

# REPORT ON NGA NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

17 – 20 JUNE 2018

## THEME – ‘AUSTRALIA’S FUTURE – MAKE IT LOCAL’

The Australian Local Government Association President David O’Loughlin welcomed delegates.

### **Monday 18 June 2018 - Opening Speech**

David spoke briefly but eloquently on ALGA’s primary concerns and its role in advocating to, primarily, Federal Government. He spoke about:

- First and last mile freight strategy
- Community Infrastructure funding and declining contributions from Federal Government to local government (FAGs) which have reduced by almost half over the last two decades measured as a percentage of Federal Government tax revenues, from around 1% to around 0.5%. David committed ALGA to continue to advocate for contributions to the level of 1% of total tax revenues.
- Remote Indigenous Housing
- Waste and Recycling – in particular the impact of the SWORD policies in China which has severely impacted on the costs of recycling plastics and paper. Surveys conducted across Australia have indicated overwhelming support for a National action plan on recycling, legislative requirements for new packaging to adhere to standards for recycling and better education to the public on recycling issues.

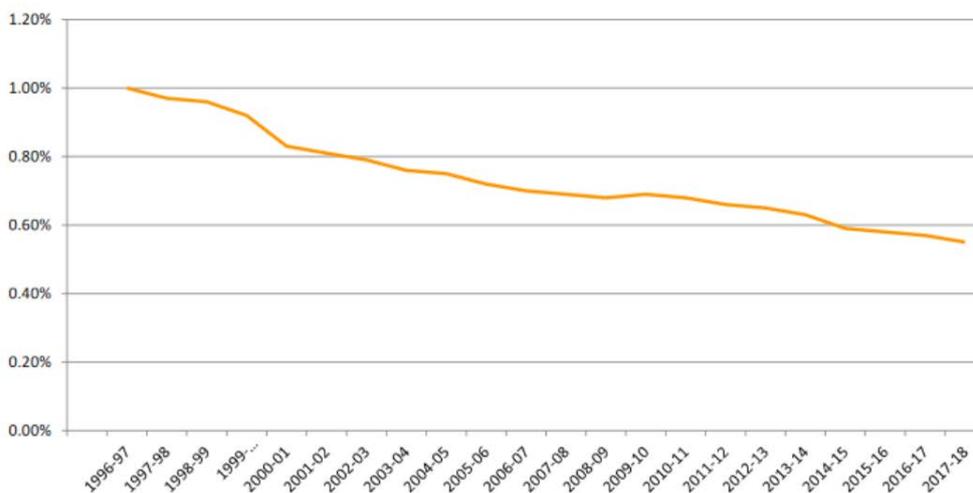


Figure 1 Federal Government contribution to Local Government as a percentage of total tax revenues

David also spoke about ALGA’s partnerships with the Federal Government on road improvements including continued advocacy for the Roads to Recovery program, an improved program for renewal of bridges, road safety on rural roads including blackspot programs, and heavy vehicle safety and productivity issues.

## **Keynote Address Monday 18 June 2018 - "The Australian Political Landscape"**

### **David Speers - Australian journalist and the political editor at Sky News Australia**

Speers applauded the aims of the Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP and the Liberal Coalition Government to tackle Climate Change with an Energy Policy that is formulated to create a mechanism for reliability of supply and lowering emissions.

He confirmed that Turnbull's same sex marriage survey had legitimised the result.

He complimented Federal Labor for being stable for nearly five years under Shorten. Suggested that Bill Shorten and Chris Bowen had a lot of courage to tackle the *sacred cow* – negative gearing, in their policies. Suggested that Anthony Albanese would be a likely successor should Shorten stand down.

He revealed the National Security Legislation Amendment (Espionage and Foreign Interference) Bill 2018 was currently being debated before Parliament because interference by foreign governments and their proxies is a legitimate threat to Australia.

He gave his predictions on the upcoming Super Saturday Bi-Elections.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Keynote Address Monday 18 June 2018 - "The Case of Gender Diversity in Local Government"**

### **Virginia Haussegger AM - Australian Journalist, Media Commentator and Television Presenter**

*Ban Ki-Moon UN Secretary-General International Women's Day 2015 "...The world will never realize 100% of its goals if 50% of its people cannot realize their full potential. When we unleash the power of women we can secure the future for all."*

The Global Gender Gap Report benchmarks 144 countries on their progress towards gender parity across four thematic dimensions: Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment. In 2017, overall Australia sat at No 35, yet in 2006 it was at No 15. The 2017 Australia Gender Gap index rating was No 48 for Political Empowerment; No 42 Economic Opportunity; and Health No 104 - when compared to 143 other countries.

When analysing the Composition of Australian Parliaments as at May 2018, women made up 39.8% of a total of 128 Parliamentarians in Victoria. Similar to that of the Commonwealth where 31.8% were women - of a total of 150 Parliamentarians.

Nationally there are 537 Councils wherein females represent 32.8 % Councillors; 27.6% Mayors; 14.7% CEOs. In Victoria, participation by women, is as follows:- 38.1% Councillors; 38% Mayors and 16% CEOs.

However the aim is to strive for parity because diversity makes a positive difference. Launched on International Women's Day 2017, [www.broadagenda.com.au](http://www.broadagenda.com.au) is a gender equality initiative spearheaded by the *50/50 by 2030 Foundation*, at the Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis (IGPA), University of Canberra.

Professor Mark Evans, Director of the Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis, found key reasons for gender gap in Local Government Leadership roles (IGPA Survey 2014 and 2017) are:-

- Family / children commitments
- Long Hours and lack of part time work in senior roles
- Ambition confidence and desire to aspire to leadership

- Unconscious bias
- Traditional stereotypes
- Previous generational attitude
- Lack of effective mentors
- Type of work – infrastructure and engineering focus

**Key Reasons – *Women Blaming***

- Women are not proactive in seeking promotion
- Women do not apply for leadership roles as they feel they do not have the experience
- Women are less competitive and satisfied in being in support roles
- Women are less ego-driven/don't promote themselves and are more focussed on the greater good.
- Women are reluctant to step up to leadership responsibility
- Belief that women are more emotive / less resilient
- Women lack confidence

**Key Leadership concepts**

The role of local government leadership is to create and deliver public value i.e. to accrue and direct social and economic benefits to local citizens.

- The problems confronting local government are now too complex to be dealt through command and control leadership; they require SOFT POWER – ADAPTIVE LEADERSHIP based on persuasion and INCLUSION.

**Pathways to gender diverse leadership**

- Watch your language
- Don't fix women
- Spotlight gender stereotyping and unconscious bias
- Change culture by reframing gender diversity as an organisational issue
- Develop gender diversity business case – sign a pledge or action plan
- Promote LG in schools
- Model good work / life balance.
- Set targets for inclusion

An English Local Government Commission Fawcett Report in 2017 found that half of disabled women Councillors experience multiple discrimination and BAME [black, Asian and minority ethnic] = CALD [Culturally and Linguistically Diverse] Councillors face racism and sexism.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Panel Session – ‘*Balancing Innovation and Public Interest*’**

**Veena Sahajwalla - Laureate Professor, Australian Research Council, Australian Academy of Science**

**Michael Smith - National Sales Manager, Business Development and Retention BMW**

**Professor Ron Bartsch - President, Asia Pacific Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems Consortium – RPAS**

**Adam Fennessey - Partner, Government and Public Sector EY Ernst and Young**

## **Professor Veena Sahajwalla – SmARt@UNSW**

In 2008 Professor Sahajwalla founded the Centre for Sustainable Materials Research and Technology -branded SMARt@UNSW - which concentrates on recycling science and green manufacturing.

The SMARt Vision

- Convert waste materials into high value materials
- Minimise the energy-intensive transportation of waste
- Promote and support viable local economies and jobs
- An embodiment of distributed manufacturing

Research Focus – Cutting edge sustainable materials and processes  
Emphasis - Environmental, Social and Economic benefits

### **Why we should harvest electronic waste i.e. e-waste**

The UN Environment Program estimated 42 million tonnes of electronic waste was generated in 2014 increasing from 3% to 5% each day. This e-waste contained nearly \$70 Billion worth of embedded resources.

In Australia 4 million computers are expected to be sold every year and less than 1.5% will be recycled. Printed Circuit Boards [PCBs] contain 40% metals, 30% organics 30% ceramics.

The world's first micro-factory, which has the potential to reduce the vast amount of electronic waste heading into landfill, was launched by SMARt on 4 April 2018. The micro-factory transforms the e-waste components from items such as discarded smart phones and laptops into valuable materials for re-use. If micro-factories were able to manufacture "green materials" locally, economies of purpose could be borne throughout the country and benefits could be decentralised.

An example is waste glass, which can be re-used to produce smart synthetic stone used for benchtops tiles and flooring. It has the added advantage of high strength, and moisture resistant.

### **Michael Smith - BMW**

Smith quoted Peter Drucker "The greatest danger in times of turbulence is not the turbulence. It is to act with yesterday's logic" February 2016

### **How ready are we for new sharing economies?**

- Implications for residential tenancies and hoteliers – Air B N B
- Delivery of Food – Uber, Deliveroo, Menulog
- Delivery of Parcels – Amazon, Drones
- People Movers – Uber, electric and automated vehicles.

Smith cited retired business executive, author, and chemical engineer, Jack \*Welch "If the rate of change on the outside exceeds the rate of change on the inside, the end is near." You cannot use yesterday's logic with problems of today.

\*Welch was chairman and CEO of General Electric between 1981 and 2001. During his tenure at GE, the company's value rose 4,000%.

Smith questioned is Local Government ready for vehicle mobility?

## Are we ready for Electrification?

- A. Infrastructure – supportive signage and markings, connectivity
- B. Town Planning – car parks, drop off zones, traffic, petrol stations versus charging stations
- C. Health / well-being / financial – less noise, less emissions - carbon dioxide, nil sulphur cost/savings

With regard to the likelihood of electric vehicle uptake, Smith emphasised it is necessary to take a holistic approach to technology, volume timing, and sizing when forecasting. Analysts are continually encouraged to understand, question, and evaluate the hype but not have a predisposition to accept it.

An electric vehicle may be powered through a collector system by electricity from off-vehicle sources, or may be self-contained with a battery, solar panels or an electric generator to convert fuel to electricity.

Aspects to be considered include:

- Vehicle Production
- Regulation and incentives
- Tooling investments
- Supply chain logistics
- Shutdown effects
- Community Emergency Risk Assessment (**CERA**)
- Consumer preference

Bloomberg New Energy Finance has predicted that by 2040, electric vehicles would account for 35% of all new vehicles sales. By 2022, electric vehicles will cost the same as their internal combustion counterpart. As an example there would be no premium for the BMW PHEV option – plug-in hybrid. This should be the point of lift off for sales.

The BMW electrification roadmap projects 25 electrified models by 2025, including 12 BEVs (battery electric vehicles)

Proceeding from the discussion on electrification Smith considered automation.

## Are we ready for Automation?

- A. Infrastructure
  - a) Street signs and markings that *cars can read* [BMW and Transurban are partnering in a study and already gearing up for fully automated driving by 2021. Freeway markings will be the key]
- B. Town Planning – Zoning - car parks, drop off zones, traffic
  - a) Car parking versus drop off zones
  - b) What does this mean for
    - i) On street parking
    - ii) Clearways
    - iii) Large car park stations
  - c) Location – car stations away from activity centres
  - d) Commercial and revenue implications
    - i) Ride sharing eg. Uber
    - ii) Car sharing

- C. Health and Well Being
  - a) Improved traffic management
  - b) Less congestion
  - c) Less emissions
  - d) Less noise

**Are we ready for Car Sharing?**

- A. Infrastructure
  - a) Electrical, signs and markings
- B. Town Planning
  - a) Street locations
  - b) Development requirements
  - c) Reduced traffic
  - d) Open Space
- C. Health and Well Being
  - a) Improved traffic management
  - b) Less congestion
  - c) Less emissions
  - d) Less noise
  - e) Use of Open Space?

**Are we ready for Vehicle Mobility?**

Technology disruptors, competitive commercial pressure and community demand will drive take up.

**Therefore Local Governments should consider:**

1. Accommodating the inevitable take up for maximum community benefit
2. Positive implementation requires action with foresight
3. Benefits to the community have significant potential
4. Opportunity to increase community attractiveness and well – being.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Professor Ron Bartsch, ARC (Asia-Pacific RPAS Consortium)**

The Vision of ARC is to provide benefits to society from **drone innovation and technology** through like-minded RPAS stakeholders working together. Its objective is to provide a single consolidated service for clients seeking *Drone Powered Solutions*® [ARC in collaboration with and Ernst and Young] throughout the world.

Founding members of ARC (Asia-Pacific RPAS Consortium): QBE; University of Sydney; ZONE; UVAIR; Southpac Aerospace ;MARQUE; UAS International; One Safe Integrated Risk Management

## Technology Advancements which have accelerated use of Drones

Power supply and GPS, high resolution cameras, wireless connectivity, ground control , smart tablets, low entry threshold compared to traditional aviation

Drone technology now pursued by Google, Facebook, Uber and Amazon (for parcels under 5 kg).

## Benefits of Drones over Manned Aircraft

*Dull* - Inspections and Surveillance; Surveying; Advertising

*Dirty* – Agricultural Applications - Crop Dusting; spraying; fire spotting

*Dangerous* – Coverage of sporting events and festivals; power line inspections

## Benefits and Liabilities to Local Government

- Applications, technology and regulations
- The Law
- Mitigating Legal Liability for Council

Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998 differentiated drones from model aircraft. Drones require CASA approval to operate beyond restrictions. CASA has registered 1250 RPAS commercial operators. This is a significant increase from just 15 in 2012.

With the number of operators on the rise, councils will need to minimise risks. **Councils should create a checklist for developing policies and procedures.**

- Is the RPAS operator appropriately **certified**?
- Does the operator have adequate **insurance**?
- Does the operator comply with the **Code of Conduct**?
- Has the operator been independently **audited**?
- Is the operator **competent** to perform the task?

Safety, noise and privacy must be considered. For instance - drones are subject to trespassing laws; there is no limit to liability.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Adam Fennessey - Partner, Government and Public Sector EY Ernst and Young

Drones use cases in Local Government include but are not limited to:

- Asset Management
- Worksite protection
- Incident Response
- Public Safety, Security, Monitoring
- Tourism Promotion
- Smart Cities IoT
- Logistics
- Data capture

## **Business Benefits of Remote Piloted Aircraft Systems RPAS**

*Opportunities that can be leveraged are where the context is -*

- Dangerous – hazardous, unsafe
- Difficult – Terrain, remote, cost prohibitive, high volume
- Dirty – assets subject to elements, contaminated

## **Ernst & Young’s role – RPAS applications in Local Government**

EY is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services

EY offers a range of services for RPAS applications such as:

- Process and Business Design
- Risk and Assurance
- Fixed Asset Management, digital data and analytics, predictive tools
- Complementary approach with ARC – technical, regulatory and operational

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Keynote Address Tuesday 19 June 2018 “Population and the Policy Imperative”**

### **Bernard Salt AM - The Demographics Group**

Bernard Salt delivered an inspiring and thought provoking address – filled with statistics yet laced with theatrics and humour.

He began – “*in 2018 Australia is a place of rising prosperity*”. Our GDP is 14<sup>th</sup> in the world at \$1,500 USD Bn (compared with United States at No 1 with \$20,413 USD Bn). Australia is forecast, in ten years’ time, to be at No 12, thereby surpassing Spain and Russia currently at 13<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> respectively. China is set to remain at No. 2 and India will leapfrog Germany to be at No. 3.

Australia’s current situation: 200,000 p.a. population growth through migration and 150,000 births over deaths. Melbourne is growing at 125,000 p.a.

Many migrating to Australia are choosing Australia for its lifestyle i.e. lifestyle trends drive population.

Migration to Australia 1970s to 1990 – mainly regular workers; compared with university graduates and prosperous migrants – also known as *knowledge workers*, in the years since 1990’s.

New technology is creating some jobs and diminishing others. There is growth in Health Care and Social Assistance. Growth occupations include General Sales Assistant; Aged or Disabled Care Worker; Chefs; Cleaner; Kitchen hand; Construction Project Manager; Nurse; Child Care Worker; Barista; Management Consultant and Marketing Specialist.

Declining Occupations 2011 to 2016 are Secretary; Retail Manager; Clerk; Mixed Crop and Livestock Farmer; Checkout operator; Manufacturer; Bank worker; Wholesaler; Financial Institution Branch Manager; Cook; Engineering Production Manager and Miner.

Australia’s consumer market is remarkably diverse as demonstrated by the proportion of city populations comprising of international born residents when measured by local censuses. Evidenced by proportions Sydney 39%; Perth 39%; Melbourne 36%; Brisbane 28%; Adelaide 28%; Darwin 28%; Canberra 28%

Australia's Asian and Indian influences are rising with an increase in migrants to Australia from China +60% ; India + 54% and South Korea +33% from \*\*2011 to \*\*2016; and specifically increased migration into Greater Melbourne from China of +72%; from India + 51% and from South Korea +43%. (\*\* census figures) in the same period.

Nationalities by country of birth in Australia and Greater Melbourne between the 2011 and 2016, according to census figures:

Population 2016	Change 2011-2016	Greater Melbourne
United Kingdom 1,088,000	-1%	-2%
New Zealand 518,000	+7%	+18%
China 510,000	+60%	+72%
India 455,000	+54%	+51%
Philippines 232,000	+36%	+33%
Vietnam 219,000	+19%	+18%
Italy 174,000	-6%	-8%
South Africa 162,000	+12%	+11%
Malaysia 138,000	+19%	+25%
Sri Lanka 110,000	+27%	+27%
Germany 103,000	-5%	-6%
South Korea 99,000	+33%	+43%

Percentage **population change** in urban centres between 2011 and 2016 include Melbourne +13%; Sydney +11%; Gold Coast +13%; Canberra +11%; Brisbane +10%; Sunshine Coast +16%; Darwin +15%; Bendigo +12% and Geelong +9%.

*Salt listed the "must haves" for a successful capital city:*

Build Airport Connections; Support Business Awards; Forge Global City Relationships; Develop a 2050 City Vision; Create a World City Checklist; Deliver affordable housing; Deliver City Functionality and Invest in the City Brand.

*Salt listed the "must haves" for a successful local town to prosper:*

Airport; University; Local TV; Local Radio; Daily Paper; Military / CSIRO; Hospital; National Event; Private School; Affordable Housing; Aged Care Facility; Sports stadium; Convention Centre; Local Entrepreneurs; United Community; Tourist Attractions; Vocational Training; Business Awards; Café Culture ; Presence of State Federal and Local Government and being a Marginal Seat very helpful!

As an aside, Salt concluded its status as a Marginal Seat ensured Corangamite had been blessed with the presence of major government funded employers - the TAC; WorkCover Authority; NDIS and the ABS.

Salt lamented years of prosperity have created a culture of aspiration and expectation. The way we live, and aspire to live, has changed.

Salt illustrated the change in the growth suburbs where once there stood a modest 3 bedroom house on a single block, built in the 1950's, to today when our young people aspire to building mansions.

However, a growing number will never afford home ownership. Although there is now a sense of entitlement; of expectation, the reality is that in Melbourne the cheapest property prices at \$385,000 are 38km from CBD. With 25 years of prosperity behind us, where depression was unheard of, local Councils are now at the coalface with residents facing what Salt terms “lonely-fication” – isolation in suburbia.

The change in household and family type in Australia over fifty years from 1986 to what is a projection for 2036 can be forecast as follows:

- Traditional Nuclear Families +51%
- Couple Only +150%
- Single Households +183%
- One Parent Families +122%
- Group Households +156%

### **There has been a shift in values in Australia – *An Unprecedented Loss of Faith in Key Institutions***

In 2013 the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse was established. Subsequently there has been a loss of faith in the clergy - the census data saw 7 million Australians abandon religion altogether i.e. 45% more respondents nominated “no religion” in 2016, compared with 2011. All Christian religions reduced in popularity. However, religions experiencing an increase were Islam +27% and Hinduism +60%.

Salt highlighted the fact that Australians have also lost their faith in politicians and financial institutions. The Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry, led by the Commissioner, Hon. Kenneth Madison Hayne AC QC, was established on 14 December 2017 by the Governor General. Following the banking enquiry, the Round 5 hearings from 6 August are focussed on superannuation. The Commissioner is to submit an interim report no later than 30 September 2018, and will provide a final report by 1 February 2019.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Panel Discussion - *Building Tomorrow's Communities***

**Kerri Hartland – Secretary, Department of Jobs and Small Business;**

**Vonda Malone – Mayor, Torres Strait Shire**

**Bernard Salt - M.D., The Demographics Group**

### ***Building Tomorrow's Communities - Work***

Future of Work is linked to - Innovation; Lifelong learning- adaption; Transferable skills; Digital literacy; Critical Thinking; Problem Solving; Creativity; Presentation; Resilience; Entrepreneurial Skills; Communication; Team Building; Organisational Skills; Reliable; Hard Working and Experience

15 – 21 year old’s need pre-employment training and there needs to be support for older Australians to upskill. We should embrace entrepreneurship.

### ***Building Tomorrow's Communities - Liveability***

The hardest thing to do is to manage a city that is divided. Begin and continue discussions with the community for an agreed vision of where we need to go.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Panel Discussion - *Recycling and Waste***

**Max Spedding - CEO National Water and Recycling Industry Council**

**Gomez – Chief Executive, Paintback Ltd**

**Brooke Donnelly - CEO Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO)**

**Karen Gomez – Chief Executive PaintBack**

**Libby Chaplin – CEO Australian Battery Recycling Initiative - Battery Stewardship Council**

**Max Spedding, CEO National Water and Recycling Industry Council**

Recycling works better when we recycle right. Slogan – *If in doubt throw it out* [into the red bin].

\*\*\*\*\*

**Brooke Donnelly, CEO Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO)**

**The Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation, APCO**, is a co-regulatory, not-for-profit organisation that partners with government and industry to reduce the harmful impact of packaging on the Australian environment.

The APCO encourages resource efficiency. APCO embeds sustainable packaging design in business strategy and processes, and sources supply chain solutions to recover packaging and create circular economies.

#### **Industry Reach**

APCO has 900 member companies with annual turnovers ranging from \$5Million to \$15 Billion. Members represent 153 separate ANZSIC codes covering the entire product life cycle and supply chain.

#### **Government Support**

Charged by Government to make all packaging recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025 or earlier.

#### **Strong Governance**

Board of Directors includes major brands, industry associations and independent directors

#### **Meeting the 100% Target by 2025**

APCO has the capacity and tools to support the whole of supply chain collaboration in response to the China issue by incorporating:-

**APCO Tools** – Packaging Sustainability Framework; PREP (packaging design tool) design; ARL (Australian Recycling Label ) ; SPGs (Sustainable Packaging Guidelines); Review Collaboration / Working Groups

**Stakeholder Engagement** – Waste Management and Recyclers; Waste Collectors; Local State and Federal; Governments; Packaging Manufacturers; Retail Sector; Industry Associations; Consumers.

**Key Outcomes – Cut Waste** – less packaging entering the waste stream; **Manage waste**: cleaner waste streams from packaging- less contamination, easier to recycle; **Re: Use Waste** – end markets for recycled packaging materials.

### **What we can Achieve Together**

A reduction in the environmental impact of packaging in Australian Communities through:

- Supply chain influence
- On Site Waste Diversion
- B2B Packaging
- Product Packaging Innovation
- Consumer Labelling
- Post Consumer Recovery
- Packaging Sustainability Strategy
- Closed Loop Collaboration
- Consumer Engagement
- Industry Leadership
- Packaging Design and Procurement
- Packaging Materials Efficiency
- Recycled and Renewable Materials

### **Cheryl Williams - State Operations Manager NSW/ACT, Bunnings**

#### **Bunnings - Business Behaviour that Builds Trust**

- Team members – a high performance culture
- Customers – Price Range and service
- Community – we live here too
- Suppliers and landlords – long term relationships
- Shareholders provide long term sustainable returns

#### **Community Education**

- In Store Support
- Composting and Worm Farms
- Repurposing and recycling materials
- Energy and water saving workshops
- Street Libraries
- Grow your Kid's programs
- Hosting craft groups
- Gardening club events

**Karen Gomez – Chief Executive, PaintBack Ltd - *Paint Recycling Stewardship***

- Before Paintback, there were different collection models in each state. If no collection point paint went to landfill.
- Paintback is establishing collection points Australia wide starting in major population areas. Monash Council has already signed up to this and offers this facility, the busiest in the country, at our depot in Ferntree Gully Road.
- Paintback offers a solution for DIY and trade painters to dispose of unwanted paint and packaging responsibly.
- Paintback accepts up to 100 litres per vehicle visit secured in containers of 20 litres or less. These are stored at the collection facility until pick up.
- Paint and packaging are separated at a treatment facility. Containers are recycled and turned into new packaging materials. The solvent paint is used as an alternative energy source, replacing fossil fuels in cement kilns. Water is separated from acrylic paint with the by product used in a variety of industrial applications
- Paintback is funded through a 15 cents per litre levy (plus GST) on eligible products between 1 litre and 20 litres inclusive.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Battery Stewardship Council – *Collection and Recycling of Batteries***

The **Battery Stewardship** Council has begun designing an industry-led **battery stewardship** scheme.

Keeping batteries out of the waste stream has multiple benefits. Many of the materials found in handheld batteries can be recycled and reused, recovering hazardous substances that would otherwise be released into the environment causing pollution and contamination.

400 million batteries enter the Australian market each year, less than three per cent of non-car batteries are recycled in Australia, according to a 2014 trend analysis and market assessment report, prepared on behalf of the National Environment Protection Council Service Corporation.

Toxic chemicals such as nickel, cadmium, alkaline and mercury are often found in batteries, and can be a risk to the environment and human health due to their flammability and the leaching of heavy metals.

The Battery Stewardship Council is in its infancy and was formed earlier in 2018, combining government and industry bodies, to undertake background work to understanding the markets and barriers to recycling that need to be addressed in a stewardship scheme.

The work of the Battery Stewardship Council is supported by the Australian Battery Recycling Initiative (ABRI) with funding from the QLD Department of Environment and Science.

## Bill Shorten

### Leader of the Opposition

- Acknowledged the impact of funding cuts to indigenous housing and committed to a properly funded program if Labor gets back to office federally.
- Acknowledged the various contributions of Local Government to the running of society (including libraries, galleries, sports and men's sheds).
- Will advocate for constitutional recognition of local government.
- After asking last year for Councils' top three 'shovel-ready' project ideas has received over 800. He and Steven Jones (shadow minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government) will be looking at the project list and distributing relevant parts to all State Labor administrations and oppositions.
- Committed to a Labor government that listens to local government and is sensitive to its needs. Specifically he said that Federal Labor:
  - Was committed to assisting with women's sporting facilities
  - Recognised the needs to help communities fix up urban rivers and creeks, wetlands to capture and filter storm water and planting of trees.
  - Recognised the scale and importance of the issues with plastic waste finding its way into rivers and seas and oceans
  - Recognised the scale and importance of providing quality aged care facilities.
  - Committed to support the ABC.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Motions

### NGA Local Government 2018

91 motions were considered by the Assembly. Those passed included:

- A motion from Randwick City Council supporting a substantial increase in direct funding for specialist domestic violence services and crisis accommodation providers;
- A motion from Moreland City Council calling on the Federal Government to commit to recurrent funding of Universal Access to 15 hours of kindergarten;
- A motion from Blacktown City Council calling for the Commonwealth and State Governments to provide climate change funding to assist local government and communities to implement emission reduction projects;
- A motion from East Gippsland Shire Council calling on the Federal Government to support councils to develop and implement local and regional Climate Change Adaptation Plans;
- A motion from Blue Mountains City Council calling on the Federal Government to implement strategies and actions that will rapidly improve conditions for, and the uptake of, walking and cycling on transport and recreation networks;
- A motion from Wentworth Shire Council supporting a ban on all overseas political donations to individuals or parties;

- A motion from Leeton Shire Council urging the Federal Government to address the procedural and staffing issues affecting citizenship applications and to process all applications from refugees within a reasonable timeframe;
- A motion from Hume City Council calling on the Australian Leisure and Hospitality Group and Woolworths to provide detailed information on their gaming operations;
- A motion from Moreland City Council calling for a raise to the Newstart Allowance;
- A motion from Moonee Valley City Council calling for improvement to the management and preservation of bee populations;
- A motion from Wingecarribee Shire Council advocating for the inclusion of issues surrounding the exploitation of children, women and animals as a consideration in the Procurement Policies of Councils;
- A motion from Logan City Council calling for the Federal Government to conduct extensive consultation with local governments and other key stakeholders prior to proposing further income management measures for local people;
- A motion from Hobsons Bay City Council calling for a mandatory inclusionary requirement for the delivery of affordable and social housing within residential developments;
- A motion from Mitchell Shire Council calling for COAG to develop affordable housing standards that include measures for sustainability;
- A motion from Leeton Shire Council supporting the implementation of a National Container Deposit Scheme;
- A motion from Central Coast Council calling for the return of all waste levy revenues to Councils to fund waste and recycling initiatives.

## **Conclusion**

Further information on the Conference can be accessed through the following link:

[https://www.conferenceco.com.au/ALGA\\_NGA/index2018.html#](https://www.conferenceco.com.au/ALGA_NGA/index2018.html#)

Speakers were subject to change at short notice.

Councillors will discuss opportunities raised at the conference with Council Officers and business leaders.

Since the conference, BMW's Future Mobility Manager whom Cr Saloumi met in Canberra, has been introduced to the CEO of the Eastern Innovation Business Centre (EIBC) and EIBC's EzyMile tenants who have used this base for autonomous buses made in Toulouse, France.

Councillors discussed opportunities presented by Stephanie Alexander School Kitchen Gardens team a trade stallholder at the conference, with the Monash Sustainability team manager.

Other opportunities are yet to be explored regarding traffic and waste management.

\*\*\*\*\*