



LINKAGES – Edition 29

Local Government Portal Launched!

The Western Australian Local Government Association officially launched the whole of WA Local Government Portal on Friday 18th February 2005 at the Town of Cambridge. The portal provides a single window to Local Government for WA, including internal and external stakeholders.

The Portal is built on a robust and scaleable application and content management framework that will provide the ongoing basis for delivery of current and future shared online services.

Public Area

Public users can use the portal as an entry point for WA Local Government news, events, announcements and other information related to Local Government. An example of this is an up-to-date consolidated list of all news items published by Councils in WA.

Currently there are over 2,500 pieces of Local Government content for public viewing, including the latest news, events, minutes and other public documents.

Members Area

All West Australian Local Governments are able to access the members' area. Within this area, users will have tiered access to secure collaboration groups, information repositories and additional functionality that is not available to the general public. An example of this may be a secured discussion and collaboration forum for special interest groups such as librarians, community development officers or CEO's.

Accessing the Portal

A few weeks ago, instructions were sent to IT contacts in each Council on how to add Staff and Elected Members to the list of authorised users for the Portal. Once added to the Membership Directory, all members of Local Government are able to login to the Members section by simply entering their username and password. Once inside the site, individuals can then update their profile, join online communities and access secure documentation.

Website Address

The website address is <http://www.councils.wa.gov.au>

The LCC team are currently liaising with the Association Zone and LGMA secretariats to organise presentations and demonstrations of the Local Government Portal to elected members and officers.

For further information regarding the Portal, please contact Kieran McCluskey on 9213-2081 or kmcccluskey@walga.asn.au

New (Improved and Better!) Internet Plans Available

As part of ongoing LCC activities, we continually scan the ICT market for changes that may affect Local Government.

We are currently aware of movements in the Internet Services Provider marketplace, with a raft of changes in relation to available speeds, data and access costs, specifically in relation to ADSL services.

As an example of the savings available to Councils, previously a 512k/128k plan costed approximately \$80 a month, whereas a 1.5M/256k plan is currently available for approximately \$60 a month, a \$20 a month saving with increased speeds!

Councils who are participants in the LCC managed gateway services and are fortunate enough to have access to ADSL have automatically had their service plans changed to take advantage of these new offerings (without incurring additional costs).

Other Councils are advised to review their existing ISP arrangements or contact their IT support provider in relation to this matter.

Welcome Aboard

The LCC team would like to extend a warm welcome and congratulations to the following Councils who are the latest sites to take advantage of the security, functionality and cost benefits of an LCC Gateway:

- Koorda
- Shire of Narrogin
- Tambellup
- Woodanilling

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An Australian Government Initiative



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

LINKING COUNCILS AND COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

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