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Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association Policy



# **POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Regional Economic Development Policy</b>
<b>Reviewed By</b>	<b>Executive Officer</b>
<b>Date Adopted</b>	<b>22 February 2015</b>
<b>Last Reviewed</b>	<b>24 June 2016</b>

### 1. Purpose

The Member Councils of the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association (Association) have identified and determined 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, when presented to their communities are fully understood and exploited to their full potential.

The EPLGA membership has resolved to adopt a Regional Economic Development Policy:

- To assist in addressing regional and sub-regional coordination of economic strategic planning in partnership with Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula (RDAWEP) and the Department of State Development.
- To support the identification and alignment of priorities and economic goals as identified in Federal and State Regional policy.
- To support the identification and consolidation of duplicated strategies adopted by the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board, RDAWEP and Eyre Peninsula Local Government.
- To improve the delivery of economic outcomes at a local and regional level.
- To support the development and inclusion of a Consultation Protocol that enhances community understanding of significant regional development proposals.

### 2. Objectives

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 the RDAWEP.

The Association's member councils and the 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.

The Association and RDAWEP will work together in seeking to meet the priorities identified by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Regional Australia Standing Council to:

- Provide strategic policy and implementation advice on the delivery of the Government's commitment to improved outcomes for regional Australia.
- Deliver a Regional Policy Statement and a guide to Regional Economic Development.
- Collaborate with Commonwealth agencies to implement the regional policy agenda.
- Drive regional policy reforms across all three tiers of government.
- Build an evidence base to support regional decision-making, planning and economic growth.

As well as:

- Adopt and incorporate a Consultation Protocol for Local Government that enhances community understanding of significant regional development proposals.
- Emphasising the regions quality natural resources and matching them to quality professional services and leadership.

### 3. Benefits

Benefits to Regional Communities from increased Regional economic investment, development and leadership from Local Government:

- Increased competitive advantage
- Stabilised and increasing regional and township population bases
- Increased scope and scale of service industries within communities
- Improved global recognition of Regional Economic Assets
- Improved economic position through diversification of industry and value adding manufacturing investment.
- Improved quality of life for present and future communities.
- A better informed community
- Increased investment in research and development by Government and private sector
- Improved planning and preparation for major projects providing the opportunity to make 'future choices'.

### 4. Risks

The risks to Regional communities of not taking a leadership role:

- Declining ability to influence future regional direction.
- Declining regional and township populations.

- Loss of community services.
- Decline in community asset base, both human and fixed.
- Loss of competitive advantage to other regions, states and countries.
- Loss of control and influence by local communities over their future.

#### **5. Responsibilities**

RDAWEP and Member Councils through the Association will work together to develop and adopt a constructive, current and effective consolidated Regional Strategic Plan for Eyre Peninsula.

Member Councils and the RDAWEP will work together to identify, support and coordinate investment in economic opportunities through the adoption of local policy and priorities and the development of economic strategy at a local, sub-regional and regional level.

#### **6. Review**

This Policy shall be reviewed by the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association together with the RDAWEP within twelve months after the conclusion of each Local Government Periodic Election, or on significant change to legislation or aspects included within this policy.

#### **1. References**

Local Government Act 1999

Regional Development Australia Whyalla & Eyre Peninsula Regional Plan & Annual Report

South Australian Government - Regional Statement for South Australia

2012-2013 Annual Report - Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport.

#### **Annexure**

**Local Government Engagement Protocol for Mining, Oil and Gas Development Projects in Regional South Australia**