



# **EPLGA BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

From the meeting held at Wudinna on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014

## **EPLGA Management Plan 2013-16 Revision**

The Executive Officer presented a revised Management Plan which was duly adopted. This plan includes the strategic directions for the next 12 months, the Executive Officer's prioritised work plan for the next 12 months plus a draft budget for the same period.

Next year there is a need to undertake a thorough strategic review as the Council elections in November 2014 may see changes within the EPLGA Board representatives. It is also a legislative requirement to undertake a comprehensive strategic planning review after each election.

## **Outreach Services Pilot Program**

There is a need for the EPLGA and LGA of SA to have discussions around the future of the Outreach Services Pilot Program as the current contract finishes 30 June 2015. There is also a need to discuss the Executive Officer position in relation to this program should it not be extended; on whether the position reverts back to a 3 day per week position or whether there are other options available. Councils were urged by President, Mayor Low to give the matter of the Executive Officer's contract, in particular the time requirements of the position some serious thought and provide feedback to her or the Executive Officer. A report will be prepared for the LGA of SA on the pilot program progress to highlight the benefits of such and whether it could be "rolled out" in other regions across the state. There also needs to be localized discussion on whether it needs to be extended within the region and under what conditions. The LGA of SA Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Wendy Campana commented that through her interaction & reporting from the Executive Officer she thought the pilot program has been of immense benefit to the region. Ms. Campana highlighted the regional training undertaken and the increased participation rates at a reduced cost to Councils, and the fact that the much needed Mining Taskforce project was gaining momentum as examples of the program benefits flowing to the region. Ms. Campana said she felt that there was a strong business case for it to continue but probably not at the current LGA funding assistance levels.

## **Regional Road Prioritisation and Planning Project**

The roads Prioritisation project has been held up due to data not being received from all councils as quickly as hoped. President Julie Low urged all non complying Councils to return their data as soon as possible to allow this project to continue and for the EPLGA Roads Working Group to meet and add value to the project. The next stage of the project is to develop a Regional Roads Strategy, which all other regions have in place which gives them an advantage in funding negotiations and forward planning.

## **Regional Tourism Funding**

A majority of Council have favourably responded to the RDAWEP request for a three year term of funding to support the RDAWEP Tourism Officer position. The EPLGA Executive Officer advised that the EPLGA will now be invoicing Councils for this along with the annual subscriptions for administration expediency reasons plus to allow the EPLGA to negotiate regional KPI's and reporting requirements of the RDAWEP. The Chief Executive Officer of the

RDAWEP, Dion Dorwood advised that the RDAWEP will provide individual presentations to councils as part of the ongoing reporting in this functional area and those Councils can expect a schedule of future visits. It was also discussed that one of the KPI's should be matching industry funding for the Local Government funding.

### **Regional Training Programs**

Full support was given to the EPLGA Executive Officer for his endeavours to coordinate regional training. The Executive Officer is seeking Councils to provide their annual training plans after their budgets have been adopted to assist in further developing the regional training program. The Executive Officer will approach the LGA for them to undertake a regional training needs analysis to help Councils with their plans.

### **Eyre Peninsula Mining Taskforce**

The Executive Officer has prepared the Taskforce's terms of reference and a role statement for the Taskforce's Coordinator position. Funding has been included in the EPLGA budget for the independent Chairperson position plus the Coordinator position however other funding is being pursued. The RDAWEP has submitted an application from the Regional Development Fund to match the funding contributed by the LGA of SA and EPLGA. A panel of the EPLGA President, EPLGA Executive Officer, LGA of SA Chief Executive Officer & RDAWEP Chief Executive Officer has been delegated the task of appointing a Coordinator.

### **Procurement Road Map Project**

Some questions have been raised about the value of this program. The Eyre Peninsula Councils in total have an expenditure of approx. \$50m per annum. Collaboration in procurement can not only assist Councils with their probity and policies but also have the capacity to save significant expenses in many procurement areas. It was generally believed that the region needs a procurement specialist to manage this project in conjunction with the Local Government Association procurement. Some Council Chief Executive Officers highlighted benefits gained so far. There is a need for a specialist to be regionally based and a working group to be established to further enhance this project to ensure Councils maximize their opportunities. The EPLGA Executive Officer will be seeking LGA and other support for a regional procurement officer in the near future. A business case is to be developed to support the request.

### **EPLGA CWMS Users Group**

The EPLGA Chief Executive Committee which met on the 20 June 2014 have supported the CWMS Users Group project and resolved the funding model that should apply to those Councils with Community Waste Water Management Schemes. The Chief Executive Officers also indicated that they were happy with the presentation received from Rashlee Pty Ltd. who will be responsible for ensuring the objectives of the project are met which include:-

- Establishment of users group to facilitate knowledge sharing across Council's operating CWMS'
- Identification of regional capacity and skills gaps to provide for the efficient and compliant ongoing operation and maintenance of existing and new Community Wastewater Management Schemes
- Promote regional training to maintain skill sets required to ensure sustainability
- Development and implementation of standardised recording and reporting mechanisms
- Facilitated development of up-to-date, user friendly operation, maintenance, monitoring and contingency plans
- Schematic mapping of existing schemes to assist with understanding of catchment capacities and constraints
- Development and implementation of standardised accounting systems to assist in comparisons between schemes and Councils
- Identify opportunity for shared resources, including platforms for remote access

- Identification of potential shared procurement opportunities in areas such as spare parts inventories, septic tank desludging and drain flushing.

Eyre Peninsula Councils are acutely aware of the potential impact of the Water Industry Act and the increasing regulatory and reporting environment surrounding CWMS operations due to their classification as an essential service.

### **Local Government Emergency Management Plans**

In February 2012 the EPLGA was successful in receiving a grant of \$73,334 which has to be matched with \$36,666 from Local Government (being \$10,000 from the EPLGA & \$26,666 from the eleven Councils). Former EPLGA Executive Officer Ms. Diana Laube had sign off from the individual Councils on this commitment prior to the grant being won. A condition of the grant was that the Councils also participate in the LGA MLS Regional Disaster Resilience Program. (This has occurred). The LGA MLS program identified gaps and complementary tasks that needed addressing to further enhance Council Emergency Management Planning. The grant conditions were varied to allow the Zone Emergency Management Committee (ZEMC) to undertake some regional risk assessments from which Local Government responsibilities can be used to develop and/or improve Council Emergency Management Plans. The ZEMC has completed regional risk assessments for heat, extreme storm events, bushfires and some plant & animal disease (e.g. Oysters). There is more to be undertaken in the areas of plant & animal disease, human disease and flood.

Initially a registration of interest was called to assess suitable companies that may be able to deliver the provision of risk management services for the EPLGA and individual Councils (i.e. Emergency Management Plans inline with conditions of the grant received). From this expression, two companies have been selected to tender. Neville Hyatt (LGA) and Grant Drummond (Director of Works, DC Ceduna) along with two SAFECOM staff will assess the tenders and give a recommendation to the Executive Officer of the EPLGA. The EPLGA delegated authority to the Executive Officer to appoint the successful company and complete all the necessary documentation on behalf of the association.

### **Local Government Association of South Australia**

State President, Mayor David O'Loughlin and CEO Wendy Campana updated the meeting on the latest news and undertakings of the LGA of SA. There was serious focus on the reduced supplementary road funding and the freezing of the indexation of the Financial Assistance Grants by the Federal Government and the impacts particularly on rural Councils. Some Eyre Peninsula Councils have been impacted up to an amount that would require an 18% increase in rates to match the loss of revenue.

### **Rowan Ramsey, Federal Member for Grey**

Rowan Ramsey MHR, well known to many, addressed the number one issue for councils being the impacts of the federal budget, in particular the supplementary road funding program reductions for SA Councils. Rowan has lobbied hard for the SA Councils and is seeking a review of the current inequity between SA and the other states in this funding stream.

Rowan also gave an insight into what are the hot issues in Canberra and where he stood on these.

He also explained there were some bonuses for councils in the recent Federal Budget, one being an increase to the Roads to Recovery Program and the Road Black Spots Program, of which Rowan is chair. He noted there are very few applications from country councils to the Black Spots Program. It was discussed that small Councils have great difficulty or cannot

meet the criteria which has been amended by Rowan and his committee to assist such Councils.

Rowan assured the meeting that in the long term, not is all bad and he will keep fighting for the supplementary road funding formula improvements for SA Councils.

### **EP Natural Resources Management Board**

The Regional Manager, Annie Lane addressed the meeting on Natural Resource Management matters and in particular encouraged all Councils to attend the Eyre Peninsula Water Security Reference Group annual meeting (next Friday July 4<sup>th</sup> in Wudinna). This will be a great opportunity for first hand water facts.

The EPNRM/DENR personnel made a presentation in relation to the development of an RV & Caravan Camping Strategy for the region. Further consultation and work will be undertaken on this with Seb Drewer from the EPNRM/DENR coordinating the future work. The strategy will include such things as coastal management and off-road vehicle use in an attempt to ensure there is consistency between Council areas. Stephen Goldsworthy, Operations Manager from the Yorke Peninsula Council gave a presentation on the development of their strategy, highlighting learnings from that exercise.

### **RDA Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula Inc.**

RDAWEP Chief Executive Officer, Dion Dorwood briefed the meeting on the current State Government Funding situation. He also advised that the State Government, through PIRSA, have set up a Regions SA agency with 20+ staff to start driving the \$29million funding program that Minister Brock was able to secure from the Premier early in the life of the State Parliament. The RDAWEP has lodged about a dozen submissions for the first rounds of these funding programs that have been released, including food industry, mining taskforce, tourism program and Oil & Gas Business Ready project. Dion also explained the RDAWEP's new Business Builders program which is related to a business advisory service which will be charging a fee for service. Other projects in progress include Agri Drought Resilience, the Scotdesco project, food digital strategy, and the freight logistics project.

Dion also outlined the progress with the RDAWEP Organisational Review which was co-funded by the EPLGA. A Financial Review has also been conducted resulting in the outsourcing of payroll and improvements to accounting systems and procedures. Backing all this is the improvement to the RDAWEP IT Systems where the Board has now entered into a managed services arrangement through cloud based IT solutions, ensuring it has a reliable business continuity strategy.

### **Interstate TV Programs**

Mayor Schaeffer, District Council of Kimba raised the matter of much of the region receiving interstate television programs. Rowan Ramsey explained the very complicated situation where commercial decisions dictated where the TV service originated from and the foot print it covered. Rowan explained that it was possible to have local programs broadcast if it was commercially viable to build new transmitters in the region. Rowan agrees and is also annoyed at the current situation but commercial reality dictates the current situation. The EPLGA Executive Officer was directed to correspond with the Minister for Communications on the matter.

### **Disaster Recovery Procedures Changes**

Alan McGuire, Chief Executive Officer, Wudinna Council raised the need for David Hitchcock & Neville Hyatt from the LGA of SA to attend a future EPLGA Board meeting to explain the Disaster Recovery Fund access procedures for Councils. This was explained and

workshopped at the recent CEO Committee meeting however felt it worthwhile to update Elected Members on this. Due to the forthcoming elections this is likely to occur in December 2014.

### **Cost of Water for sporting bodies**

President Low led the discussion on the ever increasing costs of water to sporting clubs and the ramifications of such. The President emphasised that those who pay for SA Water mains water have big costs which are putting considerable strain on the dwindling numbers of volunteers who keep our clubs operating. The LGA of SA has been working on this issue but has little success in their negotiations with State Government and SA Water. Minister Brock is aware of the issue and has previously mentioned that he is investigating the possibility of seeking subsidised water for the small struggling sporting clubs. The LGA of SA will again raise this matter directly with Minister Brock and ask for an update.

### **District Council of Streaky Bay Proposed LGA Motion on notice – term of elected members**

Councillor McKenzie explained her Councils intentions to seek the LGA of SA to attempt to change the term for Elected Members from four years (current) to three years by way of a motion to be presented at the October meeting of the LGA. Support was given by the EPLGA constituent Councils. This legislative change will not affect the forthcoming election due to insufficient time.

### **NEXT MEETINGS**

Friday 5th September at Cleve  
Friday 5th December at Wudinna

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