If there is one book that I thoroughly recommend that everyone in government read, I think probably the best book on development certainly over the last 25 years is James Scott’s 1998 Book “Seeing Like A State”, the sub title of which is “how well intentioned schemes to improve the human condition have failed”. The essence of this particular argument is that governments of all scales and firms even, for that matter, tend to see problems like States. They tend to see them in ways that will lend it to a handful of ten smart people solving the problem. Those 10 smart people like to feel smart; they like to be invited to conferences like this. It is in some sense easier if a problem can be addressed just by throwing a few smart people or some consulting dollars at it.

Now the flip side of technocratic decision making which is rife, as I suggested, is what I call a bureaucratic approach, where we want simple standardised and easily measurable solutions to problems. They give rise to what we would then call “best practices”, we can produce training manuals, CD ROMs, briefing notes and the like, all of which can be rapidly disseminated and enable things that work here to presumably work over there.

We need lots of consultations and meetings to produce all of these things but at the end of the day the goal is to produce something like a standardised solution. Big bureaucracies can do both of these first two tasks really well. My organisation in particular, has virtually perfected it. It loves a problem for which on the one hand it can call a meeting, get a few smart people sitting around the table. Having had those people having addressed that particular problem to come up with some sort of standardise solution that will enable us in our case to meet what is called the millennium development goals. There are 10 targets that have been set for the international community and by virtue of having these particular targets, we now want to re-engineer the way in which we think and do economic development. We reach the goals in the apportioned time and to solve those goals, like every other previous generations attempt to try and do noble things in the world, we come up with a big plan, a blueprint on one level and we hope on the other hand this will produce a lot of standardised and standardisable solutions for which we need an army of faithful functionaries to go out and address and implement whatever it is that solution happens to be.

If you look at the way, for example, Aids is being addressed today, the solutions that Geoffrey Sax and other people are putting on the table, even the very logic of the Live Aids concerts that were held a few months ago. The theory of social change that underpins that whole approach is essentially a technocratic and a bureaucratic one. We need smart people like Geoff Sax or some other individuals to come up with the solution, hopefully then to hand it over on the other side to a group of faithful functionaries to implement it.

Now, having sounded a little sarcastic perhaps on that particular point, I need to stress that both of these approaches actually have really important places and have done amazing things. We have reduced elderly poverty for example by constructing a pension system for our old people. For our Great Grandparents in particular, old age was a scary time and by coming up with a smart technocratic solution like providing people with an income in their latter years, providing a tax system that will support it, you do that over enough decades you can actually do something nice like get rid of elderly poverty.

If you look how Polio was eradicated from the world. A smart group of people figured out the right vaccine, handed it over to ten thousand faithful functionaries who ran around the world jabbing babies in the butts with injections; do that for 40 years and you eradicate polio from the world. I am not at all
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dismissing the power and the good things that can happen when smart people and faithful functionaries work in partnership with one another.

What I do want to suggest though, is, that particular logic is so powerful for how we think about all problems. Again that is not a government problem necessary; it is a private sector issue as well. The institutional mechanisms that we have at our disposal for thinking about these problems and invoking those same kinds of solutions are so powerful that they tend then to colonise and invade all areas of our decision making. In the 21st Century I think, there are three particular types of problems, again perennial ones in many respects but ones that here in the 21st Century we need to recognise that this particular approach to how we go about doing things has not just serious limits. It is in fact the problem when it comes to thinking about these particular types of problems.

What are these particulars? The first is what my Kennedy School colleague Ron Hyford calls an adaptive problem. An adaptive problem, as opposed to a technical problem, is a problem where the solution is not knowable ex anti. There is simply no way of bringing more and more experts, more and more consultants in to address your problem. Even the problem itself is often not knowable ex anti. If you look at efforts to improve race relations in the United States or how we revive isolated towns here, there is no standard solution to that particular problem and a belief there is one, I would suggest, in fact is itself part of the problem.

The references for all of these are indicated at the end of my presentation. The principle of recognising there are whole classes of problems for which only a process and a dialogue of going through an issue with the people that are most affected by it, can conceivably even arrive at the type of solution I think is really important.

I love that opening video we saw on herding cats that has been an ad in the United States for a while. It is a fabulous thing. Why? Why do we have this whole herding cats mentality as the embodiment of organisational problems? Is because cats sort of thinks for themselves. They do things; they don’t want to coordinate off other people unlike sheep, cattle and other things which by their very generic structure are built in to follow the person or entity in front of them. People in some sense are very much like cats. The whole humour of a piece like that, is that it shows the limits of a handful of guys running around on horses who have done that for ages, can actually solve this problem. You can’t solve these problems when they are like that.

The next is where the knowledge that is required to solve the problem is inherently context specific and experientially acquired. Again I refer to Jim Scott’s book that I mentioned before. There are certain forms of knowledge that are inherently context specific and experientially acquired and can be only acquired in that particular way.

Many of you are from rural areas and you will know that the great details of what crops grow best in your area, how the water flows during floods, how to survive during droughts; put someone like me in that sort of context, my nice degrees from university falls to absolute zero. I am clueless as to how to operate in that type of environment and it will take me many, many years, if not decades, to acquire the kind of knowledge that you would have in that situation.

Many influential MBA books on leadership are now coming to similar kinds of conclusions. Henry Mintzberg’s wonderful book on “Managers not MBA’s” is all about the sort of tyranny in the private sector of taking 25 year olds, giving them an MBA and just by virtual of having nice credentials this makes them equipped to run a fortune 500 company. That is ridiculous. All of us who have lead any group of people know that there simply hard one lessons that by definition are only won in a very hard way and there is a type of knowledge like that, that can’t be brought in from the outside. It necessarily is context specific and in some cases is not all that transportable. It can’t be taken into other areas. Tracking animals is a whole bunch of examples that you come up with for this type of knowledge for which technocratic and bureaucratic decision making really struggles to get at.

The third is that where in the case of service delivery in particular, where there are a high number of discretionary and face to face interactions between many people are required to deliver the service that we might care about. As it happens, three of probably the most important public services that we need

109th annual conference/climate of change - LGAQ 63
to educate our children, to keep ourselves healthy and to keep our community structures in place -
teaching, curative health work and social work are services that require enormous amounts of discretion
on the part of frontline service providers.

In the case of social workers, for example, how do I decide whether this particular family is sufficiently
dysfunctional to make the most heart wrenching decision of all which is to take the children out of the
care of their biological parents? How do you make that decision? Well, social workers need to go to
enormous amounts of training to do those sorts of things. There is no technical solution to that
particular problem. It requires giving enormous amounts of discretionary power to frontline service
providers but the very nature of the task they are engaged in, also requires an enormous number of face
to face interactions over long periods of time.

In education for example it takes six hours a day, 200 days a year and twelve years to what we would
deed to be, in today’s society at least, a minimally functional citizen who can operate in the world.
That is a lot of face to face interaction to produce that. Let me do a quick test here. How many of you
can remember the name of your fourth or fifth grade primary school teacher? About half of you. How
many of you can remember the name of the person who sat next to you in the fourth or fifth grade? That
is pretty good, may be some of you went to single teacher schools or something.

The point is that those particular individuals, even for some of you 30-50 years later are still in your brain
as being key people that shaped your life. As an increasingly number of biological scientific work is also
showing that the age of 10 is a really crucial year, when a lot of things really come together in people’s
lives. Where you spent your tenth year, for example has a disproportionally influential effect on where
you end up calling home for example. Just as a piece of factoid trivia.

The point is many of these key services that we worry about; the relationship is the essence of what it
takes to do it. When you go to see a Doctor you don’t want to see someone who just treats you as a
patient, or a number you want to see someone who actually has some knowledge of you, your family and
your history, who treats you as a real human. Even in the private sector like Virgin Airlines, Virgin
Australia has these new ads Tom Andrews not 7C. Even the private sector is trying to realise that people
are of the essence of what it is that they are doing.

If these three particular types of problems are ones for which the standard instruments that we have at
our disposal, really don’t apply. How do we link up these types of problems with the kinds of challenges
that change puts on us that I indicated at the outset? I think we need to think about some alternatives as
to how we go about doing these things.

These problems I hope you recognise are familiar the world over, but their consequences and failure in
developing countries is truly catastrophic. In countries like Bangladesh for example 75% of teachers on
any given day, do not show up for work. How do you start to address these problems? If the problem
isn’t training teachers, it isn’t putting more textbooks in classrooms or building more schools? We have
technology in an excel spreadsheet which will enable us to manage all those kinds of processes. When
people aren’t just engaging seriously in the relational nature in the task that they are doing, the
apparatus for that, for recognising what to do, is really limiting. What can we do?

If I was true to what I said at the outset I am not here to proclaim a solution. What I want to try and get
us to do is to think about this particular problem in a different way. First, obviously I guess is to
recognise the power, but also the great limits of technocratic and bureaucratic responses to the
challenges of social change. The next is, I think, is to be much more innovative than we probably have
been to this point, in creating spaces, resources, incentives and accountability mechanisms for
addressing these idiosyncratic adaptive problems, the local knowledge and these issues of discretionary
and transaction decision making. We need to be much more innovative and encouraging of innovation
but crucially simultaneously building into that, and this is a whole separate conversation, a whole series
of evaluation mechanisms that enable us to have a much clearer evidence space to make decisions about
how we do these things.

Let me give you three examples from different parts of the world that I am familiar with and embody
some of these new approaches of how we go about addressing problems.

64 LGAQ - 109th annual conference/climate of change
In Indonesia, since the fall of the Harto regime in 1998 there has been a huge need for try to reinvent local government. There was no such thing, or at least how we, in this room would recognise it, in Indonesia prior to this point. Everyone was a literally a faithful or not so faithful functionary to the autocratic regime above them. You did literally at the point of a gun what your superiors told you to do. That whole system falls away, you have a huge power vacuum essentially which is created at the local level. What can development actors do in these situations is to try and improve that situation?

Over the last six years or so, my colleagues over in Indonesia have devised a whole new massive new social development project for rural Indonesia and a counterpart of urban projects as well. It puts responsibility for allocating development funds back into the community’s hands. It does this through a competitive bidding process, like putting up for tender if you like, some pots of money at the sub district level, the shire council level if you like. Then through a deep investment in frontline village facilitators get these particular villages to put together proposals themselves on the basis of their own aspirations, their own local knowledge, and their own sense of where the bottlenecks are in their lives in order to be able to compete with one another literally for access to those funds.

The allocation itself is decided by a peer group, it is not decided by a swot team of experts who fly in for the meeting and decree that these people need a road, these people need a community centre, and these guys need more electricity, all that decision making power is made up to the people in the community themselves. The crucial counterpart to all of this is that all the decisions and how they are made, who gets what and on what basis, has to be made fully transparent. All those decisions have to be posted on a community bulletin board, which is as symbolic important as much as it is informational important and it has a whole heap of journalists, the cost of whom is built into the project, that have a full licence to report on any of the abuses that might occur. If the local leader of the village decides to use this money to buy himself a new speed boat, as has routinely happened in the past, he will probably find that story written up in the local newspaper and for the first time ever in the lived experience of many of these people having that same person hauled off to jail.

Now this is a huge project operating in 40% of Indonesia’s rural areas, which means it is basically operating amongst 60 million people. Three times the population of Australia are being addressed by this one particular project and my research over the last three and a half years has been trying to assess actually using the best social scientific tools that we can whether this project actually does this job of improving local governance. A huge big power vacuum, we introduced this particular mechanism, does it work or not. As I said there is a whole other presentation to give you the full details and the empirical findings but the essence of it is that under a very constrained and certain subscribed set of conditions indeed we do find that it can actually be a crucial part of the solution. Even as rival projects, which are in some cases trying to do the same types of delivery mechanisms but without any of these transparency or accountability mechanisms built in, these were deemed in some quarters to be too soft, to be unnecessary, to be absorbing costs that could be more usefully spent elsewhere.

What we have been able to show very powerfully is that development in general creates lots of conflict. Putting $50,000 into a poor community you by definition create something like a honey pot to get agitated over. The selection mechanism means you are creating winners and losers if you like, people who do get the money, people who do put in a lot of effort and people who don’t. That in itself can create a lot of conflict because you are trying also through this mechanism to address very marginalised groups such as widows, people with certain disabilities who are trying to overtly through affirmative action, essentially bring them more into the decision making process. You create resistance from local elites who are quite happy with the way things are, thank you very much and do not like external agents coming in trying to give a fairer go to people at the lower end of the social hierarchy. You create lots of conflict in essence. What we have also been able to show is that very little of this conflict in this massive project actually becomes violent and indeed it was the only project that was able to function in Aceh over the last three years. When the tragic Tsunami hit on Boxing Day last year the only social infrastructure of any kind, that was in Aceh to respond in a real time sense to that tragedy, was the frontline facilitators of this particular project. It has been a very important effort.

There are elements of this of course that are very technocratic and bureaucratic. Just to hire the 25,000 people that run around the villages and do this work, there are systems put in place to paying people,
there have to be training manuals to get these people up to speed on what the project is about etc, but
the essence, the key innovation of the project is this discretion autonomy given to these frontline
facilitators to adapt the design of the project to suit the realities of the local context.

Doing something simultaneously huge, really big, and yet really small at the same time because it is able
to map itself on the idiosyncrasies of local context is a major sea change, especially for the World Bank
and how it does its business. I would like to think it is a harbinger of future innovations to come.

Other ones that I will touch on briefly, Canadians I think of any country in the world, do public policy the
best in the sense they really do take seriously of doing things in a non ideological way. They have a very
instrumental approach; if it works we do it. How do we know if it works or not? Well they routinely
invoke a cutting edge of evaluation methodologies of everything they do. Things start off very small but
by virtue of being small, they are also allowed to have a lot of discretion with what they do, but the
evaluation mechanisms in place enable them to find out pretty quickly which ones are working and which
ones aren’t.

They are then able to scale up and replicate the ones that have been empirically shown to work. Going
to an equivalent conference like this in Canada, which I have done on several occasions, with my
Kennedy School hat on, is amazing experience because I actually do things the way we teach students to
do it. We want to have groups of people who do receive a project, groups of people that don’t and make
sure they are comparable and you put a project in one place and not another, you collect good base line
data and you follow it through over time and you have an evidence base on which to make decisions.

Places like Nova Scotia New Brunswick, the eastern coast of Canada are not too dissimilar to Australia in
the sense of being very isolated parts, very geographically dispersed with indigenous populations as well.
The way in which the Canadians go about addressing these problems is to take this venture capital
approach which is to say “we don’t know when we are sitting in Ottawa, what is going to work in these
cities, we wouldn’t pretend to know, you guys know, so we will give you lots of small scale money out
with the condition that you have lots of evaluation mechanisms built into it over time. When you can
demonstrably show that you are making a positive difference, or achieving the goals, not just purely
dispersing the money we give you, actually achieving the kind of things you yourselves deem to be
important, then we will have a basis for giving out additional resources or technical support or anything
else you might need.

In terms of how it works in Australia, that is the task for the rest of the speakers and indeed you as
delegates here today. I want to thoroughly recommend a book that came out last year by four Kennedy
School students who worked with me at various different points, and last year produced a wonderful
book titled “Imagining Australia” which was essentially trying to look at how we can re-conceive
Australia’s history and our current policy problems, thinking about things in some of the ways I have been
talking about this morning. We don’t just rely on technocrats and bureaucrats to solve problems but
simultaneously recognising the real power and virtues of those mechanisms just as we have recognised
their real limits as I have indicated here. How we can reinvoke and rethink the conversation that
produces these things.

Let me quickly conclude by summarising I think are the key points. The nature and extent of our social
relationships are crucial to shaping most of the things that we care about. Your children’s education,
your own health, your own longevity, the vibrancy of your communities are probably the top five things
in your whole life, other than your state of your marriage that matters to you. We haven’t yet seriously
figured out how to recognise that in the way that we go about making our decisions in the public and
private domain. That is coupled with the reality that the world is only going to continue getting more
demographically diverse and making diversity work is, I think, going to be the major policy challenge for
the 21st century.

In order to address that, I think, as I indicated, and I will stress again, is to conclude that we need to get
beyond and invoking the same kind of logic for how we think about problems and thinking about the
policy implications that follow from all our work. I suggest that in many cases this is the very habit of
thinking in terms of experts and standardise solutions to problems that is in fact itself the problem.
Conflicts is only going to continue being an issue we all need to address and having more innovative mechanisms for addressing that is going to be crucial. Creating spaces for more imaginative ways of thinking about who we are and who they are and how we can create a more integrated and coherent we, I think is crucial. As such we need to worry much more about the processes of decision making rather than the product, or if you like we need to stress the institutional functions of what things to rather than what they look like. In the World Bank for example we are great at being able to find a solution to a particular problem and turn it into we can put into a blueprint into a CD ROM and take that from one country to another. The Constitution and Rules and legal systems are probably the most graphic example.

Education systems in many colonial countries are direct copies and clones of the countries that were there before them, so it is really easy in some sense to replicate the form. What is much harder to do, I should say, is to get context to relevant and specific way of doing the same kind of thing but in its own cultural meaningful way. As such we need to have much more bottom up experimentation with how we do things.

Take this venture capital model, where in venture capitalism we are ok with 20% of our successes being successful. 80% of venture capital stuff just fails miserably, 50% or more of small business go belly up in two years. That is not personal failure that is just the nature of the task that we have. How we can allow creative failure if you like to be built in to the way in which we think about policy solutions is vital precisely because they are adaptive problems. It is not obvious at all what the solutions is ex anti and it is only by trying it that you figure out actually what is going to go on. It is that type of sensibility that I think is going to be what we need to do much more seriously and much more carefully and innovatively if we are going to start addressing these questions on how we can help communities manage in the 21st century and the climate of change that it is producing.

I leave other readings for you to go into; I have mentioned several of them already on the way through. On that note I am happy to leave this presentation. If you wish to receive a copy of my presentation please see the conference organisers. On that note I am happy to leave it to the real batsmen coming in at three and four to score the real runs for the day.

Address: “Challenges for Change”
Dr Danah Zohar, Oxford England
Author of Quantum Self and Quantum Society

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109th annual conference/PROCEEDINGS

Mr Ted Malone MP
Shadow Minister For Local Government

Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen, and to you Paul, thank you very much for that kind invite to address your conference today and also to Greg, to the Mayors and councillors, distinguished ladies and gentlemen and to my colleagues, Lawrence, Geoff and I think Vaughan is here somewhere as well.

As I said it my great pleasure today to talk to you. I am probably going to run through a few issues fairly quickly and I will pick up from there. I have to say I am enjoying the conference so far. I have the mandatory gravy stain on the LGAQ tie and I will have to talk about the boys getting another tie for me. I have a new put down for a capital city or a State depending on the status of the prostitutes in town, I think that is a good joke.

I would have to say your guest speaker David Bellamy I was impressed with his comments. I have to say I always had a contrary view to David but his speech certainly highlighted some of the issues we have a lot of commonality with. Of course, the other speakers you have had are highly respected and the message they gave are important to all of us I think. I feel really humble to have the opportunity this afternoon to talk to you for a few minutes.

I have to say, and I think I have said it before that Local Government is the closest government to the people, and that is a reality. Local Government is hopefully driven by common sense. I was in this last forum just a while ago and the reality is of all the speakers that spoke, the fact you have to use common sense to actually get an outcome and I think that is, I hate to say it that is a little different to State and Federal politics.

Local communities through local government, I believe should have a real input into the running of their communities. Just think about that, way back in the dim dark ages, our councils really did have a huge input into the running of their own communities. Some of you will recollect when the local hospital board actually had the shire councillor or the Mayor, was the chair, or the Magistrate was the chair of the hospital board. The Emergency Services basically was run by a community based organisation and the local council had a lot of input into that. I believe that issues such as vegetation management, catchment management and all of those issues should actually come back to a common sense base and it should be operated out of a local area committee that should have a big input from a local council.

I believe it is local expertise intertwined with good common sense. I just put it to you would the Bundaberg situation arisen, or would it have gone on for so long, if the local community had input into that situation? The Bundaberg situation is not unlike what is happening in our Natural Resource issues or even in other hospitals throughout Queensland. I put it to you we need to actually expand the role of local government, or local community organisations under the auspices of local government, with the resources that they should have to do that provided by either State or Federal Government.

The other issue I would like to talk about is planning. I believe planning should be based on good information. We are seeing quite frequently that planning is fairly adhoc, it is imposed from on top, that one size doesn’t fit all. We have issues in planning where south-east Queensland for instance, influences are over riding planning projects in the rest of Queensland or inland Queensland even more so. There is no doubt that various regions throughout Queensland, and because it is a diverse State and a large State, there are many regions throughout the State that are very different. Those communities in those areas really do need to create their own destinies. They need to move forward with the support of their own communities. I believe it is also about partnerships between Local Government and State Government etc on basic issues.

I also believe the State Government needs to lift its game in relation to planning. We have recently seen the SEQ Regional Plan. I guess as far as that goes, it is ok, but from the feedback I am getting there was very little consultation with Local Government and very little consultation with local communities for that matter. It was basically designed with lines drawn on maps, most of the funding has to be provided by others rather than State Government. The funding issues are not clear cut and there are plenty of winners and more so a lot of losers in the SEQ Regional Plan. In some of the cases the losers are those
people where their superannuation depends on whether not they are able to sell their land or sub divide it.

I just raise the issue of one of the recent Ministerial call ins. There are many of course, but the Moranbah housing estate is one that happened just recently. Seven years ago when the State undertook a public interest on the Belyando Council Shire plan the State Government signed off on that development. They are now calling it in as an inappropriate use and of course the million dollars of coal under that estate has a fair bit to do with it. I am just saying if it was ok seven years ago why is it inappropriate now?

I just raise one other. The Livingstone Shire Council has a redevelopment of a hospital in the capital area there on the old hospital site. In every one of the base projects, in terms of disaster management shows the hospital is the first building inundated with a tidal surge. So the State Government is now rebuilding that hospital in the tidal surge area. I know that there is good representation from my good friend Cr Bill Ludwig to try and turn that around, but the reality in terms of planning by the State Government is not adhering to what it should be in terms of planning.

Indeed there are cases where councils are suing their neighbours because of incompatible development across council boundaries when the State Government should have addressed those issues when the check was done on the town plan.

Most of you would realise the IPA was suppose to be a strategic forward looking process, and quite frankly it has delivered none of that. For all the checks and balances built into the system we still seem to be seeing failures with the IPA system. I also believe the same view should be taken in respect to the department in the situation where the State Government concurrence bodies, the Natural Resources, DPI, Main Roads etc are the referral agencies in terms of development, where councils are being forced into a position where quite often they have to wait significant lengths of time to actually get approvals through.

I am aware of the Queensland State directorate and the LGAQ are undertaking a project to reduce the demands on water reporting by councils and that goes from 25 a year to one consolidated report per year. That is a step in the right direction and it should go across the board. The system is wrong when councils have to spend so much productive time on filling out multiple reports on the same issue. Cost to council in extra admin staff must be horrendous. We must get back to the basics of doing work rather than writing or talking about it. We need common sense to prevail and getting back to my original comment, sustainability of local government has been compromised by overly onerous and bureaucratic mumbo jumbo. We need to let the councils get on with the work they have to do.

In respect to the SEQ Regional Plan, there is a lot of small area sub divisions have ceased from 28/10/04, there was no consultation as I understand, or knowledge of the process and when applications are referred to the regional planning authority they are just refused. What is actually happening is those small councils are being impacted by a decision of State Government and that will affect them in the future.

Recently the LGAQ had the Sustainability conference here in Brisbane. On one hand local government is being forced by threat of amalgamation to become sustainable, on the other hand they are not permitted, particularly in the smaller shires to have small subdivisions under the SEQ Regional Plan. To extrapolate that, we are basically creating a situation where local governments are being set up to fail. We have the issue of Queensland Government locking up one million of Western Hardwood forestry leases because of the belief of an environmental movement that harvesting of timber in that area in unviable or unsustainable. Yet at a recent forestry conference of more than 2000 delegates the Premier of the State boasted that all of our forests in Queensland had been ticked off by an international agency as being sustainable and renewable. That includes the one million hectares previously adhered to. The sustainable harvesting of these forests created jobs and supported many communities throughout south east Queensland. The imposition of these forest lock ups will continue the effect of forcing people from regional Queensland to leave their communities and move to the coast which is exacerbating the plan and sustainable development of coastal communities. The lock up of forest has a time bomb effect. All that is needed to trigger this is a dry summer after a couple of good seasons that will increase the fuel
I guess that back to what is happening in Portugal right now where they are in a similar situation. They are importing fire fighters from Europe to handle the fires over there. We have a similar situation in North Queensland whereby Government policy we are forcing people to vacate huge tracts of land. Legislation such as wild rivers, alcohol management, conversion of pastoral leases to national parks, and the list goes on, have created a total disincentive for people to move to North Queensland, to populate an area that is strategically important for Australia, not just for Queensland, in terms of migration and border control, pest and disease management and most importantly for national security.

These few issues just reinforce the fact there has to be a sensible, realistic sustainable plan that will develop all of Queensland. We should not be imposing restrictions on people who choose not to live in a totally urban society. It also reinforces the view that there is a need to decentralise our population not just to cater for the whims of our big business developers.

The development of smaller communities is not just about choice, it is not the will of Government where people should live. Rural residential and large lot sub divisions are not necessarily the answer across Queensland. 100 hectare subdivisions in most cases are too big and most council’s I believe in our rural communities would agree with that. Councils should have the discretion to minimize or set sizes for those subdivisions.

I strongly believe we have a very creative rural sector and I believe it is the best in the world. We have technology in our regions that are as good, if not better than anywhere else in the world. GPS planting and harvesting, soil minimisations, moisture minimisation zero tilling etc. We need to empower our people in rural communities to move forward.

It is unbelievable in some smaller communities that I am aware of, that they cannot subdivide land across the road from a school. That is just unbelievable. We have situations where we want people to move into our rural communities and we cannot subdivide that sort of land. The situation where lawyers are involved in the issue of the appeal process is too expensive and we need to be looking at ways of means of setting up a tribunal of expert or retired planners that actually can sort those things out with little cost to both council and to the litigates.

I guess the favourite subject of the day is water and I might just run through a few of issues as I see it in regard to water.

I guess the problem started around 1989 or 1990 when the Labor Government came to power and with a policy of not building the Wolfdene Dam, Wayne Goss cancelled the building of that dam. That was the start of the rot. We have since that time a substantial amount of infrastructure, foot bridges, stadiums but not a dam. No water storages, no infrastructure in water infrastructure.

We have gone along pretty well for the last 15 years or so until about 12-18 months ago and it became a problem. We blamed the drought, it is a one in a 100 year drought, and ok that is fair enough. We started to talk about our dams running out or our water supplies becoming critical. The first thing we do of course is to put in water restrictions, and that is fine, that is what you do in that sort of case. It got worse and kept getting worse and to minimise the use of water we started to charge a bit more. The State Government lifted the price of water so councils had to move forward and charge more for the water which you would do. Of course, the drought got a little worse so the penalties for using water went up and we got a disincentive to use water, and of course that is what you do.

Recently in Parliament, the first time we have passed legislation to do something about recycling water. We had legislation where in a sewer area which is grey water from your showers and washing machines etc to water your lawn. The only problem with that, there is no incentive as there is in other States, the State Government actually gave a subsidy for that but that subsidy didn’t happen in Queensland. When you look at the way in which it has to happen, the reality is it is only going to happen in cases of new houses. It is almost impossible to retrofit this type of system on an older house.
We are talking about a very minimal impact in relation to the legislation that was passed. If we had of talked about subsidies for rain water tanks, we would be starting to head in the right direction. It got to last weekend and we see in the Sunday paper that we are going to spend one million dollars on the desalination plants in the coast of Queensland. That was a fairly big grab in the paper to see we were actually being proactive in terms of supplying water. On Monday, the new Minister for Primary Industries indicates he is going to set up an over arching body to look after water, to actually legislate that councils have to share your water. I don’t know about you guys, I know of a few councils that have spent a lot of money actually setting up their own water supplies and I can’t see them being too happy about that, so I am not sure how far that is going to go.

All of you were here yesterday when the Premier said we are going to fix this once and for all. We are going to increase the price of water. Do you know who the bad guys are? Those irrigators out there, they are using too much water. Firstly we bump up the price of water again and blame the irrigators. They are a minority group, they can afford it.

I have to question the price we are looking at and the reason it went up was we are putting into the formula the replacement costs of a dam in today’s dollars. The price of water is reflective of the rebuilding of a dam. I don’t know about you guys but I have never seen a dam wear out. Has anybody seen a damn wear out as such? We have a situation where we are paying up front in today’s dollars to replace a dam. Right at this stage, except for the smaller types of dams that are being talked about in Queensland, we do not have a policy for building water storages in south-east Queensland. We are actually using infrastructure that was put in place 15 years ago or better with probably an extra one million people living in south-east Queensland and that is not talking about the rest of Queensland as well.

I just make a point to you that if we are talking about water supplies for Queensland we need large water storages that can supply water for five- six years without any substantial inflow into the catchment. The only way you can do that is with large areas and deep water.

With those few words I would just like to mention the situation with the amalgamations. I guess from my point of view it is not talked about too much. The reality is like a sword over every council’s head, is the thought if they do not do something in respect to moving their council forward there is a chance that the State Government will come in and force amalgamations. I can assure you that is not the policy of our party and we will defend that to the enth degree.

Paul with those few words I will leave it at that. Can I thank you for the opportunity to talk to you this afternoon and I am happy to take questions.

**Address:** “It Pays To Laugh”  
*Ms Kerry Cue*

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Treasurer’s Report
Cr Brendan McNamara,
Treasurer Local Government Association of Queensland

Mr President, distinguished guests, delegates and observers, I move that the statement of financial performance and the statement of financial position as at 31 May 2005, as audited and printed in the conference agenda, be received and adopted.

At the conclusion of my first twelve months as your Association’s Treasurer, I am pleased to report that the financial position of the LGAQ not only remains healthy but has improved.

I would take the opportunity to report in more detail about that general assertion.

Firstly, I would make some comment about the statement of financial position. The legal entity has net assets totalling $10 million. After discounting this figure by the $1.04 million we hold in reserves on behalf of government funding agencies, your Association’s net worth is $8.9 million which is 68% of the LGAQ annual budget. I am sure that you would agree that this is a very favourable position.

Secondly, in relation to LGAQ liabilities, I would point out that the LGAQ remains debt free and that all contingent liabilities such as holiday pay and long service leave entitlements remain fully funded.

In relation to revenues and expenditure, annual member subscriptions of $2.6 million represent only 25% of LGAQ revenues. Other major sources of funds come from fee for service, online subscriptions and owned entity profits. Over the last decade member subscriptions have increased inline with CPI. It is also noteworthy that aggregate member subscriptions over the same period have fallen from .1.15 of a percent of total council revenue to .08 of a percent. That represents a ten times reduction in that proportion.

It is little wonder that more than 90% of council Mayor and CEO’s indicate continually in regular surveys that LGAQ member subscriptions is real value for money. When all is said and done, the key performance indicator for service orientated organisations is “value for money”.

In summary, the unqualified financial statements before you, highlight the positive state of the LGAQ finances. Furthermore, it enables the Association to continue the fine work it undertakes on behalf of member councils.

Address:
Mr Li Cunxin
Stockbroker and best selling author of “Mao’s Dancer”

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