

Addendum to Agenda Item 3.1

STATE – LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

As identified at Agenda Item 3.1, the following is an overview of directions received – both from State agency and LGA representatives - for the information of the Forum.

Summary

There is widespread general support for the proposed Agreement. Respondents have:

- forwarded specific suggestions on terms used to help improve clarity, establish a shared meaning and strengthen the document;
- provided advice to ensure consistency with other agreements entered into by the State Government;
- recognised the likely resource implications for the Local Government Association in its preparedness to work with South Australian councils and the State to deliver better outcomes for the South Australian community; and
- made suggestions for inclusion of a topic in the schedule of priorities for 2003-2004.

At the end of the day, respondents are keen for a practical document, one which avoids past experiences of raising expectations of either party about certain matters and one which provides consistent understandings about the agreement.

Overall, the feedback received does not change the intent and nature of the agreement. The agreement is seen as a positive and welcome step.

Proposed Action

The Project Team will reconvene to consider all feedback received, including that from today's Forum meeting, and finalise the proposed agreement for consideration of the Minister for Local Government and the President of the LGA.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Forum:

- 1. Note the progress of the Project Team and the consultation mechanisms**
- 2. Consider the draft agreement (Attachment 1) and comment on its contents, including the schedule.**
- 3. Give in principle support to the content of the current draft agreement and agree that the Minister for Local Government and the President of the LGA will determine the final wording of the document. The document will be forwarded to State Cabinet and the LGA State Executive seeking formal approval to enable the agreement to be signed in December 2003.**