

MINISTER'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM

BRIEFING TO THE FORUM

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Date of Preparation: 30 October 2002

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Forum endorse:

That the Office of Local Government and the Local Government Association, in continuing liaison with the Office of Sustainability, will undertake specific joint work to contribute to the Government's further consideration of this matter, in relation to key issues for the Local Government sector and at the State/Local Government interface. A further report will be provided to the next Forum meeting.

1 Background

At the Forum meeting on 29 August 2002, a “referral in progress” paper was tabled and a briefing provided to the meeting by an officer of the Office of Sustainability (OoS), Department of Environment and Conservation.

As outlined in the previous paper (MLGF 4/02) the prominence of waste management and resource recovery as an intergovernmental issue has been growing for some years but has now reached a point where decisive and coordinated action needs to be taken by both spheres of government.

A summary of key issues at the interface of State and Local Government was included in the paper. The Office of Sustainability, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the Local Government Association (LGA) all reported that considerable advances are occurring in the progression towards resolution of the outstanding issues, as outlined in the paper.

The Forum was advised that the Office of Sustainability was coordinating the preparation of advice for the Minister for Environment and Conservation, which it was anticipated would be completed by late September/ early October. Specifically, this work would examine options for improved management, governance and structural arrangements for waste management in South Australia, including the potential for synergies with the development of sustainable energy.

On 29 August the Forum noted the current work in progress on Waste Management and requested a further report following completion of the review by the Office of Sustainability.

2 Current Status

The Office of Sustainability has advised that the review work has been completed and a report is now before the Minister for Environment and Conservation.

In the preparation of the report by the OoS, the LGA and the Office of Local Government (OLG) have had the opportunity to provide comment on a draft paper and have been advised that their comments have been taken into account.

The Office of Local Government, in providing comment to the OoS during the preparation of the report to Minister Hill, suggested that some significant issues at the interface between State and Local Government in the waste management field could benefit from advice from the Minister’s Local Government Forum.

These issues could include:

- If regional arrangements for Councils are proposed with respect to waste management, how these could be most effectively implemented;
- Funding issues.
- The nature of the institutional arrangements that should be put in place to provide direction and oversight of waste management policy and practice.
- Special issues confronting country communities and how they might be addressed;
- Strategic planning and control over major infrastructure, including landfill.

It is anticipated that further information will be provided at the Forum meeting on 12 November in relation to the next steps and directions in the Government's consideration of this issue.

3 Recommendation

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