

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Update Report

- An officer level working group comprising senior State and Local Government officers was formed, led by Mick O'Neill (Department of Trade and Economic Development) and Chris Russell (LGA). The primary aim of the group is to develop an agreed understanding of the term "economic development" in the context of State/Local relationships and to balance the breadth of issues which influence and impact on economic development with a need to focus on priority actions.
 - This group has met, and, in exploring linkages between the South Australian Strategic Plan and Local Government Strategic Management Plans in the area of economic development, will seek to propose priorities specific to economic development for both spheres of government.
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LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS - CONSULTATION FLOWCHART

Update Report

- The development of guidelines for consultation with Local Government on legislative change is an outcome of the *State-Local Government Relations Agreement*.
 - The guidelines respond to expressed concerns about consultation and coordination arrangements between the spheres of Government during the development of legislative proposals that have a major impact on Local Government. The Flowchart seeks to provide for greater certainty of processes.
 - The Forum has discussed the proposal and progress on development of the Flowchart has been noted, including the consultation undertaken by both State and Local Government throughout 2004.
 - The purpose of the Consultation Flowchart is to provide a communication and consultation guide for the State Government and Local Government during the development of legislative proposals that have a significant impact on Local Government.
 - A State agency information session is to be held on the Flowchart.
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“RATES AND TAXES: A FAIR SHARE FOR RESPONSIBLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT” (HAWKER REPORT)

Update Report

Initiative at the Commonwealth level

- At a jurisdictional officer level meeting in November 2004, a small sub-group was established to begin drafting an Intergovernmental Relations Agreement between the three spheres of government. The Executive Director, Office of Local Government is a member of this sub-group.
- Work has commenced on drafting an agreement and is progressing slowly via teleconferencing and e-mails. A draft agreement is expected to be available for consideration at the next meeting of the Local Government and Planning Ministers' Council, tentatively scheduled for early August.
- Given the necessary processes involved, a finalised formal agreement between all spheres of Government is likely to be at least twelve months away.

Initiative at the State/Local Government level

- The Minister's Local Government Forum agreed that a working group comprising senior State and Local Government officers be formed. The primary aim of the group is *“to frame recommendations to the Minister for Local Government and the President of the LGA for better defining State and Local Government roles and responsibilities and identifying the nature of the financial relationships between the two spheres of government”*.
- This group has now formally met, following the nomination of a representative from the Department of Treasury and Finance. Early discussions have been about understanding the nature of the financial transfers from State to Local Government and whether they reflect the strategic priorities of the two spheres. In addition, the group will observe the progress of the Financial Sustainability Inquiry with a view to providing relevant information, where appropriate, that reflects the nature of the financial relationships between the two spheres of government.

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC LAND

Update Report

- The Forum has been previously advised of the establishment of the joint State and Local Government Strategic Assessment of Public Land project. It is envisaged that this project will provide recommendations on strategies for more effective future coordination and cooperation between State and Local Government, at the individual council level and at regional and/or sector-wide level as appropriate.

- At the December meeting, Forum members were advised that private consultants, Realty Solutions Australia and MasterPlan had been appointed by the LGA to undertake a pilot study involving Tatiara District Council, the City of Charles Sturt and a group of peri-urban councils (Town of Gawler, Light Regional Council and The Barossa Council). The study aims to identify situations where the strategic use of public land has the potential to address identified needs and priorities within a defined community.
- The consultants have identified and mapped land owned or held by State and Local Government in each pilot area, met with the participating councils and those key State agencies which have a role of strategic policy development and/or having significant land holdings.
- The consultant's report with key recommendations will be presented at the next Forum meeting.