

# MINISTER'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM

## MEETING NOTES

15 AUGUST 2004 2.00 PM – 4.00 PM

### WAIKERIE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

#### Present

Hon Rory McEwen MP, Minister for State/Local Government Relations  
Hon Trish White MP, Minister for Urban Development and Planning  
Hon John Hill MP, Minister for Environment and Conservation  
Hon Stephanie Key MP, Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education  
Councillor John Legoe, President, Local Government Association (LGA)  
Councillor Jeff Burgess, Chairperson, Northern Areas Council  
Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis, City of Marion  
Mayor Kym McHugh, Alexandrina Council  
Ms Wendy Campana, Executive Director, Local Government Association  
Mr Peter Vlatko Chief Executive Officer, Campbelltown City Council (Metropolitan Chief Executive Officers Association)  
Mr Tim Jackson, Chief Executive Officer, City of Playford (Local Government Managers Association)  
Ms Anne McEwen, Australian Services Union  
Mr Tim O'Loughlin, Chief Executive, Department of Transport and Urban Planning  
Ms Bronwyn Halliday, Executive Director, Planning SA  
Mr John Comrie, Executive Director, Office of Local Government

Hon Mike Rann MP, Premier (from 2.00 pm – 2:30 pm)

#### Apologies

Hon Jay Weatherill MP, Minister for Families and Communities  
Mayor Tony Zappia, City of Salisbury  
Mr Gary Henderson, Australian Workers' Union

#### Observers

Observers of the meeting represented the LGA, various State agencies and councils.

#### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Mayor Dean Maywald welcomed the Forum to the District Council of Loxton Waikerie.

The Minister for State/Local Government Relations welcomed members to the eighth meeting of the Minister's Local Government Forum.

Premier Mike Rann attended the Forum meeting from 2.00pm to 2.30pm and spoke about the success of the Forum, mentioning that it complements the State-Local Government Relations Agreement and incorporates objectives under the State Strategic Plan. The Premier highlighted projects of importance to the community where significant progress had been achieved through the Forum, in particular Stormwater Management and Septic Tank Effluent Disposal Schemes. The Premier touched on the issues surrounding council rates and acknowledged that the State Government, through Minister McEwen, has promoted the message that councils are accountable for their decisions to the communities that they serve and that the responsibility for the determination of the rating structure and the amount of rate revenue to be raised rests with each council. Provided that a council's rating policies are within the parameters set by the legislation, any issues that arise as a result of the rates set by a council are primarily a matter between the council and its electors. Mention was made of the range of activities designed to assist councils, which were instigated by the Office of Local Government in collaboration with the LGA.

## **2. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes of the previous meeting were accepted.

## **3. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND FLOOD MITIGATION**

John Comrie introduced this topic, drawing the Forum's attention to the amount of work that has been done to date on stormwater management and flood mitigation. This topic has been on the Forum agenda since its inception two years ago, and significant progress has been made. Key developments have been the doubling of the State's contribution to stormwater management and flood mitigation to \$4 million per annum, the establishment of the Urban Stormwater Initiative (USI) Group, funding of a major metropolitan-wide study, and the endorsement of the work of the Metropolitan CEOs' Association and the LGA in developing a 'whole of metropolitan Local Government' position on stormwater management and flood mitigation.

Peter Lockett, Chief Executive Officer, City of Charles Sturt, and chair of the joint State/Local Metropolitan Adelaide Stormwater Management Study Steering Committee, provided an overview of the key implications of the Kellogg Brown & Root Consultants (KBR) Final Reports into stormwater management and flood mitigation in metropolitan Adelaide. He emphasised that while the study concentrated specifically on metropolitan areas, the general key issues and proposed solutions are also applicable to regional areas. Discussion centred on the process for evaluating high priority outstanding works, such as the Brown Hill/Keswick Creek project and addressing the issues surrounding Adelaide Airport including how to engage the Commonwealth Government in funding negotiations.

The related report and recommendations put to the LGA State Executive Committee were summarised by Brian Clancey. There has been strong support from Local Government in working collaboratively both within the sector and with State Government in finding long term solutions to stormwater management and flood mitigation. To further this objective, a partnership agreement between Local and State Government is proposed.

Tim O'Loughlin endorsed Brian Clancey's comments and provided an update on development of a draft Urban Stormwater Management Policy for South Australia incorporating an Intergovernmental Agreement. A draft structure of the proposed agreement was tabled as an attachment to this item at the meeting. It is envisaged that the agreement be a legally binding document between the parties that will provide a clear, robust governance framework which delineates Local and State Government responsibilities with regard to stormwater management.

It was also agreed that Tim O'Loughlin would provide a paper on procurement options for stormwater infrastructure to the next meeting of the Forum.

Three significant issues were discussed: the role of State Government in stormwater management and flood mitigation, the allocation of responsibilities between the three spheres of government in a similar manner to that which has occurred with roads infrastructure, and the relevant guiding principles. The Forum agreed that a binding agreement between the spheres of government and other stakeholders, such as developers, should be developed to create certainty. Minister Hill requested that some minor amendments be made to the draft Urban Stormwater Management Policy before its release for consultation.

**The Forum adopted recommendations 1, 2, 4 & 5 of the Stormwater Management and Flood Mitigation paper. The Forum agreed to a revised third recommendation, that the draft *Urban Stormwater Management Policy for South Australia* be released, subject to the approval of the Minister for Environment and Conservation and the Minister for State/Local Government Relations, for more targeted consultation with State and Local Government.**

**The Forum agreed to a sixth recommendation; That a strategy be developed that will engage the Commonwealth Government on funding negotiations for stormwater management and flood mitigation, in particular addressing the issues surrounding Adelaide Airport.**

#### **4. STATE STRATEGIC PLAN – WORKSHOP**

Minister McEwen provided a brief update on the proposed arrangements for the State-Local Government workshop to discuss the State Strategic Plan and other State Plans of interest to Local Government. He emphasised the need for Local Government plans to be linked to the State Strategic Plan and for discussion to occur between State agencies and Local Government to ensure that both Local and State Governments understand the ways in which they may influence the plans of the other.

**The Forum adopted the recommendation of the State Strategic Plan – Workshop paper.**

#### **5. LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS – CONSULTATION FLOWCHART**

Minister McEwen introduced this topic, and drew the Forum's attention to the proposed level of engagement with Local Government detailed in the Consultation Flowchart. The Flowchart aims to assist Ministers and officers consult with Local Government when developing legislation that significantly impacts on the Local Government sector.

Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis commented that there had been some good examples of consultation with Local Government in the past; however, the time-frames were often too short. There was also concern that the flowchart may not reflect adequate consultation with Local Government during the "Parliament Phase". Wendy Campana indicated that the intention of the consultation flowchart was that agreement would occur prior to this phase. The Forum agreed that the words on the "Parliament Phase" flowchart be modified to reflect that additional consultation with Local Government may, in some cases, be required during this stage.

**The Forum adopted the recommendations of the Legislative Proposals – Consultation Flowchart report.**

#### **6. SEPTIC TANK EFFLUENT DISPOSAL SCHEME**

John Comrie provided a brief update on the major pieces of work underway on Septic Tank Effluent Disposal Schemes and advised that a detailed discussion of STEDS will occur at the next meeting of the Forum in November. The Forum noted the range of activities underway as outlined in the report.

**The Forum adopted the recommendations of the Septic Tank Effluent Disposal Scheme report.**

#### **7. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC LAND**

The Forum noted progress, in particular that consultants have been appointed to begin work on the Strategic Assessment of Public Land pilot project. The councils participating in the project are also being formally advised of the Consultants' appointment.

**The Forum adopted the recommendation of the Strategic Assessment of Public Land report.**

## **8. COMPLIANCE FUNCTIONS**

Wendy Campana provided a brief update of progress on this topic noting however that many of the areas nominated for inclusion in this study did not affect a significant number of councils. A suggested course of action was to leave the study open until further areas benefiting from a shared compliance function were suggested.

Minister Key noted that Minister Weatherill was absent for the discussion of this item, and suggested that the topic of Compliance Functions remain on the Forum agenda for discussion at the next meeting as Minister Weatherill may wish to comment on Supported Residential Facilities and the opportunity for shared compliance in that area.

**The Forum adopted the recommendations of the Compliance Functions Report.**

## **9. DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

Minister White gave an update on progress of this topic, highlighting that discussion is continuing with the LGA on matters of concern. Legislation is currently being drafted, as well as a document to be distributed to Local Government for consultation. The Minister also briefly discussed the progress of the Better Development Plan program.

Wendy Campana advised that a "Support Officer" role had been created as a Local Government employment classification and that TAFE had created a Certificate IV for Planning in an effort to help alleviate the planning skills shortage.

**The Forum adopted the recommendations of the Development Planning report.**

## **10. UPDATE REPORTS**

- 10.1 *Rates and Taxes : A Fair Share for Responsible Local Government***
- 10.2 **Economic Development****
- 10.3 **Administration of Concessions****
- 10.4 **State/Local Government Relations Agreement****

The Forum addressed the Update Reports as a whole and noted progress on these topics.

**The Forum adopted the recommendations of the Administration of Concessions report.**

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

President John Legoe noted that Regional Passenger Transport was not on the agenda and suggested that a report on this topic occur at the next meeting. The Forum agreed that Regional Passenger Transport be included on the next agenda.

## **12. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSE**

The Minister thanked all in attendance for their contribution.

The Minister advised that the offer from the City of Playford to host the next meeting expected to be held in late November had been accepted. The Office of Local Government will advise members of the date as soon as possible.