



# Australasian **Housing** Institute

## Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting

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Held at Lachlan's Restaurant, Old Government House, Parramatta, NSW  
On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2007

*The meeting was opened by the Chairperson,  
President of the Institute, Malcolm Downie, at 5.30pm*

### 1. **Welcome by Chairperson**

The President Malcolm Downie welcomed the members of the AHI to the seventh Annual General Meeting of the Institute.

Malcolm thanked Rhonda Phillips, Garry Williams, Lynden Esdaile, Jo Bullock, Mark Groote and Linda Tolson who all retired at this Annual General Meeting for their dedication and commitment over the years.

#### 1.1 **Present**

Malcolm Downie, Joan Ferguson, Lawrie Tiller, Therese Quinlivan, Nicole Randall, Unis Goh, Mark Singer, Donald Proctor, Tacye Bowen, Wendy Malycha, Maryanne Sneddon, Judith Beveridge, Emma Synnott, Lynden Esdaile, Yasmina Kovacevic, Denise Touchard, Amanda Weiss, Moira Lynch, Deborah Georgiou, Sarath Matararachchi, Cliff Haynes, Pauline McKenzie, Vivienne Milligan, Gary Milligan, Kerry Nicholls

#### 1.2 **Apologies**

Shane Edmonds, Garry Gardiner, Yvonne Bell, Lyndall Holz, Kate Coleman, Catherine Upcher, Lyndall Katz, Laurel Draffen, Lynden Pennicott

### 2. **Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting**

The draft minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting were circulated to members prior to the meeting.

The President asked for any comments or corrections to the minutes, but there were none raised by those present.

#### **Motion**

“That the draft minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting as circulated, be adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.”

**Moved** Nicole Randall **seconded** Lawrence Tiller

*Carried*

### 3. **Chief Executive Officer's Report**

Joan Ferguson, CEO, presented an overview of the year just gone and the finances. Details of this presentation are contained in the Annual Report.

**4. New South Wales Branch Committee Report**

Unis Goh, Chairperson, NSW Branch Committee outlined the hopes and aspirations of the NSW Branch Committee for the year ahead.

**5. Adoption of the Directors' Report for 2007**

The Directors' Report for 2007 was contained within the 2007 Annual Report, which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Malcolm Downie, The President, briefed members about the Board's strategic direction for the year ahead and asked if there were any questions or comments on the information contained within the report, but there were none raised by those present.

**Motion**

"That the Directors' Report for 2007 as contained within the 2007 Annual Report be adopted."

**Moved** Unis Goh                      **seconded** Wendy Malycha  
*Carried*

**6. Adoption of the Audited Financial Statements for 2007**

The Audited Financial Statements for 2007 was contained within the 2007 Annual Report, which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

The President asked if there were any questions or comments on the information contained within the report, but there were none raised by those present.

**Motion**

"That the Audited Financial Statements for 2007 as contained within the 2007 Annual Report be adopted."

**Moved** Lawrence Tiller                      **seconded** Unis Goh  
*Carried*

**7. Appointment of Auditor for 2008**

The President reported that the Board had recommended that the current auditor for the Institute, Haywards Chartered Accountants of Sydney, be reappointed as the Institute's auditors for 2008

There were no comments or questions raised by those present at the meeting.

**Motion**

"That Haywards Chartered Accountants of Sydney be reappointed as the Institute's Auditors for 2008."

**Moved** Lynden Esdaile                      **seconded** Therese Quinlivan  
*Carried*

**8. Keynote Address**

Emma Synnott presented the keynote address 'London Leaders' An approach to sustainability. A copy of this address is available on the website.

## 9. Appointments to the Board for 2007-8

The President stood down from the Chair and invited Donald Proctor to take the Chair as returning officer for the elections to the Board of Directors.

### 9.1 Election of President

Following the call for nominations for the President of the Australasian Housing Institute, only one nomination was received from Shane Edmonds.

As such, the returning officer noted that Shane was duly elected to the Board and asked the members present to ratify the appointment of Shane Edmonds to the Board as President for 2007-8.

#### Motion

“That the appointment of Shane Edmonds as the President of the Australasian Housing Institute for 2007-8 be ratified.”

**Moved** Malcolm Downie      **seconded** Lynden Esdaile

**Carried**

### 9.2 Election of Directors elected by members of the Branches

Donald Proctor reported that there were no nominations from the ACT or the Northern Territory and that the following members had been elected by their respective Branches to serve on the Board of the Institute for 2007-8:

New Zealand	Roger Jameson
Tasmania	Lynden Pennicott

#### Motion

“That the appointment of the members elected by their respective branches to the Board for 2007-8 be ratified.”

**Moved** Malcolm Downie      **seconded** Nicole Randall

*Carried*

### 9.3 Ratification of Directors Appointed by Branch Committees

Donald Proctor reported that the following members had been nominated by their respective Branch Committee to serve on the Board of the Institute for 2007-8:

Queensland	Nicole Randall
New South Wales	Neil Sandall
Victoria	Andrew MacGregor
South Australia	Wendy Malycha
Western Australia	Sheila Shenton

#### Motion

“That the appointment of the members elected by their respective Branch Committee to the Board for 2007-8 be ratified.”

**Moved** Lawrence Tiller      **seconded** Unis Goh

*Carried*

### 9.4 Election of the Community Housing, Non-metropolitan and Volunteer and Indigenous housing representatives

#### 9.4.1 Community Housing Representative

Donald Proctor reported that following the call for nominations, for the Community Housing Representative on the Board, two nominations were received from Judy Line and Therese Quinlivan.

Following a postal ballot of the members, Donald Proctor declared Therese Quinlivan duly elected. He asked the members present to ratify the appointment of Therese Quinlivan to the Board as the Community Housing Representative for 2007-8.

**Motion**

“That the appointment of Therese Quinlivan as the Community Housing Representative on the Board for 2007-08 be ratified.”

**Moved** Lynden Esdaile **seconded** Malcolm Downie  
*Carried*

*9.4.2 Non-metropolitan Representative*

Donald Proctor reported that following the call for nominations, for the Non-metropolitan Representative on the Board, only one nomination had been received from Lawrence Tiller.

As such, the returning officer noted that Lawrence was duly elected to the Board and asked the members present to ratify the appointment of Lawrence Tiller to the Board as the Non-metropolitan Representative for 2007-08.

**Motion**

“That the appointment of Lawrence Tiller as the Non-metropolitan Representative on the Board for 2007-08 be ratified.”

**Moved** Lynden Esdaile **seconded** Therese Quinlivan  
*Carried*

*9.4.3 Volunteer Representative*

Donald Proctor reported that that following the call for nominations for the Volunteer Representative on the Board, two nominations were received from Garry Mallard and Anthony Rantell.

Following a postal ballot of the members, Donald Proctor declared Garry Mallard duly elected. He asked the members present to ratify the appointment of Garry Mallard to the Board as the Volunteer Representative for 2007-08.

**Motion**

“That the appointment of Garry Mallard as the Volunteer Representative on the Board for 2007-8 be ratified.”

**Moved** Malcolm Downie **seconded** Unis Goh  
*Carried*

*9.4.4 Indigenous Housing Representative (NZ)*

Donald Proctor reported that that following the call for nominations, no nominations were received. He noted that the Board of Directors would seek the advice of the New Zealand Branch Committee.

*9.4.5 Indigenous Housing Representative (Australia)*

Donald Proctor reported that following the call for nominations, for the Indigenous Housing Representative (Australia), only one nomination was received from Garry Gardiner.

As such, the returning officer noted that Garry was duly elected to the Board and asked the members present to ratify the appointment of Garry Gardiner to the Board as the Indigenous Representative (Australia) for 2007-08.

**Motion**

“That the appointment of Garry Gardiner as the Indigenous Housing Representative (Australia) on the Board for 2007-8 be ratified.”

**Moved**                Lawrence Tiller                **seconded**    Wendy Malycha

*Carried*

**10. Address by the President of the Australasian Housing Institute**

Malcolm spoke on behalf of Shane Edmonds, who was unable to join the meeting. The new President’s speech is available on the website.

**11. Other Business**

The meeting Chairperson, Malcolm Downie, asked if any member wished to bring any business to the meeting. There was no response from the members present.

*There being no further business, the meeting chairperson, Malcolm Downie declared the Seventh Annual General Meeting of the AHI closed at 6.30pm.*

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Minutes Confirmed

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Date

**EMMA SYNNOTT**

**SPEECH TO AHI AGM DECEMBER 2007**

Thank you Joan for the opportunity to speak to the Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Housing Institute. It is an honour to be asked to speak having only got off the plane a week ago.

I wanted to briefly talk about the approach to sustainability in London and the UK and some of the work that I was involved with before leaving the Greater London Authority and the Mayor of London. Specifically, I wanted to talk about *London Leaders* which is an initiative the Mayor launched in October and which is an initiative of the Mayor's London Sustainable Development Commission which I supported.

By way of background, the Commission was set up in 2002 to advise the Mayor on how London could become an exemplary world sustainable city. The Commission is comprised of individual experts across the social, economic and environmental spectrum.

The Commission strongly supports an integrated approach to sustainability where the social, economic and environmental elements of any issue are addressed in the round. This is as opposed to a trade-off model where one element is prioritized over the other.

The Commission evolved this thinking using the so-called virtuous cycles approach where mutually beneficial objectives are pursued together. For example, a policy of supporting walking and cycling has benefits for the roads system – less congestion and wear and tear, for the health system – fitter people means fewer admissions related to sedentary lifestyles, and clearly for the environment – less cars on the roads means less pollution. This a fairly obvious example to track through but the approach can be applied to more challenging areas like linking employment and training, local civic improvements, community cohesion and how to engage with young people.

Now, at this point, I want to set the London scene.

London is a world city of 7m people. Last year it overtook New York as the world financial capital, with vast amounts of business being transacted from India and China via the City. The capital's success has been built on 7 years of strategic government following the back of many years of a strategic vacuum in London.

The Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone was elected in 2000 and immediately began putting the strategic policy levers in place to address the social, economic and environmental issues faced by the capital.

The Mayor has put in place statutory strategies on:

Energy

Waste

Noise

Transport

Culture

He has set up or supported intellectual capital in the form of the London Health Commission, the London Sustainable Development Commission, the London Energy Partnership, and the Climate Change Partnership, the London Learning and Skills Board, the London Child Poverty Commission, the London Equalities Commission, and the Commission for a Sustainable London 2012.

He has put in place the Congestion Charge, and a new Low Emissions Zone will come into force in 2008, he has set targets for renewable energy on all new developments of 20% and a 50% target for affordable housing in all new development (and achieving a running average of around 35%). He has set tough building standards covering energy efficiency, water efficiency, on-site waste management, noise attenuation, security and so on.

He has established the London Climate Change Agency to establish a London-wide Energy Services Company aimed at implementing low-carbon solutions and has supported this with the release this year of the Climate Change Action Plan. He has recently been given new statutory powers around Health, Climate Change, Planning, Waste, Skills and Housing. Strategies which are in the process of being finalized include: Climate Change Adaptation, a Water Action Framework, a Wider Waste Strategy and most interestingly, a Health Inequalities Strategy which will look to address the wider determinants of health.

Yet despite all these measures (and there is some strong evidence of their positive impact) London has some trenchant problems. In keeping with many world cities, it has a large and expanding informal workforce, a growing disparity between those most and those least wealthy, and as a point of national shame, the largest rate of child poverty in the UK (sitting at 40% of all children).

With this backdrop, the London Sustainable Development Commission decided that for London to become a truly sustainable world city, it needed to address the twin challenges of climate change and wealth disparity in tandem.

Armed with its virtuous cycle approach as a way of addressing these challenges, the Commission wanted to look at where else integrated sustainability had been applied across the world, with a view to identifying the critical sustainability success factors.

Its research into other international cities found a range of really exciting projects and ways in which cities had addressed apparently overwhelming problems. Of the nine case studies, covering cities as diverse as Bogotá, Curitiba, Vancouver, Freiburg, Gottingen, New York, Manchester, Santa Monica and Liverpool, my favourite has to be the 'Actions for Coexistence' programme in Bogotá. Here, with crime rates soaring and endemic poverty, the Mayor launched a public competition to engender a ground-up approach in addressing security and in regenerating large parts of the city. The result was holistic approach to regeneration incorporating everything from new bike paths, to a cultural strategy for the city. Critically it resulted in drop in crime of 35% and in fatal traffic accidents by 65%.

From the nine case studies, the Commission was able to identify 6 critical sustainability success factors:

Leadership

Capacity building

Partnership

Community Participation

Innovation

Step by Step approach.

Of these, Leadership at all levels and in all walks of life was the stand out factor that made a difference.

With this in mind, the Commission developed the London Leaders programme to catalyse the kind of transformational change that is necessary in London if it is to really become truly sustainable.

We asked these leaders to make a commitment to achieve one thing over the next 12 months going beyond business as usual practice to further sustainability in London. The Leaders are very diverse:



- One is vicar working with a community farm in outer London
- One is a doyenne of the arts world and her commitment is to create an artists for sustainability day
- One is a University Vice Chancellor
- another runs a large Hardware store chain,
- Another runs one of the largest social housing providers in the country,
- and another runs one of the largest house building companies
- One is a restaurateur, promising to turn Brixton into an inner-city eco-hub
- One runs the city's pre-eminent refugee advocacy group
- Another is the leading advocate of green rooves
- And yet another is a poet.

The Commission hopes that its program will show by doing, encouraging ordinary Londoners to sign up to doing what they can where they can – whether this is in the board room, or at the soccer club. So far the programme has received tremendous support and a lot of media attention and expect to see the outcomes reported in 12 months time.

I believe that this kind of approach is where it is at internationally. We need governments to do the right thing, and it is tremendously relieving to see the Rudd government commit to sign Kyoto and to conducting a review of what it will take Australia to meet global imperatives to cut emissions by up to 80% by 2050; as well as making a commitment to an apology to the indigenous people of Australia; and a lot of positive noises about social housing.

But, more than that, the nature and scale of the challenge facing us all requires a new approach to how we think about the future. And housing people know this more than most – if we don't win hearts and minds and have communities working together, it is nigh on impossible to make lasting and real change. Whether it is housing shortage, affordability, local employment issues, security, local environmental amenity or transport issues, governments, providers and businesses cannot do it alone. It is only through working together and working in an innovative and inclusive way that incorporates all the relevant local issues that change will be embraced and supported.

These are the messages that the Mayor and the London Sustainable Development Commission are promoting having had the opportunity to implement some pretty stunning and far-reaching policy, and having recognized that top-down, siloed, policy implementation is simply not enough.

Finally, in support of organizations such as the AHI, I would like to end by giving an example of how the establishment of an infrastructure of independent intellectual capital in London is making a difference. The Commission for a Sustainable London 2012 was established in February 2007 to bring to account the Olympic authorities around their sustainability commitments through providing independent sustainability assurance (a form of strategic auditing). It is a world-first, and the first report was released in November, which focuses on the adequacy of the governance structures to support the sustainability goals for the 2012 Games and its legacy. By providing independent assurance, CSL as it is known, has been instrumental in ensuring that the community outcomes from the regeneration of East London are the major priority for the UK and London governments, second only to running the Games on time.

Getting this kind of thorough public reporting at this point in time has only been possible through the depth of intellectual capital that has been built up in London and in the UK, with independent expertise recognized and reported on publicly on a regular basis. It is why organizations such as the AHI are so crucial because they facilitate and promote a wider understanding of issues beyond the institutions of government and those involved in service provision. Hopefully, we will see this kind of approach expanded across Australia and New Zealand to draw on the wealth of sustainability expertise.

Thank you for listening.



*Emma Synnott provided sustainability advice to the Mayor of London and the London Sustainable Development Commission between 2005 and late 2007. She was integral in the establishment of the Commission for a Sustainable London 2012 and in setting up the London Leaders Programme.*