

COMMUNITY WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (CWMS)

- At its previous meeting in November 2006, the Forum noted the progress of the LGA's *Statewide Wastewater Recycling Project* application in June 2006 for \$100.13m in funding to the National Water Commission's Water Smart Australia Programme.
- The application included 107 individual CWMS projects over 44 Councils. This application was supported by the State Government; in particular, the Office for State/Local Government Relations (OSLGR). The submission sought funding to construct identified new CWMS schemes to full wastewater recycling use standards, and the upgrading of existing schemes to a similar standards. This level of funding is based on the Commonwealth meeting 50% of upfront capital construction costs.
- A requirement of the NWC is that Commonwealth funds distributed from the Australian Government Water Fund are matched with funding from state sources. Approved Commonwealth funds will be matched by Local Government funding, raised by councils through the application of service charges over the life of the schemes and continuing financial support from the State Government.
- The NWC has also stated clearly that Commonwealth funding through the Australian Government Water Fund is not a replacement for existing State Government funding, and that the CWMS program would be strengthened by an increase in the State Government financial commitment along side any Commonwealth funding achieved.
- The National Water Commissioners considered the submission on Wednesday 4 October 2006. Commissioners' recommendations have been provided to the Prime Minister for consideration. Results of the bid may be known in the first half of 2007.
- At its previous meeting in November 2006, Forum members noted that in May 2006 Cabinet approved an extension of the interim CWMS Funding Agreement for 2006-07 at a funding level of \$3.206m. This ensured that the construction program could continue.
- At the time that the one year extension was sought, it was anticipated that results of the NWC submission would be known by the end of 2006, with a long term funding agreement entered into thereafter. As no Commonwealth funding has been announced to date, another one year extension will be sought to ensure that current work can continue unimpeded.
- Discussions on a long term funding agreement will be entered into once results of the NWC submission are known.