

2005 – 2006 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

President's Report

Introduction

I have pleasure in reporting the activities of the Place Leaders Association of Australia for the year 2005-06.

Membership

The membership of the Place Leaders Association of Australia has increased during the past year to nine members. The PLAA has welcomed Shellharbour City Council as well as two international agencies, Urban Redevelopment Authority and Auckland City,.

Following a number of queries directed to the Secretariat in respect to qualification for membership, a statement defining the criteria upon which an agency may be considered for membership was drafted and posted on the public website, stating :

Membership requires that an agency must fulfill the following criteria :

- *A public sector agency; and*
- *Undertaking or managing major urban land development / renewal projects designed to attract significant numbers of residents, workers and / or visitors; and*
- *Undertaking or managing major urban land development renewal projects that are of regional or strategic significance and that are by their nature complex in terms of issues such as heritage, remediation and risk.*

Secretariat

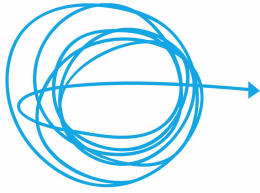
The Secretariat has continued to be managed by Trisha Hurley on a part-time basis. The independently managed Secretariat has ensured the focus on delivery of initiatives is maintained.

In addition to maintaining the flow of communication between the Members, the Secretariat is pivotal in the recruitment of new Members. This has clearly been demonstrated with the recruitment of three additional Members to the PLAA over the past 12 months.

Value of Membership

The reputation of the PLAA as a network of public sector agencies has grown over the past year as the opportunities to share experience and information have been recognised.

A focus on initiatives in the context of each of the four PLAA Objectives has provided a framework within which achievement can be measured, specifically :



Place Leaders Association of Australia

- Joint research projects and initiatives
- Experience-sharing workshops
- Information sharing and exchange portal

Participation in these three initiatives is rapidly increasing and the knowledge taken from the workshops during the past year has added an additional dimension to initiatives being implemented within the Member agencies.

Future Plans

A more formal approach to planning the communication between the Members has been adopted during the 2005 – 06 year and will continue, thus ensuring the maximum benefit is delivered to all Members.

The research initiatives that have begun during the year provide the opportunity to bring together small groups of innovative thinkers from within the Member agencies to:

- Share the benefits of techniques and strategies that are being developed within Member agencies, so they can be improved and become more influential; and
- To develop strategies of influence in terms of changing policy, planning, subsidies, etc by joining forces as an Association of land development agencies.

The PLAA's three key initiatives offer professional development opportunities to the staff of our Members, and a program of working groups and workshops is being developed to maximise these opportunities for the great number of participants.

Conclusion

2005 – 06 has been an exciting year for the Place Leaders Association of Australia. Our workshops are rapidly becoming the workshops "not to be missed" and we have been privileged to have had a number of industry leaders as guest speakers addressing and participating in our workshops.

The year ahead holds challenges, many of which are yet to become apparent. I believe, however, that the combined expertise within the PLAA member guarantees all of us success in what we set out to achieve.

I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the support and contribution of the Steering Committee and Management Teams who have promoted the benefits of participating in the Place Leaders Association of Australia both within their own agencies and beyond.

Tony Morgan
President
31 March 2006