

LATE REPORT – CM11- Item for Noting

Circulated under separate cover to Councillors via IPad on Friday 24 May 2013.

11B LGMA National Congress and Business Expo (DOC13/40357)

DATE 23 May 2013

CONFIDENTIAL YES NO If yes please tick one of the following reasons
Personnel Matters Commercial Legal Security Personal Hardship

ITEM FOR DECISION
Meeting Date

ITEM FOR NOTING
Meeting Date Monday 27 May 2013

FURTHER ENQUIRIES TO Cr Graham Docksey, OAM
Council

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Background

Cr Graham Docksey, OAM attended the Local Government Managers Australia National Congress which was held in Hobart Tasmania from Sunday 19 to Tuesday 21 May 2013.

Issues

The Congress provided an opportunity to develop a broader understanding of the key issues affecting Local Governments and how they are likely to relate to AlburyCity.

Albury 2030 Plan

The plan fits very well with many of the points raised and discussed during the two days of the Congress.

Community Engagement

This was a strong theme of the Congress and emphasised that all councils can continue to improve their engagement with their community on many levels including the growing median of Social Media and I think that AlburyCity does it about right but we must continue to be on top of our game.

The Congress

Some 380 plus delegates attended the Congress with delegates coming from countries including Canada, USA, Japan, Indonesia, Kiribati, PNG, New Zealand, Suva and the Solomon Islands with several Australian Local Government organisations sending more than ten representatives.

Sunday: I attended the Local Government Managers Australia Annual General Meeting at 5pm followed by the Welcome Reception at 6pm.

Monday: Key Note Addresses were given by Bob Brown the immediate past Leader of the Greens on the subject: Great Society - Local Governments Role followed by Dr Kathy Alexander, the CEO City of Melbourne on the subject: Indicators of a Great Society.

The Congress was opened by the Hon Bryan Green MP, State Minister for Local Government. During his address he stated that the Tasmanian Government is working towards compulsory postal voting with fixed four year terms for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Bob Brown spoke very passionately about the uniqueness of Tasmania and then went on to talk about the recognition of Local Government in the September 14 Referendum. He set the scene for two days of discussion and debate around great societies.

Kathy Alexander shared her views and experience on what is important in measuring greatness in societies and how her organisation goes about meeting these ideals. She spoke in relation to good planning, economic opportunity, environmental factors and quality of life being key factors towards Melbourne becoming the World's Most Liveable City. She also spoke about City Safety and Social Equity as key factors along with sidewalks, paths and walkways being important to opening up the CBD.

During the afternoon I attended the presentation titled: What the Future Looks Like. Four CEO's formed the panel which was followed by a Q&A session. Key points were, there is a projected large increase in lone person households and a large increase in couples without children households.

Planning for an ageing population needs to consider these trends. Councils should be a service provider as a last resort. If another provider can provide the same service then they should. One of the panel members was Bob Ansett Business Entrepreneur.

Tuesday: Key Note Addresses were given by Bob Parker, Mayor City of Christchurch, New Zealand on the subject: Rebuilding and Redeveloping a Great Society followed by Mark Pesce Futurist and New Inventors Judge on the subject: Modern Democracy and Community Engagement. The presentation by Bob Parker was very emotional and thought provoking raising many questions relating to Local Governments role in the rescue and recovery process and the aftermath of the Christchurch earthquake.

Later during the morning I attended the presentation titled: Community Engagement, Modern Democracy. Four Speakers spoke about their Councils engagement with their community. Key points being: Focus Groups, Social Media and the need to continue to improve connectivity with the community.

During the afternoon a Community Engagement Workshop was conducted building on the presentations conducted before lunch. Again the focus was on Community Engagement.

Conclusion

Attendance at future Congresses is strongly recommended and consideration should be given to one Councillor and one staff member attending each year.

AlburyCity is no different to the many council representatives that I came in contact with and in many cases we are ahead of many. I am proud to represent AlburyCity.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the report by Councillor Graham Docksey, OAM on his attendance at the 2013 Australian Local Government National Congress held in Hobart Tasmania from Sunday 19 to Tuesday 21 May 2013.