



LINKAGES – Edition 30

Full Steam Ahead for the Local Government Portal

Since its launch over 3 months ago, the Whole of WA Local Government Portal, a single consolidated source for Local Government information, has been steadily gaining momentum with an increasing number of visitors and new content being added to the Portal.

Up to the end of April, the number of visits to the Portal more than doubled every month. May 2005 has recorded the largest number of visitors to date - over 4000 and rising, with nearly 35,000 pages displayed. An average of 160 people browse to the Portal every day.

The Local Government Portal regularly 'crawls' the Internet for new information and currently contains links to over 7000 pieces of content from the websites of all WA Local Governments, various grants and funding groups, state government agencies and other organisations with information relevant to Local Government. Content is not stored in the Portal itself – only links to the various pages and documents crawled are maintained so that traffic is directed to the originating websites, rather than 'taken away'.

Membership to the Portal is available to all Local Government staff and elected members. Once logged in, members have the ability to update their personal profile, participate in online communities and obtain information not available to the public. If you would like to gain membership to the Local Government Portal, please contact your Council's person responsible for IT matters to receive a login username and password. For additional assistance, call the LCC Helpdesk on 1300 766 542 or email helpdesk@linkingcouncils.com

For further information regarding the Portal, please contact Kieran McCluskey on 9213-2081 or kmcccluskey@walga.asn.au. The website address for the Local Government Portal is <http://www.councils.wa.gov.au>

New Influx of Spam Emails

Internet users have recently been bombarded with a new kind of email spam – right-wing German nationalistic propaganda with links to related websites. Viruses and worms have also been observed to ride on the back of many of these emails. Thankfully, most anti-spam filters have now adjusted themselves to filter out this new annoyance. Councils equipped with LCC Gateways were quick to adapt, blocking most of the new arrivals within a day and completely shutting the spam out after a week.

Linking Communities (Community Websites)

The Linking Councils & Communities Program is pleased to announce its Linking Communities initiative. This initiative will provide Community and Non for Profit (NFP) groups access to the same website services and technologies that our member councils have been enjoying.

Due to the varying size and nature of community groups and on the understanding that one size will not fit all, the LCC Program has developed three distinct offerings.

For the small community group that only needs up to 15 pages and a simple web presence, we have the Community Saver package. This has no upfront development cost and only a \$50 a month hosting and support fee that includes five updates by our staff a month.

For the community group that requires a slightly larger presence we have the Community Classic offer. This includes a website of up to 50 pages that has a professionally designed header and a unique website address (ie: www.name.org.au). The set up cost is only \$60 with a monthly hosting and support fee of \$150 that entitles the group to 10 updates and changes per month.

Our final offering is for the larger community groups that require a highly professional looking website. The offering is called the Community Premium and includes an unique and professionally designed website, hands on training with the website Content Management System for two group members, unlimited changes and updates, a unique website address (ie: www.name.org.au) and access to our website statistics package. The set up cost is \$2,060 with a monthly hosting and support fee of \$150.

For further information and a complete description of these offerings please contact Kieran McCluskey on 9213 2081 or kmcccluskey@walga.asn.au

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An Australian Government Initiative

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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