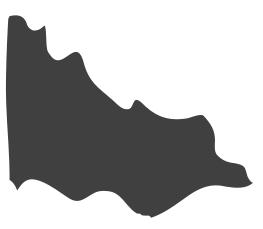


# **Annual Report**

## 2014-2015 at a glance..







Yarra City Council for Smith Street Dreaming

50 Victorian council members

**Our focus** 



Our council members

Capping



Participatory Budgeting



Child-Friendly Cities



Governance



Women in local government



Responsible Gambling



**Attendees** 



Mornington Pennisula Youth Services 2014 READYS winner



Former Vic Police Commissioner Bryan Dawe Writer, comedian, satirist Jan Owen CEO FYA Alistar Maclean CEO IBAC



Melbourne City Council for 10 year financial plan 2014 John Jago Award winner



#### From the President: Councils & Communities

It's been a big year in Local Government and the small team here at the VLGA has been working hard to bring the best information and responses to the changes and challenges facing our councils and communities.

In the lead up to the State Government election we continued our advocacy to limit the damage to our communities from gambling and we're glad to see other have joined us in the campaign to mitigate the impacts high-loss Electronic Gambling Machines.

We launched three of our four Governance by Design Panels, which proved prescient given the renewed focus on Plan Melbourne and of course the role of Local Government in the context of Rate-Capping.

These time-limited task-focussed panels brought together some of the most prominent thinkers to develop strategies as to how our sector can address these complex challenges.

The VLGA also continued its important advocacy, research and support for councillors, the public sector and the community on issues such as diversity in our representatives, indigenous recognition and reconciliation and best practice regarding representation and engagement with our communities. A big thank you should be mentioned for Toby Archer who left us this year for all of his service to the sector for his insight and application in his years on the team.

The outcomes from all of these efforts have maintained the VLGA's place as thought leader for the sector in Victoria.

CR. SEBASTIAN KLEIN PRESIDENT

### A word from the CEO: Highlights and looking forward

While local government and communities have certainty changed over the past 20 years, the fundamental mission of the VLGA remains the same - connecting communities and strengthening local **democracy.** As shown by our Annual Report, we ably support our members and partners in fulfilling this goal. During the course of the last year, we continued to actively support council members and councillors (such as the highly successful Mayoral Leadership Conference), worked with our community partners and members (such as the Community HART Awards), and strongly advocated on issues of importance to government (such as rate capping and the Georgiou Review into local government electoral reform).

There are many new challenges facing local government and communities into the future - challenges that remind us of the importance of local democracy, good governance and the vital role of local government. After all, local government is that distinctive and essential tier of democratic that remains best placed to advance the interests and well-being of their different local communities.

This is what local governance is about and this is why the job of the VLGA continues to be important. I would like to thank the incoming VLGA Board, staff and all our members for your continued support and interesting in building local governance and supporting local government.

#### DR. ANDREW HOLLOWS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



