



Councillor Advisory Network Meeting Minutes

Friday 1 May 2020

Via Zoom

11am to 12.20pm

Chair: VLGA President Cr Lambros Tapinos

1. Present and apologies

Present: Cr Henry Barlow (Wyndham), Cr Lisa Hollingsworth (Boroondara) Cr Natasha Gayfer (Macedon Ranges), Cr Les Larke (Bass Coast), Cr Mike Zafiropoulos (Manningham), Cr Bill Bennet (Whitehorse), Cr Harry Westendorp (Mansfield), Cr Susan Rennie (Darebin), Cr Lambros Tapinos (Chair) (Moreland, VLGA President), Kathryn Arndt (VLGA CEO), Carrie Bruce (Manningham) David Taylor (Stonnington), Michelle Kain (Mansfield), Tony D’Fazio (Whitehorse), Robyn Borley (Bass Coast) Ivan Gilbert (Yarra), Stephen Cooper Civic Mind Consulting

Apologies: Cr Anna Chen (Manningham), Cr Jackie Fristacky (Yarra)

2. VLGA Update CAN Chair Cr Lambros Tapinos with comments from Kathryn Arndt Chief Executive Officer

- a. VLGA is continuing its advocacy for the sector by being on the Local Government Bill 2020 implementation team
- b. Continue to meet with the Minister regularly
- c. Is keeping the sector informed through VLGA Connect. The VLGA has done 30 episodes in one month some of the top performers are:

1. Ep. 6 Kelly Grigsby (246)
2. Ep. 15 - Panel - Integrity agencies (188)
3. Ep. 7 - Governance update - LGA implementation (159)
4. Ep.25 - Stuart Moseley VPA (119)
5. Ep. 8 - Stephen Wall (115)

Top recent videos:

1. Ep. 29 - Live Panel - Chairing Virtual Meetings
2. Ep. 24 - Panel - Economic Impacts
3. Ep. 31 - Newsroom, 1st May

4. Ep. 28 - Cr Sam Hearn

5. Ep. 26 - Governance Update with Stephen Cooper/Lisa Anelli

- The VLGA's YCCC (Your Council, Community & Country) program has started. Charles Pakana has done two podcasts to date, with more scheduled for this week.
- A number of councils are booking in for the VLGA's Candidate Training sessions to be facilitated virtually with many councils reconfirming for August face to face.

3. Local Government Act Implementation Update - Stephen Cooper, Civic Mind

- Power of delegation and governance rules come into effect today
- LGV Co design

1. SR - clever platform the sessions weren't consultative

1.2 CB - a lot of the info gathered from the sessions is information that they already have - wanted the next step - felt like a step backwards

3. MK - agree we next the step the deadline is looming. Info that had already been covered. Repetitive.

1.4 DT - too slowly - 1 September - by the time you engage with community and councillors - late June early July - as a minimum it is a 6-month process. Not moving quickly enough Ask - do they have the expertise at LGV to do it. - not enough clarity. Sector wants templates

Pro formas. There could be unintended consequences as we don't have the regulations

a) Action: KA will take on board those questions and will follow up with LGV - follow up regulations

4. Discussion on the Single Member Wards. Many member councils were concerned with the way this has been dealt with by the Minister.

5. Discussion on the deferral of the 2020 Election

a) Action: Advocacy: More clarity from the minister Lambros to raise with the Minister prior to 11 May

VLGA seek clarity from VEC as to the process of reviews and intended consultation process.

6. Issues from members

MZ - advocacy issue LG as a sector has not been treated fairly - eg money

KA - Talking to the Federal minister next week and ALGA to talk to the questions raised

LT - Councils will take a hit now and need to look at their budgets. Some councils will find this difficult. Gov's focus on relief when it comes to recovery the government will partner for infrastructure - Look at your Cap Ex works that are shovel ready.

KA Refer to VLGA Connect Interview last week Economic

Virtual meetings

In depth discussion and all councils are embracing the opportunity and the challenges

Other issues

October Elections - mixed reaction across the sector

VEC CMO advice

7. Date of next meeting

VLGA to canvass date of next meeting

8. Meeting closed 12.22pm

List of action items

1. Action: KA will take on board those questions and will follow up with LGV - follow up regulations
2. Advocacy: More clarity from the minister Lambros to raise with the Minister prior to 11 May
3. VLGA to seek clarity from VEC as to the process of reviews and intended consultation process.