

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Background

The February Forum meeting resolved in part to:

“Request the Minister for Local Government and the President of the LGA to explore a way of co-coordinating a joint focus/program on economic development”

Since then representatives of the LGA, the OLG, the Office of Economic Development and the Department and Premier and Cabinet met and discussed an appropriate mechanism for consideration of the Minister and the President. Feedback is sought on the proposal contained below.

In addition, the Economic Summit, One Year On was conducted on 3 April, the State Population Policy was issued and discussions have progressed in relation to reviews of Regional Development Boards in the country and Business Enterprise Centres in metropolitan Adelaide.

A copy of information submitted to the Economic Summit, One Year On, outlining Local Government activities consistent with the recommendations of the Economic Development Board is attached.

The State Population Policy was the subject of consultation with the LGA Secretariat and incorporated a number of references to Local Government. The most significant of those was a proposal for the LGA to assist in the conduct of a series of regional forums and for the Minister's Local Government Forum to develop a State/Local partnership approach to population policy within South Australia.

Liaison with the Population Unit has been maintained and early discussions are looking at key ways of working together. This includes input into speakers for the LGA's 2004 Conference which has the theme “People : Prosperity : Place – Population Policy and Local Government.” In addition the LGA has been liaising with the Australian Population Association (APop) which conducted the recent National Population Summit in Adelaide regarding a possible project aimed at developing a framework for or a model Council population policy.

Further developments have occurred in relation to joint provision of business support services. The Economic Development Board recommended that the number of Regional Development Boards be reviewed. To this end, the LGA has worked closely with the Office of Regional Affairs and Regional Development SA on a joint review process. Agreement has been reached on terms of reference and regional Local Government Associations have agreed to jointly fund a third of the review costs, with RDSA and the State also contributing one third each of the costs.

A review of business support services in the metropolitan area has also been commenced with the LGA's Metropolitan Local Government Group agreeing on a set of principles to underpin a new more robust system. This review has been triggered

in part by the restructuring of the State's key economic agency, the Department of Trade and Economic Development.

It is proposed that a Memorandum of Agreement be developed between the LGA and the State dealing with program wide issues related to business support.

2. Actions

It is proposed that a Committee be established comprising representatives of:

- the Department of Trade and Economic Development (incorporating OLG and other key areas);
- the Department of Premier and Cabinet (Population Unit);
- the Office of Infrastructure; and,
- the Local Government Association (LGA Secretariat and appointed CEOs)

Proposed terms of reference could include:

- identifying key areas of interface between State and Local government in relation to Economic Development;
- identifying ways in which State and Local government can work together to better engage communities in key economic objectives;
- seeking to ensure the new DTED structure is well briefed on relationships with Local Government; and,
- identifying key project activities which may assist in encouraging effective collaboration between State and Local government in support of economic development.

It is further proposed that the committee have a life of 12 months and that a report be presented to the Minister's Local Government Forum following that period identifying how State and Local governments should collaborate on economic development priorities in the future.

Consultation with agencies has not been finalised and it would be valuable for Forum members to provide feedback on the above concept.

3. Recommendation

That the Forum:

- 1. Note the progress of discussions regarding Economic Development.**
- 2. Provide feedback on the proposed liaison committee.**
- 3. Endorse the concept of a memorandum of agreement over joint business support services between the State and the LGA to deal with program-wide issues, consistent with the State-Local Relations Agreement.**

Attachment :

LGA summary – Local Government activities consistent with ED recommendations