Isaac Regional Council

Isaac Regional Council Seeking Support for National General Assembly Motion.

Australian Local Government Association - Alga


Boulia Shire Council

Mayors from Across Australia to Discuss Bid to Ban Live Exports - National General Assembly of Local Government - 16-19 June 2013 - Boulia Shire Council

RSL - The Returned & Services League Of Australia - Home Hill Sub Branch

Thank You for Support - Mowing of Lawns for the Anzac Day Cenotaph Ceremony - RSL Home Hill Sub Branch.

Hon Andrew Cripps MP - Minister For Natural Resources And Mines

Invitation for Proposals - Transfer of SunWater's Channel Irrigation Schemes to Local Ownership and Management - Hon Andrew Cripps MP - Minister for Natural Resources and Mines.

Townsville Enterprise Limited

Development of a North Queensland Energy Opportunity Review.

Burdekin Tourism Association Inc

Request for Name to Remain 'Lynch's Beach' - Burdekin Tourism Association

Isaac Regional Council

Isaac Regional Council Seeking Support for National General Assembly Motion.
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Radio 97.1 Sweet FM  
Feedback Regarding Radio 97.1 Sweet FM Inc. |
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Campbell Newman - Premier Of Queensland  
Thank You for Participation in The Queensland Plan Mackay Summit - 10 May 2013. |
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Department Of Environment And Heritage Protection  
Flying-Fox Roost Review Discussion Paper for Comment |
Mayor. Bill Lowis
Burdekin Shire Council
145 Young St,
Ayr.  4807.

18th May 2013.

Dear Bill,

On behalf of the Home Hill Sub Branch RSL Qld.
I would like to sincerely thank your council for the offer to
once again mow the lawns surrounding the RSL Hall for the
Anzac Day cenotaph ceremony.

The people involved do a very good job in preparing the
grounds to have it all tidy for the parade & we thank them for
their significant contribution to the day.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,
Allan Petersen

LEST WE FORGET
Ladies and Gentlemen, Mayors from across Australia to discuss bid to ban live exports motion to be discussed at the National General Assembly of Local Government, if you have not Registered to the National General Assembly of Local Government on the 16th / 19th June, please do so ASP. Queensland has 12.6 million cattle over 50% of the cattle in Australia it is fair to say the Cattle industry is one of many economy drivers of Queensland. The live Export has been the floor price of the Cattle industry for a number of years. If there was ever a time that a industry needed the support of their Local Government it is now so please register to support and defend A economy driver of Queensland. Regards

Mayor
Eric (Rick) Britton
Boulia Shire Council
M 0407122430
H 0747463105
B 0747463188
E mayor@boulia.qld.gov.au

Birth Place of Cattle Transport
Land of the Min Min Light
Corey Blacksell (@coreyblacksell)

20/05/13 12:25 PM
Mayors from across Australia to discuss bid to ban live exports | Adelaide Now
m.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-aus?

#ausag #agchatoz

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17 May 2013

Burdekin Shire Council
PO Box 974
AYR QLD 4807

Dear Mayor, Councillors and CEO,

Come to the constitutional campaign briefing at the National General Assembly

As you know, the Federal Government has announced a referendum to change the Constitution to enable it to continue to directly fund vital community services and infrastructure through programs like Roads to Recovery and the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program for local government.

We now have just under four months to campaign in communities across the nation to secure a "yes" vote. It is in the interests of every community that this referendum succeeds. This is an opportunity to give funding certainty to our communities so they can continue to receive the services and infrastructure they need.

Behind the scenes, ALGA and local government state and territory associations have laid the groundwork for the campaign. This includes a comprehensive campaign structure at national and state level.

Local government’s major national conference, the National General Assembly of Local Government, is your key opportunity to get the latest information on the campaign strategy, how it will be implemented, and most importantly the crucial role you and your council will play in the campaign and preparing your community for a "yes" vote.

The National General Assembly will be held from 16-19 June, at the National Convention Centre Canberra. I urge you to ensure at least one representative from your council attends.

You can register online at www.alga.asn.au.

This referendum is about adequate resourcing of local councils to ensure they can meet the needs of their communities. Resolving the legal uncertainty around existing direct funding programs and allowing them to continue can only be achieved by a referendum.

For that reason everyone should support this referendum on 14 September.

Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis
President
Councillor Bill Lewis
Mayor
Burdekin Shire Council
PO Box 974
AYR QLD 4807

Dear Cr Lewis,

I refer to our recent meeting at the Burdekin Community Cabinet concerning irrigation management within the lower Burdekin district.

I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this issue and other matters of importance in your community.

The Queensland Government is considering options for transferring SunWater’s channel irrigation schemes to local ownership and management. The government is inviting proposals on how a transition to local area management arrangements could be achieved.

Officers of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and SunWater are engaged in this local area management project and are actively participating in the Inter-Agency Group and the Policy Advisory Group where this matter will be addressed. I can assure you that I support the inclusion of groundwater in local area management in the Burdekin irrigation area, where it is increasingly critical to conjunctively manage the surface and ground water.

Should irrigators and government agree to move to local area management, then it is most likely that the two water sources will be included as part of local area management in the Burdekin irrigation area.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Nigel Kelly, Regional Manager Water Services, Department of Natural Resources and Mines on telephone 4222 5540.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Cripps MP
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines
DEVELOPMENT OF A NORTH QUEENSLAND ENERGY OPPORTUNITY REVIEW

As you may be aware, on Friday 5th April the Acting Prime Minister Hon. Wayne Swan MP announced the allocation of $2.5 million for the undertaking of a feasibility study “to examine the electricity generation required to drive future economic development in North Queensland, particularly in the Pentland area”.

This announcement reflects the significant work Townsville Enterprise has undertaken over the past ten months to secure political support and adequate funding for the undertaking of a review to determine an optimal strategic and commercially viable solution to resolve the region’s ongoing energy affordability constraints.

Based on this announcement, Townsville Enterprise has reviewed its need to seek financial support from Council’s and other identified North Queensland-based stakeholders for the undertaking of an ‘Energy Demand Audit’; letter sent on 18th March 2013.

It is envisioned that an energy demand audit will now be undertaken as part of the broader feasibility study, and we would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your commitment and support to resolving the region’s ongoing energy constraints.

As the proponent for this project, we will endeavour to keep you informed of the project’s progress.

Yours sincerely

David Kippin
Chief Executive Officer
27th May 2013

Dan Mulcahy
Director of Corporate and Community Services
Burdekin Shire Council
145 Young St
Ayr QLD 4807

Dear Mr Mulcahy

Re: Request to rename Lynch's Beach to Alva Beach

I write to you in response to your letter dated 18th March, regarding the possible name change of Lynch's Beach to Alva Beach.

The Burdekin Tourism Association received a letter from Mary Lynch, a descendent of the Lynch family, who provided a history of Lynch's Beach and why it is named such. Please see attached for the letter from Mary Lynch.

After reviewing this letter at a recent meeting, it was agreed that the Association wish for the name 'Lynch's Beach' to be retained. The Association also acknowledge the lengthy process involved in renaming the Township of Alva to Alva Beach and wish to withdraw this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Treena List
President

President
Treena List
Ph: (07) 4783 6636

Secretary
Barbara Kurkowski
Ph: (07) 4783 9831

Treasurer
Wendy Zandonadi
Ph: (07) 4782 6894
BURDEKIN TOURISM ASSN

131 Munro Street
Ayr  4807
23 -03-13

RE. LYNCH’S BEACH / ALVA BEACH

With reference to the article in the ADVOCATE, of 20th March, 2013, concerning the possible name change of Lynch’s Beach to Alva Beach, with a view to not confusing tourists, I submit the following, as the only living descendant of the Lynch family still residing in the district.

The beach was so named, I am told, because my great Aunts Esther and Grace Lynch’s family, who were the proprietors of the Queens Hotel, had the first hut there, the sight of which is now far out to sea.

In the days when my father, John Lynch and his siblings enjoyed childhood visits to the beach, they travelled down by horse and cart from their home near the showgrounds, and boiled the billy for smoko at the creek along the way.

Most descendants of our family probably have a photo of themselves standing near the Lynch’s Beach signposts, as part of their family history.

Nautical charts also still note it as Lynch’s Beach, which would be another avenue requiring name change, should this move proceed.

In my childhood, it was known as Lynch’s Beach, and in latter years the township was called Alverley, then shortened to Alva, but I have no knowledge of the origin or history surrounding the name.

From a personal perspective I would, naturally, like to see the name of Lynch’s Beach retained, and from a historical standpoint, it is certainly valid.

If, however, the name is causing confusion or genuine inconvenience to tourists, as is suggested, I do not strenuously object to the name change, but with due respect, point out that the passing parade is quite frequently easily confused, as in the case of when driving through Ayr, they enquire where the town of Burdekin is, presumably because of the signposts welcoming them to the Burdekin.

Thankyou for the opportunity of expressing my view, which exhibits far greater democracy than that displayed by the government, in allowing the historical lighthouse from the beach, to be relocated at Darling Harbour, both without prior public consultation, and also, when I last saw it, without even a plaque to commemorate where it originally stood.

Sincerely,

Mary Lynch

COPY TO Burdekin Shire Council

Historical Soc.
Dear Mayor,

Please allow me to introduce myself; my name is Anne Baker, Mayor of Isaac Regional Council and a resident of this great region for the past 16 years.

In context, the Isaac region is almost 59 000 square kilometres, close to the size of Tasmania, extending from the central coast of Queensland into the mineral rich Bowen Basin. Isaac is home to 28 of Queensland’s 55 active coalmines, the largest proportion in any region in Australia and often described as ‘ground zero’ for this industry, so as you can understand, I am a passionate supporter of mining, however not to the disadvantage of the community.

Why I am writing to you is to seek your support to the motion that Isaac Regional Council will be putting forward at the National General Assembly of Local Government Conference being held in Canberra in June. The motion is calling on the Australian Local Government Association to support the recommendations 1-21 of the Federal FIFO/DIDO Report, Cancer of the bush or salvation for our cities? Fly-in, fly-out and drive-in, drive-out workforce practices in Regional Australia, and to lobby the Australian government to adopt the recommendations, along with recognising and including local governments across the nation as key stakeholders in the implementation of the recommendations.

I believe that the adoption of the recommendations and subsequent implementation, will pave the way for successful FIFO/DIDO workforce practices that will provide benefit to local governments across all of Australia; not only just at the local level.

The recommendations aim to ensure that, whether a ‘source’ or ‘host’ community, benefits will be achieved by all levels of government through modernising out-dated policy and process, and seek for responsible and sustainable planning in the arena of FIFO/DIDO workforce practices.

This being said, please find attached a copy of the motion that has been submitted to the business papers of the conference and a formal letter of request, seeking your support to this motion.

I look forward to meeting you at the upcoming National General Assembly and welcome any further discussion around this proposal to you and can be contacted on (07) 4941 4500.

Regards,
Cr Anne Baker
Mayor
Isaac Regional Council

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20 May 2013

Attention: Mayor of Local Government

Dear Mayor,

RE: SEEKING SUPPORT FOR ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL’S NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MOTION ON THE FEDERAL INQUIRY INTO FIFO/DIDO WORKFORCE PRACTICES

As your Council may be aware, the Federal inquiry into Fly in, Fly out (FIFO) and Drive in, Drive out (DIDO) workforce practices was launched in 2011 in response to the obvious need to explore the impacts of the growing trend across our nation. "Cancer of the bush or salvation of our cities? Fly-in, fly-out and drive-in, drive-out workforce practices in Regional Australia" was the resultant report, which was unanimously supported by all political parties represented on the inquiry.

The Standing Committee on Regional Australia emphasised a noticeable lack of data to ensure individuals, families, communities and the nation get the best outcomes from our mining resources, with mutual benefits for all.

The endorsement of the motion supporting the 21 recommendations simply calls for more review, research and investigation at a Federal level, to assist all levels of government in modernising out-dated policy and process, develop responsibly, and implement sustainable planning strategies across the nation.

The Isaac Regional Council motion highlights the importance of recognising local government as key stakeholders in the review process and further investigation into FIFO/DIDO workforce arrangements.

The Federal report makes 21 erudite recommendations calling for further research and the review of:

- Tax reform, policy and funding allocation
- Social impacts and family support programs
- Economic impacts, demand for and consumption of local government services and infrastructure
- Flexible Governance
- Nationally consistent data collection regarding the impact of FIFO workforces on housing, infrastructure, healthcare, education, social services and future planned resource development
- Voting systems
- Small business modelling
- Training and education programs for local government
- Tertiary education models
✓ Affordable housing strategies
✓ Health policy and the provision of appropriate service delivery, funding and infrastructure support for medical services

"Why all 21 recommendations?"

The aim of having the 21 recommendations supported at a Federal level is to position key decision makers across Australia with the ability to form educated views, and make responsible choices regarding how their communities choose to plan, benefit and innovate to accommodate FIFO/DIDO work arrangements.

The answer is simple, each of the 21 recommendations provide practical solutions that address all key areas impacted by the growing trend in FIFO/DIDO work arrangements.

It is the view of the Isaac Regional Council that it is irresponsible to prioritise the importance of social and economic impacts associated with FIFO/DIDO practices. We seek a holistic view of the method because as we all know, there are many contributing factors to developing sustainable, healthy communities.

This motion is not about your Council taking a position on being pro or anti FIFO/DIDO; it is about taking a position on ensuring that local government is recognised as key stakeholders in the review process and any further investigations around this report.

On behalf of Isaac Regional Council, I thank you for taking the time to consider the attached motion, and please don’t hesitate to contact me as I welcome any opportunity to discuss it further.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

CR ANNE BAKER
Mayor
NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MOTION FOR DEBATE
THE FIFO/DIDO REPORT & SUPPORTING THE 21 RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION DETAILS:

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to support recommendations 1-21 of the Federal FIFO/DIDO Report (*) regarding workforce practices in Regional Australia and to lobby the Australian government to adopt the recommendations, as well as recognising and including local governments across the nation as key stakeholders through the policy review and policy development process to address social, economic and infrastructure policy, along with funding challenges identified in the report.

* Cancer of the bush or salvation for our cities? Fly-in, fly-out and drive-in, drive-out workforce practices in Regional Australia

NATIONAL OBJECTIVE:

FIFO/DIDO is a growing practice across the nation and in order for our nation to seek mutual benefits and our communities to grow sustainably and responsibly, the recommendations stemming from this report need to be adopted at a Federal level. This report addresses the population imbalances, policy/funding challenges and the lack of data in dealing with FIFO/DIDO practices in communities, mitigating against potential threats to their future economic and social prosperity. Australians are passionate about supporting industry expansion; however it has to be achieved in the right manner to ensure these communities aren’t hollowed out in the process.

SUMMARY OF KEY ARGUMENTS:

The Federal FIFO/DIDO enquiry was launched in 2011 in response to the obvious need to explore the impacts of the growing trend in current FIFO/DIDO practices across the nation. The final report ‘Cancer of the bush or salvation for our cities’, put forward 21 erudite recommendations calling for Federal policy review and further research into social impacts, population data, funding allocation, tax reform, affordable housing strategies, adequate access to health services and education, which is required to ensure individuals, families, communities and the nation, get the best outcomes from our mining resources and a mutual benefit for all – including mining entities themselves.

The recommendations finally give the Australian government and all stakeholders a roadmap, that once actioned, will do much for the whole country – not just regional centres. The Isaac Region, home to 29 of Queensland’s 56 active coalmines, is a classic example of ‘ground zero’ for impacts of FIFO/DIDO and the tabling of the FIFO report goes a long way to introducing a rational and reasoned dialogue about what regulatory framework and incentives are required to ensure our regions, and our nation’s economy, can grow in a sustainable way as many of our mining regions are at breaking point. Individual choice, incentive for families and protection of our vital mining communities is paramount to Australia growing in a balanced way.

Regional Australia in particular all have an interest in successful mining projects, provided that the impacts are managed appropriately, which is best done as genuine partners in the process. Therefore, the ALGA should seek to ensure that the 21 recommendations of the Federal FIFO/DIDO report are carried, and priority to develop action plans for their implementation, in consultation with Australian local governments, is actively pursued.
23 May 2013

Mr. Ken Holt CEO
Burdekin Shire Council
Young Street
AYR.Q.4807

Dear Mr. Holt

I am enclosing a copy of an email received from Thomasina Walker from Victoria, and I felt her comments were worth sharing.

We often have tourists call at the studio during the tourist season, some being volunteers at radio stations in other states, and their comments are always complimentary about our studio equipment and our programs presented by our various volunteers.

This email was one that came as a surprise to us all, but made us realize that while at times we wonder if anyone is listening, there are certainly people out there that are enjoying what we do.

This has also been proven since we started the Burdekin Tourism Program each Wednesday morning from 8.00am to 9.30am – we give away a bottle of wine to a listener who rings in at a point in the program, and on the first program the caller gave his name and address and he came from Bundaberg. He has a business and drives through the Burdekin regularly, and always tunes to Radio 97.1 Sweet FM. Lisa from the Alva Beach Tourist Park brought a guest with her the day of her program – a man from Woolongong, a retired school teacher who has visited the same park every year for 24 years, and stays for 6 months. We are learning more and more each week during this program, and very interesting for the listeners.

Our next aim is to begin streaming our programs to air in response to the suggestion made by Thomasina Walker and others who have been asking for this to happen e.g. the UK, USA, and all states in Australia etc.

Yours faithfully

Merle Scott (Volunteer Assistant Manager)
My family and I have just returned from visiting your wonderful state of Queensland, and while there we spent several days in the Burdekin. Upon our arrival we tuned in to your local station Sweet FM and discovered a station that played an excellent choice and range of music, and offered interesting programs and interviews. I understand that all your presenters are volunteers and what a credit the station is to their efforts. Congratulations to them all. It was also pleasant to wander the shops in the main street and be able to listen to the music as we shopped. An innovative idea.

Upon our family's return home, some of us to Victoria, others to England and Scotland, we decided we would like to continue to listen to Sweet FM, and was disappointed to find on the website that programs not being streamed live. This was a bitter disappointment to us all, and I wonder if you are going to offer live streaming so the world can hear what this amazing station has to offer? I have been telling my friends about Sweet FM, and have suggested to them if they travel that way to make sure they tune in. My family and I hope that we will soon be able to listen online and enjoy in our homes what we so enjoyed while we were visiting your town.

Our compliments again to everyone who makes this station possible, and thank you for making our stay in the Burdekin a pleasant one.

Thomasina Walker
24 MAY 2013

Councillor Bill Lowis
Mayor
Burdekin Shire Council
PO Box 974
AYR QLD 4807

Dear Councillor Lowis

Thank you for participating in The Queensland Plan Mackay Summit on Friday 10 May 2013. Your individual and collective contribution to the robust discussion on the day is valued and will inform the heart of the process to develop The Queensland Plan.

The Queensland Plan will be a plan created by Queeslanders, for Queenslanders. Its development is the first of its kind in scope and scale in our State. We created history in Mackay and I was pleased to see the spirit of collaboration working right across the room.

Through facilitated workshops and healthy discussions we identified the issues and opportunities we need to discuss across the State. We now have a series of thought-provoking questions to put to the people of Queensland to develop our 30-year vision.

The six statewide questions we have taken to the people of Queensland to answer are:

- In the context of living in the community, how do we move our focus from me to we?
- How do we create and foster an education culture that teaches skills and values to meet global challenges and optimise regional strengths?
- How do we empower and educate individuals, communities and institutions to embrace responsibility for an active and healthy lifestyle?
- How do we structure our economy to ensure our children inherit a resilient future?
- How do we strengthen our economic future and achieve sustainable landscapes?
- How do we attract and retain the brightest minds and ideas where they are most needed and capitalise on global opportunities?

Enclosed is a summary report of the Mackay Summit which you may wish to share with your networks. A record of all notes taken on the day will also be available on The Queensland Plan website at www.qld.gov.au/queenslandplan.
From my background in local government, I know you work closely with your residents and have a solid understanding and appreciation of what is important within your community. That’s why I am keen to see you join the journey for developing *The Queensland Plan*.

The real heart of *The Queensland Plan* is now underway, with local Members of Parliament undertaking grassroots community engagement in every state electorate. An online survey with the questions we are asking Queenslanders is also now available on the website at www.qld.gov.au/queenslandplan.

The Local Government Association of Queensland has committed to support *The Queensland Plan* and provided a dedicated contact point. If you have any further queries, you can contact Mr Logan Timms, Director, Department of Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience by email at Logan.Timms@dlgp.qld.gov.au

*The Queensland Plan* is a bold and exciting initiative and I welcome your contribution to our future.

Yours sincerely

CAMPBELL NEWMAN

*Encl*
How the questions were developed

Local and Regional Challenges and Questions
Working in electorate groups, delegates discussed the likely challenges and issues facing their regions in 30 years. From this, each group devised questions to help guide conversations in their communities. A total of 101 regional questions were created and will be used to assist local communities in ongoing engagement activities.

Statewide Challenges and Questions
Prior to the Mackay Summit, a peak body workshop was held in April 2013 and attended by representatives of key organisations such as industry, community, and special interest groups.

Using discussion areas that were refined at this workshop, delegates were randomly assigned to working groups. These working groups focused on the discussion areas: healthy and active; jobs, participating and the economy; sustainable landscapes; living in my community; and education and research.

Several working groups addressed each discussion area, finally arriving at five questions per discussion area. Delegates could also post 'wildcard' questions – those key questions which were important but fell outside a discussion area. All questions were then posted around the room.

Voting for the final questions
Using sticky dots, every delegate was asked to vote for their preferred question in each discussion area and one on the 'wildcard wall'. The final questions were then reviewed by an editorial working group comprised of community delegates.

The next steps
With the questions finalised, the summit wrapped up by noting that all Queenslanders now have this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have their say on shaping the long-term future of Queensland. Queenslanders are encouraged to join the conversation in their local community or visit The Queensland Plan website www.qld.gov.au/queenslandplan to have their say.

Feedback from the community will then be considered at a further summit to be held in Brisbane in early October 2013. The plan will be finalised by the end of the year.
The Queensland Plan
A 30-year vision for Queensland

The Queensland Plan will be our shared vision for where we want our state to be in 30 years. It will be created by Queenslanders, for Queenslanders. Its development is the first of its kind in scope and scale in our state, and will be a genuine reflection of our collective aspirations and priorities for the future.

The Mackay Summit Report

On Friday 10 May 2013, more than 400 Queenslanders from all parts of the state came together for The Queensland Plan Mackay Summit to workshop the challenges and opportunities we need to address to create a vision for Queensland. Through these workshops, six questions were developed collaboratively by the delegates. Answers to these questions will be used to guide development of The Queensland Plan. This document provides a summary of the attendees, activities and outcomes from the Mackay Summit.

The people
The Mackay Summit was attended by delegates from every Queensland electorate, Members of Parliament, Mayors and a youth delegation. The summit had bipartisan support, and featured representation across diverse backgrounds covering community groups, sporting organisations, business, Indigenous, youth, multicultural and disability sectors.

The six questions – developed by Queenslanders
- In the context of living in the community, how do we move our focus from me to we?
- How do we create and foster an education culture that teaches skills and values to meet global challenges and optimise regional strengths?
- How do we empower and educate individuals, communities and institutions to embrace responsibility for an active and healthy lifestyle?
- How do we structure our economy to ensure our children inherit a resilient future?
- How do we strengthen our economic future and achieve sustainable landscapes?
- How do we attract and retain the brightest minds and ideas where they are most needed and capitalise on global opportunities?
27 May 2013

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

Dear Cr Lowis

Call to arms – Ask your local MPs to support the Constitutional Amendment Legislation in Parliament

This week I expect that legislation will be introduced into Federal Parliament to provide for a 14 September referendum on the financial recognition of local government and it is critical that this legislation receives maximum support from our representatives in the Federal Parliament. I am writing to ask you to do what you can to urge your local Federal Member and Senator to support the legislation.

The Constitutional Alteration (Local Government) Bill 2013 is the last formal step in the path to a referendum and the Bill was released for public comment on 16 May 2013. The change proposed by the legislation is simple and pragmatic. Section 96 of the Constitution would be amended to formalise the capacity of the Commonwealth to provide funds directly to local government bodies formed by a law of a state. This would not change the status of councils. Nor would it give the Federal Government any power over local government. It would simply remove the uncertainty which now surrounds direct funding programs such as Roads to Recovery which have been in place for many years under both sides of politics.

Section 96 will be amended to read “...Parliament may grant financial assistance to any state or local government body formed by a law of a State on such terms and conditions as the Parliament thinks fit.” (change in bold).

The words of the proposed amendment were designed specifically to give assurance to state governments that, under the proposed change, local government would remain the responsibility of state and territory governments. Legal advice confirms that the Federal Government will not be able to ask local government to do anything that would contravene a state law, and that states will retain the right to legislate for their councils, including the ability to stop them from accepting federal funding if they have concerns.

All major parties at the Federal level, and the independents, have committed to ensuring that Commonwealth direct funding of councils can continue, and reports from an Expert Panel and a Federal Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on the issue have supported a referendum as the way to remove the uncertainty surrounding the Commonwealth’s capacity.

It is up to individual Members of Parliament, however, in both the House of Representatives and the Senate to support this Bill and there are indications that some MPs will not support the Bill in the mistaken view that it will impact on state government rights.

It is important that you urge your local Members and Senators to give the local communities which elect them a fair go in terms of continued direct federal funding for vital local services and infrastructure. A vote against the Bill is a vote against that funding and against local communities and all MPs should know the depth of local government feeling on this issue.

P 07 3000 2222 Local Government House  PO Box 2230  Local Government Association Of Queensland Ltd.
F 07 3252 4473  25 Evelyn Street, Newstead Qld 4006  Fortitude Valley BC Qld 4006  ABN 11 010 883 293  ACN 142 783 917
W www.lgaq.asn.au
We are at an exciting and crucial point in our campaign for constitutional change, and I urge you to do all you can to win the support of you local MPs by explaining the importance of the change to them. They should vote armed with the facts and in the knowledge that their communities are behind them when they cast their vote on the Constitutional Alteration Bill in the coming days.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Cr Margaret de Wit
PRESIDENT
Circular

Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Levy - Impact on Councils

For Information/Action
Circular: 2013-038
Release Date: Thursday 30 May 2013
Authorised by: Greg Hallam PSM Executive Director

The State Government has announced the introduction of a new levy to be collected by Councils from 1 January 2014.

The State Treasurer announced by way of a media release (link) the introduction of an Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Levy to take effect from 1 January 2014. LGAQ had not been consulted on this proposal. Treasurer Tim Nicholls identified the collapse of state revenues as the justification for expanding the coverage area of the existing Urban Fire Levy to include all rateable properties – an estimated additional 400,000 properties and raise between $50M and $60M dollars per annum to support the operations of Emergency Management Queensland but not the SES.

The introduction of the levy will be formally announced when the 2013-14 State Budget is handed down next Tuesday 4 June 2013.

LGAQ has sought details from the Department of Community Safety which will be available after the Budget is handed down but for now we are able to advise as follows:

- Legislative changes to introduce the levy will be introduced into Parliament next week.
- The existing urban fire levy amounts will be increased by 3.5% from 1 July 2013. A further 6.5% increase will take effect in these areas from 1 January 2014 as the new levy takes effect.
- Areas not currently covered under the urban fire levy will introduce the new levy from 1 January 2014. The amounts will be announced in the budget but is understood to be $90 per rateable assessment in the areas currently not subject to the urban levy.
- The current category system in place for the urban fire levy will be amended and include an additional category for the rural areas not currently subject to the urban levy.
- It is anticipated financial support will be available for councils requiring new or updated computer systems and software to introduce the new levy and to inspect properties to identify relevant categories.
- A collection fee will be paid to councils by way of a commission as currently applies to the urban fire levy.
Pensioner discounts will also apply to the new levy.

LGAQ will commence discussions with the Department immediately after the legislation is introduced and will work to ensure the maximum level of support is provided by the government for the introduction of the levy.

An immediate issue for councils to consider is the continuation of any existing rural fire brigade levies or other financial assistance provided by councils in light of the State imposed levy which councils will be obliged to collect.

For further information, please contact Greg Hoffman PSM, General Manager – Advocacy, on (07) 3000 2245.
The Mayor and Councillors  
Burdekin Shire Council

I have just spent a night at the Home Hill Comfort Stop. What an excellent facility. Though I was disappointed with the number of backpacker abusing the privilege of such a well run facility. They had their belonging spread all over the place making the place look like a rubbish dump. They also had all the power point taken up with approximately 20 computers plugged into the two points which is a major fire hazard if overloaded. I don’t think your workplace health and safety people would approve of this. If you do not do something about this serious problem you will loss the grey nomads stoping in this quaint town.

It is up to the farm owners to supply facilities on their farms for the backpackers to stay on site while they are working in the area. If this was done the problem you have at the Comfort Stop would not be as bad as it is at the present.

There are a few ways that I can suggest to help solve this problem. They are

1. Disconnect the power to the power points.
2. Issue fines for overstaying the regulated time period and for littering.
3. Ban all backpackers from staying at the Comfort Stop.

Yours Sincerely,
Concerned Traveller.
To the CEO

Dear Sir/Madam

The Honourable Andrew Powell MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection has announced the commencement of public consultation on the Queensland Government’s proposed new approach to managing flying-fox roosts. A discussion paper has been released for public comment and is available at www.ehp.qld.gov.au.

The Government proposes to remove the requirement for councils to obtain a permit for flying-fox roost management in defined urban areas. This acknowledges the role that councils already undertake in these and other important community matters. All flying-fox management would be subject to a Code of Practice that focuses on minimising the likelihood of harm to flying-foxes. The discussion paper outlines this approach, including proposed Code of Practice requirements and how the urban areas for each local government area will be defined by statutory map.

Your feedback on the proposal, particularly in relation to the Code of Practice and urban maps would be appreciated.

The LGAQ intends to put forward a joint submission on behalf of all councils. You may direct your feedback and comments to LGAQ for collation and joint submission by email: ask@lgaq.asn.au.

Alternatively, if you wish to lodge your submission individually, please email to ffoxroost_review@ehp.qld.gov.au by Friday 28 June 2013.

Please note: the LGAQ is hosting a workshop to discuss the new policy on Wednesday 5 June 2013. This will be an important opportunity to discuss the impacts of the new policy for your local Council as well as put forward your ideas to aid in the implementation of the policy.

Should you have any further enquiries please contact Mr Wade Oestreich, Project Director, on telephone (07) 3330 5393.

Regards

Andrew Chesterman
Director-General
Department of Environment & Heritage Protection
Queensland Government
Level 13, 400 George Street, Brisbane Qld 4000
Website www.ehp.qld.gov.au

GPO Box 2454
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