

Councillor Advisory Network Meeting Minutes

Thursday 28 November 2019

VLGA Meeting Rooms 60 Leicester Street, Carlton

11am to 1pm

1. Present and apologies

Present: Cr Henry Barlow (Wyndham), Cr Jackie Fristacky (Yarra), Cr Lisa Hollingsworth (Boroondara) Cr Natasha Gayfer (Macedon Ranges), Cr Les Larke (Bass Coast), Cr Lambros Tapinos (Chair) (Moreland, VLGA President), Kathryn Arndt (VLGA CEO), Jo Hayter (VLGA Treasurer), Louise Hill (VLGA Vice President), Bo Li (VLGA Senior Policy Officer)

Apologies: Cr Anna Chen (Manningham), Cr Lucinda Congreve (Brimbank), Cr Simon Crawford (Maribyrnong), Cr Harry Westendorp (Mansfield), Cr Marg Attley OAM (Mansfield)

2. Actions arising from May meeting

- a. VLGA provide update on the EPA's waste and recycling reference group, as part of the new EPA Act (please see attached report)

The VLGA will keep councils updated on the implementation of the new EPA Act (scheduled to come into effect by 1 July 2020). Main concerns at this stage include:

- Any possible cost shifting from State to local government, particularly in relation to the Officers for the Protection of the Environment (OPEL). Pilot of the OPEL program has been successful so far.
 - Any intersection between the new EPA Act and other Acts that councils administer (e.g. Planning and Environment Act in relation to planning permits issued by councils for waste storage/processing etc.)
- b. 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 (please see attached draft motion)

Action: CAN members to advise VLGA if they will be introducing the attached motion to council in 2020.

- c. VLGA to update on the reorganisation of the metro/rural partnerships. They are now part of Department of Jobs, Regions and Precincts.

This is currently on hold due to competing priorities and resource implications for the VLGA.

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

It was agreed by members present that the VLGA meeting location is central and accessible by more people. The VLGA will examine how to make future meetings more accessible to councillors from rural/regional councils, as well as those who may be working. Options include teleconference or video conference via Zoom.

3. Upcoming VLGA activities (see attached report)

Discussions were focused on the new Local Government Bill and its likely impact. Members were informed of the two recommendations made by the VLGA to the 2018 Bill which subsequently appear in the 2019 Bill: for the allowances for councillors to be made by the independent remuneration tribunal, and for sexual harassment to be included as grounds for serious misconduct.

No follow up actions.

Members were informed of the VLGA Fast Track Leadership Development Program on Friday 28 February 2020. Details of the program and registration can be accessed [here](#)

Action: Members to alert their councillors of the Fast Track Program

4. Issues from members

Members discussed how best to engage councillors and the future value of the Network. It was noted that it is not always possible to attend meetings due to clashing appointments and other commitments such as work. It was agreed that the VLGA can approach those councils which appointed a representative to the VLGA invite them to future network meetings.

Action: VLGA to invite council appointed representatives to future Network meetings.

5. Date of next meeting

VLGA to canvass date of next meeting in the new year, after the Fast Track Program.

6. Meeting closed

List of action items

1. CAN members to advise VLGA if they will be introducing the motion to council in 2020 reaffirming council's commitment to the women's charter.
2. Members to alert their councillors of the Fast Track Program.
3. VLGA to invite council appointed representatives to future Network meetings.