119TH LGAQ ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Annual Conference Proceedings

TAKING CONTROL OF OUR OWN DESTINY

19 – 21 OCTOBER 2015

EMPIRE THEATRE
56 NEIL STREET
TOOWOOMBA

#LGAQ2015
Sunday, 18 October 2015

12.30pm – 5.00pm  Policy Executive Meeting

2.00pm – 5.00pm  Registration
  Delegates, observers and accompanying persons
  Trade Exhibition
  56 Neil Street, Toowoomba

4.00pm – 4.30pm  Trade and Sponsor Briefing

Monday, 19 October 2015

8.30am – 5.00pm  Registration
  Delegates, observers and accompanying persons
  Trade Exhibition
  56 Neil Street, Toowoomba

9.00am – 4.30pm  Professional Development Streams:
  Change Management - Elected Member (Accredited) LGACOM602B
  Councillors' Roles and Responsibilities - Elected Member
    (Accredited) LGAGEN503 & LGAGEN501A
  Financial Reports and Budgets - Elected Member (Accredited)
    Member (Accredited) BSBGOV403A

10.45am – 11.30am  Morning Tea

12.45pm – 2.00pm  Lunch

2.00pm – 4.00pm  Regional Roads and Transport Group Assembly

2.00pm – 5.00pm  Indigenous Leaders Forum

4.30pm – 5.00pm  First Time Delegate Briefing

5.30pm – 7.30pm  Welcoming Ceremony – New Format
  Empire Theatre
  56 Neil Street, Toowoomba
  Hosted by King & Company

5.30pm  Blockbuster Opening Act – Laser Man

5.40pm  Welcome to Country
  Uncle Darby McCarthy – Giabul and Jarowair People

5.45pm  Welcome to Toowoomba
  Cr Paul Antonio
  Mayor, Toowoomba Regional Council
5.50pm  |  Response  
        | Cr Margaret de Wit  
        | President, LGAQ  

5.55pm  |  Sponsor Address  
        | Tim Fynes-Clinton  
        | Partner  
        | King & Company  

6.00pm  |  2015 LGAQ Journalism Award  
        | Now in its fourth year of inception the LGAQ Regional Journalism Award is dedicated to showcasing excellence in reporting in regional Queensland. Aimed at highlighting the importance of rigorous reporting and analysis of government business decisions affecting Queensland communities, the awards honour the memory of ABC journalists John Bean, Paul Lockyer and Gary Ticehurst.

        | Listen to the official announcement of the 2015 winner, who will receive a $15,000 prize.  

6.10pm  |  Networking Drinks (90 minutes)  
        | Trade Exhibition  

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**Tuesday, 20 October 2015**  
**Member Council Day**

7.45am  |  Registration  
        | Trade Exhibition  
        | 56 Neil Street, Toowoomba  

8.15am  |  Security Briefing  
        | Master of Ceremonies – David Swan (the “other” Voice of Australia)  

8.16am  |  Call to Order by the President  

8.18am  |  Presentation of Policy Executive  

8.30am  |  Official Opening:  
        | Hon Jackie Trad MP  
        | Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport,  
        | Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning  
        | Minister for Trade  

9.00am  |  Presidential Address  
        | Cr Margaret de Wit  
        | President  
        | LGAQ
9.30am  Keynote Address: One of the world’s leading authorities and speakers on the 3D printing revolution and its impact on society, industry and the economy
Dr Terry Wohlers
Founder, Principal Consultant and President
Wohlers Associates Inc.
Colorado, USA
Courtesy of Saxton Speakers Bureau

10.15am  Morning Tea
10.45am  Panel Session: Stepping Out on Our Own – Councils taking the lead
Chair: Cr Ray Brown, Mayor, Western Downs Regional Council
Cr Butch Lenton, Mayor, Winton Shire Council
Cr Mark Jamieson, Mayor, Sunshine Coast Regional Council
Cr Belinda Murphy, Mayor, McKinlay Shire Council
Cr Allan Sutherland, Mayor, Moreton Bay Regional Council

11.55am  Sponsor Address: Telstra
12.00pm  Keynote Address: Global megatrends that will change the way Queensland communities live – and the infrastructure needed for it
In 2012, LGIS was asked to participate on CSIRO’s Global Megatrend review, exploring how Queenslanders might live in the future through the influence of large global trends that shape our world.

What is likely to change for Queensland’s communities? What are the risks, challenges and opportunities arising from these global trends and how might they shape our state? LGIS is now 10 years old and is looking to the future to ask “what local government infrastructure is needed to meet these global trends?” In this address, the LGIS team will share the ideas raised through CSIRO’s Global Megatrend program and posing what it might mean for local government and especially what infrastructure might be needed to support the communities of tomorrow

Clinton Parker, Director, Business Solutions, LGIS
Daniel Westall, Director, Operations, LGIS

12.30pm  Lunch
1.30pm  Council Forums
Rural and Remote councils
South East Queensland councils
Coastal councils
Resource Regions councils
Indigenous councils
3.00pm  Panel Session: Council Elections 2016 – Polls, Politics and new tricks
Chair: Mr Craig Johnstone, Media Executive, LGAQ
Mr Alan Morton, Principal, Morton Consulting Pty Ltd
Mr John Black, Political Consultant and Commentator

3.45pm  Sponsor Address: Ergon Energy

3.50pm  LGM/LGW Member Update

4.05pm  Sponsor Address: Caravanning Queensland

4.10pm  Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal Update
Col Meng
Chair
Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal

4.30pm  Keynote Address: Leading a New Way Forward
Ms Holly Ransom
Courtesy of ICMI Speakers Bureau

5.00pm  Program Concludes

6.30pm for 7.00pm  Gala Dinner
Rumours International Convention Centre
323 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba

Gala Dinner: Hosted by Hastings Deering
Dress: Coat and tie

Act: Jessica Mauboy and her world class backing vocalists
“Singing 60’s songs from The Sapphires Movie as well as Jessica’s own compositions”

Long Service Certificate Presentations

11.30pm  Dinner Concludes
Wednesday, 21 October 2015
Your Council Day

8.30am  Conference Resumes – housekeeping
8.35am  AGM/Motions (Debate)
9.45am  State Government Main Roads Update
          Hon Mark Bailey MP
          Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports
          Minister for Energy and Water Supply
10.15am Morning Tea
10.45am State Opposition Update
          Ms Fiona Simpson MP
          Shadow Minister for Local Government and Main Roads,
          Community Recovery and Resilience
11.15am Sponsor Address: Powerlink
11.20am Debate
12.25pm LGAQ Ethics Advisor:
          Adjunct Professor Joan Sheldon AM
12.35pm Lunch
1.20pm  Sponsor Address: Queensland Treasury Corporation
1.25pm  Debate
2.25pm  Trade and Investment Queensland Update
          Andrew Tulloch
          Chief Executive Officer, Trade and Investment Queensland
2.45pm  Debate
3.50pm  Role of the Integrity Commissioner:
          Richard Bingham, Integrity Commissioner
4.00pm  Keynote Address: Riding the Waves of Change
          Ms Catherine DeVrye
          Courtesy of Saxton Speakers Bureau
4.30pm  Plenary Concludes
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In accordance with Rule 4.1 of the LGAQ’s Constitution, all councils are notified of the Annual General Meeting of the Local Government Association of Queensland Ltd ACN 142 783 917 which will be held at Empire Theatre, 56 Neil Street, Toowoomba on Wednesday 21 October 2015 commencing at 8.15am.

The business of the Annual General meeting, is as follows:

Motion 1
Reception and adoption of President’s Annual Address

Motion 2
Reception and adoption of the 119th Annual Report by the Policy Executive

Motion 3
Reception and adoption of the Annual Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report

Motion 4
Association Constitution – Amendment – Appointment of Acting President

That the Local Government Association of Queensland’s Constitution be amended as follows:

(1) In Rule 6.4 – Appointment of Directors (other than the President), amend 6.4.1 by:
(a) Deleting “Once the President has been appointed,” and
(b) Replacing with “As soon as practicable after Executive Representative take office following a Quadrennial Election”.

Motion 5
Association Matters – LGAQ Policy Statement Amendment – Container Deposit Legislation

Motion 6
Association Matters – LGAQ Policy Statement Amendment – Administration and Enforcement of Domestic Asbestos Matters

Motion 7
Association Matters – LGAQ Policy Statement - General Amendment

Attachment – Policy Statement

Other Motions
Any such other business as may be lawfully be brought before the meeting for consideration.

Explanatory Notes for Motion 4
The purpose of the proposed amendments is to confer on the Policy Executive the power to discipline (excluding the power of removal from office) an Executive Representative (member of the Policy Executive) who engages in conduct contrary to the Corporate Governance Charter (Rule 5.1(3)).

In the process of considering the above provision, it was determined that some ancillary provisions required amendment:

(1) Amalgamating the Policy Executive Corporate Governance Charter and the Board Corporate Governance Charter into a single Corporate Governance Charter applicable to both Policy Executive members and Directors;
(2) Correction of a provision (Rule 6.4(2)) allowing the Policy Executive to remove Directors from office contrary to the provisions of the Corporations Act 2001 (sections 203D and 203E) so that, consistent with this Act, their removal will instead require a resolution by the members of the Organisation at a general meeting;

(3) Removal of the expression “officer” from provisions (in Rule 6.8(15)) empowering Directors to appoint, delegate to or remove persons from office and replacing it with “employee, contractor” so that it is clear that the power does not apply to Directors.

Finally, deletion of Part 15: Transitional Rule is recommended on the basis that the rule is now redundant. This provision was inserted to assist the transition of the LGAQ from a statutory body to a public company in July 2010. The need for the rule effectively ceased upon the election of the current policy executive and appointment of the current company directors, following the 2012 quadrennial local government elections.
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(motion numbers 94 – 101). They will be referred to the LGAQ Policy Executive for consideration and appropriate action ......................................................................................... 60

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<th>LGAQ Board</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td>1 – Association Matters – Reception and Adoption of the President’s Annual Address for 2014-2015</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Motion</strong></td>
<td>That the President’s Annual Address for 2014-2015 be received and adopted.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVER: Cr Joe Owens (Longreach)</td>
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<td>SECONDER: Cr Matthew Bourke (Brisbane)</td>
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<td>CARRIED</td>
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<td>2 – Association Matters – Reception and Adoption of the 119th Annual Report by the Policy Executive</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Motion</strong></td>
<td>That the Annual Report of the Policy Executive for 2014-15 be received and adopted.</td>
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<td>MOVER: Cr Greg Belz (Rockhampton)</td>
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<td>SECONDER: Cr Ray Brown (Western Downs)</td>
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<td>3 – Association Matters – Reception and Adoption of the Annual Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report</td>
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<td><strong>Motion</strong></td>
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## Motion

That the Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2015 and Auditor’s Report be received and adopted.

**MOVER:** Cr Ray Brown (Western Downs)  
**SECONDER:** Cr Fred Pascoe (Carpentaria)

*CARRIED*

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## Submitting council / organisation

LGAQ Board

### Date of council / organisation resolution

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<tr>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
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<tr>
<td>4 – Association Constitution – Amendment – Appointment of Acting President</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Motion**

That the Local Government Association of Queensland’s Constitution be amended as follows:

In Rule 6.4 – Appointment of Directors (other than the President), amend 6.4.1 by:

(a) deleting “Once the President has been appointed.”; and  
(b) replacing with “As soon as practicable after Executive Representatives take office following a Quadrennial Election”.

**MOVER:** Cr Allan Sutherland (Moreton Bay)  
**SECONDER:** Cr Ray Brown (Western Downs)

*CARRIED*

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## Submitting council / organisation

LGAQ Policy Executive

### Date of council / organisation resolution

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<th>Number and title of motion</th>
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<tr>
<td>5 - Association Matters – LGAQ Policy Statement Amendment – Container Deposit Legislation</td>
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</table>

**Motion**

“That the Local Government Association of Queensland Policy Statement 2014 be amended by the deletion of current clause 5.4.12.1 in relation to Container Deposit Legislation and replaced with the following clause:

5.4.12.1 Local government will only support the introduction of Container Deposit Legislation (CDL) subject to:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>6 - Association Matters – LGAQ Policy Statement Amendment – Administration and Enforcement of Domestic Asbestos Matters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland Policy Statement 2014 be amended by the deletion of current clause 5.5.6.4 in relation to the administration and enforce of domestic asbestos matters and replaced with the following clause:</td>
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<td>5.5.6.4  Local government agrees to undertake the responsibilities in relation to the administration and enforcement of domestic asbestos matters devolved to it under the Public Health Act 2005, subject to the State Government maintaining:</td>
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<td>1) the legal indemnity for local governments in the Act;</td>
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<td>2) on-going funding for the clean-up fund; and</td>
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<td>3) training for local government authorised persons.</td>
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MOVING: Cr Fred Gela (Carpentaria)  
SECONDER: Cr Alf Lacey (Palm Island)  
CARRIED
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motion</th>
<th>That the Local Government Association of Queensland Policy Statement 2014 be deleted and replaced with the LGAQ Policy Statement 2015.</th>
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<tr>
<td>MOVER</td>
<td>Cr Joe Owens (Longreach)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SECONDER</td>
<td>Cr Fred Gela (Carpentaria)</td>
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<th>LGAQ Policy Executive district</th>
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<td>8 May 2015</td>
<td>District 11 – North West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td><strong>That the Local Government Association of Queensland make representations to the Federal Treasury for the immediate release of the findings of the Commonwealth Grants Commission 2013 Report on improving the Impact of the Financial Assistance Grants on Local Government Financial Sustainability (the Review).</strong></td>
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<td>MOVER: Cr Greg Jones (Flinders)</td>
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<td>SECONDER: Cr Rick Britton (Boula)</td>
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<td>Barcaldine Regional Council</td>
<td>19 August 2015</td>
<td>District 8 – Central West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td><strong>9 – Funding – QTRIP to be Funded for Five Years</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motion</strong></td>
<td><strong>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to fund the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) for a five year period.</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>MOVER: Cr Rob Chandler (Barcaldine)</td>
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<td>SECONDER: Cr Greg Jones (Flinders)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Date of council / organisation resolution</th>
<th>LGAQ Policy Executive district</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banana Shire Council / CQROC</td>
<td>21 August 2015</td>
<td>District 6 – Central Queensland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>10 – Funding - Coordination of State and Federal Government Funding Programs</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland makes representations to the State and Federal governments seeking a commitment to coordinate the timing of funding rounds to improve opportunities for local governments to leverage funding co-contributions.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVER: Cr Ron Carige (Banana) SECONDER: Cr Peter Maguire (Central Highlands)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Burdekin Shire Council</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of council / organisation resolution</td>
<td>8 September 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>District 9 – Northern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>11 – Rating – Drought Relief Assistance Scheme – Payment of Annual Property Rates on Drought Declaration Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to amend the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme to provide financial assistance to drought affected property owners whose properties are declared as an “Individually Droughted Property” through the payment of annual property rates direct to their local government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVER: Cr Bill Lowis (Burdekin) SECONDER: Cr Ross Lewis (Burdekin)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Logan City Council</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date of council / organisation resolution</td>
<td>25 August 2015</td>
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<td></td>
<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>District 2 – South East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>12 – Budget Preparation – State Government to Advise Councils of Utility and Other Charges by 31 March each year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland calls on the State Government to ensure that all utility charges and inputs to a Council's budget, such as electricity charges and bulk water charges are adopted and communicated to Queensland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| SPONSORS | 17 |
councils by 31 March each year in acknowledgment that these are important and considerable cost inputs that inform a Council's budget.

MOVER: Cr Don Petersen (Logan)
SECONDER: Cr Graham Abel (Logan)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Sunshine Coast Regional Council</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of council / organisation resolution</td>
<td>20 August 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
<td>District 2 – South East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>13 – Valuation of Land – Market Valuation Option for Community / Strata Title Properties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to amend the <em>Land Valuation Act 2010</em> to include the option of market valuation for rating purposes of community/strata title properties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOVER: Cr Mark Jamieson (Sunshine Coast)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SECONDER: Cr Wally Brewer (Charters Towers)</td>
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<th>Lockyer Valley Regional Council</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date of council / organisation resolution</td>
<td>19 August 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
<td>District 2 South East - WROC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>14 - Disaster Management – Re-establishment of the State Disaster Management Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland continue to lobby for the re-establishment of the State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) to providing leadership for the development of local resilience to emergencies and disaster events, and Further, that the Local Government Association of Queensland continue as a standing member of a re-established SDMG to ensure greater co-ordination and statewide consistency between State agencies and local governments in the operation of the disaster management system at local, disaster and state levels including the continuation of the Council to Council support system during declared disaster events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submitting council / organisation</td>
<td>Central Highlands Regional Council / Winton Shire Council / WQLGA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of council / organisation resolution</td>
<td>8 May 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| LGAQ Policy Executive district | District 6 – Central Queensland  
|                                 | District 8 – Central Queensland |
| Number and title of motion | 15 – Disaster Management – NDRRA – Commonwealth Contribution to Reconstruction Costs to Remain at 75 percent |
| Motion | That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the Federal Government to maintain its funding contribution to natural disaster reconstruction works at 75%.  
|         | MOVER: Cr Peter Maguire (Central Highlands)  
|         | SECONDER: Cr Ray Brown (Western Downs) |
|        | CARRIED |

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Hinchinbrook Shire Council</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of council / organisation resolution</td>
<td>26 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
<td>District 9 – Northern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>16 – Disaster Management – NDRRA – Clarification on Proposed New Arrangements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Motion | That the Local Government Association of Queensland seek further clarification from the Federal Government about proposed changes to the NDRRA outlined recently by Hon Michael Keenan MP, Minister for Justice, in particular:  
|         | - Clarify the process and requirements around the principle of the new recovery model which is based on upfront damage and impact assessments.  
|         | - Clarify the meaning and framework if any behind the statement “a greater flexibility to spend recovery funding in the manner most suitable to local needs”.  
|         | - Timeline that the new recovery funding model will come into place (before the next traditional cyclone / wet season period).  
|         | - Timeline for the confirmation on the ability to use day labour in future events to cover Counter Disaster Operations and Emergent Works phases.  
|         | MOVER: Cr Rodger Bow (Hinchinbrook) |
|        | |
**SECONDER:** Cr Patrick Lynch (Hinchinbrook)

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<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Southern Downs Regional Council</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td><strong>LGAQ Policy Executive district</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 August 2015</td>
<td>District 4 – Darling Downs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td><strong>17 – Budget Preparation – Mayor to Consult with Councillors Prior to 31 March Each Year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motion</strong></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland make representations to the State Government to amend the <em>Local Government Act</em> requiring the Mayor to consult with councillors at least once before 31 March each year in the process of preparing the annual budget for the following financial year.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
| **MOVER:** Cr Peter Blundell (Southern Downs)  
 **SECONDER:** Cr Jo McNally (Southern Downs) | **CARRIED** |

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>26 August 2015</td>
<td>District 4 – Darling Downs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td><strong>18 – Asset Management – Depreciation Funding of Assets to be Preserved for Existing Assets</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motion</strong></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland seek amendments to the <em>Local Government Act</em> and Regulation to require that funds preserved for the depreciation of capital assets are applied to existing assets over time rather than funding additional capital assets.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **MOVER:** Cr Peter Blundell (Southern Downs)  
 **SECONDER:** Cr Jo McNally (Southern Downs) | **LOST** |
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<td>26 August 2015</td>
<td>District 4 – Darling Downs</td>
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**Number and title of motion**

19 – Corporate Plans – Establishment of Ministerial Guidelines

**Motion**

That the Local Government Association of Queensland make representations to the State Government to establish Ministerial Guidelines about the form and content of Corporate Plans required under the *Local Government Act 2009.*

MOVER: Cr Peter Blundell (Southern Downs)  
SECONDER: Cr Jo McNally (Southern Downs)

LOST

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<td>Burdekin Shire Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 August 2015</td>
<td>District 9 – Northern</td>
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</table>

**Number and title of motion**

20 – Queensland Audit Office – Introduction of Categories and a Banded Fee Structure for Council Audits

**Motion**

That Local Government Association of Queensland make representations to the Queensland Audit Office and the Treasurer seeking a review of the current fee structure for audits of local governments and the introduction of a banded fee structure based on the categorisation of councils.

MOVER: Cr Bill Lowis (Burdekin)  
SECONDER: Cr Ross Lewis (Burdekin)

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<td>Mackay Regional Council</td>
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<th>Date of council / organisation resolution</th>
<th>LGAQ Policy Executive district</th>
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<tr>
<td>13 August 2015</td>
<td>District 7 - Whitsunday</td>
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</table>

**Number and title of motion**

21 – State Penalties Enforcement Register – Amendment to Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN) Penalty Levels

**Motion**

That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to amend the PIN penalty levels including the introduction of a sliding scale for offences affected by the rapid increase in penalties applying from 1 January 2015.
MOVER: Cr Deirdre Comerford (Mackay)
SECONDER: Cr Kevin Casey (Mackay)

CARRIED
## GOVERNANCE

### Submitting council / organisation
Lockyer Valley Regional Council

### Date of council / organisation resolution
19 August 2015

### LGAQ Policy Executive district
District 2 – South East

### Number and title of motion
22 – Elections – Voting Method for Mayors

### Motion
That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to amend the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*, to reinstate the method of voting for Mayor in undivided local governments to First Past the Post (FPTP).

MOVER: Cr Janice Holstein (Lockyer Valley)
SECONDER: Cr Deirdre Comerford (Mackay)

CARRIED

### Submitting council / organisation
Southern Downs Regional Council

### Date of council / organisation resolution
26 August 2015

### LGAQ Policy Executive district
District 4 – Darling Downs

### Number and title of motion
23 – Elections – Voting Method for Mayors and Councillors in Small Local Governments

### Motion
That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to amend the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* to provide First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) voting for both mayors and councillors in small local governments whether or not there are electoral divisions.

WITHDRAWN AT CONFERENCE
### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Redland City Council</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of council / organisation resolution</td>
<td>26 August 2015</td>
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<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
<td>District 2 – South East</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>24 – Planning Schemes – Prescriptive Vs Performance Based Planning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Motion | That the Local Government Association of Queensland make representations to the State Government for a return to a planning framework that:  
- Provides certainty of outcomes;  
- The community understands; and  
- Allows for the use of prescriptive standards and assessment benchmarks in local government planning schemes where appropriate; and |

That the Local Government Association of Queensland makes representations to the State Government to initiate a broad education campaign explaining how a performance based planning system operates.  

MOVER: Cr Karen Williams (Redland)  
SECONDER: Cr Matthew Bourke (Brisbane)  
CARRIED

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<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
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<tr>
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<td>District 2 – South East</td>
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<tr>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>25 – Planning Powers – Approval of the Location of a “Community Residence” by Local Government – Amendment of QPP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Motion | That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to review the current provisions for “Community Residence” in the Queensland Planning Provisions v.3.1 (QPP) and include additional requirements to ensure Community residences:  
- are located in close proximity to public transport, services and possible employment areas;  
- address impacts on existing residential amenity; and  
- are not established without consultation with the relevant local government to ensure conformity with local government planning policies. |

MOVER: Cr Wendy Boglary (Redland)  
SECONDER: Cr Karen Williams (Redland)
### Submitting council / organisation
Brisbane City Council

### Date of council / organisation resolution
21 August 2015

### LGAQ Policy Executive district
District 1 - Brisbane

### Number and title of motion
26 – Regional Planning – Incorporation of Integrated Transport Strategies

### Motion
That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to ensure integrated transport strategies are incorporated into regional plans.

MOVER: Cr Matthew Bourke (Brisbane)
SECONDER: Cr Kim Marx (Brisbane)

### Submitting council / organisation
Ipswich City Council

### Date of council / organisation resolution
25 August 2015

### LGAQ Policy Executive district
District 2 – South East

### Number and title of motion
27 – Land Management – Maintenance of Public Utility Easements in Reserves

### Motion
That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to require utility providers to take more responsibility for the maintenance of their respective easement areas in reserves controlled by councils by way of agreements between councils and utility providers.

MOVER: Cr Paul Tully (Ipswich)
SECONDER: Cr Victor Attwood (Ipswich)

### Submitting council / organisation
Cook Shire Council / NQLGA

### Date of council / organisation resolution
16 June 2015

### LGAQ Policy Executive district
District 10 – Far North
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>28 – Land Management – Renewal and Conversion of Rural Leasehold Land – Amendment to Land Act 1994</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to amend the Land Act 1994 and policies regarding extension of rural leases to enable local government (as the road authority) to resolve issues associated with the road network (including roads off alignment), esplanade and easement issues at the time of extension of the lease at no cost to Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOVER</td>
<td>Cr Alan Wilson (Cook)</td>
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<td>SECONDER</td>
<td>Cr Will Attwood (Etheridge)</td>
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# ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH

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<tbody>
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<td>Fraser Coast Regional Council</td>
<td>District 3 – Wide Bay Burnett</td>
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**Date of council / organisation resolution**: 9 September 2015

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>Motion</th>
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</table>
| 29 – Waste Management – Proposed Container Deposit Scheme – Buyback of Plastic and Glass | That the Local Government Association of Queensland make representations to the State Government to include a buyback scheme for glass in the current review of a container deposit schemes for plastics and possible restrictions on single use plastic bags. 

MOVER: Cr Phil Truscott (Fraser Coast)  
SECONDER: Cr Mal Forman (Bundaberg)  

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moreton Bay Regional Council</td>
<td>District 2 – South East</td>
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**Date of council / organisation resolution**: 14 August 2015

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<tr>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>Motion</th>
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</table>
| 30 – Waste Management Levy – Opposition to Commercial Waste Levy | That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to oppose any move for a Commercial Waste Levy to be imposed in local government areas. 

MOVER: Cr Mike Charlton (Moreton Bay)  
SECONDER: Cr Graham Abel (Logan)  

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<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>LGAQ Policy Executive district</th>
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</table>
| Hinchinbrook Shire Council / Ipswich City Council | District 9 – Northern  
District 2 – South East |

**Date of council / organisation resolution**: 26 May 2015 – Hinchinbrook Shire Council  
25 August 2015 – Ipswich City Council
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>31 – Pest Management - Flying Foxes – Federal and State Government Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State and Federal governments to take over the management of flying fox colonies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>MOVER: Cr Rodger Bow (Hinchinbrook)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>SECONDER: Cr Brian Beveridge (Charters Towers)</td>
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<td>9 September 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
<td>District 2 – South East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>32 – Animal Management – Removal of Requirement to Register Non-Working Dogs on Rural Properties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government for an amendment to the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 to remove the requirement for rural and remote local governments to regulate the registration and identification (e.g. micro-chipping) of all dogs kept on rural land by a person defined as a primary producer in the Act.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVER: Cr Janice Holstein (Lockyer Valley)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>SECONDER: Cr Tony Williams (Rockhampton)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
<td>District 2 – South East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>33 – Animal Management – Temporary Declaration of Dogs as Dangerous or Menacing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to amend the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 to allow dogs to be temporarily declared dangerous or menacing (which can be revoked if there are no further breaches within a designated period).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State and Federal governments to ensure that livestock within National Parks be mustered and sold to raise revenue for the upkeep of the National Park rather than the current practice of destroying the animals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOVER: Cr Will Attwood (Etheridge)</td>
<td>CARRIED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECONDER: Cr Rodger Bow (Hinchinbrook)</td>
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**SUBMITTING COUNCIL / ORGANISATION**
Etheridge Shire Council

**DATE OF COUNCIL / ORGANISATION RESOLUTION**
19 August 2015

**LGAQ POLICY EXECUTIVE DISTRICT**
District 10 – North West

**NUMBER AND TITLE OF MOTION**
34 – National Parks – Management of Livestock
# INFRASTRUCTURE, ECONOMICS & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Isaac Regional Council</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of council / organisation resolution</td>
<td>25 August 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
<td>District 7 – Whitsunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>35 – Building our Regions Funding – Increase in the Royalties for Resource Producing Communities Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to increase the funding available to eligible local governments under the Royalties for Resource Producing Communities Fund in order to manage the significant impacts on essential infrastructure these councils are left with as a legacy of the largest mining boom in Australia’s history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVER: Cr Anne Baker (Isaac)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>SECONDER: Cr Rodger Bow (Hinchinbrook)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
<td>District 7 - Whitsunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>36 – Resources Sector Impacts – Action on the State Government’s FIFO Inquiry Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland calls on the State Government to implement / review / revise the recommendations from the State Government’s inquiry into Fly-In, Fly-Out and other long distance commuting work practices in regional Queensland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVER: Cr Anne Baker (Isaac)</td>
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<td>SECONDER: Cr Peter Maguire (Central Highlands)</td>
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## 119th LGAQ Annual Conference

### Taking Control of Our Own Destiny

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<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Western Downs Regional Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td>4 March 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
<td>District 4 – Darling Downs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td>37 – Resource Sector Impacts – Limits on Resource Companies Constructing Infrastructure on Road Reserves without Council Approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motion</strong></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State and Federal governments to amend the <em>Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004</em> so as to limit the ability of private industry participants to install private infrastructure on public road reserves without the consent of the road authority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVER: Cr George Moore (Western Downs)</td>
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<td>SECONDER: Cr Ray Brown (Western Downs)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Brisbane City Council</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td>17 August 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
<td>District 1 - Brisbane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td>38 – Road Management – State Controlled Road Impacts on Local Road Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motion</strong></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to assist councils address the associated impacts on the local road network due to changes or improvements to the state-controlled road network.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVER: Cr Matthew Bourke (Brisbane)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SECONDER: Cr Kim Marx (Brisbane)</td>
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<td>17 August 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
<td>District 1 - Brisbane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td>39 – Public Transport – State Infrastructure Plan to Support Increased Use and Funding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 119th LGAQ Annual Conference

**Taking Control of Our Own Destiny**

#### Motion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motion</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to ensure that increased public transport use, and funding strategies to ensure the delivery of infrastructure to facilitate this, are considered in the development of the State Infrastructure Plan (SIP).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVES: Cr Matthew Bourke (Brisbane)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SECONDER: Cr Kim Marx (Brisbane)</td>
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#### Submitting council / organisation

Logan City Council

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<tr>
<th>Date of council / organisation resolution</th>
<th>LGAQ Policy Executive district</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 August 2015</td>
<td>District 2 – South East</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Number and title of motion

40 – Water Supply and Sewerage Services – No Private Operators in Local Government Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motion</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland call on the State Government to confirm its opposition to the entry of private operators of water supply and sewerage services in Queensland local government areas and supports these services continuing to be wholly operated by local government and owned by the people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVES: Cr Don Petersen (Logan)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>SECONDER: Cr Graham Abel (Logan)</td>
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#### Submitting council / organisation

Isaac Regional Council

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<tr>
<th>Date of council / organisation resolution</th>
<th>LGAQ Policy Executive district</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 August 2015</td>
<td>District 7 - Whitsunday</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Number and title of motion

41 – Regional Development – Finalisation of State Government’s Economic Development and Industry Diversification Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motion</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland call on the State Government to finalise its economic development policy, and develop a corresponding economic development strategy and action plan that prioritises jobs, business and industry diversification in regional local government areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVES: Cr Anne Baker (Isaac)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SECONDER: Cr Deirdre Comerford (Mackay)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Submitting council / organisation
Isaac Regional Council

### Date of council / organisation resolution
25 August 2015

### LGAQ Policy Executive district
District 7 - Whitsunday

### Number and title of motion
42 – Regional Development – Regional Population Growth – Framework

### Motion
That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to develop a regionalisation framework which incentivises population growth for regional communities to remain sustainable.

MOVED: Cr Anne Baker (Isaac)
SECONDER: Cr Deirdre Comerford (Mackay)

CARRIED

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### Submitting council / organisation
Charters Towers Regional Council

### Date of council / organisation resolution
15 July 2015

### LGAQ Policy Executive district
District 9 – Northern

### Number and title of motion
43 – Economic Development – Restoration of State Government Funding to Support Economic Development Activities

### Motion
That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to restore funding assistance and contributions to assist local governments in undertaking economic development functions such as business planning and investment attraction, which are not traditionally the role of local government.

MOVED: Cr Wally Brewer (Charters Towers)
SECONDER: Cr Jenny Hill (Townsville)

CARRIED
### Submitting council / organisation
Banana Shire Council / Barcaldine Regional Council / Central Highlands Regional Council / Cloncurry Shire Council / WQLGA / NWQROC / CQROC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of council / organisation resolution</th>
<th>LGAQ Policy Executive district</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 May 2015 – Barcaldine Shire and Central Highlands</td>
<td>District 6 – Central Queensland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 August 2015 – Banana Shire Council</td>
<td>District 8 – Central West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 September 2015 – Cloncurry Regional Council</td>
<td>District 11 – North West</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>Motion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44 – Internet and Mobile Phone Coverage – Improved Services in Rural and Remote Communities</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State and Federal governments to address blackspot areas for internet service and mobile phone coverage in regional, rural and remote Queensland, and further, lobby the National Broadband Network (NBN) to ensure that access, data limits, costs and speed of the Long Term Satellite services to all these areas are equitable particularly for areas that do not have existing sources of access.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

MOVER: Cr Ron Carige (Banana)
SECONDER: Cr Anne Baker (Isaac)

CARRIED

### Submitting council / organisation
North Burnett Regional Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of council / organisation resolution</th>
<th>LGAQ Policy Executive district</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 August 2015</td>
<td>District 3 – Wide Bay Burnett</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>Motion</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45 – Mobile Phone Coverage – Accelerated Rollout of the Mobile Blackspots Program</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the Federal Government to work with all partners to reduce the timeframe for construction of telecommunication infrastructure under the Mobile Blackspots Program from three years to one year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MOVER: Cr Don Waugh (North Burnett)
SECONDER: Cr Ray Brown (Western Downs)

CARRIED
### Submitting council / organisation
Flinders Shire Council

### Date of council / organisation resolution
20 August 2015

### LGAQ Policy Executive district
District 11 – North West

### Number and title of motion
46 – Water Resources – Continued Funding for the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative (GABSI) beyond 2017

**Motion**
That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State and Federal governments for the continued funding of the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative (GABSI) beyond 2017.

MOVER: Cr Sean O’Neil (Flinders)
SECONDER: Cr Peter Maguire (Central Highlands)

CARRIED

### Submitting council / organisation
Bundaberg Regional Council

### Date of council / organisation resolution
15 July 2015

### LGAQ Policy Executive district
District 3 – Wide Bay Burnett

### Number and title of motion
47 – Electricity Prices – Removal of “Headroom Charge” for Electricity Supplied by Ergon Energy

**Motion**
That the Local Government Association of Queensland make representations to the State Government to remove the 5% headroom charge for electricity supplied to Ergon Energy customers.

MOVER: Cr Mal Forman (Bundaberg)
SECONDER: Cr Judy Peters (Bundaberg)

CARRIED
## WORKFORCE & SOCIAL POLICY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Fraser Coast Regional Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of council / organisation resolution</td>
<td>9 September 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
<td>District 3 – Wide Bay Burnett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>48 – Industrial Relations Reform – Continued Advocacy by LGAQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland continue to actively represent and advocate on behalf of local government in industrial relations reforms initiated by the State Government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVER: Cr Phil Truscott (Fraser Coast)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SECONDER: Cr Mal Forman (Bundaberg)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council / ILF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of council / organisation resolution</td>
<td>27 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
<td>District 12 - Aboriginal and Island Councils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>49 – Illicit Drugs - “ICE Epidemic”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government that in addressing the Ice epidemic it recognise the unique nature and vulnerability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities due to their isolation and the enforcement of alcohol management plans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVER: Cr Errol Neal (Yarrabah)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SECONDER: Cr Margie Adidi (Napranum)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Ipswich City Council</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of council / organisation resolution</td>
<td>25 August 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
<td>District 2 – South East</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>Motion</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>50 – Smoke Free Places - Local Government – Discretion for Designation and Enforcement</strong></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland make representations to the State Government to ensure any legislation involving smoke free places gives discretion to the local government to designate and enforce smoke free areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WITHDRAWN AT CONFERENCE</strong></td>
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**Submitting council / organisation**  
Mackay Regional Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of council / organisation resolution</th>
<th>LGAQ Policy Executive district</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 August 2015</td>
<td>District 7 – Whitsunday</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>Motion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>51 – Liquor Licencing – Amended Criteria for Assessing Applications for New or Extended Trading Hours</strong></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to give greater consideration to the submissions made by local governments and the Queensland Police District Officer objecting to applications for a new or extended liquor licence under the Liquor Act 1992.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| | MOVER: Cr Deirdre Comerford (Mackay)  
SECONDER: Cr Kevin Casey (Mackay) |
| **CARRIED** | |

**Submitting council / organisation**  
Central Highlands Regional Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of council / organisation resolution</th>
<th>LGAQ Policy Executive district</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 May 2015</td>
<td>District 6 – Central Queensland</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>Motion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>52 – ABC Regional Services – Review of Funding Cuts</strong></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland call on the Federal Government to urgently review its planned funding cuts to the Australian Broadcasting Commission and ensure the national broadcaster is adequately resourced so that it can retain its services to regional Australia.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| | MOVER: Cr Peter Maguire (Central Highlands)  
SECONDER: Cr Rick Britton (Boulia) |
| **CARRIED** | |
### B MOTIONS

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>LGAQ Policy Executive district</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hinchinbrook Shire Council / Cassowary Coast Regional Council / NQLGA</td>
<td>District 9 – Northern District 2 - South East</td>
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<tr>
<th>Date of council / organisation resolution</th>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
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Motion

That the Local Government Association of Queensland continue to lobby the Federal Government to re-introduce annual indexation of future Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) to ensure infrastructure and services are provided at a reasonable level in all communities.

MOVER: Cr Bill Shannon (Cassowary Coast) SECONDER: Cr Wally Brewer (Charters Towers)

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Brisbane City Council</td>
<td>District 1 - Brisbane</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Number and title of motion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 August 2015</td>
<td>54 – Funding – Traffic Solutions at Schools</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Motion

That the Local Government Association of Queensland call on the State Government to fund off-street drop-off / pick up areas at schools and continued funding for enhanced school zone signage.

MOVER: Cr Matthew Bourke (Brisbane) SECONDER: Cr Kim Marx (Brisbane)

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### Submitting council / organisation
Etheridge Shire Council

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<tr>
<th>Date of council / organisation resolution</th>
<th>LGAQ Policy Executive district</th>
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<tr>
<td>19 August 2015</td>
<td>District 11 – North West</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>Motion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to amend the Emergency Management Fire and Rescue Levy (EMFRL) to minimise the impact on small mines such that they levy be based on the schedule for unimproved land when the mine is not being operated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOV: Cr Will Attwood (Etheridge)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SECONDER: Cr Allan Holmes (Mareeba)</td>
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### Submitting council / organisation
Rockhampton Regional Council

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>25 August 2015</td>
<td>District 6 – Central Queensland</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Motion</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby both Federal and State governments to provide financial support to local governments for property purchase or house raising schemes for properties continually impacted by flooding or other natural disasters to assist their respective communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOV: Cr Tony Williams (Rockhampton)</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>SECONDER: Cr Bill Ludwig (Livingstone)</td>
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<td>Submitting council / organisation</td>
<td>Date of council / organisation resolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barcaldine Regional Council / Winton Shire Council</td>
<td>8 May 2015</td>
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</table>

**Number and title of motion:** 57 – Disaster Management – NDRRA – Eligibility of Council Plant and Equipment Hire Rates

**Motion:** That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the Federal Government to reverse its interpretation of the NDRRA Guidelines and accept council plant ownership costs as allowable expenditure consistent with the National Competition Policy Guidelines.

MOVER: Cr Rob Chandler (Barcaldine)
SECONDER: Cr Rick Britton (Boulia)

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<tr>
<td>Boulia Shire Council</td>
<td>8 May 2015</td>
<td>District 8 – Central West</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Number and title of motion:** 58 – Disaster Management – NDRRA – Eligibility of Access Roads to Disaster Affected Areas

**Motion:** That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State and Federal governments to amend the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) so that damage to access roads arising from the repair of flood damaged roads is eligible for reconstruction funding.

MOVER: Cr Rick Britton (Boulia)
SECONDER: Cr Alan Gurney (Carpentaria)

CARRIED
### 59 – Disaster Management – SES Task Management System (TAMS)

**Motion**

That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government with a view to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service implementing a tasking and management system for the SES that has full integration or, at a minimum, full data exchange capabilities with the Guardian Control system, the disaster management software utilised by the majority of local governments in Queensland.

**MOVER:** Cr Tony Williams (Rockhampton)  
**SECONDER:** Cr Rose Swadling (Rockhampton)

**CARRIED**

### 60 – QLeave Levy – Remove Requirement for Payment Prior to Issuing Planning Permits

**Motion**

That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to amend the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 whereby the council is automatically exempted from its requirements to decide an application within a prescribed timeframe where the applicable QLeave levy has not yet been paid by the applicant.

**MOVER:** Cr Deirdre Comerford (Mackay)  
**SECONDER:** Cr Kevin Casey (Mackay)

**CARRIED**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>61 – Amalgamations - LGAQ to Fund a Study of the Forced Amalgamation of Queensland Local Governments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland facilitate an independent study of the effects of forced amalgamations upon local governments in Queensland including case studies, the impacts on staff, public representation, ratepayers and small communities that were formerly the centres of rural shires with recommendations on local consultation, internal divisions, workforce structures and branch offices to address these issues.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                           | MOVER: Cr Peter Blundell (Southern Downs)  
SECONDER: Cr Jo McNally (Southern Downs)  
LOST |


### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

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<td>Southern Downs Regional Council</td>
<td>District 4 – Darling Downs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>26 August 2015</td>
<td>14 August 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Motion</strong></td>
<td><strong>Motion</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to amend the Sustainable Planning Act to delete references to trunk infrastructure and instead define ‘shared infrastructure’ as municipal services and facilities that extend beyond the boundaries of a development application site requiring a shared monetary contribution for their provision.</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government seeking its commitment to clarify and make consistent definitions of coastal hazards (including areas subject to storm tide inundation and coastal erosion) through the State Planning Policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further, that planning legislation be changed so that monetary contributions are based on the additional impact of shared infrastructure and do not include the replacement cost of the entire system.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submitting council / organisation</td>
<td>Moreton Bay Regional Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of council / organisation resolution</td>
<td>14 August 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
<td>District 2 – South East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>64 – Climate Change – Development of a Consistent Approach to Sea Level Rise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland continue to lobby the Federal and State governments to develop a consistent approach to sea level rise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVER: Cr Mike Charlton (Moreton Bay)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SECONDER: Cr Graham Abel (Logan)</td>
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## ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH

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<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td>26 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LGAQ Policy Executive district</strong></td>
<td>District 9 – Northern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td>65 – Pest and Weed Management – Continued Funding of Biosecurity Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motion</strong></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the Federal and State governments for continuing and seamless funding for bio-security programs throughout Queensland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVER: Cr Bill Shannon (Cassowary Coast)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SECONDER: Cr Alan Gurney (Carpentaria)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Ipswich City Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td>25 August 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LGAQ Policy Executive district</strong></td>
<td>District 2 – South East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td>66 – Waste Management – Accurate Labelling of Food and Beverage Containers Able to be Recycled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motion</strong></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland make representations to the Federal Government to require food labelling to be provided with accurate information on its suitability for kerbside recycling services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVER: Cr Paul Tully (Ipswich)</td>
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<td>SECONDER: Cr Graham Abel (Logan)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Mareeba Shire Council</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td>10 August 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LGAQ Policy Executive district</strong></td>
<td>District 10 – Far North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>67 – Pest Management - Funding of Yellow Crazy Ant Management and Research Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby State and Federal governments for appropriate funding and technical/research support for yellow crazy ant management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVER: Cr Allan Holmes (Mareeba) SECONDER: Cr Bill Shannon (Cassowary Coast)</td>
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</table>

**Submitting council / organisation**
Hinchinbrook Shire Council / Cassowary Coast Regional Council

**Date of council / organisation resolution**
26 May 2015 – Hinchinbrook Shire Council
14 May 2015 – Cassowary Coast Regional Council

**LGAQ Policy Executive district**
District 9 – Northern
District 10 – Far North

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>68 – Pest Management - Funding Assistance for the Control of Panama TR4 Disease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland make representations to the State Government seeking: 1. Financial assistance for local governments to assist with the costs incurred in having to respond, manage and resource operations which are consistent with stringent Biosecurity regulations and requirements associated with the control and management of Panama TR4 disease or other identified biosecurity threats; and 2. Reintroduction of funding for the control and management of feral pigs and wild dogs and allow access within National Parks and State Forests in an attempt to lessen the risk of cross-contamination of Panama TR4 by recreational and commercial hunters and feral pigs and wild dogs traversing “at risk” properties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVER: Cr Bill Shannon (Cassowary Coast) SECONDER: Cr Peter Hodge (Tablelands)</td>
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</table>
## 119th LGAQ Annual Conference

### Taking Control of Our Own Destiny

## Infrastructure, Economics & Regional Development

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<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Mackay Regional Council</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td>12 August 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td>69 – Road Standards – State Controlled Roads - Transport Noise Corridors – Consultation with Local Government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motion</strong></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to give greater consideration to the impacts on local government and increased early consultation when developing and amending Transport Noise Corridor policy, including consideration of increasing the application of the “voluntary” Transport Noise Corridor category.</td>
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<td>MOVER: Cr Kevin Casey (Mackay)</td>
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<td>SECONDER: Cr Deirdre Comerford (Mackay)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td>12 August 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td>70 – Road Safety – Improved Road Crash Data Reporting and Access – Reinstatement of Previous Reporting Threshold of $2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motion</strong></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to fund and resource a program to clear and maintain the backlog of crash data and to reinstate the $2,500 damage threshold for reporting road crashes so that local government can access all relevant data when assessing road safety upgrade and improvement requirements.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>MOVER: Cr Deirdre Comerford (Mackay)</td>
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<td>SECONDER: Cr Matthew Bourke (Brisbane)</td>
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### Submitting council / organisation
Southern Downs Regional Council

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<tr>
<th>Date of council / organisation resolution</th>
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<tr>
<td>26 August 2015</td>
<td>District 4 – Darling Downs</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>Motion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>71 – Tourism Promotion – Definition of the Role of Regional Tourism Organisations</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland make representations to the State Government to define in law that Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs) are responsible for promotion of inter-regional highway and railway routes across governments for professional promotion of local community and public attractions by Local Tourism Organisations (LTOs).</td>
</tr>
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MOVER: Cr Peter Blundell (Southern Downs)
SECONDER: Cr Jo McNally (Southern Downs)

CARRIED

### Submitting council / organisation
Isaac Regional Council

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<th>Date of council / organisation resolution</th>
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<tr>
<td>25 August 2015</td>
<td>District 7 - Whitsunday</td>
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<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>Motion</th>
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<tr>
<td>72 – Water Resources – Affordable Water Supply for Economic Development</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government for:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Investment in water, dams or other storage to ensure regional water security and support future growth for regional communities; and
- The provision of affordable water to unlock economic growth in the resource and agricultural sectors. |

MOVER: Cr Anne Baker (Isaac)
SECONDER: Cr Rob Chandler (Barcaldine)

CARRIED

### Submitting council / organisation
Mackay Regional Council

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<tr>
<th>Date of council / organisation resolution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 August 2015</td>
<td>District 7 - Whitsunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>73 – Public Utility Infrastructure – Cost Sharing Protocol for Relocation and Replacement of Public Utility Plant</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby public utility plant providers for the development of a more equitable cost sharing protocol for the relocation or replacement of their plant arising from local government works related to the remaining life of the asset and any capacity upgrade generated by the relocation or replacement works.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                           | MOVER: Cr Deirdre Comerford (Mackay)  
|                           | SECONDER: Cr Kevin Casey (Mackay) |
|                           | CARRIED |
### WORKFORCE & SOCIAL POLICY

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Downs Regional Council</td>
<td>District 4 – Darling Downs</td>
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<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>North Burnett Regional Council</td>
<td>District 3 – Wide Bay Burnett</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 August 2015</td>
<td>75 – Queensland Police Service – Regional Officer Replacement Process Review</td>
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<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barcaldine Regional Council</td>
<td>District 8 – Central West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>19 August 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>76 – Country Racing – No Reduction in Prize Money and Race Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government and Racing Queensland requesting that there be no reduction in prize money allocation, the number of country non TAB clubs and the number of races allocated to each of these country non TAB clubs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVER: Cr Rob Chandler (Barcaldine)</td>
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<td>SECONDER: Cr Dan Hall (Somerset)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Mount Isa City Council</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date of council / organisation resolution</td>
<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 August 2015</td>
<td>District 11 – North West</td>
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<tr>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>77 – Young Athletes Travel Subsidy Scheme – Expansion of Support</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to expand its Young Athletes Travel Subsidy Scheme to take into account the disadvantage suffered by young people in regional and remote Queensland because the scheme limits their eligibility for financial assistance to one eligible event every two calendar years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVER: Cr Tony McGrady (Mount Isa)</td>
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<td>SECONDER: Cr Wally Brewer (Charters Towers)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 August 2015</td>
<td>District 8 – Central West</td>
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<tr>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>78 – eKindy Programme – Roll Out in Rural / Remote Communities</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to roll out the eKindy programme in all small rural and remote communities where there are currently no kindergarten or crèche services provided.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Motion: 79 – Itinerant Workers – Improved Standards and Compliance for Labour Hire Workers

- That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the Federal Government for greater compliance measures through the introduction of appropriate mechanisms (i.e. Specific work card e.g. Green Card) for easier identification and compliance for labour hire workers.
- Further, that the LGAQ lobby the State and Federal Governments to consider further legislation to provide protection for these workers, and
- Further, that the LGAQ lobby the State Government to develop materials for use in all Harvest Trail regions so that comprehensive and consistent tools for compliance are available.

**MOVED:** Cr Janice Holstein (Lockyer Valley)
**SECOND:** Cr Jim McDonald (Lockyer Valley)

CARRIED
### C MOTIONS

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Fraser Coast Regional Council</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td>9 September 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LGAQ Policy Executive district</strong></td>
<td>District 3 – Wide Bay Burnett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td>80 – Funding – Water and Sewerage Infrastructure – Re-Introduction of Subsidy Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motion</strong></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to introduce a minimum 40% subsidy for water and sewerage infrastructure for projects where there is a clear demonstrated community need, the proposed scheme is economical and an options assessment has been undertaken on viable alternative technologies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MOVER</strong></td>
<td>Cr Peter Maguire (Central Highlands)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SECONDER</strong></td>
<td>Cr Alan Gurney (Carpentaria)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Decision</strong></td>
<td>WITHDRAWN AT CONFERENCE</td>
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<th>Barcaldine Regional Council / WQLGA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td>8 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LGAQ Policy Executive district</strong></td>
<td>District 8 – Central Highlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td>81 – Funding – Water and Sewerage Infrastructure – Reintroduction of the SCAP Funding Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motion</strong></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland continue to lobby for the return of State Government SCAP funding to support regional and remote councils funding for water and sewerage infrastructure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MOVER</strong></td>
<td>Cr Rob Chandler (Barcaldine)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECONDER</strong></td>
<td>Cr Rick Britton (Bouli)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decision</strong></td>
<td>LOST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Submitting council / organisation
Scenic Rim Regional Council

### Date of council / organisation resolution
22 September 2015

### LGAQ Policy Executive district
District 2 – South East

### Number and title of motion
82 – Valuation of Land – Removal of Discount on Subdivided Land Not Developed

### Motion
That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to remove or amend Chapter 2, Park 2, Subdivision 3 of the *Land Valuation Act 2010* to remove the valuation discount on underdeveloped land.

MOVER: Cr John Brent (Scenic Rim)
SECONDER: Cr Matthew Bourke (Brisbane)

CARRIED

### Submitting council / organisation
Rockhampton Regional Council

### Date of council / organisation resolution
8 September 2015

### LGAQ Policy Executive district
District 6 – Central Queensland

### Number and title of motion

### Motion
That the Local Government Association of Queensland continue to lobby the Federal and State Governments strenuously for the permanent adoption of a Value for Money approach for the use of local government day labour staff and local government plant in performing NDRRA works.

MOVER: Cr Tony Williams (Rockhampton)
SECONDER: Cr Ellen Smith (Rockhampton)

CARRIED

### Submitting council / organisation
Fraser Coast Regional Council

### Date of council / organisation resolution
9 September 2015

### LGAQ Policy Executive district
District 3 – Wide Bay Burnett
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>84 – Council Audit – Local Government Option to Appoint Own Accredited Auditor</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to allow councils to have the ability to appoint their own external Accredited Auditor for the conduct of Annual Audits.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>MOVER: Cr Noel Playford (Noosa) SECONDER: Cr Rick Britton (Bouilla)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
<td>District 4 – Darling Downs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>85 – Auditor General’s Financial Watch List – Prior Consultation with Local Governments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland make representation to the State Government that there be prior consultation with local governments that are added to Medium Financial Watch List by the Auditor-General.</td>
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<td>MOVER: Cr Peter Blundell (Southern Downs) SECONDER: Cr Jo McNally (Southern Downs)</td>
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<td>District 3 – Wide Bay Burnett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>86 – De-regulation - Local Government Related Legislation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to conduct a thorough review and amendment of legislation relating to the operation of local governments to remove outdated prescription and replace with a focus on policy, principles and required outcomes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOVER: Cr John Bowen (North Burnett) SECONDER: Cr Mal Forman (Bundaberg)</td>
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## GOVERNANCE

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<tr>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>87 – Councillor Misconduct – Assessment of Complaints and Review of Determinations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to conduct a full review of the legislation in regard to councillor conduct, and request consideration of a legal mechanism to underpin the determinations made against individual councillors.</td>
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MOVER: Cr Janice Holstein (Lockyer Valley)  
SECONDER: Cr Jim McDonald (Lockyer Valley)  

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## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

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<th>LGAQ Policy Executive district</th>
<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>Motion</th>
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</table>
| Southern Downs Regional Council   | 26 August 2015                            | District 4 – Darling Downs    | 88 – Planning Approvals – State Government Facilities – Compliance with Requirements in Local Government Planning Schemes | That the Local Government Association of Queensland continue to lobby the State Government so that schools, hospitals and other state government facilities be required to comply with the local planning schemes, including requirements for car parking and storm water drainage as set out in the local planning schemes.  

**MOVER:** Cr Peter Blundell (Southern Downs)  
**SECONDER:** Cr Jo McNally (Southern Downs)  

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<th>Number and title of motion</th>
<th>Motion</th>
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| Lockyer Valley Regional Council   | 19 August 2015                            | District 2 – South East       | 89 – Planning Powers – Dams and Levees – Clarification of Council's Roles and Responsibilities | That the Local Government Association of Queensland seek clarification from the State Government on the specific responsibilities of local governments, in respect of dams, levee banks etc. and the regulation of compliance expected from each level of government.  

**MOVER:** Cr Janice Holstein (Lockyer Valley)  
**SECONDER:** Cr Jim McDonald (Lockyer Valley)  

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**Submitting council / organisation**  
Mackay Regional Council

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<td>12 August 2015</td>
<td>District 7 – Whitsunday</td>
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**Number and title of motion**  
90 – Building Approvals – Private Certifiers - Increased Auditing and Reporting

**Motion**  
That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to increase the state-wide auditing of Private Building Certifiers and that the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) be adequately resourced to audit more often and deliver appropriate consequences, including increased reporting of completed audits.

MOVER: Cr Kevin Casey (Mackay)  
SECONDER: Cr Deirdre Comerford (Mackay)  
CARRIED

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**Submitting council / organisation**  
Southern Downs Regional Council

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<td>District 4 – Darling Downs</td>
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**Number and title of motion**  
91 – Land Management – Creating and Changing Tenure – Requirement to be Assessable Development

**Motion**  
That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to amend the *Land Act 1994* and *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* so that creating new tenure from unallocated State Land and changes of tenure are assessable developments with the Department of Natural Resources as the assessment manager and councils as referral agencies.

MOVER: Cr Peter Blundell (Southern Downs)  
SECONDER: Cr Jo McNally (Southern Downs)  
LOST
## ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Moreton Bay Regional Council</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of council / organisation resolution</td>
<td>14 August 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
<td>District 2 – South East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>92 – Pest Management – Flying Foxes – Cost Reimbursement, Centralised Monitoring and Streamlined Procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland make representations to the State Government to:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1. Investigate options to reimburse local governments for the costs of removing flying fox colonies from urban communities.</td>
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<td>2. Provide a centralised, coordinated approach for monitoring flying fox management activities and</td>
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<td>3. Streamline processes and legislate to provide additional powers to:</td>
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<td>a) Remove the flying fox colonies from urban areas</td>
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<td>b) Enable the provision of buffer zones around vulnerable communities and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c) Provide a last resort mechanism for culling in extreme cases.</td>
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<td>WITHDRAWN AT CONFERENCE</td>
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<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Blackall-Tambo Regional Council / WQLGA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date of council / organisation resolution</td>
<td>8 May 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGAQ Policy Executive district</td>
<td>District 8 – Central West</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number and title of motion</td>
<td>93 – Pest Management – Wild Dogs – Single Statewide Bounty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to support a single statewide wild dog bounty of a significant enough amount that would make it worthwhile for out of work macro-pod professional shooters along with approved sporting shooters as well as property owners and rural employees to make an ongoing impact on the wild dog population throughout Queensland.</td>
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<td>MOVER: Cr Barry Muir (Blackall-Tambo)</td>
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<td>SECONDER: Cr Rick Britton (Boulia)</td>
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There was insufficient time at the Annual Conference to debate the following motions (motion numbers 94 – 101). They will be referred to the LGAQ Policy Executive for consideration and appropriate action.
### INFRASTRUCTURE, ECONOMICS & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Etheridge Shire Council</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td><strong>LGAQ Policy Executive district</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>19 August 2015</td>
<td>District 11 – North West</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td>94 – Road Funding – Prioritising Council Access to Works on National and State Highways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motion</strong></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government for</td>
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<td>greater access for local councils as contractors for any planned construction work on</td>
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<td>national and state highways within their boundaries and furthermore that the</td>
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<td>Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) be obliged to show compelling</td>
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<td>justification when awarding work to contractors for works in remote and regional local</td>
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<td>government areas.</td>
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<td>MOVIER:</td>
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<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Carpenter Shire Council</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td><strong>LGAQ Policy Executive district</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4 September 2015</td>
<td>District 11 – North West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td>95 – Road Management - Caravans Parking in Heavy Vehicle Rest Areas</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Motion</strong></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to</td>
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<td>create dedicated rest areas for heavy vehicles on state-controlled roads appropriately</td>
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<td>signed and enforced in rural and remote areas.</td>
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<td>MOVIER:</td>
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<td>Submitting council / organisation</td>
<td>Southern Downs Regional Council</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td>26 August 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LGAQ Policy Executive district</strong></td>
<td>District 4 – Darling Downs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td>96 – Road Repairs – Urgent Works During Declared Emergencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motion</strong></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland make representation to the State Government to: 1. Amend the <em>Local Government Act 2009</em> (section 75) to allow urgent remedial works on road reserves during times of declared emergencies with related limits on public liability claims during these periods; and 2. Request the State Government to indemnity engineers during these periods.</td>
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<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Cloncurry Regional Council</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td>4 September 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LGAQ Policy Executive district</strong></td>
<td>District 11 – North West</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td>97 – Building our Regions Funding – Increased Funding for Resource Impacted Councils</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Motion</strong></td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to amend the Building our Regions funding criteria to ensure that a minimum 5% per annum of the royalties generated is returned to the Resources Councils where the wealth is produced and/or handled within, in the form of an unconditional non-competitive annual grant.</td>
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<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Boulia Shire Council / WQLGA</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td>8 May 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LGAQ Policy Executive district</strong></td>
<td>District 8 – Central West</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td>98 – Regional Development – Increase in Remote Area Tax Zone Rebate</td>
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| Motion | That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the Federal Government to significantly increase the remote area tax zone rebate and review the boundaries to encourage workers and families to reside in rural and remote parts of Australia. 

MOVER: SECONDER: |

| Submitting council / organisation | Bundaberg Regional Council / WBBROC |
| Date of council / organisation resolution | 27 August 2015 | LGAQ Policy Executive district | District 3 – Wide Bay Burnett |
| Number and title of motion | 99 – Telecommunications Infrastructure – Review of Telstra’s Pricing for Relocation or Replacement of its Infrastructure in Road Reserves |
| Motion | That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the Federal Government to review current legislation, regarding Telstra operations with regards to:
1. Telstra monopoly over the scoping, design, tendering, selection of tenderers / contractors and pricing associated with the relocation/alterations of Telstra infrastructure within road reserves; and
2. Transparency in the disclosure of tenders / quotations invited, prices received and the overhead charges imposed on works carried out by contractors and sub-contractors associated with the relocation/alterations of Telstra infrastructure within road reserves. 

MOVER: SECONDER: |
## WORKFORCE & SOCIAL POLICY

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>Winton Shire Council</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td><strong>LGAQ Policy Executive district</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8 May 2015</td>
<td>District 8 – Central West</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 – Drought – Reintroduction of Exceptional Circumstances Funding</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the Federal and State governments to consider the reintroduction of exceptional circumstances funding or similar program for rural communities adversely effected by the current drought conditions.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Submitting council / organisation</th>
<th>North Burnett Regional Council</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date of council / organisation resolution</strong></td>
<td><strong>LGAQ Policy Executive district</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>18 August 2015</td>
<td>District 3 – Wide Bay Burnett</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Number and title of motion</strong></td>
<td><strong>101 – Medical Services – Rural Doctor Placement</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the Federal and State governments to continue to promote incentive schemes for rural communities to ensure that they have access to well-trained and qualified general practitioners and appropriate infrastructure to support such medical staff.</td>
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SPEECHES

Tuesday 20 October 2015

Master of Ceremonies

Good morning ladies and gentlemen and welcome to our 2015 conference. We have got a great program lined up for the next two days for you. I hope you are going to have a really good time while you are here. Celebrate what is great about local government and network, meet, catch up with friends - and go away with a lot of new ideas. I hope you have a most enjoyable time. Thank you.

I now call the conference to order and let’s get started!

Presentation of Policy Executive

Delegates and observers, members of the LGAQ Executive will now be presented to conference.

- The LGAQ President, Cr Margaret de Wit

Representing:

- District No 1, Brisbane, Cr Peter Matic
- District No 2, South, Cr Pam Parker
- District No 2, North, an LGAQ Board Member, Cr Allan Sutherland
- District No 3, Wide Bay Burnett, Cr Wayne Kratzmann
- District No 4, Darling Downs, LGAQ Board Member, Cr Ray Brown
- District No 5, South West Cr Robert Loughnan
- District No 6, Central Queensland, Cr Greg Belz
- District No 7, Whitsunday, Cr Deirdre Comerford
- District No 8, Central West, Cr Joe Owens
- District No 9, Northern, Cr Jennifer Hill
- District No 10, Far North, Cr Bill Shannon
- District No 11, North West, an LGAQ Board Member, Cr Fred Pascoe
- District No 12, Aboriginal and Island Councils, Cr Fred Gela
- District No 12, Aboriginal and Island Councils, Cr Alf Lacey

Thank you Policy Executive Members.
Official Opening

‘TAKING CONTROL OF OUR OWN DESTINY’

Cr Margaret de W't
President
LGAQ

Ladies and Gentlemen the first item on our program this morning is the official opening of our conference and it is with great pleasure that I introduce the Hon Jackie Trad to the LGAQ Annual Conference. Jackie is of course, Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade.

Despite the Government only being formed in February this year, Jackie has already made significant time to engage with Local Government. This has included the time she spent on the ground, working with communities affected by Tropical Cyclone Marcia and attending key events such as the LGAQ Finance Summit and I am very happy to say, the Bush Councils Convention out in St George.

Jackie is the Member for South Brisbane and was first elected to the Queensland Parliament in April 2012. Would you please welcome the Hon Jackie Trad MP.

Hon Jackie Trad MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport,
Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
Minister for Trade

Thank you very much Margaret, for that lovely welcome. I start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and pay my respects to their Elders, past and present. Can I acknowledge you Margaret, as the President of LGAQ and such a fantastic leading light in terms of local council administration, right throughout the whole of Australia. So, thank you very much for making me feel very welcome.

To Greg Hallam the CEO of LGAQ, to host Mayor Paul Antonio, it is lovely to be here in Toowoomba, not only as Deputy Premier and Minister for Local Government, but also as a girl who married a Toowoomba boy.

To all Mayors and councillors here today, thank you very much for making me feel very welcome and of course today's MC, David Swan.

As I have said, it is great to be in Toowoomba! I have a very personal connection to Toowoomba. It is not only a beautiful place, as this theatre is such a great emblem of, but it is also the place where I really did forge my marriage and my relationship with my husband. It is such a fantastic opportunity to be back, not only as a politician, but also someone with a very strong connection.

The theme of the 119th LGAQ Conference is ‘Taking Control of our own Destiny’. I think Toowoomba is a city where the State Government is actually helping the city take control of its destiny and seize future economic development opportunities. Right now in partnership with the Toowoomba Regional Council, we have a once in a generation opportunity to transform Toowoomba's underutilised railway precinct, into an urban village and parklands. It offers the city a brilliant canvas for urban renewal, with the potential for economic development, but all underpinned by great planning.

It ticks a large number of boxes within my Departments' portfolio and for Toowoomba it adds yet more glorious parkland to the Garden City. Again, I congratulate Mayor Antonio for his vision.
I have been travelling the state, meeting with many councils from Cooktown to the Gold Coast, and I know that you are all working incredibly hard on shaping your communities future and laying the foundations for a more prosperous future for your community. I know that many of you are fighting for better infrastructure, like the Gold Coast City Council and light rail. I know that many of you are trying to get up funding for iconic projects, as Rockhampton and Yeppoon did in the wake of a natural disaster. And I know that many of you are driving incredibly great opportunities in terms of economic enterprise, like Hopevale is. So I know that many of you are working incredibly hard and it is energising for me to work alongside you, to identify these opportunities and find ways in which the state can partner with you, so that we can collectively deliver to Queenslanders.

While speaking of delivering to Queenslanders, we certainly got a fantastic delivery in the NRL Grand Final this year. Can I say - I know, yeah go the Cowboys! I know that not only Townsville and North Queensland, but all of Queensland is abuzz with such a fantastic Grand Final. I know that the city of Townsville is not only abuzz with their first premiership, but also with the big push by Johnathan Thurston and the Cowboys, for new infrastructure and a new stadium for the city.

Can I acknowledge the Mayor of Townsville here today, Jenny Hill, who has been leading that push can I say, for a number of years.

But Townsville is also a city that is on the brink of the major renewal as well. The Townsville waterfront PDA is moving forward, after a very strong public consultation period. Like Townsville and its PDA, I know and I appreciate, that good ideas: town shaping; economic boosting; future focussed ideas; are incubating and flourishing everywhere - More so outside the 4000 postcode than inside the 4000 postcode. The Palaszczuk Government understands that through you, councils, you speak directly to all of Queensland and it is a conversation we will continue to foster and support.

The makeup of many councils will change, as we head toward the local government elections in March next year. Many passionate Mayors and councillors will retire after giving decades of their lives, to making their communities better, safer and stronger.

Listening to these departing councillors roll call of honour:

Cr Pam Parker, Mayor, Logan City Council
Among them, Pam Parker, who I understand is not here and rightly so enjoying her 40th wedding anniversary. But Pam has long been titled with the position of the Peoples Mayor of Logan. It wasn’t about politics for Pam. It has never been about politics for Pam. It was always about her community, always about Logan.

She always proudly declared that she belonged to the Logan Party, the Peoples Party and I want to place on record here today, my thanks to Pam for her long service, her long excellent service to the people of Logan.

Cr Donna Stewart, Mayor, Balonne Shire Council
To Donna Stewart - I don’t know if Donna is here - Donna, what will Balonne do without you? You leave the Shire much stronger for your leadership, and I want to thank you for your service.

Cr Wayne Kratzmann, Mayor, South Burnett Regional Council
Also to Wayne Kratzmann - I know you will never forget the floods of Australia Day 2013 Wayne. You saw South Burnett through its darkest hour, on top of the 2011 floods. You were there for the bright days that followed, as your community rebuilt. For that I say, thank you!

Cr Peter Maguire, Mayor, Central Highlands Regional Council
To Peter Maguire who is pulling up stumps after twenty eight years of service to the Central Highlands (sixteen as Mayor). Thank you Peter for your service.

Cr Brian Battersby, Moreton Bay Regional Council
To Cr Brian Battersby from Moreton Bay Regional Council, who has also decided to retire, but only after forty years of service to the community! He was first elected to the previous Pine Rivers Shire at the age of thirty one in 1976 and retained his seat through eleven further elections.

Cr Helen Abrahams, Brisbane City Council
In Brisbane - I know that she is not here, but I do want to place on public record, my appreciation for the long service that Councillor Helen Abrahams has given to the Brisbane City Council as well. Helen says she has been incredibly honoured and fortunate to have represented Brisbane in the south since 2003, and before that the north side. Can I say as someone who has worked alongside of Helen Abrahams, I think she has done an outstanding job and I really do want to pay tribute to her contribution to Local Council politics and administration in Queensland!

I understand what all retiring Mayors and Councillors mean, when they speak of how honoured and fortunate they feel to have been a local representative, honoured that people voted for you. I know how you all have repaid that trust by working long, long, hours for your community. There may be more Mayors and Councillors who will retire from office in the coming weeks and I want to thank you all now, for your dedication to Local Government.

Thank you, on behalf of the people of Queensland and also the Queensland Government.

Cr Margaret de Wit, President, LGAQ
Of course there is another Councillor who will soon draw the curtain on a stellar career in Local Government, which has spanned almost two decades in the Council Chamber. Of course I am speaking of Margaret de Wit. Margaret....... your commitment to Local Government is unquestioned. Margaret has an impressive CV, and I don't need to tell you, but amongst those attributes on her CV include:

Sitting in Civic Cabinet in Brisbane City Council as Infrastructure Chair; as Public and Active Transport Chair; and this role, as President of the LGAQ!

My Civic colleagues paid her the greatest compliment in political life, of being characterised as, firm but fair. Of course Margaret, that, is incredibly true. It might also surprise some of you that others have also, likewise characterised me as being firm but fair and I think that is why we hit it off, straight away. I think we firmly respected the fact that we come from different political backgrounds, but we have done what is fair for the people of Queensland and put our politics aside, so that we can deliver for the people of Queensland from both a local and council administration. So I want to thank you for our strong working partnership Margaret.

Of course I wish you well in retirement, but in all honesty, seldom are leaders as good as Margaret truly allowed to actually retire. So I am sure you will be popping up somewhere in the future Margaret.

With the elections and with such renewal, comes a chance for great change and great optimism. The next election paves the way for new people to have the honour of serving their community and it paves the way for new thinking. There can be no stronger bond than when we work together.

One of the Palaszczuk Government's key election commitments was to review the 'Partners in Government Agreement' in consultation with the LGAQ, within the first six months after coming to office. The Government has delivered on this commitment, with the renewed agreement being formally signed last Wednesday. The Government is embracing councils’ new thinking when it comes to working together to build brighter futures and I would like to share with you, my thoughts on how we can cement those bonds, and invite your ideas on how we can make this happen.

Let's start with one of the greatest examples of how you do business. Your council partnerships - or as some of you refer to them, your Sister City Arrangements. Across Queensland, you have been forging bonds with mutually supportive arrangements between councils. It is common sense and I congratulate you. It is about sharing the capacity and building the capacity amongst councils.
For example, Burke Shire is working with Carpentaria on joint procurement and scheduling for the installation of boat ramp pylons. But Burke is extra connected. It works with Doomadgee for joint tendering of the removal of scraps.

Hinchinbrook provides assistance to Palm Island on planning matters. The western shires share Environmental Health Officers in animal management. These are routine and adhoc arrangements that work and build capacity.

Then there are the shared arrangements by way of the Regional Organising of Councils. In the west we have, the ‘South West Regional Economic Development’ and the ‘Remote Area Planning and Development Board’. These are all examples of councils coming together, to work collectively on what is important to their regional areas.

I want to hear from you, as to how we can build on the council partnerships, these innovative ideas. Is it working as is or should we make these arrangements more formal with State support?

At the recent Townsville Forum I also raised the question of the future of funding programs. Could they be better targeted; would we get more bang for our buck by consolidating the pot? I am talking about State funding across Government.

One example is in the July budget, where our Infrastructure Funding Program of more than ten billion dollars, dedicates almost five billion dollars to rural and regional Queensland. We have close collaboration with the Department of State Development and the Commonwealth, to leverage other funding opportunities such as Building our Regions and National Stronger Regions Fund.

I would be interested in your feedback, on whether we should be looking at this as a consolidated pool. We can add Federal Assistance Grants of more than $450 million, and I know that the Banana Shire actually has a resolution to conference this year, about consolidating infrastructure grants.

In my Local Government Portfolio alone, in our 2015-2016 Grants Budget, almost $146 million is split amongst nine programs.

- Three are available for all councils;
- Four programs for indigenous councils; and
- Two are the targeted programs.

Our competitive funding programs are heavily oversubscribed, demonstrating that there is a great need out there in the community. Going forward, I think it is sensible to ask:

- Could we consolidate?
- Can we get better results from dwindling resources?
- Should we streamline applications - simplify red tape?

What can we do to make sure you get what you need to drive economic growth, to deliver opportunities in your local communities and to shape the cities, towns and regions of the future?

I acknowledge the vital role of cities and regions, in building our economy and we need to get the funding right. I started this conversation with the LGAQ in Townsville and we will continue it here as part of our ongoing consultative approach, to ensuring we have the most effective and efficient funding programs in place for Councils and for Queensland.

If that means thinking and doing things differently, I want to hear it. The question I am keen to hear an answer to, is what works for you? It underscores our commitment to working with all levels of Government. To look at new funding models and fight for every dollar we deserve from Canberra, as
the Gold Coast City Council will attest to, with our push for funding for stage two of Gold Coasts’ light rail.

When we put up a united fight, for the benefits of Queensland, we are unbeatable!

Today I am also announcing, the final successful projects from our pool of almost $25 million in the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program. Overall I have approved sixty five projects for the forty nine councils. These projects will work to keep the life blood of your towns and cities pumping.

With estimates that the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program Projects, will provide around seven hundred construction and ongoing jobs - It was our priority to fund projects that are shovel ready, represent value for money, create jobs and improve sustainability.

Recently in Longreach I announced councils dealing with crippling drought would receive almost $12.5 million in these grants. The shovel ready projects that will support around two hundred and sixty jobs, in towns and regions doing it tough!

The new projects include town centre rejuvenation and beautification projects such as Scenic Rim Railway Street Revitalisation Project. An upgrade of the Queensland State Equestrian Centre will see forty jobs created. With grants to the Moreton Bay Regional Council totalling $345,000.00 over two years, the construction of a covered warm up area will make the State Equestrian Centre, a truly first class all weather venue.

I congratulate the Ipswich City Council on its successful project, of an integrated water harvesting facility at Jim Donald Park. This ‘Smart Project’ will protect a large residential and commercial precinct upstream and will double as a significant catchment area to water the sports fields. Through these projects, we partnered with you to emphasise job creation and contributed to building safe caring and connected communities.

Soon I will also announce to the successful projects in our $40 Million Community Resilience Fund, which was a commitment of the Palaszczuk Government at the last election. These projects will add to the $40 million dollars committed over two years; a special assistance package following tropical cyclone Marcia, for iconic projects in Rockhampton and Livingstone Shires. But all this building needs smart planning to make a difference.

Since early September, my Department has been travelling the State engaging with community on the new planning legislation. The consultation period ends at the end of this week. We know that Planning Reform will deliver a more efficient system that supports investment in infrastructure and jobs.

During that time we have engaged with thousands of Queenslanders on what is important to them when it comes to planning. I know the LGAQ was part of the development of this Bill and I thank you for your input. I want to acknowledge the comments made by Margaret yesterday at the welcoming ceremony as well, in relation to planning reform.

Fundamentally, the draft Bill is built on the idea that, good planning means good development. It is built to bring the community with us. I strongly believe, that the only way to take the heat and divisiveness out of the development process is, not to take away a communities right to have a say, but to give the community a genuine say at the start. It is built with a firm focus on the future and meeting demands of our growing population.

Infrastructure Planning and charges are a core issue for Local Councils. They are also core issues for the State Government, which has to balance the interests of stake holders on different sides of the fence, through policy and legislation. I know that the most recent Infrastructure Planning and Charges Framework introduced by the former government, has had mixed reception in your Councils. My commitment to you is, to keep talking to you and keep working with the LGAQ on how we can continue to improve infrastructure charging in this state.
The importance of Local Government Infrastructure Plans continues to be reflected in the provision of the State Planning Act and it will carry over into the new planning framework. Local Government Infrastructure Plans form an integral part of the land use planning and development framework. They are critical tools which ensure infrastructure is planned and delivered in a coordinated, efficient and financially sustainable manner, to support the growth of Local Councils. The new requirements ensure that, Local Government Infrastructure Plans are prepared in a consistent and accountable manner, to provide certainty to all stake holders and present information transparently.

I am pleased to advise that, last week Somerset Regional Council was the first to submit a draft Local Government Infrastructure Plan for review. Local Governments that intend to levy infrastructure charges are currently required to prepare and adopt Local Government Infrastructure Plans that comply with the new requirements, by the 1st July 2016.

A number of Local Councils have expressed concerns about their ability to adopt a Local Government Infrastructure Plan by that deadline. As you are probably aware by now, I have responded to that and I have introduced the Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Bill into the Queensland Parliament, only last month - which includes a proposed amendment, to allow me to consider applications from Local Governments to extend the deadline up to the 1st July 2018. It is expected that the Bill will be debated in Parliament in November, to commence around the end of the year.

The Department of Infrastructure Local Government and Planning, is preparing advice and supporting information about the extension process, which will be sent to all Governments in the near future. I will be able to consider applications for extensions after the proposed amendments of the Bill have commenced.

Additionally, the South East Queensland Regional Plan Directions Paper will be released later this year and will give everyone the chance to have their say, to reflect on how people in the south east want to live work and play. The new plan will cover the period 2015 to 2041. The South East Queensland Regional Plan will help us think strategically and assist in accommodating the current population projections of an extra 2.2 million people in the region, between now and 2041. It will build on the success of past Regional Plans, ensuring a common vision for the region, and a clear picture of the aspirations and values of the people who live here.

Among the core values which are important to the people of South East Queensland and the need to be considered when revising the South East Queensland Regional Plan, is of course economic diversity and jobs growth.

That means our Government working with Councils and the community, to get the South East Queensland Regional Plan right. It also means having a Federal Government that doesn't walk away from its responsibility to fund major public transport infrastructure in the national interests and regional interests and cities interests. I am pleased that we now have a new Prime Minister, who is prepared to consider funding projects, public transport projects that are about building cities, regions and connectivity between different parts of the state.

Soon we will also be releasing our Draft State Infrastructure Plan, the first in three years, for targeted consultation. The final Queensland State Infrastructure Plan will be released early next year, as per our election commitment. Our Government is committed to calling for infrastructure funding to deliver projects that will create a lasting and beneficial legacy for the people of Queensland. As I mentioned before, our first Budget delivered more than $10 billion dollars in building programs, to support more than 27,000 jobs across the state. That is actually the second highest in the nation.

The State Infrastructure Plan will outline a bold new strategic direction for infrastructure in Queensland. One that fosters innovation in planning, investment, delivery and the use of infrastructure and better communication, and engagement with stake holders! It will help to guide and align planning across Government and industry and decision making across Government. Our
building Queensland Legislation is set to be debated in Parliament soon. Another important step to establish the independent statutory body and deliver a pipeline of priority infrastructure projects for our state and one that stakeholder, Councils and the people of Queensland can have confidence in.

This pipeline will underpin future State Infrastructure Plans and help the Government make better informed decisions, about vital infrastructure for all Queenslanders. Our Building Queensland legislation is progressing through the parliamentary process. This is an important step in seeing the creation of this independent statutory body and a pipeline for prioritized projects. This pipeline, along with projects, summaries and cost benefit analysis summaries, will be published on the Building Queensland website - Open for public scrutiny.

The private sector wants to do business with the Queensland Government. But to do this, it needs certainty and confidence, and Building Queensland will contribute just that.

Infrastructure Australia has our submission, with seven new priority projects and five existing projects from the 2013 priority list including, the Mt Isa, Townsville Rail Corridor Upgrade, which takes in the Townsville Eastern Access Corridor and the National Land Transport Network renewal. These projects are also vitally important nationally, due to their potential to boost national productivity.

In conclusion, I do want to thank the LGAQ very much for inviting me here as your new Local Government Minister, and the invitation to formally open the conference here today. I want to wish you all much success in the elections early next year. For those who are retiring, I wish you a well-earned break and a well-earned retirement. You very much deserve it.

As you all know, a strong future is built on a firm partnership and strong relationships between State and Councils. I can assure you, the Palaszczuk Government will work as hard as you and your councils, to build on our relationship and secure Queensland’s future. Now I would like to declare, officially, the 119th LGAQ Annual Conference now officially open.

Thank you.

Cr Margaret de Wit
Delegates we have a great opportunity here, Jackie is prepared to take some questions. Do we have some questions from the floor?
Question

Cr Donna Stewart, Mayor, Balonne Shire Council

Thank you and it is lovely to have you with us Deputy Premier. My question is about freight logistics. The farmers in South Western Queensland certainly are willing to rise to the challenge of producing more food, to meet that target in 2040 of doubling their production. To do so the businesses have to be viable and to be viable, we have to create better freight efficiencies.

In particular, on the south western line - which goes out through Goondiwindi finishing at Thallon - there is a big issue with regards to the container heights. I am sure you are aware within two years they are going to increase and that they will not be able to get down the range with the current height of the tunnels. I do know that your Government has allowed - or I have been told - there is $50 million there to do something about deepening those tunnels and I think the previous government also had it there. So I was wondering Deputy Premier, when we might see that work commence?

Response

Hon Jackie Trad MP

Thank you Donna for that question, you are absolutely right, there is a budgetary allocation so that we can address the problem of fitting those new containers in through the tunnels. So, yes, that allocation is there. Currently my department is working through some of the logistical issues in relation to that, so it won't be long before we can engage with you seriously, about the projected work plan in relation to it.

But I do want to say, that we are very committed to increasing the food and fibre target in Queensland. It was our re-election commitment to increase it. We know that freight is a significant part of that commitment.

We also as you might be aware, have extended the concessional arrangements in terms of freight and livestock subsidies for rail transportation as well. We know that in terms of many of the primary producers, that they need assistance in terms of getting their produce and their stock to market. Part of that has got to be about, how we provide concessions for that transportation, for those primary producers as well. So you won't have to wait long Donna. Hopefully we can start engaging with you, before you (I guess), retire.

Question

Cr Keith Douglas, Cloncurry Shire Council

Thank you. Deputy Premier. We had a lot of discussion last year, about Royalty to Regions and making that a realistic program, so the money comes back to the actual areas where the mining is done. We just want to get that back on the table. I wondered how your Government is getting along with putting a percentage together, so that you can send us out a cheque for the Royalties to Regions at some stage in the future?

Shovel ready programs take a lot of our money, a lot of our time. If we could have a different system, where you send us out a cheque for the millions of dollars that we send you down in royalties, I think that would be a lot simpler process. I could write it out for you if you need the help with it!

Response

Hon Jackie Trad MP
They don't let me near the cheque book can I say Keith. Keith…… it was our commitment at the last election that we would make sure that the Royalties for the Region Program - or the past Royalties for the Region Program - did reflect better. Putting resources - or giving grants back to those resource producing regions.

But we also acknowledge that, there were other Councils that weren't resource producers that were missing out on some of that economic benefit as well. So, we have increased the pool right across the board and there are four different funding programs, under Infrastructure Funding for Regional Communities.

Not only have we increased it to $200 million, but we have bought the allocation in the out years - in the next financial year - into this financial year. Because we do acknowledge that out there in regional Queensland, there are a lot of communities doing it tough because of the drought and there are a lot of communities doing it tough because of the downturn in the resources sector, due to commodity prices.

So we know that we have got to pump money into the economy and we have bought forward that election commitment. But I am very happy to talk to my Minister or colleague, Minister Lynham, about your instance specifically, and get him to communicate with you about that.

Question

Cr Fred Pascoe, Mayor, Carpentaria Shire Council

Thank you Madam President. Deputy Premier, good to see you here today, it is always a pleasure. I just wanted to probably highlight, the fact that we are looking at an opportunity that many of us have never seen before.

In particular I speak to the road funding that is coming out from the Feds in the white paper, in developing Northern Australia. Yesterday I sought advice from your very able DG, a man who I have got a lot of respect for, in how do we try to attract as much of that money as possible for locals.

As you rightly say, a lot of communities and a lot of towns are doing it tough out there because of the drought. Local Government, we can build roads, we have proved that, QRA have verified that.

So I just wanted to reiterate to yourself and to your Premier, that it would be a crying shame if we let this opportunity go, in that as much as that road funding is possible, that we try to keep it in the local area, local authorities that do provide employment. We are the wheel that keeps the cogs going in small business in our area. I would just like to reiterate that to you. Thank you.

Response

Hon Jackie Trad MP

Thanks Fred. I might just make a couple of points. Firstly thank you for reminding me that my Transport DG is here, so Neil Scales can I acknowledge you here and also Greg Chemello. I am sure that both of them have been doing deals last night that, I need to mop up today. It was also remiss of me not to acknowledge Fiona Simpson, the member for Maroochydore, who is also here - and my shadow counterpart in terms of Local Government.

Can I say Fred, I completely acknowledge what you say about roads funding. We know that funding for roads projects through Local Councils, mean local jobs. Absolutely we know that! Putting aside Northern Australia for a moment, that is why Labor at the last election had a commitment, to increase Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS), and that is why we pulled together the Western Roads Package as well.
We know that we need to tend to our roads, but we know that if we can funnel that money through Councils it actually means local jobs and that is a meaningful thing. That is an important thing and it meets our commitment and our priorities as well.

It is also why we went into that so heavily in terms of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA), post cyclone Marcia and cyclone Nathan - because as you know- day labour was excluded in terms of the arrangements, the reconstruction and rebuild arrangements.

The Palaszczuk Government worked very hard and lobbied very hard for the Federal Government to change its mind. In conjunction with the LGAQ, I have to say - and the very significant lobbying efforts that were done by Greg and Margaret in relation to the day labour issue - we got a win - which also demonstrates that, when we work together in a united way for the benefit of Queensland, we can get concessions out of the Federal Government. We can get important outcomes from the Federal Government.

We know that that money means that Local Councils can access NDRRA funding to get reconstruction work done, to get rebuilding work done and employ their own labour. Which is incredibly important and we want to see that continue.

Of course in terms of Northern Australia - two thirds of the population in terms of Northern Australia, reside in Northern Queensland. That means to drive economic opportunity, you need a population, and we think we are best placed to put up the argument for our fair share of that funding - which of course needs to go into developing roads and maintaining roads - so that we can get product to market, so that we can connect communities and so that we can develop Northern Australia. We are acutely aware of that and that is why we had that Economic Summit in Townsville after ‘DestinationQ’.

We will continue to advocate very strongly for our fair share of that roads funding package from the Federal Government to develop Northern Australia.

Cr Margaret de Wit
Delegates please join with me in thanking Deputy Premier Jackie Trad, not only for her address, but also, for taking questions from the floor. Thank you Jackie!
Presidential Address

Cr Margaret de Wit
President
LGAQ

Good morning everyone. I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting and pay my respects to their elders past and present.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Jackie Trad MP; our host, Toowoomba Mayor Paul Antonio, other mayors, councillors and delegates and anyone else present.

Welcome to the LGAQ’s 119th annual conference and the beautiful Toowoomba region. I was born in the Toowoomba hospital, grew up on the Darling Downs and have an affinity with this place. I attended my first LGAQ conference in Toowoomba in 1999 and perhaps a little sadly this year will also attend my last conference here. So it is somewhat special for me to be able to talk to you here today as one of few official addresses as LGAQ President since I announced my retirement from public life several months ago.

The theme for this year’s conference - Taking Control of Our Own Destiny - is a good one given the medium term challenges we face.

Over the three years I have been president and before then as a Vice President and member of the LGAQ Policy Executive, I’ve seen many members of this audience grow wiser and more resilient as our sphere of government has dealt with what seem to be constant policy upheavals, an infrastructure assets base worth well over $100 billion and the ever-present threat of reduced funding from the Commonwealth and the states.

And then, of course, there has been the dreadful impact of the ongoing drought in many of our rural and regional communities.

It’s a situation which could have overwhelmed weaker institutions. Not local government and not here in Queensland.

Last week I attended the annual conference of the LGANSW and I came home with an even greater appreciation of the maturity and strength of local government in Queensland.

The great thing is that you have managed to overcome these challenges while continuing to care for your communities and represent their interests. And don’t let anyone tell you that your work isn’t appreciated. The results from the latest LGAQ Community Satisfaction Survey show that our standing in the public eye has improved markedly over the past couple of years.

There’s a lot to like about the survey results, particularly as you head into the local government elections next March. The results show that the satisfaction rating for Queensland councils stands at 71%, higher than at any time since 2005.

The truth is that while there will always be big challenges for local government in Queensland, there are also big opportunities. And the survey results suggest that the harder we work to provide value for money to our communities, the more likely they will be satisfied with our performance.

Too often, I think, the role of local governments is defined in terms of what the federal and state governments are prepared to offer them and their communities. Why can’t that role be more about
what local governments can deliver to their communities themselves in areas like increased productivity, better community engagement and so on?

When I spoke to you as President in Cairns two years ago, I urged you to consider the long term benefits to your community of doing things differently and more efficiently.

It’s fair to say a lot of you took up that challenge enthusiastically, and testament to that was your readiness to embrace the ideal of our Better Councils Better Communities campaign, which I launched at last year’s annual conference in Mackay.

**Better Councils Better Communities**

It’s refreshing that our new Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, has begun talking about ideals similar to those driving Better Councils, Better Communities.

He says we have little choice but to be more innovative and while there are big challenges ahead for governments and economies over the next several years, there are also big opportunities.

Can I say that it’s wonderful to see local government in Queensland taking somewhat of a lead on that score.

I’m talking here about Winton Shire Council’s venture into geothermal energy which may end up powering not just council assets but the entire township in just a few years. Then there are those councils who are seriously examining the potential for drone technology to boost their productivity, and the growing number of organisations using satellite tracking and mobile phone technology to get the most efficiency out of their plant and vehicle fleet.

These are examples of the innovation, nimbleness and commitment to productivity that the Better Councils, Better Communities project aims to highlight. As I said before, it’s about seeing those big opportunities that reside behind the big challenges we deal with in local government every day.

I’ve got more to say about Better Councils, Better Communities but, for now, let’s get into the detail about our activities over the past year and what lies ahead of the LGAQ as your member organisation.

**Planning**

As we are all aware, the State Government has signalled its intention to introduce a new Planning Bill. I applaud the Government’s stated commitment to consult and engage with local government and others as it is developing the legislation.

I’m also pleased the Government recognises that the planning system must be grounded in local communities. That means it recognises the central role that local governments have in land use planning.

I think a practical demonstration of that will be when we see how willing the Government is to help local governments as they make the enormous effort to transition to the new planning legislation.

After some upheaval in planning strategies over the last decade as the political colours have changed in George St, it’s good to see that the Government understands the importance of certainty in land use planning. But councils will need funding help to achieve what is a very expensive and time-consuming exercise.

Queensland councils have a long-standing commitment to planning reform. They have invested a lot over the past decade towards improving the way they go about their planning responsibilities.

It’s important to remember that local councils are there to help everyone, be they members of the community proud of their neighbourhood’s character or property developers keen to grow their business.
Many councils have worked together to improve planning processes and develop initiatives which the industry has applauded. Proof that when local governments adopt innovative development assessment systems and learn from verified best practice, both the community and industry benefit.

That is a good thing to keep in mind as we start discussing the Government’s planning priorities. There is a very real danger that the operational improvements that councils have achieved over the past few years will suffer at the hands of unnecessary legislative changes.

**Infrastructure charges**
Let me reiterate here our long standing view that local communities should not have to subsidise the activities of the development industry. It is a view we will not shirk from when discussions with the Government turn to its plans regarding the future of infrastructure charges.

Our attitude to the new planning regime will be this: Building better communities through working together with business to provide new infrastructure - **yes.** Underwriting developers’ profits - **no.**

As a very first measure, automatic indexation of maximum adopted charges should be enshrined in any new Planning Bill.

**Moving on to Industrial relations**
This time last year, I spoke about how we had finally achieved our long-term goal of a single local government industry industrial relations award. The significant benefits of this were not lost on you then and I don’t need to repeat them here today.

But until recently, those benefits were looking to be very short-lived.

First, the State Government legislated to have the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission revisit its decision on a single award. Then, we saw the Industrial Relations Minister strongly support the notion - pushed by trade unions - that the single award be replaced with a system of multiple-award coverage and its associated overlaps, costs and inefficiencies.

Well, one thing the LGAQ has in common with our member councils is our resilience and our commitment to fight for what we know to be right. And that is what we did.

Our strong belief that councils and workers are better off with a single modern award drove that commitment.

I am very pleased to report today that we have been able to retain the single award for local government.

We did this because we produced the evidence that supported our convictions, thanks to those councils who were already subject to the single award and could demonstrate the benefits.

None of our opponents could produce evidence that contradicted our case that councils valued their workers and that no current employee would be worse off as a result of the reforms.

We are still awaiting the Commission’s decision in relation to the contents of the amended single award.

But we are satisfied that we have provided the Commission with strong evidence to support the modern terms in the new award and reject the restoration of the dated and irrelevant provisions sought by the other parties.

We remain confident that our efforts will not go unrewarded when the decision of the Commission is released.
Let me remind all of you that benefits of the modern award will only reap benefits if you dedicate the same level of commitment and focus to ensuring your next enterprise bargaining agreement reflects the local government environment in which we operate now and in the future.

**Disaster funding**

Nearing the finish of this four year term of local government, the LGAQ is largely where we planned to be when we began the term.

While the issues associated with the Federal Government’s proposed reforms of the Federation and the tax system are yet to be resolved, we have made sure that, in these and other policy areas, the voice of Queensland councils is being heard in Canberra and George St.

I don’t mind saying that my biggest policy challenge as LGAQ President has been the proposed changes to natural disaster funding support. It’s dominated most of the conversations I have had with members of the Federal Government, from the prime minister’s office down. And I don’t think we would be where we are today on this issue without the solid commitment and support of successive state governments.

More than two years of hard slog, knocking on doors and taking every opportunity available to us to put our case regarding Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements, all but the issues surrounding betterment funding have been resolved.

We now have agreement from the Commonwealth regarding eligibility for so-called day labour and have headed off a concerted push by the Productivity Commission to slash the proportion of federal funding for disaster recovery.

There have been other achievements as well. It’s been an interesting ride over this term and we have hit a few bumps along the way but let me remind you of some of the other wins for our sphere of government:

- We have a revised Local Government Act that properly restored the rights of mayors and councillors in the political process,
- We have successfully averted a $2b black hole on non-owner occupier rated premises,
- We have won millions of dollars in funding assistance for councils to develop climate change adaptation projects and control wild dogs,
- We have a new Partners in Government agreement that has been refined and strengthened over the course of two changes of government and was signed just last week.
- And then there’s ground breaking research on matters like local government financial sustainability and digital productivity.

And a commitment I made to myself when elected – to drive workplace diversity. The benefits of a diverse workforce are well documented. To mention just a few - It drives economic growth due to an increase in human capital and benefits accrue to council communities; recruiting from a diverse pool means a more qualified workforce. Councils need to adopt diversity to be competitive in the economic market; talented women and persons from different cultures will be attracted to employers who have a reputation for fairness, equality of treatment, and which foster a safe, secure and healthy workplace. The massive response to my call for action from local government against domestic violence last Sunday is evidence of our sphere of government’s zero tolerance of domestic violence in any form. I know many of you are right up there in that space and I thank you for the effort you put into that campaign.
The 50-50 Vision Strategy which the LGAQ has been driving nationally seeks to encourage councils across Australia to address gender equity issues within their organisations and among their elected members via an awards program. I congratulate those Councils who have been earning awards under this program and especially Sunshine Coast Regional Council which will be receiving an award later during this conference. The 2011 census data reveals that in Australia, 75% of local government directors, CEOs and managing directors are male. At the latest count there are 8 of 77 CEOs in Queensland local government who are women (or 10.4%) — some way off the target set at 30% in 2010 with the introduction of the 5050 Vision Strategy. I am pleased to announce that LGAQ has appointed Sally Queitzsch to a part-time position to look at how diversity strategies can be developed and implemented. This will happen in close consultation with key council staff (especially CEO’s and General Managers).

Advocacy
And now to the hard infrastructure:

We’ve also managed to get road funding to councils more than doubled, with $650 million extra over the next two years flowing to local government roads.

And, in terms of policy direction, the LGAQ has found itself ahead of the game when it comes to the agendas being rolled out at a federal and state level in areas like cities policy, smart regions, climate change adaptation, innovation, technology and transport.

That puts us in a good position to deal with a new Labor government here in Queensland and a refreshed and refocussed Coalition government in Canberra.

After gaining much of what we asked for from the State Government in the form of our 10 Point Election Policy Plan, our new Advocacy Action Plan launched earlier this year will set the agenda with the Government for the balance of this term.

But as always, our primary focus is on you, our members.

And maintaining that focus on you means you have seen a lot more of us.

LGAQ representatives - office bearers, staff, trainers and consultants - have travelled more in the last four years than any other period in our history. In fact, the total distance we have travelled this four year term has doubled on the previous term.

The LGAQ has travelled more than 1 million kilometres in each of the last two years as we made good on an effort to visit remote and indigenous councils more frequently. I have personally travelled as much as I could while juggling my role as Chairman of Brisbane City Council and while I have not managed to visit all 77 councils there will not be too many I will not have reached by the time I leave whether it be by sometimes dodgy charter flights or hitting the outback roads by car.

The reach of our Member Services Centre into councils has improved and is growing stronger.

We strive to regularly talk to you all, not just those at the top of the council tree.

We have also trained record numbers of elected members and staff with the last 12 months being the strongest participation in our history.

I am particularly proud of how the LGAQ has improved its communication with our members not just in quantity and quality but in the highly personalised way we treat every council and individual.

That flows across all our communication channels, be they face to face meetings, or regular calls from the Member Service Centre to councillors and staff, or our enhanced websites.
We now have a segment-tailored means of sharing information with councils.

It’s no longer a one size fits all approach, so there is no advice going to Boulia or Barcoo about managing coastal sand dunes and the Gold and Sunshine Coasts are not bothered with the latest update on management of the Upland Deserts.

But we won’t be resting on our laurels, not that you would let us!

Our launch of the LGAQ’s second Digital Productivity Report on Sunday shows we are committed to promoting innovation in local government.

Councils are making excellent use of the Better Councils, Better Communities campaign, including its Ready Set Go Benchmarking tool.

Many councils are using Ready. Set. Go to analyse their performance and decide where they need to direct their energies to demonstrate value for money to their communities, which is just what we created the tool for.

Ready Set Go contains 25 indicators and we will add another 10 this financial year to bring the total to 35.

The current indicators include the statutory financial sustainability ratios outlined in the Queensland Local Government Act 2009.

But this campaign also presented a chance for local governments to remind their communities of the importance of what they do.

To that end, the LGAQ has rolled out a new television advertising campaign to promote the Better Councils, Better Communities ideal.

I’m sure you’ve seen it - a 30 second television commercial that is airing across the state on all commercial networks and some digital platforms. But just in case you haven’t had time to watch the telly here it is –

It will run for about six weeks with the aim of reminding communities of the important, valuable and - yes - often innovative work that councils do.

Beyond all that the LGAQ through its subsidiaries handed back $4 million in dividends to members. And those same companies created some $200 million in marked to market and transactional savings over the last 12 months for members and will continue to do so.

I believe all of that has gone into producing the strongest ever results we have had for our LGAQ Member Loyalty Survey.

Our members seem to like what we’ve been doing for them over the past 12 months but there’s plenty more to look forward to.

The LGAQ is constantly aligning its product and service offerings to meet the needs of members. We rely on your feedback to help steer us towards becoming the best imaginable Association.

As part of our ongoing member engagement, we’re running a number of Discovery Workshops across the state. Two of these workshops are coming up soon - in Brisbane and Rockhampton - for elected members, senior managers and council officers.
That is on top of detailed one-to-one conversations on this forward-looking agenda with 15 councils across the State.

You can pick up more information on these sessions in our lounge during the conference.

Lastly, I want to thank the members of the LGAQ Policy Executive and Board for their unwavering support of me as President during my term. I could not have hoped for a wiser or more committed group of people to drive the advocacy agenda of local government in Queensland and will be forever grateful to them. However this year it was with great sadness that we lost one of our much-loved and respected Executive members – the late Mayor Ron Dyne from Gympie. Ron’s contribution to his community and LGAQ over many years was very significant.

I will remain President for around three months after the elections next March, when a new Policy Executive and Board will be elected. So you will see me around for some time yet! Over the last 19 years in local government I have unwittingly notched up a few firsts – the first female President of the LGAQ, the first President from Brisbane since 1921 and the longest serving female councillor in the history of Brisbane and finally – the first non-elected President of LGAQ which as I have mentioned will be for a short time after the elections.

However, this will be my last annual conference, so I will take this opportunity to wish all of those who have chosen to retire from local government all the very best and thank them for their selfless service to their communities during their time in public life.

I know it is an extremely challenging job to represent your local community and work to improve the lives of those around you. But I also know it can be very rewarding when you succeed.

My best wishes to those stepping down from local government and best of luck to the delegates here who will be standing for re-election next March. I am going to miss you all and I thank you for your hospitality as I have travelled around the State. But I hope if Hank and I end up in your town on our travels someday I can call in for a cuppa and a catch up.

Can I also thank the wonderful staff at the LGAQ starting with CEO Greg Hallam and his management team. They are an amazing group of dedicated and visionary leaders who have taken this organisation to where it is today. However they can’t do it on their own and I can honestly say I have nothing but praise for all the staff at LGAQ. Their enthusiasm, desire to serve and work ethic is so evident to anyone who has interaction with them. I have been truly proud to work with each and every staff member of LGAQ and have unashamedly told anyone who would listen over the last three years!

Enjoy the conference and the company of your local government colleagues over the next few days - and remember that theme - together we can control our own destiny.

Thank you.
Keynote Address: One of the world’s leading authorities and speakers on the 3D printing revolution and its impact on society, industry and the economy

Dr Terry Wohlers
Founder, Principal Consultant and President
Wohlers Associates Inc.
Colorado, USA

Courtesy of Saxton Speakers Bureau

Due to copyright law this speech is unable to be published.

Panel Session: Stepping Out on Our Own – Councils taking the lead

Master of Ceremonies

Our next session today, focuses on Councils taking the initiative and meeting local needs with locally developed solutions. To Chair the session please welcome the Mayor of Western Downs Regional Council, Cr Ray Brown.

Chair
Cr Ray Brown
Mayor, Western Downs Regional Council

Cr Butch Lenton, Mayor, Winton Shire Council
Cr Mark Jamieson, Mayor, Sunshine Coast Regional Council
Cr Belinda Murphy, Mayor, McKinlay Shire Council
Cr Allan Sutherland, Mayor, Moreton Bay Regional Council

Cr Ray Brown, Mayor, Western Downs Regional Council
Thank you everybody and I hope you have had your morning tea, it was all delivered by 3D printing. Did you enjoy it? Here are four models we prepared earlier and they will address you today.

Year after year councils tell us in the post event feedback, that ‘we really enjoy panel sessions’. So, involving your peers about novel and innovative ways and things we are doing in our councils; that is just what we are going to give you in the next seventy minutes. Each presenter will present for about ten minutes and then we will go on to a question and answer session afterwards.

Today's session is entitled 'Stepping Out on Our Own - Councils, and Taking the Lead'. It is wholly consistent with the annual conference theme 'Taking Control of our Destiny'. We have two large Councils and two small ones represented here on the panel. Almost a rerun of the grand final between the Cowboys and the Broncos!

So we have got two from each team up the top here. Better still this season will be a great showcase on just how clever, tenacious and resilient, our Queensland Councils have become, in leading the way. In the interest of time I am not going to read out our Mayors bios, they are all well known to us and after this term it is better we maximise our speaking time.

Our first presentation is by Cr Butch Lenton, the Mayor of Winton Shire and will cover off on Councils ground breaking (yes that was a pun), geothermal power station.

Our second speaker Cr Mark Jamieson, Mayor of the Sunshine Coast, will fill us in on his council’s highly innovative CBD development corporation.
Our third speaker - and probably the most pleasant of all the people up here - the lovely Cr Belinda Murphy, from the McKinlay Shire. The Mayoral Dynamo will speak about the council's Julia Creek solar power CBD business project.

Last but not least is my mate from the LGAQ Board and executive colleague, the Mayor of Moreton Bay Regional Council, Cr Allan Sutherland. Alan will talk about his council's unique journey to establish a university out of the old Petrie Paper Mill.

Cr Butch Lenton, Mayor, Winton Shire Council
Thanks very much for giving us this opportunity today to speak about geothermal. Thanks very much to Paul Antonio the Mayor of Toowoomba for a great venue. Toowoomba has been a great place to visit and it has been great to come down and see a bit of green countryside. It is fantastic!

Why Geothermal?

The project drivers are:
- Winton, limited rate base;
- Council budget vulnerability to fluctuations in government spending; and
- The cost of materials.

The Winton Shire Council, similar to many western Queensland Councils - we have a low rate base relative to our expenditure commitments. This leaves Council vulnerable to changes in government spending patterns and the cost of materials. Particularly those expenditure items that form the supply train for our core operations, such as road construction.

Core supply train expenditures include electricity, fuel, road construction materials. The exposure provides the context for the Winton Shire Councils investigation and development of strategies to ensure that we remain sustainable over time. Council has reviewed a number of strategies to lock in future costs. It was this process that led us to geothermal.

Councils' response:
- Pursue external revenue aggressively;
- restrain operational costs; and
- investigate strategies to give council better control over cost and future cost growths.

Council's historical response to risk associated with our low rate base, has been to supplement rate income with external income from either grants, subsidies or from recoverable works such as road constructions works.
Council’s Response

- Pursue External Revenue Aggressively
- Restrained Operational Costs
- Investigate strategies to give Council better control over costs and future cost growth.

The first graph on this slide demonstrates the difference between Council rate income and external income.

Rates generally form between twelve to fifteen percent of Councils’ revenue base. Council also worked actively over the past five years to constrain operating expenditure.

The second graph, on this slide, shows the flattening in operation expenditure, growth and the increase in expenditure on infrastructure through growth in capital expenditure.

Council recognises that for Winton to be sustainable, we need to have strong and effective productivity infrastructure, to be able to sell the community to new industry. As well as be continuously reviewing and managing operating costs of the organisation, in delivering our core services. It is in the context of these dual objectives that Council has been working on opportunities to better manage its supply chain cost, to provide better certainty in respect to future costs.

Why Geothermal?

- Operating cost management;
- High overheads due to cost of distribution network;
- Reducing customer base;
- Economic development;
- Reliable power for council facilities;
- Catalyst for future investment.

Winton Shire Council has two primary goals from the geothermal project.

The first goal is to gain some control over the Council’s future operating cost. Councils experience is that electricity prices have grown at a rate well above CPI over the last seven years. Councils assessment was that growth in electricity cost would continue in the future, due to a number of unavoidable factors including - the cost of the distribution network (poles and wires), this is particularly relevant in western Queensland where the network has a large geographic footprint, but a low concentration of customers to spread the cost of servicing the network. This drives pricing in electricity - notwithstanding the Queensland Government provides a significant CSO to ensure that the country consumers have equitable access to power.
Changes in technology, along with renewable sources of power are making alternatives such as solar, and indeed geothermal, more affordable and more reliable. This is resulting in more people in both city and country converting to renewable energy, reducing again the customer base to sustain the network.

From the economic development perspective of the geothermal plant, it is anticipated to act as a catalyst for future investment and provides one of the essential facilitators for the attractions of industrial investment, reliable power.

The plant and site

Winton runs a reasonably good quality, bore water. Some people reckon it is not that good, but we reckon it is pretty good. And, the Diamantina Devils have won their sixth premiership in a row, so it must be alright! The water comes out of the ground at eighty six degrees Celsius - water is cooled to forty five degrees Celsius prior to reticulation through the town. This currently cost Council about $100,000.00 per year in electricity. That is for the pump station.

Winton's existing water system, currently provides reticulated water from the artesian bore adjacent to town. The bore provides a reasonable quality of water as I said. Council does not have to treat the water prior to recirculation through the town. The water comes out at eighty six degrees and is cooled by a heat exchanger down to forty five, prior to reticulation through the town.

The operation of the hot water pumps, cold water pumps and the heat exchangers currently costs Council about $100,000.00 per year in electricity alone. At the height of summer, Council often has difficulty in cooling the water to forty-six degrees. due to the ambient temperatures - which over the summer are regularly between the forty-five to fifty degree range. What that does, is cause our cooling pond pumps to warm up and therefore the water going into town cannot be cooled down.

The geothermal power plant will be imposed between the existing bore and the existing heat exchanger system - using the heat from the water from the bore, to heat the working fluid in the geothermal plant, to produce electricity. The partially cooled water is then sent to the heat exchanger system for further cooling prior to being sent to town.

The work completed to date suggests that the geothermal process will cool the water about another fifteen degrees Celsius before the water actually gets to the heat exchanger. So that is something that will work very well.

The project footprint

First Stage - Council facilities
- Capital investment is $3.5 million dollars
- Anticipated savings of $15 million dollars over twenty years

Future stages - Extension to whole of community
- Operating a hybrid system with geothermal;
- Providing base load and solar power complimenting for peak demand;
- Private sector partner to be engaged in that.

At this stage, the Winton Geothermal Project will only provide the Shire Council facilities. The annual operating costs are low and can be completed by the existing town electrician. The operating savings actually do more than we had initially hoped in terms of controlling future expenditure. The current model has Council avoiding a considerable amount of future expenditure.

Council has previously investigated both hot rocks technology and solar power. Hot rocks, was too capital intensive up front and solar did not provide base load power or storage backup. The storage back up was too expensive.
The Geothermal Power Project provides a possible solution to the solar industry in terms of base load power and we are currently talking to private sector investors about developing solar energy for Winton. For the whole of Winton! Using geothermal power and a reduced battery support, to cover base load power requirements. That is probably the main reason we have got to look at geothermal as our sustainability in small towns out in the west.

I think the small towns in the west are shrinking, but I think they are vitally important for outback Queensland. It doesn't matter whether it is Boulia, Bedourie, Birdsville, Windorah, Cunnamulla, Blackall, Barcaldine and up in the northern line where Belinda is, Hughenden, the Richmonds and the Julia Creeks. They are vital towns for emergency services, because those transport routes are very important links to the north of Australia.

Unfortunately accidents do happen and I think it is very important that these small towns stay where they are. And I think that this is a way that we can make that happen. Because, those hospitals and emergency services as I said, are very important because, unfortunately things do go wrong out on the flat and it would be a very long way between towns if these little towns didn't exist. I think that is the important part of small towns in the west.

I will finish by just saying - we live where we live; we enjoy living where we live; and we have got to make it the best we possibly can, to live where we live. As Councils we have got to look at any way we can to make that happen.

Thank you.

Chair
Cr Ray Brown, Mayor, Western Downs Regional Council

Thank you Butch! Where we are in the Surat Basin, I have six power stations and he has got his own and it is a natural one. I am very envious of you.

I will now call on Mark to present to us

Cr Mark Jamieson, Mayor, Sunshine Coast Regional Council

Well thank you very much and good morning? Yes, good morning everybody, it is great to have been asked to participate in this particular session, as we have a few projects worth being aware of and indeed, maybe using the opportunity to learn from yourself.

Let me say in commencing that today is an opportunity for me to present the Sunshine Coast view, in a slightly different way to that which you would normally interpret it. Certainly people have a traditional view of the Sunshine Coast, as being largely a place for holidays. It is a great place for holidays, but we want to build a far more diversified economy, to better cater for the needs of a rapidly growing population – particularly for the younger generation, into the future.

So I am going to set the scene with some content. Then I am going to talk about four major projects led by our Greenfield Smart City in Maroochydore. We are going to have a video in a moment and before that comes on I would just like to steal a quote from China’s Chairman Mao and say that the Sunshine Coast is not only stepping out on its own, it is taking a giant leap forward. So let’s take a closer look at a short video.

As you can see it is a pretty exciting opportunity we have and you will have also noted that, our Council is working to shape a prosperous future for all of the communities that make up the Sunshine
Coast. Right now our region is in an ideal position, both in terms of its economic performance and our lifestyle offer and indeed our environmental credentials.

The Sunshine Coast was recently independently ranked, as the second highest performing non capital city economy in Queensland. The region recorded the highest level of business confidence of any region in Queensland. We have experienced an average annual economic growth rate of a little over 4%, against the national average of a little under three. The Sunshine Coast is forecast to have the second fastest population growth rate of all regions through to 2036. We are seeing record increases in international domestic visitor numbers, with the Coast recording the highest percentage growth of anywhere in Queensland - all signs of a growing surge of confidence in our region, what it has to offer, and the clarity of our plan for the future.

I will take a moment just to talk about the Regional Economic Development Strategy that we developed in concert with our community, business, industry, commerce, university. Because having a clear and believable plan for the future is crucial, if you want to see the results that our region is experiencing. Because collectively these results don't just happen, they certainly don't happen by accident and invariably they don't happen by luck.

For our Council ladies and gentlemen, it has been important to have a plan which builds on our prosperity for the future. Particularly given the circumstances our economy was in, when Council took office in 2012 - Still struggling to get over the GFC, because basically we had a fairly shallow economy that lacked diversity.

So in September of 2013 we launched our Regional Economic Development Strategy (as I said), developed in partnership with a wide range of stake holders. It provides a twenty year blue print, to build a new economy. A new economy that will emerge on the back of major capital investment opportunities highlighted in the video.

- New health precinct;
- new CBD; and
- airport expansion to name a few.

This will transform the foundations of our economy and strengthen its resilience, as we take our place in the broader economic world.

We have an unrelenting focus of developing and growing investment in seven high value industries; a strong emphasis on growing regional exports and investing in talent and skills that will not only provide the workforce that we need, but we will also encourage further job creating investment.

So we are on track to build a new economy and this is all about a fundamental transformation, which is why we refer to it as a ‘New Economy’, repositioning the Sunshine Coast economy, to be one that is more responsive to demand from elsewhere, rather than just relying on the consumption of locals.

For many years the Sunshine Coast has been very reliant on tourism, retail and construction. But going forward, we will be even more focussed on things like health; medical and wellbeing; education and research; the clean tech sector of aviation and aerospace and knowledge industries. I should make the point that, obviously tourism, construction and retail, will continue to be important. But it will benefit largely from the growth in those other sectors. So we really need to reposition our building blocks.

Our capital investment opportunities, or game changer projects, will be instrumental in helping us achieve that outcome and I will provide some more detail on that in a moment. Hence this is why today’s theme of ‘Stepping Out on our Own’ really does resonate with Council. The Sunshine Coast is really on the move as we seek to become one of Australia’s leading urban and economic centres. Indeed we are doing some things that are genuinely nation building.
The Maroochydore City Centre

Firstly we are developing a new CBD, a greenfield sight. This is a Council funded project, where land sales will fund the future stages of the development. It is the only green field CBD in Australia at this time and is situated on the former Horton Park Golf Club site - and for those of you who know Maroochydore, that is smack bang in the middle of town.

The first precincts in what is a fifty three hectare site, will be released to the market later this year. Earlier this year, Sunshine Coast Council established a new company called Sun Central, which will oversee the infrastructure development precinct planning and the marketing of the New City Centre. That company, led by a highly credentialed and experienced Board of Directors, chaired by Dr Doug McTaggart, is getting on with the enormous task of delivering a truly Smart City for the 21st Century, in the heart of Maroochydore.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I will hazard a guess that very few of you in the room, would have thought Australia's next international city would be situated on the Sunshine Coast. But this is a really rare opportunity. Ongoing investment opportunities will be delivered from this project for the next fifteen to twenty years. This will include - in one of the earliest precincts, which is a 3.2 ha site, earmarked for a premium international hotel - an entertainment, convention and exhibition centre.

Sunshine Coast Airport

Our second major project is a Sunshine Coast Airport. So, complementing Australia's newest international city, will be our new international airport. A major expansion of the existing Maroochydore - or maybe Maroochydore airport, some of you will know it as - is planned to include a new 2,450 metre runway, 45 metres wide and some upgrades to the existing terminal facilities.

In the last three months, a quarter of a million people have flown into the Sunshine Coast and a number of those from New Zealand on seasonal international flights that we already have. Recently, Qantas announced (after ten years) that it was coming back to the Sunshine Coast. So things are moving in the right direction.

This new runway will get underway as soon as the Coordinator-General completes his report on the environmental impact study and issues the necessary approvals, which are expected early next year. The expansion project will deliver a fully compliant, international standard, airport. One that will connect the Sunshine Coast directly with key market, in Asia, the Middle East and the United States.

Council owns the airport and will be seeking an equity partner in its development, through an innovative financial transaction. The airport is already attracting significant national and international interest, even though we are yet to go to market.

Solar Farm

The third project I would like to touch on is our solar farm. In keeping with our name and our vision as Australia's most sustainable region, our Council is also forging ahead with developing our own fifteen megawatt utility scale solar farm. I ask you ladies and gentlemen - where else would you put a solar farm than on the sunshine Coast?

Other governments - none in this room of course - at all levels, are talking about sourcing 50% of their energy needs from renewables by 2030. Well, by the end of next year, the Sunshine Coast Council and all of our facilities will be sourcing 100% of our electricity from solar.

The approvals are in place and we are in negotiations now with the successful tenderer, for the design build and operation - and subject to the outcome of those negotiations - we expect the project to break ground by the beginning of next year. Hopefully it will be an opportunity for all Councils in this room to learn from and see whether it could be adapted to their area.
I said that we were doing some nation leading things, as our council steps out on its own:

- A smart CBD;
- Australia’s next international airport; and
- 100% of our energy needs delivered by our own solar farm, by the end of next year.

**International Broadband Submarine Cable**

But that is not all, and I have kept potentially the best till last. The one that is probably the biggest game changer of all for the Sunshine Coast, and potentially for all of us in this room.

You may be aware that our council plans to attract an international broadband submarine cable to the Sunshine Coast. Obviously this is for offshore communications. We are doing this by seeking the declaration of a Cable Protections Zone, offshore from our coastline.

The marine topography on the Sunshine Coast is perfect for such an installation. We have currently made a submission to the Australian Communications and Media Authority. This international cable will connect Queensland directly with the rest of the world and will change the face of the Sunshine Coast, and indeed possibly Queensland forever - providing a magnet for technology businesses, finance and banking operations and businesses that depend on high volumes of online transactions. This will light up, certainly all of South-East Queensland (home to one in seven Australians) and reduce Queensland’s current reliance on terrestrial connections to Sydney.

But it can also, I hope, have great benefit for rural and remote parts of Queensland as well. Clearly, it ultimately relies on an effective land side network. I understand many of the challenges in the west - but certainly having a connection a thousand kilometres north of Sydney on the Sunshine Coast - hopefully will be beneficial to us all. In effect this will provide the platform from which we can build our Smart City at Maroochydore and establish the equivalent of a Silicone Valley on the Sunshine Coast.

Importantly, we have secured strong support for our application for the Cable Protection Zone, from both the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull (when in his former portfolio of communications) and also from Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk. This is the sort of digital investment we need.

If, or should I say when, the cable is delivered by the private sector; the Sunshine Coast will become the closest digital connection point in Australia, to leading markets of Asia and the United States (US). No other region in Australia - I should make the point, there are only two places where these cables come ashore at the moment and that is Sydney (where there are four) and one that comes into Perth - Those four in Sydney would cater for 98% of voice and data from Australia to the US. So a pretty unique position to be in.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in this short period of time, I hope I have been able to achieve my objective, for you to leave here with a very different perspective of the Sunshine Coast. I bought a few information packs (about some of the things we are doing), with me. For those who think there may be some value in it, grab one.

We are in my view, a great place to visit, one of the most beautiful locations in Australia in which to live. But our region is much more as we step out on our own to build a prosperous future for our communities.

Just so you are also aware of the next, second and third horizon projects we have got on our agenda: including a light rail network; two master planned communities that will cater for seventy thousand people (about 50% of our growth in the next twenty years); and possible a primary industry export gateway linked to our international airport.

We have a clear and believable plan and the Sunshine Coast is becoming one of Australia’s leading destinations for business investment and innovation.
If I can leave you with one thought, it is this - The future is here on our Sunshine Coast!

Thanks very much.

Chair  
Cr Ray Brown, Mayor, Western Downs Regional Council

Thank you Mark! My daughter got married there last weekend and I now own, I think, half of the Sunshine Coast, because I had to pay for most of it.

Cr Belinda Murphy, Mayor, McKinlay Shire Council

Good morning. I would like to acknowledge Mayor Paul Antonio and thank you for hosting this in your beautiful city of Toowoomba.

I am just going to talk about our McKinlay Shire solar project, which was basically involving Council and businesses.

When we talk about sustainability and what it is and what it means to people - it is something very different to everyone. If you google sustainability, what comes up are a lot of images to do with recycling, renewable energies etc. You also get these sort of linkages, which is a bit more of our situation: Economic development, social responsibility as well as some environmental. This particular project was really born out of a focus of sustaining local businesses, and therefore sustaining our community.

What do local businesses mean in sustaining our community? It meant having the local pub (very important in western Queensland), local newsagents, butchers, grocery stores, Australia Post, but more importantly it really meant sustaining our towns. With our towns, obviously sustaining that means sustaining our people that live there.

I want to acknowledge State and Federal Government. Obviously now, there is significant funding flowing through to Local Governments with the increase in TIDS and certainly an increase in Roads to Recovery (R2R) etc.

But for the focus of this project, we have to go back about eighteen months, where Council had a lot of concerns, because this funding was either being cut, or simply wasn't flowing through. What we found was, our businesses were suffering amongst a lot of other things and we wanted to know how we could help. So the initial idea was born from this and for consultation, it can be a little bit easier in smaller shires. We were able to directly visit our local businesses. Which is what I did with the then Secretary for the Chamber of Commerce and talk to them about their major issues.

Obviously the two key ones were freight and power. Freight would have been a difficult one for Council to look at. Everyone got their products and services in different ways. Power though, certainly became the focus. We are at the end of the line. We have our power delivered out of Townsville. So reliability is obviously an issue.

Definitely for businesses, was the impact of price and their usage - being out in Western Queensland is quite high.

When we looked at a renewable energy, we really didn't discuss anything else other than solar. It was the main option. It was the simplest and had the least capital expenditure. It was really something businesses said they had already looked at, but in the current environmental climate and economic climate, they just didn't have the upfront capital to be looking at investing in solar at the time.
So what we did was to develop a process we split into two phases.

Stage one

Was a business case! Council fully funded the business case. In determining who was going to take part in the project - and bearing in mind, being a small Council with limited financial capacity - we really focussed on businesses that, a large part of their operational expenditure was power.

So we coined the term 'Shop Front Businesses'. That was really, any business that our residents or extended community had to go into to get goods or services. In our shire there was around twenty two of those based in Julia Creek and our two smaller towns of McKinlay and Kynuna.

They were all invited to take part in the business case. We ran that through a tender process and we actually appointed Tropical Energy Solutions to complete that stage one. That took, about three months from about the date the tender was awarded.

Each business, Council included, received an individual tailored report. Every business was different. Whether it was their physical location, how old the building was, what sort of power connections they had etc. It was really important that that was taken into account. The cost to Council for the business case was around $15,000.00.

There were definitely some challenges in this. It was a new initiative. Liaising with the businesses, especially the paperwork - because there was a lot of paperwork to be filled out to ensure that the individual cases, really provided the best possible picture for them to either, move forward to stage two or not.

I have touched already on the different physical attributes of the different premises. But I would like to say at this point, even from the finalisation of the Business Case, there were many businesses that were identified to be on incorrect tariffs.

Ergon had been through a lot of tariff changes over the last few years. New ones: some had become obsolete etc. This part of the project certainly picked up (for some businesses), that they were not on the correct tariff. They actually received immediate savings, by contacting Ergon and fixing that problem.

Stage Two

Again, this was fully funded by Council; was the actual implementation process and also the capital expenditure. What we did was look at Council entering into legally binding agreements with local businesses. There was a lot of legislation to comply with, and obviously the Local Government Act and regulations etc. Also minimising the risk for Council and essentially rate payers - because essentially what we are talking about here, is spending Council funds to help develop or sustain businesses in town - so we had to make sure that was going to be done properly and effectively.

We ran a tender process for this as well. We engaged the services of King and Company to help with all the legal side for us and Local Government Infrastructure Services (LGIS) engaged through the tender process and the project management for us, for stage two.

This is probably the critical part, the innovative part, of how to work with businesses on this. As I said, many of them did not have the funds to do the upfront capital cost of installing the solar, though they could see the long term benefits. So what we have entered into, or enter into, is currently, legal agreements with businesses and a payback period.

Council is fully funding the solar to go on these businesses. The formula that we used for the payback period was as simple as:
• The new estimated power bill (which they received in each individual business case study),
• Plus a special rates levy, (hence all the legal compliance and the help with King and Co to redo our revenue statements), must be less than the current power bill.

So that meant the moment this solar product goes and is installed on the businesses, with their first quarter power bill, they should actually see a cost saving. That formula is what is being used to set the payback period for the solar infrastructure cost. As I have said, that has become a special rates levy on their rates notice.

Again, that has been the smartest way to do it and to minimise risk to the community. As you know, it is part of the rates notice. If the business gets sold and changed, it is still there as a special rates levy till it gets paid off. If the worst thing happens and the business closes - then again, when Council moves through its processes (if rates are unpaid), they will sell it up. We are still recovering the Council investment costs into the solar.

We tendered the works for both the Council Assets and the businesses, and this has gone to SunEdison. They are currently working through the process at the moment, liaising on the final fixed cost and design. We are really hoping that all this will be completed by 2015.

Some quick costs

I have said that the stage one business case was around: $15,000.00

The stage two implementation outlay (and this is for all the administrative, compliance and legal work) has been around: $82,000.00

The approximate Capex at the moment, for around nine businesses that are moving through to ‘Stage Two’ is approximately: $300,000.00.

That is the initial investment that Council is up for.

If we split that a little bit (and it is a bit hard), on current interest rates, the total investment for Council, for business in the project is approximately $150,000.00. That is taking into account lost interest over the time, for that money that Council may have had sitting in their bank.

A bit of a case study, because obviously I can't give you any businesses, but Councils has included six assets. Our capital investment for the six assets is just on a quarter of a million dollars. This averages out to a four year payback.

We are going to have a $60,000.00 per annum cost saving. Our current power bill is around $340,000.00. So based on today's pricing alone, we are looking at a 20% annual saving as a minimum, which is good for a small shire.

Our business case estimate is different to the tender price estimates when we went to full tender. So that has been a challenge, understanding the compliance - not just from the Local Government side, but from an energy side as well! And really ensuring that who got awarded the final tender, is going to meet the expectations for businesses and Council and the products were going to meet the standards over time.

Liaising with Ergon Energy - It hasn't been a challenge. I have to say Ergon has been terrific. We had an initial phone call right from the start, when we had this idea. They have worked through with us and are still working with SunEdison to the point where they have now allowed these business solar installations to go ahead without zero export devices, just a couple of weeks ago. Which has been another installation saving of about $4,000.00. So that is definitely part of it.
What do we hope for in the end? Well, like everyone, a massive big wet season!

But no, we are really hoping that we will hit those 20% targets for Council Assets on savings, and save our community and sustain our businesses.

Finally - I would be extremely remiss in not giving credit to our staff. It is one thing to have ideas as elected representatives on Council, it is another thing for staff to then try to fit these ideas and make them successful within a framework, legislation and compliance. Our staff have been terrific and especially our Director of Corporate and Community Services, Tenneil Cody, who has been with the project from the start. But I am sure now thinks, ‘Oh God’, every time we have a portfolio meeting and I say “I have got an idea!”

We are not off the grid. We are still very well and truly on the grid. As Butch touched on with the geothermal, we are investigating geothermal to supplement our solar program. It wasn’t something we looked at from the start (our water temperature isn’t as hot as Winton’s, but certainly it is being investigated), because the deeper you go the hotter it gets. That could be a project for the future!

Chair
Cr Ray Brown, Mayor, Western Downs Regional Council

Thank you Belinda. I suppose there is a lot of talk about energy at the moment, but the one ‘Take Home Message’ - and she did just relate to it - go back and tell all your Chief Financial Officers you need an energy audit! Particularly an electricity audit and you will be shocked where some of your big expenditure is going and most of you will find you are on the wrong tariffs.

I will now introduce the missing member of the Bee Gees, Alan, and welcome you to the stage.

Cr Allan Sutherland, Mayor, Moreton Bay Regional Council

Thanks very much Ray. Mayor Antonio, may I take this opportunity and compliment you on this wonderful part of town. This building is incredible and my morning walks, I have just been in awe, of the standard and the level of maintenance. What a cracker of a place! It is a beautiful, beautiful city. You should be very proud.

I would also like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and their Elders past and present.

Guys your forum yesterday made it very hard for me to speak today, because I feel somewhat taken back when we sit back with Mayors across Queensland and Councillors. We have many and varied, I guess, problems to solve as leaders of our community.

But when you are sitting in a forum, knowing you are going to speak about infrastructure worth hundreds of millions of dollars (many bridges, roads and schools (all sorts of things that we have been talking about, generation of power) and we hear some of the people that are in the room today, speaking about that their main problem is their mortality rate in the areas in which they live.

Can I tell you, it is sobering guys to hear a guy in his forties turn around and say, in five years time he will be about the average age of their life expectancy in their community for a male. So I think we have got a lot of work to do as communities, to help our people in Western Queensland - Butch in our sister city at Winton and our Indigenous Communities. It is hard to get up with a lump in your throat and talk about what we are doing in these large growth areas to keep our communities going, when you know there are other parts of the state that are really on their knees as we speak.
I say, that our threats are actually our growth the longevity of which our community lives, their aging community and the number of people that come to our region.

In the Moreton Bay Region, we will have a population in excess of a half a million people inside twenty years. We are over 400,000 now. We will be 550,000. We will have a population bigger than that of Tasmania. We had the fastest growth in Queensland, 9,500 dwellings were built last year.

- The Northern Territory has a population of 232,000;
- The Australian Capital Territory 383,000;
- Moreton Bay Region as I said 410,000;
- Tasmania 512,000.

And in twenty five years we will exceed that. That does give its issues for a fast growing council. I will just take you through a few signature projects since amalgamation. We are the largest amalgamated Council in Australian history I believe, with three very sustainable Councils - the old Caboolture, Pine Rivers and Redcliffe.

When we amalgamated, I guess, presented a lot of problems which as a Council we worked together to solve. One of the ways we solved them, was building bigger and more resilient communities with a system of signature projects for infrastructure that was sadly lacking - that the individual Councils themselves, couldn't afford in many instances. But collectively, with our buying power, we could achieve a lot more than we were as individual Councils.

I will just very quickly walk you through a couple of them before we get to our major one, which we are working on at the moment.

The Caboolture Hub

The first one I guess was The Hub at Caboolture. It is a fantastic project. It has had visitations in excess of 300,000 people in its first year. It is a state of the art facility. It has got sixteen rooms with a lot of high tech, innovative technology - projector screens and the rooms can be reconfigured in all forms. It is a great community facility right in the middle of Caboolture and may I say, it really has had a huge difference in turning the CBD of Caboolture around and it is a very much loved building indeed.

Rejuvenation of the Front Street of Redcliffe

It was very quickly followed up with plans we got straight underway, for the rejuvenation of the front Moreton Bay facing street of Redcliffe, which was attracting a lot of people from Brisbane (the capital city of Queensland). They used to come down to Redcliffe, a sleepy seaside town, and have some fish and chips.

We pumped about $20 million into the front street of Redcliffe. To say that it has been reborn is an understatement.

Bee Gees Way

We topped it off with the just opened 'Bee Gees Way', where Barry Gibb from the Bee Gees, came across and opened it. It has become a tourist attraction in its own right. It is amazing to see the hundreds of people that go through, if not thousands every week. People come down from all around South East Queensland, to look at the history of the Bee Gees and where they started in Redcliffe.
We followed that up with the Corso. I am particularly proud of the Corso, in that it is a state of the art facility that has won many awards.

The awards are for things like:

- It generates most of its own power. It has got 550 roof top solar panels;
- It collects 200,000 litres of its own water (all of its toilets and water that it uses as a building throughout the complex, is harvested on the building itself, as well as much of the power);
- It was the first publicly build five star, green star rated building in Australia I believe, that is one of the awards that it has achieved.

That is in the growth area of North Lakes. Those of you that have heard of North Lakes, it is just powering ahead. It is powering ahead with a lot of the retail giants that are coming to our region. Like, the first Costco store in Queensland, which has just been fantastic and I must admit as a Mayor, I smile every morning when I hear those petrol prices being read out across the greater South East Queensland Our area is always the cheapest and it is because of that healthy competition by Costco.

The second IKEA in the state is being built just down the road from Costco.

As a Council, we have worked very hard to attract those businesses to our community, because they are huge job generators to our region. In fact half of our community leave our Moreton Bay region to gain employment. That is another serious challenge that we have.

Moreton Bay Rail Link

The other one of course, is what we all get in a growth area, transport. Our transport difficulties are not unlike any other regions’ in South East Queensland. I know Mark has the issues and down at Logan for Pam, she has huge issues down there. But we have tackled it by creating new transport links. One of them is the soon to be opened Moreton Bay Rail Link - A billion dollar project. Well, it started off at $1.1 billion and through a lot of hard work that has been cut back to $900 million.

I guess one of the things, like nearly all of our projects that we come to (that we have put into place), one of the things that makes me so proud about the rail link is, it is being funded by three tiers of government.

- By the State to the tune of $350 million;
- by the Council to the tune of $110 million; and
- by the Feds, some $650 million dollars.

Most of our projects have been delivered by working closely with State and Federal Governments, of all political persuasions. We have I guess, stamped ourselves as a community who want to work with all tiers of government, to get the best outcomes for our community.

University

On the rail link - It was very good to build a lot of community projects, but it was becoming apparent through studies, that we had done as a Council, that we were lacking something in our region. What we were lacking was a quality, large, tertiary institution. All of the kids, with the exception of about 800, travel outside the region for their education. They travel to the Sunshine Coast. A third of the kids in the Moreton Bay Region travel up that highway to the Sunshine Coast University, the rest travel to Brisbane or South Brisbane - indeed leave the region.
As you can see by the slide above, the little stars propose universities. If you look at all the stars on the south side of Brisbane to the Gold Coast, there are universities aplenty.

Now, as community leaders, I believe we owe it to ourselves and our communities, to put our best foot forward. In a growing region, we are presented with a huge amount of problems. One - where do we put a university? Where do we get a hundred or two hundred hectares, where just about every billy goat track and every block of mud in the region, is taken up with some form of development.

Well, there is a god in the sky, because there was a place called the Petrie Paper Mill that has been a significant - to the area, not just the last few decades, but for a millennium or more, forever - it was a place where Tom Petrie would say ‘the Aboriginal kids used it as a place to learn hunting and gathering techniques’. It was a place that created tens of thousands of jobs over time, as tradies in Australia’s largest paper mill were put through their trade.

It became redundant. So, two hundred hectares, right on the intersection of our new rail link and the old north/south rail link that goes from the Sunshine Coast through to Brisbane.

Council set about purchasing this property. It was a two year task by the time we convinced the owners, Amcor, that we were the people that should own this site. We went through a two year process. Just a few months ago we purchased the site at a cost of $50.5 million.
The above slide shows the Petrie Mill Site which is in the heart of the Moreton Bay Region. It has the M1 Highway just a couple of kilometres away from it (as the crow flies). It is serviced, probably better than any other university precinct in the whole of Australia. It has two rail links servicing it, it has a main road with a bus link on it and it has the main M1 Highway on it. It has a huge amount of usable space and it has also got some green corridors, with one of the largest koala populations in the area.

It is an absolutely beautiful precinct and like many other universities around Australia, they are usually mills or farms or whatever. In fact UQ in Brisbane was a mill in itself. It was a sugar mill I believe.

So this paper mill - We are currently working with KPMG in a procurement process. Where KPMG are doing the negotiating and bidding on behalf of the Council. The reason we are doing it, is because in this day and age, like many other things, there isn't a lot of dollars out there. Indeed, if council didn't step up to the plate and move forward with this project, it would just never happen.

We couldn't go to the Federal Government and say 'hey, build us a university'. They would say, 'join the cue'. The State Government would say 'well you guys, you have got a lot of work to do'. So, Council is offering all the opportunity we can seek, to get a bright future for our kids. As leaders we owe it to our kids and the statistic (like I said with the Aboriginal Communities yesterday and their problems with mortality rates), the statistics that bear very heavy in my sole, is there are five to six thousand kids a year, in Moreton Bay Region, that don't take up tertiary education. Not because they are not bright enough, not because they have any other reason, other than the fact they cannot get to a university. They are living in a built up area with huge traffic problems and they just have not got the opportunity.

So as Community Leaders we are stepping forward, we are stepping up to the plate and can I say folk - Watch this space!

Thank you.
Chair  
**Cr Ray Brown, Mayor, Western Downs Regional Council**

Thank you Allan! Now it is over to you (delegates). We have got a panel of four very influential leaders in different areas across Queensland and for different reasons. So thank you to the four panellists.

**Question**

**Cr Mal Foreman, Mayor, Bundaberg Regional Council**

I would like to address this to Mark and Belinda with your solar power generation ideas. How are you going to store that power or electricity when it gets formed into that? Batteries or what? Because that is a very expensive ongoing cost and what help will you get to do that?

**Response**

**Cr Mark Jamieson, Mayor, Sunshine Coast Regional Council**

Well, in the case of the Sunshine Coast, we will be connecting into the grid and pumping our energy into there. There is the location at Valdora (which is sort of located between Coolum and Ninderry, former cane land), a fifty hectare site which will have solar panels across about half of that. But it will be grid connected.

**Response**

**Cr Belinda Murphy, Mayor, McKinlay Shire Council**

Again with the McKinlay Shire project, it will definitely be grid connected as well. For the businesses it wasn’t about generating solar power and feeding it back through the Ergon grid. They weren’t really interested (and you wouldn’t be as a business), in four cents, or whatever it is now.

What they were interested in, was reducing their operational costs of power. So the business case was built around what is the biggest solar system for an individual business, to maximise the cost savings, while also still supplementing that with Ergon power as well. That zero export device, was a major power saving - Ergon agreeing for them not to have that and just basically agree not to plug power back into the grid over time.
Question

Cr Nancy Sommerfield - Toowoomba Regional Council
Just in relation to the solar farms, how do Ergon or Energex get their money back in relation to power poles and wires etc? Their infrastructure - how is that maintained?

Response

Cr Mark Jamieson, Mayor, Sunshine Coast Regional Council
We have got an agreement with Energex, the sort of details of which I can't really go into right at the moment, because all this hasn't been absolutely finalised. But there will be a sub-station developed as part of it. But that is probably all I can say right at the moment.

Response

Cr Belinda Murphy, Mayor, McKinlay Shire Council
Well I suppose from our region, we have worked with Ergon. I understand poles and wires need to be funded from somewhere and that is people using the systems that are there now. But I really think, especially in rural communities and smaller communities, we have got to use the opportunities that are there.

As I have stated, and Ergon is very aware of the loss of power from Townsville to us and that we are at the end of the line. So they are working with us, to basically make sure they can still have their revenue, but also minimise costs for business through other renewable sources as well.

Question

Philip Keirle, CEO, Burke Shire Council
A very similar question, but I guess this one is probably better answered by Butch.

We are very interested in adding capacity to our power supply in Burke Town and it is not something that Ergon is going to do. We recently built a community facility there and to put in the air conditioning we wanted. Ergon were offering to charge us $10 million to upgrade the power station, or we could buy our own and install our own generator - just so we could turn the air conditioning on to air condition the building.

Given that kind of reluctance, Butch, I know you guys are doing something that is potentially quite controversial in creating your own grid. I was just wondering how your negotiations have gone with Ergon and how they have been progressing in the context of a range of remote communities, who might like to increase their own capacity, through building a solar plant or geothermal (or whatever else it might be) and how to not also have to invest in the poles, wires and reticulation of the power that is already in place?

I guess managing that interaction and integration with Ergon. So if you have got any thoughts on that, or anyone else on the panel, we would love to hear from you.

Response

Cr Butch Lenton, Mayor, Winton Shire Council
Righto Philip. The two ways we are looking at is - it is underground power to our Council infrastructure. We have got to have backup anyway, so we are talking to Ergon about, if something goes wrong, we switch back to Ergon.
The other way we look at is, we go completely off grid for Council Infrastructure, with our own diesel generators to power up if something does go wrong with the geothermal. That is where we are at the moment Philip.

Question

Cr. Ron Carige, Mayor, Banana Shire Council
Alan, my question is to you. I commend you on your development. I suppose I am interested in
1. All your developments you spoke about, you talk in the millions, which is great. How did you raise the money?
2. Going forward, we hear a lot about Local Government debt. Is there a plan on how you are going to pay that off, or are you as a Council, just happy to have a big debt, because, income is a big problem for us all.

Response

Cr Allan Sutherland, Mayor, Moreton Bay Regional Council
We have got -probably arguably - one of the best sets of books in Queensland as far as finances go and that is fuelled largely by our growth. We have got tremendous growth. Our rate base keeps on expanding each year.

As I said, every time I see a paddock broken up, I just see more rates coming through the door as 9,500 new houses went up last year - I am thinking, good on you! But a lot of the stuff we fund is funded, as I said, through three tiers of government.

In the case of the university, a lot of it is going to be self-funded. For instance, the whole precinct, it won’t all be university. It is a similar size to your shopping centre up there at the Coast that you are developing.

There will be a lot of commercial activity in and around that university. Anything that we may drop in dollar value by creating a space for a university, the uptake of that will be huge as far as the commercial advantages around that hub will go. In fact, I would like to think, within ten or fifteen years it will be cost neutral, through the figures that we have been putting together.

The other things we have been doing - when it comes to things like the rail - it makes a lot of councils giddy - $110 million dollars. But in all fairness, when we were born as three new councils - a new foal at the stable after the amalgamation - Sunny Coast, you guys contribute to a bus service up there, in fact I think you have a transport levy; Gold Coast, their light rail; Brisbane, a bus service, that I would shudder to think how much it costs to run; Moreton Bay Region - nothing - zero for public transport. So it was, I believe, only fair and equitable, if we are to seek subsidy of State and Federal Government for different things that we should contribute to public transport.

By putting $110 million up on the block first up, was a good way to keep the foxes out of the hen house, so to speak, in the short term.

So…. cost effectiveness, it is huge for us in creating development. Like, that new train will take six hundred cars off the M1 every fifteen minutes. That just helps business come along. Job creation in the area, as I said, between Costco and Ikea, there are one thousand jobs in two buildings and with the associated buildings around it - it is self-perpetuating if you like.

The growth fuels more money. The more money we get, the more money we spend on the infrastructure.

But it is a challenge and I guess one of the things we have done as a Council, is we didn’t wait for the three years. If you remember, I was written up in the Sunday paper, as being the Mean Mayor who threw people out of windows and all the rest of it.
Well, if they didn't want to work, that was my attitude. Get out of the joint. The rate payers deserve better than that. But we restructured. We went down in council employees and we saved a hell of a lot of money. In fact, we estimated we would save $40 million over the first term. We saved in excess of $120 million over the first term by restructuring. That money gets ploughed back into our facilities.

**Question**

_Cr Ray Brown, Mayor, Western Downs Regional Council_

Getting back to Ron's question, I can see you can come up with, the rate base that has paid for it. But I think for us smaller councils - we don't have the rate base to pay for it. I think I will just add on from the question from Ron's, was, are you fully funding the depreciation ahead and also with Belinda and Butch, the same. Because there is a lot of government incentives to put these programs in place, but are you fully funding it ahead?

**Response**

_Cr Allan Sutherland, Mayor, Moreton Bay Regional Council_

Absolutely, all our depreciation is fully funded.

**Response**

_Cr Belinda Murphy, Mayor, McKinlay Shire Council_

I suppose from our perspective, the business one is a specific agreement with them, so it is not ours to really depreciate. Well, only over a short period until it is owned by the businesses. As far as the Council infrastructure goes, I assume that we will be funding the depreciation. We have actually had no assistance with this project what so ever. Just for clarity.

**Response**

_Cr Butch Lenton, Mayor, Winton Shire Council_

Ray, our project is $3.5 million. The first million is out of reserves, our own. The $2.5 million is a loan from Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC). We want to do it ourselves. We feel if we don't get off our ginger and do something..... You have got to do some things yourself and that is the way it has got to be.

**Question**

_Professor John Cole, Executive Director of the Institute for Resilient Regions, University of Southern Queensland_

Thanks Ray. This is really to Butch and Belinda, and to Mark. With the solar energy, was the CSO ever a topic of discussion, the 'Community Service Obligation', in your discussions with the State?

Because, I would have thought that with your initiatives in renewable energy, you are reducing the CSO spend in your part of the world. I guess the implication of this is, that with this kind of initiative, is there an opportunity for the local government sector more generally, to be talking to the State about smarter ways of using that CSO in some parts, in support of the kind of innovations you guys have been promoting?

**Response**

_Cr Mark Jamieson, Mayor, Sunshine Coast Regional Council_
Well I can start by saying…… no we have not. For us this is purely about business. It is about recognising that we pay significant amounts for electricity every year.

Building our own solar farm will allow us to have a hedge against rising prices. But on the scale which we are developing, it will indeed be profitable itself. So, there will be, over the life of the project, which is thirty years, somewhere between a nine to twenty million dollar benefit to our rate payers.

In addition to that, it will be a stimulator for the clean tech industry sector, which sees the Sunshine Coast a highly suitable place to establish and it has been independently forecast that it will generate about another one hundred and eighty jobs as a consequence.

Response

Cr Belinda Murphy, Mayor, McKinlay Shire Council
I suppose from McKinlay Shire, the first part of the question is, ‘no’. I don’t think we did talk to the State about the CSO.

On the second part, if there is certainly a benefit there for other local governments and even for us now, through this, that is probably something we should be looking at definitely!

Response

Cr Butch Lenton, Mayor, Winton Shire Council
That actually goes the same for Winton. If there is something out there that can help us along with it, we would be only too grateful.

Chair

Cr Ray Brown, Mayor, Western Downs Regional Council
I thank you all. Please put your hands together for our four panellists.

50:50 Vision Presentation to Sunshine Coast Regional Council

Master of Ceremonies

We now have a special presentation. As mentioned by Cr de Wit this morning. The 50:50 Vision is an awards initiative, promoting and recognising ongoing commitment to gender equity in Local Government. Councils can apply for three levels of accreditation - Bronze, silver and gold. To make an accreditation presentation today to Sunshine Coast Council, please welcome back Cr Margaret de Wit.

Cr Margaret de Wit, President LGAQ

Just to add on to what David just explained about the 50:50 Vision Awards and gender diversity in the workplace, which I touched on briefly in my speech - There are a number of levels of awards under the 50:50 Vision Strategy - LGAQ had the national role for implementation of this.

Ten Councils in Queensland reached the first level, which is a bronze award. Only two so far, have made it to the silver award. To achieve the silver award; it is to do with the assessment of corporate support for the program, commitment and leadership, including Champions of Change and promoting work and family balance and workplace diversity.
So I would like to congratulate the Sunshine Coast Regional Council on attaining the silver award. If councils are interested, I really urge you to have a look at this and to have a think about it. Denise Conroy is on the LGAQ stand and she would be only too happy to have a chat to you about the 50:50 awards and Sally is out there as well, talking about work place diversity.

Mark - congratulations to Sunshine Coast Regional Council.

Cr Mark Jamieson, Mayor, Sunshine Coast Regional Council
Thank you Margaret, very much. I am delighted to accept this award and I would like to acknowledge Sunshine Coast Councillor, Cr Jenny MacKay who has really been the driving force within our Council.

The notion of fairness and equity and cultural diversity, is very important. The Sunshine Coast is made up of a whole variety of different people and Council needs to be a reflection of that. I think these sorts of awards recognise that contribution, the responsibility and I guess determination to make some real change in our workforces. I certainly as Mayor believe it is to our advantage and I thank and congratulate all of our staff from Sunshine Coast who have been actively involved. I urge you to consider how you might participate as well. Thank you very much.

Keynote Address: Global megatrends that will change the way Queensland communities live – and the infrastructure needed for it.

Clinton Parker, Director, Business Solutions, LGIS
Daniel Westall, Director, Operations, LGIS

Master of Ceremonies

Our second keynote address this morning will be presented by Clinton Parker and Daniel Westall from Local Government Infrastructure Services (LGIS).

Clinton Parker is Director of Business Solutions at LGIS. Clinton has a strong background in communications, marketing and stakeholder management. He has managed a range of significant marketing campaigns, including Queensland’s ‘Home Waterwise Service’, ‘Climate Smart Home Service’ and worked with Councils on numerous community engagement and resource efficiency projects.

Daniel Westall is the Director of Operations at LGIS. His background is in project management, stakeholder engagement and technical assessment, both for government agencies and the private sector. His responsibilities at LGIS have included, management of LGIS’s services supporting Councils, undertaking over a billion dollars in disaster reconstruction work and undertaking direct project management and procurement for large post disaster restoration programs.

Could you please welcome Clinton Parker and Daniel Westall!
Clinton Parker, Director, Business Solutions, LGIS

Thanks very much. I am Clinton Parker and that is Daniel over there. I wanted to start off by saying that, today’s talk is not about teaching you how to suck eggs, I think for us, today is actually about just raising some of the common challenges that we all face.

LGIS is out there talking to Local Governments on a daily basis and we hear common themes. We have heard common themes here, previously from the Mayor’s. I guess it is an opportunity for us to put some solutions together and actually make some predictions about the future as well. The most important thing is, for us to start a conversation.

I guess with innovation, we constantly find that the best way to actually come to a common solution, or to create solutions, is actually through a conversation. That is what we have done with Winton and geothermal. It has not just been one sided. We have got some ideas and so does Winton and it is actually a discussion, a conversation.

LGIS is actually ten years old now and a lot of changes have happened over the last ten years. Now more than ever (now that we have moved totally under LGAQ ownership), we are in a greater position more than ever, to aggregate solutions and actually work with Councils to share solutions.

This talk is actually about some work we did a couple of years ago. LGIS I guess, was in a privileged position (it is a bit of a once in a life opportunity to work with CSIRO) and work on their analysis of how we now live in a global world. It is now apparent more than ever that big global trends affect communities, small and large.

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) called these global trends, Megatrends. On this working group was actually a cross section of economic, technological and infrastructure leaders. But they all actually had a vested interest in what was actually happening in communities in Queensland and what effect these big global trends were having on individual communities - again, big and small.

Our role essentially was to talk around - what are some of the challenges that would happen with infrastructure in communities; what was some of the infrastructure that was required for the future; also what were the changes in infrastructure, what were the changes in thinking it was required to actually meet some of these challenges in the future.

Before I go into too much more detail, I want to actually talk about what a Mega trend is. We are not talking about dancing around like a horse, or South Korean Pop, or putting ice water over your head for a charity. We are not talking about anything like that.

Essentially a Megatrend is actually a shift in environmental, economic and social condition that echoes through a decade. So it is not just something that happens overnight. It is largely social. It is actually all these converging things happening at once. Actually, the timeframe for some of this to echo through is about twenty years. So that is the timeframe that we are looking at. The Megatrends are global. They affect all communities, some in very different ways and some in very similar ways. But the point is, they influence communities and that is the most important factor.

I guess the biggest thing that we have seen collectively, is the internet. Now the trend is not the internet. The trend is actually the information that we have and the way (regardless of background) it is actually able to access information now. You know…. we have got sites like Wikipedia, we have got universities like Harvard actually releasing free content, we have got search engines like Google actually able to access that information quite quickly. We were talking before about how we used to have index cards and actually have to go to a library, get the index card and go and search for a book. The access to information is so dramatically different now.
There are six Megatrends that CSIRO identified. I am going to touch on all of them. Then what we are going to do, is actually drill down into three of them and talk about what we see are some of the infrastructure changes that are going to occur, what are the challenges and put up, or pose some infrastructure responses.

The first one is more from less. I guess this is a theme that local government is quite familiar with. We talked about constraint and what innovations are being used by councils to respond to funding constraint and obviously some innovations that are trying to be economic enablers as well. This is actually representative of a global theme and it is likely to continue through the next couple of decades. We have now greater demands on fewer resources. You know - water and energy being the big themes that are coming out at the moment, and there are no changes in site to that and we will talk a bit more about that in detail.

Great expectations about this rising demand for products and services that are personalised. People want that personal touch and it is actually also about personalised relationships. People are actually wanting, more and more one on one direct relationships, that are meaningful. That is a global trend that is occurring, particularly across the western world.

Lou Boyle has been talking about the internet and things quite extensively and Councils as we heard about:

- accessing the internet; and
- accessing information; and
- storing information in such new ways.

That is again likely to resonate throughout the next couple of decades.

**Forever Young** – This Megatrend is about the ageing population. There are some challenges around this widening retirement saving gap on one hand. But that also provides opportunities where there is a pool of resources that are required to work for longer. They have some intelligence and they actually have some capability and skills that can really compliment the resources that we have.

**Biodiversity**

The Biodiversity Megatrend is about biodiversity in plant and animal species and the fact that these things are actually reducing globally in such a dramatic way. We are being forced to choose in some ways, about development and the environment in which we live. Obviously in Australia we talk about water quite often as being a challenge. It also speaks to climate change as well, being an impact.

**The Silk Highway** - which I believe is actually called The Silk Road, is about the growth in Asia and I know that we have seen recent news about how there has been a downturn in China. However the long term trend throughout Asia (including India), is that there is going to be significant growth, as billions of people move from poverty into the middle class. That trend is undeniable. If you look at Ford Forecasts, from a number of entities, there is evidence there that, that is the trend.

Now we are going to explore three megatrends and just talk a bit about infrastructure and what we see as being some interesting developments and potential solutions. I will pass over to Daniel to start with the first Megatrend.

**Daniel Westall, Director, Operations, LGIS**

We heard this morning, several times, mention of 'More From Less'. You hear it a lot. But we think that is more than just a broad turn of phrase, or a cliché. Some context really for 'More From Less', comes from these figures.
The global population will reach around ten billion by 2050. There is just over seven billion now. ‘More from less’ also reflects our appetite for ever improving products and services, against the backdrop of diminishing resources.

Now the example of this is - CSIRO forecast the total water consumption in Australia will by 42% by 2026, which will outstrip population growth. That makes you think………. do we really have the capacity to meet the demand.

We are also expecting 35% growth in energy consumption to 2030, even though intensive manufacturing is now in decline. This is reflective of a global trend. It means that all forms of energy will be in demand, even fossil fuel.

It also means that prices are likely to continue to increase well into the future and will put additional pressure on energy constrained parts of Local Government business.

So what can be done about this increasing demand for water and electricity? One solution could be hybrid energy and water solutions rolled out by Local Government. We could see more of hybrid solutions like a floating solar panel network, on a water reservoir. This works well because solar panels need sunlight, but they work best if they are kept cool. The water under the panel is circulated to cool the panels, improve performance and their lifespan.

Another bonus (as we know), water pumping assets are energy intensive - so it is helpful to have energy generation solutions in close proximity to the pumps. This solution also helps reduce evaporation rates. This is really important, because we are going to have greater demand and because we are going to have reduced rainfalls. With greater demand it is increasingly important to prevent loss as much as possible.

Now we have heard a bit about renewable energy projects with Winton and McKinlay. In fact, we have now got renewable energy projects at many councils. We see these types of solutions, as being the key to delivering ‘More with Less’! Councils are increasingly realising that they have got to have a role in energy business because of cost constraints and they have important resources available to generate energy. No matter where you are located, Councils have access to resources which can assist in generating energy. Whether it be land for solar, water reservoirs, land fill waste or bore water. We can predict we will see more Councils working together, to come up with solutions to provide greater scales of economy.

It is no surprise, the age of centralised fossil fuel powered electricity generation, is coming to an end. In fact that is happening more rapidly in some parts of the world than many anticipated. Local renewable energy generation will be better able to deal with a rapidly changing market and policy environments.

Another emerging trend around the world is, for communities to invest and deliver renewable energy projects themselves, independent of energy companies or government agencies. Community and energy projects from all Australian States, are looking to raise funds for renewable energy projects - mostly solar power. The money may be invested in a program of small projects, or used to build and operate a power plant, such as the Hepburn Wind Project in Victoria - which is Australia’s first community owned wind farm.

Another model is, for community members to invest in renewable energy businesses, such as the Enova Community Energy Limited in NSW Northern Rivers Region, which I read the other day, has just been granted a licence as a power distributor, or power retailer.

Council can participate in such community projects, by providing locations for power plants, or facilitating bulk buying and installation schemes. A bit like we heard from McKinlay before. For example, Lismore City Council plans to build and operate solar farms at a sports centre and sewerage treatment plant. They will be funded by local community investors.
Now I will hand back to Clinton to continue the megatrends.

Clinton Parker, Director, Business Solutions, LGIS

The next megatrend we are going to look at is virtually here and it is one I am particularly interested in. My area is actually business solutions. So looking at some of those internet solutions, where we can actually change the way that we manage our infrastructure.

This trend is pretty obvious. We can kind of see the beginnings of it. We heard about Cairns and their ‘Fleet Management’. This kind of solution is actually being rolled out, but we are just at the beginning of it, I believe. We are seeing, across lots of different landscapes, whether it is retail or commerce, or in government. The digital range of solutions, are actually really pervasive across the board. We are becoming obviously, more connected, but we also have a greater level of expectation for service.

Just talking about retail, I know it has little relation to local government, but from that services perspective I think it does. Online retail is predicted to grow between ten and fifteen percent per annum. I think what we are seeing, is actually these range of different service provider solutions.

If you look at peer to peer transactions, or these community based platforms like Ebay for example - we are seeing that connection between the seller and the buyer becoming a new trend that is just growing - obviously. It is reshaping the way that the transaction is actually occurring as well.

Air BNB for example, now takes millions of bookings, for people who are renting out their own bedrooms and spare space at home. Who would have thought that was going to be the case ten years ago? But, it is now the trend.

Tele-working - again is becoming revolutionary, where we are seeing online newspapers actually having journalists living in California, writing political op-ed for Australian online newspapers. So, there are just so many of these things emerging and changing the way that we live and work.

Obviously the real basic message is that, we can connect anything! That is the truth of it. The ability to monitor and control is there, that is just a given.

- We can measure and monitor traffic flows;
- we can measure real time water use of our communities;
- we can (as we heard), track our fleet and where they are going at all times.

All of this we have heard many times before I think. And so the potential of the connected world is quite exceptional.

I am just going to touch on a couple of examples and go into where I think this is all headed.

We have actually launched a drone service last month. Even just since last month, launching it, we have actually heard of new things we can add, to change our offering. The type of things you can actually get through a drone - a small (only a couple of kilo) drone, with small cameras no bigger than the size of my hand - you can actually geospatial map, you can look at road conditions, you can look at vegetation management.

We were out at Scenic Rim a few months ago and we did a bit of compliance assistance work. There is so much information that you can capture from such a small device now. That is the beginning! We have only seen this coming out in the past couple of years. Imagine what it is going to be like in ten years and imagine the amount of data that you can capture.

Consider a smart water network as well. We can actually, in a smart water network, monitor (at the source) evaporation rates.
We can measure water quality.
We can measure our pressure in the distribution network.
We can measure the performance of the water treatment plants etc.
We can measure the pumping stations performance.
We actually even have algorithms that can now measure what is happening at the home. So if you flush the toilet or have a shower, we can actually measure the difference and understand what is happening at the home - which is pretty incredible.

But what does this really mean for infrastructure?

You know, we are capturing all this data, yep we are creating better efficiencies, we are creating better services - but what are the long term effects on infrastructure going to be?

Well, this is probably the biggest point I would make about any technology change, regarding data capture and data storage - *is that the data is actually the revolution!* The fact that we can monitor and have this connective system is fantastic. It is actually a brilliant start. But, the real revolution is in the data. We are going to capture so much more data than we ever have in history - and it is going to be historical data. Imagine we are only just capturing a bit of data now, but imagine in ten years' time, or in twenty years' time, the amount of data we are actually going to capture. It is incredible to think about.

It is our belief that that is going to drive changes in service levels. It is going to drive long term shifts in CAPEX and OPEX and it is actually going to create the space for innovation. I think there are two interesting things that are going to happen out of this data revolution.

The first thing is that, we are going to be able to understand what is happening in our community, better than we ever have. We are going to be able to use this vast amount of data that we capture, to understand the behaviour of our communities and help predict and map some of their specific needs.

Imagine if we had sensors when the bins were full (we heard about that. Duncan mentioned how we can have those type of sensors), imagine if we had ten years worth of that data and we could understand how much, and when our communities wanted their waste emptied and removed.

- What type of patterns would we understand?
- How would that actually influence our waste collections?
- Would a demand based service model be actually the most efficient way?
- A variety of different fleet options!
- A variety of different service options potentially, with a variety of different charging regimes.
- Can we apply new strategies to manage the fleet to do diversion strategies?

So I guess the point here, is that no matter what the monitoring is really interesting. But the data is going to help us understand our communities much, much better and actually look at their behaviour and look at what transforms and changes we can make.

The other great thing (and this is a particular interest of ours) is that we suggest, the data is actually going to be able to help councils drive the market more. With all the data that you are going to have, you are going to have vastly superior knowledge on what the problem is and you can more confidently go to the market for solutions on infrastructure issues - rather than going down, really, a prescriptive design and construction path.

Our philosophy is - Why be so prescriptive on the solution when innovation and technology is moving so quickly?
I guess, particularly if we have this connected world that we are all talking about, and we have got this rich source of data, why be so prescriptive, when we have got all of this interconnected data that we can actually apply to the market. And get the market, the engineering and infrastructure and even the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) market, to come up with solutions.

I know there is going to be a bit of bravery involved in releasing all of this data to the market and saying ‘knock yourselves out, here is what we think the problem is. Help us plan our long term ten year capex infrastructure strategy’. But doing that is actually going to drive the market to provide some solutions. Framed by the regulatory environment that we have, I think there is going to be a bit of a market shift and that is pretty exciting.

I guess, building or expanding on that a bit - the data is actually going to provide us with a new foundation for problem solving, in a different way. Our approach to confidently using this data and the way that we are analysing it, and going back to what we call, is an optioneering approach - just finding the most efficient way of delivering the solution. Our view is that the structure, design and construction process is not always that way.

This means I guess, more effort will be spent on analysing problems. But obviously there is a cost component involved in that. But I love Albert Einstein’s quote "If I had an hour to solve a problem, I’d spend fifty five minutes thinking about the problem and five minutes thinking about solutions". I guess that is what a data drive, or connected world gives us. It gives us a greater understanding of the challenges and from there the innovation part is just so much easier.

I will pass on to Daniel to talk about ‘Great Expectations megatrend’

Daniel Westall, Director, Operations, LGIS

‘G r e at  E x p e c t a t i o n s ’ is another megatrend that really speaks to local government. ‘Great Expectations’ is about us moving on from the need for the basic food and shelter, to our increasing thirst for a higher level of services and experiences. One could argue this drives the political landscape, as well as the commercial world. But certainly now more than ever, community expectations are on the move.

Now the Kodak example is pretty famous and I am sure you are all pretty aware of it. Kodak developed a digital camera in 1975, but didn’t introduce it at the time, because they didn’t want to cannibalise their existing film market. Now Kodak didn’t realise of course, that consumer expectations would dramatically increase and that the appetite for digital cameras would rapidly escalate. The rest of the market quickly responded with low cost and ever improving products. But Kodak responded quite slowly and started losing market share, significant amounts of money and it lost on every camera it sold.

Where Cannon, Nikon and others were able to transition to the digital market, Kodak could not. It didn’t meet the voracious appetite of the consumers for the products and in the end Kodak filed for bankruptcy.

Our ‘Great Expectations’ are also being reflected in our behaviour. Now we hear that Australians spent $22 billion on education in 2006/2007. That rose to $31 billion in 2010/2011.

In 2003/2004, we spent an average of $36.00 on weekly entertainment. That leapt to $45.00 a week in 2009/2010. That is a 25% increase in that time and that is well above the CPI rate. As for travel - the number of people going on holidays worldwide is increasing by about 7% per year.

Our expectations also drive demands and communication relationships. The trend is quite different to what you might think. Clinton mentioned all sorts of information about data and the internet and connectivity, but what we are finding is - the digital world is not as proficient at building and
maintaining relationships, as the old world techniques, of actually talking. We know that Facebook and other media ‘connects us’ more than ever, but does it really build meaningful and influential relationships?

This trend suggests not. A survey in the US shows that teenagers thirteen to seventeen, prefer face to face communication. Who would have thought that the younger generation would have that as a preference? 43% of this group said they wish they could unplug from technology for a while.

You might have had the same experience I had with my own family. As my children go through their twenties, they are being disillusioned with some of the social media. They look for more quality interaction rather than quantity. I don't think it is a case of just growing older - another survey by Intel in the US of 12,000 young adults, found that 61% thought that technology was dehumanising. It could be the millennial generation is not the connected generation.

It could be that Facebook, is the tobacco of the next decade. It is a habit many are trying to kick!

So what do you think this means for infrastructure? Generally the point we are trying to make here, is that communities want more and more, but sometimes that is overwhelming and brings with it inherent conflict. Also in the political climate - we can't ignore this trend. But on the other hand - we can't yield to it. We see from the ‘More for Less’ Megatrend, we just don't have the resources or budget to meet this unyielding appetite for more.

We believe there are two things that we will see as a response to this Megatrend.

First the idea of going all digital to communicate about infrastructure, is going against the trend. Using digital technology as a facilitator for content and 24 hour updates is absolutely essential. It is what the tools were designed for after all. But it helps to keep the narrative consistent, when you are embarking on a development or transformative piece of infrastructure.

But to not build exceptional face to face relationships, along with that digital communication, is only going to compound the inherent conflict that comes from the community with an unyielding appetite for more. Not to say that you won't ever be able to satisfy that appetite, but you will have honest dialogue.

This came out at the recent Institute of Public Works Engineering Queensland (IPWEAQ) conference in Mackay. The biggest take out message from that conference for us was that, constant and consistent engagement, particularly for LEGACY or transformative projects, is the only way to go. Having round tables, creating dialogue committees and empowering staff to engage with natural communication, is essential. The IPWEAQ Conference showcased that - Projects large and small experienced significant community interest and it wasn't always positive.

However, the Councils ability to accept and engage with dissenters in a constructive way, using natural engagement, was exceptional. That produced far greater results than an ‘arm’s length’ and mostly online style engagement would have provided.

The second thing we believe will occur is that we are going to see more and more infrastructure built around experiences. We already see this with our libraries, which are now hubs of knowledge sharing venues, for community activities and providers of support services.

We suspect this trend will also move into other infrastructure. We need to get more out of infrastructure and we need to meet the growing appetite for experiences.

Look at swimming pools. We talk to Councils about these assets quite a bit. At the moment the message we get loud and clear, is that swimming pools provide an essential service and are also a significant drain on budgets. Councils would like many more people to use them and to give the community a greater sense of ownership.
So how do we transform this swimming pool space into one of experiences? Do they become entertainment or fitness, precincts or hubs? Do they become part of an integrated health care hub? Whatever it is to happen, the trend of wanting more experiences and doing ‘More with Less’, is likely to drive more and more integrated experience based venues.

I will just hand back to Clinton to finish up.

Clinton Parker, Director, Business Solutions, LGIS

Thank you. I am going to leave our talk on an optimistic note!

We are really excited about the challenges that we face in infrastructure. The reason for that is the panel we saw before. All the challenges that are being faced are actually being faced head on and they are being responded to through innovation and that excites us.

I guess, what I would like to offer to you is, to continue the conversation and continue talking. Please come and see us at our stand and tell us some of the challenges that you are facing at the moment. Thank you.

Master of Ceremonies

Thank you Clinton and Daniel.

Panel Session: Council Elections 2016 – Polls, Politics and New Tricks

Chair: Craig Johnstone, Media Executive, LGAQ
Alan Morton, Principal, Morton Consulting Pty Ltd
John Black, Political Consultant and Commentator

Chair: Craig Johnstone, Media Executive, LGAQ

As LGAQ’s Media Executive I have been privileged twice now, to go over to Washington and attend an annual conference called ‘The Art of Political Campaigning’. It is put on by an outfit called Campaigns and Elections. They put out a magazine which is virtually the bible for politics over there.

It is a conference that attracts about three hundred people every year. It is all about political operatives getting together and swapping war stories, and perhaps imparting some wisdom, or a new way of getting their candidates elected. These are actually the people who make the big money out of politics - because they know what they are talking about and they get hired to get people elected or defeated all the time.

This year it was held at the House of Sweden in a couple of days in July. The House of Sweden is the Swedish Embassy in Washington. Quite a nice spot on the banks of the Potomac River! But the prettiness ended there really, because the conference itself was dominated by the effectiveness of negative campaigning. It was quite remarkable (in the four years between conferences that I attended), how the negative has persisted in being the most effective means of getting people elected over in the States.

This particular conference was addressed by democrat strategists, republican strategists and guerrilla marketing experts, quite a mixed bag. A lot of market research, some of which isn't relevant to Australia (particularly Local Government), but some of which was. And I would like to share a bit of that with you.
First of all I would just like to make a few points about how they regard the relationship between politicians and the press, or candidates and the press.

So these were the take out messages for me. There is a wall that has been erected between campaigns over in the United States and the journalists that cover them. That wall is called Twitter.

Even though Twitter is being marketed (and I am the first one to say, it is fantastic for actually ensuring that you are on top of your game as far as what is going on is concerned), it has ended the verbal face to face conversation between political campaigns and journalists covering them.

It all happens online and mostly on Twitter these days. Which is partly good for the campaign, partly good for the media, but mostly bad for either side. So, it is just a word of warning as you go into a campaign proper and start to build some relationships with journalists - which you need to remember that it can’t all happen online. You do need to build those relationships. Otherwise you can get burnt pretty badly and pretty quickly.

The take outs for me from that particular session of the conference were - the state of campaigning in the States now, is to keep as much information from journalists as you can, rather than the other way round, which is what it was like when I was in the working press. Quite a sad state of affairs, but there you have it.

It also meant that, because Twitter dominates and because the 24/7 news cycle dominates, you get politicians that are afraid to say anything. Then up through the middle come the likes of Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders, and they get all the media attention simply because, candidates have been coached within an inch of their lives and are afraid to say much at all. You can see that in the Australian context - hello Bill Shorten.

One other thing - just moving on from relationships with the press, is the amount of market research that goes into building and strategising a campaign. There is an outfit called ‘The Keller Fay Group’, and they are probably one of the United States foremost experts on word of mouth conversations. They monitor people’s conversations would you believe. Whether that happens online, offline, in front of the television, over the kitchen table or whatever.

This is what they found. In amongst all of the cacophony of conversations, you can see that most conversations in the States happen face to face still, despite the dominance of online, or email, or even the phone. Most conversations happen one on one, or within the family or work colleague context.

In terms of politics, politics does rate, but well behind things like diets, vacations or holidays or concern about your own finances, but you do get some cut through. 23% of conversations are about the President and how he is doing his job, and 14% are about elections. Now they did make the point that these rise and fall according to the timing of election campaigns. And as we head into 2016, the talk of Presidential politics is probably going to rise in that list. But it gives you some idea from an outfit - organisations like CBS, Coke a Cola, Google News - what exactly Americans are talking about and how they are talking about it.

In terms of getting that cut through and trying to dominate that conversation - how do you do it? Well, Keller Fay put up this graph
Let’s talk

I think this is quite telling as well. Watching TV is still where people have most of their conversations. So TV is still king.

You can have a look at that graph there.
and see how low using social media goes. Despite all of the hype about social media (and I will get to how vital it still is), you have still got to respect the power of television. I think anyone who was at the breakfast with Kylie Blucher, the Managing Director of Channel Nine this morning - that was Kylie's major message, that you can't forget TV.

TV is king, but digital is more fun really. If you have a look at Facebook, Facbook has 14 million users Australia wide and 968 million worldwide. So don't believe anyone who tells you your constituents aren't on Facebook. They are on it, those figures don't lie.

The best thing about digital is that, it is a good campaign tool and it is very cheap. This particular Art of Campaigning Conference, talked about how you could use Twitter, Facebook, Instagram - what have you - to gain that third party validation which was so important. If a journalist writes a favourable column of a candidate, in a split second it is up on that candidates' Twitter account. You have got to link yourself to good news was the message.

But then on the other side of the coin, there was the mantra of ABT (always being trolling). If your political opponent is making inroads, the best thing to do is create bad news around them, create a smell about them and always feed the beast. Because content is king on digital media!

I think that was another of Kylie's messages this morning. She was actually inviting councils to contact their local TV stations - Nine is increasingly digital as well - just to ensure that that relationship is a good one. Because they actually need what you have to say, to fill in what would have been dead air.
As I said, it was dominated by negative campaigning. I call these ‘The Six Commandments of Negative Campaigning’.

**Ready for some scorched earth?**

- The things that you like may not be the things that persuade you.
- It’s not that the attack is true, it’s whether your opponent validates it.
- It’s a puppet show: here’s this guy, here’s another guy. He’s the bad guy.
- It doesn’t matter what you’re saying. It matters what they’re hearing.
- If you’re not out there arguing why you’re better than the other guy you’re not doing your job.
- Anything that gets people to break their normal routine and pay attention works.

They are the reasons why negative always works.

The two top ones are the ones that resonated with me. It is - the things that you like, may not be the things that persuade you. In other words, the voter (and it is not that the attack is true, it is whether the opponent validates it). So if you find a chink in the armour, keep on stabbing was the advice.

I want to show you an ad just to finish off. Just to illustrate to you, how negative it is possible to go. This was a television ad produced by Bobby McKenzie who was, the Democrats Candidate for the eleventh congressional district in Michigan.

A fairly non-descript race. He was running against Dave Trott who was a lawyer for the Republican Party, but had a business on the side. His legal firm got a lot of money from lenders and banks who, were foreclosing on people who couldn't afford the payments on their mortgages anymore. This was something that Bobby McKenzie (who could only raise a mere $700,000 for his campaign), latched onto as a means of defeating Dave Trott, (who raised about $3.4 million dollars for his campaign). Bear in mind this is a minor congressional race. But that is the amount of money these guys are capable of raising.
I am going to get Kylie to show you what the Washington Post described as ‘one of the most brutal attack ads ever’. So let’s see what a brutal attack ad looks like. One of the things I wanted to emphasize was that, despite the temptation of going negative (even if you do go negative), the piece of advice I want to leave with you (it is from Joan Sheldon our Ethics Advisor) is, those of you who are going for re-election, should make sure that you acquaint yourselves with your obligations in terms of disclosures and donations. Because chances are if you don’t, your opponents are going to make hay while the sun shines. That wasn’t the message from Joan. That was just my add-on advice. But it is something that is quite important as we head into elections. Get those disclosures right and you will keep yourselves out of trouble.

Thanks very much for that.

I would like to introduce Alan Morton to you. Alan is going to talk to you about the ‘Good’ you will be relieved to know.

Alan is the principle of Morton Consulting Services. A Queensland based consulting company which has undertaken a wide range of projects involving Local Government Operations, policy development, regional planning, social and economic research.

His clients have included Federal, State and Local Governments, as well as the private sector. Alan has thirty five years of professional consulting experience covering, policy analysis; transport planning; regional, social and economic development; government finance and organisational development. He has consulted extensively for Local Government in Queensland, as most of us know, and elsewhere in Australia. Alan has recently prepared a position paper for Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), in relation to the review of The Finance Assistant Grants Act and he has also worked with several Queensland Regional Councils on the integrations of rating systems and revenue raising options. Could you please welcome Alan Morton!

Alan Morton, Principal, Morton Consulting Pty Ltd

Thanks Craig. What does the community think, is really what this particular session is about. Just as background - LGAQ has undertaken a community satisfaction tracking study every two years since 1997. We have got a lot of data that shows the trends, which is quite important. The sample size state wide, is only seven hundred and is distributed
* LGAQ has undertaken a Community Satisfaction Tracking Study every two years since 1997;

* Sample of 700 state-wide broken into:
  * Developed metro – 150
  * Fringe metro – 150
  * Provincial cities/towns – 280
  * Rural & Others – 120

* Methodology looks at both importance and performance for each of 42 service elements.

What that means with that sample size, it is not possible to tell you what the results are for any individual Council. It is just not statistically valid.

We can break it down into those four segments as shown in slide above.

The methodology looks at both importance and performance, for each of forty two Local Government service elements. There is a whole conglomerate to come together, in terms of what this one slide below is showing.
Overall Satisfaction at 71% in 2015
A significant increase since 65% in 2011

But that shows the overall satisfaction rating with Local Government in Queensland in 2015, was 71%. That is significantly higher than the 65% recorded in 2011, prior to the last election. So 2011, 2012 election, this one is prior to the 2016, so there is some interesting bits of information just comparing those two results. It is actually the highest satisfaction level since 2005, again, that is the pretty good news story.

Breaking it into those four categories, the Fringe Metropolitan category, actually achieved the highest performance score at 74%. So statistically quite relevant - above the average! The Rural category was the lowest at 66%. The Provincial category had a significant upswing since the low recorded in 2011 at 61% and it is now at the overall average of 71%. So, they are quite significant changes, in terms of the margin of error for a survey such as this.

I guess the question is…. what does it all mean for the 2016 election? First the overall satisfaction score of 71% suggests that, the community is reasonably satisfied with the performance of Local Government in 2015, as opposed to the 65% in the 2011 survey, prior to that last election.

But we do dig a little bit deeper every four years in terms of the upcoming election and include some questions of relevance to potential voting intentions, at the next election and a few other particular issues, which have some bearing on key issues that you might face.

Respondents are asked for example, if their current Mayor stood for the next election, would they support re-election, or would they like to see a change. There is a similar question about Councillors. The results are far more positive than in previous years and I have shown the data back to 2003.
Less desire to change Mayor or Councillors than in previous surveys

2003 the yellow bar; red bar 2015; and this is the percentage wanting to see a change in Mayor. Across all the categories, only 14% said they wanted a change and that was relatively even across the categories as that figure shows.

What is really significant, is the drop between 2011 (the green bar) and 2015, in those wanting to see a change - particularly in the provincial and rural councils. In 2011, both these categories had 45% saying they wanted a change. Now less than 15% of respondents want a change at the next election. Pretty significant differences and will tell you something about the mood of the electorate. The result was very much the same on the question on councils. It almost paralleled the result shown on the slide above.

The survey also asked what respondents felt were the three key personal attributes (talking about personal attributes of an elected member, from a list of possible attributes) - Strong leadership ability and being a good communicator and consultative came out strongly for all council categories.

However for both the provincial and the rural categories, being aged over forty, was the number one attribute selected. So I guess for a candidate outside of the metropolitan area, getting a bit of grey hair could be a winner for you. It is an interesting thing that, it was only in those categories that particular one popped up as the number one choice.

Respondents were also asked what they saw as the three key performance measures for their Council (from a list of possible measures). Creating new economic development in jobs was the stand out common priority, across all categories. The economy is weighing heavily on peoples’ minds. Showing strong local advocacy and leadership, was also a common priority measure. As was keeping
election promises. Minimising rate increases was a priority in the provincial and rural categories, but not in the other categories. So there are some differences there.

In the metropolitan area, respondents were reasonably happy with the value for money from rates and charges, as the slide below shows:

Provincial & Rural least satisfied with rates – and up from previous surveys

![Chart showing Poor Value for Money from Rates across different categories and years]

Ag terms of what people are saying - poor value for money - and then there is quite a significant difference between the metropolitans and the provincial and rural’s. Only 20% overall said, rates were poor value for money, relative to the service delivered in the developed metro and the fringe metro. Dissatisfaction has fallen there from the 2013 results, with 37% and 23% respectively, for these two metropolitan categories.

Again, that is quite significant for them. But in the provincial and rural categories, there were more than 50% saying ‘poor value for money’. The level of dissatisfaction in fact increased for those two categories since the 2013 survey (particularly for the provincial category). Where those saying ‘poor value’ increased from 26% in 2013 to 57% in 2015. They are quite significant differences.

For those outside the metropolitan area, perhaps the need to be a bit more focussed on informing communities, about what they receive for their rates and charges. However reducing services to allow rate cuts, does not appear to appeal to the community.

So this slide refers to a question - would you accept a reduced level of service or some cutbacks if you got some rate reductions.
But little support for reducing services to cut rates

In the Fringe Metropolitan category, 89% were opposed to this and only 2% supported it. They are quite significant differences again. Advocating measures such as limiting rate increases less than CPI increase, if that is below the council cost increase, is probably not going to have strong appeal, as that inevitably means cutting back on some services.

So I guess you have got to be a bit careful about their view. I think the level of service you provide, is really the important thing and being able to sell what you are achieving with their rate money.

Summary

To summarise - overall it appears that generally, you have a reasonably satisfied community in terms of council performance, relative to the community perception of what is important. There is no apparent desire to dramatically change elected representatives (at least not to the extent of previous surveys). Of course, change is going to occur as some elected people aren't going to choose to seek re-election at the 2016 election.

There is no strong desire for rate cuts, particularly if that means reduced levels of service. The focus must be on providing value for money.

There is a strong focus on the importance of new economic development and job creation. Communities are looking for strong local leadership and advocacy, in supporting economic wellbeing. As always it is important that the communities are effectively engaged in planning for the future. Consulting, responding and informing the community are important elements, in gaining a Local/ tick of approval.
Thank you.

Master of Ceremonies

Onto our next presenter! He probably needs no introduction for most of you. John Black pioneered democratic polling of Australian political and economic groups in Australia and he has been doing that since 1975.

He developed a democratic strategy for the Australian Labor Party National Campaign in 1983 - that was a very successful one. He has been a Senator for Queensland between 1984 and 1990 and during that time was probably best known for chairing the Drugs in Sport Enquiry, which led to the creation of the Australian Sports Anti - Doping Authority (ASADA) and he has been a founding board member of that agency. He is currently a guest commentator for the ABC and a columnist for The Australian. His last column, I think was with The Weekend Australian last weekend. Could you please welcome John Black!

John Black, Political Consultant and Commentator

Thank you very much. What I have got to present to you today, is a series of slides from research that is available for free. It is on our web page. We have started to put up, in particular, all of the recent profiles that we have done, going back to the 1966 for Federal Elections and all of the strategy documents were done for Bill Hayden, for the 1983 campaign, when we sought to correct the imbalance between the winning of the majority of votes and the winning of the majority of seats. As you know, in the House of Reps or in the House of Assembly single member seats - you can win a majority of the votes, but not necessarily a majority of the seats.

The first slide here deals with some of the findings in summary form, from the Queensland election in January this year.
Queensland State Poll Jan 31 2015

- Labor candidates won an estimated 50.9 percent of the two party preferred (2PP) vote, but Labor appears likely to win only 44 out of the 89 seats. On the same state boundaries in 2009, Labor Premier Anna Bligh won a comfortable majority of 51 seats with 50 percent of the 2PP vote.

- This failure in 2015 to translate a majority of the 2PP Labor vote into a majority of seats came about because Labor failed to win middle class and professional voters in aspirational marginal seats on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane.

- The major driver of the swing against the LNP appears to have been the current high net dissatisfaction levels of LNP Leader Campbell Newman and Federal Coalition Leader Tony Abbott.

- Campbell Newman’s personal vote in his own seat of Ashgrove was minus 5.5 percent and this is consistent with the impact of a net dissatisfaction rating of minus 23 percent, which was recorded by News poll on January 29.

- There were some signs of swings to Labor candidates in response to the campaign not to sell State assets, but these did not translate to swings against the LNP in marginal seats from middle class or professional voters and the primary architect of privatisation Tim Nicholls won the highest personal vote of any candidate in his own seat.

Labor candidates won and these are figures that I got. I think, about two or three days after the ballot. So they might have changed a little bit. Labor candidates won 50.9% of the two party preferred vote, but forty four out of the eighty nine seats, which was well under what they should have got.

On the same boundaries in 2009, Anna Bligh won a comfortable majority of fifty one seats, with 50% of the two party preferred vote. So, when you are in a ballot, single member seats, it is important to try to win a majority of the votes - but you don't have to.

This failed in 2015. To translate, a majority of the two party preferred votes in the majority of seats came about because, Labor failed to win back middle class and professional votes in aspirational marginal seats - in both the Gold Coast and in Brisbane.

The major driver of the swing against the LNP, appears to have been the current high net dissatisfaction levels of LNP leader Campbell Neman and his partner in crime (in the unpopularity stakes), the former Prime Minister Tony Abbott. Electoral poison - the two of them! Campbell Newman’s personal vote in his own seat of Ashgrove was, minus 5.5% and this is consistent with the impact of a net dissatisfaction rating of minus 23%, which was reported by News poll on 29 January.

Basically, when you get a net dissatisfaction rating of about 24%, you can divide it by about four and that tells you the percentage of votes you are taking off all your candidates, right across the State, or right across the country. That is why you saw a big bump in the Coalition vote after the change of leadership. These sums are basically something that I have observed over about forty odd years of looking at these sorts of figures.

There were some swings to Labor candidates, in response to the campaign not to sell state assets. This was essentially, the sort of negative campaign that Craig was talking about before. But these did not translate to swings against the LNP in marginal seats, from middle class or professional voters. The primary architect of privatisation, Tim Nicholls, won the highest personal vote of any candidate in his own seat.
So think about that! The bloke out there, day in day out, whacking them all back with a baseball bat, answering the questions, doing the hard yards, actually won the biggest proportion of vote, over and above that which the computer modelling said he should have got.

It was a State Election that is true. But there are also Federal factors. Federal factors can completely overwhelm a State Campaign.

I remember I was working for Don Dunstan in 1975 and Gough Whitlam was in the depths of his unpopularity, as Labor Prime Minister at that time. He was on the nose big time. You thought Tony Abbott was on the nose - it was nothing compared to Gough in 1975. I think Donny Dunstan decided he was very popular, he was going to sneak in, have a snap election before Khemlani started to do too many more interviews on TV about The Loans Affair - probably not the smartest move that Don ever made. I think at the time, when he called the election, the day after Gough recalled Federal Parliament so that they could have a full debate about The Loans Affair - which then was the issue that was killing Labor.

So, I have seen that happen. If they can do that to a State Government, they sure as hell can do it to you at the Local Government level. Do they care? Not a jittery jot! So factor that in.

During the State Pre-election campaign and after the election date was announced, Federal Government decisions and speculation saw petrol taxes indexed (thanks for that), the cost of seeing a doctor increased (that is a real vote winner), discussions about applying the GST to food – every time you buy a sausage roll, you think about it! The referral of the level of the minimum wage to the Productivity Commission - so you can’t afford the increases in the GST, or to go to see the doctor - you are going to have less money to do it. I mean, you couldn’t ask for a better menu of things to not to do if you were trying to save your mate in Queensland.

Demographic groups impacted by these announcements, can be seen in the profiles. Like I said, they are all online. I have got a couple of snips here. Most notable in the seats dominated by young families with children, living on minimum wages, because these families tend to be found in safe Labor or safe rural LNP seats where housing is more affordable. The swings against Tony Abbott by these groups did not help Labor win back enough marginal seats that were lost in 2009 or 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Electorate</th>
<th>ALP 2019 2019+ change 2006</th>
<th>ALP 2019 seats lost</th>
<th>Varieties</th>
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<tr>
<td>MACQUARIE</td>
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<td>8 20</td>
<td>Bank 555-209</td>
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<td>CAMPBELL</td>
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<td>BURGESS</td>
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<td>GURRUMULLA</td>
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<td>KALGOORLIE</td>
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Table 3. ZKP swing to ALP or against LNP.

At far left the seats trending to Labor between 2006 and 2019 are overwhelmingly in the coastal, provincial centre the bush, with a handful in strong working class areas to the south of Brisbane.

The voters in these seats are shown in the centre of this page and the biggest groups include those paying relatively lower rates mortgage on a one or three bedroom house with no internet connection. Housing costs this low could be either in blue collar suburb or the bush and in both centres, many older persons would have left school at the end of Year 10. Some of these would be drawing after a disability pension or unemployment benefit.

The younger blue collar families with three kids would often have parents with a certificate 182 and some of these oldies would be working for a stipend in a semi-skilled job and strongly opposed to their privatization.
Now don't get too frightened by this one, it's OK! What I have got here is the swing towards the ALP is over here on that side. In the middle what you have got, are the demographic groups who tend to be concentrated in those seats. If there is a big group, a big demographic group that is concentrated in those seats in the middle, then that is the group that tended to move in the direction indicated by the vote over here. Its inferential stats, it doesn't necessarily imply that there is causality, but there is certainly an ecological relationship.

When you see a big group like those with no internet (part way down here), or three bedroom houses, or predicted unemployment in November 2013 - then you know that, that is having an impact and that those people are the ones who swung too Labor. The text there describes what you can see. The swings to Labor were overwhelmingly in the coastal provincial cities, or in the bush, with a handful in strong working class areas to the south of Brisbane.

The voters living in these seats are shown in the centre of the page. Biggest groups are those paying relatively low rents and mortgages, two or three bedroom homes, no internet. So your housing costs are low and in both the bush and the blue collar suburbs. You have got older persons who would have left school, or some migrants who would have left school in year eight. Some of them were drawing a disability pension or an unemployment benefit.

The younger blue collar families with three kids, will often have parents with a certificate one or two qualification. Some would be working for a utility or in a semi-skilled job and strongly opposed to privatisation.

So what you get, when you actually start to have a look who lives in the particular seats that swung the most, either one way or the other - is you start to see the people who are responding to the election issues that are put forward. Privatisation - people who are working for gold plated utilities didn't like it one bit. They tended to live in the seats that swung the most against the Labor Party. They responded quite strongly to a negative campaign.

But when you look at an election, if you see a swing of about 5%, what you have got to factor in is, the range of swing is typically about 20%. So, some will be going 15% one way. Some will be going 10% back the other way. That is the way it works.

When you put it on a chart, you see one of those very pretty bell curves. They go like a bell. There are lots of seats in the middle, some at one end and some at the other end.
What we are looking at now in this particular table above is the list of seats that swung the other way. That swung towards the LNP and against the ALP.

The State seats at the far left drifted quite strongly from the ALP between 2006 and 2012, failed to swing back in 2015. So it has exaggerated the range of swings. The seats are an interesting combination of coastal retirement seats in south east Queensland, some outer urban seats like Everton and Mt Ommaney and inner urban seats like Bulimba, Clayfield and Brisbane Central. The groups living in these seats, include a broad range of upwardly mobile groups. These are the aspirational voters. South African migrants, who are typically parents of kids going to independent schools; people selling real estate; men and women who have studied management and commerce and they are working in finance or arts and recreations; they have got bigger houses; they have got internet connections; they have got big mortgages and big rents.

I just do this kind of stuff for fun basically, because I am interested in it. I put it up on the web page. You can look at it for nothing. I find these groups all the time where I earn most of my money - which is, looking at private schools, independent schools. These are well informed, upwardly mobile people, families, younger families, strong migrant flavour, who earn more money than most of us, because they work harder than most of us. Very high participation rates!

They didn't respond to the negative campaign, they went the other way.
This table depicts forty years of constructing and interpreting this figure. We expect to see competent campaigns by popular Labor MPs, produce a personal vote of about 5%. We have got the range of them here. What you see down the bottom here at Clayfield - you have got Tim Nicholls. I am not a fan of Tim Nicholls, but he did pretty well. He is the one who carried the can. Ironically enough - got blamed for the bad result - he is the one who did best.

So bear in mind, lessons that conventional wisdom takes out of election campaign results, are quite often wrong. Factor that in! It is very important to write the history. It does intend to get written by the winners rather than the losers.

Drift in votes between 2006 and 2015.

The thing that stands out when you have a look at it - from 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, is that both the ALP and the LNP have been losing supporters over that time.

You have got the top ten seats for the ALP. I am trying to cut to the chase here. The ALP has clearly failed to regain some of its strongest demographics from 2006. Of the top ten ALP seats in 2006, only two have returned to the 2006 levels, in 2015. There are eight still well below that.

The ALP has been losing a lot of those aspirational voters in the intervening period. There was a big swing - they didn't get those votes back again. They got the lower SES groups in the safer Labour seats. That is why they didn't win 55% of the votes in the last State Election. Something that is of direct relevance to your own campaigns!

Labour Market Trends - We saw some signs of recovery in May. By August/September seasonally adjusted figures indicate that is still the case. What is driving the Australian economy in terms of jobs now is public admin, health, education - nothing else that is it.

Male participation rates have started to slide downward again. You have got to be worried about that. These tend to be the full time jobs. The regions faring the worst over the last few of those, are
dominated by mining jobs - not much of a surprise there. But they are the ones that saw us through the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) and now we are seeing the reverse impact of that.

Local informal reports from these areas, say the housing market and the retail sectors are in trouble. The regions doing the best and which are propping up all of the national figures for unemployment (probably keeping them down, but keeping up the figures for jobs), are led by the high SES inner suburbs of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth - Goat Cheese Circle suburbs! You know - you open the fridge and you see goat cheese. They are doing well.

They are the ones out there taking out a bigger mortgage on the house, because the value has increased, and they think that is income! Ha! As, you know, Tony Abbott found out, isn't necessarily going to stick around. They are the ones who are going to be the first to suffer. When they do come back to the fold, this country is in trouble and I think it is going to be towards the middle of next year. I think it will be serious trouble.

Participation rates.

What we are interested in, is right over here. What you can see is right down the bottom here - we average these out over twelve months. But there is no doubt that the labour market participation rates for blokes, is on the slide again (which is a real tragedy).

If you have a look at the figures for the change in unemployment between the August quarter 2014 to 2015 ([so it is the change in that last year], and I have added up regional figures for quarters to minimise sampling errors), what you see on the left is, the regions which have had the biggest increases in unemployment. On the right what you see are, the groups that tend to live in those regions. There are eighty seven labour force regions in Australia, they are big regions - they are pretty representative.
Table 1. The 26 Labour Force Regions with the biggest rises in unemployment rates in the 12 months between August Quarter 2014 and August Quarter 2015 are shown at top left. A regional economy which has experienced rises in unemployment greater than 1.5 percent in a year can be considered to be experiencing recession levels of contraction and 21 of the regions here are in this position. A majority of West Australian and South Australian regions find themselves in this table, along with some normally prosperous inner city regions.

Living in these regions at top right are younger male and female miners, often with no kids, in de facto relationships, working away from home, living in subsidised rental homes near the mines and earning big money in skilled blue collar jobs. With high incomes and participation rates they have got a rental home somewhere (nowhere near the mine of course) and partially declared family incomes.

What I have done, is a bit of a cheat for you here. I have got all of the NSW seats in pale blue (just like the football); I have got Queensland in the mighty maroon; I have got West Australia in grey (I ran out of colours by the time I got over there); South Australia is in the canary yellow or gold, depending on whether you live there or not; then you have got Victoria in the darker blue and Tasmania is in the green.

So these are the regions that are doing the worst over the last twelve months. What you can see living in those regions on the other side is - young blokes, young women, miners, often no kids, de facto relationships, working away from home, living in subsidised rental homes near the mines (earning big money in skilled blue collar jobs), high incomes, high participation rates, they have got a rental home somewhere (nowhere near the mine of course) and partially declared family incomes.

Whenever you see that, you know you are looking at tradies. Basically they are families where - usually it is the bloke who drives off to work in the dual cab ute, got to fill out the census form in August, ‘well what did I earn last year love’, ‘well I don’t know’, the accountant hasn’t told them. They don’t find out until the following March. So they fill out the census form partially completed. The spouse will know, because she tends to be in a more secure job. Now it can be the reverse of this. They are down as partial income declared. That is right up near the top, second from the top. What that tells you is that, the private sector, small business, is basically tanking over the last twelve months. Bad things, very bad things.

Ok, now who is doing well? This is the last slide.
This will cheer you up! Look at all the light blue. Sydney eastern suburbs, Sydney Baulkham Hills- they are going well.

Sydney Northern beaches, there you go - North Sydney and Hornsby; and the capital regions; which is between Sydney and Canberra. There is a lot of light blue on this chart.

There is a few down there where (this is unemployment) ranked from the smallest up to the biggest; Toowoomba is down there; there are a few Queensland regions in there; which is all good.

But who tend to live in these regions? You can see that on the other side. Look at every variable there. It is all about money. It is about income, it is about spend, it is about assets, it is about debt. It is blue because it means they have got a heck of a lot of it.

So who is doing well in Australia in the last year? The rich are getting rich. You go back to the other chart - who is going backwards? The poor are getting poorer. Not a good look.

If you want to get more, it is all on there. I think I have taken my time. Thank you very much.

**Question**

**Cr Alan Gurney, Deputy Mayor, Carpentaria Shire Council**

Just a quick question - Do you have any opinions on rather, the person voting, or postal voting - the difference between the two?
Response

That question is probably not something that I would want to express an opinion on.

Response

The personal vote tends to be bigger in the country. It tends to be biggest amongst country, blue collar workers, who know their boss. Country areas tend to be much more stable, so people live and vote in the same area. It is a lot easier to get a big personal vote in a smaller stable country seat, than it is in the city where voters turnover 30% every year in some places.

Statement

Cr Keith Douglas, Cloncurry Shire
On this whole how to get elected stuff - I just want to make a statement. What really concerns me into the future - the whole reason I believe Australia is in a lot worse position than it was is - we are lacking statesmen and we are lacking leaders. I would hate to see Local Government get so bogged down in getting elected, that we end up with a mob of monkeys on a stick there and not the kind of quality people we have got in Local Government now. It really concerns me.

I believe Local Government is one of the strongest, most dedicated, most grass roots people that you will ever get....... and boy, I hope you never go away from being that. I hope you stay leaders and don't become monkeys on a stick like some other political levels have become.

Question

Cr Will Atwood, Mayor, Etheridge Shire Council
I was just wondering Alan, you talked a lot about policies I guess, you talked a lot about policies of having people elected. What about the popularity effect of the candidate. I guess that is probably why we are seeing Tony Abbot go out at the moment and why Bob Katter is still there.

Response

Well it is probably hard to say from the survey, we didn't have that sort of question. But asking about the personal attributes was meant to give some feeling, as to what sort of things are ringing the bells for the community. So having touched on that, there were certainly, some of those personal attributes that are quite important. The previous comment about leadership - that is one of the things certainly, people are looking for in terms of leadership and advocacy. Personal popularity probably comes from those sorts of qualities that the person exhibits.
LGM/LGW Member Update

Cr Noel Playford, Chair, LGM/LGW
Russell Ditchburn, General Manager QLD & NT, Public Sector
Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd

Master of Ceremonies

We now have an update on Queensland’s Local Government Self Insurance Schemes, Local Government Mutual (LGM), Queensland and Local Government Workcare. Could you please welcome the Chair of LGM Queensland and Local Government Workcare, and the Mayor of Noosa Shire Council, Cr Noel Playford.

Cr Noel Playford, Chair, LGM/LGW

Hi everybody. Now I know it is time for a Nana Nap. We are going to be a bit busy tonight and we are running late, so there is no bad news. Everybody here will be interested in working out how they can save their Councils money. I will tell you very quickly and then hand over to Russell for some good news, some more good news!

You will all know that LGM was established about twenty years ago by the Association and it has been one of its big success stories. Then about fifteen years ago, Local Government Workcare to handle workers compensation claims. Now you know of course, LGAQ has established a One Stop Insurance Shop, for all Local Government insurance needs. We have called it 'Local Government Mutual Services'.

We have added an LGM assets pool - that has been set up. The majority of Councils whose insurance expired at the 30th June have joined and all the rest of you, when your insurance expires, then you had better contact LGM Services for the best deal around - if you are interested in quality service and lowest prices.

We have now got a liability pool, a workers’ compensation pool and an assets pool, and we can arrange all types of other insurance needs.

Now, the next good news is that, both LGM and LGW have once again, done very well last year. They performed so well, I am pretty sure - particularly LGM - I am pretty sure the Board will be working out soon, how we can give you some of your money back next year, the same as we have this year - because we don't take profits away. It is your money. It is your good luck, and so you share in the spoils when we have good year. We never have any bad years!

There are two reasons why this happens. More and more Councils are actually spending, more and more time, on managing their risk better and also doing better with Work Place Health and Safety. That just translates into fewer claims, smaller claims, fewer in your community and your workplace getting injured. That translates obviously, to a healthier community, but also lower costs for Councils.

I want to introduce Russell Ditchburn, who is the General Manager of Jardine Lloyd Thompson, or JLT as we call them (he looks after Queensland and the Northern Territory), to tell you about two of the Councils who have contributed significantly in recent times, to helping to reduce risk - because that is where we can make the most gains.

We already know that JLT are specialist people in this business. They manage all our claims and they do it so well, that that is also a significant part of the reason why we will finish - well we finished last financial year, with much better results than anyone could have anticipated. Including our actuaries
and probably including (I would have to say), the Auditor General’s Department, because they want to try to work out why we did so well.

Next time your Councils’ insurance expires, ask your CEO whether you are insured with LGM Services. If you are not, remember this, you will never get a dividend from a private insurance company, but you sure will from LGM services.

**Russell Ditchburn, General Manager QLD & NT, Public Sector, Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd**

Thanks very much Noel for that very kind introduction

LGM Queensland Risk Management Awards have been implemented to lift the profile of risk management in Councils, through the promotion of successful risk management initiatives by member Councils. This is the eleventh year that we have presented these awards as JLT being the sponsors. We are very proud to have that association with these awards, being that it is an integral part of what we are trying to achieve, as Noel has explained.

The awards consists of, a trip for a relevant council officer of the winning Council, to attend a National Local Government Risk Management Conference in Sydney next year. The conference is managed by State Wide Mutual, one of the sister organisations of LGM Queensland.

In 2015, we are very pleased to once again have a number of very good submissions for this award. Due to the high standard on this occasion we are going to award two.

The first one acknowledges the approach taken by a Risk Awareness Project, designed to raise the profile of Risk Management across the Council. Findings from the project help determine decisions for budgeting and forward planning, and provided Council and Executive Management with certainty that important risks are being managed and a structure was in place to update and report on risks.

The project applied an innovative approach to assessing risks. It had a strong support from Executive Management, involved a broad range of people across the organisation and defined Councils risk appetite and tolerance.

**These awards will be presented by Cr Margaret de Wit.**

I am very pleased to announce that the first award goes to the Sunshine Coast Regional Council and I would like to invite Mayor Mark Jamieson to receive the award please.

The second award acknowledges the productive utilisation of a corporate enterprise framework, in respect of gas management at a land fill site. The Portsmith Landfill, provided services to Cairns and surrounding areas from 1985 to 2009.

The landfill was capped and an active gas capture system was installed retrospectively in 2011. The risk of offsite gas migration is a high risk at sites such as the Portsmith Landfill. Installation of the active gas capture system was a key risk mitigation measure, to minimise the risk of offsite gas migration.

I am very pleased to announce, obviously, that the winner of this award is the Cairns Regional Council. I would like to invite Cr Terry James to come and accept the award on behalf of council.

**Master of Ceremonies**

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**Sponsors**

[Logo images]
Thanks very much Noel and Russell. Congratulations to those award winners.

Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal Update
Col Meng
Chair
Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal

Master of Ceremonies

To provide an update from the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal, we are pleased to have with us, the Chair of the Tribunal, Col Meng. Col has been a member of the Tribunal since July 2014, took over as Chair from Adrian Bloomfield in July 2015. Many of you will no doubt recall that he served as Mayor of Mackay Regional Council from 2008 to 2012 and then as Queensland Boundaries Commissioner, overseeing the Council De-amalgamation process, during 2013.

He is also the Chair of the Mackay Hospital and Health Service and has previously served on the Ergon Retail Board and also as Chair of the Mackay Electricity Board. Could you please welcome Col Meng.

Col Meng
Chair
Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal

Thank you very much. President Margaret, Members, to my fellow Tribunal Members and also staff - we all need to have a change and we all look at this, as a very important part of our Local Government venture that we go on year after year.

This year is no different and of course next year you have an election. Some people are concerned and showing concerns, at what will happen into the future. What category they will be in, or where you will end up. The Committee will meet later this month and we will push the buttons and make sure that we do line each and every person up in that category. Be aware that we are certainly looking at those.

I need to talk about our Tribunal Members first off:

Adrian Bloomfield, who many of you have known or met, or had dealings with over the years - Adrian sat on the Tribunal since 2007 and was appointed Chair in 2010. I took over this year in July and so I will continue on. Adrian has been fortunate enough, or we as a Committee, have been fortunate enough, to keep Adrian's expertise on that Committee - so Adrian is still there.

Brian Bartley The other member that we have had appointed, was Brian Bartley. Brian is certainly a solicitor and has been a solicitor since 1973. He has travelled the world, particularly in London, working over there. Brian started his own legal firm in 2000. He specialises in areas of commercial litigation, professional negligence, disciplinary and insurance law, and medical and health. So he brings a great deal of expertise from the legal field.

So, I suppose I look after the Local Government and the business side, Brian looks after the legal side. And of course we have got Adrian and his expertise in a number of areas.

Like all, we need to change and we have changed. We are certainly trying to communicate better and we think that is an area of expertise that we need to give.
One of the areas that I certainly have been involved in is, the Australian Institute of Company Directors, The Australian Institute of Management and my local business. Industry has given I believe, a bit of expertise there.

One of the things we really need to specifically train in - and I know LGAQ do a lot of training, particularly for new members that will come on in March next year - that we need to discuss and really get into things like confidentiality, things that are discussed in closed doors. People need to make sure that if it is closed doors that that is, what it is! Regardless of whether you win or lose, you need to make sure that it is confidential.

Lots of times when you do think ‘oh yeah, I can tell so and so, or, I can discuss it with Mary down the road and get another feeling’, you can’t. That will get you as Councillors, in trouble.

We are pretty well organised and I am sure as members, or Councillors, you do understand that. So don’t let that slip, don’t let your fellow Councillors step outside those guidelines. If there is a conflict in the room - whether it is behind closed doors or otherwise - make sure you look after your fellow Councillors and ask, is there a conflict, or do you have that conflict? Then discuss it and make sure those areas are looked after.

I suppose the Tribunal is meeting on a more regular basis, to get our cases in our areas through quicker. As I said earlier, that is an area we are trying to tidy up.

I suppose after we review every category (the nine categories that are through there), some will move up and some will move down. We will look at those in the next week or so. We must have those decisions out by the first of December.

Once they are Gazetted, then you as a Council may vote if you wish to go lower. You need to make sure you get that through your Council Minutes. Because we don't want you coming back later on saying 'we didn't do that, now we need to apply for it'. We want to make sure that that is important.

The other thing that is important is, if it increases or decreases or whatever sections or area, they don't actually take place until the 1st July 2016. So that is the other part. The resolution that may have impact on all the following elections, in March 2016 - it is just important to know that they actually don't start until the 1st July 2016.

I think everyone has had a long day and I am prepared to open this up for discussion or questions, if there are any from the floor.

Thanks guys. I wish everyone the success that they deserve. For those that are seeking re-election, for those that haven't or are not going again - congratulations on a job well done! Queensland is very proud of you.

Thank you.
Keynote Address: Leading a New Way Forward
Ms Holly Ransom

Courtesy of ICMI Speakers Bureau

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Wednesday 21 October 2015

State Government Main Roads Update
Hon Mark Bailey MP
Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports
Minister for Energy and Water Supply

Cr Margaret de Wit, President, LGAQ

This morning it gives me pleasure to welcome the Hon Mark Bailey MP to the conference. Mark is the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports, and the Minister for Energy and Water Supply.

He is Queensland’s first ever Road Safety Minister. Mark is the State Member for Yeerongpilly on Brisbane’s south side, having been elected in January 2015. He is a former Brisbane City Councillor and we enjoyed a bit of sparing many days ago. Also, he has represented the Moorooka Ward, when he was a Councillor for a period of nine years. Mark is also a qualified high school teacher and has worked in a number of policy positions for the Queensland Government.

Could you please welcome the Hon Mark Bailey!

Hon Mark Bailey MP
Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply

Thanks so much Margaret. Firstly can I acknowledge the Traditional Owners on the land on which we gather and pay my respects to Elders past and present, for a culture that goes back more than 60,000 years on the land on which we gather.

Can I acknowledge the President of the Local Government Association, Cr Margaret de Wit, Greg Hallam of course - the President of the LGAQ, can I acknowledge local Mayor Cr Paul Antonio, who is hosting us here in what is I have to say, a magnificent piece of history and architecture, here in Toowoomba. Can I acknowledge all Councillors and Mayors one and all and staff. As a former Councillor myself, I understand very clearly the importance of your role, and your connection to your community in terms of achieving better outcomes for communities.

It is a great pleasure to be here, at what is a very important annual event in terms of the Local Government Community here in Queensland. The Palaszczuk Government is committed to enhancing our relationships across Local Government, industry and being in touch with emerging issues. Can I acknowledge the strong work of the Local Government Association of Queensland and Councils as partners with us, for the betterment of communities across Queensland! I welcome the chance to be here with you today to reaffirm the Palaszczuk Government’s commitment, to delivering new and more productive infrastructure and investing and creating jobs across our local economies.

From a roads and transport perspective, this means providing an integrated and reliable transport network, that will better connect our communities and stimulate economic development in our
communities. We are delivering on this through action and through investment, but importantly through collaboration and respect for Local Government.

Our commitment is reflected in an $18.8 billion investment over the forward estimates for transport infrastructure in Queensland, through Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) and that means almost fifteen thousand jobs during this four year period.

Under QTRIP there is $14.9 billion over the four year forward estimates being invested in roads, road safety and marine infrastructure.

Importantly, I am very pleased to report to you of course, that we have increased the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS). - The TIDS program. A very fondly regarded program, where we get a lot of value working with Local Government - using their expertise and local knowledge of Local Governments - to invest in our local communities in strategic infrastructure.

We went to the election saying that we would restore funding there considerably. We have actually exceeded our commitment (brought it forward by a year). As I have moved around the state and listened to local Mayors and Councillors, the withdrawal of Roads Funds (not just in the QTRIP area where there was a $200 million cut), for every year of the last three years and with a $600 million dollar cut overall. But the TIDS program slashing really hurt local communities, really hurt local jobs.

So I took that message back to the Government and I am very pleased that in the Budget this year, we restored it to a huge degree. We have also bought that forward. So for most Council’s, we are looking at a 90% plus funding increase under TIDS, to get local jobs and local projects going in our State.

I would certainly acknowledge the NW Mayors and Councillors, who I met in Hughenden only a few weeks after becoming a Minister. That was the first place that was raised. It was a constant story that was raised, with me, by Local Government representatives all over the State as I have moved around.

As you know, most of that funding is provided directly to Local Governments through the Regional Roads and Transport Group, to jointly invest in transport infrastructure. I would like to thank all the Council’s for contributing. Of course we can contribute 50%, but you have got to contribute as well. Thank you for partnering with us and helping us reinvest in local roads here in Queensland.

Of course TIDS also provides $8.2 million, to improve transport access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and supporting development in their regions as well.

**Marine Infrastructure**

As a Minister I am also responsible for marine infrastructure and we have announced an extra $30 million over two years for the Marine Infrastructure Fund, to support small marine projects such as boat ramps, pontoons and jetties. In a State like Queensland, that is absolutely a critical thing. We have one in nineteen Queensland’s, who have a boat licence. I think that is a pretty extraordinary stat. In a lot of those coastal communities, it is one in ten or one in eleven. So that is a very important part of our Queensland culture.

I was only at Burnett Heads yesterday with the Member for Bundaberg, Leanne Donaldson, where we are upgrading one there. It is a five ramp and we are investing in that community and we are certainly getting on with the job (whether it is in Cannonvale, whether it is in Cairns), of investing in smaller marine infrastructure.

**Tourism Industry**

We also acknowledge that with the Australian dollar falling, there are tremendous opportunities in our tourist industry, that we must take advantage of. I was in Townsville in the last week or two, with
DestinationQ, with a lot of local Councillors, working with Tourism Minister Kate Jones on - how do we maximise this opportunity, to not just get the tourists back into Queensland with better value for money - but, how do we keep them coming, how do we re-establish our prominent reputation to really build on our tourism opportunities and grow jobs?

**Scenic Lookout Program**

From a roads point of view, we have established the Scenic Lookout Program in this years’ Budget. This is a modest program, but I think it is a really good one. I went up to the Kuranda Range Road with the Member for Barron River, probably about two or three months into being a Minister - an absolutely magnificent view over the coast – ‘if only I could see through the long grasses. It was a classic case of a fantastic scenic lookout, that hadn’t had any love and attention for a long time.

So what we have done this year is, establish a new fund to work with Local Government and partner with you guys - to look at some of those sites and give them a bit of love and attention. That makes that experience a quality one for tourist. Whether they are from overseas, or coming from interstate, that shows that we really love our communities and we are putting on our best face.

So you will receive information soon. We want you to nominate those sites, because you know them better than anybody and the funds can be used for all kinds of things to spruce them up. But importantly, we need that local information, to boost those tourism opportunities at scenic lookouts.

**Toowoomba Second Range Crossing**

Of course we are delivering on pretty major projects as well. The Toowoomba Second Range Crossing is of course, a huge regional piece of infrastructure that is going in, worth $1.6 billion in a public/private partnership with the Federal Government.

It is going to be a real game changer in this area and will create about 1,800 jobs over the life of the project. It is on time and on budget - we are working through that. There is some really good value in the market place at the moment.

In terms of outcomes, we have been able to get about three different grade separation interchanges added to the additional scope, as part of our management of the project. And what we will see is, a time saving of up to forty minutes for those communities bypassing Toowoomba to get to Brisbane, right the way out to the south west. So, a fantastic project and it is great to work with the Federal Government on that one, and also the Toowoomba Regional Council.

**Bruce Highway Upgrade**

- In Central Queensland we have just completed in fact, the $170 million Bruce Highway Upgrade at Yeppoon south, where we will see high level flood plain access to the south of Rockhampton.
- We are also working on the Bruce Highway at Cooroy to Curra, on section A.
- In the Mackay region, we are also replacing timber bridges on the Peak Downs Highway between Nebo and Mackay, to the tune of $70 million.
- Of course the Eton Range new crossing, which I visited about two weeks ago, is looking in very good shape as well and dealing with some road safety issues up there.

We are very cognisant of the impact of the drought at the moment and that is why the Premier announced a specific Western Roads Package, worth $40 million over two years. To get some money, to get some investment in those north west and western communities that are doing it hard under drought - To get some of those local road projects going.
We know that every income in those kind of circumstances matters a lot to those communities. We have been very happy to do that - create about seventy jobs - and it will use the local workforce largely. Working with Councils to make sure that we can get wins there.

I won't go through the specific locations. I think their communities know where they are. But, there are fourteen different project sites. That will be fantastic for those communities doing it hard at the moment.

We are also working in the north of course. The Bruce Highway Upgrade - we have got an $8.5 billion commitment with the Federal Government. We have got $1.8 of that over ten years and the Bruce Highway Upgrade continues in places such as Vantassel St and Stuart Drive and Yellow Gin Creek.

The Townsville Ring Road, which is a separate project, but a very big one! We are putting in $40 million there, completing the last stage of that really important piece of infrastructure - Setting up Townsville. That Ring Road Project has been progressed over about ten to twelve years. This is the last missing link, which I am looking forward to seeing completed.

In Mackay with the Sandy Gully Bridge that we are working on (on the Bruce Highway near Bowen), we have committed this year to the Vines Creek Bridges being replaced near the Mackay Port. Productivity issue there, there was a load limit issue there. As a Minister, where ever I can get productivity value adds - that is what we are doing. Vines Creek Bridge was in that context.

We are doing a couple of intersections in Roma which should have been done years ago, that stops road trains going straight into the sale yards there. They had to decouple out of town - really inefficient and quite unsafe. A driver was killed there in the last year of two. We've got on with the job, we are getting it done. That is the way it should be.

We are also working of course, on the Dawson Highway between Gladstone and Biloela. The Kinkora Roundabout is well under way, which I saw in my visit recently to Gladstone. In the Wide Bay Burnett we are building of course, the Tinana Interchange at southern Maryborough. We are repairing widening works north of Wangi Forest.

The Bruce on the north coast is also getting a lot of attention, where we will be upgrading between Caloundra Road and the Sunshine Motorway. We are also working on the Boundary Road Interchange there, at Mango Hill. We will also continue to plan for safety and capacity upgrades, from Pine River to Caloundra Road along the Bruce. So that commitment to the Bruce is absolutely rolling and committed.

I was just out this morning on the Warrego, where there is a $635 million commitment to progressive upgrades, from Nugent Pinch Road to Charlton. We are about six months ahead of schedule, so that is going very well. From there we go to Charlton and out to Kingsthorpe and Kingsthorpe to Oakey, over the next three to four years.

Of course with the Commonwealth Games coming, we have got a $160 million roads package on the Gold Coast as well. To not just set us up for the Commonwealth Games, but also to set up the Gold Coast itself and leave them with legacy projects. I would certainly pay tribute to the Deputy Premier and the Premier, in their roles, in achieving the Light Rail Project, which is the missing link down there. You will be able to get heavy rail to light rail, straight to the coast on a weekend, once that is completed and vice versa commuting to Brisbane via rail, rather than taking the highway, will be a much stronger option. So very happy for us to be getting a balanced transport network!

Energy

As Minister for Energy, I am also very passionate about our Government's role, transitioning to clean energy sources and renewable energy. I am very pleased to inform you of a number of things that we have been able to achieve over the last few months.
Ergon Energy will be sourcing one hundred and fifty megawatts of renewable energy, to meet its Renewable Energy Targets (RET) requirement, through an expression of interest process. That is going to be an enormous boost of clean energy into the Queensland market. We have also taken the election commitment of forty megawatts of additional renewable energy, through a reverse auction process. We are exceeding that by 50%.

We are going up to 60 megawatts working with Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and we are specifying large scale solar, because we think it is overdue. Time is well overdue for us to have a large scale solar industry in Queensland. For goodness sake, we are the Sunshine State!

We are also the ‘Solar State’. When you look at the level of Domestic Solar PV penetration, we are one of the best in the world. Ahead of California (this is per capita), ahead of California, ahead of Hawaii, ahead of Germany (which is the world leader in renewables). But when it comes to large scale solar in the year 2015, the industry still substantially, hasn’t been established. A real lost opportunity for us in terms of jobs of the future and also that transition into clean energy! So, we are getting on with the job of managing that transition.

We have also got a number of trials going on in terms of battery technology. Now batteries are coming and they continue to get better every year. But what we have got to establish is, how does the tech marry with the consumer?

What we have got is, a couple of trials, one with Ergon going on in Townsville. Another one is a joint one with Sunburg - which is a Silicon Valley company that established an office in Brisbane.

Why are they in Brisbane? Because Queensland has the highest solar PV, domestic penetration rate in the world. They are here to trial the latest array of batteries with solar PV, in Townsville - in Cannonvale and Toowoomba as well, to get three different climatic conditions.

It is twenty four hour live data going back and forth. To see what works, how does it survive under real conditions? We are working with ARENA in that regard as well, because they are keen to see how those trials emerge as well.

We have also had Ergon - they are putting out twenty industrial sized batteries - they are called GUSS Units, Grid Utility Support Systems. They are these huge ten metre, by two metre, by two metre industrial batteries, that get put out on the Short-Wave Infrared (SWIR) lines, in the remote parts of the sector. Basically they play an industrial role in terms of the network. They save us up to 35% of traditional poles and wire investment, and they augment the network. So in terms of batteries, Queensland is right in the space in terms of working out - how do we maximise the opportunities, how do we get a better system out of it, how do we save costs, how do we move into clean energy solutions?

All this is in the context of electricity prices on average, falling by about 0.5% this year, after double digit increases year in, year out, have been causing a lot of pain in communities right across Queensland. On average there will be a slight decrease. That will be a fair bit of relief for Queenslanders right across the State. We should see that price path, over the next four to five years, in terms of electricity, stabilise. We are looking at a final decision out of the regulator, at the end of this month. I know a lot of people are looking forward to seeing that.

We have also got ‘Off Grid Solutions’ as part of our election commitment. We are working on those. We want to see more participation by Local Government and by private industry in terms of - we have got thirty odd remote communities in Queensland, where it just makes sense to explore what those off grid solutions might look like, given the cost of trying to get the network out to them. If we can get that model right, then that is something that might be a package that can really be exported and transferred in other contexts. So we are working on off grid solutions and we are keen to work with Local Government on that.
We have also released our review into a fair price for solar, through the Queensland Productivity Commission. We want to make sure that people are getting a fair price. Look, the days of, obviously, forty four cents are long gone. The industry is mature, but we also want to make sure that people are getting value and the overall benefits to the system are looked after.

**Road Safety**

In terms of my Portfolio responsibilities, I am very, very pleased, to be the first ever Minister for Road Safety. There are real possibilities and benefits into the future, as we move into this road safety space. Last year was our lowest level of fatalities in Queensland, since records began. That is a fantastic base line to go off. But we see the issues there, as being much broader.

We have got to look at hospitalisations. So while fatalities have been coming down considerably over the long term - where it used to be about 31 deaths per 100,000, it is now about 4.8. Hospitalisations remain persistent. People are surviving, but there is still a lot of trauma out there that is costing our community, not just the pain, but also economically as well.

We are working with the Road Safety Community. We had a Forum after our worst ever Easter in about twenty five years - to look at possible solutions. To look at new ways of developing policy, to save lives, to reduce road trauma. I have been very happy to work with our stakeholders there - right across the board - RACQ, the trucking industry, the motorcycling industry. The cycling community have been really involved. We have come out with a range of things there.

We have got double demerit points for mobile phone usage. We have really got to advance this space. The research shows that being distracted with your mobile while you drive, is exactly the same as driving drunk over 0.05 and people haven't yet adjusted to that reality - and I don't think people realise enough, that that is the sort of risk they are taking, and the danger they are putting themselves and other people into. So if you get caught twice, it is a double demerit points off your licence. And we are getting tough in that area.

We have also made it tougher to get a Learners Permit. If you are a young driver, the risk, once you go from getting a Learner's Permit to getting an Open Licence, exponentially increases massively. We want to skill up those young drivers, so that they have got skills around things like: high speed merges; crossing across traffic; keeping their distances; rather than reverse parking; get safer young drivers onto our roads.

We are also looking at the motorcycle licence area, to increase skill level and experience there. We have had a discussion paper out that is now closed and will be coming out in that space soon as well. To make sure that our motorcycle riders - who we have had considerably more deaths there this year, than last year - and the motorcycle community, is saying we need to act in that space. That is what we are going to be doing.

As part of our work, we also provide $500,000,000 in joint funding over two years, for targeted road safety projects across Queensland - Including $12,000,000 to install flashing lights at an extra 300 Queensland school sites over the next three years. Our school communities are obviously a very high priority.

We also announced our new Road Safety Action Plan and a revamped Strategy, which hadn't been revamped in (I think), at least four or five years, in August. So we are very active in that road safety space. We are keen for better outcomes. But we are also telling people, we need a relationship with you, because we can only do so much (you know from a Local Government point of view), we can only do so much from an engineering point of view. We have got to continue to involve people. They have got to be part of the solution, every time they get behind the wheel - that has got to be a key part of that message, there has got to be 'a collaboration' there as well.
Working collaboratively with Local Government has been, you know, it is a really essential part of my job and the Roads and Transport Alliance, is a very important part of that. I think all of you who contribute through that, in terms of prioritising road infrastructure - collaboration has to be the key in terms of us having really good outcomes.

Can I just say in closing, that I see our Government, as being a Government that prioritises relationships, positive relationships and being in touch with what is going on. I see it as bread and butter politics. Governments at a State and Federal level, from different major parties (including mine), I think, have not been in touch with communities over the last four or five years. What people really want is, Governments that are connected, that are listening. We are never going to have all the answers and we are never going to be able to please everybody all the time. But what people want, are sincere relationships that are in touch. We can't deliver, we tell you why, we explain why. But if we are in touch, we can make the best possible decisions that help communities. That is why, for me as the Main Roads Minister, I have prioritised being in touch with Mayors. As I travel around the State, wherever I can, fit in a meeting with the local Mayor while I am seeing a power station or seeing a road project. That is what I do, so that we are in touch with what is going on.

I would like to thank you all for your work over the last twelve months. I wish you all well over the next twelve months, particularly with an election coming up. I understand all too well what elections are like. It is always a stressful time if you are running. I wish you all, sincerely, good luck through that project.

It is good actually, to sit in on a couple of minutes of your debate. Great to see democracy in action and I do wish you all well. I look forward to working with you all over the next twelve months.

Thank you for the invitation to be here. I wish your conference well.

Cr Margaret de Wit, President, LGAQ

The Minister is available for a few questions. But just before we start on the questions - our CEO, as you know, is pretty much into statistics. And he reliably tells me that Minister Bailey is, the first Main Roads Minister to address our Annual Conference in ten years. We really appreciate that. Also the fact that he also came out to St George, to our Bush Councils Convention, so thank you very much.

Question

Cr Keith Douglas, Cloncurry Shire Council

Sir, firstly I would like to thank you for the $5,000,000 you have put towards our road from Cloncurry to Duchess, we really appreciate that.

There has been some talk going around about that road running into $1,000,000.00 a kilometre. We have built roads for $250,000 a kilometre. We would hate to see the thirty four kilometres not fully sealed, purely because The Main Roads get too over excited about the design. We would like your support in that, so that we do get it done.

This road actually services mines. It also services the largest fertiliser plant in the southern hemisphere. I think the fact that we haven't got a good sealed road to that - and it is a State road, it is not one of our roads - I think it is very important that we get it done. So we would like to have your support on that.

As I said, we have built roads for $250,000 per kilometre, excluding flood ways. This road plays such a monstrous part in our economy, as our area does all round, but this is the largest (and I reinforce this), the largest fertiliser plant in the southern hemisphere. It is very important that we get this road done and that we get all thirty four kilometres of it sealed. So Sir, we would like your support in it. But once again, I really thank you for the $5,000,000 support - really appreciate that. Thank you very much.
Response

Hon Mark Bailey MP, Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply
I forgot to acknowledge my Director General, Neil Scales. I would like to certainly acknowledge Neil. Who I think most of you know, is very connected to the Local Government sector. I would suggest you have a chat with Neil at the break and talk through some of those things. Let’s see what we can do to get as good an outcome as possible. I don’t like to dampen the excitement of course, but I understand your point of view. I think a chat with Neil and we will work our way through it.

Question

Alan Wilson
Good morning Minister and thank you very much for the opportunity to speak to you. We have got a fair bit of concern on the Peninsula Developmental Road (PDR) up through the Cape. We are fairly disappointed in Council, that we weren’t consulted more in reference to the policy that has been adopted, in the development of the PDR and the contracting out of the work.

It goes through the heart of our Shire and it affects a lot of our constituents. Who are contractors in the past and have purchased a lot of machinery over the years and are fully experienced in the development of our roads. On this occasion, they have been denied the opportunity to do the work and to tender for the work on the contracts.

I know that we are trying to bring people together - indigenous and the non-indigenous cultures together. But what you are doing there, I am afraid, is put a stick in a beehive and pushing them apart. I have got friends in both areas and I am really concerned about the antagonism that is developing. I think you should have a relook at the policy.

I understand that Mr Scales has got it all in hand, but there is a long way to go to bring back unity in the Cape.

Response

Hon Mark Bailey MP, Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply
I am very happy to have a chat with you afterwards. We can talk about some of the details there. One of the issues in terms of that project - obviously a very big project over five years - there is $260,000,000 there in joint State and Federal funding.

One of the issues is, I understand in the round for this year, there wasn’t any local businesses that were pre-qualified to a level, to get the initial round of funding. That caused some angst up there. You will appreciate from our point of view, especially, such a critical road with extreme environments up there (your wet season is pretty full on), the standards on the road are something we have got to be really clear about. If the road gets washed out, or the standards aren’t there, we are the ones who will wear that. So we are very clear about that.

So in this round (and I think this is the second year of five years), the local opportunities have been more at a sub-contracting level. But I do know the department has been working with communities to get some local groups pre-qualified, help with training and help that skill development, so we can get into a space where there will be local companies. These are big contracts, so we have got to be very careful about that.
We have also been very careful to have local jobs and indigenous jobs as a priority, in terms of the project. So even though the pre-qualified companies weren’t from the Cape, they still have to employ a large number of local and indigenous jobs. I have been advised that we have exceeded our number of indigenous trainees and indigenous jobs, and there are a lot of local people working on it as well.

So is it a perfect process? Probably not! But we are working our way through it, to make sure that those skill levels, that the company skill levels, give them a better chance. There will be three more rounds for them to have a go at. So we are working with them, to see what we can do. Let’s have a chat with Neil after the session. Happy to have that one on one with you.

Question

Cr Fred Pascoe, Mayor, Carpentaria Shire Council

Minister, my question is not about roads - surprisingly! I put a question to the DP yesterday, and given the calibre of that lady, I don’t think I need to reiterate the question. My question is about ports Minister. Firstly I thank you for our discussion in St George at the Bush Councils, that discussion has borne fruit and we have had visits by Ports North, the authority that handles the port in my area, namely Karumba.

Minister I had a chance meeting with the Chairman of the Townsville Port Authority. We had a fairly good discussion, about the once in a life time chance that we have got, as far as live cattle into Asia and the demand that we have never seen before (certainly in my lifetime or my Dad's lifetime). That gentleman informed me that the ports really need to work together. We have really got to take advantage of the opportunity that we have never seen before - as in live cattle and boxed meat going into the Asian region.

Minister I would ask you, if you haven't done so already, to oversee the process that needs to happen with all ports and all ports authority. Not only in Queensland, but we also need to talk to Darwin. In fact I think we can learn quite a few lessons from how Darwin operates and how they interact with their Territory Government - in that it is a simple process of business - it is a supply and demand. You know, we are in a very unique situation where demand is going to outstrip supply if we don’t get out ducks in a row.

Ports are an integral part of that - To get this as the Governments says, a super highway of beef going into Asia. We really need these port authorities talking to each other. We need to look at ports like Weipa, putting infrastructure in place so that the cattlemen of Cape York (black and white) can take advantage of that. We need to look at ports like my little port and the fact that they play a very important role in those niche markets of Malaysia, Vietnam, Philippines etc. The big boys like Townsville and Darwin, they take care of Indo and China. But there is as I said, a once in a lifetime opportunity there and I would ask you as Minister, if we could milk it for as much as we can?

Response

Hon Mark Bailey MP, Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply

That is a very good point Fred. We are very cognisant of the opportunity in terms of the Asian market - he emerging middle classes there and the great demand for protein and meat. I am very happy to take that up. We are aware of that of course.

We are investing in Townsville Port right now. First of all we are for public assets in public hands. That is our clear policy. But we are also investing in it. Over the next two years we are doing $55,000,000 on berth four, to increase the efficiencies through the port by basically upgrading. It will be up to 20% more efficient as a result of that kind of investment. We absolutely acknowledge our ports as being key conduits, to getting our products out and into export markets.
The beef issue is certainly one we are aware of and I will be keeping that in mind, as we work our way through the supply chain issues. Of course I am aware that Karumba has got some issues with the mine closing up there. If there are opportunities through Karumba, we’re very interested. It has got to stack up economically of course and there is dredging costs because it is such a shallow channel out. But of course, I know Karumba is looking for opportunities as well and if we can work together and get some wins there, we would love to do that too.

Question

Cr Fred Gela, Mayor, Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Within my electorate, we don’t have the luxury of our communities joined by a land bridge. Our waterway is our national highway. A quick question in terms of when can we actually sit down and have serious discussions in regards to the priorities surrounding port facilities and roads, in terms of programming works, in conjunction with your department. I think it needs to be understood, that in our communities at the moment, now, we have got (Neil, I am not sure if you are well aware), it is an accident waiting to happen. You have got navigational aids that are still under water and our communities are totally reliant on the ports, in terms of fresh produce coming into those communities. So I need your serious intervention on this.

Response

Hon Mark Bailey MP, Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply
Thanks for that comment. Torres Strait is probably one of the few places I haven’t got to yet, over the last eight months. So I have got that in mind. I want to get up into your communities and get a sense of it. Meet one on one. Of course my DG is here, come and have a chat in the break and let’s talk about that. I am not specifically aware of the navigational aid issue up front, but let’s talk about it. You can inform me and we will see what we can do to assist there.

I am very conscious of the Torres Strait as such a unique community and culture up there. We want to work with you for good outcomes.

Cr Margaret de Wit

Please join with me in thanking Minister Bailey.

State Opposition Update

Ms Fiona Simpson MP
Shadow Minister for Local Government and Main Roads, Community Recovery and Resilience

Cr Margaret de Wit, President, LGAQ
It is my pleasure to introduce the State Opposition Update to the Annual Conference, which will be presented by Fiona Simpson MP. Fiona is the Shadow Minister for Local Government and Main Roads, Community Recovery and Resilience. She has previously held Shadow Portfolio’s of Health, Transport, Main Roads, Tourism, Women, Communities and Housing.

Fiona is the State Member for Maroochydore, having first been elected to Parliament in 1992. Following the 2012 elections, she was elected to the position of Speaker, in the 54th Queensland Parliament. Fiona has also pursued a range of post graduate study in executive leadership. Prior to
entering Parliament, she worked in journalism. Ladies and Gentlemen, would you please welcome Fiona Simpson.

Ms Fiona Simpson MP
Shadow Minister for Local Government and Main Roads, Community Recovery and Resilience

Thank you very much Margaret de Wit, for that warm welcome and to all delegates and participants. I first wish to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we are meeting today. I also wish to especially acknowledge Mayor of Toowoomba, Cr Paul Antonio and his team and CEO Greg Hallam of the LGAQ.

I am not sure if Greg is back in after rounding up people from morning tea. He is! Where is the man with the red shoes? I have a little gift for you Greg. I took a straw poll as to whether it was appropriate, given the very serious nature of these gatherings, where the issues of the day are fought out and people are focussed on the things that matter. But given that this man is a bit of a fashionista wearing these, not only red glasses but, the best red shoes I have seen. I think he needs some matching socks, so......

Greg Hallam, CEO LGAQ
I was not allowed to wear anything red, my Dad said it would frighten the cattle so I am making up for it now.

Fiona Simpson MP
Is that your excuse? They’re Ronald MacDonald Happy Day socks and they are just for you. When I saw the red shoes this week I thought, beauty - I know who deserves this!

I also wish to acknowledge the many Councillors and staff members, who are from drought parts of Queensland and the sacrifice you are continuing to make, in order to support your communities - to keep people literally alive in the process. I certainly hope that we never forget all that we need to do to support you practically, through that time, through this horrendous time of grinding drought.

I also wish to add to previous comments about the magnificent Margaret de WIt and the role that she has played as your President. I am certainly sorry to see Margaret leaving public life next year. But, somehow I don’t think it will be about leaving our communities, because this is one good woman - as has been acknowledged before. Margaret you have done an outstanding job.

‘Taking Control of Our Destiny’, what a great conference theme. I am certainly honoured to be with you today and present on behalf of the State Opposition, in regard to our policy and our direction - the issues that you have been feeding back to me. As I am responsible for Main Roads, Local Government and the Community Recovery and Resilience - I will have a particular focus on that area.

I have met a number of you over many years, as Margaret was reading that list of responsibilities I have previously held. But I was also fortunate to meet a number of you at the North Queensland Local Government Conference on Palm Island (I will shout out to Lacey and the team who did a fabulous job). Also to Donna Stewart and the team at Balonne, and when we met in St George. I know Donna is retiring and there are many of you who have served well over many years. We wish you all the best. That was a terrific conference.

As I have mentioned with Cr Paul, I am thrilled to be here in Toowoomba, as I think many are.

A bit of background

I was Speaker in the previous House. I was just reminiscing with the Hon Mayor of Mt Isa, Mayor McGrady, about the role of Speaker. It is interesting, you can do many roles, but somehow that one is the one that people remember, despite all the other things you are involved in.
One of the things I took away from that important year is, the value of hearing diverse voices. Maybe your Council Chambers aren't as robust as that cauldron, that can be, State Parliament at times. But we know that good decision making, doesn't come from one part of the political spectrum, or in fact the loudest voices.

It is about being able to hear the voices around the table. In a State as large as Queensland (that is as big, bold and diverse as Queensland), we need to respect the fact that the diversity in our State, not only the diversity of the demographics, it is the diversity of the geography and the challenges that makes.

Philosophically as an LNP, we are committed to devolving decision making as much as possible. (though I take on board some of those resolutions). You don't want devolution without the money to pay for things and that is a fair point. But we do philosophically believe that local decision making, as much as possible, wherever possible, for tailored local solutions, makes a lot of sense.

For those who I haven't caught up with since I arrived here at your conference on Monday, my primary purpose, is not only having the opportunity of speaking to you, on behalf of the opposition today - my primary purpose of being here is, meeting around the coffee pot. Catching up, having a yarn, and letting you know that we as a team are available. I am available. I am not keen on Opposition, but the only advantage of an Opposition is, that you actually have the time to get around the State, hear how it is and to understand. To make sure the policies that you bring to the table and what you advocate on behalf of people - reflects those voices you hear.

Please don't hesitate. If you haven't caught hold of me since Monday when I arrived, if you haven't got my phone number, get hold of me before I leave today. I am more than happy to catch up. If it is not here, it is in your neck of the woods, we will find a time that works.

On the matter of the State - the various ways that people come to be here and I know that the tyranny of distance is very real. I have certainly been taking the opportunity, as I have mentioned, since taking on this role earlier this year, to get around the State as much as possible. Whether it is by truck, by train, or by road (not by helicopter yet), but whatever it takes. In my Main Roads hat, that is particularly the way I have been trying to get about the State.

I had the experience recently in trucking the Bruce, going from Cairns to Brissy. Obviously I have travelled the Bruce many times, but never in a truck and it is good to see the number of improvements that are underway. That ten year action plan that was signed off under the previous LNP Government, in collaboration with our Federal colleagues (who are primarily responsible for that national highway) - we have seen significant improvements. And there is more to be done! But certainly the works around the Yeppoon floodplain and certainly a lot of the upgrades and the safety improvements in that nearly $10 billion plan.

It's expensive, but it does make a difference. I know you will list many other roads that are on your priority, to see the State's potential unlocked.

I have to tell you a funny little story about this. Because someone pointed out to me, this thing I have got on my wrist - I might have told some of you this story - it is called a fitbit. It is supposed to encourage you to get healthier. I am sure in all the long hours you work, we can be very busy, but we are not always as physically busy as we need to be. But somehow this fitbit, which is supposed to read your steps and encourage you to move more, told me I had done 10,000 steps between Rocky and Bowen, while I was sitting in a truck cabin - which I think is just hilarious.

You might have your own stories - it was just a tad rough! Maybe you want me to see how many steps I can do in a truck or a car on your favourite local road.
But as I said, perhaps one of the advantages of the reality check of going into opposition, it is about, particularly given that we have had the lowest number of sitting days in decades - we are working, we are getting around the State, despite the fact that Parliament has rarely sat and my priority is to ensure that we hear your voice.

As your conference theme states 'Taking Control of Our Destiny', that is absolutely vital to all of us and certainly vital in the program that you have set for this week. Earlier this year under our leader, Lawrence Springborg, the LNP released our Economic Plan. Now Lawrence is a decent and hardworking man. He is probably the first Health Minister, bar Mike Horan, who was able to really devolve decision making and cut through, and break through, in the Health Portfolio.

I use this as an example because, it proves that when you put capable competent people (who have got the skills), in the right jobs with Local Hospital Boards, you can really turn things around. We know that there was a significant reform in that area, with vast improvements to waiting times and service deliveries. Access importantly also for our rural and regional friends, to more birthing services and access to specialist services in rural and regional Queensland.

That came about by recognising that principle of, the more that you can appropriately devolve decision making, with the right people and with the skills, you can get good outcomes. That certainly flows through our philosophy and certainly how we are forming our policy going forward.

Reflecting on that - I have often thought that it must seem a bit rich, for Local Governments to be given the message from on high -which you need to be more efficient and more sustainable! When State Government over many years, have racked up record debt (in this case, Queensland has got $80 billion worth of debt), lost a AAA credit rating and mismanaged portfolio's in previous generations such as health. You can always improve things. As we know, there has never been a cynic, who has ever changed the world for the better. It is only by good people stepping up and saying they have an idea, and the capacity to deliver.

But local decisions and the right people make a difference!

Margaret, I noticed in your report the other day (was it the Satisfaction Survey?), reporting back on how your constituents are saying, how much they are looking for value for money - that is what we need to demand of all tiers of Government.

As I said, it is a bit rich for another tier to say 'You have to be sustainable'. We all need to perform in that space. Because at the end of the day, Government is about looking after people today and into the future, and understanding that intergenerational legacy that we are building or diminishing.

So we should ultimately expect that Governments of all persuasions and all levels make good decisions - and not making a decision can also be a poor decision.

I want to just reflect on that Economic Plan that we have just released and to see how you can align that, or whether you believe that aligns with your vision. I believe it does, because it is the feedback that we have received.

Our Plan that we have released consists of fourteen commitments, focussing on five areas.

**Agriculture**

Agriculture continues to be a vital industry here in Queensland. It will continue to be so. Certainly we know, as I mentioned, that the drought has suppressed all that it can be at this time. But we are committed to enhancing agriculture production and particularly to enabling communities to take advantage, of the opportunities of that growing middle class in Asia. They will need food and fibre, and that is certainly a key opportunity.
Tourism

Tourism under the LNP - we certainly had the successful DestinationQ and that program is continuing. But it is about saying, that there are these industries that cut across so many different sectors and so many different geographies. We are committed to fully implementing DestinationQ and working with local communities and Local Government who has key role to play in tourism.

Resources

This is a sector that obviously has taken a battering, but continues to be vital to the future of this State. The ‘Royalties for Regions’ is one that we established. We believe that in answer to communities, there is a need to recognise that there are communities that don’t always have the population, but they are delivering the resources and there is a cost impact on their community as such.

Construction and Manufacturing

The need to ensure comprehensive planning law reform to reduce cost, to reduce red tape and fast track approval process for non-controversial developments. I know that you are at the grass roots - or at the coal face so to speak - of making decisions and what those look like. Certainly we need to acknowledge, that to drive construction and manufacturing, there has to be a good planning regime.

The services and knowledge based industries

People use the phrase ‘Smart Industries’ - but essentially service based industries, knowledge based industries, is where there is tremendous opportunity. One that, with our educational systems and how, we can once again partner with local communities, to best unlock the potential, to make education accessible to young people, with higher education and vocational education, (which shouldn’t be underestimated).

The Economy

But the economy - we all need a functioning economy in order to deliver that sustainability of our communities. We are absolutely committed to, ensuring that we work with communities and small businesses (who are the life blood of your rates), your local communities and certainly the future of our State.

Cost of Living

The other principle in regard to the Economic Plan that was released certainly was in respect to cost of living. I know that it has been very controversial - recent moves in the energy sector and one that we are concerned about, with the energy providers now being newly indebted with $3.2 billion worth of State Debt. It is vital that for Queensland to perform, not only on the football field, but as a State, to be a leading State again at all levels (certainly at the State level), that we make sure that we are not encumbering another generation and taking away their opportunity to be all that they can be.

But regional Queensland is really at the heart of this State. West Australia is obviously a large state, but we’re one of the most decentralised states (at the coal face again). It is Local Government that is delivering not only the services, but it goes way beyond just that economic unit of service delivery. It goes to the heart of what people see, as being the essence of their local area that they feel so passionately about.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure is certainly a vital part of ensuring, that continuance to underpin our economic plan and a pipeline of works, is more than just a document that has never been costed and doesn’t have the
funds to deliver it - as infrastructure has been mentioned, a lot of the roads, particularly with the Warrego and the Bruce and the other State and Federal road projects.

I know that my colleague, Scott Emerson and the team, were very instrumental in ensuring that they were commenced under QTRIP and that there was a program and pipeline of works. But it needs to continue. We recognise that it has to be, not only the big projects, but the small and medium ones. That does mean, obviously, in partnership with Local Government.

Toowoomba Second Range Crossing

But on that big one, I know it is good to see finally, the Toowoomba second range crossing underway. We shortlisted the tenders last year before we mucked up and lost Government. But we got that process going. I think there is a vital principle in this. That, projects that have been controversially shelved for so long because they are so large - there are ways to deliver them and it is about finding the innovation and about how you can reasonably partner with the private sector. Also ensuring we have, in this case, the Federal Government involved and the State Government under the LNP, who took the lead to finally get that project going.

I know that there are opportunities for other projects around the State. The big ones that have perhaps just been too large to bite off, to get underway, by how we can stage them and come up with the right plan to do that. But I am thrilled to see that finally about to commence, with the short listing of tendering the process last year.

So the ability of Councils to act independently is something that I think we recognise is vitally, at the heart of what you do. I know that certainly, there were measures that we were able to take involving Councillors, more in the operation with access to staff and Mayoral responsibility for budgets.

Cutting red tape, that ubiquitous, ever increasing it seems, requires more than just a policy statement. It actually requires target and focus. That is why we had set up, certainly, targets and reduction of red tape. It is like mowing grass. You have got to continue to make sure that there is not the incremental creep. Our commitment is certainly for Cabinet; to have a dedicated Committee that focuses on the targets to reduce red tape, to ensure that you can do the work that you need to do.

Now moving on - I think that going forward, as I have said - that ongoing meaningful consultation, about the issues that are important to you; recognising that the solution for one area may not be a solution to others, requires certainly, flexibility in a pretty controversial area recently. But one that we are willing to work with you on and to deliver and that was an industrial relations reform. It has been disappointing to see this put on hold in the last twelve months.

But I want to particularly acknowledge, the work that the LGAQ did in this space. When we lost Government, the incoming Government repealed a lot of those particular changes that had been made. That we had enabled, to empower Local Government, to get in there and simplify your awards process. Recognising there had been a multitude of awards. Some of these were quite archaic and inflexible. If you are able to best work with your local workforce, and meet the needs of your ratepayers, you needed a simplified awards process.

Anyway, we saw that legislation that the LNP had put through, was repealed and the new government came in, the Industrial Relations Minister issued a direction to the Commission to go back and look at the provisions. But I really do pay the LGAQ and members credit, for the fight that you put up in the Commission and I think it is not to be underestimated, how significant that win is. That you will end up still getting a single award and you deserve more than an accolade and a pat on the back for properly, and rightfully arguing that what you were doing and what we were trying to achieve with you, was a fair process.

I know some of you though, are still to see your finalised EB’s, because this process has been delayed. While that is frustrating, once again I commend you for hanging in there. Because to see a
delay in a process, where you are on a timeframe, particularly with elections next year, must be quite frustrating. But I commend you for the work you have done.

One of the challenging areas coming up is in workers’ comp. There has been new legislation, or actually repealing legislation, to restore common law claims in Queensland, with no threshold. Under the LNP, we recognised that the premiums that your small businesses and you were paying, were getting out of hand. We introduced a Common Law threshold of 5% impairment. What is interesting in other states, actually, under opposite sides of the political spectrum, they have up to 30% thresholds for common law, before you can actually go for common law claims.

But we have now seen worker comp reforms repealed. This is a shame, because we saw a 17% reduction in premiums for small business in Queensland, under the legislation that we bought in.

The new legislation puts in a threshold of 5% and it will be retrospective. It is retrospective until the beginning of the year. So if you weren’t aware of that, I draw that to your attention because it will have an impact on claims.

The thing that we don’t want to see - the premiums blowing out again! Because ultimately, when the lawyers have a picnic - no offence to the lawyers in the room - but when the lawyers have a picnic, they seem to do better out of these schemes than anybody else.

Recognising also, many of you would have been in contact with your local fities and particularly your rural fities. It is about having a fair system. This is why as a State Opposition we took up the fight. To ensure that your, rural fities had a fair cover under Workcover. Previously, what was in place is, that they could suffer a cancer that they believed, or quite reasonably was connected to their services as a rural firey, serving alongside of the full time and auxiliary fities - but not be covered in the same way. That was an amendment that we took to the floor and the Government recognised as a good idea and ended up bringing into legislation alongside the Private Members Bill that we put in place.

So it is about being fair and it is about being sustainable and it is about listening to local communities, to ensure that our volunteers (who often are doing the same role in a rural communities) are covered in the same way that those that are fortunate to be in a full time professional job are.

In closing, I want to acknowledge retiring Mayors and Councillors and to pay tribute for your service. It has made a difference. It will always matter, because those who care about their community enough to be involved and do something, leave a legacy that lasts beyond a generation. None of us would do what we are doing, unless we were passionate about our communities and our Queensland. Because it is all about people! And why would you live anywhere else but Queensland?

We could start a bidding war, as to where it is best to live in Queensland. But that may not be a good idea here today. But what we do matters. What you do matters. While the State still has some significant economic challenges to lead the field again - it is worth fighting the fight, to ensure that we believe, that there is a vision that is worthwhile achieving.

I know your vision of Better Councils Better Communities underpins that. Federally there is discussion about taxation reform. I support us having that discussion, as reform must recognise that service delivery, value for money and how we all better serve our constituencies at all levels of Government (Federal, State and Local Government) is heard and understood. I will put on the table that, I believe it is vital that Local Government has a seat at the table and that they are heard as part of that. It is important that Queensland isn’t held back from achieving all that is possible, on behalf of the communities that we serve.

I look forward to continuing to hear your vision and plans, as we work together to make that happen.

Thank you. Safe travels, thank you for having me.
LGAQ Ethics Advisor: Joan Sheldon AM

Master of Ceremonies

The Local Government Ethics Advisor provides Mayors, Councillors and CEO's with access to high standard advice on ethical and integrity issues. In this role Adjunct Professor Joan Sheldon, a former Deputy Premier and Treasurer, brings a wealth of experience in public life and systems of Government and a clear understanding of the need for integrity and ethical decision making, to not only to prevail, but to be seen to prevail. The position of Local Government Ethics Advisor provides an ‘in confidence’ service and is part of the Local Government leading the way, in improved transparency and accountability. The position is funded by the LGAQ and has access to LGAQ resources when necessary, but remains independent from LGAQ operations. Please welcome the Local Government Ethics Advisor, Joan Sheldon.

LGAQ Ethics Advisor Update:

Joan Sheldon AM

Thank you very much. I will be brief. I realise everyone wishes to have lunch.

Particularly what I am concentrating on today, is the fact that in five months’ time you have an election. One of the most contentious issues regarding elections, be it for Local Government, State or Federal, is that of gifts, funds, recording of such and the implications that people give money for return and in Local Government in particular, it is often developers.

So I think it is very timely that we speak of the Local Government Electoral Act and I would strongly suggest you read it. Having just read it myself again, it is really quite complex. But one thing that becomes very clear to me - and I don't know how many of you have this - is you would be much better having your own individual campaign committees. You can stop all the angst of you, being given a gift, or you handling money, or you having to give that report back to the Commission.

If in fact you have an independent campaign committee, you have a treasurer on that campaign committee. The Treasurer is the one who sends ‘the begging letters’ if you like, who performs taking the money if people are coming to a function for you. It is recorded through the books of the campaign committee. Not your own books. That campaign committee and treasurer, then sends that report into the electoral commission. So you are at arm’s length of the money given. That is fundamentally the position I think you should be in and is certainly the position that State and Federal Government Members occupy.

It has been said to me, some of the bigger campaigns do have all that. Some of the smaller ones don’t and that the candidate themselves, is the one who handles the funds. Well, if that is the case... I suggest you get your own campaign committee together - However if that is not to be the case and if money comes to you directly, then you have to record it twice.

I have just had a talk to Tim-Fynes Clinton about this. Not only does that have to be recorded in your campaign funds (and anything over $200 recorded and sent into the commission), but if it is over $500 or above, it must go into your gift register as well. I just wonder if people really realise that fact, because it is a gift then, to you as an individual.

That is why I think it is so important during an electoral campaign, and indeed, even before an election is called - if you have got a campaign going and you are raising funds, that you are not the individual who is handling your money.
The Act itself and particularly under section six, sets out very clearly, funding, gifts, how those gifts should be handled and how they need to be reported. You will not have a difficulty if what you are doing is open and transparent. But you will have difficulties if it is not. As I mentioned earlier, one of the big problems for Local Government is, they perceive developers giving money to you, or planners, or people wanting DA’s and things, that by doing this, you will owe them the favour.

I needn't remind you that there has been a lot said about these gifts and campaign committees and things, by affecting certain people in the last few months. I think that causes a lot of angst for the person involved. Whether in fact, they have been guilty of a breach, or whether they haven't. It often takes a long time to find out if that is the case. You would also be aware that you can be referred to the CCC by other candidates who may feel that you are breaching an issue, or indeed the funding situation isn’t as it should be.

I don't know how many of you do actually have campaign committees. But I think it is vital if you yourself, if you can separate yourself from money and money given to you. But if someone gives you $10,000, $100,000 or whatever towards your campaign - that must be recorded twice.

- Once - that it goes into the electoral commission as a gift toward your campaign
- Second - that it goes into the register of your gifts.

I know I have said it once, but I will repeat it. If you have got a campaign committee, and that goes to your treasurer, then that is recorded and that goes through to the Electoral Commission and it is not recorded on your gift register, because it is not coming to you as an individual.

I think that if you look through that Electoral Act and if you looked through section six - it is very complex. It also talks about loans. If someone loans you the money, you do have to give it back, but it is still a loan that must be recorded. It must be recorded - all the details of the loan. How much it was etc. If it comes from a Trust, the same thing! This now is the real focus of Commissions, of CCC's, of all sorts of bodies - of what is happening to funds given to people who are running, either they are running in an election, or are getting ready to run in an election.

I think that what is really important (and someone asked me) “I want someone to come and do a function for me, I believe that we might even be able to raise about $1,000 a head in doing this, is that alright?” and I said yes.

What I would do, is I would have a treasurer of your campaign committee running this, sending out the begging letter, organising such a function - the money then goes in and is recorded. I think under the electoral act, and this is something I need to double check with Tim, that the name of the person giving that funds, has to be recorded as well (if it is over $200). It is certainly the case in the State and Federal situation. I need to double check that one for Local Government.

Why it needs to be recorded, is if it is 'Developer X' giving you this money and it is $50,000, that is ok if it is up front and people can see that that has happened. They can be aware of this, that yes, you have received that money - but there it is. You have recorded it and should an issue come, and say ‘well you got this money so this development could go ahead’ - well you have been up front about that and it is not the case. It has been handled, I guess eventually by the Council.

Are there any questions about that? Does anyone totally disagree with what I am saying? I don't know whether that is how you have handled your fundraising for previous elections. I am aware that in bigger Councils, that Mayors in bigger Councils etc, most probably have these precautions in place. But in smaller Councils, you may not.

Question
Joan, thank you very much for that advice, I just want some clarification on loans. We are supposed to have our own separate bank account for that area. If I was to borrow money from myself, from equity from a house or something and put it in there, how does that work? We still have to declare it, but that is not a gift is it.

**Response**

**LGAQ Ethics Advisor: Joan Sheldon AM**

No, it is a loan. It would go down as a loan and really it is a donation from you yourself. But it is a loan that I guess will go back. That does still have to be recorded, that you ‘X’ have put this money into your campaign. It needs to be recorded as a loan that you will repay yourself, once you have the funds to do so should you be re-elected, or what you are going to do if you are not. I am very happy if you read through all this and wish to ask any questions, please get back to me about that. Give me a call. Because with this election coming up, I think it is very important that you are right across this and feel comfortable with it.

**Question**

Hi Joan, Just a quick one - I wanted to get some clarification around the campaign committee. Does that have to have any sort of formal legal structure, or can it just be a group getting together and being the whatever, for Mayors Committee?

**Response**

**LGAQ Ethics Advisor: Joan Sheldon AM**

Well usually it is. It doesn't have to have a legal structure. But usually in a campaign committee you would have a chairman, a secretary to do all the work, certainly a treasurer and (if you are smart), a PR media person. You can have other people in it doing other jobs, but they are the four that is recorded as your campaign committee.

Certainly in political parties (and I think there are only a couple of Councils that have political parties), those things are recorded back into the political party, which also has to report on that. But I think if you set up that structure, you have got that listed. I don't think you have to send anything to any electoral commission, but it would be very good to have it there and show that is the body that is in charge of the funding and it is through the treasurer of that body that that is going through to the electoral commission.

The very best idea is that you as a candidate don't handle the money. If someone says to you "We would like to give you 'x'", say yes, could you please contact my treasurer Harry Smith who is doing all this in my campaign committee and they will follow through. Thank you very much.

**Question**

Thank you Joan, I just wanted to touch on the point you made about fund raisers. I think it is really important (I have read through the Act) and you do have to declare any ticket you might sell to raise funds, but it is really important to note two things.

One is that, if you have more than one fundraiser and that person comes a couple of times and it adds up to over $200, you need to declare that.

It is also really important to know that you have to declare the whole value of the ticket, not your profits. I think sometimes that can go without being noticed.
That is what is different I believe. Maybe to the State, I am not so familiar with their legislation, but I just wanted Councillors to understand that, if you have more than one event and it adds up to $200 or $500, whichever, then you need to have that added up for those individuals, which can be a big task if you are a keen fundraiser.

Response

LGAQ Ethics Advisor: Joan Sheldon AM
That is very true. It is the same for the State and Federal, that you can’t have people coming and giving you $100, and then $100 and then $100. That adds up to someone who has given you $300. That needs to be recorded as such.

The other point you made which was good - was that what you are recording as a gift or a donation or whatever, is the gross amount. Then you will find in the books that you keep, you have all your expenses and that is obviously deducted as well, but what goes into the gift register, is the gross of the gift. Not the net after you have had your expenses etc. Because what they are looking at, is the amount that is being given to you by individual ‘X’, or company ‘X’.

It is also in kind. So that if someone says to you - I have got Harry Smith on my books and he is pretty good at PR and whatever, and that is my donation to you - that has to be recorded. There has got to be a value put on that, the same as for paying for stationery, stamps and all this stuff. Certainly this used to be farmed out - particularly in Feds, to the Senators and all sorts of people of all party persuasions. That really has now been bought under the net and that is gift in kind. So be aware of that as well.

It is pretty clear what you need to do. If you stick to it - and frankly, I do not think in any way, it is not worth being open and transparent about this. Because the benefit you may get may be very small. But if they come down on you from the Act and any public perception is very large - You well know, once you lose your integrity, it is very, very, difficult to get it back.

Just one last thing - Someone did mention this and I would like to particularly say it again - if you are doing your own campaign, or indeed if you have got a treasurer in your campaign committee, you must have a separate account. That money must go into a separate account. It shouldn’t go into any working account you have in your office, or anything else.

Thank you.

Trade and Investment Queensland Update
Andrew Tulloch
Chief Executive Officer, Trade and Investment Queensland

Master of Ceremonies

We are now pleased to welcome Andrew Tulloch to the conference. Andrew is CEO of the Queensland Governments’ Key investment attraction agency, Trade and Investment Queensland.

He leads a team of highly experienced trade and investment specialists and international trade commissioners, promoting Queensland as an ideal place to do business. Andrew has an extensive background in international business development in both Government and corporate sectors. His career has included work with KPMG, eight years in Singapore and San Francisco, promoting investment in Australia for the Australian Government and a strategy and business development role for OneSteel that included establishing a new steel business in the USA. Andrew has also worked for
the chemicals division of Wesfarmers and in the Australian arm of entrepreneurial start-up venture - Better Place Incorporated. Please welcome Andrew Tulloch.

Andrew Tulloch  
Chief Executive Officer  
Trade and Investment Queensland

Good afternoon. It is a pleasure to be here and thank you very much to Greg Hallam, just to talk about the very important topic of trade and investment. I think there is just enormous alignment between what we are trying to do, with the State Government for Trade Investment and the aspirations of all the councils in Queensland.

What I thought I would do, is just give a very brief update on where things are at with our organisation, Trade Investment Queensland, who many of you know well. In fact, in just the past two weeks, we have had our Trade Commissioners back for their yearly visit. They have been all over the State and in many cases, have worked extensively with your staff to arrange programs with potential exporters in your region.

Then - just talk about two topics that I think are particularly relevant at the current time.
- The opportunities in export through the Free Trade Agreements.
- Then secondly to look at what we are doing to promote specific investment projects from around Queensland, through our offices overseas.

That is something that I would commend to you as an initiative that, ‘his time has come’ and I think we can really work very collaboratively, to take projects from your region and put them in front of investors in the business cities around the world.

Just quickly - many of you will know Trade Queensland was a division of various government departments, it got moved around on quite a continual basis. Finally a review was done and it is now a statutory body - Trade and Investment Queensland. So we now include investment as well and we report to a Board. Very much a similar structure to Tourism and Events Queensland - which you would know well, which has been a statutory body for a long time.

The Chair is Mark Stockwell, a property developer in Brisbane. He has also done a number of projects in North Queensland. You will also see there, Josie Angus from the Signature Beef business in Rockhampton is on the Board, along with two Director Generals of the State Government including, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (Steve Johnson is currently acting in that role).

Our offices overseas are really doing three things.
- They are promoting Queensland for trade - trying to find buyers for Queensland exporters;
- Trying to bring investment to the State; and
- They are also positioning Queensland as a business location.

The latter is absolutely critical. As you know, this is a very competitive area. Every state in Australia is doing it. Every aspirational country in the world is doing it.

In Queensland’s case, the reputation is arguably low at the moment. But if there is a reputation for Queensland, it will be a reputation for tourism; because that is where the emphasis has been for the past thirty years, to great success. So the real challenge is to position Queensland, to build on that reputation, not just tourism, but as a business location.

You will see that our mission is really based around matching - matching Queensland capability with international market opportunities. So we are really looking for your assistance to flesh out where those Queensland capabilities are. The last thing we want to do is, be promoting capabilities where we really aren't competitive. We need to have capabilities that stack up, where we can put them in
front of the right counterparts overseas.

The other thing we are doing is, looking at international market opportunities. That is where we are actually finding leads from our overseas commissioners. That we are sending through looking for a Queensland solution. That may well be in your region.

In terms of how we engage around the state - We have a very light footprint - and I would like to point out, our group manager of our regional division, Chris Horsburgh, who is sitting in the front row here. So we have got eight offices around the State, including here in Toowoomba. But these are one and two person offices. They can't do it on their own and in no way are they competing with the economic development teams that you have. On the contrary, these people are the conduits between the Local Councils and our overseas network.

We really would encourage you to engage with our officers, to make sure that your region is front of mind for our Commissioners overseas.

In terms of that overseas network, we have thirteen offices around the world - heavily based in Asia. These offices are typically five or six people, so they really have to prioritise what sectors they are focussing on, what projects they are taking to the market. The role of these people is to understand Queensland and to understand that foreign market. They are the bridge for doing business across borders.

As an example: we have some long standing Commissioners, including our Commissioner in Tokyo, that many of you will know and I know that a number of the Mayors in the room, travelled with the Premier just last month to Japan and China. But our Commissioner in Tokyo is an example of someone (and how they may be able to assist your regions), who is really a very rare breed.

Tokyo

In Tokyo, he is in his mid-fifties, he has got a banking background (but very unusual for someone of that age), studied in Queensland. Did an exchange year at UQ, met his wife in Queensland, married a Queensland - really understands what we are about. Understands the State and yet, is a native of Japan. He can fluently position your project, to the most senior decision makers in Mitsubishi, Mitsui, or some of the greatest Japanese companies in Tokyo. We are very lucky to have someone of that calibre and he has assembled a whole office of similar people, who have either studied in Queensland, or in some cases are native Queenslanders, who are fluent in Japanese.

These really are people who can leapfrog a whole lot of steps, to position a Queensland project with an international decision maker.

Shanghai

Similarly in Shanghai, we have a Mr Zijian Zhang, who has been there since 2001. He was one of the first ever Chinese students in Queensland. He came out here after the Cultural Revolution changed his life. He then became the first ever Chinese born employee of the Queensland Government. He worked in the Premiers department and was posted to Shanghai and has been there for fifteen years. Again, can bridge both cultures, understands Queensland intimately and can be of great relevance to what your region is trying to do for trade investment.

Just a couple of others to note:

Jakarta

We have opened an office in Jakarta in the past year and appointed a new Commissioner there. This is a really important market for Queensland.
Indonesia

I think if you haven't looked at Indonesia recently, it is worth a fresh look. A new government has come into power in the past twelve months. It is an extraordinary country. Seventeen thousand islands, all sorts of logistics challenges. Australia is well positioned and the geographic proximity to Queensland is something that is a great asset to build from - Particularly in services and food.

Houston

We have moved our office from Los Angeles (LA) to Houston

South America

You will see that we also have an office in South America. We are the only state with an office in South America - which has done very well in the mining services area.

Just moving on to the sectors we are focussing on. This will come as no surprise:

- Food and Agri business obviously again, a great regional story for the state;
- Mining and resources, in particular the services around that;
- Urban infrastructure and knowledge industries, planning around cities design, all of the innovation and commercialisation that is being talked about a lot at the moment, around the Advance Queensland Policy;
- Then finally national education and training, this is a really huge growth sector. In Victoria it is the biggest export industry of all. It has overtaken tourism. It has overtaken dairy, overtaken manufacturing. There are now 100,000 foreign students studying in Queensland. With the drop in the dollar, we are looking more and more competitive.

The challenge is to increase the number of students going to regional locations. The bulk of the international students are going to Brisbane. There is a different story emerging though, for students from Latin America and North America, and also Europe, who are more inclined to go to regional locations. I am sure you are engaged with your regional universities already, but there is a great upside for international education in Australia. Not just universities, but also training as well. It relates very well to tourism and it is something that we will be focussing on heavily, over the next twelve months.

I will just point out - business skilled migration - that is also something we do. Under Significant Investor Visa (SIV) program. That is migrants that come to invest $5,000,000. They have a sort of accelerated program and they need a State Endorsement. The Queensland endorsement is done through our organisation.

Export Markets

I am sure you are well aware - but the real theme here is, how these line up with the Free Trade Agreements that have just been negotiated (we will talk about in just a moment). China, Japan, Korea, right up there as the dominant markets for Queensland. Now those first four countries, China, Japan, India and Korea - half of that volume would be coal. Coal is really a significant composition of Queensland exports.

The United States is probably the first country, where it is not a coal driven trend and the United States remains a very significant market for us. You will see that Indonesia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea remain significant. Again it is that proximity. Also perhaps, less competition in those markets and that can be very important, especially for first time exporters.

If you take coal out of the composition beef is the next biggest item then tourism. Our largest service is export, but international education is catching up fast and if the Victorian trend continues, international education will overtake tourism, as the biggest services export in the state - Then a variety of metals and other agricultural products.
I just want to finish off with this consideration of the impact for Queensland, of these Free Trade Agreements. So as you know, there has been three negotiated in the past twelve months. China, our number one export partner, Japan number two and Korea number four, very close to India which is number three. So this is incredibly significant for us.

I will just take them in turn. The Korean one was done first, so we will take that one first.

**Korea - Free Trade Agreement**

Beef - this is important because unlike the other countries - Korea has a lot of Free Trade Agreements already, so if anything, we are sort of playing catch up (hey have got about thirty Free Trade Agreement including one with the USA). But in the case of beef, you will see that our exports have already jumped up by a third since January. The Agreements had an impact there, because we have had two reductions in the tariffs, since the Agreements came into place in the last year. Together with the reduction in the exchange rate, beef is really booming in Korea and also in Japan.

The other two that we are just highlighting for Korea is services. Would you believe - and I know some of you know Korea very well, with some significant Korean investments in regional Queensland, including here in Toowoomba - but outside Seoul, Korea is struggling. Unemployment, youth unemployment is over 20% in many regions. There is a real appetite for fresh training. How do they get their young people engaged in the workforce? We have a lot of skills in that area, so I think training is an opportunity in market training.

The agreement also provides mutual recognition of qualifications. This has been quite a stumbling block to doing business in some of these countries. If you are an engineer, an accountant or a lawyer etc, a lot of that has now been given the tick. That is going to make doing business easier both ways.

Then, grains, horticulture, processed food, wheat, sorghum and others, have had significant tariff reductions, which is great news. Particularly when we are in a competitive situation with a country like the US - which already has a Free Trade Agreement. Other particular products such as macadamia nuts, have had a significant reduction in tariffs.

Interestingly, some of these arrangements in the Korean Free Trade Agreement are seasonal, which suits us. So in the Korean prime season, the tariffs are sort of back to what they were. But in their off season the tariffs are reduced. That suits us as a southern hemisphere country, So there has really been some quite sophisticated negotiation that has gone on, to get us a favourable position in Korea. It probably doesn’t get as much attention as the other countries, but this is a really attractive market for us. We have a fantastic Commissioner there and I commend you to think about Korea.

**Japan - Free Trade Agreement**

Japan also has a great story on beef in the reduction in the tariffs. International education (this is an interesting one). They have now changed the arrangements, so that you can provide vocational training in Japan. I was just talking before about the Korean example in market training. This can now be done in Japan, which could be a very lucrative market.

The other one is that, the Japanese Government offers subsidised loans for students and they now will apply for study in Australia, which is obviously a huge win. So that makes Australia much more attractive for students looking to study off shore, with those loan funds.

Seafood has also had a lot of tariffs eliminated - A huge positive there. And other industrial exports as well. There is just a general tariff reduction that has really improved the competitiveness of Australian products.
China - Free Trade Agreement

So finally China, which is yet to be ratified, as you know. The real story here is on the services side. The Australian negotiators were able to convince the Chinese negotiators that, due to the disparity in size, you could actually open up the market more, to Australia, without fearing that your market is going to be over run, if we were say the size of the US or a larger economy. It is estimated that we have the worlds’ best access to the China services market now.

Things such as approval to operate in market, mutual recognition of qualifications, is now been transformed. I suppose the one that I would leave with you is that, there are many services that we do, that we just take for granted.

An example would be safety. Over decades we have just got very good at safety. China aspires to that, but they just don't have the expertise, or the systems that we have. So just a sort of a little sliver like that, could actually be a really valuable services export in the China market.

Grains, horticulture as well, a reduction in tariffs! Processed food as well - honey, biscuits, cakes, all those types of items have seen a reduction in tariffs.

The trouble is, a lot of this stuff is buried in the detail and it really does depend on what product code your business has, as to the impact on you. The overwhelming theme here is that, there was a market opportunity that was not there two years ago. Many companies, (I know have tried to go to Asian markets) have found it difficult. Some have never tried, because they just thought it wasn't for them. But I think it is worth people having a fresh look at these markets, and we are very willing to help do that.

Just one final point there, is the emergence of online commerce - would you believe the China economy - the online commerce economy is bigger than the US. They just love buying things online. This is really significant, for small Queensland exporters in your region. Because it is now possible to (really quite economically) sell into China. If you can get registered with Ali Baba, it is just like selling on Gum Tree here in Queensland - All the concern about getting paid, getting in front of the customer, the cultural differences are stripped away by these online channels.

India is the same. There is a platform there called Flipkarts - a $10 billion company. So here is another reason to have a look at exporting, because these online channels are making it much easier to do and removing some of the risk.

Again, Trade Investment Queensland would be keen to work with you, to get that message out and help your companies explore the potential for selling through these channels.

My final theme here is - Investment Ready Projects

The reason that we think this is so important (and we have only been doing this for twelve months. It was said in the intro that I worked in Singapore in the ninety's), pre-internet, it was just completely different in terms of getting decision makers attention. You could literally, politely contact a senior decision maker over there and offer to come along and give them a briefing about Australia, you know, a courtesy meeting and they would say yes. Because how else are they going to find out about Australia? Haven't heard about it for a while! Why not have an update face to face - that sounds a good offer.

I mean, it is sort of laughable today. If they show any interest in Australia, they can just click onto Google and five seconds later, find out what they want. So, the only way to get the attention of decision makers now, is to have a proposition that is really tailor made for them, that is sort of in their sweet spot, and they go - you know what, I really should look at this; I might regret this if I don't look at it; It seems well thought through for me; Yes I will take the meeting.

So the challenge for us is to present projects that are credible, well thought through and attractive
enough to get the senior decision makers interested. Of course, this is a competitive game. Victoria, New South Wales, and New Zealand - everyone is doing it. So we have been focussing on this for about twelve months and we have assembled a list of about twenty five projects, that we think are investment ready, to put in front of an international investor.

These are projects - a minimum of about $10 million investment. They are not huge, but not sort of small business level. Many of them have come from Councils. I know many of you have a bottom draw of projects that you would like to see come to fruition and might make sense for an international investor. So I have just noted a couple of things that we need and it all seems self-evident. But obviously we have only got one shot at getting the senior people interested. We have to be professional; we have to have very credible documentation.

'Improvement in Place' is important. Investors overseas are very wary of environmental processes, or land not being zoned correctly etc. The more advanced we can portray a project in terms of approvals and I know that in the remit of Councils, that is very positive.

The last point - Private Sector Proponent
This really helps. It is possible to take a project to market, which is just backed by the Council - saying, you know, we think this is a good idea, we think we have got a good location for it. But it is unlikely, particularly in Asia, that an investor will feel confident they have the operational skills to run the business. What they really look for, is a local partner with some experience in running a workforce - that can be that operator. So if you have one of those, that really does strengthen the attractiveness of the project and the likelihood that it will get in front of the right people.

The obvious example here is, where you have a project where the end product goes to Asia - like an agri business project, where the food product goes to Asian markets - and you can get a distributor, or an off take partner to actually invest in the project, that is just ideal for this type of transaction.

Finally the types of projects that we have across the twenty five:
- a number of beef projects, abattoirs, processing etc;
- agriculture is a big one as you know, particularly in the north of Queensland at the moment;
- aquaculture is a classic for this. For seafood for Asian markets. Link in a buyer, link in a distributor that can really underpin the volume;
- tourism projects;
- Resources;
- Mines;
- Water projects;
- Ports;
- Student Accommodation - again, before, we were talking about attracting international students to regional areas. Accommodation is a big part of that. If you can bring in an Asian player into the accommodation space, that may help increase the profile of your location to international students.

That is it. Thank you very much. We are really excited about working with Councils. We have had a wonderful engagement already. A number of you have been on Trade Missions through our offices overseas. We have a team in Brisbane that is on the lookout for these projects and very keen to work with exporters from your region. If you have exporters that you think are suitable for going offshore, or you have projects that you think are ready for us to promote through our overseas offices, we would be delighted to work with you.

Thank you.

**Cr Margaret de Wit, President, LGAQ**
Thank you very much Andrew. A lot of good information and advice in that presentation! Thank you very much for your time.
Role of the Integrity Commissioner

Richard Bingham
Queensland Integrity Commissioner

Master of Ceremonies

Our next speaker this afternoon is, Queensland Integrity Commissioner, Richard Bingham. Richard’s three year term as Integrity Commissioner, commenced in July 2014. Prior to taking on this role, he served for five years as a South Australian Ombudsman and he was the inaugural Chair of the Tasmanian Electoral Commission. Between 1994 and 2004, he was secretary of the Tasmanian Department of Justice. Would you please welcome Richard Bingham!

Richard Bingham
Queensland Integrity Commissioner

Thanks very much for the opportunity to be with you. It has been very instructive for me, to see the wide range of issues that you have been dealing with and importantly, the good humour that you have bought to that task.

I would like to talk to you briefly about lobbying. Because that is the point at which your responsibilities and my role intersect. Specifically, I want to draw to your attention to some changes that have recently been proposed, in relation to the lobbying regime. But before I do that, I will recap just briefly on the existing rules about lobbying.

The current regime, applies only to people who are registered. It doesn’t apply to in-house lobbyists or other professionals who undertake lobbying, but who are not doing it for reward on the part of a third party.

Since 2013, most of the obligations that attach with this regime have sat with the lobbyist themselves, rather than Government Representatives. That has meant that the only obligations which you, currently are under (so far as the registration scheme is concerned), is to let me know, if you think you have been lobbied, or somebody who should be registered, is trying to lobby you.

I know that a lot of Councils still keep a register of contacts with lobbyists. Earlier this year I was in touch with you, to seek access to those records, so that I could match up the records you have been keeping, with what the lobbyists themselves had put into the registers. That was a very helpful exercise for me, in maintaining the rigor of those registers. So I appreciate the fact that you do still keep those registers, even though you are not specifically obliged to.

I mentioned there are some changes proposed to this regime. They were changes proposed by a strategic review of my office that was required to be undertaken, under the Integrity Act. It was done by Professor Coaldrake. The principle change that has been suggested is that, the definition of lobbyists should be expanded, to include regulation of in-house lobbyists and other professionals who undertake lobbying.

That goes beyond the existing registered lobbyists, who do it for reward on behalf of third parties. It would mean that a whole range of other people would be caught. The sort of boundary line that Professor Coaldrake proposed in the report was based on what happens in Ontario in Canada. That is, any person, organisation, or partnership, where lobbying by employees totals more than fifty hours per year. So that would catch quite a range of people, who aren’t currently caught. That could include lawyers, accountants and planners.
The suggestion reflects previous suggestions that have been made by my predecessor, amongst others, but it also reflects the current numbers of registered contacts, have been dropping significantly.

For the first six months of 2015, the registered contacts were only about, a third of those for the same period in 2014. So that says to me that, either the regime has worked so well, that it has done everything that it wanted to do, in terms of controlling the activities of registered lobbyists; or people are finding other ways to get their messages across to Government. I think it is more likely the latter.

There has also been changes in New South Wales, to what is the regime that applies in that state and since December last year, the Electoral Commission of new South Wales has been responsible for the lobbying regime - doing the job that my office does in this state.

But in New South Wales, only third party lobbyists have to be registered. But they have a code of conduct that applies to all those other people as well - Any other individual and body, that seeks to lobby New South Wales Government officials - They have a new enforcement mechanism in conjunction with that code, which is The Lobbyist Watch List.

What that entails is that if you misbehave, then you get on this watch list. It doesn't apply, just to registered lobbyists: as I say, it applies to all other people who are seeking to lobby Governments, including Local Governments.

Under the code, there are four obligations which these people (anybody who seeks to lobby), are required to comply with. I don't think they are necessarily onerous. What they require is, that people must disclose what it is they want to discuss and any financial or other interest which they may have in that matter. They can't engage in misleading, dishonest, corrupt, or unlawful conduct, in conducting that lobbying; and they must use reasonable endeavours, to satisfy themselves of the truth of the information which they provide.

Those aren't onerous obligations.

Those are the two proposals that are currently before the Finance and Administration Committee of the Parliament. I know your Association has put in a submission to that Committee, as have a small number of Local Governments as well. The Committee is now finalising its enquiry into the issue and it will be a matter for Government, to determine whether and how, to amend the Integrity Act, in relation to that recommendation which is being made.

If you have views, about what you think should happen in relation to that, I am very happy to hear them. Please feel free to get in touch with my office, to let me know if you think there is anything else that I should be aware of, in relation to this whole lobbying space.

Again, I very much appreciate the opportunity to be here. I appreciate that it has been a very long and taxing conference for you. I say again, that I have been very impressed with the range of matters and the way in which you have dealt with all of those. It has been a pleasure to be able to spend some time with you.

Thank you very much.

Keynote Address: Riding the Waves of Change
Ms Catherine DeVrye

Courtesy of Saxton Speakers Bureau

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