



LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGERS AUSTRALIA  
QUEENSLAND INC.

## 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

3.20pm on Wednesday, 7 September 2022  
Gladstone Convention and Entertainment Centre

### MINUTES

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Andrew Chesterman opened the meeting at 3.20pm and welcomed all members. Andrew also acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting was conducted.

Andrew Chesterman asked that all attendees register their attendance via the lists circulating. He noted that a number of apologies had been received and would be noted in the minutes.

A minute's silence was observed for the passing of members during the year.

#### 2. Confirmation of Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

Andrew Chesterman confirmed that members had received copies of the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting, held on Wednesday, 8 September in Cairns. He sought confirmation that the minutes offered a true and accurate reflection of proceedings.

##### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, 8 September in Cairns be accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Moved: Mark Crawley  
Seconded: Matthew Magin  
Carried: Yes

#### 3. Presentation of the 2021/2022 Financial Statements

The 2021/2022 Financial Statements were circulated to members via email and made available on the LGMA website. Treasurer, Liza Perrett, attending via video conference, presented the 2021/2022 Financial Statements.

LGMA has bounced back well from the disruption of the past few years with a number of the new initiatives introduced taking off and strong responses from partners and councils.

LGMA recorded a strong surplus of \$145,000 which was well over budget.

Training programme performance was hit and miss with some programmes outperforming (Villages, Annual Conference and Rural Management Challenges) and others underperforming (Management Challenge, Ignite and Propeller). Some of this related to timing issues with programmes commencing or closing during the February floods. A number of programmes were delayed or postponed at different stages during the year as COVID and flood impacts continued to be felt across councils.

Key items to note include:

- LGMA received an unqualified audit.
- Revenue was up on last year and almost back to pre-COVID levels.
- It should be noted that revenue reported last year included Job-Keeper payments.
- Expenses were up, particularly in employee expenses with LGMA increasing resourcing to meet returning demand. LGMA currently carries its largest FTE capacity to date and this is expected to grow marginally in the coming year in order to maintain pace with demand for services.
- Other expenses were up on the past year comparison because events were not held in the prior year (for example conference and event expenses include delivery of an annual conference in 2021-22 but did not in 2020-21).
- Key ratios remain in target ranges including member equity, expense ratios and asset ratios.
- Other liabilities are at usual levels for this time of year, reflecting the income received from corporate partners and delegates for the Annual Conference and other events that will occur in the 2022-23 year.
- Cash is running high and the excess will be invested per the LGMA Investment Policy in the near future (looking to take advantage of rising rates).

Trends to note for the coming year include:

- In line with increasing interest rates and associated cost imposts, LGMA is already experiencing cost increases for general activity such as travel, stationery, IT services, venue hire and catering. This will necessarily be reflected in the increase of some programme fees in 2022-23.
- Council Subscriptions will increase in 2022 to reflect the significant additional benefits being offered and extensive take-up by staff across councils. This has been one of the real success stories of the past 2 years and LGMA will look to continue to deliver value and respond to need.

The notes to the accounts include mention of significant current and non-current liabilities which represent a grant payment for the Governance Advisory Service. This service has been largely funded by the State Government and will commence in late September following a launch at conference. It is a two-year grant and the funding has been apportioned accordingly.

In addition to the Financial Statements tabled, members will note that LGMA administers the Local Government Management Foundation which is a trust created to support research into matters affecting the sector. In 2021-2022, there were no transactions associated with the trust other than the accrual of interest. Financial statements for the Foundation were included in the papers

Liza Perrett also tabled the Management Letter which is the attestation from the CEO to the Board and the LGMA Representation Letter which is the attestation from the Board to the Auditor, along with the Audit Management Letter. These indicate that the organisation has a clear and well-maintained records with good oversight by the Board.

Liza moved the Financial Statements for 2021/2022 be adopted as presented.

Liza Perrett invited questions from the floor.

The Treasurer moved the financial statements.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Financial Statements for 2021/2022 be adopted as presented.

Moved: Liza Perrett

Seconded: Ken Timms

Carried: Yes

#### 4. Appointment of Auditor

Andrew Chesterman moved that Brad Donnelly of BTD Consulting be appointed as the auditor for the 2022/2023 financial year

**RESOLVED:**

That BTD Consulting be appointed as Auditor for the 2022/2023 year.

Moved: Andrew Chesterman

Seconded: Debra Howe

Carried: Yes

#### 5. President's Address

The President, Andrew Chesterman, tabled his report as follows:

I am sure that somewhere in the dictionary and there is a single word that might describe the year that I read over the past two President Reports and, unsurprisingly, found reflections on the years gone by as unprecedented, challenging and tumultuous.

So it's probably not helpful for me to make this a hat-trick in reflections on COVID but rather try to now look ahead and reflect on our sector and what we have done well and where we are going as an association.

We are all now living with COVID and the future is perhaps not what we thought it would be less than three short years ago. Things have changed. And there's no going back.

At the outset, I have been proud to serve the past year as your LGMA President and continue to maintain our strong advocacy for the sector whilst providing stable and continued support for the LGMA organisation and current Board.

As I committed to, we have made an excellent start in building a strong (but differentiated) relationship with the LGAQ and have our voice continue to be heard in policy discussions held with the State when a practitioner's view is paramount. There is more to be done in this area, however, our dialogue with LGAQ's relatively new CEO, Alison Smith, is open and constructive. The Board has reaffirmed the importance of having a strong and engaged LGAQ and will be progressing further discussions with them in this regard.

The Board is also progressing the challenges associated with the role we should play as an Association in broadening our appeal and encouraging and promoting local government as a tremendous career path for our younger members. But there is more to do to grow our voice and relevance to professionals in local government. Our work on the LGMA brand offering and ways we communicate has commenced and you should expect to see more discussion on this in the year ahead, including exploration of members' thoughts on the LGMA name.

The Board has ratified changes to council subscription fees in 2022-23 and a forward plan for future increases. An appropriately staggered pathway to achieve greater differentiation between councils,

based on the value they can obtain from their membership, is in place which reflects the extensive range of services offered under the subscription. Whilst in percentage terms some of these increases appear substantial, the reality of the value for money equation is easily demonstrated.

Our National representative, Susan Jarvis, has kept the Board informed of the serious financial position of the LGPA. Their (recently re-elected) President Jonathan Throssell recently informed me that given its unsustainable financial position, it is in the best interests of LG Professionals Australia to close the Canberra office. Administrative action to give effect to this is underway, however, it is important to understand that LG Professionals Australia is not winding up. The LGPA Board is committed to consulting its Members in order to determine the future direction of LG Professionals Australia.

Best practice has boards review their performance and makeup on a semi regular basis. With the turnover of LGMA Board members, noting they are voted in by Members, individual Board member performance reviews was not seen as a good use of resources. However, looking forward, a new policy is being developed to establish a board review every two years conducted independently by a person with knowledge of local government and good governance processes. The view of a selection of members regarding the performance of the Board and an opinion on the performance of the Board will also be sought.

As all of you know, your LGMA Board is made up of volunteers, committed to the sector. I would like thank my colleagues on the LGMA Board, three of whom are moving on. Liza Perrett, who joined in 2018, will be stepping down from the Board and as LGMA Treasurer to pursue her new role as Governance Advisor within LGMA itself. This meritorious appointment, funded by the State Government for two years, will see her skills and experience benefit those councils that call on her expertise. Linda Cardew, who joined the Board in 2016, and Matthew Magin, in 2017, are also moving on, with Linda now retired and literally sailing off into the sunset. Their contributions and immense experience have been invaluable to LGMA.

I would also like to pay a particular thanks to LGMA CEO Peta Irvine and her small, but dedicated, team for once again navigating a difficult year and continuing to maintain our membership base and respond to the ever-changing work and travel landscape. The Village programme goes from strength to strength, we again have a strong annual conference and our training programmes are well attended. We are in good shape.

Finally, it is with the support of you, our members that we remain in a healthy position to support our sector, and most importantly, the communities we all so proudly serve. I look forward to the year ahead as we continue the betterment of local government and the diverse range of professionals within it.

Thank you.

Andrew Chesterman tabled his report.

**RESOLVED**

That the President's report on the 2021/2022 year be accepted.

Moved: Greg Chemello

Seconded: Zala Chatur

Carried: Yes

## 6. Policy Platforms

Andrew Chesterman advised that the LGMA Policy Platforms have been reviewed as they are each year and were circulated to members for information. These offer a transparent mechanism for members and stakeholders to better understand what LGMA believes to be elements critical to good governance of councils.

Members who wish to make comment and encouraged to do so at any time.

## 7. Local Government Professionals Australia (National)

Andrew Chesterman noted that representatives from Local Government Professionals Australia were unable to be present at this event. In their absence, he tabled the following information from the National President, Jonathon Throssell.

### Future of National Office

Facing a challenging financial situation with limited opportunities to remedy at this time, the Board of Local Government Professionals Australia engaged River Road Consulting, (a consulting firm comprising two former National Presidents of LG Professionals Australia - Andrew Wardlaw and Paul West) to undertake a review of the options available to the Board in response to the serious financial sustainability pressures it was facing.

Following consideration of the report, the Board has determined that, given its unsustainable financial position, it is in the best interests of LG Professionals Australia to close the Canberra office with effect from 2 September 2022, and to cease the employment of all National Office staff from this date.

As you would appreciate, this decision was not made lightly. While the Board is now undertaking the administrative action to give effect to the decision to close the office, President gave assurances that LG Professionals Australia is not being wound up. The Board is committed to undertaking consultation with the Members (i.e. state bodies), as soon as possible, in order to determine the future direction of LG Professionals Australia. I'm sure you can appreciate that as a Board comprising volunteers each member is contributing as best he/she can to ensure LG Professionals Australia can continue to represent the interests of Members while transitioning through this difficult period.

Andrew Chesterman advised that LGMA was working closely with the National Board and other states to ensure continuity of service.

### **RESOLVED**

That the LG Professionals Australia advice be noted.

Moved: Mark Crawley

Seconded: Rachel Brophy

Carried: Yes

Andrew Chesterman vacated the Chair and invited Peta Irvine, in her capacity as Returning Officer, to take the floor.

## 8. Declaration of Office Bearers

Peta Irvine provided the following election report:

Five positions were vacant. These were the positions of President, SQ Director, CQ Director, NQ Director and Director at Large.

### Nominations

The nomination period opened on 4 July 2022 and closed on Friday 3 August 2022. Eligible members were notified via email and nominations were accepted via email, post and fax.

The following nominations were received:

<b>Position Nominated</b>	<b>Nominee</b>
President	Andrew Chesterman
Director SQ	Daniel Fletcher Cassie White
Director NQ	Rachel Brophy Kylie Lamb
Director CQ	Daniel Wagner
Director (at large)	Susan Jarvis Mica Martin

A ballot was prepared for the positions of Director at large, SQ Director and NQ Director and forwarded to members via email ballot (using Survey Monkey) on 4 August 2022. The election closed at 3pm on 2 September 2022 and the returning officer closed the ballot and downloaded the results.

In accordance with Rule 11.7 (1) (b) of the LGMA Qld Rules of Association, where there is only one valid nomination for each position, the nominated persons are taken to be elected to that position.

On that basis, President, Andrew Chesterman and incoming Director CQ, Daniel Wagner are elected unopposed.

As a result of the ballot process, the newly elected SQ Director is Daniel Fletcher, NQ Director is Rachel Brophy and returning to the At-Large role is Susan Jarvis.

Peta Irvine congratulated all board members and stated that she looked forward to working with each over the coming year.

Peta Irvine asked for a member to move that new Board be endorsed.

### RESOLVED

That the Election report for 2022 be received and the successful candidates taken as elected.

Moved: Mark Crawley  
Seconded: Matthew Magin  
Carried: Yes



*Andrew Chesterman resumed the Chair*

Andrew acknowledged members and the Board.

He welcomed the new Board members, Daniel Fletcher, Daniel Wagner and Rachel Brophy.

He thanked outgoing directors, Matthew Magin, Linda Cardew and Liza Perrett, noting the significant contribution each has made during their time on the Board.

## **9. Recognition of Membership**

Andrew Chesterman stated that it was his pleasure to recognise members who have shown an ongoing commitment to LGMA Queensland and the sector over many years through the presentation of Recognition of Membership Certificates.

Certificates were awarded to the following members:

<b>20 Years</b>	<b>30 Years</b>	<b>40 Years</b>	<b>50 Years</b>
Mark Pitt Peter Franks	Ray Geraghty	Ray Burton Len Lee	Geoff Redman

Geoff Redman was on hand to accept his certificate and noted his long and valued association with IMM and its successors.

Andrew Chesterman advised that this year, the Board had identified two members whose contribution it felt was worthy of special recognition through the decision to confer Fellow Status.

The first was Evan Pardon. Evan has held membership since 2006 and in that time has made a considerable contribution to the sector and LGMA. Not only has he been an avid supporter of programmes, especially the rural management challenge, but he has been a regular presenter at the Executive Management Programme and does a great job facilitating the CEO Forums. This is in addition to the contribution he makes of LGMA's advocacy work and input into critical matters.

Congratulations Evan and well deserved.

The second person to be conferred Fellow status was Liza Perrett. Liza has been a member since 2009. She first learnt about LGMA when she was part of the inaugural Propellor Programme and became an affiliate member. Liza joined the Board in 2018 and she has been an absolute workhorse since. She has taken on the risk work and led the Board through the development of a much-improved risk framework. She steps in whenever needed and has been a great contributor to our discussions.

Andrew thanked Liza and welcomed her as a Fellow.

## **10. General Business**

### Tenure of President

Andrew Chesterman raised the matter of tenure of the Presidency. He noted the disruption caused by single year terms with a maximum of 2 terms to be served concurrently. He advised that the CEO reported that this was highly disruptive and had recommended consideration of two-year terms with a limit of two terms able to be served consecutively.

He asked members to consider this matter and, if there was general agreement, the CEO would work up proposed constitution changes for consideration at the 2023 AGM.

A number of members suggested that this approach sounded sensible and there was no dissenting position expressed. However, members were invited to consider at leisure and provide advice back to Board members or the CEO.

#### Local Government Conference Location

Andrew Chesterman advised that in a recent Board meeting, Peter Franks raised the matter of conference location. Peter's concern is that while it is great to travel to other locations, costs and time commitments are increased when the conference is not in SEQ. His recommendation to the Board is that LGMA look to host conferences in SEQ and perhaps Cairns to make them more accessible to a greater number of people.

Andrew invited views from the floor and a number of attendees made comment.

Comments included:

- the value that regional areas get from a major conference such as this one;
- the benefits of travelling for a conference where collegiality builds connection to the sector and LGMA;
- the opportunity afforded to visit the area and see how council in those areas conduct their business;
- additional costs do limit attendance (time and money);
- difficulty in finding any area which is convenient;
- suggestion of every second year in SEQ.

Andrew thanked all for their comments and invited further comment to either Directors or the CEO at any time.

#### LGMA Name

Andrew Chesterman advised that LGMA was doing significant work in relation to its strategic offering and brand and that some of these changes were being implemented through the website. This discussion has led to reconsideration of the LGMA name.

When the other states changed name to LGProfessionals Australia, for a range of reasons it was not considered the right time for LGMA to change names. The CEO also made the case at that time for not changing to the same name as other states.

Andrew advised that the Board was seeking to open discussion on this matter and ascertain member views.

There were a number of conflicting views from the floor about the use of Local Government Professionals. There was also a general sense that delegates felt a literal name was appropriate (as opposed to an emotive or metaphorical name).

Andrew thanked all for their comments and invited further comment to either Directors or the CEO at any time. He noted that LGMA would run focus groups on options in the coming year.

#### From the Floor

Members were invited to table items of general business.

#### **Meeting Close**

In the absence of any other General Business, the meeting closed at 4.05pm and Andrew thanked everyone for their attendance.



## Attendance

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Robert Andrews	Brisbane City Council	Heather Kelly	Cook Shire Council
Rachel Brophy	Douglas Shire Council	David Keenan	Mount Isa Regional Council
Greg Chemello	Moreton Bay Regional Council	Kylie Lamb	Mackay Regional Council
Andrew Chesterman	Redland City Council	Kylie Lee	Gladstone Regional Council
Mark Crawley	Carpentaria Shire Council	Matthew Magin	Balonne Shire Council
Cale Dendle	Livingstone Shire Council	Mica Martin	Cairns Regional Council
Kim Driver	Sunshine Coast Council	Scott Mead	Mead Perry Group
Leisa Dowling	Gladstone Regional Council	Gary Murphy	Southern Downs Regional Council
Daniel Fletcher	Western Downs Regional Council	Liza Perrett	(via video)
Mark Francis	Gladstone Regional Council	Venkat Peteti	Banana Shire Council
Dianne Francisco	Balonne Shire Council	Carly Quinn	Gladstone Regional Council
Lisa Golding	Douglas Shire Council	Geoff Redman	Redman Solutions
Siobhan Goodhew	Fraser Coast Regional Council	Sara Roberts	Douglas Shire Council
Donna Gregory	Moreton Bay Regional Council	Ken Timms	Etheridge Shire Council
Justin Hancock	Quilpie Shire Council	Daniel Wagner	Isaac Regional Council
Luke Hannan	Somerset Regional Council	Cassie White	Paroo Shire Council
Sharon Houlihan	Central Highlands Regional Council	<b>GUESTS (non-member)</b>	
Debra Howe	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Ben Hill	Carpentaria Shire Council
Peta Irvine	LGMA	Monique Whitewood	Redland City Council

## Apologies

Name	Name	Name
Noel Cass	Scott Mason	John Perry
Ray Currie	Joe McCabe	Chris Rose
Bradley Duke	John Oberhardt	Russell Schuler
Peter Franks	Herb Oliver	Gary Stevenson
Susan Jarvis	Bryan Ottone	Emma Thomas
Mark Kelleher	Evan Pardon	