



Government
of South Australia

News Release

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Hon Jennifer Rankine

Minister for State/Local Government
Relations

Mayor John Rich

President
Local Government Association
of South Australia

NATIONAL AGREEMENT FOLLOWS SA EXAMPLE

State and Local government in South Australia have welcomed a national agreement designed to improve relationships between Australia's three spheres of government.

The Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) – which has been signed today in Canberra - is the first in Australia's history involving all three spheres of government on general relationships and financial issues.

State/Local Government Relations Minister Jennifer Rankine and Local Government Association (LGA) of SA President, Mayor John Rich, say the agreement will set a base for improving co-operation for the benefit of communities.

“The agreement has resulted from a Federal Parliamentary inquiry into cost-shifting, which acknowledged SA as a national leader around partnerships between State and local government,” says Ms Rankine.

“Residents and businesses want governments to work together to solve problems, not to be involved in endless disputes.”

“SA has shown the lead with a State-based agreement already in place, and I'm delighted to be able to sign an agreement which for the first time brings the Commonwealth Government into a similar framework.”

Mayor Rich said the national agreement would complement the existing agreement between Premier Rann and the LGA.

“One hundred and six years after Federation, we now have all governments setting the objective of improving co-operation between governments in Australia. While it won't redress all the problems Councils face overnight – particularly financial challenges caused by cost-shifting in the past – it provides a base to identify problems and work for better solutions in the future,” says Mayor Rich.

The recent stormwater management agreement signed by the State and the LGA was a direct outcome of the State-level agreement, which had also led to better consultation between State agencies and the LGA in a range of areas.

Premier Rann and former LGA President John Legoe signed the State/Local Government Relations agreement in 2004 and a new schedule of priorities was signed by the Premier and President Rich in November 2005.

The full IGA can be found on the following website: www.lgpmcouncil.gov.au. A copy of the SA State/Local Government Relations Agreement can be found under “publications” on www.lcoalgovt.sa.gov.au and information regarding the Commonwealth Parliamentary Inquiry into Cost Shifting can be found on www.lga.sa.gov.au/goto/fairshare .