

**STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
(ANZSOG) EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

**INAUGURAL MEETING HELD MONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2009 AT UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
SYDNEY, 11am – 1pm AEST**

Present:

Mr Peter Allen (chair), Ms Monica Pfeffer (executive support), ANZSOG

Mr Chris Champion, Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia

Professor Mark Evans, University of Canberra

Dr Robert Mellor, Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (deputising for Ms Melissa Gibbs)

Mr John Ravlic, Local Government Managers Association

Ms Gabrielle Sinclair, Department of Infrastructure and Planning Queensland

Ms Karen Watson, City of Stonnington Victoria

Observers:

Dr Chris Aulich, Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government

Professor John H Howard, University of Canberra

Apologies:

Ms Jude Munro, Brisbane City Council Queensland

Mr Rob Spence, Municipal Association of Victoria

Mr Allen welcomed members to the inaugural meeting of the Steering Committee, thanked all for their willingness to participate, and indicated the success of the new Program would be critically dependent on its grounding in, and connection to, the needs and aspirations of the local government sector.

Agenda item #2

Membership, role of Steering Committee and terms of reference and operating procedures

Terms of reference and operating procedures were endorsed.

It was agreed Steering Committee members had been invited as individuals on the basis of their expertise and capacity and willingness to contribute to the Program, not as delegates from organisations.

It was agreed the Steering Committee should seek at least 2 more members, one to bring insights into the circumstances of remote/regional councils, and an elected representative

ACTION

Monica Pfeffer to speak to Cr Geoff Lake of the ACELG Board about sourcing an elected representative.

Monica Pfeffer to follow up Neil Hartley from Western Australia. **NOTE: Neil has agreed to join the Steering Committee.**

Agenda item #3***Future meetings***

The draft schedule of meetings and topics was agreed, subject to any necessary adjustment as the Program develops.

Consideration will be given to aligning Steering Committee meetings with the schedule of meetings for the ACELG Board.

Consideration could also be given to holding Steering Committee meetings at particularly innovative sites, to allow for presentation to members from the host council.

Agenda item #4:***Potential allocation of 'portfolios' for individual Steering Committee members***

The idea of Steering Committee members taking an active role in respect of particular dimensions of the program development was agreed.

Members were also happy to be asked for comments and advice out of session, as there are only 3 scheduled meetings of the Committee in calendar year 2010.

Ms Watson's offer to take responsibility for a new portfolio, 'emergency management' was accepted with thanks.

Agenda item #5:***Progress in developing the ANZSOG Excellence in Local Government Leadership Program – Professor Mark Evans.***

Professor Evans spoke to the Program outline which had previously been circulated. The Program is a unique experiment in elite leadership development for the local government sector, including bringing together both elected leaders and senior managers. He indicated that, subject to confirmation through the consultative process, the 3 legs of the Program were likely to be:

- Strategic management (including an understanding of the broader political, social, demographic and policy context in which councils operate)
- Negotiated governance
- Innovation

Discussion indicated the Program should also focus on: building the capacity of the local government sector to drive reform; supporting good governance through greater clarity around respective roles and responsibilities for managers and elected leaders; understanding the impetus for and challenges

in achieving joined-up government; and moving away from an emphasis on control and accountability by other levels of government, to a more equal partnership.

The suggestion was made in relation to gaining participation from high-quality elected representatives with long term interests in the sector, the Program be brought to the attention of the Australian Council of Local Government.

There was detailed discussion of some key program delivery dilemmas relating to the Program target group. These particularly involved:

- Managing the dynamic within a single program of a participant group drawn from both elected representatives and senior managers
- Taking adequate account of the diversity of local government types, circumstances and leadership capability – with the possibility of specialising in particular types of councils and/or issues in different years
- Responsiveness to the current and emerging policy settings, reform agendas and frameworks of Commonwealth and State/Territory governments

Members of the Steering Committee were keen to have further discussion of a number of critical issues:

- Who is the target audience for this Program?
- What is the intended ratio between elected representatives and senior managers?
- How will participants be selected?
- Is it intended to have jurisdictional quotas as per the existing EMPA and EFT programs, or to allow a free market in applications?
- What is the expected price point for the Program, and how might participation from promising candidates from less affluent councils be supported?
- What kind of sponsorship might be appropriate to seek?

ACTION

Monica Pfeffer to prepare and circulate an issues paper on the issues of aspirations for Program participants, fees and jurisdictional quotas. The steering committee to be in a position to support the participant selection process through the development of some key selection criteria. **The issues paper is attached.**

Monica Pfeffer to prepare and circulate an issues paper on criteria for determining appropriateness of sponsorship opportunities. **The issues paper is attached.**

There was no other business. Next meeting is scheduled for end March 2010 in Melbourne.