

Councillor Advisory Network

Feb – May report

1. Planning and Environment Act – lobby for review

VLGA has contacted a number of stakeholders gauging their views on the current P&E Act, including council planning staff, Committee for Melbourne, RMIT, Victorian Planning Authority, Infrastructure Victoria and staff from DELWP. We are currently in discussion with RMIT to scope out a possible research paper highlighting the deficiencies of the current Act. This paper will be the start of our lobbying efforts to the Minister for Planning for a review of the Act.

2. Waste and recycling

The VLGA has made a formal submission to the Planning and Environment Committee inquiry into waste and recycling. Thank you to all councils that contributed to the submission. The submission will be uploaded to the VLGA website. The VLGA has also requested a hearing from the Committee.

3. Infrastructure

The VLGA, in collaboration with the City of Wyndham, will host a one-day symposium on Friday July 5. The symposium is titled Building Communities: From challenges to solutions. Invitations have been sent to the Minister for Local Government, as well as CEOs of the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) and Infrastructure Victoria. The VLGA will lock in other speakers in the coming weeks and email out registration details to all A draft program is attached the

4. Rating Review

The State government has announced a review of the rating system for local government (part of its election commitment). The terms of reference for the review is attached to the meeting agenda. The review will be done via an independent panel process, similar to a planning scheme amendment panel process. At this stage, only the chair of the panel has been appointed, Dr Kathy Alexander (ex-CEO of City of Melbourne). The VLGA has contacted the review team offering our services for consultation with our members through a roundtable. Please watch out for opportunities to comment on the review in future VLGA correspondences.

Other activities

1. VLGA visits to councils

The VLGA is happy to provide further information on any of the above items, as well as discussing others of concerns with member councils through senior council staff/CEO and councillors/mayors. Potential topics for discussion include:

- Current VLGA activities and lobbying efforts (Cr and EMT)
- Candidate training opportunities between VLGA and councils (EMT and governance staff)
- Reinvigorating the Women's Charter Champion network (Cr and EMT/gender equity officers)
- Local Women Leading Change campaign (Cr and EMT, see below)

If councils are interested in taking up this opportunity, please discuss with Bo at the VLGA.
bo@vlga.org.au

2. Local Women Leading Change

Following the launch of our Local Women Leading Change campaign to increase the representation of women in local government, the VLGA is seeking partners from councils, women's groups and networks. We plan to engage with these groups to offer training and support for women thinking of running for the 2020 council elections. This discussion can be held as part of the VLGA visits to councils. Alternatively, please contact Deborah at the VLGA for further information. deborah@vlga.org.au