



# EPLGA BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

From the meeting held at **Whyalla** on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2015**

## **Time Zones**

The EPLGA Board will strongly recommend to the Premier and Minister for Investment and Trade that it favours a true Central Standard Time zone and opposes the proposal to align South Australia to Eastern Standard Time. Other than a true Central Standard Time zone being adopted, the Board was adamant that the status quo should remain.

Member Councils spoke of the many reasons for the Board's position on this matter. However, the District Council of Ceduna expressed great concern on the health effects to school children ie. mental health issues from some school children getting up so early and not getting enough sleep.

## **Outreach Services**

There has been enthusiastic support from Eyre Peninsula councils involved in the LGA Outreach Pilot Program for it to continue. The full benefits of the Program are to be assessed and quantified by the LGA. If the Program was to cease, the EPLGA Member Councils are in agreement this would have a major detrimental impact on the Region. The Program has enabled the Region to establish their agenda and priority settings. The 2 year Pilot Program is being funded in total from LGA funds however funding ceases on 30 June 2015. Depending on the evaluation outcomes of the program, which are expected to be positive for continuation of such, the main issue is how will the Program be funded in the future and over what timeframe? There is majority support from the Member Councils to contribute to an on-going Program. However, the level of funding required is yet to be determined. The success of the Program to date is the embracement and prioritisation of Regional Issues. There is also benefit seen in developing a communication strategy to ensure Member Councils and the wider community is fully aware and informed of the purpose and achievements of the Program.

## **Barnjala Native Title**

The affected Councils will seek the assistance of the EPLGA to guide them in seeking the services of a suitably experienced legal practitioner to prepare an advice/ issues/ position paper on the Barnjala Native Title ruling handed down by the courts. Further meetings will be arranged to assist Councils in understanding the complexities of Native Title Legislation and their future involvement in the process.

## **Overtaking Lanes**

In light of past tragic events on the regions highways, the EPLGA Board will make every effort to seek a positive response from the Federal & State Government. The EPLGA Board resolved to write to Federal Government and State Government relevant parliamentarians in the strongest terms and seek support from the RAA regarding the seven tragic deaths on the Lincoln Highway within the last

few weeks with the intent of having overtaking lanes constructed on the Lincoln Highway between Port Augusta and Port Lincoln.

## **RDAWEP**

CEO Dion Dorward gave an update of the RDAWEP activities in progress or being planned. He also advised that the SA Government is close to locking in funding for RDA's for the next 3 yrs.

RDAWEP's Target Teams are currently under review. Terms of Reference, membership and effectiveness against changes in economic circumstances, State and Federal Government policies and priorities and project funding criteria will be part of the review. A more detailed Regional Economic Forum was held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015 which was extremely well attended. Various RDAWEP Staff presented on their functional areas of responsibility and tremendous feedback was received on the information provided to Councils and other industry representatives.

## **Eyre Peninsula Mineral & Energy Resources Community Development Taskforce**

At the December 2014 EPLGA Board meeting direction was given for the development of a Regional Economic Development Policy to support local and regional business growth, inclusive of mining, oil and gas. A policy was drafted and was adopted by the EPLGA Board. The policy identifies that leadership and goodwill at a local, regional and state level is required to ensure that significant economic development opportunities, inclusive of mineral and energy exploration and extraction, are fully understood and exploited to their full potential when presented to their communities. The principle objective of this policy is for the Member Councils of the Association to further enhance local and regional economic productivity through detailed economic planning and prudent investment in partnership with RDAWEP. The Association's member councils and RDAWEP recognise the State and Federal Government's economic policies and regional priorities and will use their best endeavours to work with and partner both Government spheres to further regional economic development.

## **Pensioner Concessions**

The issue of pensioner concessions being withdrawn on Council rates was discussed again and every Council along with the LGA are attempting to advise pension concessional ratepayers of the potential hardship this will cause them. The EPLGA along with individual Councils and the LGA will continue to fight to have the pensioner concession on Council rates reinstated for the 2015/16 year and beyond.

## **Funding Contribution to the operating costs of the SA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program (SASQAP)**

Biosecurity SA sought a funding contribution from the EPLGA and EPNRM Boards towards SASQAP. The Executive Director, Biosecurity SA recommended that the EPLGA Board and EPNRM Board consider providing up to \$100,000 per annum as a contribution to the SASQAP to defray industry costs, which then accounts for the impact of pollution events on commercial harvest areas caused by urban and agricultural run-off. The total SASQAP costs \$557,000 annually with approx. 60% (\$355,000) recovered from accreditation fees charged to shellfish growers. Therefore, PIRSA contributes \$202,000 annually.

It is claimed in the business case that agricultural and urban environs can generate additional cost to the program via pollution events which adds cost to SASQAP and flows on to the growers. In the urban situation Councils do contribute to the reduction in pollution events by building CWMS's. The EPLGA Board does not intend to contribute financially to the SASQAP Program.

## **District Council of Cleve – Doctor Situation**

The EPLGA will seek assistance from the LGA and RDA to raise the matter of Doctor Shortages in the regions (e.g. Kimba, Cleve and Elliston areas). As part of again bringing this issue to the attention of Country Health SA, the EPLGA will invite Country Health SA CEO, Maree Geraghty to attend the next EPLGA Board meeting to discuss this and other regional health issues.

The Kimba, Cleve & Elliston Doctor Sharing pilot has failed with a husband and wife team recently not renewing their contracts with Country Health SA for reasons outlined by the DC Cleve in correspondence to the EPLGA Board.

It is not only the Eyre Peninsula that is having great difficulty in the shortage of Doctors but also other regional areas and the Executive Officer has already succeeded in having the issue added to the SA regional organisation of Councils March meeting agenda.

Regional SA like the rest of SA deserves the best quality health care system for its communities. Whilst the State Government currently discusses healthcare reform through changing systems to keep up with advances in medical science, treatment and technology, we in the regions need to be guaranteed that 'local' Doctors will be in place to deliver consistent, safe, quality care that meets our needs.

## **EPLGA Board NEXT MEETING**

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 at Wudinna

### **Contact Details:**

**President:** Bruce Green 0437 437 051 [mayor@plcc.sa.gov.au](mailto:mayor@plcc.sa.gov.au)  
**Executive Officer:** Tony Irvine 0428 826 587 [tirvine.eplqa@rdawep.org.au](mailto:tirvine.eplqa@rdawep.org.au)