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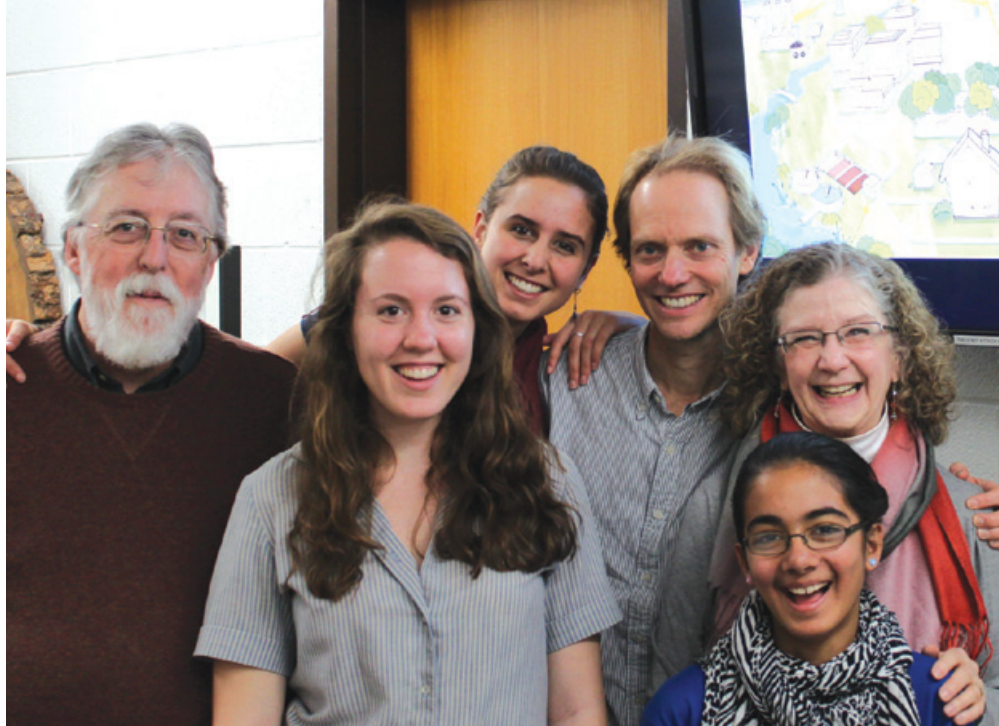
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Mayor Mark Jamieson / LGAQ President

THE POWER OF SOCIAL CAPITAL

When I addressed the LGAQ Bush Councils convention in August, I marvelled at the ability of rural and regional local governments to withstand enormous challenges year after year, be it those delivered by Mother Nature, like drought, floods and cyclones, to those visited upon the bush through economic or political forces, like trade wars, de-population and financial hardship.

There is no other place in the world where such challenges are met with that mix of stoicism and humour unique to those living and working in the Australian bush.

The remarkable thing is that regional councils manage to do all this while watching the slow withdrawal of the state and federal governments from servicing their communities in areas like child and aged care, education, health, housing and disaster recovery services.

When the LGAQ last looked at this in depth, we found that Queensland councils spend at least \$25 million a year on providing non-traditional services like paying for teacher positions and health services.

Councils are increasingly seen as a provider of last-resort services that were once provided by the federal and state governments. We do not want to see a big cost shift to local government without a corresponding move to ensure we have access to a broader revenue base, which is why we have been arguing strongly for a restoration of financial assistance grants to at least one per cent of total Commonwealth taxation revenue.

But in the end, there are some things that money cannot buy.

I think Prime Minister Scott Morrison and the rest of the nation got to understand this in February, when an unprecedented monsoon event hit north-west Queensland and threatened to bring that region's economy to its knees.

As the PM acknowledged, the mayors of this region went above and beyond in battling to make sure their communities overcame a

disaster that would have been too much to bear for a lot of other places.

To me, the response to that disastrous flood was an example of the power of social capital, that intangible quality that produces shared values, shared identity and shared strength in the face of adversity.

We continue to see this today, with the mayors of the south west and their efforts with the enduring drought.

Political scientist Robert Putnam is probably the most famous exponent of the value of social capital. Read his book, *Bowling Alone*, or follow him on Twitter at @robertdputnam.

However, for mine, the most valuable curators of social capital are local councils. No other level of government works harder to ensure their communities understand their strengths, address their limitations and strive to improve their lot in an increasingly challenging global environment.

Nearly 20 years ago, Putnam started a debate on whether a decline in this social capital might explain, in an era of glowing economic growth, why there was so much concern about the state of political and social life in the world.

Today, I don't think there are many who can credibly argue he was not onto something.

It is our job as civic leaders to bring every kind of wealth to our communities, not just the dollar kind.

As we head into an election period, it's worth remembering that, and looking to how our mayors in the northwest got going when the going got tough. 🍷



President Mark Jamieson at the 2019 Bush Councils Convention

To me, the response to that disastrous flood was an example of the power of social capital, that intangible quality that produces shared values, shared identity and shared strength in the face of adversity.



Greg Hallam / LGAQ Chief Executive Officer

JOINING UP THE DOTS

It is never lost on me that I need to explain why the LGAQ does the things it does and why it does lots of things, lots of the time.

It is very easy to become transactional and race from one announcement to another without filling in the important questions of why. Fortunately, we are big on strategy at the LGAQ. In fact, we have a strategy for pretty much everything, and the dots do join up.

Believe it or not, at the LGAQ we use SOAP—strategy on a page, not the bar of soap in the shower—to guide us. It is largely self-explanatory, so I won't waste your time describing it.

When I first started in executive roles in local government more than 30 years ago, you needed a semi-trailer to carry around the detailed corporate and operational plans that were in vogue back then. Everything got written down and codified, then mostly sat on a shelf to collect dust. The utility value of such documents even back then was close to zero. The world as we come to the end of the second decade of the 21st century is far too crazy and unpredictable to write detailed masterplans. Instead it's KISS (keep it simple stupid), which is far more relevant.

We talk about the SOAP, and our customer franchise operating model at literally every meeting of the executive leadership, as well as the stream, segment and staff meetings we hold. It is the first thing LGAQ staff see when they turn their computer on of a morning and, just in case that wasn't enough, every staff member has a laminated copy on their desk.

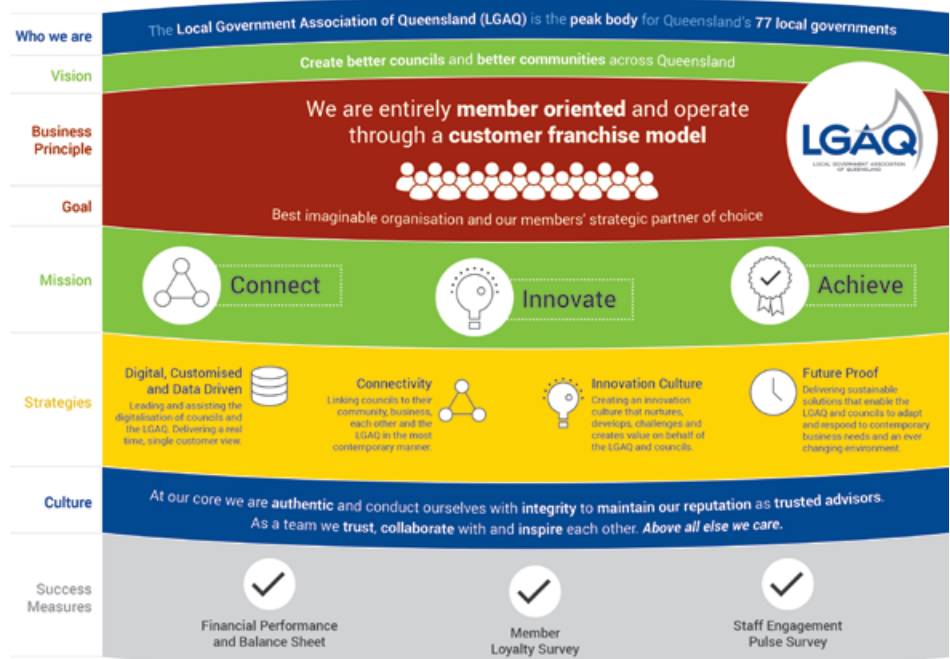
Importantly, we measure ourselves against the strategy and the LGAQ Board and Policy Executive keep us honest in that regard. Our investment decisions are

also aligned with the SOAP.

During the last 12 months, the president Mayor Mark Jamieson, the LGAQ staff and I have spent a lot of time communicating the 'why' question via YouTube videos and podcasts. Our aim is to cut up to 200 of those a year in the belief we owe to our members to communicate in the clearest and most concise possible terms what it is we are doing on their behalf and to explain "why is it so", to paraphrase the late Professor Julius Sumner Miller.

Rest assured the dots do join up and your association is strategy-driven. 🍌

Importantly, we measure ourselves against the strategy and the LGAQ Board and Policy Executive keep us honest in that regard.





Stirling Hinchliffe / Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

RAISE YOUR HAND FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANDIDACY

It was wonderful to catch up with so many local government representatives recently at the Bush Councils Convention in Roma and the Northern Alliance of Councils Annual Conference in Bowen.

These gatherings were outstanding and I congratulate both the Maranoa Regional Council and the Whitsunday Regional Council for not only successfully organising the events but also for their fabulous hospitality.

We are now into the final six months before the 2020 local government elections and while we continue to represent and serve our communities to the best of our abilities, we must also be ensuring that preparations are on track for the March polls.

The department will be providing online training for all those wishing to put their hand up as a candidate for mayor or councillor.

The training, which will be mandatory for anyone wanting to nominate as a candidate for the 2020 election, will cover important aspects such as eligibility for election, legislative requirements relevant to an election campaign, roles and obligations, as well as a typical day in the life of a councillor.

Perhaps above all, the training will also explain the opportunity that an elected representative has to make a difference to the lives of the people they serve and to help build a better future for our communities.

The training must be completed prior to nomination, so that everyone seeking election has a clear understanding of what is required as both a candidate and a councillor.

Candidates must go in with their eyes wide open, particularly in terms of their legal obligations.

There is no question that public office can be rewarding for those who are dedicated to their



community, but it can also be challenging.

The training will offer an insight into what it is like to take on the challenge.

The department's website has information on how to register for the training and can be found at: www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/candidates.

Local government is the level of government closest to the people, with all councillors coming from within, and representing their community.

As such, the opportunity to be a candidate is open to everyone who is eligible and I strongly urge anyone who is truly passionate about their community and its future, to put their hand up. These are the people we need on our councils.

Our 77 council areas are each unique and not only need the best people possible to serve

but also representatives that truly reflect the diversity of their communities.

If you want to improve and secure a future for your children, family, culture and way of life, then being elected to the local council can give you a strong voice to make a real difference as a part of the decision-making process.

Most importantly, while being an elected representative is both rewarding and challenging, we must never lose sight of the fact that it is also a privilege. Our communities deserve the best we can give them.

Finally, I would like to wish you all well for the annual conference in Cairns. Unfortunately, parliamentary duties mean I will be unable to attend, but I look forward to hearing and discussing the outcomes with you. 📌

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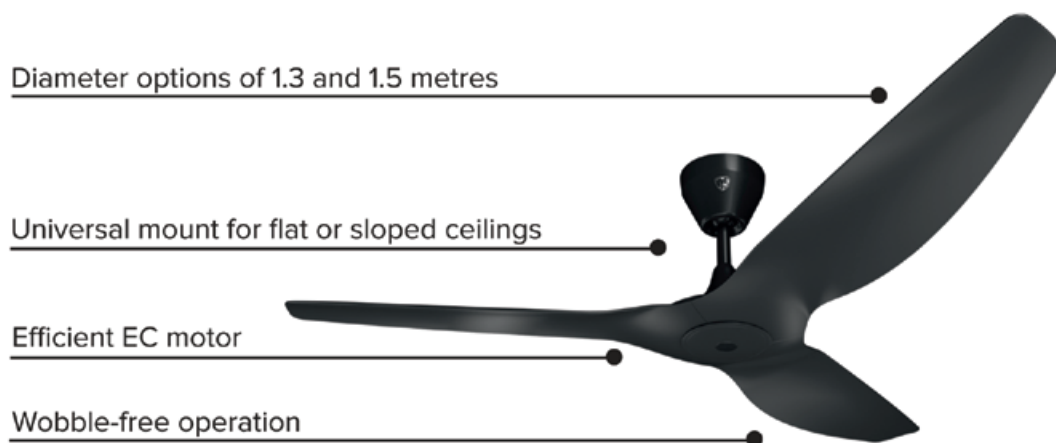
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SMART CITIES WITH URBAN DASHBOARDS:

Giving the community feedback about their city

Urban dashboards are online systems and digital signage that present a user-friendly visual display of information, which consolidate complex data into easy-to-understand visual elements. They may include elements such as graphs, doughnut charts, histograms, gauges, maps, interactive elements, and statistics. They can display data from sensors and video from cameras.

By Emma Crameri





The project dashboard team standing in front of the Oberlin bioregional dashboard

Image credit: Oberlin College, Environmental Dashboard – environmentaldashboard.org.

Urban dashboards can provide citizens with a real-time snapshot of data about where they live. They have a range of different uses and these depend largely on whether there are reliable data sets available, and if the data sets are proprietary owned or not.

They come in two main forms: one version that it is used internally as part of a control and command centre, and the second version displays urban data as is – as a civic engagement tool.

Global urban dashboards

Dashboards are becoming increasingly popular around the world.

The City of Boston's mayor has the dashboards mounted on a wall near his desk to display a range of daily statistics, covering areas like public safety (and homicides), basic

city services (potholes filled, graffiti removed, trash pickups missed, street lights repaired), human services and economic development.

London's City Dashboard features live information on weather, air quality, train status, traffic cameras, as well as local news and Twitter feeds.

The Dublin Dashboard provides real-time information, time-series indicator data and interactive maps about aspects of the city. This is a publicly accessible dashboard that provides intelligence to help citizens and the city staff know and understand the city. It consists of a series of webpages, which visualise data to provide real-time and administrative data about Dublin. The web application uses open source technologies, which has resulted in an affordable solution.

This is a publicly accessible dashboard that provides intelligence to help citizens and the city staff know and understand the city.



Glasgow City allows users to personalise the data shown on their dashboard based on the user's interests and preferences.

Here are some other examples of dashboards with their websites, which are leading the way:

- Cork – Cork Dashboard in collaboration with Mynooth University <http://corkdashboard.ie/pages/index>
- Dublin – Dublin Dashboard City Intelligence collaboration with Mynooth University <http://www.dublindashboard.ie/pages/index>
- Glasgow's Future City Dashboard: <http://dashboard.glasgow.gov.uk/>
- Greater Manchester's Mayor's Dashboard [https://public.tableau.com/](https://public.tableau.com/views/GreaterManchesterDashboard/Home?%3Aembed=y&%3Adisplay_count=yes&%3AshowVizHome=no)

[views/GreaterManchesterDashboard/Home?%3Aembed=y&%3Adisplay_count=yes&%3AshowVizHome=no](https://public.tableau.com/views/GreaterManchesterDashboard/Home?%3Aembed=y&%3Adisplay_count=yes&%3AshowVizHome=no)

- Los Angeles Mayor's Dashboard: Back to Basics: <http://dashboard.lamayor.org/>
- London City Dashboard (also used in Birmingham, Brighton, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds and Manchester) in collaboration with the University College London: <http://citydashboard.org/london/>
- Los Angeles GeoHub: <http://geohub.lacity.org/>
- Smart City Boston: <https://boston.opendatasoft.com/page/smart-city-2/>
- Sydney in collaboration with UNSW: <http://citydashboard.be.unsw.edu.au/>

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The online system aims to educate, motivate and empower citizens. While the overarching goal of the system is to encourage smart environmental decision making.



Benefits of dashboards

The benefits of urban dashboards are:

- Establishes trust between the city and the residents with data transparency
- Useful tool for encouraging and facilitating civic engagement
- Provides useful information to citizens, public sector works and companies
- May lead to better decision making and risk management
- Dashboards can be used as an educational tool
- Real-time data for performance monitoring.

Limitations of Dashboards

There are several limitations of dashboards including:

- There is an enormous amount of data available, but it's not practical to display most of it
- Data may not be useful or can be misleading
- Inconsistent data measurements, formats and data standards
- Datasets often contain human error, bias, and may have little veracity
- May not change behaviour unless it is supported by educational programs and

user guides

- Not all residents have access to a smartphone or the internet
- Technology itself can't solve complex, urban issues.

CASE STUDY: ENVIRONMENTAL DASHBOARD

Every day each of us makes dozens of decisions that affect the health of our cities and environment. Amazing things happen when an entire community can see a



*Downtown Oberlin, Ohio
Image credit: Oberlin College, Environmental
Dashboard – environmentaldashboard.org.*

visualisation of their impact in real-time.

For over a decade, a team of staff and students at Oberlin College in Ohio, America, have been perfecting The Environmental Dashboard. Dr John E. Petersen (Professor of Environmental Studies and Biology), Dr Cindy Frantz (Psychology) and Dr Rumi Shammin (Environmental Studies) have teamed up with the local council to display environmental dashboards on digital signage throughout the community. The platform leverages social psychology, graphical design and the internet.

The Environmental Dashboard (www.environmentaldashboard.org) shows a real-time display of electricity use, water use,

and greenhouse gas emissions. These can be customised to a time period or a location, such as schools, homes, public facilities and businesses.

The online system aims to educate, motivate and empower citizens, while the overarching goal of the system is to encourage smart environmental decision making.

A map of the town visually shows the flow of water from the river and water treatment plant to the major buildings in the town. Another map shows where the wastewater goes. It is also possible to see the real-time usage rates of electricity and water through the entire city as well as in numerous monitored buildings.



LG Sherlock – using the power of dashboards

LG Sherlock is a Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) data analytics initiative designed to extract insights and provide analytical tools for local councils to best inform their decision making.

Recently, LG Sherlock launched its first module, 'Energy Detective' to half a dozen councils in South East Queensland. The tool provides a platform and dashboard that allows councils to see a consolidated view of energy accounts, identify poorly performing council energy assets and optimise energy tariff selections.

LG's second module is a fleet management and optimisation tool designed to provide fuel modelling, share real-time fleet assets and benchmark shared learning across councils.

Watch this space for more tools around disaster management, development applications, waste, water and gas infrastructure and insurance risk assessment.

Find out more at sherlock.lgaq.asn.au.

Oberlin has placed digital displays of the dashboards in various spots around town, including at a café, the local library, a hotel lobby, city hall and finance office, in dormitories of the Oberlin College campus, and all of the local schools. The dashboards display the personalised energy and water use of the buildings in which they are placed.

The information is displayed on large screen televisions to show the real-time statistics. Graphs, colour coding and cartoon characters provide users with visual feedback. The data can be displayed for today, a week, a month or a year and with two-hour increments.

There are gauges to show the current rates of resource consumption in the community, including:

- Electricity – total amount of electricity consumption (per resident), amount of electricity used for water treatment, amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) released into the atmosphere as a result of electricity usage and current outside air temperature (as this influences the heating and cooling and as a result electricity consumption)
- Water – total amount of piped fresh water (per resident), total amount of wastewater

being treated, amount of carbon dioxide gas (CO₂) released into the atmosphere per resident as a result of electricity used to clean both drinking water and wastewater, and reservoir storage

- Watershed – current depth of water in major watershed areas, dissolved oxygen, turbidity (water clarity), pH and dissolved solids
- Weather – air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and precipitation.

Environmental Education

The main benefit of the Environmental Dashboard is that it allows complex data to be repackaged in a graphical way that is readable to members of the community, including primary school age and kindergarten children.

In the classroom, the dashboards can facilitate conversations about where their water comes from, resource consumption, and what are some conservation methods that can be implemented.

The local schools compete in an annually run program called Ecolympics. The competition aims to reduce their percentage of electricity and water use. Teachers encourage the students to come up with innovative strategies.

The college dashboards aim to capture and translate technical data on campus resource use into non-technical information that engages, motivates and empowers sustainable behaviour.

Impact on the City of Oberlin

Dr John E. Petersen says, "Our team of faculty, students and collaborators from the City of Oberlin has been committed to research as well as technological development.

"We conducted extensive surveys of residents in each location that we intended to install the digital dashboard signage and then resurveyed in these same locations three years after the dashboards were installed.

"The interesting thing is that most people do not report that they spend very much time looking at the signs. And yet the results of our surveys demonstrate that community members in this locations are now significantly more aware of where their resources are coming from, more aware of the consequences of resource use and have a better appreciation of the ways in which community members are taking action to move the community towards sustainability.

"Our research also demonstrates that 'Ecolympics' resource reduction competitions

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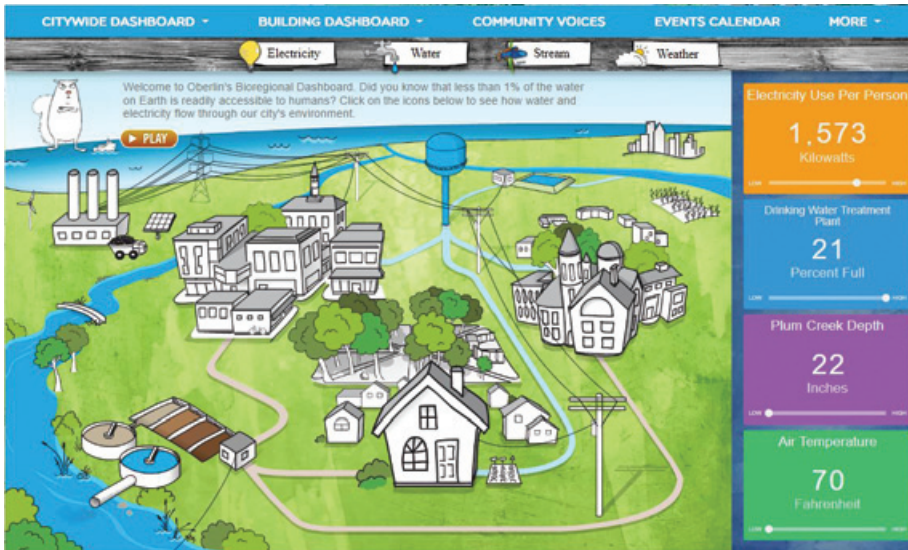
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In the classroom, the dashboards can facilitate conversations about where their water comes from, resource consumption, and what are some conservation methods that can be implemented.

in the public schools on at Oberlin College that we use environmental dashboard to promote have resulted in significant reductions in water and electricity use. "Participants also report learning new habits that they report they are now continuing to employ without the competition. From a psychological standpoint, one of our core goals is to promote 'systems thinking' skills – the ability to see an expanded degree of connections

within cities and to perceive oneself as an important agent of positive change." It would be great to add recycling statistics, humidity, air pollution, fire danger. The screens could also show examples of people who are demonstrating good environmental practices via social media. This user-generated content can be displayed as a curated feed or by a dedicated hashtag. The Environmental Dashboard concept

has expanded to other communities like Cleveland and Toledo Ohio, DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana, Antioch College and Yellow Springs, Ohio and Albion College and Albion, Michigan in America. Urban dashboards will increasingly become an important tool for local governments to communicate with their residents, providing an open, transparent and real-time solution for public administration. Watch this space. ●

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+ COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

Dr Nikola Stepanov / Queensland Integrity Commissioner

DEFINING THE ROLE OF THE COMMISSIONER

So far this financial year, I have continued to visit councils throughout Queensland and provide councillors with ethics and integrity advice on an individual basis.

However, I have noticed that there is some confusion about the scope of my jurisdiction in terms of the advice I can provide. I am also often asked questions that are dealt with by other agencies or in online resources already available.

As integrity commissioner, my role is to give advice about ethics and integrity issues to the more than 5000 people who fall under the Integrity Act 2009.

I have a team of four staff to assist and resources are limited. As well, I am unable to delegate the advice function – each piece of advice must be finalised by me. Just as issues arise urgently for mayors and councillors, so to for all others who fall under the Integrity Act 2009. For this reason, I have to decline to provide advice unless a matter fundamentally relates to the scope of my role.

Therefore, I would like to set out the circumstances in which I can best be of assistance and when it may be appropriate for you to contact other agencies or access existing resources.

Personal interests

I can, and do, provide advice about the factors to be considered in deciding whether a conflict of interest exists. However, ultimately, it is for the non-conflicted councillors at a meeting to decide whether there is a conflict of interest and, if so, how it should be managed. If there is any doubt, I recommend that you declare your personal interests for transparency and to avoid any breach.

I also encourage you to refer to the local government guide and aids (<https://www.integrity.qld.gov.au/publications/education-resources.aspx>) I have developed in

conjunction with the independent assessor. These resources are easy to read, are based on extensive research, and were developed after several months of providing advice about conflicts of interest to councillors. Pending legislative change, they may well provide the answer to your question.

Out of scope

I am often asked by councillors to comment on the behaviour of another councillor. However, the purpose of my advice is to assist designated persons to ensure that their own conduct is ethical, rather than to form opinions about, or pass judgment on, the behaviour of others. Also, I cannot give legal advice, such as advice about whether particular conduct would amount to misconduct as defined in the *Local Government Act 2009 (Qld) (LGA)*. Therefore, while I can advise you about how you can raise or progress concerns, I will not express a view about whether another councillor has a conflict of interest, behaved unethically or breached the LGA.

If you are concerned about another councillor's conduct, you may wish to raise your concerns with the councillor in question or the mayor, or contact the Office of the Independent Assessor (OIA) to discuss the merits of making a complaint.

You can find out more about the OIA and how to make a complaint here: <https://oia.qld.gov.au/office-of-the-independent-assessor.html>.

Political donations, meeting procedures or general administrative and legal matters

I am also regularly asked about political donations, meeting procedures, and general legal matters. Such questions are outside

the scope of my role. But, help is available.

Questions about donations or disclosure returns are best directed to the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ). Before you contact the ECQ, it's a good idea to check if the answer to your question is already available on the ECQ website, which contains a number of guides and other resources.

If you have a general legal question, the best approach is to seek legal advice either via council or on your own behalf.

For procedural or administrative queries, the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs (the Department) may be able to assist.

Amendments to the Local Government Act 2009

Finally, The Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 (Bill) proposes fundamental changes to the law in relation to conflicts of interest. I understand that the Bill may be enacted shortly, however, I am unaware of its final form.

The proposed legislative changes, including the introduction of prescribed and declarable conflicts of interest, will represent a significant change in the way personal interest issues are assessed and managed.

Once enacted, your obligations in regard to identifying and managing personal interests under the amended provisions will essentially be matters of legal interpretation, and beyond the scope of my role.

I recommend that any councillors with concerns about the application of the new provisions seek legal advice, or advice from the Department. ●



+ THE INDEPENDENT ASSESSOR

Kathleen Florian / Queensland Government Independent Assessor

INTEGRITY ISSUES IN THE ELECTION LEAD-UP

With the 2020 local government elections in sight, integrity issues are likely to be at the forefront for anyone considering becoming, or continuing to be, a councillor.

While I know councillors are concerned about vexatious complaints and complaints that are not made in good faith, I always encourage councillors to focus on what you can control; being alert to the councillor conduct risks and taking proactive steps to ensure that you do not engage in inappropriate conduct or misconduct.

As previously reported by the OIA, the greatest misconduct risk faced by councillors is not properly disclosing and managing their conflicts of interest or material personal interests.

With new conflict of interest provisions poised to take effect, I strongly urge all councillors to tap into the training provided by the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs and to consider what other steps you as an individual or as a council can proactively take to be across the changes to conflict of interest and how they are likely to apply to your known personal interests.

I will also be continuing to share with councillors how the Councillor Conduct Tribunal is applying the standards so you can consider how those standards apply to your own circumstances. In nine months, 23 matters involving 11 councillors have been decided by the Tribunal (as at August 30, 2019).

These decisions are providing valuable insights into the application of the conduct provisions in practice.

Complaints and assessments

I am confident the OIA will continue to be able to assess about 80 per cent of all incoming complaints within 21 working days. This initial assessment phase is quite robust with more than 560 complaints being dismissed on assessment (as at August 30, 2019) with

correspondence sent to complainants and councillors addressing both the allegations and the reasons for dismissal.

Look out for the next OIA insight which will be published in October 2019 and which will include a focus on vexatious complaints and complaints that are not made in good faith.

OIA misconduct investigations – what to expect in the lead up to the elections

While I understand the imperative to complete investigations before the 2020 local government elections it is anticipated that there will be some ongoing delays in finalising investigations.

If a councillor is of the view that an allegation being investigated is correct, councillors do have the option to fast track a matter directly to the OIA legal stage. Expediting a matter in this way is also something that the Tribunal will take into account in determining what sanction may be appropriate.

As at August 30, 2019, the OIA had finalised 187 investigations and had a further 150 active investigations. We write to all complainants and subject councillors requesting that the fact that particular matters are being investigated by the OIA, is kept confidential, to allow us to properly investigate all the issues.

The number of OIA investigations currently exceeds the OIA's investigative capacity so investigations are being prioritised based on relevant factors including; potential continuing impact of the conduct, age of the matter, evidence preservation, public interest, seriousness, Crime and Corruption Commission oversight and whether the conduct may be systemic.

This is a dynamic process and matters may be quickly raised or lowered in priority as information is considered.

In the lead up to the election the OIA will also be taking into account the public interest considerations related to the election process, particularly if allegations are already in the public arena.

Based on resourcing levels, the OIA aims to finalise investigations within six months of commencement of the investigation.

OIA investigation referred to the OIA legal team

If at the end of an investigation I am reasonably satisfied that a councillor has engaged in misconduct, the OIA will provide the councillor with a section 150AA notice. Attached to this notice will be a statement of facts that sets out the allegations and the evidence.

The councillor then has an opportunity to respond to that notice and to say why they consider that a matter should not be referred to the CCT, and I will consider this response before deciding whether the matter should be referred to the CCT or not.

The complainant and councillor will be advised if the complaint is referred to the Councillor Conduct Tribunal.

As at August 30, 2019, there are 26 matters with the OIA legal team involving 26 councillors and 48 allegations where matters are being prepared for, or are engaged in, this natural justice process.

Matters are prioritised for referral to the CCT based on the length of time that they have been with the OIA legal team. ●



Robert Ferguson / LGAQ Lead – Public Health and Waste

QUEENSLAND INDIGENOUS WASTE STRATEGY – ‘APPRECIATING THE UNIQUENESS’

Indigenous councils are the same in many ways as their rural and urban counterparts as they are responsible for the day-to-day management of waste generated by the communities they serve.

All have the same end goal with a need to find ways to tackle the ever-increasing amount and diversity of waste streams and to operate efficient and effective waste management and resource recovery programs. They are however different in many ways too in the uniqueness of their challenges, having to take on board their size, scale, location, isolation and cultural differences. Whether the needs relate to bulk scrap metal and end-of-life car bodies or landfill management, these challenges are real and need sustainable waste solutions moving forward.

Fortunately, with some targeted advocacy from the LGAQ, the State Government listened to the 2017/18 LGAQ 10 Point State Election Plan and allocated funding to work in partnership to develop a Queensland Indigenous Waste Strategy specific to all indigenous councils across Queensland. This strategy does not replace the existing Queensland Waste Strategy released in July this year, but does acknowledge that Indigenous communities do need a suite of different approaches and support to manage their specific and unique challenges.

During August and September, Anne Prince from A.Prince Consulting (APC) and her team Allan Cunneen, Russell Couch and Tony Davies traveled the length and breadth of Queensland visiting all Indigenous councils. These site visits provided an opportunity for some great



conversations, gathering valuable insights and understanding of both challenges and the opportunities. The team is quantifying both the amount and type of waste being produced and seeing first-hand the different approaches to its day-to-day management. Whether it be by commercial or charter flights, helicopters or long drives, nothing has been too much for Anne and her team to get out to these communities.

“In our travels we have witnessed innovation with great local fit for purpose solutions, shared passionate encounters with community leaders and staff who do an amazing job often with extremely limited resources, discussed changes in waste profiles due to new and emerging waste

streams. We have talked about the challenges of managing external contractors, lack of economies of scale, freight costs, budgets, biosecurity issues and seen the significant legacy issues from decades of inaction in some places,” Anne said.

“However, there are many opportunities including the COEX refund scheme and the benefits of regional co-operation and contracting, available to some communities.

“Dumping and littering is evident in only a few communities with the majority exemplary in their overall presentation with gardens and public spaces well cared for and maintained to very high standards.”

The information gathered by APC will form

the basis of a situation analysis of where we are now and the development of the Queensland Indigenous Waste Strategy will document where we want to be and how we propose to transition. A commitment has been given that each community will approve their own situation analysis report to ensure the information collected and documented is a true reflection on the current state of play noting the specific challenges, opportunities and priorities for each community. Extensive consultation

will be undertaken with all councils and stakeholders in developing the draft strategy and its themes. The anticipated delivery of the situation analysis report is mid October and draft strategy by December this year.

Stage two of this process moving into 2020, will be the development of a number of regional plans that will focus on the specific needs, priorities and opportunities for these communities. There are many demonstrated existing benefits of councils working

strategically in partnerships and these will be further harnessed and expanded, where practicable, to benefit more councils and communities across the state.

This is the first time all councils have been reviewed at the same time and provides an excellent basis upon which to build fit for purpose local solutions aiming to create enhanced social, environmental and economic outcomes with new employment opportunities for these communities. 📍



COUNCILS COMBINE TO COMBAT WATER CRISIS

Families are the focus of an innovative response to the drought crisis facing the Southern and Western Downs local government areas, as well as Toowoomba, South Burnett and Goondiwindi.

On August 11, a comprehensive campaign was rolled out across TV, print radio, and social media - urging families to practice water wise habits.

The campaign unites Toowoomba, Southern Downs, Western Downs, Goondiwindi and South Burnett Regional Councils, plus the Queensland State Government, to create and fund the effort.

Southern Downs Mayor Councillor Tracy Dobie said the campaign message was simple.

"We are urging residents to embrace simple water-saving measures to support our community, as well as encouraging local businesses to manage water effectively," Cr Dobie said.

"It's fitting the television commercial was shot here in Stanthorpe, featuring local residents, as the storages that service the town are reaching a very low level.

"Bringing together the State Government and all five councils in our region to spread this vital message is unprecedented, and we thank all involved for backing this initiative."

While all five councils are facing water shortages of varying degrees - Goondiwindi last month moved to 'level two' restrictions and Toowoomba has nine towns on 'medium' and one (Vale View) on 'high' restrictions - Southern Downs, and Stanthorpe in particular, are facing the most acute shortages.

In March 2019, the council moved to 'extreme' restrictions and last month

approved instigating 'critical' level measures from 1 September, limiting households to 100 litres of water per person per day.

"Our council is daily updating its plans for the provision of water for Stanthorpe but in the meantime, I urge you to continue visiting the town and beautiful surrounding regions," Cr Dobie said.

"The support of visitors, particularly our fellow Queenslanders, is so vital during this tough time."

Toowoomba Regional Council Water and Waste Committee chair Cr Nancy Sommerfield said the region's councils will look for further ways to work together beyond the life of the campaign. 📍





SPOTLIGHT ON *Barcoo*

On the outer Barcoo where the churches are few,
And men of religion are scanty,
On a road never cross'd 'cept by folk who are lost,
One Michael Magee had a shanty.



You might remember Banjo Paterson's *A Bush Christening*, the story of Michael Magee's son; rollicking fun to read or listen to, it was once a staple of primary school English lessons.

The unnamed 10-year-old – who went into hiding when he overheard he was to be christened, thinking it was the same as being branded – wound up with the name of a visiting priest's flying bottle of Maginnis's Whisky... after it struck him on the head.

Funny place, then, the Barcoo: today it's Queensland's eighth largest local government area but it has the smallest population.

You'll find it in Far West Queensland, around 1000 kilometres west of Maryborough, deep in the heart of Channel Country and roughly midway between Charleville and Birdsville. Barcoo's south-western extremity is Haddon Corner, the right-angled part of Queensland's border with South Australia and the shire covers 61,974 square kilometres – for scale, mainland Tasmania is 64,519 – incorporating the townships of Jundah, Stonehenge and Windorah, all of which are accessible by sealed roads and have council-operated airports (with regular REX flights into Windorah).

Barcoo's population might be small in number but long-time Mayor Bruce Scott believes relying on a single figure alone distorts the



region's vibrancy and inherent strengths.

"We constantly hear the negative of communities dying and population decline, and I really believe it [the population figure] is the wrong indices to gauge the success or failure of a community," Cr Scott said.

"Our outputs have never been higher, our efficiency in agriculture and in the oil and

gas industry, deployment of technology and people embracing new industries.

"I see a bright future and think we're at a point now where Queensland and Australia broadly have to decide whether they want the inland."

Speaking in Barcoo Shire on a recent visit to some of the western councils, LGAQ President Mayor Mark Jamieson



Fast Facts

Population:
267 [2016 Census]

Area:
61,974 sq km

Local Jobs:
167

Named after:
Possibly a word for 'river' in the local Birriya and Kungkari languages

Mayor:
Bruce Scott

Council:
Cr Michael Pratt (Deputy Mayor);
Cr Jill Fitzgerald; Cr Peter Batt; Cr
Dianne Pidgeon

Our outputs have never been higher, our efficiency in agriculture and in the oil and gas industry, deployment of technology and people embracing new industries.

commended the resilience and determination of remote populations.

"In all the places we've visited, things like isolation, challenges around connectivity with modern communications, industry, consolidation and, obviously, drought create some big challenges for these communities," Cr Jamieson said.

"I'm certainly proud of the councils out here and the level of representation they provide for their communities, working with the LGAQ to lobby state and federal governments so that these areas get a fair go."

With its warm and dry autumn, winter and spring, tourism is becoming an increasingly important part of Barcoo's economy, sitting alongside resources and the region's long history as an agrarian powerhouse.

Councillor Scott, who was born in Quilpie and went to school in Charleville, has owned and run a cattle property outside Windorah for more than 30 years. He describes the current season as 'not too bad'.

"We got on the better end of Tropical Cyclone Trevor and the monsoon trough that hit the north [in March]; not all the shire got

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Mayor Bruce Scott chats with LGAQ's Tim Cox at the 2019 Bush Councils Convention in Roma



beneficial rain, but a big part got beneficial flooding. Sadly, the west of the shire missed out on rainfall, and south of us missed out a bit; but the north and north-west had a really good hit," Cr Scott said.

Jundah, Stonehenge and Windorah have hotel or hotel/motel accommodation available and visitors will also find ample recreational amenities – swimming, golf, fishing and more – on offer. And the entire Channel Country is

renowned for its fauna and flora, stunning Outback landscapes and jaw dropping sunsets.

Mayor Scott, who isn't standing in the March 2020 local government elections, believes Barcoo has a bright future, citing the region's economic contribution per head of population, which he describes as 'enormous'.

"These communities are not enclaves of welfare recipients; there's no unemployment and they're

quite successful," Cr Scott said, "but they still have undeveloped road sets, chronic disease is still an issue because of the machinations of our health service, we have to attract and retain police officers, schoolteachers, nurses and emergency services people," he said.

"This old adage of 'you choose to live there' just doesn't cut it with me because someone has to live there – to provide accommodation, fuel for motor vehicles that go through,

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Cooper Creek, Barcoo

maintain the roads and airports.

"And to do all that you need a town and to have a town you need law and order and emergency services, you need to have schools for those people's children to go to and they need to be cared for by health services... this old 'you choose to live there' is an ignorant view of the world and I get quite angry when I hear people talk like that."

In Banjo Paterson's day, Outback towns were serviced by itinerant Anglican churchmen known as the 'Bush Brotherhood', who could reportedly "preach like Apostles" and "ride like cowboys". One of Barcoo's churches still bears the name of the 'Fighting Parson', Frederick Hulton-Sams, a Cambridge-educated university boxing champion who would conclude his sermons with an offer to spar with any willing member of the congregation.

You're in luck if you're in Barcoo Shire today and need someone to preside over a religious ceremony: Jundah and Windorah's churches – Catholic and Anglican – are visited every couple of months, and at Easter and Christmas, by part-time priests from Longreach and Charleville and there are further provisions for weddings, funerals and, yes, bush christenings. 🇦🇺

Five

MINUTES

WITH

Bruce Scott
Mayor



What keeps Barcoo going?

Our economy has always been based on an agrarian economy. Through the early eighties we had a bit of natural gas and oil. And now tourism has become a big part of our economy. If you took away the inland, you would have no secondary industry. You'd have no commerce except for maybe our finance industry and things that sit around these commodities. I think we really need to decide if we want inland Australia – and we do need it – this has to be supported for all the right reasons.

How long do you live in Barcoo before they call you a local?

We've had the weirdest people turn up in our community and they are totally embraced, their difference is never a concern.

How can people be encouraged to live in Barcoo?

There's no tax-free growth in these small communities, and that's the conversation I've been having with the state government...with a modest amount of money you could increase that livability of a community, you can actually get people into home ownership, but you can also lift the standard of living.

You were 31 when you stood for election the first time – would you stand again now for the same reasons?

Once I entered the realms of local government, I thought this was the most wonderful thing to be involved in – about how you can make your community better, how you can make people's lives better – how you can grow the expectations, grow the possibilities.

You can actually achieve stuff. Your relationships are so important... always trade on good will.

What does the next step look like for you

I wouldn't like to step away from local government completely – it gets in your bones, the advancement of rural and remote communities is always front and centre. I really enjoyed my time in health. That was one of the best things I did. I'll probably try and seek a board appointment within one of the remote hospital health services. I see some of the philanthropic work that is done around the state, around the country as being really worthy work... I don't want to step away from doing stuff that helps communities.

This is an abridged version of an interview with Mayor Bruce Scott – to hear the full interview go to <https://soundcloud.com/lgaq> 🎧

Here's what's been happening at LGAQ.

Johnathan Thurston partners with QLD councils to provide innovative local youth programs

Mount Isa City and Balonne Shire Council were among the first regional Councils in Queensland to join forces with Australian rugby league legend Johnathan Thurston to deliver an innovative program to connect with local youth to help them build confidence, self-esteem and motivation.

Thurston, who retired from the game in 2018, launched the JTAcademy early the same year and has developed an interactive platform, which offers access to jobs, education, training and motivational advice for anyone who wants or needs it.

In early August, Thurston and the JTAcademy team were invited to deliver the JTSucceed program to hundreds of students and indigenous leaders to locals by Mount Isa City Council as part of its Isa Street Festival celebration of local youth.

The JTSucceed program addressed issues of cyber bullying with a straight forward approach to understanding what it is, what is not acceptable and even illegal, and how to keep themselves and those around them safe.

A few weeks later, Thurston and his team travelled to St George at the invitation of Balonne Shire Council to deliver their JTSucceed and JTBelieve programs to students and community leaders.

"Our programs have been designed to encourage kids to believe they can have a bright future, regardless of their circumstances today," Thurston said of his visits to Mount Isa and Balonne.

"We are able to reach a lot of kids through our own channels, but when councils are taking the initiative to encourage kids to believe in themselves, then together we are walking the path to change their lives and the impact they have on their local community.

"Investing in our youth and daring them to believe in themselves is something we are increasingly seeing local councils do and we are very excited to be a part of that process.

"It's also refreshing to see local government bodies, in regional and remote parts of Queensland, taking a community-led approach, and it's something we hope to continue as we see such benefits from these partnerships."

Mount Isa City Council Mayor Joyce McCulloch said council was "committed to maintaining a strong focus on youth and taking proactive steps to assist youth wherever possible".

"JT's messages really empower youth and give them such a confidence boost – they come away from the Academy with a real



sense that they can achieve anything they set their mind to and a better understanding of the importance of believing in yourself.

Balonne Shire Mayor Richard Marsh said Balonne Shire Council was proud to be a part of empowering the youth in south-west Queensland.

"I believe if we can help our younger community members change their lives and give them direction then our shire will be in good hands."

The JTAcademy program in Balonne was sponsored by Peak Services.

For more information, please visit www.jtacademy.com.au. ➡

MEMBERS' LOUNGE NEWS BAR

Recent visitors to the LG House Members' Lounge will have noticed a few changes lately. The furniture has all been moved around and there's a shiny new set of shelves against one wall. These shelves are the new home for the News Bar.

What is the News Bar? It's your go-to place for news and information and consists of five tablets loaded with Top Reads, and a display of regularly updated council annual reports and newsletters, and local government and industry journals.

Top Reads is a collection of articles – curated by the LGAQ librarian – sourced

from a range of local government and industry publications. These Top Reads offer the latest thinking and new insights on a wide range of subjects and issues that currently confront councils. As the articles are updated every six to eight weeks, there is quite an archive of Past Top Reads, which is also available for members to explore.

So, next time you visit the Members' Lounge, why not grab a tablet and get stuck into an article on AI, climate change, water management, smart cities, governance, and more? ➡

+ THANK YOU TO OUR AMBASSADORS

The LGAQ would like to say a big thank you to our two ambassadors and much-loved Queenslanders – Shane Webke and Heather Foord (pictured).

Over the years the LGAQ has been very fortunate to have both Heather and Shane as key ambassadors for the LGAQ and Queensland councils and they have travelled far and wide in their roles.

The ambassador program has now come to a close. ➡



A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY

The burden of high energy costs and the reliability of electricity supply are the priority issues we hear asset owners want addressed as part of their operational planning.

Peak Services works directly with local governments, state government departments and electricity generators providing asset-specific review of energy issues and solutions. This work is underpinned by taking a holistic approach to energy sustainability.

Improving overall operational efficiency can deliver immediate and significant energy savings, often without significant investment in new plant and equipment. This is initiated by conducting a detailed energy audit on selected assets to identify opportunities to save on electricity costs through reduced energy consumption, improved demand management and reduced reactive power (kVA).

Peak found some assets could save up to \$10,000 per annum by optimising HVAC (heating, venting and air-conditioning) operating parameters and up to \$8000 per annum through installation or optimisation of an effective building management system.

Embedded renewable energy generation has

also been identified as an option to offset future energy consumption needs. Unfortunately, there are many instances where asset owners have committed to a vendor-driven renewable energy solution, most commonly roof-top solar PV, only to find that the sizing has not been tailored to match the energy consumption profile.

Recently, Peak worked with a Queensland council to assess the feasibility of solar installation at 21 of its highest electricity consumption sites. Peak identified site specific structural and electrical upgrade requirements prior to a solar installation and specified a renewable energy solution for each site that would provide a combined total savings of approximately \$16 million over 20 years.

Tariffs are also an important component – every asset owner should ensure their retail and underlying network arrangements have the correct tariff applied based on consumption, demand and asset size classification.

We have seen savings of more than \$200,000 per annum realised on a single asset alone through changes to retail tariff structures. That is a significant saving when you consider that no capital investment is required.



Through this targeted approach, the sector has saved well in excess of \$5.5 million through tariff analysis and understanding the complexities of navigating the contestable energy market for large sites. In addition, we have assisted several councils to substantially abate their total greenhouse gas emissions cost effectively through landfill gas extraction and flaring operations since 2010 and then extending the flaring at those facilities to base load electricity generation of up to 5MW since 2015.

Contact the energy team (Mike Fideli or Michael Fullelove) at Peak Services for further information via email hello@wearepeak.com.au. ☎



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Positivity, good news stories and forward planning at Bush Councils 2019

The 2019 Bush Councils convention was held in Roma this August and the week-long event was a celebration of all that's great with rural Queensland. This year's event had it all and the mountain even came to Mohammed in the form of both the state and federal ministers for local government, along with the Deputy Leader of the Queensland Opposition and the State Shadow Minister for local government, plus two LNP Senators.

Positivity bounced off the walls of the Roma Cultural Centre with speaker after speaker telling good news stories. It was a tale of go, not woe. The bush is well and truly alive, and hope abounds.

A highlight of the three days was the myriad of council-to-council and peer-to-peer presentations.

The takeout message is, the bush needs a hand-up not a hand-out. On the policy and advocacy front, the key message was the



Balonne Shire Council Deputy Mayor Cr Fiona Gaske and Mayor Cr Richard Marsh at the 2019 Bush Councils Convention.



Delegates at the 2019 Bush Councils Convention

pressing need for two outcomes: Works for Queensland to be made permanent, and proper investment in a large water and sewerage infrastructure program to address the looming infrastructure cliff and improve water supply assurance and quality.

There is also a need for some fine-tuning of the Federal Government's Council Drought Relief program.

Mayor Rob Chandler best summed it up in a panel session on the last day when he said let's drop the buzz words and simply back the bush and trust communities to act in their own best interests.

Resilience wasn't even in the vocabulary when our forebears were battling flood, fire, pestilence and drought 200 years ago. 'Nuff said. 🍷

"We're proud to partner with Queensland communities"

- Kate Farrar, LGIAsuper CEO

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Lesley Dimmock / LGAQ Librarian and Records Officer

A LOOK BACK IN TIME – 1941

Prime Minister: Robert Menzies (to August 28) then Arthur Fadden (to October 7) then John Curtin

Premier: William Forgan Smith

Association President: James Douglas Annand
Rumblings of discontent see several councils resign their membership of the Association, but there is still a very high proportion (136) of the state's 144 councils taking up membership.

New rules – voted on at the previous year's Annual Conference – give the Executive Committee the power during any war to postpone or abandon the holding of any annual conference. Despite this, a motion to abandon the Conference for the duration of the war lapses for want of support

One motion that is carried calls for an investigation into the apparent availability of fuel supplies to Italians, which is permitting them to visit one another from various parts of the state.

The Association's Executive Committee comprises:

President: JD Annand (Toowoomba)

Vice Presidents: EH Campbell (Goondiwindi) and JC Minnis (Ipswich)

Hon Treasurer: Russell F Roberts (Brisbane)

Executive Committee:

J Allman (Warwick), WTF Atherton (Longreach), TJ Campbell (Kolan), JA Costello (Rosenthal), TG Gaydon (Isis), WH Kidd (Widgee), GJ Laycock (Bungil) and G Morgan (Murilla)

Around the state

- The Country-National Party is created through the merger of the United Australia Party and Country Party
- Eungella National Park is declared

Around the country

- Payroll tax and income tax payment by instalments are introduced, as is a nationwide child endowment scheme
- Prime Minister Arthur Fadden resigns just 40 days after gaining power, becoming the shortest-serving PM ever
- Norman Gregg demonstrates the link between maternal rubella and blindness in babies

- Eleanor Dark's *The Timeless Land* is published

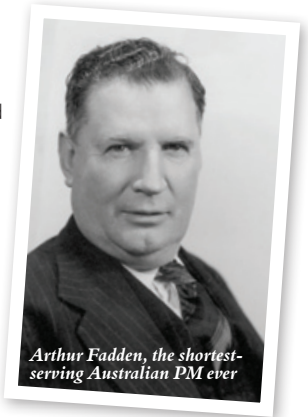
Around the world

- The world's first working programmable, fully automatic computer, the Z3, is presented in Berlin
- Breakfast cereal Cheerios is introduced
- Construction on the Pentagon building begins.

Famous births and deaths

Births: Helen Reddy, Joan Baez, Neil Diamond, Bob Dylan, Martha Stewart, Bernie Sanders and Art Garfunkel

Deaths: Banjo Paterson, Scouts founder Lord Baden-Powell, and writers James Joyce, Virginia Woolf and Rabindranath Tagore. 🕯



Arthur Fadden, the shortest-serving Australian PM ever



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PRODUCT NEWS +

+ ACCESS FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY



A new community park, Bibra Lake Regional Playground, Perth, has joined the Changing Places movement, installing Landmark Products' state-of-the-art disability

compliant public restroom.

Changing Places is a revolutionary international project that advocates for all-access public restrooms in major public spaces. These restrooms help transform the lives of people with high support needs, allowing them to visit public spaces for long periods of time.

All materials used in the construction of Landmark Products' Changing Places restrooms are chosen for durability and cost efficiency.

As with all Landmark products, the full Changing Places facility is delivered onsite in kit-form, ready to be quickly constructed with minimum onsite disruption. ➤

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Mitsubishi Triton is a tough ute made to get the hard jobs done. Built on a history of reliability, power, 4x4 performance, towing and cabin comfort, Triton thrives on conquering the harshest and most rugged terrains.

Now selected Triton Dual Cabs and Crew Cabs are available with the safety features you look for in a high end SUV.

GLX Dual and Crew cabs now offer frontal collision mitigation system with pedestrian detection, lane departure



warning, cruise control, daytime running lamps, reverse camera with audio, trailer stability assist, adjuster speed limiter plus a full suite of ABS features. All with Triton's legendary performance.

Contact Mitsubishi for more information. ➤



+ THE FUTURE'S AT YOUR FINGERTIPS ON THIS NEW GRADER

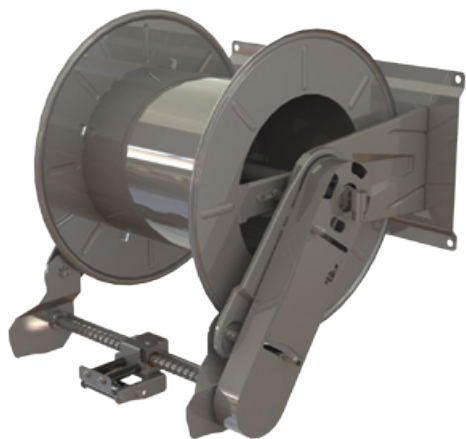
Komatsu has the GD655-7 grader, incorporating a number of technology innovations aimed at making it easier to use and more productive.

These technology innovations include updates to the transmission and control improvements that make it easier to operate, for reduced operator fatigue and increased safety.

In addition, the grader is factory-fitted to take any of the many 3D machine control system options available from leading third party suppliers.

The GD655-7 is powered by a Komatsu SAA6D107E-3 Tier 4 Final-compliant variable horsepower engine, rated at 134-165 kW and has an operating weight of 19.3 tonnes with rear ripper.

Contact Komatsu for more information. ➤



+ FAREWELL HOSE TANGLES, HELLO NEAT HOSE REELS

The new Level Wind Hose Guide automatically guides the hose, moving left to right so the hose lays flat across the entire hose reel. No more bunching up or overfilling on one side.

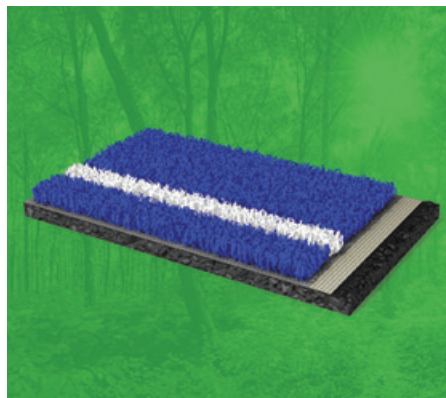
Powered by the rotation of the reel during retraction, the Level Wind Hose Guide evenly distributes the hose across the reel. It comes as a kit that can be retro-fitted to any Ramex Spring Retracting Hose Reel.

Contact Tecpro for more information. +

+ HELP SAVE THE PLANET

Since 1969, Polytan has specialised in synthetic sports surface facility construction and have extensive experience in elite sporting venues such as the Olympic Games, World Cup and Commonwealth Games. This will be the fifth Olympics where Polytan have installed a Poligras hockey surface. Poligras Tokyo GT is made from over 60 per cent regrowable raw materials, saves on CO2 emissions and has reduced water consumption. The turf's structure is also specifically adapted to a Bio Based PE formula enabling for dynamic and precise playability.

Contact Polytan for more information. +



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For those seeking a thermal imaging camera solution to identify heat spots, measure temperature, identify water leaks or damage, FLIR ONE Pro provides a cost-effective, compact and easy-to-use solution to identify problems quickly.

Suitable for almost all industries and applications, the FLIR ONE Pro converts a user's smart phone into a high-resolution thermography sensor and can measure temperatures up to 400 degrees Celsius, while providing powerful measurement and reporting tools.

Contact IPD for more information. +



+ YOUR IMAGINATION IS THE LIMIT

KOMPAN has increased its custom capabilities to also include wooden equipment with the launch of the exciting new Robinia Play Sculptures range.

The new play sculptures incorporate all of the play value and thoughtful elements that KOMPAN is so well known for, but in a completely unique structure that retains the natural aesthetic and winding form of Robinia wood.

Who's going to be the first customer in Australia to work with KOMPAN to design a Robinia kangaroo, wombat, echidna or platypus?

Contact KOMPAN for more information. +



+ DOING THE HEAVY LIFTING FOR YOU

Two products from Maxilift Australia's varied lifting solutions that you'll see regularly installed on council vehicles, are the Maxilift crane and the Tommy Gate lift gate.

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Tommy Gates are tow bar and spare wheel compatible and are a well-known solution for items that can be wheeled or trollyed but are too heavy to lift, from rubbish bins to animal crates.

Contact Maxilift for more information. +

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Paul Cranch / LGAQ Lead for Trade and Investment



ARE YOU MISSING ANY OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES AS A LEADER? 10 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Economic development is the process of building strong, adaptive economies. Strategies driven by local assets, a diverse industry base and a commitment to equality of opportunity and sustainable practices ensure a strong foundation for long-term stability and growth.

Even with these principles in place, what constitutes success in economic development and the specific strategies to accomplish it, will look different from place to place.

What *can* be identified as a consistent key indicator of success is leadership.

Dedicated leadership is needed to raise awareness, help develop and communicate a common vision, and motivate stakeholders into action. Although leadership can come from many places within the community, local elected officials are particularly well-positioned to take on this role. The political influence of elected leadership is critical to helping communities stay on the course toward a vibrant economic future. From the election platform to the design and coordination of public policies, mayors and council members have opportunities every day to effect change and promote a strategic vision of economic growth for their community.

Identifying fundamental ways elected officials can become informed and strategic decision-makers who can connect the policy “dots,” be effective communicators and take a leadership role in economic development is important. We have a guide on the LGonline website on this topic – based on the premise that elected officials can and should



actively participate in and lead long-term development strategies that make sense for their community.

The format of the guide is a ‘top 10 list’ of things elected officials should know about economic development in order to be effective leaders and the top 10 is elaborated in the document. In brief here are things that leaders need to know:

1. Your local economic strengths and weaknesses. A stronger understanding

of your community’s economic profile will help you create a realistic vision and strategies for economic development.

2. Your community’s place in the broader regional economy. With a firmer grasp of how your community fits into the broader region, you’re better prepared to work with other jurisdictions to share responsibility for regional economic success.

Dedicated leadership is needed to raise awareness, help develop and communicate a common vision, and motivate stakeholders into action.

3. Your community's economic development vision and goals. Local elected officials can play a key role in building consensus for a vision and goals that provide clear direction for local economic development.
4. Your community's strategy to attain its goals. A strategic approach means linking economic development goals to specific activities, allocating a budget and staff to these activities and evaluating performance based on measurable outcomes.
5. Connections between economic development and other regional policies. When crafting economic development policies, it is essential to consider how other regions policies (e.g., transportation or housing) affect your economic development goals.
6. Your regulatory environment. Your community's regulatory process should allow for timely, reliable and transparent resolution of issues facing businesses, while remaining true to your long-term economic development vision.
7. Your local economic development stakeholders and partners. Local officials should think strategically on a project-by-project basis about who needs to be involved, the resources they bring to the table, and what it will take to get them engaged.
8. The needs of your local business community. Local officials can help create an environment that supports the growth and expansion of local businesses, primarily by opening lines of communication.
9. Your community's economic development message. You will want a clear, accurate and compelling message that reflects your local vision and that helps ensure broad support for economic development projects undertaken by the region and its partners.
10. Your economic development staff. Local elected officials will be more effective in leading economic development activities to the extent that they forge strong relationships with staff members who work on these issues on a daily basis.

For further information, go to the Trade and Investment Portfolio page <https://www.lgaq.asn.au/group/guest/tradeand-investment-portfolio>, or contact Paul Cranch the lead for trade and investment at the LGAQ. +



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TECH TALKING

By Emma Crameri, LGAQ Web Content Officer



BIKE DESKS: READING WHILE YOU RIDE

Have you ever wanted to fit some exercise into your life while doing some work or reading?

Exercise bike desks might be the solution. These are specialised spin or exercise bikes with a table big enough to rest a book, magazine or a laptop. They can also be ridden on while using your mobile phone or listening to an audiobook.

The trend seems to have started in America. The brand FitDesks has been used in many colleges and universities, including Harvard University, Florida State University, the University of California in Los Angeles, and Mississippi State University.

Bike desks have hit Australian shores with Perth and Kwinana adding bikes to their libraries. Perth has bike desks in all six of their libraries. Perth's Mayor claims to have lost seven kilograms using them! These bikes are an ideal way to fit some cardio into our busy lives.

Kwinana's Mayor Carol Adams said that the spin bikes were a perfect way to encourage physical and mental wellbeing.

"These spin bike desks are easy to use and are a lot of fun," Mayor Adams said.

"More importantly, they're a great way for people who are time-poor, people who can't exercise outdoors or for those who have difficulty sitting still while reading," she said.

The council was planning on rolling them out to community centres and showcasing them at community-based events later this year.

Libraries seem to be an ideal location for the bike desks – they add a bit of a fun element while allowing the ability to exercise in the comfort of air-conditioning. The bikes are virtually silent and do not cause disruption to the other library users.



The bikes are also appearing in schools and riding is one way of keeping kids engaged while reading a book. American school kids have been using exercise bikes with successful results in the 'Read and Ride' program.

The bike desks have proven to be popular with Western Australian kids and adults, and the councils have received positive feedback from the community.

What a great idea to exercise your mind and body at the same time! 🚲

... they're a great way for people who are time-poor, people who can't exercise outdoors or for those who have difficulty sitting still while reading.

Let's get technical

This month we delve into cloud computing – the practice of using a network of remote servers hosted on the Internet to store, manage and process data rather than a local server or a personal computer.



The big names

Providing cloud computing services for companies and organisations across the globe is big business with the three leading providers being Amazon, Google and Microsoft. Amazon currently dominates roughly a third of the global cloud market (32 per cent) – and the income contributes more to its bottom line than sales on amazon.com. Microsoft currently services around 17 per cent of the market, followed by Google at eight per cent.



credit: Twitter @mitchellh

Streamlining cloud set-up

While studying at the University of Washington, 29-year-old Mitchell Hashimoto avoided having to rise early to sign up for classes by creating his own course registration software. He then went on to create Terraform – Hashimoto's flagship product that has become the standard for automating the more administrative side of cloud infrastructure. The software, whose competition includes Amazon's CloudFormation tool amongst others, can take cloud infrastructure set-up time from days down to minutes.



Where's my Facebook data?

Ever wondered where your Facebook data is stored? Facebook has data centres across the globe in the US, Ireland, Sweden and Denmark. In total the company has nearly 15 million square feet of data centre space either under construction or completed. With the introduction of 360-degree videos and photos, Facebook needs a lot of capacity – and if virtual reality content takes off, this video could be 5 to 20 times the size of today's full HD video.

App of the month



Google cloud training

You can become a Google Cloud expert through Google's online Google cloud training. You can choose individual courses such as security in the cloud or launching into machine learning, or you can choose role-based learning paths – such as business decision maker training

(for those who need to make high level decisions about which cloud technology to invest in) to a more specific path such as cloud infrastructure. Much of the training is free, with the certifications costing around \$200 upon the successful completion of an exam.

TECH TRIX

Fighting over photos?

Have you inherited some cherished photos and are fighting with your siblings over who gets to keep them? Don't bother. Digitise your photos and get them colour-corrected in the process at any of the photo digitisation services that have popped up around the country and then back them up on your own cloud storage. Compare prices at GoogleDrive, Onedrive, iCloud, Degoo and Idrive (and these are just a sample of the online cloud storage providers).

SAVVY COMMS

Tim Cox, LGAQ Communications Advisor



LGX RETURNS – WHAT’S THE STORY?

Last year’s inaugural local government comms event – LGx – was so popular with attendees that it’s not only returning in 2019, but has been moved to a standalone date and venue so it doesn’t overlap with our annual conference and AGM.



So, it has been a challenge to build on LGx 1, particularly given the depth and diversity of skills and talents already on show in councils’ communications teams – no matter their size.

With the 2020 local government elections fast approaching, Kathleen Florian (the Independent Assessor), Josephine Marsh (Director of Government Recordkeeping, State Archives) and the LGAQ will brief delegates on their obligations in the lead-up to March 28, and also take questions about the day-to-day responsibilities of delivering council comms.

In-demand communications strategist Mel Kettle will deliver a masterclass in how councils can better plan and use social media to supercharge community connection and engagement.

And how has the tiny team at the Council of Mayors (SEQ) built a comms strategy – from scratch and in a tight timeframe – to

strengthen a bid for the biggest show on earth: the Olympic Games in 2032? Advocacy and engagement manager Melissa Fitzgerald will explain how they did it and how they’re building on it.

LGx will also feature high-level modules on crisis and emergency comms management and response, podcasting and audio on demand, measuring social media engagement, an update from Twitter (with Google and Facebook also invited), 20-minute masterclasses and the return of the Awards for Excellence in Local Government Communications.

Whitsunday Regional Council’s communications and marketing manager Greg Martin was the first person to book for this year’s LGx event – after describing last year’s as ‘a ripper’.

“Previously it has been very difficult to find a conference specific to local government that justified the investment of time and

***Whitsunday
Regional Council’s
communications and
marketing manager
Greg Martin was the
first person to book for
this year’s LGx event
– after describing last
year’s as ‘a ripper’.***

money,” he said, “but what better outcome than a conference run by LGAQ for local government communication professionals and those wanting to better understand the workings of our world.

“If you want your Comms team to stay at the cutting edge of the fast-moving local government communications, marketing and engagement scene then, to quote Molly Meldrum, ‘do yourself a favour’ and sign up for LGx.”

This year’s event will be held at Brisbane’s Howard Smith Wharves, on Monday and Tuesday November 11-12.

For the full LGx program and to book: <https://www.lgaq.asn.au/lgx>. 📍

In the media

Showcasing where council happenings have featured in the mainstream press.



Brisbane Times – Why this South East Queensland council declared a climate emergency

Noosa Shire Council Mayor Tony Wellington penned an article for the Brisbane Times about his council's approach to climate change and carbon emissions. Mayor Wellington said local governments were stepping up to the plate.

"As the closest tier of government to the people, it's our responsibility to listen to the concerns of residents, and they are demanding a healthy and resilient future for their children and grandchildren ... We're just one of many councils across the country who are rising to the challenge of climate change," he said.



ABC news – Drought prompts water restrictions in Stanthorpe, with TV ads warning locals on usage

Stanthorpe Regional featured on ABC news for its approach to the drought that is affecting the community's water supply. Southern Downs Regional Council Mayor Tracy Dobie said it was the worst drought in the region's history.

"When you don't see rain for a couple of years, and that's what it's been, our last real rainfall in the region was March 2017," Councillor Dobie said

The story also featured the new advertising campaign encompassing people living in five council areas – Toowoomba, Southern Downs, Western Downs, South Burnett and Goondiwindi. The campaign was created to encourage people to adopt simple water-saving measures, such as turning off the tap while brushing teeth.



South Burnett Times – Council to lobby for more emergency services staff

South Burnett Regional Council will be calling for more Queensland Fire and Emergency Services staff.

This will be one of five motions the council will submit at the Local Government Association of Queensland annual conference in October.

Councillor Kathy Duff said the call for more emergency services was one of five resolutions the council would take to the conference.

"This is one of another four that we are taking to conference, ones about the waste, and ones about the constitution and recognition," Cr Duff said.

Social showcase

By Kate Talbot – Senior Media Officer, Rockhampton Regional Council



LET THE EXPERTS DO THE TALKING ON YOUR SOCIALS

In a world where local government social media content can be controlled to the point of being stifled completely, it's time to let those who know best do the talking.

I'm sure we will have all heard of occasions – or even worse, have it happen to us directly – where a single social media post has had to go through so many approvals and edits that the final content is bland, impersonal, and published about two days later than you wanted it to be.

It's easy to see why such processes can be set. No organisation or brand wants to find themselves in a situation where a social media faux pas has gone viral.

While this method of course has its benefits, at Rockhampton Regional Council we have a different approach. We let the experts do the talking.

That cute video post of something our baby chimp just did on the Rockhampton Zoo Facebook page? That's from a zookeeper. Those book recommendations on our Rockhampton Regional Libraries page? Written and posted by one of our librarians. A

Facebook live interview with an expert who's visiting Rockhampton's Smart Hub? You guessed it – filmed by one of their team.

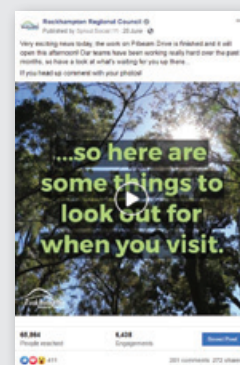
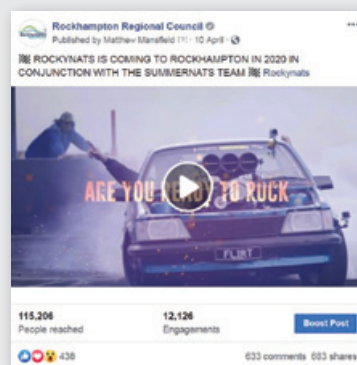
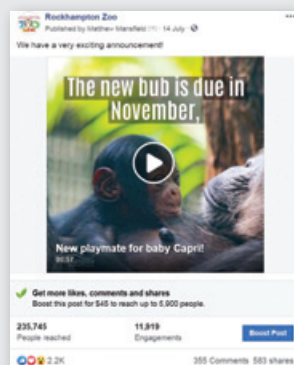
Our media team manages the main Council page and helps manage our overall social media presence. When it comes to our other pages we provide guidelines, support, and advice to different council departments but the content and decision making ultimately lies with them.

Their intimate subject knowledge means we can publish diverse and engaging content across our platforms. It means our residents can interact with the range of services our council provides in a meaningful and recognisably different way. We are seeing great results in our stats, but also in the job satisfaction of colleagues who enjoy the different development opportunity managing a social media page offers.

We have also found that people who contact us on socials and know they're talking to an

individual as opposed to 'council' are more positive and patient. One of the biggest shifts we have made in the last couple of years is having customer service officers, rather than a media officer, answer certain queries on Facebook. This has led to quicker response times and more accurate information for our residents, and removed an unnecessary layer of back and forth between departments.

As with anything there are risks involved. Maybe a live video will go wrong, there will be a spelling mistake in a post, or officers won't know how to best respond to negative feedback. But in our experience, with the right guidelines and support, these issues are easily fixed and the benefits vastly outweigh the odd mistake. Our officers thrive on sharing information about the job they are so passionate about, and our residents love learning about the different services we offer from the very people who deliver them. +



DATA IN FOCUS

Data Dude



LOSING GOOD PEOPLE – POPULATION CHANGES IN QUEENSLAND 2008 TO 2018

At a time when communities in regional Australia are doing it particularly tough, the Federal Government has initiated various inquiries expected to recommend ways to better support regional Australia. There are also promises of support in the 2015 Northern Australia White Paper.

The ABS' estimated resident population (ERP) series provide a basic indicator of decisions to move and take up work and other opportunities in a different region.

How has the number of people living in regional communities changed over the past 10 years?

ABS data (3235.0) shows that between 2008 and 2018, 29 of Queensland's 77 local government areas experienced a decline in their local population. Fifteen regional councils experienced a decline of 10 per cent or more – that's about one in five Queensland councils losing one in 10 locals.

In terms of actual people, regional Queensland saw a net movement of over 10,000 people out of the regions. This scale of movement becomes very evident in small communities, with fewer people buying local goods and services, and fewer children attending the local school.

It also means a reduced workforce for councils and a lower rates base, both of which fundamentally challenge local governments' capacity to deliver services for the people remaining in the community.

The regions need support to sustain their communities, and the national economy needs contributions from the regions. The quarterly series of national GDP growth has

been relatively flat over the past seven years and in the most recent data has dipped below 0.5 per cent growth for the first time since 2013 (ABS 5206.0 June 2019).

On 4 September the Productivity Commission released a draft report on Zone Tax Offsets suggesting, in some parts, that regions may not require special support.

This does not appear to be supported by the population data and fails to recognise the likely consequences on the capacity for regions to sustain and grow the contribution

they make to the national economy and export trade.

The LGAQ, on behalf of Queensland councils, will continue to advocate for improved access to services and infrastructure provided by local governments to be properly funded through a share of the Federal Government's 80 per cent of public revenue. This is essential to support the economy, wellbeing and viability of all communities, especially our regional communities. ➡



EVENTS +

WINTON – THE WALL OF HONOUR

The Hon. David Littleproud travelled out to Winton to visit the Walk Way of Honour and be thanked by Mayor Gavin Baskett, councillors and community for all the support given to Winton. Minister Littleproud and the Federal Government supported the community during the recent monsoon flood event. The community has raised concerns with the ageing population in Winton and we engaged in fruitful discussions with Minister Littleproud regarding the process and funding options to expand aged care facilities in Winton as well as many other local issues concerning the shire.





CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Roaring twenties was all the rage at council when staff dressed up to welcome the Tropical Art Deco Weekend ahead. There'll be a lot going on with visitors coming from far and wide to enjoy Cassowary Coast art deco hospitality, including deco-ists from Napier, NZ, Ingham, Townsville and Cairns.



CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL



A fantastic day at the 2019 Seniors Week Luncheon with a performance of 'Practically Perfect' – the music from Julie Andrews.



MT ISA CITY COUNCIL

His Excellency Paul de Jersey AC, the Governor of Queensland, and Mrs Kaye de Jersey conducted a special storytime for young library patrons, accompanied by Mayor Joyce McCulloch at the Mt Isa City Library.



+ Sector events 2019

OCTOBER

Annual Conference

October 14-16

Cairns Convention Centre

NOVEMBER

LGx Communications Conference

November 11-12

Brisbane



TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Minister for Sport, the Honourable Mick de Brenni announced that the North Queensland Stadium will be the venue to host the 2020 North Queensland Games opening ceremony.

The 2020 NQ Games is the largest run multi-sport event in regional Australia and will play host to over 3,600 athletes from 30+ sports.

The 2020 NQ Games will be hosted in Townsville by the Townsville City Council from 10-13 April.



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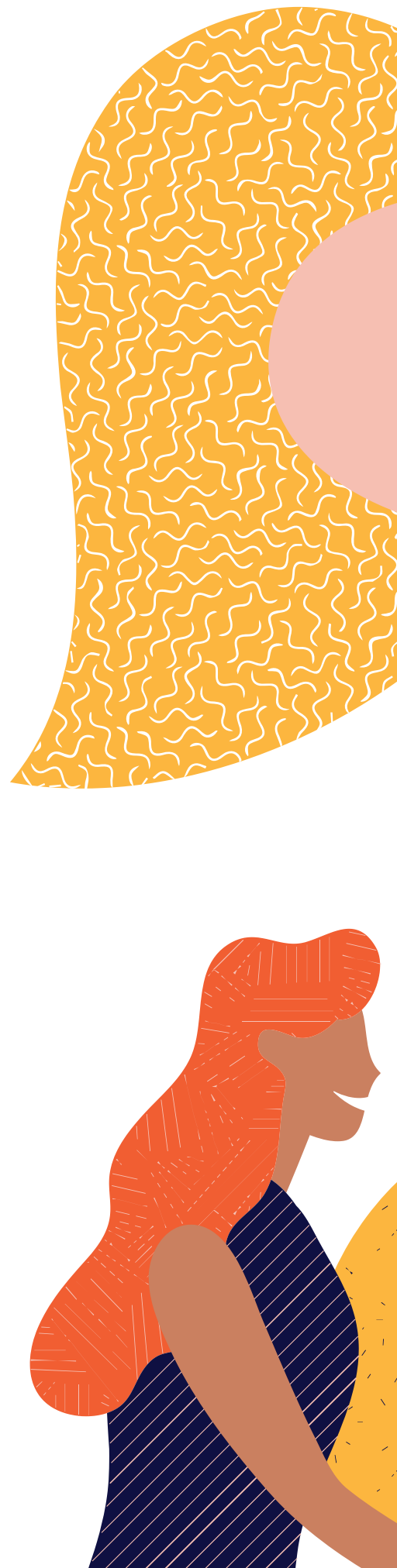
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SUPPLIERS OF



TAKING IT TO *the streets* THIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

We reveal what you can expect at LGAQ's 2019
Annual Conference.





Where: Cairns Convention Centre

Dates: 14 – 16 October 2019

Where to Register: lgaq.asn.au



This year's conference theme "Taking it to the Streets" says it all. While for some, it conjures up memories of the Doobie Brothers hit song of the mid 1970s, it is also reflective of a common denominator in local government. In one way or another, much of what we do is linked

to a street or road, sealed or otherwise. It also demonstrates the importance of taking our message to our communities – reinforcing the importance of their council to community liveability and prosperity.

This year's conference is our last before

the 2020 local government elections – and as always, it is a great way to learn new information and skills and celebrate all that's good about Queensland councils.

Here's what you can expect at this year's conference:



Reaching your community

Our keynote speaker, Professor Bela Stantic, the "Nostradamus of the 21st Century", is one of the most sought-after speakers in the world today. Professor Stantic will be showing us a new way to tap community sentiment. [Image: Twitter @Bela_stantic]

The streetscape of the future

CEO of the Australian Road Research Board Michael Caltabiano will give us a picture of what the streets and roads of the future may look like.

Life, post-Belcarra

You'll hear from a panel including the Electoral Commissioner Pat Vidgen, the Queensland Integrity Commissioner Dr Nikola Stepanov and Independent Assessor Kathleen Florian on what we can expect after the full implementation of Belcarra reform.



A host of tailored workshops

Q Sport workshop

This year's QSport/LGAQ Forum will focus on how sporting bodies at State and local level can collaborate with local governments.

LG Sherlock living lab workshop

Join the LG Sherlock team for this informal session to learn how your council can leverage technology and data science trends

Trade and Investment Queensland workshop

The LGAQ is partnering with Trade & Investment Queensland (TIQ) to deliver this trade and investment session.

For the first time ever, TIQ's entire overseas network of commissioners will attend this forum at the LGAQ Annual Conference.

Plastic free waterways and beaches workshop

It is predicted that there will be more plastic than fish in the oceans by 2050. In this highly interactive workshop, Jeremy Brown (Ocean Protect Director) and Brad Dalrymple (Ocean Protect Environmental Engineer) will present and facilitate discussion around community awareness and understanding about the issue, key contributing factors, and potential solutions.



The LGAQ journalism award

Now in its eighth year of inception the LGAQ Regional Journalism Award is dedicated to showcasing excellence in reporting in regional Queensland. The awards honour the memory of ABC journalists John Bean, Paul Lockyer and Gary Ticehurst.

Professional development streams

This year you can choose professional development training in the following areas:

Change Management

– plan, initiate and present organisational change

Effective decision making

– Explore decision-making processes and capabilities

Financial reports and budgets

– explore the way in which local governments are required to plan for the future. (Attendees must register with Peak training prior to arriving at conference.)



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Annual state conference

Make a note to visit these exhibitors at the annual state conference to see how they can improve your local council region.

FREE GRANT MANAGEMENT GUIDE AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL COUNCILS

A free resource to help councils develop and manage their community grants programs will be launched at the Local Government Association of Queensland annual conference in Cairns in October.

Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority's (QRIDA) Grant program management guide for Queensland local government has been developed to help Queensland councils run their grants programs to better practice principles and processes.

This guide has been developed drawing on QRIDA's long experience in designing and delivering financial assistance programs, as well as key learnings from a no-cost grant program review service QRIDA has been delivering to Queensland councils since 2017.

Local government community grants programs provide valuable support to projects across Queensland performed by non-profit community organisations.

This funding supports opportunities for residents to access and participate in a wide range of recreational, cultural, environmental, community and economic development projects and activities.

QRIDA business development and policy senior manager Rod Hallam said the guide is aimed at providing practical and useable information to help councils, often working with limited resources, deliver effective and



QRIDA staff Sarah Wirth (left) and Annette Laubreaux (right) with Maranoa Regional Council regional grants and council events development coordinator Sue Sands (centre)

efficient grant programs.

"Community grants programs are important to local communities as they support activities which strengthen, build capacity and enrich the community," Mr Hallam said.

"Through our work with councils, QRIDA has come to understand the challenges faced by smaller regional councils trying to deliver effective programs with limited resources, time and frequent staff turnover.

"This guide will assist these councils build

sound and contemporary grant management practices through all stages of the grant program lifecycle. It will also assist in ensuring grant programs are delivered to robust governance, performance and accountability standards.

Visit the QRIDA stand at the conference from October 14-16 to chat to the Business and Policy Development team and pick up your free copy of the guide.

Contact QRIDA for more information. +

Thirst for action

The Australian Water Association has announced the theme for its annual conference Ozwater'20, which is Thirst for Action. The call for papers, panels and workshops is open until Friday, September 27, and there are 11 sub-themes that local government professionals can submit an abstract or video pitch for.

These include achieving sustainable and thriving communities; governance challenges and solutions; engaging and working with customers; rural, remote and regional water; diversity, inclusion and equity; industry safety and wellbeing; public health; resilience and water security; and achieving a circular economy.

If you or your local council is working



on a project that could contribute to the conference, or even if you're not working directly in the water industry, the

Association would love to learn from your challenges and experiences.

Contact Ozwater for more information. +

PREVENTION IS THE CURE

Danger Sun Overhead (DSO) was founded when Joanne Crotty lost her husband, Rohan Crotty, to melanoma in July 2009 at the age of 43, leaving her to raise their four boys under the age of five.

Rohan, a plasterer/carpenter by trade, was always exposed to the hazards of UV exposure in the workplace. After his first diagnosis of melanoma in 2006, Rohan recognised that sun exposure in the construction industries was not being addressed. He started campaigning and helped the University of Queensland with their research into skin cancers on several construction sites.

As the research came to an end, Rohan's health was declining from his melanoma cancer, so did his campaign for the awareness of sun exposure in the construction industry. After Rohan's passing, Jo wanted to share her story because most melanomas can be prevented through behavioural change and early detection, if people had access to education and awareness about skin cancer, and so Danger Sun Overhead was born.

Since the formation of DSO in 2009, the Sun Safety initiative has provided education to almost 47,000 workshop attendees in workplaces across Qld, NSW, Vic, ACT and NT.



DSO's objectives are to educate in a manner that encourages sustainable behavioural change towards prevention and reduce the impact of melanoma and all other skin cancers on all Australians. They do this through awareness/education, prevention, and early detection and support of melanoma and other skin cancers in high-risk outdoor industries across Australia.

DSO's workshop encompasses topics such as the dangers of Ultraviolet Radiation (UVR), understand WHS guidelines for the workplace and practical information to apply while working in or exposed to UVR, understand UVR levels and reflections of UVR, influence behavioural change using prevention measures, and how UV exposure

can affect heat stress and risks of developing skin cancers. This is just an example of the topics covered that go further than the 'slip, slop, slap' we all know.

Lismore City Council safety officer David Bryant said, "Just want to pass on my greatest appreciation for your efforts to come to Lismore to present your wonderful and to the point presentation. Your style and approach to present such a personal message at the start really set the tone. You can really talk the talk and the way you bounced off some of the tougher questions and comments was great to witness. As I said to you earlier, you come highly recommended and I can now see why".

Contact Danger Sun Overhead for more information. ☎

THE INNOVATIVE INSURANCE SOLUTION

The LGMS schemes unashamedly focus on risk. Not just how to arrange insurance cover but how to assist councils to manage their risk. Why? The list of reasons is significant, but here are three.

1. It reduces the likelihood and severity of claims. Whether that's less council vehicles damaged, fewer members of the public tripping on council footpaths or an injury to a council employee avoided, that's good news.
2. It mitigates against an increase in insurance cost for future years. Insurers are far more comfortable pricing their covers when they can see a dedication to the management of the risk and have an understanding of the exposure. The more information the better the price.
3. The member councils own the LGMS schemes and sustainable insurance cost has a direct impact on the councils' bottom line.

This year has seen a number of new initiatives commence that focus on the risk management needs of members.

New cyber cover for all LGM Liability members at no additional cost. Cyber risk is one of the biggest escalating global risks of the past few years and local government is not immune from this increased exposure. The liability cover has also been enhanced to extend to risks associated in airport operations.



A number of LGW Workcare members will soon commence trialling Skytrust, a risk management system. The web-based system enables all risks, and particularly WHS risks, to be logged and managed.

And in the LGM Assets space, CATography software will enable comprehensive catastrophe modelling to be undertaken on a scheme-wide basis. The results will be used to inform renewal negotiations with supporting insurers and also assist members to better understand, engage with, and ultimately respond to their risk profile.

JLT Public Sector (now part of Marsh & McLennan Companies) is the appointed scheme manager for the LGMS self-insurance schemes and also manages similar schemes in other states. JLT is proud to be associated with the schemes and provide direct support to member councils with their insurance and risk management needs. ☎

GOVERNANCE COMPLIANCE – ARE YOU READY FOR THE UNEXPECTED?

Each day rolls into another and before you know it, another week has passed. Everything seems to be running smoothly and then one little spanner in the works and an illusory storm hits. Is your organisation equipped to cope?

Protecting your information, maintaining consistency in delivery and compliance with regulations are key to ensuring governance compliance. With the impending local government elections, now is an opportune time for councils to be reviewing the effectiveness of their governance model to establish compliance levels and ensure they are meeting their strategic targets and delivering optimum performance. The Dept of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs have compiled checklists to assist local governments to ensure they are complying with the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

This checklist is very useful to staff in reviewing compliance, but it is not an exhaustive list of council's compliance obligations as it only covers the LG Act and Regs. As we all know, councils are bound by a range of legislated responsibilities other than our local government legislation. In addition, a checklist can only provide a quantitative analysis, so if council wants to confirm how well they are delivering on their obligations, a qualitative assessment by an experienced professional is required.

With a comprehensive knowledge of local



government processes and legislation, our team of governance specialists within MPG are well placed to provide expertise and advice.

An MPG governance compliance review will produce quantitative and qualitative assessments of all key areas, including, corporate and operational planning, budgeting, statutory policies and requirements, council website, registers, annual reporting, ethics, administrative action complaints, meeting procedures (minutes and resolutions), decision making, separation of roles, community engagement, organisational structure, management capacity, delegations, disaster management, organisational risk management, internal audit and resource

sharing and relationships with other agencies.

The review will provide council and management with a clear picture of the current situation as well as an action plan to address any identified deficiencies. Through this process, council, management and the community have a clear picture of how well the organisation is meeting its obligations from an objective third party assessment.

The benefit and value of this for council is that being able to demonstrate the facts, will hopefully reduce the level of uninformed comment and criticism leading into next year's election.

Contact Mead Perry Group for more information. +





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BRINGING COOL TO SCHOOL

Big Ass Fans provide schools with industry-leading airflow solutions to improve occupant comfort and productivity. More than 1200 schools across Australia are already benefiting from powerful and cooling air movement from Big Ass Fans.

Comfortable students are happy students, but the high occupant densities of many classrooms often leave them sweltering and frustrated – hardly an optional mood for soaking in knowledge.

Big Ass fans make students and teachers feel up to 6°C cooler with silent airflow, transforming spaces into pleasant, quiet areas conducive to learning. Comfortable students take fewer breaks, fidget less, and are less easily agitated and distracted.

Leaders in education often walk the budgetary tightrope, and the intense summer heat makes it difficult and expensive to keep schools comfortable. By pairing Big Ass fans with A/C systems, schools can save up to 30 per cent on cooling costs. Big Ass Fans' principal engineer Christian Taber explains, "Running Big Ass fans in conjunction with A/C helps to lower energy bills. In summer,



fans create a cooling breeze that allows administration to raise thermostat setpoints without sacrificing student and staff comfort.”

During the colder months, large classrooms and shared spaces such as auditoriums, gyms, and libraries often leave students shivering when this heated air rises to the high ceiling, where it benefits no one. Big Ass fans gently mix warmer air back down to where it's needed, cutting down heaters' run time and resulting in massive heating savings.

Big Ass fans also add to a school's visual aesthetic in a way that no other fans can. Big Ass commercial fans use quiet but powerful direct-drive motors and offer a variety of control options for greater appeal and convenience.

Durable without being bulky, Big Ass fans can be customised to reflect school colours (or to include a “No Ass” logo option) and can be mounted to nearly any surface or structure.

Contact Big Ass Fans for more information.

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ON YOUR BIKE TO CREATE HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Cycling is one of the most popular cardiovascular exercises in the world. It's great for losing weight and building muscle, it minimises impact on joints and is safe and simple – everyone knows how to ride a bike. However, the cost of a bike and navigating through busy city traffic can be a major deterrent for people wanting to use a bike to get fit and healthy. From fitness fanatics to first timers, the revolutionary new Kompan Fitness Bike combines advanced technology and the features of an indoor exercise bike to be suitable for all users.

With a durable outdoor design, the award-winning Kompan Fitness Bike is ideal for unsupervised public spaces and parks, as well as outdoor sports areas such as gyms, leisure centres and sports clubs. In what is a world-first for outdoor stationary bike riding, the bike features an optional LCD Colour Touchscreen showing users real-time data of distance travelled, cadence, watts, calories burned and allows the user to manually adjust the resistance. With an international impact protection rating of IK 8, the touch



screen is a step under bullet proof (IK9) making it vandalism-proof and appropriate for any outdoor setting.

For bikes without a touch screen, users can connect via Bluetooth to the Kompan Cardio App, which offers the same functionality as the screen and also allows users to track and save their rides, race friends, view instructional and motivational videos and share their ride to external platforms such as Strava, Apple Health and Google Fit. An innovative self-

powered electrical motor and an automatic drive adapts resistance according to pedalling speed and cadence, for users who are in poor shape or new to cycling the bike will provide optimal resistance and workload.

An outdoor spin class, along a boardwalk or placed next to a playground so parents can workout while their kids play, these bikes are perfect for any environment. Want to test ride? Head to the Urban Play stand at the LGAQ Conference. ➤

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With 25 years experience, the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) is an expert in grant program design and delivery. So if you'd like to find out how your program is performing, we can help with a no-cost grant program review.

QRIDA's new **Community Grant Program Management Guide for Queensland Local Government** will be available at the **2019 LGAQ Conference** so make sure you stop by QRIDA's trade stand at the conference to collect your free copy of the guide and find out how QRIDA can help your council with a no cost grant program review.

For more information or to book your free grant program review Freecall 1800 623 946 or visit www.qrida.qld.gov.au

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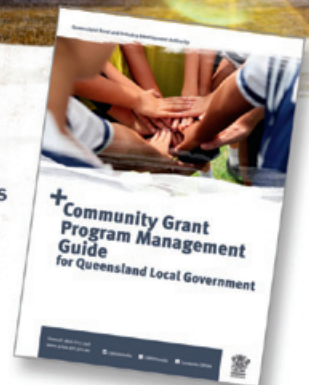
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HOME-GROWN SMARTS PUTTING QUEENSLAND COUNCILS IN FRONT

At a time when operating costs and technological enablement are central issues for both businesses and residential households, councils are looking for community-wide solutions.

That's where Yurika comes in. The Queensland grown-and-owned energy innovator works with councils, agribusiness, private operators and government to spot the opportunities within their energy and telecommunications challenges. Yurika is part of the Energy Queensland group, which also includes Metering Dynamics and Nexium Telecommunications. Together, these brands have forged a remarkable track record in helping companies and councils across Australia save money and get the innovation edge.

A pioneer of the Queensland Electric Vehicle Superhighway, Yurika is opening up the Sunshine State to EVs, and showcasing the incredible diversity, beauty and opportunities in regional Queensland to a new generation of motorists.

Yurika is also delivering innovative microgrid solutions in remote communities, operates Australia's biggest virtual power plant, and is delivering Queensland's first community-scale battery. It's the name and team behind Smart Connected Solar putting businesses in charge of their energy futures, and with innovation incubation partner EnergyLab, it's hatching the next wave of brilliant energy thinking.

Nexium is well known to Queensland councils, businesses and industry. It tailors and delivers world-class telecommunication infrastructure that supports not only the resilience and economic competitiveness of regional communities, but also brighter educational, health, trade and social outcomes.

Meanwhile, Metering Dynamics is one of Australia's largest metering businesses delivering a range of services to the National Electricity Market, a range of multi-utility metering, information and energy measurement solutions to maximise energy efficiency, reduce costs and assist with compliance reporting. Metering Dynamics develops and manages infrastructure that collects, warehouses and distributes energy/utilities information for market participants and operators, retailers, networks and customers.

Yurika provides the energy innovation edge that councils need, Nexium brings the data capability heft, and Metering Dynamics offers unmatched expertise in metering solutions to minimise costs and leverage value. Catch up with all three at the LGAQ conference.

Contact Yurika for more information. [+](#)



Councils around Australia invest in IOT solutions for water and environmental monitoring

Collecting data and information across a range of applications has never been so cost effective.

With a Low Power Wide Area Network (LPWAN) to provide communication via telemetry devices on a range of sensors and devices, councils and utilities can now monitor their assets and environment with ease.

The Internet of Things (IoT) fits particularly well into water and environmental monitoring as sensors are often required to stay in the field for extended periods of time and send small amounts of data over long distances for example water meters, rain gauges, level sensors etc.

More than 35 councils and utilities have deployed Taggle Systems LPWAN and sensors to gather information and valuable insights to solve problems, make smart decisions and highlight changes in the environment or to equipment.

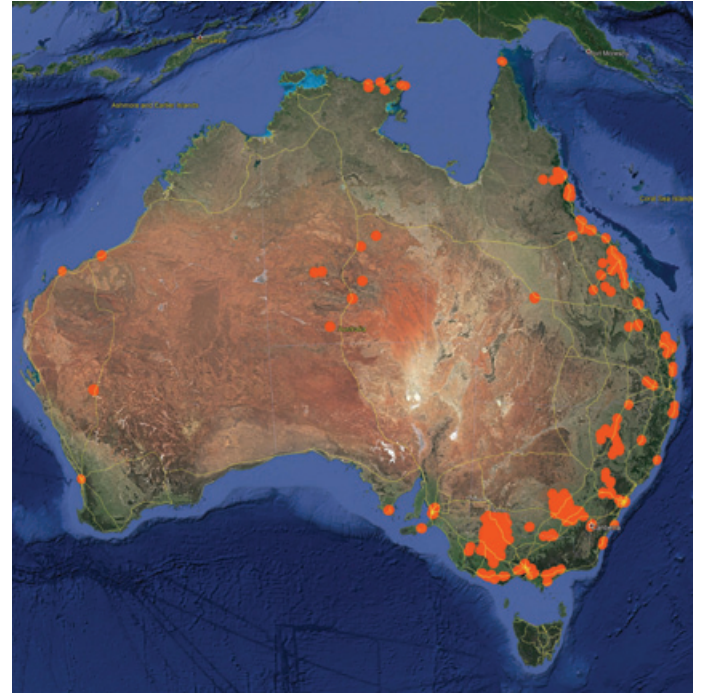
Mackay Regional Council, Townsville City Council, Narrabri Shire Council, SA Water and Wide Bay Water are leading the way in pushing sensor technology with Taggle.

Mackay is investigating the effects of rainfall on the wastewater network to prevent overflow events, which affect customers and put the environment at risk. Mackay was also the first to install Taggle's smart water meters on every residential, commercial and council building, which contributed to a significant reduction in the community's water consumption. This helped the council defer the need for a new water treatment plant by 10-15 years.

Townsville is installing telemetry devices to gather data on water pressure in pipes, stream levels, storm-water nets, pumps, rainfall, sewer network levels, smart water meters and more, all to improve processes and gather information for better decision making.

Narrabri is currently tackling the issue of non-revenue water with smart water meters to improve water monitoring and identifying leaks.

SA Water is trialing odour and gas monitoring in sewer networks along with weather stations to learn the effects of flushing the network and how



it may impact customers. SA Water is also trialing a range of sensors in the CBD to identify leaks and breaks early and help prevent mains bursts.

Wide Bay Water is monitoring the salinity levels in the sewer network near the coastline to investigate the impact of tidal inflow.

IoT solutions are now at a point where large numbers of sensors can be easily deployed, even in difficult environments at extremely reasonable costs.

Contact Taggle Systems for more information. +

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Bulloo's digital dynamos

Tech-savvy Thargomindah resident, 74-year-old Joan Beavis, can now chat to her grandchildren on social media and send emojis like a millennial thanks to Bulloo Shire Library.

Along with 78 other seniors, the country gal participated in the Tech Savvy Seniors program, which helps the older generation with digital training.

Tech Savvy Seniors, a partnership between State Library of Queensland, the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors and Telstra, has not only helped reinvigorate the western Queensland community but has opened doors for Joan.

She now volunteers at the local op shop, linked up with Telehealth services and talks to family using social media apps.

"It's opened new channels of communication for me," she said.

"We did some funny things on photos using Snapchat like putting bunny ears on people and I sent photos to my daughter via Instagram.

"It has changed my life and now if I have to do something online, I can do it, I get there."

Tech-savvy program participants also shared stories and helped preserve the town's digital footprint with the Bulloo Visitor Information Centre by creating short documentaries and holograms for tourists in the historic hydroelectric power plant, old hospital and jail.

Mayor of Bulloo Shire Council John (Tractor) Ferguson said the library is a space for entertainment, discovery and imagination with the program being a catalyst to help seniors spread their wings.

"The Tech Savvy Seniors program helped



seniors understand the importance of communicating online with a lack of face-to-face services in regional and remote towns," he said.

"Seniors now have face-to-face contact with old friends and family with the use of social media and video calls helping them become more engaged with their grandchildren.

"It gave seniors the confidence to be involved in setting up and running our new op shop with the use of a cash register, pricing and stock."

These kinds of community connections are established in all 320 libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres (IKCs) each day throughout regional Queensland.

The Tech Savvy Seniors program is aligned with Realising Our Potential: A vision for Queensland public libraries, a vibrant

We did some funny things on photos using Snapchat like putting bunny ears on people and I sent photos to my daughter via Instagram.

contributor to the community that delivers services in response to local needs.

Contact the State Library of Queensland for more information. 



Call us on (07) 4615 4902 or visit our website to discuss ways in which we may be able to assist you.

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 - ✓ We are committed to the advancement and best practice in Local Government Organisations.
 - ✓ We deliver outcomes that meet your needs and support your delivery of effective governance and operational performance to your Council and your community.



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About Yurika

We are focused on creating solutions that meet your individual needs and help you save money. We specialise in:

- Telco and internet
- Multi-utility metering
- Microgrids
- Energy strategy, equipment supply, maintenance, ownership and operations including financed solutions

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CITY, PLANNING *parks & recreation* AND MAINTENANCE

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NEW SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM LAUNCHED AT LAKE AWOONGA

Lake Awoonga is part of the water distribution network owned and operated by the Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) that supplies potable water to the Gladstone region in Central Queensland. The sewage treatment plant at the lake services the Caravan Park, recreational facilities and nearby homes.

When the existing system started to fail after 35 years, GAWB undertook an extensive tender process to replace the infrastructure and secure long-term compliance. After investigating many options, they chose True Water Australia to design, manufacture and install the new treatment system.

The successful collaboration between True Water Australia, Kubota and GAWB resulted in the installation of state-of-the-art biological sewage infrastructure. Compared to other treatment options, this system delivers a highly robust treatment process and low operating costs. The Kubota plant maximises operational security while delivering economic viability.

True Water managing director Jim Mahoney said credits the success of the development to the professional relationship between the project's key stakeholders.

"The care taken throughout the design and delivery process sees GAWB operating infrastructure that will provide decades of secure operation," Mahoney said.



"We have a lot of pride in the project and our team's ability to bring so many contractors and disciplines together. Working with Kubota and GAWB definitely made achieving a high-quality outcome much easier. Even when a challenge arose, the focus was on the solution."

GAWB CEO Darren Barlow agrees, stating that the entire process was professional.

"With due diligence and after a careful selection process, we appointed the project to True Water Australia. Their partnership as the Australian distributor for Kubota products, combined with their team's knowledge and expertise in delivering sustainable and effective installations meant they were the right fit for our project," Barlow said.

The new Kubota plant at Lake Awoonga is now operational and producing excellent water quality results. As part of True Water's ongoing commitment, the Works & Services group conducts ongoing maintenance and operation training with GAWB staff.

An official opening of the site was attended by industry professionals, local government, consultants, engineers, project stakeholders and Kubota representatives from Japan. Attendees enjoyed morning tea and networking conducted right beside the operating sewage treatment plant. As a tour wound around the site, with people enjoying sandwiches and coffee, it was clear the aim to have absolutely no odour or noise had been achieved.

Contact True Water to discuss your sewage treatment requirements. [➔](#)

BEST PRACTICE FOR PUBLIC BARBECUE MAINTENANCE

Christie public barbecues are designed for continuous use of more than 12 hours each day, sometimes running more than 7000 cooking cycles per year. And with summer just around the corner, now is the time to ensure your community facilities are ready for the rigours of peak use.

Regular servicing by a qualified trades person is crucial for continued public safety and optimum product performance.

- All wiring must be checked regularly by a qualified trades person.
- Use a surface probe to ensure that recommended hotplate temperatures are still achieved.
- Defective barbecues must be quarantined until repairs can be carried out.
- Only genuine Christie parts should be used to service your Christie barbecue.

Increased cleaning schedules during peak usage periods mitigates against risk and helps to provide a satisfactory user experience.

- Use only PH-neutral cleaning compounds



to clean your barbecues. Caustic (alkaline or acid) materials leave a poisonous residue on the cooking surface and will degrade sensitive electronic components over time.

- Drip trays should be checked and emptied regularly and with increased frequency during peak usage periods.

Properly maintained, Christie community barbecues provide many years of reliable, efficient operation and create memorable experiences for users.

Contact Christie for more information. ➔

A brand-new water attraction or upgrade for your council

Splashtacular designs, engineers, manufactures and installs water features, aquatic play units and waterslides, whether that means starting new or retrofitting a feature to match existing ones. Either way, rely on Splashtacular to deliver a waterpark experience destined for unforgettable memories and community building.

Whether you have a new site or revamping out-dated play units or features, Splashtacular turns them into thriving waterparks for your community. And they do that with innovative and fun designs, industry-leading quality components and durable finishes.

Fully manufactured in Australia and the USA, all components used are high quality and sourced from USA or Australian steel. Splashtacular's aim is to provide a high-quality, market-leading product built to last.

Splashtacular's play units and spray features take interactive play to another level. Indoor or out, seasonal or year-round, Splashtacular pushes the boundaries of imagination to create solutions that make your facility unique.



With 188 colours to choose from, translucent effects and light and sound, you have the widest range of options on the market to create the perfect theme. Custom light and sound packages can be added to any new or existing waterslide design.

With more than 20 years of experience, they're the industry's veterans, designing waterslides and features for parks around the world.

From a few simple features to interactive and exciting play units to large waterslides, Splashtacular is your one stop shop for all your aquatic play requirements. They can supply only or do a complete supply and installation to suit your requirements.

Contact Splashtacular for more information. ➔

A better brand of outdoor showers

Rainware's commercial and resort showers are built tough. This is a must for any manufacturing company seeking to supply outdoor product to endure the weather extremes in Australia. Time tested through a number of Australia's storms and floods, in central and northern NSW the well-known Rainware brand of outdoor showers stand alone. In the North Queensland town of Bowen, home to some of our worst cyclones and tropical heat, Rainware's showers are proving their worth time and again.

316 marine grade stainless steel has a majestic quality and a superior finish that is sleek and timeless, lending itself to beautiful design. This material is robust and ideal for the outdoors – it is Rainware's chosen medium because it does not rust. Hence, they guarantee their products with outdoor warranties, no matter the location. Rainware mills its own tapware and shower roses and hand craft all its showers, knowing that its product will be on show for many years to come.

That's in fact what Rainware is all about. A passion for delivering beautiful products with the assurance of longevity, practicality and function. Its outdoor showers have caught the attention of overseas resorts recently, in particular the Maldives, and the company is proud of the high quality and dedication delivered by its team to the most discerning of clients.

Rainware wants to leave a legacy that speaks of integrity and workmanship. Not only with the product it makes, but in the calibre of its service to its customers.

Contact Rainware for more information. ➔



IS THE PLANNING ACT RISING TO QUEENSLAND'S LATEST TOWN PLANNING CHALLENGES?

By Sarah McCabe, Senior Associate and Ciaran Houston, Principal, McInnes Wilson Lawyers

July 3, 2019 marked the two-year anniversary of the commencement of the Planning Act 2016 (Qld). Over this period, many councils have been caught off guard by changes in the new regime.

Councils are required to make important decisions about development at a time when rural and urban communities alike are facing significant challenges caused by growing populations, an increased demand on water and other natural resources, sourcing funding for assets and infrastructure and increasing concerns about the environmental impacts of development. Councils must balance these considerations in their decision making.

The Planning Act has also encouraged a renewed focus on taking into account the purpose of the planning legislation in decision making about development.

The purpose of the Planning Act aims to establish an efficient, effective, transparent, integrated, coordinated and accountable system of land use planning and development assessment. It also seeks to facilitate the achievement of ecological sustainability (which is a complex concept).

The changes introduced by the Planning Act have given councils a wider discretion in decision making when compared to the repealed Sustainable Planning Act and some of the more significant constraints on decision making having been relaxed under the new regime. This has generally resulted in greater flexibility in decision making for councils.



While this wider discretion has assisted councils in striking a balance in assessing the benefits and impacts of particular development proposals against the broader challenges faced by their communities, the wider discretion brings with it greater scrutiny of decision making. This has been seen recently in the court with councils being held to their original decisions where they have later tried to change their position. Also it has been observed that stakeholders are expecting more precision in reasons for decisions.

Councils should expect a continued focus on the requirement for their decisions to have regard to the purpose of the Planning Act and in being held to a higher standard in terms of documenting their reasons for decisions about developments.

McInnes Wilson Lawyers are frequently engaged by local governments prior to the approval or refusal of development. It is often the case that complex issues can be avoided by the early provision of legal advice – do not hesitate to get in touch with them. +

SPORTENG are continuing to make our mark on the Queensland sport and recreation market having successfully delivered multiple sporting projects across the region and we are excited to see where we can put our stamp on next.

If you require condition assessments or technical design for your Field of Play project, please get in touch with us at www.sporteng.com.au. No project is too big or too small for our team at **SPORTENG™**



SC00567AD

Les Lee Park, Tin Can Bay – Gympie Regional Council

WillPlay was chosen by Gympie Regional Council for the recent upgrade to Les Lee Park at Tin Can Bay. Located in the main parkland by the Tin Can Bay Marina, Les Lee Park is a destination park for the local community and visitors alike. This project featured consultation with the local community and resulted in the 'Sea-life' theme brought to reality by WillPlay.

Being positioned right on the foreshore, the selection of equipment needed to be full coastal specification to withstand the wear and tear caused by constant salt spray and the prevailing wind conditions.

This is where the WillPlay range of equipment proved to be the perfect choice. WillPlay equipment is manufactured using marine grade aluminium, stainless steel, recycled plastics and other premium materials, ensuring maximum protection from the elements and eliminating the need for expensive maintenance plans for clients.

This park features a giant tower climbing structure with two large tube slides and a four-metre high swing for the adventurous user, as well as a great range of smaller items for the little ones.

The new custom giant tower is the first of this new range in the ground for WillPlay and can



be customised to suit your chosen location and theme. At almost 6.5 metres tall, they are a stunning piece for any location. With endless theming opportunities, the giant tower is destined to be the focal point of many upcoming projects.

Based in Bundaberg, WillPlay are an Australian manufacturer of premium play and outdoor fitness equipment. Their modern factory employs the latest CNC manufacturing technologies to ensure all equipment is fit for purpose and complies to all relevant Australian standards.

WillPlay's custom design capacity, coupled with a vast range of standard equipment ensures a fantastic result for any play or fitness project.

Contact Willplay for more information. +

SLEEK FORM AND ULTIMATE FUNCTION

Playscape Creations is the exclusive Australian distributor of the sleek and modern Norwell outdoor fitness range. Designed and developed in collaboration with award-winning Danish Design House Dok54 and with fitness and physiology specialists, each Norwell Outdoor Fitness station works for all, from out-of-shape beginners to the very fit. The iconic style element of the range – the curve – creates a lightness and transparency of construction, creating an aesthetic that adds a sculptural element into all settings.

Placing fitness trails and circuits in the user's own environment has the natural consequence of promoting a healthier, more active community and an increased quality of life. With stations designed to promote strength, cardio, balance and flexibility, each has a QR code connecting to an app with usage guides and videos, as well as training programs to get the most



out of your varied workout on both static and movement-based stations.

Complementing the social advantages afforded by these spaces, a Norwell fitness cluster or trail can become an intergenerational meeting point – connecting and motivating people as they support each other in their fitness goals.

Quality is defined by the durability and longevity of the Stainless Steel equipment – certified to European Fitness Standard and ISO 9002.

Contact Playscape Creations for more information. +

FOUR NEW AND EXCITING MODELS

The Caterpillar range of next generation mini hydraulic excavators has been expanded with the addition of four new models in the seven-to-10-tonne category. These new models provide a range of size and configurations that allows owners to choose the machine that works best for their application. Cat Next Generation mini excavators feature heavy-duty main structures, fuel efficient engines, load sensing hydraulics, spacious cabs, and the exclusive Caterpillar Stick-Steer system. Caterpillar's overall design goal in developing its Next Generation models is to ensure optimum value for owners in terms of performance, operator experience, serviceability, and affordability.

The new-model lineup includes:

307.5 – a standard tail swing model with a fixed boom that provides the best possible digging and lifting performance.

308 CR – a compact radius model with a swing boom that provides the versatility of working in tight spaces where site-safety requires minimal tail overhang.

309 CR – a new Cat model in the mini range featuring a compact radius, swing boom, and high flow auxiliary hydraulics that provides the ability to multi-function while maintaining maximum hydraulic power to attachments.

310 – featuring a fixed boom, standard tail swing, and twin-blade cylinders for heavy-duty blade applications.

Hastings Deering sales manager for Building Construction Industries Scott McGrath said, "Our customers will see up to 20 per cent improved performance, up to 11 per cent reduction in fuel consumption, and up to 10 per cent maintenance cost reduction. Add 65 per cent improved lifting capacity, and 20 per cent overall improved performance in the new 308 CR and we've got a real game changer."

Contact Hastings Deering for more information. +



THE IMPACT OF CONVERGENCE ON PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

By Martin Lambert

In Australia, our public open spaces are being challenged by increasing densities and competition for housing, transport, industry, commerce, retail and leisure. These spaces now support personal trainers, social sport, exercise routes, carts or cafés, cultural and environmental interpretation, water cycle management, urban forests and urban cooling. They are regularly targeted by other infrastructure planners needing traffic solutions, bus stops, civic buildings, substations, pumping stations, and more.

This is the impact of convergence, where separate things converge to form integrated outcomes.

Examples of convergence include:

- Online and mobile information for a park or activity for visitors to search and check available amenities. Along with self-organising user groups coordinating through social media.

- Multiple use of open space – green corridors that support waterways, water-sensitive urban design, active transport networks, recreation spaces and habitat corridors.
- Virtual reality overlays and 'smart parks' adding information and activity to public spaces. Think Pokemon Go, Magical Parks, Local History walk, BBQ stations that message for cleaning or maintenance and public Wi-Fi as essential for placemaking.
- Increased expectation of 'discretionary services' in public space to enhance use, such as food, coffee, hire equipment, personal trainers and lunchtime social sport.

Public open space is now critical to social, economic and physical wellbeing. We need to re-evaluate how we plan and manage this infrastructure. The emerging challenge for local government is for it to be planned first not last.

Martin Lambert is a Director of Otium



Planning Group and a national board member of Parks and Leisure Australia – the national peak body for the parks, sport and recreation industry.

Contact Otium Planning for more information. +



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FRASER COAST KICKS REGIONAL GOALS

The Fraser Coast Regional Council is investing in the future of their region with the Fraser Coast Sports and Recreation Precinct in Hervey Bay, a multi-stage development spread over more than 60 hectares.

Smartlux in conjunction with Precision Sports Lighting installed a Sports Lighting package for Stage 1 of the \$48 million master planned development that will be home to a variety of sports fields for football [soccer], netball, AFL and Rugby League.

Smartlux director Craig Nicholls sees this as a great win for regional Queensland.

"There are so many players that come from regional areas in Australia, and they deserve the investment and facilities to help them grow into future champions," he said.

"Having the ability to train and play at night, under lights opens up a range of possibilities for clubs, players and the council."

The design included:

- 14 x 25m base hinge poles
- 6 x 15 m poles
- 88 LED lights
- 4 fields
- 8 netball courts.

Abacus base-hinged masts do exactly what they say on the tin: raise and lower from ground level up to a height of 50 metres. They are robust,



simple to install and easily accessible which makes them incredibly cost effective, since they require minimal ongoing maintenance.

These are a safe option, as there is no climbing involved as all maintenance and floodlight adjustments can be done at ground level with no cherry pickers required.

With the installation of the new LED lighting system, the fields and precinct at Fraser Coast have better and more uniform lighting and can be controlled remotely to determine the light intensity and save immensely on annual electricity costs.

"These lights were chosen to be able to meet the quality requirements and standards to be able to attract and host regional, state and national sporting competitions and carnivals in this growing region. +

A successful case study: Mitchelton FC synthetic turf development

In 2017/18, the near-100-year-old Mitchelton Football Club (MFC), based in Everton Park, Brisbane received State and Local Government funding to redevelop the number two field at its home in Teralba Park into an all-weather synthetic turf field.



In 2018, SPORTENG was commissioned directly by MFC to complete a detailed design for the field, obtain development approval, host the tender process and then provide a full superintendent role throughout the construction phase of the works.

MFC decided against a D&C approach to ensure that the complexities in the site were fully understood, and that each tenderer was bidding on the same scope of work to ensure an easier tender preview process.

Greenplay won the tender just before Christmas 2018 and works began immediately in the New Year. SPORTENG managed the entire project on behalf of the club, managing the funding budgets and technical works, and ensuring project timeframes were met.

SPORTENG is proud to have delivered one of only a few full-sized synthetic turf fields in Brisbane, on budget and exceeding the expectation of club members. Now in near-constant use, there is a plan to upgrade the floodlights to accommodate even more training demand in the evenings, protecting the natural turf fields from over-use.

Contact SPORTENG for more information. +

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WILEY PARTNERS WITH QUEENSLAND COUNCILS TO DELIVER KEY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Brisbane-based project delivery company Wiley is using its extensive commercial and industrial expertise to assist Queensland councils deliver key infrastructure projects.

Wiley project manager Jason O'Connell said, "Modern-day councils have the enormous opportunity and responsibility of delivering small and large-scale infrastructure projects of all types to meet the ever-shifting needs of their communities.

"Councils are multifaceted and hard-working organisations that are under increasing pressure to deliver more services and infrastructure while providing value for money to their constituents.

"They have no option but to demand a transparent and competitive delivery of services and infrastructure and they deserve delivery partners who understand this."

Wiley's multi-disciplinary technical team provides councils with direct access to people with proven experience across

design, engineering, construction, project management and stakeholder engagement.

Their integrated delivery model is based on a transparent and highly collaborative approach to maximise cost effectiveness, innovation and efficiency while reducing waste, risk and complexity.

"Clients appreciate our full-service offer because they can deal with the one person at the one company for their advice, design, engineer or construct requirements," Mr O'Connell said.

Wiley works with clients of all sizes and specialisations including well-known companies Nestle, Lion, Brisbane Markets Limited, Heinz, George Weston and JBS Australia. The company has partnered with local governments in regional Queensland and New South Wales to design and construct important community facilities and agribusiness infrastructure such as saleyards, water treatment plants and heavy vehicle wash-down facilities.



"We are looking forward to working more with Queensland councils especially in the areas of water and waste water management, master planning, and essential infrastructure delivery," he said.

Wiley is well positioned to support councils in southern Queensland and across the state with a head office in Brisbane and senior staff located in regional areas.

Contact Wiley for more information. ➔



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Work Caravans has many years' experience in the design, manufacture and supply of industrial and commercial caravans throughout Australia. They are an industry leader in the manufacture of industrial and commercial caravans and site office caravans and have established a strong reputation for quality, service, great pricing and on time delivery.

Work Caravans design and manufacture commercial and industrial caravans, specialising in the civil, construction, government and mining industries. Their facilities are mobile and easily transportable, tough and durable.

The varied sizes, layouts and options provide a mobile solution to suit a wide range of applications:

- Mobile site offices
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- Mobile ablutions
- Mobile work site accommodation
- Catering kitchens



- Mobile research laboratories
- First aid rooms and mobile medical rooms.

Work Caravans' portable site office solutions and mobile accommodation units are built tough and designed for the extreme conditions encountered throughout Australia. They provide you with an environmentally efficient product with superior strength and durability, adaptable across many industries. With the wide range of floorplans available, there is something applicable to any sized job or budget.

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customers with a personalised approach and 100 per cent commitment to your business.

Work Caravans has built a solid reputation with local councils and civil industries providing quality mobile units backed by service and warranty second to none.

Their caravans are now assisting local councils and government bodies across Australia from Emerald, Jundah, Blackwater, Alice Springs, WA Goldfields, South Perth, the Sapphire Gemfields, Barwon River region, Yanco, Alpha, Windorah to outback regions in every state, as well as providing comfortable and modern facilities to city infrastructure developments.

Contact Work Caravans for more information. ☎



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