



EPLGA BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

From the meeting held at **Streaky Bay** on **Friday 4th September 2015**

Minister Piccolo in Attendance

Minister Piccolo (Minister for Road Safety) was in attendance at the EPLGA Board meeting. Whilst a period of the meeting was set aside for consultation on the proposal to reduce speed limits on rural roads from 110kph to 100kph it was determined by the delegates that this proposal requires more consultation at a date to be determined in approximately 6 weeks time at Wudinna. The presenters with the Minister produced a serious amount of statistics and information which the EPLGA Delegates want to digest and develop further questions and suggestions in relation to the proposal.

EPLGA 2014 – 15 Annual Report

The EPLGA Annual Report for 2014 -15 (including the financial statements) are now available from the EPLGA or can be downloaded from the EPLGA website. <http://eplga.com.au/corporate-2/governance/>

Emergency Management Plans

Mayor Julie Low, Presiding Member of the Eyre & Western Zone Emergency Management Committee briefed the meeting on the outcomes of the Ceduna committee meeting held the day prior to the EPLGA Board meeting. Some Councils have completed their plans whilst others are at various stages of completion. The EPLGA Board has allocated a modest budget amount to assist Councils reaching compliance in this area.

Royalty on Council raised rubble

David Hitchcock at the LGA of SA continues to further assess this matter in consultation with affected Councils. The LGA's effort is targeted at the State Government Treasurer in a bid to get him to understand the serious consequences of this budget decision to charge royalties to Councils for rubble they raise. In effect it will mean less kms of unsealed roads being maintained. Councils are liable to pay, from 1 July 2015, extractive royalties where the land being mined is not covered by any permit, claim lease, licence, and tenement or private mine. The additional cost for affected Councils is expected to total approximately \$1 million per annum.

Registration of Council Heavy Plant & Equipment

The LGA of SA continues to pursue the relevant State Government Dept. in relation to sorting out the "red tape" issues and general craziness around the legislation involving the registration of Council heavy earthmoving equipment.

David Hitchcock is the LGA of SA contact on this matter.

Time Zone Change

Both Mayor Suter and Green have been involved heavily on the debate around the changing of the State's time zone to align to Eastern States time. Mayor Suter was on an advisory committee and was quoted by Department of State Development staff as having withdrawn from that committee. Mayor Suter advised this was incorrect and explained his strategy in relation to the proposal. Mayor Green was supported in his response to the Matt Johnson from Dept. of State Development in that there is a very strong resistance in our region for this change. Further Mayor Green also suggested that for the region to have a separate time zone to the rest of the State would also see strong resistance from the Eyre Peninsula regional community.

2015 Regional Transport Strategy

Correspondence from the Consultants in relation to the further amended draft strategy was tabled. The meeting considered such a draft document needs to be discussed by the individual Council's operation staff and then be brought back to a regional Local Government workshop to finalise any issues that may be evident. Individual Councils were asked to put forward to the Consultants any issues that need further discussion and clarification.

Regional Development Australia – Whyalla & Eyre Peninsula

Brad Riddles deputised for Chief Executive Officer Dion Dorward in delivering the RDAWEP Report. Brad reported on the recent Tourism statistics which highlighted how well the region is performing in the tourism industry.

The RDAWEP outcomes & key performance indicators report for April – June 2015 was provided to member councils.

Deputations:

The Ombudsman – Mr Wayne Lines

The Ombudsman addressed the meeting and outlined his expectations and openness to receiving calls and queries from the Councils.

Mr George McKenzie - Finlaysons

George addressed the meeting on Native Title/ Local Government Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA's) & what they are and purposes of ILUA's including the advantages. He also put forward a suggestion of an EPLGA Regional ILUA and the advantages of such over individual Council ILUA's.

Fairfax Media Cut Backs

Concern was raised in relation to the reduction in staff of the Fairfax Media newspapers and the effect this could have on getting the "local news" out to the community.

Draft Local Nuisance Bill

Initial correspondence from the District Council of Streaky Bay raised some concerns at the proposed changes in this legislation. The council raised concerns regarding the proposal by the Environment Protect Authority to shift the responsibility for the management of community nuisance issues to Local Government, and in particular the inability by Councils to provide the resources to police community nuisance issues. The EPLGA Board supported the District Council of Streaky Bay position and was

adamant it did not wish to accept further cost shifting from the State Government (i.e. the EPA). The member councils wanted the status quo to remain as it was felt the costs to manage this would far outweigh any income received and the member Councils plainly saw this as cost shifting.

Road Funding – inequity

The District Council of Cleve through correspondence congratulated the Australian Government on additional road funding but sought the Member for Grey's attention to keep lobbying for SA Councils to receive their fair share of the funding based on population and length of roads to manage.

Obviously all Councils support this position which has not changed for many years.

EPLGA Corporate Plan – Survey

Mayor Low reminded all Councils to contribute to the survey as the EPLGA Executive Committee will be heavily reliant on the feedback from Councils in developing a draft plan for further consideration by the EPLGA Board and member councils.

CEO Committee Meeting

On Thursday 3rd Sept 2015 the regional Chief Executive Officers met and discussed a number of issues plus received presentations from:

Mr. Peter Bensch – regional procurement for IT Managed Services

Mr. Neil Oakes – Perks Integrated Business Services – Diesel Rebates & GST audits, staff salary packaging etc.

Mr. Keith Wilmot – Consultant FitTic - undertaking health checks (FitTick provides an audiometric, respirator and hearing protection fit testing) with Councils for some time. He asked for a time to present.

Mr. Pat Conlon – Minter Ellison – on legal aspects of interest to Local Government.

Main issues discussed included:

- Internal Controls implementation progress
- Zone Emergency Planning
- Regional Procurement – for larger strategic contracts & items e.g. Road resealing.
- Regional Newsletter - content

EPLGA BOARD NEXT MEETING

Friday 4th December 2015 at Wudinna

REGIONAL CEO'S MEETING

Thursday 3rd December 2015 at Wudinna

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