

1.3 *Stormwater Management and Flood Mitigation Strategy*

See Attachment 1 The LGA will provide a presentation on the Strategy which was unanimously adopted by the Metropolitan Local Government Group on 26 June 2003 and endorsed by the Senior Executive of the LGA on 27 June 2003. The strategy represents a significant milestone in the history of State/Local Government relations in the reaching of a unified approach to the problems and the opportunities confronting Metropolitan Adelaide and the model is also transferable to rural catchments. A covering letter from the President of the LGA to the Minister of Local Government outlining a proposed approach to regional issues and priorities is attached.

The Stormwater Management and Flood Mitigation Strategy and the letter from the President are available at

http://www.lga.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?content_id=616

1.4 *Policy Issues*

The Executive Group recently considered a draft of the *Stormwater Management Strategy*. The Group supported the directions and processes proposed in the Strategy and has identified a number of significant policy issues which will impact on the future development of stormwater management and flood mitigation planning in South Australia. It is proposed that the Executive Group will continue to explore these issues in conjunction with other relevant groups (eg *Water Proofing Adelaide*, the Review into Water Pricing in SA) and provide advice to Ministers and the President of the LGA.

The Group believes that it is critical for State and Local Government to be considering the important public policy issues, and not be focused solely on short term stormwater and flood mitigation project imperatives. This is reflected in the LGA Strategy as part of the proposed Step 1.

Some of these issues are:

- The need to better integrate water planning and management including stormwater, waste water, and treated potable water
- Using statutory planning policy to promote future water sustainability objectives
- Using policy levers to promote better coordination of stormwater management between Councils, State agencies and water institutions (public and private)
- Developing an integrated approach to stormwater management to incorporate flood mitigation, and water capture, harvesting and sale
- Consider water policy including the potential for product differentiation and current and emerging trends
- Roles and responsibilities of water institutions (including NRM Boards)

- Opportunities for harnessing private sector investment and operations.

1.5 Opportunities for Private Sector Involvement

As discussed at the previous meeting, DWLBC commissioned a report from *Capital Strategies Pty Ltd* on the opportunities for private sector involvement (including PPPs). An Executive Summary of that report was provided to the Forum members. The potential for private sector involvement will be further pursued by the Executive Group. (Tim O'Loughlin to report)

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Forum note the recent increase in the State Government allocation to the Catchment Management Subsidy Scheme as previously supported by the Forum in its proposal that both Local and State Government should increase their investments in stormwater management and flood mitigation in response to significant demand by Councils and other authorities. It is understood that recommendations for funding priorities for 2003-04 have been forwarded to the Minister for Environment and Conservation.
- 2.2 That the Forum receive the report prepared by the LGA – *Stormwater Management Strategy* – and advise of its support for the recommendations to implement the strategy, including:
 - The establishment of a Local/State Government Steering Committee to manage a comprehensive study (step 1) on requirements and priorities;
 - Joint funding of the step 1 study by Local Government and the State Government
 - Report back to the Executive Group and the Forum on the outcomes and recommendations of the study
 - The next steps outlined in the LGA Strategy, in particular the proposed time frame.
- 2.3 That the Forum support the continuation of the Executive Group on Stormwater to:
 - Oversee and support the work of the Steering Committee and ensure that the study outlined in 2.2 above is conducted consistent with the sustainable use of water resources;
 - Further develop advice for Ministers and the President of the LGA (as appropriate) on the important policy objectives summarised in 1.4 above.
 - Examine Statewide issues that will not be covered by recommendation 2.2 and ensure that appropriate action is undertaken;

- Investigate and provide a report to the next meeting of the Forum on longer term institutional arrangements, funding models and other issues such as developer responsibilities for the management of stormwater (consistent with the agreed policy objectives) as proposed in the LGA Strategy (step 2).
- 2.4 That the Forum support the proposed audit of information on outstanding work in country areas as proposed in the covering letter to the *Stormwater Management Strategy* from the LGA President.
- 2.5 That the Forum receive the executive summary from the report by *Capital Strategies Pty Ltd* on the opportunities for private sector involvement (including PPPs) and note that the potential for private sector involvement in stormwater harvesting projects will be further pursued by the Executive Group. This will also include potential opportunities for the involvement of SA Water.