

WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. Purpose

To provide Forum members with background information on the Local Government Association's review of waste management. The LGA has engaged Mr Bill Cossey to conduct the review, and he will address the Forum on this topic.

2. Background

At the September 2007 Forum meeting, the Executive Director, LGA advised that the Minister for Environment and Conservation, Hon Gail Gago MLC had indicated to the LGA that issues surrounding waste management would be under discussion with the Local Government sector in the near future. Members were also advised that a report is currently being prepared by the LGA on waste management, and a presentation to the Forum would be appropriate.

The waste management sector in South Australia is currently undergoing a significant degree of reform. Issues such as the following are all impacting on the way the Local Government sector manages their waste responsibilities:

- The solid waste levy
- EPA licence fees
- ZWSA grants schemes and programs
- Consolidation of regional landfills
- Environmental objectives and,
- The drive towards SA Strategic Plan (SASP) targets,

Local Government in South Australia is a significant stakeholder in the waste sector, managing over 140 of the State's 145 landfills, almost a third of the total waste stream and waste collection services to the majority of SA's population. Local Government has a responsibility to provide an efficient and effective service while striving to meet diversion targets.

The LGA has commissioned a report to develop a clear strategic path forward for reaching the State's waste targets in the most effective and efficient way while achieving the ultimate goal of reducing our environmental footprint. Local Government cannot do this alone and this report will also address the necessary partnerships and funding arrangements to underpin these activities.

The project brief developed by the LGA has set the following project outcomes:

1. "An improved capacity in the Local Government sector to contribute to the achievement of SA Strategic Plan and Waste Strategy targets through:
 - a. Consistent adoption of best practice approaches in the metropolitan area preferably building on already successful approaches, and
 - b. Practical approaches in rural / regional areas that particularly take account of the difficulties facing these Councils.
2. Greater recognition by State Government of Local Government's actual and potential contribution to the achievement of the Strategic Plan targets as demonstrated by:
 - a. A more co-ordinated set of arrangements between State and Local Government
 - b. Greater access by Local Government to available State Funds in this area

3. Greater clarity and consistency for the citizens across South Australia as to how they can contribute to the efforts of particularly Local Government, but ultimately all tiers of Australian Government.”

The project involves the following stages:

1. A review of existing Local Government waste management arrangements in South Australia in both the rural / regional and metropolitan regions.
2. The identification of the costs, benefits, strengths and areas for improvement.
3. A review of the policies, principles and procedures which underpin best practice.
4. Determination of how the Local Government sector might move towards the adoption of best practice policies, principles and procedures, being mindful of the challenges faced by rural / regional Councils.
5. A review the role of the State Government and how it can contribute to (4) above.
6. Provision of a report to the LGA on the outcomes of the project.

A copy of the report is attached.

3. Recommendation

That the Minister’s State/Local Government Forum:

1. **Notes the report and receives the presentation provided by Mr Bill Cossey.**