

To provide Gladstone Regional Council's management sector with information in the area of Conferences and their Organisational benefit.



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#### 1.0 Conference Attended and the Synopsis

ALGA President David O'Loughlin welcomed all 880 delegates to the Conference

##### **Michael McCormack (Deputy Prime Minister)**

- All politics are local
- 2400 Infrastructure projects under way in Australia at the moment
- Councils should keep up the agitation for funding from Government, but no pet projects
- 110 Councils receiving drought relief currently
- Local government must be recognised in the Australian Constitution
- Local Government should be funded directly from the Feds

##### **David O'Loughlin (ALGA President)**

- 25<sup>th</sup> NGA
- Mark Coulton new Local Government minister
- ALGA needs to be at the forefront in population policy
- Bridges program ongoing
- More money available for blackspot projects
- Still pushing for first and last mile road funding
- Healthy community program - \$101million funding available
- Remote community funding available
- \$160million available for mobile blackspot funding
- Circular economy principal being discussed – funding available for recycling
- No action for FAGS to be increased
- Councils should be acknowledging the funding they receive from Feds in their annual report and in budget announcements – keep the member involved
- Feature safety in Asset planning
- State of the Nation report has been produced by JLT

##### **Karen Middleton (Chief political Correspondent The Saturday Paper)**

- Avoid making election predictions
- National poles – do respondents tell the truth
- Better prediction results from Twitter
- Scare campaign on retiree tax
- Parties have to have better leaders to sell complex policies
- Managing slowdown in economy – no blank cheques

## **Steve Sammartino (Australian Futurist, Author, Technologist, Speaker)**

- Economic history important
- Language is the killer Ap
- Many use emoji's every day
- Collaboration is back in business
- Artificial intelligence for your community – smart/digital
- Crowd funded communities
- People can give you assistance – Ap to find out what resources there are in the community
- No need for legacy infrastructure projects
- Invest 10 minutes a day/side project/humans first

### Councils Using Technology to Excel

Eileen Deemal-Hall CEO Wujai-Wujai Council (Communications During Natural Disasters)

- Emergency network forum
- Adaption – having to pivot with change
- Climate transition plans
- We all have a different kind of clever – learn how to fail beautifully

Ben Artup Director Strategic Projects Bundaberg Regional Council (Bundaberg Region's Intelligent Community)

- Smart cities approach
- Less than 12 months old – started with Corporate Plan (2 pages)
- Use Innovation as a heading in Corporate Plan
- Council being a lead in this space – Citizen Science
- Focus on open data systems – Public dashboards
- Using Smart Cities and Suburbs funding
- LG Sherlock – data (Energy Detective)
- Intelligent water meters

Colin Fairweather CIO City of Melbourne (21<sup>st</sup> Century Government)

- Administrative work will be completed by robots – are we ready for this conversation
- Different Councils need to share their projects
- Strategy is delivery
- Focus on customer and business outcomes

## Housing, Infrastructure and Population

Romilly Madew - CEO Infrastructure Australia (Australian 2019 Infrastructure Audit)

- Independent Infrastructure advisors – Michael McCormack (regional) and Alan Tudge (cities)
- Community centred approach
- Vital that local governments are involved - two way conversations at the strategy level
- Access, quality, cost are the priorities
- 24% growth in population by 2030 – 1.6% per year (faster than most English speaking countries)
- 2019 Infrastructure Audit Report – independent advice to government
- Covers all infrastructure – issues of funding and finance
- User focus – focus in place – towns categorised
- Reporting doesn't always match up – outcome for users – public submissions encouraged

Andrew Beer - Dean Research UniSA (Role of Government in Housing)

- Local Government is a key point of a networked housing solution
- New times in the relationship Local Government and housing in Australia
- Too often housing is another cost shift by state and federal government
- More can be done by local government to share good practice in housing
- Community should know what Council does
- Capacity for Local Government to do more in housing

Robert Pradolin – Housing all Australians, Gary Spivak – City of Port Phillip (Local Government and the Private Sector)

- Tired of talking, tired of seeing homeless
- Private sector should take the lead
- Harness private sector to provide stable housing
- Repurpose buildings – pop up shelters
- Think intergenerational – keep Feds and State out of the argument
- One set of development rules across Australia
- Private market – affordable housing – private sectors should be engaged

Naomi Westwood – Assistant Commissioner ATO Business Registry (Disasters are you ready)

- ABR Data – free service
- Disaster – safe places, equipment available, hazardous materials, who is impacted
- Data – raw and documented
- Procurement – planning economic development/compliance
- Bundaberg – AG forum/Waste disposal levee/business info sessions
- City of Ryde - industry sector forums/monthly welcome E letter/shop industries
- Dubbo – track new business regos

Rose Read CEO National Waste Recycling Industry Council (Your Community, Your Environment)

- 62% waste recycled - \$1.6 billion, 16% from households – ½ tonne per year
- 12% plastics recycled only

- Glass 57% recycled
- Organics – 48% recovered before landfill
- Solutions – work closely with councils (consistent community education)

Tony Farrell - Deputy CEO Lake Macquarie City Council (circular economy glass and organic composts)

- Coal area – had to rethink possibilities – 3 coal powered power stations 200,000 people
- Three bin system – food and green waste collected once per week -7% contamination in bins – 70%–diversion from landfill
- Construction waste 92% diversion
- Four councils in their waste collection area
- Recycling into sporting fields
- Employed a circular economy officer

Damian Ryan – Mayor Alice Springs (solar power)

- Change action because of power usage
- Became a solar city in 2008
- City’s power partnership
- Variable speed pumps/Smart trees in parks
- Alice Solar Cities

Kylie Cochrane – Aerocon (Engaging Community)

- Shared community understanding and consultation – many people don’t take it seriously
- Social triangle theory – political/community/religion
- What we have left is people and place
- Community is enraged when they are threatened and are the key when developing infrastructure projects
- All projects are political – social media is a game changer
- Challenge and engage people who are pro development, but only if it has community benefits
- People want to be connected and involved

Samantha Kennedy – Pivotal (Dealing with disaster)

Andrew Howe - Emergency Management Canterbury Council (Dealing with disaster)

- Satellite technology
- GSD – Get stuff done
- \$40 billion to rebuild Christchurch
- Rebuild challenges with Arts and Culture versus Sport
- Wellbeing physiological effects
- Business continuity – staff effected
- Levels of insurance
- Ability to communicate
- Colocation of all emergency services – combined intelligence centre

Davi Pich – CEO Institute of Managers and Leaders (Six Layers of International Leadership)

- 3 layers presented – David can address Councils for free
- Staff awareness rules okay
- Leaders make decisions – actively make time to think before you act – monitor leave and be mentally healthy
- Reflect and adjust

Kurt Fearnley – Paralympic Champion (Overcoming the Odds)

- Need the intention of being perfect to be the best in the world at something
- Strength and power when you show vulnerability
- We need a voice for disability in Council
- Policies have to reflect that we have 20% of the community with some sort of disability
- Build and invest in disabled people in our home towns.

## 2.0 Key Learnings from each session attended or speaker session

Councils should be acknowledging the funding they receive from Feds in their annual report and in budget announcements and keep the member involved.

Administrative work will be completed by robots. Are we ready for this conversation.

We need to look at employing a circular economy officer.

The Social triangle theory is political/community/religion.

## 3.0 One thing you will use as a result of your learnings

We need a voice for disability in Council. Policies have to reflect that we have 20% of the community with some sort of disability. Build and invest in disabled people in our home towns.

## 4.0 One thing that the organisation could use to improve its operations

Different Councils need to share their projects.



## 5.0 Other comments

We need to talk to Ben Artup Director Strategic Projects Bundaberg Regional Council regarding the Bundaberg Region's Intelligent Community.

All seven motions that the Gladstone Regional Council proposed to the Conference were accepted without debate.

## 6.0 Conference attendance costs

<b>Conference Registration Fee:</b>	\$ 1129.00
<b>Travel Costs:</b>	\$ 700.00
<b>Accommodation:</b>	\$ 671.81
<b>Sundries:</b>	Nil.
<b>Additional Costs:</b>	Nil.
<b>TOTAL COST:</b>	<b>\$ 2500.81</b>

