

Australian Local Government Assembly



Attended 12th and 13th June

Location: Melbourne

Cr Alex Makin
Loughnan's Hill Ward

Introduction:

The Future for Local Government Summit is the third summit convened to allow councillors and council officers to discuss a way forward for local government in Victoria and Australia.

Background – Last years summit:

Last year's summit identified eight key principles including:

1. Our time has come: embrace reform
2. Speak with one voice
3. Re-think what we do/how we do it
4. Achieve outcomes in shared services/ economies of scale
5. Measure ourselves
6. Really listen to the community
7. Deliver on local priorities
8. Involve all levels of government in the process of change.

The Conference:

The goal of this year's summit is to develop a roadmap to assist local government in delivering upon the eight principles. In this regard a number of case studies were presented which examined community planning, resource sharing and the roles of local government within other countries such as the New Zealand and the UK.

Based upon these case studies it is increasingly apparent that local government is not being adequately resourced by either the Federal or State Governments. With continuous pressures such as cost-shifting it is of course imperative that councils stand united to ensure an efficient and well resourced local government sector.

Conclusion:

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While this year's summit lacked the vision setting evident in the previous year's summit, it did provide a way forward to advance the level of discussion and debate about the future of local government in Victoria and Australia.

ALL ENQUIRES: CR ALEX MAKIN ON 0408 311 645