



EPLGA BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

From the meeting held at **Wudinna** on **Friday 2nd December 2016**

Presentations

The EPLGA Board had a solid start to its December 2016 meeting with presentations from the following:-

Local Government Association Governance Review (Ted Byrt & Kathy Jarrett)

The review encompasses various matters raised by LGA members over the last 12-18 months. In addition to the individual matters raised, it has taken a strategic approach and identified the project scope as being to undertake an analysis and review of the governance framework required to enable the LGA to adequately fulfil its key functions as outlined in the LGA's Constitution, namely:

1. To provide leadership for local government in SA;
2. To maintain key relations with the State and Commonwealth governments; and
3. To undertake appropriate business to maintain the economic health of local government in South Australia.

Since commencing work on the review, research and consultation has been undertaken including numerous workshops seeking the Sector's feedback on a series of questions including:

1. What should be the role, purpose and function of the LGA?
2. Who are the members of the LGA? And who should represent the members?
3. How does this new LGA engage with and respond to the needs of its diverse membership, and in particular the development of new policy?
4. How does local government organise themselves? What should the structure be?

Key areas emerging include:

The LGA is a facilitator of local government working together as one sector. Bringing members/representatives together to develop clear policy and at the same time, representing the different communities of interest is important. Strategies and structures for engagement are critical.

After engagement comes leadership and the setting of strategic direction. Again, the LGA is a facilitator.

Putting the leadership and strategic direction into action through:

- **Advocacy** - advocacy and representation with other levels of government, the community and other stakeholders. Strong, quick and clear advocacy, representing the different communities of interest
- **Assisting** - provision of frontline support and assistance

- **Advancing** - provision of specialist services and commercial activities

Closing the loop – communication back to members. All members need to know and communicate the achievements of the sector. Everyone in local government should feel like a member of the LGA.

Further input is now being sought on possible models, and a series of workshops are being held with the sector in both regional and metropolitan locations, with the view to finalising a preferred approach for presentation to the October AGM. This presentation was to gather the information from the Eyre Peninsula region.

Glyn Ashman, Manager Water Security Planning, SA Water: Water Supply and Demand Status

Glyn presented the annual data reviewed for the water supply and demand statement.

The reviews incorporate the latest information on available water and water use, now and in the future. This includes assessment of water demand due to population growth and economic development as well as the impacts of climate change on water supply. The information is obtained from several sources including local government and state government agencies such as the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), SA Water, the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) and the Department of State Development. This information is compared to the projections developed in the original 2011 Statement and calculations are made to assess water available in the region into the future.

Eyre Peninsula's reliance on groundwater resources makes the region's water supply sensitive to rainfall and the related aquifer recharge rates.

Wayne Lines, Ombudsman South Australia

The Ombudsman also addressed the Chief Executive Officer Committee in relation to review of decisions processes, code of conduct operations and other legislative requirements needing close attention by Council Chief Executive Officers. He addressed the EPLGA Board on matters of interest around conflict of interest and confidentiality provisions. There were good interactive questions raised at both meetings.

Darren Niejalke Sustainability Manager, Archer Exploration

Darren outlined the plans for the Archer Exploration graphite mine north of Cleve and the scheduled activities associated with the development of a mine.

General Business

Mayor Sherron MacKenzie Resignation

The Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association will write a letter of thanks to Sherron MacKenzie for her contribution to the Board and the region during her tenure as Mayor of Streaky Bay.

Mayor McKenzie said in her resignation letter "The main reason behind my resignation is the bad behaviors of some of our Councillors, the lack of process to control this and my seemingly inability to control their unacceptable behaviors. These Councillors show a continual lack of respect to Staff, myself, other Councillors and even the institution of Council, during and outside of Council meetings which has become completely disheartening. Bullying comes in many forms, lies, snide remarks, nasty texts and even emotional blackmail. But lack of support from others is almost as bad. I am extremely saddened to have seen good people leave Council because of these behaviors and I feel I am now at a point that I am also not able to continue."

Some Board members also put forward their bitter disappointment at the reasons why Mayor McKenzie felt it necessary to resign such that the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association Board resolved to investigate options for escalation of the consequences of ongoing code of conduct breaches through the Local Government Association of South Australia and Office of Local Government.

Power & Communications Black Type Event

The Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association Board endorsed the actions of the Executive Officer in relation to the power and communications outages that were recently experienced by the region. The Executive Officer prepared reports that were tabled at the SA Regional Organisation of Councils, LGA of SA Board, Eyre & Western Zone Emergency management Committee meetings with all recommendations contained in the report being adopted by the different meetings. Those adopted recommendations were:

That the various meetings

- a. correspond with Peter Malinauskas MLC suggesting that State Government resourcing for advertising on what to do in the event of a fire, be broadened to include other emergency situations and that there be an expansion of the Community Education Officer role especially with regards to communication;
- b. subject to outcomes of the COAG Energy Council meeting called in relation to the security of the SA power network, write to the Australian Energy Market Operator expressing urgency on requiring explanations for the causes of the Black Event;
- c. correspond with Electranet requesting the status of their asset replacement program and intentions to increase energy supply capacity on the Eyre Peninsula. In addition, requesting the status of the old line and if or how it will be maintained and used;
- d. correspond with SAPOL requesting a report from emergency services organisations, detailing outcomes from event debriefs and what learnings/changes have arisen from the power outage event; and
- e. request that the State Government supply their future emergency management planning strategies/ actions to mitigate future communication blackout events such as experienced on Eyre Peninsula and other regions of the state as this could result in life threatening situations. (i.e. no 000 available for emergencies).

The Executive Officer also attended the inquiry into the power and communications outage.

Eyre Peninsula Caravan and Camping Options Strategy

The Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association Board endorsed the Eyre Peninsula Caravan and Camping Options Strategy as presented by the RDAWEP seeking funding of \$40,000 from member councils with an additional \$10,000 being sought from external partners including the South Australian Tourism Commission, the Outback Communities Authority, and the Department of Water and Natural Resources.

Eyre Peninsula Coastal Access and Off-road Vehicle Strategy

The Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association Board also endorsed the Eyre Peninsula Coastal Access and Off road Vehicle Strategy and asked that members present the strategy and seek formal adoption from their individual councils at the next available opportunity.

Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board

Presiding Member Diana Laube and Regional Manager Jonathon Clarke consulted the meeting on the EPNRM Board's draft regional plan plus other matters.

The new Draft Regional NRM Plan is now available for public comment and consists of two components:

1. **Draft Strategic Plan 2017 – 2026**, a plan for the Region's communities, organisations and businesses to work together for NRM outcomes.
2. **Draft Business Plan 2017- 2020**, an outline the Board's investment, programs and past achievements.

A participatory approach was used to develop the Strategic Plan, which focused on the identifying the communities' values. The new Draft Regional NRM Plan builds upon the 2009 Plan and its new features include:

- Eight Strategic Priorities, to guide future projects and partnerships
- Five sub regional descriptions recognising local places and importance issues
- Information on the current condition of the Region's natural resources and projections for climate change
- Updated policies to address current and future management challenges.

You have **until 5:00pm Tuesday 7 February 2017** to have your say on the both components (the Draft Strategic Plan and the Draft Business Plan) that together make up the Draft Regional NRM Plan.

Centralisation of Government Organisations – TAFE SA Campus Closures in Rural SA

Through a motion on notice from the District Council of Kimba and a similar one from Wudinna District Council the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association Board seeks support through the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils and the Local Government association of South Australia to lobby against the centralisation of Government Organisations and in particular TAFE SA campus closures in Rural SA. This resolution was unanimously carried and the Executive Officer will bring this to the attention of the LGA of SA.

EPLGA BOARD NEXT MEETING

Monday 27th February 2017 at Coffin Bay.

Contact Details:

President: Bruce Green 0437 437 051 mayor@plcc.sa.gov.au
Executive Officer: Tony Irvine 0428 826 587 tirvine.eplga@rdawep.org.au