



EPLGA BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

From the meeting held at **Wudinna** on **Friday 26 June 2015**

Minister Brock in Attendance

Minister Brock (Minister for Local Government and Regional Development) was in attendance at the EPLGA Board meeting. He also opened and attended the Meet the Buyer event hosted by EPLGA on Thursday, 25 June 2015 in Wudinna, with 140 delegates in attendance. The objective of the Meet the Buyer is to increase the number and diversity of local businesses securing economic benefit from government contracts to our region. In 2014 the State Cabinet lowered the threshold for when the Industry Participation Policy applies, creating new opportunities for local businesses.

The major focus of the State Government's Industry Participation Policy is now on economic contribution from the government's procurement. The key measures used to determine the effectiveness of the policy are local employment, local investment and local supply inputs. This information will provide us with the necessary data to measure the economic benefit resulting from State Government expenditure in the regions.

2013 – 2016 EPLGA Management Plan Review and Amendments

The Management Plan incorporating the Executive Officer's 2015-16 Work Plan, 2015-16 EPLGA Board Budget, 2015-16 individual Council subscriptions and the reviewed Strategic Plan were adopted by the EPLGA Board.

Mining Act Changes – State Budget

From 1 July 2014 the royalty rate for extractive minerals increased to 55 cents per tonne. This was brought about as a result of the 2014-15 State Budget handed down on 19 June 2014 and an amendment to the Mining Regulations 2011 on 28 August 2014.

The EPLGA Board unanimously passed a resolution that outlined the following:

That the EPLGA strongly opposes the imposition of a State Government royalty on rubble raised for council unsealed road construction, especially because in rural and remote areas there is not viable, widespread commercial options.

The EPLGA also requested that the LGA seek to establish what cost implications the recent changes to mining royalties will have on all SA Councils road construction programs and further what does the LGA intend to undertake in relation to this matter. Further that the LGA be asked to establish why such a significant increase in the mining royalties has been imposed by the State Government.

The EPLGA Board's SAROC representatives were also directed to raise this at the next SAROC meeting as a matter of urgency for LGA action.

The EPLGA will also seek to send a representative delegation to meet with the Treasurer directly in regards to this issue or have the LGA lobby the Treasurer to reverse this decision. The LGA will also be requested to assist in seeking a deputation with the Treasurer.

Country Health Matters

The EPLGA Board resolved that the Mayors and CEOs of the District Councils of Kimba, Elliston, Cleve and Franklin Harbour, and the President and Executive Officer of the EPLGA meet with Michele Smith, the Head of Country Health and Minister as matter of urgency to resolve the issue of doctors in regional areas.

There are concerns around the on call conditions regarding Accidents and Emergency among other matters. Correspondence has been entered into with Michele Smith and the affected Councils are awaiting a response to their request.

Speed Limit Debate (reduction from 110kph to 100kph)

The EPLGA Board will write to Minister Brock seeking his support in retaining the 110kph limits on our regions highways and roads which are currently sign posted as such.

Mining Community Engagement Protocol

The South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) secured grant funding through the Local Government Research and Development Scheme (LGR&DS) to develop a Local Government engagement protocol for mining, oil and gas development projects in regional South Australia.

This was in response to a number of regional LGAs raising concerns about Local Government's role in new and existing oil, gas and mining projects in regional areas. In some regional areas, new or expanding resource development projects are challenging Local Government to respond to a range of imperatives, ie community concerns, changes to land use and industry, economic development opportunities, infrastructure requirements, social changes and environmental and sustainability concerns.

As the sphere of government closest to the community, Councils have a significant role to play in the use and management of resources in their local area. In regional areas, it is critical that Local Government is engaged appropriately on all issues relating to mining and resource development. Despite having no legislative decision-making responsibility for mining, Local Government is often the interface between the community, State Government and industry proponents.

A draft protocol has been developed to ensure that regional Local Government as a sector, is organised and clear in its role and its expectations of State Government and industry engagement. The EPLGA Board wishes to express an interest in piloting the newly drafted protocol and seeks complementary funding to enable this to occur.

Eyre Peninsula Integrated Climate Change Agreement - Extension

The need to extend the first regional sector agreement was recognised and it was clearly understood that there was a need to build upon the previous agreement between the State Government and the Eyre Peninsula region that acknowledges the importance of cooperative work on climate change and sustainability within the activities of the participating bodies, based around the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Eyre Peninsula (the Adaptation Plan).

The Government of South Australia and the Eyre Peninsula region are taking a collaborative approach to ensure the region is resilient to the changes resulting from climate change and to ensure its ongoing prosperity.

The success of the previous Eyre Peninsula Regional Sector Agreement, which resulted in the formation of the existing committee and the development of the Adaptation Plan was also acknowledged. This body plays a key role in providing regional intelligence, encouraging regional scale planning initiatives and in building awareness of climate change impacts and adaptation requirements across the sectors. RDA Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula, the EPNRM and EPLGA are signatories to the agreement, along with the Minister for Climate Change. All signatories will commit \$12,500 per annum towards the work of the group and another \$25,000 from the State Government has been secured to assist further work.

Central Eyre Iron Project (CEIP) MOU

The CEIP will provide significant economic and social opportunities for the Eyre Peninsula, directly through employment and enterprise development as well as indirectly through broader economic opportunities. Iron Road has an existing Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] with an international grain company and has every intention of being the key facilitator in the export of grain through its proposed port. Iron Road recognises that its future is inextricably linked to the economic future of the Eyre Peninsula.

The CEIP will employ a substantial number of people and contribute over \$2B per annum to the national economy.

There are 4 regional CEIP partners to this MOU being: - EPLGA, RDAWEP, EPNRM and EPICCA.

The MOU partners acknowledge that there is a genuine desire to increase employment and business development outcomes for the communities of Eyre Peninsula in the mining industry sector, infrastructure development, agricultural, educational, environmental and related services. The challenge accepted by the partners is to achieve this increased employment and business development whilst improving environmental and social outcomes.

The EPLGA resolved to sign the MOU with Iron Road Pty Ltd to achieve the following:

- The provision of a framework for the Parties to work together collaboratively to achieve minimum impact/maximum benefit outcomes for the region and seeks to reinforce the relationships already developed.
- Consistent engagement by the Parties to deliver positive regional outcomes.
- The development of individual MOU's between Iron Road and the 4 Councils (Cleve, Wudinna, Tumby Bay and Kimba) directly impacted with regard to infrastructure development and maintenance.
- Working with the EPLGA to promote our region in order to enhance the economic and social prosperity.

Eyre Peninsula Mineral and Energy Resources Community Development Taskforce

An overview was provided on the activities during the last 12 months and future planning aspirations of the Taskforce.

Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board Services Level Agreement – 3rd Quarter report

This report was included in the meeting proceedings for all members' perusal and questioning.

Nuclear Energy Royal Commission

Jon Bok, Regional Engagement Officer for the Nuclear Energy Royal Commission addressed the Board on the processes to be followed by the Royal Commission in determining its findings in relation to this matter.

Terry Krieg, a member of the Australian Nuclear Forum submitted information for the benefit of the Board and sought a future deputation. However the Board wishes to wait for the findings of the Royal Commission before it commits in this debate and suggested Terry Krieg would be better placed to become involved in the Royal Commission public sessions.

Registration of Council Earthmoving Equipment

There have been some very intense issues around Councils attempting to re-register heavy earthmoving equipment. The District Council of Kimba first raised the matter through their experiences. The LGA of SA is well aware of the issues and has been attempting to assist Councils with the matter. It is hope this can be resolved in a common sense fashion.

EPLGA Board NEXT MEETING

Friday 4 September 2015 at Streaky Bay.

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