

## **INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING**

### **1. Background**

The State Strategic Plan targets increased investments in strategic areas of infrastructure, and calls for the State's infrastructure priorities over 5 and 10 year timeframes to be developed in the form of a State Infrastructure Plan.

The Government is currently developing a State Infrastructure Plan, led by the Office for Infrastructure Development (OFID). The plan is being prepared through an open and consultative process involving Local Government, regional development boards, government agencies and industry groups.

For the purposes of the plan, infrastructure includes provision for the community of all facilities and services that have a physical form.

It is intended that the infrastructure plan will be more than just a compilation of agency forward plans. It will be based on a strategic analysis of future requirements.

The plan proposes changes to the way infrastructure is currently planned and delivered. It will focus on strategic infrastructure needs for the State and provide a framework for decisions by governments and private providers.

Adopting a systematic approach to infrastructure planning will help State and Local Government, as well as the private sector, firstly to identify the State's strategic infrastructure needs and then to devise innovative procurement and funding mechanisms to deliver agreed strategic priorities.

The Strategic Infrastructure Plan will be completed by December 2004. A brief verbal report on the progress of the Plan will be provided to the Forum by the Minister for Infrastructure.

### **2. Actions**

Local Government is a major provider of infrastructure in South Australia. Councils have very significant responsibilities, managing infrastructure worth more than \$9 billion. By far the largest component of council expenditure is on local roads, however, councils also spend significant sums on the maintenance of stormwater infrastructure, buildings, footpaths and bikeways, and in the case of regional councils, effluent disposal.

It is essential that the Local Government sector be fully engaged in the formation of the State Infrastructure Plan. An effective State plan must give due consideration to the infrastructure plans of Local Government.

To this end, the Office for Infrastructure Development has been consulting with Local Government groups, including the Local Government Association and the Regional

Local Government Associations, to incorporate long term Local Government priorities in the State Infrastructure Plan.

The Minister's Local Government Forum also considers a number of crucial infrastructure areas; stormwater management, the Septic Tank Effluent Disposal Scheme, and the strategic use of public land. It is suggested that the Forum provide comments to the Minister for Infrastructure on the inclusion of these, and other important Local Government infrastructure responsibilities, in the State Infrastructure Plan.

### **3. Recommendation**

**That the Forum:**

- 1. Note the progress of the State Infrastructure Plan, and its planned release in December 2004.**
- 2. Provide comment on the consideration of Local Government infrastructure issues in the State Infrastructure Plan.**