

STATE-LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AGREEMENT - 2006 REVIEW

- At the June Forum meeting, members received advice regarding the outcomes of the annual review of the *Schedule of Priorities to the State-Local Government Relations Agreement*. As the name suggests the *Schedule* sets out priority areas for joint action between State and Local Government.
- Topics listed in the *Schedule* include – stormwater management and flood mitigation, natural resource management, community waste management systems, strategic planning, governance, waste management, public libraries and climate change.
- The June 2006 Forum meeting also endorsed a technical review of the *State-Local Government Relations Agreement* to reflect the national *Inter-Governmental Agreement Establishing Principles Guiding Inter-Governmental Relations on Local Government Matters*. The Commonwealth Minister for Local Government, State and Territory Ministers for Local Government and the President of the Australian Local Government Association on behalf of all State Local Government Associations signed the new *Inter-Governmental Agreement* in April 2006.
- The national *Inter-Governmental Agreement* represents one outcome of the Report of the House of Representatives Standing Committee entitled “Rates and Taxes – a Fair Share for Local Government”. Colloquially known as the “Hawker Report”, it recommended, amongst other things, the development of an inter-governmental agreement to establish an agreed framework and principles for financial and service provision relationships between the three spheres of government.
- The technical review of the text of the *State-Local Government Relations Agreement* has resulted in some amendments to refer to and reflect the national *Inter-Governmental Agreement*.
- At its meeting on 20 July 2006, the Local Government Association State Executive considered the outcomes of the joint review and endorsed both the revised *State-Local Government Relations Agreement* and *Schedule of Priorities for 2006-07*.
- On 28 August 2006, the State Government approved the *State-Local Government Relations Agreement* and *Schedule of Priorities for 2006-07*.
- The President of the Local Government Association has delayed the joint signing of the *Agreement* pending further discussions with the State Government.
- A copy of the approved documentation is attached.