



19 September 2012

Ms Annalisa Haskell
CEO
LGMA NSW

Dear Annalisa

Your invitation to participate in the Destination 2036 Action Plan

I'm replying to your letter of 2 August and your invitation to nominate representatives to sit on a number of the working groups being managed by the LGMA. In considering your invitation the Committee of Management the Committee noted:

1. Destination 2036 drew together the two groups in the industry with the most to lose from the inevitable amalgamations of councils necessary to construct financially viable organisations (mayors and general managers) and that the thrust of the Action Plan involves secondary considerations that are only relevant or even contemplated because the obvious solution of rationalising boundaries is regarded as a frightening and undesirable prospect.
2. A major part of the work of these working parties is employment/industrial and more appropriately discussed between the LGSA and the local government unions. Anything which arises from this exercise which requires variation to the Local Government (State) Award or any of the other industrial instruments in the industry, will require the agreement of the LGSA and the local government unions, where we will be participating fully.
3. We have had bad experiences when the DLG and the LGMA (organisations with no industrial role, nor expertise) do anything employment-related (the fiasco of the development of the Standard Contract is one example) and fear the worst from dabblers and dilettantes.
4. We have had bad experiences being a minority view on consultative processes with the Department of Planning (amongst others) where, despite our opposition to a final document and recommendations, we are nevertheless acknowledged and thanked for participating in the process. We believe this compromises our integrity.
5. We do have a critical mass of members who are general managers in any event and will be consulting with them as well as other members.

As a consequence, we accept your invitation to the extent that we would like to receive relevant documentation from the working parties but don't plan to attend or participate in the working parties as an active player unless it becomes absolutely unavoidable.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian Robertson', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ian Robertson
Secretary