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23 January 2014

Cr Bill Lewis
Mayor
Burdekin Shire Council
PO Box 974
AYR QLD 4807

BURDEKIN SHIRE COUNCIL	
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Dear Cr Lewis

Public discussion of higher migrant settlement plans for regional Queensland _ a key plank in meeting the Queensland Plan target of having half the state's population live outside the southeast corner of the state by 2044 _ has prompted me to send to you the LGAQ's landmark 2010 Population Policy report. The report is product of the public inquiry chaired by eminent demographer Professor Peter McDonald.

Recent population projections by the Australian Bureau of Statistics suggests we are headed for much higher migration rates. The ABS data suggests that even though the rate of overseas migration has dropped to about 130,000 new arrivals per year in recent years, migrant intake rates will average 220,000 over the next decade starting from 2013. Queensland would receive roughly 44,000 of these new arrivals every year.

The Newman Government has quite properly sought to plan for that outcome and has begun discussions with the Federal Government as to just where those new migrants might settle.. This has sparked subsequent debate about the attitude of regional Queensland cities to that level of growth. State Governments in and of themselves cannot determine migrant settlement patterns, but they can advocate to Canberra and seek to shape outcomes. Of course use they can also use their own budget resources to promote and incentivise locational choices.

In a flat national economy (as forecast by the Reserve Bank of Australia and major commercial banks) it is only population growth fuelled by higher overseas migration levels that will drive better than predicted economic growth. Professor McDonald's report for the LGAQ made that link clear _ living standards are tied to growth which is in turn driven significantly by population increase. As we all know, that increase is not happening naturally within Australia and so the need for migrants arises.

However, such a policy needs to be underpinned by much higher levels of public investment in not only basic infrastructure but other community services such as migrant assistance. These services are predominantly located in the capital cities yet the need for them in regional centres will soon be acute.

There is a big job to be done by state and federal governments to attract migrants to regional centres and the bush and it starts with ensuring adequate infrastructure and service provision.

copy + Report to D. Schulz. ✓

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Due to the renewed interest in population policy, I commend the McDonald report to you. Good policy never dates and Professor McDonald is right on the money on so much of what his report said and recommended. Happy reading and welcome to Big Australia. Demography is destiny.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Greg Hallam PSM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Hon Tracy Davis MP
Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services

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Chief Executive Officer
Burdekin Shire Council
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Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to invite you to join in the celebrations for International Women's Day on 8 March 2014. This iconic day highlights and recognises the achievements of women and their contributions to our communities. To mark the day and show your support, you may wish to hold an event in your local community.

The Queensland Government theme for the 2014 celebrations is 'Opportunity is knocking'. This theme promotes the range of opportunities for Queensland women, including in the tourism, agriculture, resources and construction industries in our growing four pillar economy.

To encourage and support all Queenslanders to take part in International Women's Day in 2014, the Queensland Government has produced a range of free resources, including the poster and bookmarks enclosed. These materials promote this year's theme and encourage women to contact our Women's Infolink Service, which provides information, resources and links to services across the state.

If you would like to order posters and bookmarks and find event tips and templates to help you organise your own event, visit www.women.qld.gov.au. I also encourage you to promote your event or activity by adding the details to our online community calendar.

If you require further information about International Women's Day celebrations, please contact Women's Infolink on free call 1800 177 577 or at info@women.qld.gov.au.

Your support in promoting International Women's Day in your community is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Tracy Davis MP
Minister for Communities, Child Safety
and Disability Services

Enc

POSTER → DISPLAY IN FOYER

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Circular

Award Modernisation to commence shortly – local government sector is a Priority Industry

For Information/Action

Circular: 2014-006

Release Date: Friday, 7th February, 2014

Authorised by: Greg Hallam PSM Executive Director

Request for the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission to commence Award Modernisation.

The Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, Attorney General and Minister for Justice has recently [announced](#) the request for the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) to commence its Award Modernisation function pursuant to the Industrial Relations Act 1999 (Qld) s140BB.

Following the ministerial request, the Vice President of QIRC has issued a [Statement](#) confirming industries that have been given priority in this process, including:

- Local government;
- health;
- the state public service including fire auxiliaries; and
- rail.

The timeframe set for the completion of the modernisation of local government and other set for the completion of the modernisation of local government and other awards applying to the priority industries / occupations will be 30 June 2014.

The QIRC will in due course notify the LGAQ of the specific time tabling of the process for the modernisation of awards covering the Queensland local government sector.

For further queries in relation to the timetabling of, and details about, the QIRC's Award Modernisation process contact [Shaun Blaney](#), Senior Advisor - Industrial Relations / Industrial Advocate on (07) 3000 2261.



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

5 February 2014

Burdekin Shire Council
PO Box 974
AYR QLD 4807

BURDEKIN SHIRE COUNCIL	
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To the Mayor, Councillors and CEO

2014 National General Assembly of Local Government – Call for Motions

The 2014 National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA), which will be held at the National Convention Centre in Canberra on 15 - 18 June, is an opportunity for local government to identify and discuss issues which it believes should be addressed by the new Federal Government. Every council has the opportunity to raise relevant issues for debate at the Assembly and I invite your council to participate in the 2014 NGA by submitting a motion for consideration.

As the major event on the annual local government events calendar, the NGA typically attracts more than 800 mayors, councillors and senior officers from councils across Australia. The NGA is your opportunity to contribute to the development of national local government policy and receive updates on the major policy issues facing local government nationally.

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Board is calling for motions for the 2014 NGA under the theme of 'Getting Down to Business'. This theme reflects the renewed focus across all levels of government on the roles and responsibilities of the public sector and the challenged of meeting our communities' needs.

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers motions must follow the principles:

1. Fall under the NGA theme
2. Be relevant to the work of local government nationally; and
3. Complement or build on the policies of state and territory local government associations.

To assist councils in preparing motions, a Discussion Paper has been prepared and is enclosed with this letter. It is also available on the ALGA website at www.alga.asn.au.

Motions should be submitted electronically via the online form on the website www.alga.asn.au and should be received by ALGA no later than 17 April 2014.

Any administrative inquiries can be directed to Josh Thompson, ALGA's Director of National Events on 02 6122 9400 or josh.thompson@alga.asn.au.

I would encourage you to make sure the views of your Council and your community are represented at the 2014 NGA.

Yours sincerely


Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis
President

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**National General Assembly of Local
Government**

15 - 18 June 2014

Call for Motions

'Getting Down to Business'

Discussion Paper

Purpose

The National General Assembly of Local Government is an important opportunity for you and your council to influence the national policy agenda.

Your council is invited to submit notices of motion/s that can be debated on the floor of the National General Assembly (NGA) that can assist councils nationally to meet the needs of local communities across the country.

To assist you and your council to identify motions that address the theme of the NGA the ALGA Secretariat has prepared this short discussion paper. You are encouraged to read all of the sections of the Paper, but are not expected to respond to every question contained in them. Your motion/s can address one or all of the issues identified in the discussion paper.

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, motions must follow the following principles:

1. Be relevant to the work of local government nationally;
2. Complement or build on the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association; and
3. proposes a clear action and outcome.

The Process

Motions should be lodged electronically using the online form available on the National General Assembly Website at: www.alga.asn.au. All motions require among other things: a contact officer; a clear national objective; a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion, and endorsement of your council. Motions should be received by ALGA no later than Friday 17 April 2014, electronically in the prescribed format.

All motion submitted will be reviewed by the National General Assembly Committee as well as by State and Territory Local Government Associations to determine their eligibility for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers. When reviewing motions, the Committee considers the importance and relevance of the issue to local government. Please note that motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued. Any motion deemed to be primarily concerned with local or state issues will be referred to the relevant state/territory local government association, and will not be included in the Business Papers.

For more information, please contact the 2014 Director National Events, Josh Thompson, on (02) 6122 9400.

Preamble

The 2014 NGA is being held against a backdrop of several key developments. Each of them could profoundly redefine the operation of Australia's system of government. These include

- the establishment, by the Commonwealth Government, of a National Commission of Audit;
- a promise within two years of coming to office to develop a White Paper on the Reform of the Federation;
- a commitment by all jurisdictions including the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) through the Council of Australian Government's (COAG), to reduce duplication between governments; and
- a promise to develop a White Paper on Taxation within two years of coming to office.

Each of these are significant undertakings in their own right, but taken together, they could substantially help reshape the operation of the Australia federated system of government.

It is imperative that local government is an active participant in these processes and that we take every opportunity to influence the outcomes of these White Paper processes. The 2014 NGA is a great opportunity to commence this discussion.

The theme of the 2014 National General Assembly is 'Getting Down to Business'. It is a theme that invites NGA delegates, councils and interested stakeholders to reflect on the roles and responsibilities of local government, its funding and relative place in the Federation. It's a theme that enables local government to define for itself:

- what business local government is in;
- the resources we need to do it; and
- what we should expect from the Commonwealth and what we should expect from state and territory governments. In short how local government should fit in the Federation.

It's a theme that enable your council to engage with other councils from across the country to inform the national debate, and ALGA, on the issues contained in these important national processes, in particular the Government's White papers.

National Fiscal Settings

On 14 September 2013 the Federal Coalition was elected to Government. In coming to office the Government foreshadowed a deterioration in the federal budget position since the 2013 Pre-Election Economic and Fiscal Outlook (PEFO) and the need for a review of the current split of roles and responsibilities between levels of government. In December 2013 the Government's budget position was confirmed with the release of the 2013 - 14 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) which reported budget deficits totalling \$123 billion across the forward estimates. Further it suggests that '... Without policy change and taking no remedial action, deficits would be projected in each and every year to 2023-24'.

While the Commonwealth expressed concern about the sustainability of its budget position, in particular revenues, state, territories and local government have similar concerns. State and territory governments regularly report financial constraints and the limitation of, and distribution of, the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the inadequate intergovernmental

financial transfers to meet growing demand for their services and conditions placed upon national reforms, such as school and hospital funding.

Further, local government itself, that has well documented financial sustainability challenges included in a number of independent reports including the PricewaterhouseCoopers, National Financial Sustainability Study of Local Government commissioned by ALGA in 2006. The latter report highlighting the financial challenges councils face in particular in meeting the infrastructure backlog and underspend.

As a consequence, coupled with Australia's highly centralised taxation collection system, all state and territory governments and local government have sought changes to intergovernmental financial transfers from the Commonwealth, as well as options for increasing own source revenues.

QUESTIONS?

Are there things that the could be done to assist local government to expand own-source revenues?

Are there specific initiatives the Commonwealth can implement that improve the financial sustainability of local government?

Are there things that the Commonwealth could do to assist local government nationally to improve its efficiency and effectiveness?

The Commonwealth National Commission of Audit

In addressing the Commonwealth's challenges, the Government foreshadowed the establishment of a National Commission of Audit which would in broad terms, examine the details of what the Commonwealth Government does and whether it could be done better and more cost effectively.

The National Commission of Audit was established in October 2013 and required to complete its work in two Phases. The report on the first Phase being due to the Prime Minister, Treasurer and Minister for Finance by the end of January 2014.¹ This Phase was among other matters to "... assess the current split of roles and responsibilities between and within the Commonwealth government and State and Territory governments, including areas of duplication. In relation to activities performed by the Commonwealth, the Commission is asked to identify:

- whether there remains a compelling case for the activity to continue to be undertaken; and if so,
- whether there is a strong case for continued direct involvement of government, or whether the activity could be undertaken more efficiently by the private sector, the not-for-profit sector, the States, or local government.

¹¹ This Report is not available publicly.

This second dot point is particularly relevant for the NGA with the direct reference to local government but it does not address the resourcing issues involved if the Commonwealth decided to transfer a specific role or a responsibility to the other potential service providers.

A full copy of the National Commission of Audit Terms of Reference is included as Attachment 1.

At the time of writing it is expected that the Commission will have completed or almost completed its Phase 1 Report to the Government. Unfortunately, the Commission's Phase 1 Report will not be a public document and therefore we cannot provide any specific information on the outcomes of the Commission's deliberations. The Phase 2 Report focuses on the internal managerial matters and Commonwealth controls of its own financial expenditure. Both Phase 1 and 2 will presumably be directly relevant to the Federal Budget which will be brought down in May 2014 prior to the NGA.

The Budget therefore will be the first opportunity for the Government to flag to the Australian people how it proposes to address financial sustainability challenges in the short to medium term. However, more importantly for the longer term, the Government has committed to develop a White Paper on the Reform of the Federation and a separate White Paper on Taxation. The Government has set itself 2 years to complete these tasks and has indicated that it will take the outcome of these important processes to the next election.

The 1996 National Commission of Audit

As previously mentioned, the current Commission of Audit reports are not public documents and therefore this paper cannot provide insight into the Audit's content. However, for illustrative purposes it may be instructive to highlight the approach taken by the National Commission of Audit conducted for the Government led by the Prime Minister the Hon. John Howard Government in 1996. In particular, to highlight the findings of this Commission in relation to local government and regional development matters. The 1996 commission's report was essentially based on a strict interpretation of constitutional authority of the Commonwealth and its responsibilities. In doing so, it should be noted that the 1996 Audit Commission Report was an independent report and was not Government policy. Indeed several aspects of the 1996 Report were considered by the Government and rejected, including the view that the Commonwealth did not have a role in regional development.

The 1996 National Commission of Audit was asked to examine a wide range of matters which are substantially similar to of the current Audit. That Commission was Chaired by Professor Bob Officer and in relation to regional development, urban management and local government found: '.... Current (1996) arrangements for regional development and urban management involve overlap with State and local government responsibilities. **There is no clear rationale or constitutional basis for Commonwealth involvement.** Further, whatever the objectives behind Commonwealth involvement in these areas, they are not being achieved under current arrangements.'

The Commission recommended that these programs (the Regional Development Program, Better Cities Program and Urban Flood Mitigation Program) be abolished, and while there were changes made, the Commonwealth Government continued to be involved in regional development and subsequently introduced a number of initiatives including the Sustainable Regions Program in 2001.

In relation to local government financial assistance grants, the 1996 Commission recommended that these payments be integrated into revised State payments. This was also rejected, albeit that the FAGs were to be included in the original Good and Services Tax proposal, but were subsequently excluded in the final negotiated agreement between the Howard Government and the Democrats to pass the legislation. The system of FAGs continued and the current Government has given an undertaking to maintain the current system of FAGs and other direct funding to local government such as Roads to Recovery (R2R) and the new Bridge Renewal Program.

The 1996 Commission of Audit highlights a particular view of how the Federation and the Commonwealth should work. It took the view that the Commonwealth should only deal with national matters and the states and local government should deal with everything else. It also took the view that local government is a state responsibility and while accepting the legitimacy of providing FAGs, implied they should be integrated into revised state payments. While the continued recognition of the need for FAGs by the Commonwealth is welcome, it begs the question as to what support, in particular through untied grants, should local governments expect from state and territory governments?

QUESTIONS?

In thinking about the 1996 Commission of Audit are there any specific proposals your council has on Commonwealth - local government relations?

Should state and territory Governments do more to support councils including through providing direct untied funding to local government? If so what relationship would this have to Commonwealth provided FAGs?

Are the specific state and territory services that are Commonwealth or state responsibilities, that councils undertake that should be undertaken by the private sector or other levels of government on equity grounds? e.g. market failure?

Note: it should be noted that the NGA should deal with national issues and that motions related to specific state matters must be addressed through state and territory local government associations. NGA Motions should focus on funding for the system of local government in Australia, and therefore apply to all states and territories.

Regulation Reform

Over recent decades governments at all levels have acknowledge the importance microeconomic reform, including regulatory reform. The purpose of regulatory reform is to enhance Australia's productivity and competitiveness, raising potential growth rates, living standards, and better enable Australia to deal with difficult international economic circumstances.

At the December 2013 COAG meeting, first ministers, including the President of ALGA agreed unnecessary regulation is holding back Australia's economic prosperity and development. Cutting excessive red tape and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of regulation are important parts of the productivity story.

By way of example, the COAG Communiqué highlights the following: In '... running a cafe that serves alcohol and provides outdoor dining illustrates Australia's current problems with regulation. For example, it can require the operator to navigate around 21 local, 29 State and 25 Commonwealth regulations, or sets of regulations — 75 hoops to jump through. All governments acknowledged this is not good enough, and that collective action is needed to remove the excessive burden currently placed on small business'.

In coming to office the Government has set itself a target of reducing the red tape which impacts on business, individuals and the community by at least \$1 billion per year, and that this would complement existing State deregulation activity. COAG agreed to work together on reducing red tape in four areas — manufacturing, higher education, early childhood and 'end-to-end' regulation of small businesses, with each State to target specific small business sectors.

In July 2012 the Productivity Commission Reported on its study *'Performance Benchmarking of Australian Business Regulation, Role of Local Government as Regulator'*. The report notes that local laws, quasi-regulatory instruments, rules, as well as delays, information requirements, restrictions on approvals, fees and penalties can be imposed costs on business and/or be anti-competitive. However, it suggests that 'implementing and enforcing state and territory laws, rather than local laws, dominates local governments' regulatory work.

In regard to support from states to local governments it identifies the following gaps:

- insufficient consideration of local governments' capacity to administer and enforce regulation before a new regulatory role is delegated to them ;
- limited guidance and training on how to administer and enforce regulations; and
- no clear indication and ranking of state regulatory priorities.

QUESTIONS?

Are there areas of unnecessary areas of unnecessary regulation that impose costs on manufacturing, business and residents that can be reformed?

What support do councils need to implement and enforce regulation, often on behalf of states and territory government?

Are there areas of regulation which local government are involved that could be streamlined and how?

What Business is Local Government in?

Local government is a pragmatic and hands-on level of government. Its focus is the provision of selected services, infrastructure, planning and coordination at the local level. In short local government is the level of government that responds to local needs, challenges and opportunities. The roles and responsibilities of local government are assigned to it through respective state and territory legislation and in all jurisdictions the relevant Local Government Acts are broadly consistent with the power of general competence, in general

terms the legislation require local government to provide for the good governance of the 'district'. In practise however, local governments roles and responsibilities are broadly confined to property services and specific policy choices to meet local community needs. They are sometime specified by statute, e.g. environmental health, constrained by access to resources, community expectations, the capacity to pay, and roles and function of the private sector and other levels of government. In simple terms councils cannot be held responsible for everything that occurs at the local level.

States and territory governments, for example, are responsible for a range of services and infrastructure at the local, regional and state level, including schools, hospitals and policing. Increasingly, over time, the Commonwealth has assumed policy, planning and funding responsibility for a range of activities including income and welfare support and selected national infrastructure such as the Auslink road network, major projects identified through Infrastructure Australia and the National Broadband Network, which have profound impacts on local communities.

While this complex stratification, and mix of roles, responsibilities and services, including those provided by the private sector contributed significantly to Australia having one of the highest standards of living in the world, it begs the question of whether there should be greater clarity in the roles and responsibilities of governments, and who should do what in the Federation. Indeed, the current system is frequently criticised as perpetuating duplication, inefficiency, cost and blame shifting between levels of government and policy and service delivery gaps. Moreover, all levels of governments face financial sustainability challenges which significantly impact on their capacity to deliver government services and infrastructure.

Examination of ABS General Government Expenses (2011 - 12) shows that local government spends around \$30.5 billion. Almost half of total local government expenditure i.e. 46 per cent is on 'Transport and Communications (primarily local roads) and 22 per cent of on 'Housing and Community Amenity, which includes waste services and in some states water and sewerage. The next highest area of expenditure is on General Public Services (which includes legislative and executive affairs and government superannuation benefits) at 18 per cent. This is followed by Recreation and Culture spending, which includes public halls and civic centres, swimming pools and beaches, national parks and wildlife, cultural institutions, etc, which is at 15 per cent.

While national averages are informative, broadly indicating the areas of local government activity state difference is also interesting. For example while the national average of spending on Transport and Communications is 24 percent, expenditure ranges from 34 per cent of total local government expenditure in Queensland and 28 per cent in Tasmania, down to 9 per cent in the Northern Territory.

Expenditure on Housing and Community Amenity nationally is 22 per cent but in NSW councils spend around 27 per cent of total expenditure in this area while in Western Australia it is 16 per cent.

Expenditure on Recreation and Culture nationally is 15 per cent of total expenditure but in Western Australia's local government expenditure it runs as high as 24 per cent and in South Australia around 22 per cent.

While this variation reflect different responsibilities, policy choices and priorities in respective states and territories, it makes defining the role of local government difficult in the

context of a review of the roles and responsibilities of each level of government. It is also sometimes criticised as causing duplication and inefficiency.

QUESTIONS?

What should the core business of local government be?

How should the Commonwealth support that role?

Are the specific services including state and territory or / and Commonwealth responsibilities, that councils undertake that should be undertaken by the private sector or other levels of government on equity grounds? e.g. market failure?

Are there services that local government is providing that could be provided by the private sector?

Regulation Reduction

The Coalition will streamline COAG meeting agendas and focus on concrete outcomes that will contribute to a Coalition government meeting the annual \$1 billion red and green tape reduction target.

We intend to make deregulation and red tape reduction a standing agenda item at COAG meetings.

Within two years of a change of government, working with the states, the Coalition will produce a White Paper on Reform of the Federation, and the responsibilities of different governments, to ensure that, as far as possible, the states are sovereign in their own sphere. The objective will be to reduce and end, as far as possible, the waste, duplication and second guessing between different levels of government that has resulted, for instance, in the Commonwealth employing 6,000 health bureaucrats even though it doesn't run a single hospital.

National Commission of Audit Terms of Reference

CONTEXT

- It is almost 20 years since there has been a thorough review of the scope, efficiency and functions of the Commonwealth government. During this time the size of the Commonwealth government has expanded significantly, as has the remit of some of its activities.
- It is also essential that the Commonwealth government live within its means and begin to pay down debt.
- It is therefore timely that there should be another full-scale review of the activities of the Commonwealth government to:
 - ensure taxpayers are receiving value-for-money from each dollar spent;
 - eliminate wasteful spending;
 - identify areas of unnecessary duplication between the activities of the Commonwealth and other levels of government;
 - identify areas or programs where Commonwealth involvement is inappropriate, no longer needed, or blurs lines of accountability; and
 - improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness with which government services and policy advice are delivered.
- Accordingly, the Commission of Audit ('the Commission') has a broad remit to examine the scope for efficiency and productivity improvements across all areas of Commonwealth expenditure, and to make recommendations to achieve savings sufficient to deliver a surplus of 1 per cent of GDP prior to 2023-24.
- In carrying out its work, the Commission may wish to invite submissions, consult key stakeholders and seek information from persons or bodies, where this will assist its deliberations.
- The Commission should also be guided in its work by the principles that:
 - government should have respect for taxpayers in the care with which it spends every dollar of revenue;
 - government should do for people what they cannot do, or cannot do efficiently, for themselves, but no more; and
 - government should live within its means.

SCOPE

Phase 1

Scope of government

- The Commission is asked to assess the current split of roles and responsibilities between and within the Commonwealth government and State and Territory governments, including areas of duplication.

- In relation to activities performed by the Commonwealth, the Commission is asked to identify:
 - whether there remains a compelling case for the activity to continue to be undertaken; and
 - if so, whether there is a strong case for continued direct involvement of government, or whether the activity could be undertaken more efficiently by the private sector, the not-for-profit sector, the States, or local government.
- The Commission may consider and comment upon the current architecture of Commonwealth-State relations. The Commission's views on this issue will help to inform the Government's forthcoming White Paper on the Reform of the Federation.

Efficiency and effectiveness of government expenditure

- The Commission is asked to report on efficiencies and savings to improve the effectiveness of, and value-for-money from, all Commonwealth expenditure across the forward estimates and in the medium term, including:
 - options for greater efficiencies in the Australian Government, such as:
 - : increasing contestability of services;
 - : adoption of new technologies in service delivery and within government;
 - : consolidation of agencies and boards;
 - : rationalising the service delivery footprint to ensure better, more productive and efficient services for stakeholders;
 - : flattening organisational structures and streamlining lines of responsibility and accountability;
 - : consolidating government support functions into a single agency; and
 - : privatisation of Commonwealth assets.
 - potential improvements to productivity, service quality, and value for money across the public sector, including better delivery of services to the regions; and
 - anything that is reasonably necessary or desirable to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government generally.
- The Commission is asked to review and report on:
 - options to manage expenditure growth, including through reviewing existing policy settings, programs and discretionary spending (such as grants);
 - savings and appropriate price signals – such as the use of co-payments, user-charging or incentive payments – where such signals will help to ensure optimal targeting of programs and expenditure (including to those most in need), while addressing the rising cost of social and other spending;
 - mechanisms that allow for the periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of all areas of expenditure in meeting their announced objectives; and

- other savings or matters that the Commission considers should be brought to the Government's attention.

State of the Commonwealth's finances and medium-term risks to the integrity of the budget position

- The Commission is asked to assess the financial position of the Commonwealth, including the state of the balance sheet, including all assets and liabilities, and Commonwealth risk expenditures.
- The Commission is asked to review and report on the long-term sustainability of the budget position, identifying key policy areas where trends in expenses and revenue pose risks to the structural integrity of the budget.
- Where possible, the Commission should identify options to address any such budget risks in the medium to long term, including by introducing appropriate incentives to encourage self-provision of services by individuals over time.

Adequacy of existing budget controls and disciplines

- The Commission is asked to assess the adequacy of current budgetary practices and rules (including specified timeframes and targets) in promoting efficient and effective government, disciplined expenditure, long-term fiscal sustainability and budget transparency.

Phase 2

Commonwealth infrastructure

- The Commission is asked to review and report on the extent, condition and adequacy of Commonwealth sector infrastructure and, if found to be deficient, factors that may have contributed to the current situation and possible remedies.

Public sector performance and accountability

- The Commission is asked to:
 - identify options for continuous assessment of programs, agencies and performance;
 - identify options for strengthening Commonwealth budgeting arrangements by:
 - : increasing independent and credible scrutiny;
 - : examining the role of the Parliamentary Budget Office, the Australian National Audit Office and the Intergenerational Report; and
 - : reviewing the way risk expenditures are accounted for.
 - report on a methodology for developing and implementing financial performance targets for Commonwealth departments and agencies (having regard to international experience and Australian best-practice, including by government business enterprises);
 - review and report on the effectiveness of existing performance metrics and options for greater transparency and accountability through improved public reporting;
 - identify options for a clearer delineation of responsibilities for policy and service delivery; and

- identify other savings or matters that the Commission considers should be brought to the Government's attention.

Reporting

- The Commission will report to the Prime Minister, Treasurer and Minister for Finance with:
 - the first phase due by the end of January 2014; and
 - the second phase due by no later than the end of March 2014.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENSES BY PURPOSE, Local

	NSW 2011– 12 \$m	Vic 2011– 12 \$m	Qld 2011– 12 \$m	SA 2011– 12 \$m	WA 2011– 12 \$m	Tas 2011– 12 \$m	NT 2011– 12 \$m	ACT 2011– 12 \$m	Total 2011– 12 \$m
General public services	1 680	1 044	1 953	130	400	111	144	–	1044
Public order and safety	311	169	124	33	117	7	19	–	779
Education	72	79	7	–	4	–	5	–	166
Health	81	120	50	50	57	10	5	–	374
Social security and welfare	361	884	69	115	142	30	25	–	1 626
Housing and community amenities	2 590	1 433	1 681	434	498	136	99	–	6 872
Recreation and culture	1 321	1 184	837	392	727	104	57	–	4 622
Fuel and energy	–	–	10	13	–	–	1	–	25
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	–	3	15	12	1	–	–	–	31
Mining, manufacturing and construction	214	–	91	35	32	–	–	–	373
Transport and communications	1 871	1 266	2 740	416	783	182	41	–	7 297
Other economic affairs	313	356	187	58	111	30	38	–	1 093
Public debt transactions	227	52	277	40	32	4	1	–	633
Other	546	209	135	93	188	23	22	–	1 215
Total	9 588	6 796	8 176	1 821	3 092	639	457	–	30 569

– nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

Call for Motions Guidelines and Background Information

The theme for this year's National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) is *'Getting down to Business'*. The NGA theme reflects current issues being debated nationally and priority issues facing local government.

The NGA is your opportunity to contribute to the development of national local government policy and currently the ALGA Board is calling for motions for the 2014 NGA.

To assist Councils in preparing motions, a Discussion Paper has been prepared and is available at www.alga.asn.au.

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers motions must follow the following principles:

1. Fall under the NGA theme;
2. Be relevant to the work of local government nationally; and
3. Complement or build on the policy objectives of state and territory associations.

Motions submitted will be reviewed by the National General Assembly Committee as well as by State and Territory Local Government Associations to determine their eligibility for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers. When reviewing motions, the Committee considers the importance and relevance of the issue to local government. Please note that motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued. Any motion deemed to be primarily concerned with local or state issues will be referred to the relevant state/territory local government association, and will not be included in the Business Papers.

Through the review process, minor edits may be made to motions to ensure they can be included in the Business Papers. These edits will change the motion to call for action, for example to 'call on the Australian Government' to do something, to ensure relevance to local government nationally by removing state specific references, or to ensure the wording is consistent with current conventions such as referring to the Australian Government instead of the Federal Government.

To assist in facilitating efficient and effective debate, motions that cover similar matters will appear grouped together in the Business Papers and the matter will be debated only once with the lead or strategic motion being that which is debated.

Motions that are agreed to at the National General Assembly become Resolutions. These Resolutions are then considered by the ALGA Board when setting national local government policy, when the Board is making representations to the Federal Government at Ministerial Councils, during meetings and in ALGA publications. The ALGA Board is not bound by any Resolution passed at the NGA.

Motions are to be submitted online at www.alga.asn.au and should be received by **ALGA no later than 17 April 2014**.

The following information will be required when you submit a motion using the online form.

Motion

- Text of the Motion

National Objective

- Why is this a national issue and why should this be debated at the NGA?
- Maximum 100 words

Summary of Key Arguments

- Background information
- Supporting arguments
- Maximum of 300 words (additional information should be provided as speaking notes to the council representative who will move the motion at the NGA)

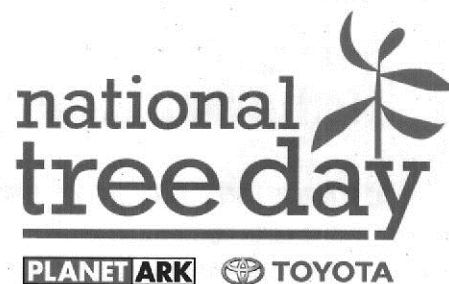
Declaration

You will need to declare that the motion has been endorsed by your Council.

For further information please contact Josh Thompson, Director National Events, on (02) 6122 9400 or josh.thompson@alga.asn.au

Cr Bill Lewis
Mayor
Burdekin Shire Council
PO Box 974
AYR QLD 4807

BI	BURDEKIN SHIRE COUNCIL
File ID No.	310
12 FEB 2014	
Document No.	
Retention Period	



January 29, 2014

Dear Cr Lewis,

Get Involved!

National Tree Day Sunday 27 July
Schools Tree Day Friday 25 July

NATIONAL TREE DAY BUILDS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES

We commend your efforts to make your region a great place to live, learn, work and play and thank the council for its ongoing support of National Tree Day's work. Thanks to organisations like yours, we've been able to plant 20 million seedlings to date and engage over a quarter of million people each year, demonstrating the community's desire to work together to care for nature. *Other key campaign results are listed over the page.*

In 2013, the scope of National Tree Day was broadened from schools and public sites to include planting at home and, where councils allow, on nature strips. So whether a resident participates in this national campaign at a public site or in their own yard, apartment, rooftop or street they are connecting with nature and are helping to grow the urban forests.

In 2014, National Tree Day will be held Sunday July 27th and Schools Tree Day will be held on Friday July 25th. Most events happen on or around these days. We hope to enlist your continued support for this iconic tree planting and nature-care event.

Burdekin Shire Council can involve their community in National Tree Day by:

- **Running or Supporting Planting Sites on Public Land** at local parks, schools, reserves, sports fields, bushland, foreshore, catchment areas and community gardens
- **Providing Free Seedlings** to landholders, residents, community groups and schools
- **Permitting and Supporting Residents to Grow and Care for Appropriate Trees and Gardens on their Verge or Nature-strip.** Presently 37 councils allow verge planting and provide guidelines and information for residents. The reasons councils allow this varies from encouraging community stewardship to lowering lawn maintenance costs. We are encouraging councils to consider reviewing their policies to allow for greater verge plantings.

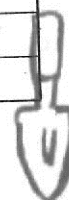
For more information on how your council can participate contact us on 1300 88 5000. Together we can create a sustainable and prosperous future where both nature and humanity thrive.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Klymenko
CEO, Planet Ark

Positive environmental actions, for everyone.

VIEW	MAYOR	AGENDA	C14
		DATE	25.2.14
NOTED		APPLIC #	
TENDER		PROP #	
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DEADLINE			



Level 3, 15-17 Young St
Sydney NSW 2000
freeday@planetark.org
Hotline 1300 88 5000

2013

National Tree Day Outcomes

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EMPOWERMENT

- A quarter of a million people took part
- 700 community partnerships forged between councils, businesses, environmental agencies, LandCare and BushCare groups, Catchment Management Authorities and community networks

POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 430,000 volunteer hours dedicated to green outcomes (estimated value of \$4.3 million dollars in donated labour)
- 1.2 million native trees, shrubs, grasses and edibles planted this year
- 4,013 sites revegetated (a new campaign record!)
- 20 million seedlings planted since the campaign began

INDIVIDUAL ACTION

- For the first time people could participate by planting in their backyards, balconies or streets

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP & EDUCATION

- 180,000 students at 2,200 schools participated
- 470,000 seedlings planted and 2,800 nature care activities performed including creating crunch and munch gardens, setting up worm farms and launching ongoing school sustainability programs
- 4,700 teachers accessed 70 new curriculum-aligned environmental lesson plans for PreK to year 10 students

PUBLIC AWARENESS & COMMUNICATION

- 106,500 emails and 40,000 faxes sent to sent to councils, schools, businesses, community groups, landcare groups and nurseries
- 365,316 visitors to the Tree Day website
- 233,200 referrals made to the Tree Day website from outside websites
- 107,000 social media comments, posts and shares
- 8,400 registration kits and posters mailed and downloaded
- 820 letters sent to State and Federal MPs
- 2,390 hours of dedicated customer service support helping with inbound/ outbound calls, email enquiries and registrations

NATIONAL MEDIA EXPOSURE

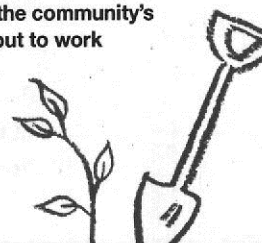
- 201 TV items, 327 radio interviews, 2,346 print articles and 894 online articles achieved with an equivalent advertising value exceeding \$2,111,953
- 384 plays of TV community service announcement and 854 plays of radio CSA featuring celebrity gardener Jamie Durie

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH & LIFESTYLE TRENDS

- Planet Ark commissioned research, titled *Missing Trees - The Inside Story of an Outdoor Nation* that revealed **1 in 3 people spend less than 18 minutes daily in outdoor recreation** due to diminishing backyards, longer working hours and competing screen time

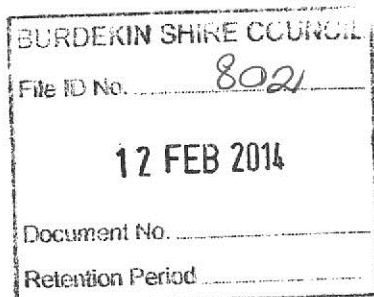


This year over a quarter of a million people took part in National Tree Day demonstrating the community's desire to not only green the nation, but to work together to achieve this goal.



7th February, 2014

BURDEKIN SHIRE COUNCIL
PO BOX 974
AYR QLD 4807



Dear Irrigation Customer,

As 2014 gets underway, I would like to take this opportunity to invite your participation in the Interim Board's investigation into the possibility of local irrigators owning and managing the Burdekin-Haughton irrigation channel scheme. At this point we would like your response to the interim board's preferred corporate form for a new entity and how voting rights should be established.

As you are aware we are one of eight channel schemes preparing a business proposal to show how channel distribution schemes, currently run by SunWater, could be managed and owned by local irrigators.

To date the Burdekin-Haughton Interim board has:

- completed strategic planning, including identification of risks for the new entity
- overseen an inspection of major assets by engineers completing a due diligence report for the scheme
- commenced work on a budget and financial modelling
- reviewed the draft legal due diligence report for the scheme.

In this first part of 2014 we plan to:

- complete our financial model and budget
- respond to the engineering due diligence report on the channel assets
- engage insurance brokers to provide a risk assessment and associated costs for the scheme
- finalise how voting and decision making will be done
- seek legal advice on key aspects of the constitution for the new entity, and
- finalise a draft business proposal, including potential price paths.

Over the next 12 weeks we will seek your feedback on key aspects of the development of the proposal to ensure all customers have an opportunity to comment on how local management in the Burdekin could proceed.

We anticipate that we will be able to send a consultation draft of the business proposal with an endorsement form for your consideration at the end of March, prior to a full irrigator meeting in the first week of April, where support for the business proposal will be gauged

In the meantime we would like your comments on the interim board's preferred corporate form for the new entity. After in-depth consideration of suitable governance structures we propose that a company limited by shares be established. We are recommending this form because:

- it can be set up to recover costs and reinvest any surpluses, rather than generate profits for its owners
- it is efficient and minimises administration costs
- It restricts ownership to only scheme customers
- it allows your shareholding to reflect your water allocation entitlement
- It provides the owners with a say in critical decisions of the business.

A straight forward voting approach is recommended that allows one vote for every one Mega litre of water allocation held by each shareholder. This arrangement will ensure the company's governance structure reflects the entity's primary purpose, which is to support irrigated agriculture.

We also propose a board of seven members, with three directors being shareholders and four director positions reserved for independent (non-shareholder) directors, with skills necessary to operate an effective irrigation company. The Chairman would be elected by the Board.

In line with the provisions of the *Corporations Act 2001*, the Board will be required to operate in the best interest of the company and its members as a whole.

'Normal' decisions such as Board Appointments will require a simple majority (over 50 per cent) while 'special' decisions such as changes to the Constitution, require at least 75 per cent of votes cast.

We propose the changes of ownership and sale of assets over a certain value would be defined as 'special' in the company's Constitution to safeguard the scheme from takeover. For more detail on the pro and cons of all the options considered or to provide feedback on proposed corporate form you can contact us by email admin@briairrigators.com.au. Alternatively, you may wish to speak to an interim board member, whose contact details are listed below.

I will write to you again once the interim board has received the all-important engineering due diligence report on the assets of the channel scheme to advise you of its findings.

In the meantime if you would like to discuss any aspect of the local management process please contact me or one of the interim board members directly.

Yours faithfully

Mario Barbagallo
Chair
Burdekin LMA Interim Board

Interim board contact numbers

Mario Barbagallo (0429181276) Peter Hall (0419827386) Peter Gilbey (0418710697)
Dean Sgroi (0418778297) Ian Davies (0429725038)
Evan Shannon (0428779882) Mauro Garbuio (47827552)

VIEW	MAYOR	AGENDA	
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DEADLINE			



Department of
**Local Government,
Community Recovery
and Resilience**

Our ref: WR14/3950

12 FEB 2014

Mr Ken Holt
Chief Executive Officer
Burdekin Shire Council
PO Box 974
AYR QLD 4807

Dear Mr Holt *Ken*

The Queensland Plan: a 30-year vision for Queensland – our working draft has been released for public review until 7 March 2014.

This working draft brings together the collective ideas and aspirations voiced by more than 78 000 Queenslanders during the largest engagement process ever undertaken in Queensland and the outcomes from the Brisbane Summit held on 9 and 10 October 2013.

The working draft, available at www.qld.gov.au/queenslandplan, includes nine foundation areas, each representing a particular focus in actioning our future vision. The draft describes what success in each area should look like and includes preliminary targets and indicative measures that have been designed to invite community feedback and discussion and will be revised following the review process.

This is your opportunity to tell us if the working draft reflects Queenslanders' feedback to date.

In providing your feedback, you may wish to consider if there are points missing, or if certain points have been given unwarranted prominence.

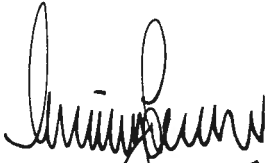
Feedback on our working draft will be used to refine the final plan, which will be released mid-2014.

Level 18 Mineral House
41 George Street Brisbane
PO Box 15009 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia

ABN 25 166 523 889

If you have any questions about the development of the plan or about the review process, please contact Mrs Bronwyn Blagoev, Director, Policy, Legal and Corporate Support on (07) 3452 6795 or email bronwyn.blagoev@dlgcrr.qld.gov.au or *The Queensland Plan* project team at queenslandplan@qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Evans', with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Craig Evans AM
Director General
Department of Local Government,
Community Recovery and Resilience



13 February 2014

Cr Bill Lewis
Mayor
Burdekin Shire Council
PO Box 974
AYR QLD 4807

BURDEKIN
File ID No. <u>464</u>
13 FEB 2014
Document No.
Retention Period

Dear Cr Lewis *Bill*

2013 LGAQ Annual Conference Resolution Number 28

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) held its successful 117th Annual Conference in Cairns between 21-24 October 2013, with over 350 delegates attending and representing each of the 73 Queensland local governments.

A total of 80 motions were passed at this year's Annual Conference, including the following that was submitted by Burdekin Shire Council.

Waste Management – Assistance to Develop a Regional Waste Management Strategy

"That the Local Government Association of Queensland call on the Commonwealth and State Governments to assist Local Governments in developing a strategic plan for centralised waste management on a regional basis."

The following background information was considered by the Conference in the adoption of this resolution.

The Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 (WRRRA) requires local governments to have a waste reduction and recycling plan in place on a date yet to be set in the Regulation.

In 2000, a North Queensland Regional Waste Management Strategy was jointly produced by Townsville, Thuringowa, Charters Towers, Dalrymple and Hinchinbrook Councils.

In 2012, Burdekin Shire Council agreed to participate in the development of a new regional waste management plan, in conjunction with Townsville, Charters Towers and Hinchinbrook Councils.

The expected cost of this plan is approximately \$120,000, which will be apportioned on a per capita basis between the participating councils.

I have enclosed a copy of the response we have received on 29 January 2014 from the Honourable Andrew Powell MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection. The Minister has advised that the Queensland Government has no plans in providing additional funding at this time, but offers assistance from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection in the form of advice and input in the development of a regional waste reduction and recycling plan.

In addition, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for the Environment, recently provided a response to LGAQ, simply noting that in 2009, the Council of Australian Governments endorsed the *National Waste Policy: Less Waste, More Resources*, which has set Australia's waste management and resource recovery direction to 2020. Working groups have been



established in order to achieve the commitments outlined in the National Waste Policy Implementation Plan, including the landfill management and the regional and remote Australia working groups. More information, including contact details for the chairs, can be found at <http://www.scew.gov.au/coag-strategic-priorities/national-waste-policy-and-chemicals/national-waste-policy#National Waste Policy Working Groups>.

Please let me know if there is any further action that you would like the LGAQ to take regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hoffman PSM
GENERAL MANAGER – ADVOCACY

cc: Mr Ken Holt, Chief Executive Officer, Burdekin Shire Council

VIEW	mayor	AGENDA	C14
ENV REQ	CEO	DATE	25/2/14
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Conference Resolution 31 concerned approval processes and the role of EHP. I can advise that EHP will undertake further discussions with the Commonwealth Department of the Environment in relation to approvals under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Results of these discussions will be communicated to you and to all councils in due course.

The role of EHP will continue to focus on the provision of advice to councils, monitoring and compliance of roost management activities and the assessment of sustainability of the species, including through involvement in ongoing flying-fox population counts. However, as advised above, the state has no plans to subsidise or fund management actions that councils decide to undertake.

Conference Resolution 32 concerned the removal of flying-fox colonies from urban areas, including by lethal means where required. The revised framework that came into effect on 29 November 2013 will give councils the ability to disperse and manage roosts in urban zones which includes a one kilometre buffer. It does not include lethal means at this stage. In response to Resolution 32 and other calls by councils to allow them the full spread of management measures, the Queensland Government will develop, in consultation with the Commonwealth Government, a framework for councils to apply to use lethal means for dispersal as a last resort (in circumstances where all other avenues have been exhausted). This will be done over the first half of 2014.

Resolution 34 concerns the disposal of tyres and engagement with Tyre Stewardship Australia. I note the representation made to the Federal Minister for Environment, the Honourable Greg Hunt MP, in relation to implementation of the tyre product stewardship scheme. Queensland supports the work of the tyre industry in developing a voluntary industry scheme and supports the implementation of the scheme as soon as possible. Implementation of the scheme will present a significant opportunity that should provide local governments with an avenue to address the problem of tyre management in their local government area.

Resolution 63 concerns reinvigoration of public awareness and education programs to help reduce roadside litter. I appreciate local government's support for the recently released Litter and Illegal Dumping Action Plan and welcome the offer of involvement in the provision of information. I would encourage LGAQ to provide comment on the draft industry-led waste strategy around the issue of litter and illegal dumping. Cultural and behavioural change is proposed as an objective of the strategy, and public awareness and education around litter and illegal dumping would be an important element in helping to achieve this objective.

Late Motion 2 concerns the removal of waste from national parks. I note that this issue has appropriately been referred to my colleague the Honourable Steve Dickson MP for consideration. However, as waste management falls under my portfolio area, it would also be appropriate for departmental discussions to take place in relation to waste management issues in national parks. Implementation of the industry-led waste strategy is proposed to be undertaken through the development of action plans by various sectors. The Queensland Government will be preparing an action plan and the issue of waste management in national parks could be addressed under this framework as part of the strategy.

I hope this information has been of assistance to you. Should you have further enquiries, please contact my Chief of Staff, Mr Troy Collings on 3719 7330.

Yours sincerely



ANDREW POWELL MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection



Hon Andrew Powell MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection

Ref CTS 29888/13

29 JAN 2014

Level 13
400 George Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 2454 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7330
Facsimile +61 7 3220 6231
Email environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Mr Greg Hallam PSM
Chief Executive Officer
Local Government Association of Queensland Ltd
PO Box 2230
FORTITUDE VALLEY BC QLD 4006

Dear Mr Hallam

Thank you for your letter of 3 December 2013 concerning flying-fox and waste management related resolutions passed by the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) at its 2013 annual conference. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Resolution 28 concerns assistance to help local governments develop a regional waste management strategy.

I would like to congratulate those councils in North Queensland who are working together on a regional waste reduction and recycling plan. I believe that there are many opportunities to be realised in working collaboratively in this area.

As you would be aware, the Queensland Government does not have funding available to contribute towards the development of these plans. However, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) is able to provide assistance in the form of advice and input into the development of the plan – particularly in relation to alignment with the principles and objectives of the strategy.

In relation to Conference Resolution 30, roosts on state land, the new framework will retain the principles that roost management activities are undertaken at the cost of the proponent. This includes a council which makes a decision to manage a roost in the public interest or any other person or organisation seeking a permit.

There are no plans to develop a whole-of-government policy on when the Queensland Government will get involved in dispersing flying-foxes on its land. Such action will continue to require negotiation with the relevant landholding department on a case-by-case basis either by council or by the concerned parties.

On a related matter, I would like to reassure you that exercise of the new as-of-right authority for councils to manage roosts in designated areas without the need to apply for a permit is equivalent to the exercise of an authority previously conferred by a damage mitigation permit and, as such, would provide no greater exposure for councils to claims of liability. I note that legal advice has been received by the LGAQ in relation to this matter which confirms that any action undertaken by a council under the new framework would not be the subject of legal liability unless improperly exercised. Further, the legal advice is that, even in the case of loss by other parties, lawfully conducted activities would not be the subject of a sustainable liability claim.

From: [jmacca](#)
To: [Email Registration](#)
Subject: Well done
Date: Saturday, 15 February 2014 4:32:08 PM

I have just arrived to spend a few days in Ayr after having been here many times, many years ago. I went for a walk this morning, then a cruise around town later. I was very impressed with the neatness and tidiness of the footpaths and public parks etc. I don't know if you have just mowed or not, but it was a real pleasure to be in such a well cared for town.

My compliments to your maintenance crew.

Jim Macdonald

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

Circular

National Disability Strategy 2014 Report to COAG: comments sought

For Information/Action

Circular: 2014-007

Release Date: Tuesday, 18 February 2014

Authorised by: Greg Hallam PSM Executive Director

The Federal Government is seeking input for the 2014 Progress report to track the impact of measures introduced under the umbrella of the National Disability Strategy.

Councils are invited to [provide input](#) on activities and initiatives which have improved outcomes for people with a disability under the Strategy's specified outcomes of:

1. Inclusive accessible communities
2. Rights protection, justice and legislation
3. Economic security
4. Personal and community support
5. Learning and skills and
6. Health and wellbeing

The LGAQ is compiling information and liaising with the State Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services to present it to the relevant [Federal agency](#).

Information sought from councils includes:

- whether council has developed a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan or not,
- new programs or initiatives enhancing the lives of disabled members of the community which can be showcased in the progress report ,
- innovative solutions which could be shared / showcased,
- ways in which councils have sought the views of people with disability and responded locally.

The Queensland Government has not mandated local governments develop Disability Plans (as in other jurisdictions). The Government is aware that the vast majority of Queensland local governments excel in supporting disabled members of their community.

For more information on the Queensland Government's approach, please see the recently released [Queensland Disability Plan](#).

LGAQ would appreciate receiving this information by **Friday, 14 March 2014**. Please email relevant information to ask@lgaq.asn.au and attention to Logan Timms, Team Leader - Strategic Policy and Intergovernmental Relations.

Additionally, the [2014 Local Government Awards](#) were announced on Friday, 7 February 2014. These awards are an annual event to showcase innovative local government projects that deliver better outcomes for their communities. The winners are announced at the National General Assembly of Local Government held at Canberra in June. This year, for the first time, a Disability and Inclusion category award is included and sponsored by the Department of Social Services. The LGAQ encourages councils to consider applying. This is a great opportunity to demonstrate and showcase work in this important social policy area.



17 February 2014

Mr Ken Holt
Chief Executive Officer
Burdekin Shire Council
PO Box 974
AYR QLD 4807

BURDEKIN SHIRE COUNCIL
File ID No. 858
18 FEB 2014
Document No.
Retention Period

Dear Mr Holt

I present to you the results of the latest statewide survey on community attitudes toward local government services.

The long-running survey, commissioned by the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), provides a detailed insight into community satisfaction with a range of council services and activities.

This survey is the ninth in a series which commenced in 1997 when an initial survey established a series of benchmarks regarding community perceptions of council service delivery and also established an effective reporting system to enable councils to identify top priorities for action.

As has been the practice with previous surveys, the LGAQ will publicly release the summary report of the results.

The survey also includes responses to issues of broad interest to local government.

I commend this report to you as a vital guide to gauge community perceptions of your council and decide which areas of activity should be priorities in terms of improving community satisfaction with the performance of your council and local government generally in Queensland.

Yours sincerely

Cr Margaret de Wit
PRESIDENT

CD given to CEO

VIEW	CEO	AGENDA	C14
		DATE	25.2.14
NOTED		APPLIC #	
TENDER		PROP #	
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