

MINISTER'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM

WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2006, TEA TREE GULLY COUNCIL

AGENDA UPDATES

As members and observers received the agenda papers for this meeting of the Minister's Local Government Forum shortly before the originally scheduled meeting date of Wednesday 14 December, this paper outlines progress on a number of agenda items that has occurred since this time.

Item 3 – Stormwater Management and Flood Mitigation

Progress since December 2005 has meant that some elements of recommendation 2 regarding finalisation of the draft agreement have been overtaken. In view of these recent developments, recommendation 2 of the Forum paper has been changed to read:

Endorse finalisation of the draft Agreement subject to the parties involved seeking further legal advice.

Item 7 – Septic Tank Effluent Disposal Scheme (STEDS)

On 18 December 2005, the Local Government Association, the Office of Local Government and the Department of Water Land and Biodiversity met with officers from the National Water Commission (NWC) to discuss the proposed bid for funding from the Australian Government Water Fund to support priority STEDS installations and upgrades. This initial discussion was promising, as the NWC officers indicated that the expected funding bid would be very seriously considered, on the provision of a detailed business plan outlining expected expenditure on STEDS projects. This will be complied jointly by State and Local Government, and is expected to be submitted to the NWC in March 2006.

Item 8 – Regional and Rural Landfills

As part of the project, councils have been given the opportunity to review the accuracy of the relevant landfill data that each have supplied to the consultant prior to finalising the report. Accordingly, the report is now expected early February 2006 and the Reference Group will meet on 6 February to consider the report findings. The Total Cost Approach modelling used in the report incorporates the costs incurred across the life of the landfill (including replacement) and as such is consistent with the recommendations of the Local Government Financial Sustainability Inquiry commissioned by the LGA. A presentation detailing the application of the Total Cost Approach to resource recovery, waste and landfill management will be showcased at the LGA's Resource Recovery and Waste Management Summit being held on 10 February. The Summit is intended to provide the opportunity for Local Government to discuss a range of resource recovery and waste management issues – including landfills.

Accordingly recommendation 3 of the Forum paper is amended as follows:

Note that the final report is expected early February 2006 and it is expected that it be widely circulated.