

Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) Submission to the Senate Inquiry into the “Low Aromatic Fuel Bill 2012”.

This submission comprises the response by LGANT on behalf of local government in the Northern Territory to the Low Aromatic Fuel Bill 2012 (‘the Bill’).

The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) is the peak body representing the interests of, and providing a voice for, the 11 shire and 5 municipal councils in the Northern Territory. LGANT coordinates activities on behalf of the local government sector as well as performing functions for other spheres of government that are designed to enhance the capacity of local government in the Northern Territory. Additionally some remote councils in the NT operate remote stores which supply fuel to their respective communities.

Councils are sensitive to changes in their operations and particularly if increased costs are incurred and councils do not have enough time to plan for change. This has been highlighted in the recently released report on remote shire financial sustainability in the Northern Territory.

Local Governments in the NT recognise the need to implement actions designed to reduce/eliminate the impact of fuel sniffing both on individual health and community wellbeing and in principle support the introduction of the Bill.

LGANT would however like to highlight to the committee the additional administrative requirements of the Bill that will come at a time when both the NT and Local Governments are working to reduce the current administrative burdens on local government. To this end we acknowledge Part 4 of the Bill and expect that remote Shires in the NT will apply for exemptions.