

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

1. Background

The Forum has noted the various stages of the development of the Natural Resources Management Bill, which has been introduced to Parliament and passed in the House of Assembly.

2. Actions

The Minister for Environment and Conservation and the President of the Local Government Association expressed commitment to high levels of consultation between State and Local Government from the early stages of development of the policy proposal, through to the drafting of the Bill and its introduction to Parliament.

As with most complex pieces of legislation, there were areas of difference and controversy (and there are some outstanding matters of detail still to be resolved) between the State Government and the Local Government sector. However the commitment of both parties to consultation and collaboration have resulted in agreement to a product that is to the mutual benefit of both State and Local Government, on behalf of the community.

The processes adopted in the development of the Bill (including lessons learned by both parties) helped inform the development of the State-Local Government Relations Agreement, and will further inform the development of the *Consultation on Legislation* proposal, which is separately discussed in Item 6 on the Forum Agenda.

3. Recommendation

That the Forum:

1. Note that the development of the *Natural Resources Management Bill 2004* was an excellent example of :
 - the collaborative processes promoted by the Forum through the State Local Government Relations Agreement; and,
 - the capacity of both spheres of government to deal with complex (and in some parts, controversial) legislative proposals with maturity and rigour, on behalf of the community.
2. Agree to remove this item from future Forum agendas.