

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- At the September 2007 Minister's State/Local Government Forum meeting, members were provided with information regarding the Affordable Housing Forum held on 14 August 2007, and the pre-Summit briefings held specifically for Local Government representatives.
- As the Forum was previously informed, the Local Government Association (LGA) has established an Affordable Housing Working Group. Membership of this Group has now been finalised and consists of:
 - The Lord Mayor, Mr Michael Harbison (chair),
 - Ms Wendy Campana, Executive Director, Local Government Association
 - Mayor James Maitland, Wakefield Regional Council,
 - Mr Stephen Rufus, Chief Executive Officer, Berri Barmera Council,
 - Mr Peter Peppin, Chief Executive Officer, Adelaide Hills Council,
 - Ms Mary Marsland, Chair of the SA Affordable Housing Trust Board, and;
 - Mr Philip Fagan-Schmidt, Director, Affordable Housing Innovations Unit.
- The inclusion of representatives of the SA Affordable Housing Trust Board and the Affordable Housing Innovations Unit will enable a closer working relationship between the Working Group and key State Government agencies.
- The work program for the LGA Affordable Housing Working Group has been developed and will focus on the key components of the Terms of Reference for the Working Group. Outcomes of the Working Group are envisaged to include:
 - further definition of Councils' roles, responsibilities and functions on affordable housing;
 - clarification of the relationship between Local Government and other key players on affordable housing policy development/administration and with providers of affordable housing;
 - a listing of obstacles and barriers in State and Federal Governments' legislation to Councils moving to allow the development of greater housing diversity and the identification of an action plan on development plans and legislative changes to provide greater opportunities for the development of affordable housing; and
 - development of a greater understanding of the available funding opportunities for Councils to pilot and undertake other innovative approaches to affordable housing.
- A national Local Government Kit on Affordable Housing is nearing completion and once released, the draft South Australian Local Government Housing Resource Kit, under preparation by AHU, will be updated and revised, with more specific and manageable topic focused references.
- Planning SA will shortly release a revised Better Development Plan module that includes a guide for councils adopting affordable housing elements into their Development Plans.