



**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT GROUP INC**

**MINUTES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Friday 30 August 2013  
Adelaide Pavilion, Veale Gardens, South Terrace  
9.00 am**

**1 Apologies**

Stephen Faulkner, City of Unley	Eion Williamson, District Council of Grant
Ginny Moon, City of Prospect	David Hope, Skilmar Systems
Paul Slater, CEO LGFA	Peter Peppin, Port Augusta City Council
Craig Mudge, District Council of Mount Remarkable	Shane Sody, LGA
Corinne Garrett, UHY Haines Norton	Kate George, City of Salisbury
Wade Reynolds, City of Mitcham	

**2 Confirmation of Minutes of AGM 31 August 2012**

V Mifsud moved and E Williams seconded that the minutes be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

**3 Business Arising from Minutes**

There was no business arising.

**4 Change to Constitution**

N Tinning moved and K Dutta seconded that the outlined changes to Section 5 of the SALGFMG Constitution be received.

- 5.1** Management of the Group shall be vested in a Committee of not less than ten (10) nor more than twenty five (25) Committee Members including the Office Bearers of the Group, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

C Hempel moved and V Mifsud seconded that the outlined changes to 5.3 be received and made effective as at 1 July 2014.

- 5.3** The Office Bearers shall have at least twelve (12) months standing as a Member of the Committee and Committee Members must have been a Member of the Group for at least twelve (12) months

**CARRIED**

---

## 5 President's Report

I would like to thank everyone for attending today and supporting our AGM and in fact all, for all your support of FMG activities over the past year.

Today, however I would like to take the time to recognise the achievements over the year and to particularly acknowledge those who helped to make it happen. Firstly the FMG executive, these are a group of volunteers who give up their time to help organise seminars and workshops, develop tools and publications, provide feedback on policy and in general advocate on behalf of the local government finance sector.

I personally would like to thank them for the support they have shown me, over the past year and their tireless commitment to the financial sector at a time when I know they are often snowed under with their own jobs. I would also like to acknowledge the councils they work at and for the support they give these executive members so they can participate as members of the FMG.

I will list them by name and ask them to stand so you can show your appreciation.

Vincent Mifsud – City of Marion  
Nicola Tinning - City of Unley  
Marcus Smith – District city of Mount barker  
Norm Biggs – City of West Torrens  
Karishma Dutta - City of Mitcham  
Peter Fairlie-Jones – City of Salisbury  
Clive Hempel – Wakefield regional council  
Damien Jenkins – Rural City of Murray Bridge (Julie Campbell)  
Jeff Jones - City of Playford  
Mark Lague – Barossa council  
Ryan McMahon – City of Tee Tree Gully  
Ginny Moon – City of Prospect  
Annette Pianezzola - Adelaide City council  
Mick Wetherall – City of Port Adelaide Enfield  
Elizabeth Williams – Alexandrina council  
Eion Williamson - District council of Grant  
Simon Zbierski – City of Campbelltown  
Tony Amato – Town of Gawler  
Dianne Ekermann – City of Onkaparinga

I would like to thank and acknowledge Nicola Tinning, Jeff Jones and Vinnie Mifsud who will be retiring from the FMG executive. Both Nicola and Vinnie have held senior positions on the Executive as Secretary and Vice President and all have been active contributors to many FMG activities including the seminar, financial management and membership working groups. I personally will miss them all very much and sincerely thank them for their contribution over the years.

I also would like to acknowledge

- the LGA (particularly Shane Sody)
- the Office of State/Local Government Relations and in particular John Wright
- the Local Government Grants Commission and Peter Illee and Thi Le
- the LGMA SA, who are our events co-ordinators and particularly Linda Wride our secretariat and Taryn Sexton
- The SA Local Government Auditors group and in particular its Chairperson , Tim Mulhausler
- Ian McDonald our Auditor
- Maria Hocking who provides our treasurer support
- Sabine Schuhrer from University of Adelaide

and those from the general FMG membership who came along and participated in some of our executive meetings and projects. It was great to meet and work with all of you.

---

## **Review of the Year 2013/14**

### **Internal Control**

As we all know there is new legislation regarding the provision by auditors of an internal control opinion using the Better Practise Model Internal Financial Controls. This Better Practise Model was developed through a joint project of FMG along with SALGAG, LGA, OLG and Deloitte who developed a core library of internal controls and framework to provide guidance to the sector. In providing tools Deloitte's ControlTrack was made available as a low cost option. This is a web based tool to assist you in demonstrating you have an effective internal control monitoring system in place. FMG also commissioned Deloitte to provide an editable tool for your risk assessments and if Control Track has been purchased actions plans, reviewers and assessors can be uploaded automatically. This tool was made available to the membership. The control track tool via feedback from the LG sector has been updated with improved functionality over time and as a web based tool users, for a low fee get access to these ongoing features as they product is further refined. Personal thanks to Pascal Marrot Castellaat for his enthusiasm and support of this project.

As icing on the cake and recognition of what is widely considered best practise the FMG executive and Internal controls working party received the LGMA Leadership in financial management award. It's wonderful to be recognised for a piece of work which exemplifies true collaboration in the sector.

### **Fees and Charges full cost recovery**

FMG also continued to work with an LGA working group, who are part of a State-Local Government Joint Working Group with the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) to progress work on Local Government fees and charges set by statute with a view to establish annual indexation and, where appropriate and possible, full cost recovery.

UHY Haines Norton as part of that group are currently finalising a paper which will develop the methodology for establishing the full cost of a service and this will be used as the basis for reviewing all currently legislated fees.

### **Seminars and workshops**

Again we have continued with our very successful seminar series, one in December, "The Winning Edge – Serving Our Communities" at the Stamford Grand and again in March "Idus Martii" (The ides of March) at Sfera's. The December conference was again a 2 day event with workshops held on day one. Speakers such as Amanda Vanstone, John Fitzgerald and Brian Redican as well as topical updates on internal control, audit committees, ICAC and management reporting provided great opportunities for learning, fun and networking. Remember to lock in the 5 and 6 December at the Wine centre for our next conference "Are we there yet!" We again have a great line up of speakers including Alexander Downer and details will be out soon.

I wish to acknowledge Peter Fairlie Jones and the seminar working group including our secretariat support Linda Wride, who spend hours at early morning meetings organising these seminars and workshops for you.

In an effort to encourage more regional council attendance at our seminars we now offer a travel subsidy on application and free attendance to a council based on a criteria established through our membership group.

### **Website/newsletter group**

This year we continued with development of our new website [www.salgfmfg.com.au](http://www.salgfmfg.com.au) and our first e-newsletter. A complete review was also undertaken of all the information in our resource library. Our intention is to provide more regular online updates on projects and activities undertaken by the FMG as well as the ability to register online for our seminars. I would like to acknowledge the work of Clive Hempel and the newsletter/web working group who have been progressing this project.

### **Membership group**

Our membership group led ably by Ginny Moon looked at how we can increase opportunities for rural councils to participate more actively and developed subsidies to assist with travel to our seminars. They also reviewed our membership guidelines and developed a new membership

---

kit. It's reassuring to know we now have around 200 members with 85% councils having an FMG member.

### **Financial Management framework group**

We also provided feedback in relation to the changes proposed to the variations to the LG regulations and model financial statements with varying success. We also reviewed information papers on strategic management plans and the budget. We have requested through the LGA a revised costing paper including full cost attribution with particular emphasis in providing guidance re section 155. We now have draft which we are currently reviewing.

I want to acknowledge Mark Lague and the Financial Management working party for all their work in progressing these projects and providing feedback. This feedback is critical so the regulators are more aware of the issues some of these changes can have on our sector from the practitioner's point of view.

### **Other**

We also continue to have representation with the Grants Commission on a project to improve the quality and timeliness of the grants commission's supplementary return and have continued with our support of the LG price index. We also sent representatives from the FMG, Justin Commons (Prospect) and Alex Oulianoff (District council of Mount Barker) to the CPA expo to talk to and promote the advantages of a career in LG finance to university students.

### **Lastly but not least to our sponsors**

Through their generous sponsorship and support of our industry we are able to provide many of the high quality events at low or subsidized cost and have the capacity to be involved in projects which provide benefit to finance professionals across the sector. We sincerely thank you for your support and look forward to working with you again in 2013/14.

#### Platinum Sponsors

Local Government Finance Authority

#### Gold Sponsors

APV Valuers and Asset Management  
UHY Haines Norton Chartered Accountants

#### Silver

National Credit Management Limited  
Technology One Ltd  
LG Solutions

#### Bronze

AME Recruitment  
Maloney Field Services  
Coalface Software solutions  
Deloitte  
BDO  
Norman Waterhouse lawyers

Lastly I remind you that we have executive meetings on the last Friday of every month as published in our agendas. Any FMG member is most welcome to attend those meetings as an observer or participate in any projects we are working on – just either email myself or Linda.

E Williams moved and V Mifsud seconded that the President's report be received.

**CARRIED**

## **6 Treasurer's Report**

The audited financial report was presented by M Smith. . The Group continued to heavily invest in seminars, membership had remained static. M Smith also acknowledged the many volunteer hours put in by the committee and working groups. He also thanked M Hocking and I MacDonald for their contribution and support.

---

M Lague and P Fairlie-Jones seconded that the Treasurer's report be received.

**CARRIED**

**7 Election of Office Bearers and Management Committee Members for 2013/14**

Linda Wride announced that single nominations were received for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and the following appointments were made:

- President – *Annette Martin, City of Charles Sturt*
- Vice President – *Simon Zbierski, City of Campbelltown*
- Secretary – *Karishma Dutta, City of Mitcham*
- Treasurer – *Marcus Smith, District Council of Mount Barker*

The following members were elected as Committee Members:

Anthony Amato, Town of Gawler	Stephanie Juhas, City of Victor Harbor
Ray Barnwell, City of Marion	Mark Lague, The Barossa Council
Norman Biggs, City of West Torrens	Ginny Moon, City of Prospect
Julie Campbell, District Council of Murray Bridge	Ben Rasigatale, District Council of Karoonda East Murray
Michael Carey, City of Unley	Annette Pianezzola, Adelaide City Council
Anna-Lucia Draper, City of Tea Tree Gully	Elizabeth Williams, Alexandrina Council
Diane Eckermann, City of Onkaparinga	Eion Williamson, District Council of Grant
Peter Fairlie-Jones, City of Salisbury	David Hope, Skilmar Systems Pty Ltd
Anita Futterer, City of Playford	
Clive Hempel, Wakefield Regional Council	

N Tinning moved and V Mifsud seconded that the returning officers report be received and that all committee members be duly elected.

**CARRIED**

**8 Appointment of Auditor**

M Smith thanked Ian Mc Donald for providing the audit services for 2012/13 and recommends that Ian McDonald is re-appointed as Auditor for the 2013/2014 financial year.

C Hempel moved and M Smith seconded that Ian McDonald be appointed as Auditor for the 2013/2014 financial year.

**CARRIED**

**9 Setting of Fees**

There is no increase of fees for 2014/15 financial year. Membership fees to remain at \$99 (inclusive of GST).

P Fairlie-Jones moved and M Lague seconded that membership fees remain at \$99 for 2014/15 financial year.

**10 General Business**

**10.1 Honorary Membership**

An honorary member is open to any individual who has made a significant contribution to the SALGFMG. This year the Committee would like to acknowledge the contribution of Mr John Wright and offer him an Honorary Member.

---

John has gratefully accepted the appointment and advised that he considers it a privilege. Unfortunately due to board commitments he cannot be here today to accept in person. John is retiring from the SA public sector next week after 46 years service and currently serves on the Audit Committee of two Government Boards.

John has been a passionate supporter of improving financial management in the Local Government sector.

Over the last 15 years, he has played a key role in a range of initiatives in close collaboration with the FMG (commencing with major changes to the financial management and rating provisions of the Local Government Act when the Act was completely re-written in the late 1990's).

John is unusual in that he is employed by the Department of Treasury and Finance, but, for the last 8 years, effectively has been outsourced for a significant part of his time to the former Office for State/Local Government Relations (OSLGR) and the LGA - to work on Local Government financial sustainability and related reforms.

John has worked particularly closely and successfully with the FMG on the Local Government Financial Indicators, the Model Financial Statements, the Financial Management Regulations, and the current push for Local Government fees and charges to be set at levels to recover the full cost of related Council services.

Over many years, supported by funding made available by OSLGR, LGA and the Commonwealth, John has also worked closely with many small rural councils to provide them with capacity to participate more fully in a range of financial reform initiatives.

E Williams moved and P Fairlie-Jones seconded that Mr John Wright receive honorary membership of SALGFMG.

**CARRIED**

**Meeting closed at 9.30 am**