



EPLGA BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

From the meeting held at Tumby Bayon Sunday 23rd February 2014

LGA Outreach Services – Mining Taskforce

The EPLGA Board endorsed the Executive Officer's initiative in seeking funding from the LGA of SA in relation to establishing the Eyre Peninsula Mining & Community Development Taskforce.

From the recent LGA & EPLGA round table it was decided that:

1. The State Government together with the Local Government Association of SA (LGA) should consider establishing an "Eyre Peninsula Mining and Community Development Taskforce" to:

- provide a single and strengthened forum for information sharing as to the development of mine sites, infrastructure demand and community impacts;*
 - To assist councils in preparatory planning for housing and support services;*
- and*

- To provide a focus to all State agencies activity (e.g., education, health, police) as a result of mining proceeding and thereby provide support to the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association (EPLGA) and Regional Development Australia (RDA) as they address local issues.*

2. The "Eyre Peninsula Mining and Community Development Taskforce" would thereby play a similar role as the Olympic Dam Taskforce, enabling a single body to take a regional perspective in developing industry, on environmental matters and regional infrastructure and emerging issues that require joint local council/State government decision (i.e., "user pays" principle for road access; maintenance of local roads, etc.). Such a body could also draw in planning assistance from State agencies where land use planning, re-zoning is necessary at a council level; and

3. Representation is a matter for the State Government but could include membership of the LGA (1), membership from the EPLGA (3), membership of the Whyalla and Eyre RDA (1) consideration be given to a representative from the South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy (SACOME) (1).

The LGA prepared a strategy paper to outline the next steps needed to continue to progress the recommendations, including timeframes and proposed objectives.

As a result of this report it is envisaged the tasks ahead will initially require a dedicated person for 9 – 12 months on a part time basis. To keep progressing the matter, the EPLGA Executive Officer met with Shane Sody, LGA of SA to seek funding assistance for such to occur. The EPLGA has \$10,000 in its mining budget to commit and the RDAWEP has offered in-kind support by way of office accommodation and office expenses to support such. It is hoped the LGA of SA will soon be able to confirm a financial commitment. The State Government and possibly the mining industry will also be pursued for funding assistance.

Council Training & Development

The EPLGA's Executive Officer has been working closely with the LGA's Training arm and to date some successful regional training has taken place with good attendances.

To further assist the Executive Officer the EPLGA Board is encouraging all member Councils to provide their 2014/15 training plans to him early as possible in the 2014/15 financial year to allow collation of training needs

and possible numbers for future regional training planning. Regionally based training results in significant savings for local regional councils through not having to travel to Adelaide.

Development of a Regional Statement Template

For sometime now, the RDAWEP has been working on the development of a regional statement template that all regions can utilise with the aim of the individual templates being collated to make a state-wide regional statement. Once fully developed the information will be of great assistance to individual and / or groups of regional Councils and other regional organisations in preparing funding submissions, lobbying and for the media. Bob Ramsey from the RDAWEP has been having a real battle getting the template such that after the first year it will be a matter of updating the statistics and minimal changes to the other documentation. Once completed this will be a very important and useful tool for Councils and regional South Australia. We are expecting this project to be finalised by May 2014.

Review of Eyre Peninsula Councils' status in Asset Management and Long Term Financial Planning

The EPLGA, with the financial support of the LGA, engaged a consultant, Mr. John Comrie (JAC Comrie Pty Ltd) to review the status of asset management and long-term financial planning by Eyre Peninsula councils. A draft report has been tabled and Councils are asked to respond to the draft document by 14th April 2014 with a view to regional collaboration.

Regional Health Plans Update

At the December 2013 EPLGA Board Meeting there was a resolution for the Executive Officer to endeavour to have one regional plan prepared. Due to various reasons this has not eventuated but rather sub-regional plans are being developed or in the City of Whyalla's case a council plan for obvious reasons.

Executive Officer Annual Leave

The Executive Officer will be taking four weeks annual leave as from Monday 17th March 2014.

Special Local Roads Funding Applications for 2014

Contact has been made with all Councils for the 2014/15 application process.

Tim Warren from SMEC has developed a tool to prioritise the regions roads. Once this exercise is completed the prioritizing of applications for submitting to the Local Government Transport Advisory Panel for Special Local Road Funding allocation may be a straight forward exercise. However as the whole of region road prioritisation has not been completed, the EPLGA has sought SMEC's independent advice & assistance in running all 2014/15 applications through the prioritisation tool that has been developed in consultation with the EPLGA's Roads Working Group. From this the applications will be submitted to the LGTAP with SMEC's recommendations for each road's regional priority status.

The deadline for applications to the Local Government Transport Advisory Panel is 30 April 2014. To allow the Executive Officer time to have the regional application in order all individual Council applications need to be with SMEC by 16th April 2014.

New Charter for the EPLGA

Since the adoption & gazettal of the new EPLGA Charter in December 2013 there was needs to reconfirm some matters and address other items of business included in the charter.

MEMBERSHIP

Each of the Constituent Councils is entitled to appoint one person to the Board, with that person being either an elected member or an officer of the Constituent Council.

Each Constituent Council may then appoint either an elected member or an officer as a Deputy Board Member who may attend Board meetings in the place of that Council's Board Member who is absent.

An email was distributed to reconfirm individual council appointments to the Board and all is now compliant.

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

The new charter states the Board shall elect, from the Board Members of the different Constituent Councils, at the February meeting following the Local Government periodical elections:

- President, who shall be the chairperson of the Board;
- Deputy President, who shall be the deputy chairperson of the Board.

Under the previous charter the EPLGA Board had the following Officers: - President, Senior Vice-President and Junior Vice- President which made up the Executive Committee.

It was recommended and resolved that to suit the transition to the new charter that the Senior Vice- President becomes the Deputy President.

It was also recommended and resolved that pursuant to clause 4.9 (establishing committees) of the charter that an Executive Committee be established to undertake such tasks as Executive Officer performance reviews and other governance tasks that may arise between board meetings.

The Executive Committee will comprise the President Julie Low, Deputy President Eddie Elleway, Mayor John Schaeffer and Chief Executive Officer Rob Donaldson (subject to his approval).

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Clause 16 of the new Charter states:-

"Subject to the approval of the relevant Minister, the EPLGA will not have an Audit Committee."

The reason for such request being due to the small number of financial transactions and the nature and size of the organization.

The Executive Officer has applied to the Minister seeking such approval and is awaiting a response.

Work Health & Safety

The EPLGA Board adopted the Work Health Safety and Injury management system as tabled by the Executive Officer.

President on LGA Deputations in Canberra

The EPLGA Board directed and authorized President Julie Low to be a part of the Local Government Association deputation to Canberra on 3 & 4 March 2014 to promote support from the Australian Government for South Australian Local Government in various areas.

The program is currently being finalised and the LGA are arranging meetings for the deputation with:

- Mark Butler – Shadow Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
- Bill Shorten – Leader of the Opposition

- Anthony Albanese – Shadow Minister for Infrastructure
- Tony Abbott – Prime Minister
- Warren Truss – Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development
- Kevin Andrews - Minister for Social Services
- Greg Hunt – Minister for Environment
- Jenny Macklin – Shadow Minister for Families and Payments
- Jamie Briggs – Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development

State Highways – Election Lobbying

The EPLGA received correspondence from the RAA & CWA of SA (via District Council of Tumby Bay) in relation to safety issues with some of Eyre Peninsula's highways. The Executive Officer was to advise the organisations that the EPLGA had submitted such concerns through the Integrated Transport & Land Use Strategy development process. However the EPLGA Board noted that the RAA supported a reduction in the statewide speed limit from 110kph to 100kph which is opposed to the strong position held on this matter by the EPLGA.

National Heavy Vehicle Regulator

Mayor Nield, District Council of Cleve has raised several issues from the new Heavy Vehicle legislation that came into affect on 10 February 2014 and as it relates to the agricultural industry. The Executive Officer's actions in seeking answers from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator on what differences exist between the old legislation and the new was endorsed by the EPLGA Board. A response is still forthcoming.

Mayor Nield was also successful in having a resolution passed by the EPLGA Board that directs the Executive Officer to pursue a request to allow vehicles whilst in the act of overtaking (on open highways) to exceed the open highway posted speed limit by 20kph.

Native Vegetation – Significant Environmental Benefit Offset

The Executive Officer was also directed by the EPLGA Board to have input into the LGA submission to the Native Vegetation Council's proposal to increase the significant environmental benefits offset for native vegetation clearance. The EPLGA Board has many concerns relating to this proposal from the Native Vegetation Council and the negative impacts it will have on the regions.

Regional Organisations Verbal Reports to the EPLGA Board

RDA Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula Inc. – Dion Dorward

Dion expressed appreciation to Eyre Peninsula Mayors and others for presenting to Minister Truss the need to continue support and funding to RDA'S and the SA model.

Announcements are being made from the state opposition, if elected, to keep supporting RDA's by increasing operational funding and increasing the Regional Development Fund. The government is being lobbied to match that with limited success to date.

Funding is available from DMITRE and PIRSA for accessing Chinese markets. Brand EP initiatives are coming to the fore where there is a growing realisation amongst exporters to Asia that there needs to be relationships with provinces in addition to company to company.

Work that started a few years ago is now gaining momentum in terms of helping businesses on Eyre Peninsula to grow.

The Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group has recently appointed Anita Crisp as Executive Officer.

RDAWEP has approved funding to support a Whyalla Aged Care and Disability Master Plan. Flow-on benefits would include funding opportunities for investment in aged and disability care. It is anticipated that recommendations from the plan will be actioned in the new financial year. Eyre Peninsula's rate of aging population is ahead of the state average.

Numerous opposition MP's have passed through the region in past months. Every opportunity has been taken to discuss infrastructure needs and other community projects in the region.

Dr. Kristine Peters has been appointed to undertake RDAWEP's internal review. The review will, in part, examine how RDA can become more efficient and that funds are utilised in the best way possible. Tony Irvine, Executive Officer EPLGA and Dion have been collaborating on a number of other regional projects.

Country Arts are looking for expressions of interest for a Regional Arts and Cultural Development Officer. Councils were asked to please consider setting aside funds for next financial year (approx. \$60,000 in total from all Councils). There is an opportunity to have somebody working at a strategic level to be funded for 3 years, 50% by Arts SA. Town Halls, festivals and upgrades could benefit from the funding opportunities this may create. It is a natural fit with the work RDAWEP does around tourism with local government, state government and the community. Dion will send out more information as it becomes available.

A report has been released from Regional Development South Australia 'Prioritising Regional Infrastructure Projects'. Included in the report as number one priority is Eyre Peninsula's need to establish an export wharf somewhere on eastern EP. There is also recognition of the urgent need to invest in water infrastructure and power transmission upgrades.

EP Natural Resources Management Board - Heather Baldock/Annie Lane

Annie Lane, Regional Manager for the EP NRM Board, reported on

- Sources of funding for NRM Board projects in 2013-14
 - \$2.1 million contributed by the regional community, 40% including NRM and water levies
 - Aust Govt contributing 52%
 - State Govt contributing 8%
 - A total of \$7.4 million invested into management of the region's natural resources
- Achievements in 2012-13
 - 11,000 ha of revegetation
 - 2,500 ha coastal protection
 - 45,000 fox baits laid
 - 100,000 ha of rabbit control
 - Over 700 days of volunteer support
- Revising the regional NRM plan
 - Statutory review undertaken in 2013 by Board to support decision to revise plan
 - Board acquired Commonwealth funding to support revision of plan
 - Key objectives of the Revision
 - Simplify plan
 - Increase relevance to regional community
 - Develop explicit strategies
 - Include climate change strategies
 - A sub regional approach
- Upcoming Workshop
 - Workshop Purpose:
 - Discuss the Board's Business Plan & identify future opportunities to work together over the coming years;
 - Identify priorities & strategies for the new regional NRM plan
 - When & where: Tuesday 25th March 2014 in Wudinna

- Who:
 - Local Councils, RDA, EPLGA & EPNRM Board
 - Mayors, CEOs, works managers, Board members & NRM staff

Heather Baldock, Presiding Member of the EP NRM Board reported on the Minister's Response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into EP's water

- Final report of the Inquiry from the Parliament's Natural Resources Committee released in Sept 2013 with 12 recommendations
- Relevant Minister has right to accept or reject recommendations
- In January Minister Ian Hunter responded to the Report
- Minister accepted three recommendations, and noted "with satisfaction that the Committee acknowledged these are either current practice or are being implemented,"
- Partially accepted three recommendations and did not support six recommendations
- He stated that the 'report confirms that there is community concern regarding the future supply of water to the Eyre Peninsula region and the sustainability of local resources. However the report also highlights a level of misunderstanding about current science, management arrangements and respective roles and responsibilities across government agencies
- The Government (and the EP NRM Board) has invested significantly in science and monitoring of our water resources in recent years and that level of effort exceeds that in most other areas of the state. We are talking in the order of \$2 million investment.
- The Minister stated that "the final report appears to have placed equal weight on anecdotal evidence as that from peer-reviewed and robust scientific analysis. This is supported by the independent scientific review conducted for the committee by the CSIRO. Consequently, a number of conclusions and recommendations have been made that are not supported by scientific evidence."
- The Minister says "the commentarydoes not acknowledge that SA Water supply water...for critical human needs".

Heather also talked about the three recommendations supported by the Minister

CFS Report – Robin Marlin

Robin Marlin introduced himself as the new Region 6 Commander for the CFS. He has 8 staff and over 1300 volunteers spread across nearly 60 brigades in 6 groups.

Robin spoke about incidents from December 2013. He thanked Councils for their support in their provision of plant, equipment and operators. The many farm units that assisted too were also of significant assistance.

He attended the Lower Eyre and Upper Eyre Bushfire Management Committee meetings in Feb and is grateful to say that they were well represented by Councils. Continuation work is going on with the Bushfire Management Plan for Lower Eyre and Robin would like to commence the starting processes for a plan for Upper Eyre Peninsula.

SA Police - Paul Yeomans

SAPOL now have their new blue uniforms however, Ceduna, Yalata and Penong have retained khaki.

Highway patrols have been restructured so that now there are 2 in each of Whyalla, Port Lincoln and Ceduna.

SAPOL are rolling out a new operational records management system 'Program Shield'. This will assist in operational efficiencies and increased intelligence capability.

Paul will be attending a regional conference next week in the Riverland following which he will report back to ZEMC.

An Extreme Heat Risk Assessment Workshop is being held in Port Lincoln on 4th March, 2014

Paul is looking into future needs and strategically forward planning with regards to mining. He is eager to get information about Council areas moving forward and where police presence may be required down the track.

This region is doing well with policing proactivity – 30% better than last year. There are significant reductions in theft/breakins and theft from motor vehicles.

Dry zones on Eyre Peninsula are supported by Paul – please ensure they are well sign-posted.

NEXT MEETINGS

Friday 27th June 2014 at Wudinna

Friday 5th September at Cleve

Friday 7th December at Wudinna

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