

## Local Government Councillor Advisory Network (LG-CAN) May meeting minutes

### Present and apologies

#### Attendees:

- Jackie Fristacky (Yarra)
- Henry Barlow (Wyndham)
- Lisa Hollingsworth (Boroondara)

#### Apologies:

- Anna Chen (Manningham)
- Lucinda Congreve (Brimbank)
- Simon Crawford (Maribyrnong)
- Natasha Gayfer (Macedon Ranges)
- Harry Westendorp (Mansfield)

#### 1. Actions arising from February meeting:

- a. Update Draft Terms of Reference – done
- b. 2014 VAGO report on Coordinating Public Transport – done
- c. lobbying for 2019 – in progress, to be discussed below

#### 2. Update of VLGA activities (see attached report)

##### a. Planning and Environment Act

- Bo spoke about the update to CAN members, highlighting the work of the VLGA to date in meeting with key stakeholders and plan for VLGA follow ups.
- CAN in agreement that the Act is in need of updating
- VLGA is planning for a stakeholder meeting in 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July to see if there can be a common vision on what a future planning system should look like. This will be informed by an issues paper to be developed by the VLGA and distributed to stakeholders prior to the meeting.
- It is important to reach out to a variety of key stakeholders to avoid a council-heavy make-up.
- VLGA is also attempting to reach out to the office of the Planning Minister to gauge his views.

##### b. Waste and recycling

- The VLGA has made a formal submission to the Waste and Recycling inquiry, with support and input from member councils.
- The submission will be available through the Victorian Parliament website <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/epc/inquiries/article/4144>

- VLGA continues to engage with EPA's waste and recycling reference group, as part of the new EPA Act (further update at next meeting).

**c. Infrastructure and community service planning**

- The Building Communities symposium will be held on Friday July 5 at City of Wyndham.
- We encourage attendance by CAN members, their fellow councillors and council executive leadership team.
- We have confirmed key note by the Victorian Planning Authority and invited presentations.
- Program and registration for the symposium can be accessed via <https://www.vlga.org.au/%2Fcivicrm%2Fevent%2Finfo%3Fid%3D17%26reset%3D1>

**d. Rating Review**

- No details on the rating review at the time of the meeting (please see attached terms of reference for the rating review).
- The VLGA has reached out to the rating review chair through the office of the Minister for Local Government with an invitation for a roundtable discussion/consultation at the VLGA or another venue.
- Members and councils will be alerted as soon as further details of the review are announced.

**3. Upcoming VLGA activities (see attached report)**

- Documents distributed at meeting and available at VLGA website.

**a. VLGA visits to councils**

- The VLGA is writing to councils alerting them to our upcoming activities, including opportunities for councils to work with the VLGA leading up to the 2020 council elections.
- Equally, if there are any meetings that CAN members see as suitable for VLGA to attend, such as regional mayors forums, please alert the VLGA so we can send a representative to attend.

**b. Local Women Leading Change**

- Local Women Leading Change is a funded project aimed specifically at increasing the representation of women in councils. This is in addition to any community education and candidate information sessions that VLGA might run with councils, which are non-gender specific.
- The VLGA will re-activate the women's charter champions network as part of this project with the first meeting of the charter champions to occur on Friday 21 June <https://www.vlga.org.au/civicrm/event/info%3Fid%3D19%26reset%3D1>
- Action: VLGA to create template motion for councillors to present to their councils re: reaffirming commitment to being a Charter Champion

**5. Issues from members/Other business**

- Awareness raising in the general community on the realities and difficulties/sacrifices of being a councillor.
- Reorganization of the metro/rural partnerships. They are now part of Department of Jobs, Regions and Precincts. VLGA to update at next meeting.
- Potential avenues for collaboration with VLGA/MAV: LG Act, Rating review.
- Training for new councilors, particularly after the 2020 council elections.

**6. Date of next meeting**

- Explore with members for a better time and venue for future meetings to increase turnout

**7. Meeting close**

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**Summary of VLGA Actions**

1. VLGA provide update on the EPA's waste and recycling reference group, as part of the new EPA Act.
2. VLGA to create template motion for councillors to present to their councils re: reaffirming commitment to Women's Charter and provide names for their Charter Champions
3. VLGA to update on the reorganization of the metro/rural partnerships. They are now part of Department of Jobs, Regions and Precincts.
4. Explore with members for a better time and venue for future meetings to increase turnout