

HAWKER REPORT

- Work has been proceeding in accordance with one of the recommendations from the Hawker Report on the development of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Commonwealth, States and Local Government. The IGA was to clarify roles and relationships and reduce the potential for cost shifting. It is anticipated that a draft IGA will be ready by the end of 2005, with a view to forwarding to a special meeting of the Local Government and Planning Ministers Council being held in April 2006 to consider its adoption by all spheres of government.
- Another of the recommendations accepted by the Federal Government was the review of the interstate distribution of Commonwealth road funds to local governments. The Commonwealth Grants Commission is undertaking this review. The SA Government and LGA will be working together in submissions to the review, which it is hoped will end the longstanding disadvantage that SA councils have borne in the interstate distribution of available funds.
- Another key feature of the Commonwealth's response to the Hawker report was a referral to the Productivity Commission for an examination of policies that arbitrarily limit councils having the capacity to raise revenue from their normal sources. It is understood that draft terms of reference for the referral are still being considered.