

Notes on Contributors

Chris Aulich is Visiting Professor at the Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis at the University of Canberra, after a 23-year career at the University. During this time, his research output has focused on two areas of government decentralisation: privatisation and local government, where he has been published widely, nationally and internationally. These twin interests developed from his doctoral thesis, which focused on the impact of compulsory competitive tendering in Victorian local government in the 1990s. Chris has also assumed responsibility for editing or co-editing four volumes in the Australian Commonwealth Government series produced at the University of Canberra, which has traced developments in each national government since 1983. Before his appointment at the University of Canberra, Chris was a senior public servant in the portfolios of education, sport and recreation, and local government, bringing considerable practical experience to his research.

Brian Bell is General Manager of Lake Macquarie City Council, a large regional city council in New South Wales. He has previously been the General Manager of Ku-ring-gai Council and Kogarah Council in metropolitan Sydney. Brian's broad career in local and State government has been developed through his varied experience in Western Australia, Queensland, New Zealand and New South Wales. His enduring professional interest is in the comparative performance of local governments and how that might be enhanced by better public policy options for local government.

Brian Dollery is Professor of Economics and Director of the Centre for Local Government at the University of New England. He has written extensively on local government, especially on local government structure, finance and reform. Recent books include *Funding the Future* (2013), *Councils in Cooperation* (2012), *Local Government Reform: A Comparative Analysis of Advanced Anglo-American Countries* (2008), *Theory and Practice of Local Government Reform* (2008), *Reform and Leadership in the Public Sector* (2007) and *Australian Local Government Economics* (2006). Over the past two decades, Brian has worked with numerous local councils across Australia, mostly on municipal mergers.

Stephen Goode has been a local government executive for over 30 years, most of that time as a Chief Executive Officer. After commencing his professional life in the accounting and finance field, he became a manager and a leader, focusing on change management in a career across regional

Western Australia, as well as metropolitan Perth. He was amongst the first in Western Australia to embrace strategic planning and to introduce modern management discipline. The strategic and business planning he introduced in Carnarvon in 1984 was considered so 'leading edge' it won a national award for innovation. Stephen brings a business focus to local government, always looking for the opportunity to do things differently, to create new opportunity. His experience and enthusiasm for local government has seen him serve on the Board of Local Government Managers Australia, volunteer for many working parties and local government support programs, and provide mentorship to emerging leaders. For five years he provided a consulting service to clients including business, State government, local government and the not-for-profit sector. Stephen has a Master of Business (local government) and he has written and spoken extensively about local government matters, including collaboration with Brian Dollery on a paper about a sustainable model for local government reform.

Andrew Johnson is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Port Pirie Regional Council, a Board Member and Treasurer of Regional Development Australia Yorke-Mid North, Vice President of the SA Division of CPA Australia, Chair of Wesley Country Housing, a member of the Centre for Local Government (University of New England), on the Executive of Port Pirie Chamber of Commerce, and he also serves on a number of audit committees (including being Chair of RDAYMN audit committee). Andrew has held senior management positions within local government across two States for over 20 years. He has also served on numerous local, regional and national committees with a variety of organisations. Andrew is a Fellow Certified Practising Accountant (FCPA), a member of Local Government Managers Association and the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He holds an MBA, has a PhD in local government economics from the University of New England, and has also won many industry awards. Andrew regularly presents at State, national and international conferences in the areas of financial management, governance and economic development. He has a number of books and academic publications to his credit.

Michael A Kortt is Senior Lecturer in the School of Business and Tourism at Southern Cross University. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of New England, an MS in public health from the University of Arizona, and an honours degree in economics from La Trobe University. Before joining Southern Cross University in 2011, Michael spent 10 years working in the government sector as a Research Manager for the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, and the Department of

Health and Ageing. His principal research interests fall squarely on local government economics and public administration. His recent publications have appeared in *Administration & Society*, *Australian Journal of Political Science*, *Australian Journal of Public Administration*, *Journal of Happiness Studies*, *Local Government Studies*, *Public Finance and Management* and *Social Indicators Research*.

Thomas Michel lived in the Northern Territory for eight years, where he worked for the Northern Territory Government and the local government sector in research, policy development and management roles. From 2007 until 2013 he lived in Katherine and was professionally involved there in the formation of the Victoria Daly Shire Council during the 2008 local government reform process. More recently, he worked as Finance Manager and then Director of Contracts and Economic Development with the Roper Gulf Shire Council. Thomas holds academic qualifications in economics, political economy, languages, evaluation and management, including a Master of Economics Degree from the University of Sydney. Currently he is a member of the Arts and Social Sciences Faculty of the University of Sydney. His academic research interests relate to culture of expertise and policymaking in the indigenous affairs domain.

Don Page was born in 1951 and raised on a cattle property near Grafton in New South Wales. He attended The Armidale School and the University of New England, graduating with a Bachelor of Economics, Master of Economics, and Diploma in Rural Accounting. He first was employed for 10 years in the private sector as an economist and corporate planner and thereafter for five years operated a small business employing 28 people. Don is the fifth generation of the Page family to serve in public office. His father was a local government councillor for 28 years and his grandfather Dr Earle Page was a federal parliamentarian for 42 years and Australia's 11th Prime Minister. In March 1988, Don was elected the State Member for Ballina, a position he held for 27 years until his retirement in March 2015. He has extensive experience in State government and opposition as spokesperson across 12 portfolio areas. From 2011 to 2014, he was Minister for Local Government in the Liberal-National Government, introducing significant reforms designed to strengthen local government and was the architect of the *Fit for the Future* reforms. He was also the first Minister for the North Coast during that period.

Ron Sanderson is the General Manager of Brighton Council in Tasmania. In his 28 years in local government he has also served as Acting General Manager for other councils and was appointed as Administrator/Commissioner of Kentish Council for a year and a half. Ron also spent 14

years as an engineer in the oil and gas industry working in Canada, Western Australia and Victoria. He has a Bachelor of Engineering and MBA degrees and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course. Ron has experience on numerous boards and he is the CEO of a software development company owned by Brighton Council.

Ian Tiley has over 50 years of practical involvement in local government and long-term knowledge and experience including political and community leadership. For 24 years he was an employee in senior council management positions, including Shire Clerk for 15 years, and is a retired Fellow of Local Government Managers Australia. From 1991 to 2012, Ian was an elected local government representative, served on three general purpose and two county councils, and was Mayor to two councils including first Mayor of the amalgamated Clarence Valley Council. An Emeritus Mayor, he has a wealth of experience on the role and responsibilities of mayors and councillors, effective local government representative democratic practice and especially on structural reform and local council mergers. Ian commenced university study at age 50. He is an academic, specialising in political science. He has a PhD (2012) with a doctoral thesis since published as a book titled *Divided We Fall: An Insider's Perspective on Local Government Amalgamations*. For some years he was Deputy Director of the Centre for Local Government at the University of New England. He has obtained seven Ministerial appointments which included, from 2009 to 2015, Chairperson of Regional Development Australia Northern Rivers Board. In 2012 and 2013, he was a member of the NSW Government Local Government Acts Taskforce.

John Truman has been employed in local government for 20 years and currently serves Ballina Council as Group Manager Civil Services. His professional qualifications include a Master of Business Administration (Deakin University) and a Bachelor in Civil Engineering (Sydney University). John is enrolled in the Bachelor of Laws program at Southern Cross University and he is currently completing the final third of the requirements for this degree. John is a former National President of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA), the peak professional association representing the interests of engineers and technical officers involved in the delivery of public works and services. He has also served the IPWEA as President of the New South Wales Division and in other portfolios. For eight years John has represented New South Wales on the National Asset Management Strategy (NAMS), which provides leadership to local government in the practice of asset management. He was the inaugural chairperson of the New South Wales Roads and Transport

Directorate and a founding director of the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government.

Joe Wallis is Head of the Department of Management and Professor of Economics and Public Administration at the American University of Sharjah. He holds a PhD in economics from Rhodes University. Joe's research focus is in the areas of public economics, public administration, leadership and policy reform. He has co-authored five books including *The International Handbook of Public Management Reform* (Edward Elgar 2009) and *Reform and Leadership in the Public Sector* (Edward Elgar 2007). He has written over 80 articles in journals including *Governance*, *World Development*, *Public Administration*, *Local Government Studies* and *Public Money and Management*.

Gabrielle Walsh is the author of *The Local State: Queensland Local Government 1985 – 15th March 2008*, and has worked with and for local governments for the past 15 years, the majority of which she completed with the peak institution, the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) and the South-East Queensland (SEQ) water reform with the Queensland Council of Mayors. Gabrielle is currently working as a consultant with local government and continues to support a greater place for local government in the Australian federation. Her contribution offers an ongoing thesis of the local State and its place in 21st century Australia.

Stewart Wardlaw lived and spent his professional career in Tasmania. He has almost 40 years of experience in local government management and public policy. Among the positions he has held were City Manager of City of Glenorchy, Town Clerk of City of Clarence and Executive Director of Local Government Association of Tasmania. After retiring from local government in 2003, he was Executive Director of Policy, Property Council of Australia (Tasmanian Division) for four years. He was admitted to the degree of Master of Public Administration (University of Tasmania) and holds several local government-specific qualifications. He held the office of Tasmanian and National President of Local Government Managers Australia and received an award of merit for these services. Stewart is a life member of the Local Government Association of Tasmania.