



**Local Government Association
of South Australia**

**The Voice
of Local
Government**

Policy Manual of the Local Government Association of South Australia

2011

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PREFACE

The Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA) presents this Policy Manual as a guide to the policies of Local Government in South Australia. The principles and policies contained herein represent positions adopted by a majority vote of member Councils at the General and Annual General Meetings of the LGA.

These policies reinforce the responsibility of each Council to act in the best interests of its own local community, in co-operation (when appropriate) with other Councils and the State and Federal Governments. In adopting these policies, LGA member Councils recognise the strength to be gained from unity.

Individual Councils are not bound by the LGA's policies, but the policies do represent the 'sector wide' opinions of Local Government in South Australia.

Overarching Principles

1. People have a right to involvement in a local democratically elected system of Local Government to shape, serve and support communities.
2. Councils are responsible and accountable to the citizens and the communities they serve through elections, consultative processes, legislative accountabilities, efficient delivery of services and effective customer service.
3. Councils will better serve their communities if Councils work together to achieve organisational efficiencies.
4. Councils make better decisions when their communities are informed, aware of available options, able to access relevant information, and able to make their views known to their elected representatives.
5. Local Government has a right to participate as an equal partner in the Australian system of government and has a right to an equitable share of public resources commensurate with its responsibilities.
6. Councils will better serve the South Australian Public if they speak with one voice on key issues through the Local Government Association of SA.
7. The LGA has a leadership role within Local Government and a representative role with other spheres of government and Parliaments on behalf of Councils.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA) operates under a Constitution, and is directed by its members at General and Annual General Meetings, at which all LGA member Councils have the right to vote.

The LGA is managed during the year by a State Executive Committee and a Senior Executive Committee. The State Executive Committee comprises elected representatives from each of the regions of Councils in the State, including Metropolitan Adelaide. The Senior Executive Committee is comprised of the Association's President, Immediate Past President, four Vice Presidents and the Chief Executive Officer.

Two additional committees are established under the LGA Constitution - the Metropolitan Local Government Group (MLGG), and the South Australian Regional Organisations of Councils (SAROC). These committees provide advice to the State Executive Committee on matters affecting Local Government from a metropolitan Adelaide, or country regional perspective. They also provide a forum for discussion of issues which are of common interest to their members.

The LGA provides direct services to Councils in a number of areas and has established enterprises either separately or within its own structure to provide other services. Separate enterprises established by the LGA include: Local Government Corporate Services, Local Government Risk Services, LGA Workers Compensation Scheme, and LGA Mutual Liability Scheme.

1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION GOVERNANCE

Principles

All Councils have the right to form a membership organisation and direct that organisation to represent them in public policy debates which impact on Councils and their communities.

The LGA is the advocate for all Councils and will represent the views of the majority of its membership.

The LGA will show leadership on sector wide issues and has the ability, on behalf of the membership, to negotiate with other spheres of government.

The LGA recognises its responsibility to ensure the most effective and efficient use of resources available.

1.1 ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE LGA

1.1.1 On behalf of its members, the LGA will, in accordance with its Strategic Plan, Constitution, this policy manual and other relevant governance documents, provide leadership, representation and lobbying at the State and Federal levels; develop and deliver services to Councils, and establish associated enterprises.

1.1.2 The LGA will provide leadership and otherwise ensure that Local Government sets its own research, training and development agenda.

1.2 LGA ENTERPRISES AND SERVICES

1.2.1 The LGA will support the establishment and ongoing successful operation of enterprises which provide direct services to LGA member Councils, including (but not limited to) Local Government Corporate Services, Local Government Risk Services, the LGA Workers Compensation Scheme, and the LGA Mutual Liability Scheme

1.2.2 The LGA will provide some services directly to its member Councils which may include (but not necessarily be limited to):

- advice and assistance on matters pertaining to Industrial Relations and Human Resource management;
- conflict resolution services within and between Councils (on request);
- leadership, advocacy and advice on sector-wide governance matters;
- education and training programs for Council Members and staff;
- shared Information Technology services;
- collection and provision of statistical information about the Local Government sector; and
- dissemination of information to member Councils on matters of interest to Local Government.

1.3 RELATIONSHIPS WITH POLITICAL PARTIES

1.3.1 The LGA will be the principal avenue of communication between Local Government and the State and Federal Governments.

1.3.2 The LGA will evaluate State and Federal Government policies, legislation and programs which affect Local Government. On the basis of member Councils' responses, the LGA will prepare submissions to the other spheres of government and negotiate/advocate where appropriate with those governments.

1.3.3 Individuals in Local Government retain the right to join political parties. However, Local Government through the LGA will adopt a non-partisan approach whereby it deals with the governments of the day to achieve its aims but reserves the right to use the political process to persuade decision-makers where necessary.

1.4 REPRESENTATION AND RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ALGA

1.4.1 The LGA will support and participate with the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) as the federation of state and territory Local Government Associations, to assist in meeting the LGA's objectives at the national level.

1.5 RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

1.5.1 The LGA will encourage, foster, strengthen, and liaise with professional associations and other similar organisations with a view to identifying common areas of interest and strategies for action.

1.6 REFORM PROGRAMS

1.6.1 The LGA will provide leadership and initiate reform programs to enhance the role, function and performance of the Local Government Sector, including its relationships with the other spheres of government.

1.7 MEDIA RELATIONS

1.7.1 The LGA will foster strong and productive relationships with the media, with a view to promoting greater understanding of Local Government, ensuring that the community is well informed about current issues relevant to the Local Government sector, and providing information about Council services to the community.

2. GOVERNANCE IN COUNCILS

Principles

Communities have a right to a democratically elected, comprehensive local sphere of government to serve, represent and promote their interests. The community has the right to expect the highest standards of governance from Local Government.

Local Government recognises that the structures and processes adopted by any Council to ensure accountability and sound relationships with residents, employees and stakeholders must reflect:

- *accountability;*
- *ethical behaviour;*
- *clearly assigned roles and responsibilities;*
- *openness and transparency whilst recognising that in some circumstances it will be necessary to consider issues ‘in confidence’;*
- *sound principles;*
- *robust procedures;*
- *commitment to ongoing change in order to maintain the highest standards in governance; and*
- *a responsive framework for community participation.*

Local Government recognises that locally determined regionalisation of services, where appropriate, results in effective and efficient service delivery which benefits communities.

2.1 ELECTIONS

2.1.1 All adult members of the community who are Australian citizens must be eligible to stand for election to office in Local Government unless there is a demonstrated legal impediment, or the Electoral Commissioner determines that the person is unsuitable for office based on the outcomes of a Police investigation.

2.1.2 Election to office in Local Government should be by secret ballot with universal adult and property franchise and voluntary voting, and for a four year term of office.

2.1.3 Councils and their communities must be able to choose whether to remove or introduce the office of ‘Ward Councillor’ or ‘Area Councillor’

2.2 CAMPAIGN FUNDS

2.2.1 All candidates for election to a Council must be required as a condition of acceptance of their nomination to disclose their pecuniary and other interests, including the source of their campaign funds.

2.3 ELECTION TO STATE OR FEDERAL PARLIAMENT

- 2.3.1 When Council members are elected to State or Federal Parliament, their seat on the Council must be declared vacant.

2.4 MEETING PROCEDURES

- 2.4.1 Members of the public must have the right to attend Council meetings and meetings must be held in a public place to accommodate public attendance.
- 2.4.2 'In confidence' sessions should be kept to a minimum and only used to consider matters declared by Council to be of a confidential nature, as set out in relevant legislation.
- 2.4.3 Councils must ensure that they carry out ongoing reviews of all confidential matters where appropriate, and report annually on those reviews.
- 2.4.4 Informal gatherings or discussions between Council Members or Council Members and staff are appropriate provided that no formal voting takes place.

2.5 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 2.5.1 In the interests of open and transparent government, Council Members and staff must be subject to severe penalties for not disclosing a pecuniary interest in a matter before the Council.
- 2.5.2 Council Members must continue to disclose their pecuniary interests in a public register.

2.6 FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

- 2.6.1 Fraud and corruption are not to be tolerated in Local Government and should be dealt with by the full force of the law.
- 2.6.2 The LGA supports the establishment of appropriate legislative structures to investigate allegations of fraud and corruption. These structures should not unfairly affect the reputations of the innocent nor encourage the lodging of vexatious complaints.
- 2.6.3 The LGA will assist Councils through education, training and information to adopt good governance practices designed to mitigate against fraud, and corrupt behaviour.

2.7 ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES

- 2.7.1 Local Government believes that Council Members are entitled to a suitable allowance, and reimbursement of expenses to help support their role as representatives of their communities.

- 2.7.2 Local Government believes that Council Member Allowances should continue to be established by an independent body, within guidelines established in legislation and agreed by the State Government and the LGA.
- 2.7.3 Allowances and reimbursement of expenses received by Council Members should be tax-exempt in recognition of the fact that service to the community through Local Government is essentially a voluntary undertaking. The taxing of Council Member Allowances discourages many members of the community from seeking election to Councils, because of the impact on their personal financial circumstances.
- 2.7.4 There should be a publicly available Benefits and Support Register for Council Members allowances and expenses.
- 2.8 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF
- 2.8.1 The complementary but different roles of Mayors, Chairpersons, Council Members, Chief Executive Officers and other officers/employees of Councils must be prescribed by legislation. Local Government supports the clear definition of these roles so as to provide accountable, transparent and efficient government at the local level.
- 2.8.2 Local Government believes that Council Members are responsible for providing strategic leadership and guidance, representing the interests of their communities, and facilitating communication between the community and the Council.
- 2.8.3 The role of a Chief Executive Officer and staff is to implement the policies and decisions of the Council in an effective and efficient manner, conduct the day to day affairs of the Council, provide advice, and ensure good governance practices are adopted to meet the Council's legal obligations.
- 2.9 CODES OF CONDUCT
- 2.9.1 Codes of Conduct help to ensure a good relationship between the Chief Executive Officer/staff and Council Members. Local Government supports adherence to Codes of Conduct, as a means of promoting respect for the various roles which contribute to the overall good governance of a Council.
- 2.10 GRIEVANCES
- 2.10.1 Formal Council grievance procedures must be developed, implemented and maintained to ensure that grievances from the community, Council Members and Council staff are considered in a fair and reasonable manner.
- 2.10.2 Councils must comply with grievance procedures as set out under relevant legislation.
- 2.10.3 The name of the Ombudsman should be 'the State and Local Government Ombudsman' to reflect the role of the Office.

2.11 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

2.11.1 Local Government supports the provision of training and development opportunities for Council Members and staff.

2.11.2 Training and development courses undertaken by Council Members and Council staff should be recorded in a Training Register and/or be otherwise reported on an annual basis.

2.12 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

2.12.1 Local Government recognises that performance measurement provides an opportunity for Councils to measure the achievement of corporate goals and report annually on achievement of these goals to the community and use them for internal management of resources.

2.12.2 The LGA will continue to facilitate the collection and dissemination of State wide performance information through a consultative process with Councils.

2.13 BENCHMARKING

2.13.1 Local Government recognises the benefits that can be gained through Councils identifying internal performance benchmarks and establishing benchmarking partners external to the Council.

2.13.2 Local Government believes that any State or National approaches to benchmarking must have regard to individual Council objectives and the difficulties of producing benchmarking information which does not reflect the unique circumstances of individual Councils.

2.13.3 State or National projects for benchmarking must be subject to State and/or ALGA Agreements and appropriate funding to enable effective and timely participation by SA Councils.

2.14 COMPETITIVE TENDERING

2.14.1 Local Government supports Competitive Tendering and encourages Councils to “test” their competitiveness in delivery of functions and services with other Councils and external providers of similar services.

2.14.2 Councils recognise the potential impacts of Competitive Tendering on the social, environmental and economic well being of their communities and will consider these issues along with risk management and potential liability, when taking local decisions to adopt competitive tendering in service delivery.

2.14.3 Councils must ensure that transparent management strategies for receiving “internal” and “external” tenders are established.

2.15 RESOURCE SHARING AND SHARED SERVICES

- 2.15.1 Councils will consider working together with other Council(s) or private or public sector entities, if this will result in the delivery of more efficient or effective services to the community.
- 2.15.2 Local Government believes that the benefits of resource sharing or shared service delivery may include the achievement of economies of scale, access to a wider range of skills, better use of capital and assets, and/or the sharing of risk.
- 2.15.3 Proposals for shared services must be subject to rigorous examination to ensure that prudential and due diligence requirements are satisfied.
- 2.15.4 Where Local Government shares in the provision of services with another sphere of government, Local Government's role must be recognised. Consequently, sharing in the provision of services should automatically entitle Local Government to a proportionate share in the direction and administration of the service, and a commensurate level of funding.

2.16 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AT A REGIONAL LEVEL

- 2.16.1 Local Government believes that co-operation between Councils by forming regions where appropriate will best serve the aims of good government and community well being.
- 2.16.2 Local Government supports the delivery of services and the provision of infrastructure on a regional basis or through a shared service model.
- 2.16.3 Councils must maintain the right to decide at both a regional and local level which actions, services and facilities will best meet the needs of local communities.

2.17 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- 2.17.1 Local Government supports the formation of professional and other associations related to Local Government as an appropriate means of supporting Council Members and staff and encouraging the widest possible participation in Local Government.

2.18 HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- 2.18.1 Local Government is committed to the maintenance of an efficient workforce and an harmonious industrial relations environment. Councils work as individual employers (and with the assistance of the LGA and other expert advice) to ensure that:
- employees carry out their duties in an efficient and effective manner;
 - the proper principles of equal employment opportunity are applied at all levels of Local Government;
 - all appointments are made on the basis of merit;

- employees are provided with healthy and safe working environments, consistent with legislative requirements;
- appropriate human resource practices are applied with compliance to relevant legislative requirements; and
- appropriate staff development measures are implemented.

2.19 SUPERANNUATION

2.19.1 Local Government supports the provision of appropriate and legislative superannuation for employees, and prefers the Local Government Superannuation Scheme (Local Super) as its default Scheme in the event that employees do not choose another provider.

2.20 WORKERS COMPENSATION

2.20.1 Local Government will support the LGA Workers Compensation Scheme for the provision of workers compensation and rehabilitation services throughout Local Government.

2.21 MUTUAL LIABILITY

2.21.1 Local Government will support the LGA Mutual Liability Scheme for the provision of insurance services throughout Local Government.

2.22 CAPITAL CITY GOVERNANCE

2.22.1 Australian Capital City Councils, including the Adelaide City Council, must continue to fulfil their important strategic role of providing Local Government Services at the capital city level.

2.22.2 The unique 'City-State' role of the Adelaide City Council must be carried out having regard to principles of sound governance, including those principles referred to in this section.

3. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Principles

The processes whereby governments analyse roles and responsibilities and undertake negotiations are best described through formalised guiding principles and processes set out in intergovernmental agreements with financial arrangements determined.

Local, State and Federal governments should respect each other's mandate and co-operate to ensure maximum benefit to the community.

3.1 CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

- 3.1.1 The importance of Local Government as a sphere of responsible government in Australia must be recognised through gaining a greater acknowledgment of Local Government in the Australian Constitution, as called for by the ALGA. In particular the capacity for the Commonwealth to provide direct funding to Councils should be put beyond doubt.
- 3.1.2 The South Australian Constitution Act 1934 must continue to provide recognition of the existence and status of Local Government. Such recognition should also provide safeguards which will ensure the continuance of a system of Local Government.
- 3.1.3 Local Government's existence and status must continue to be recognised by a Local Government Constitution Act.
- 3.1.4 The acknowledgment of Local Government in the SA Constitution Act must be entrenched so as to be incapable of alteration without an absolute majority of both Houses of Parliament.
- 3.1.5 No sphere of government ought to have the right to dismiss another sphere of government.

3.2 GENERAL COMPETENCE AND SELF MANAGEMENT

- 3.2.1 A general competence power should be granted to all Councils in the Local Government Act so that Councils may respond to the needs of their communities and provide the services required. Such general competence power should be accompanied by the removal of restrictive and unnecessary conditions and approvals imposed by State Government on the performance of Council activities.
- 3.2.2 In determining the appropriate responsibilities of Local Government, the desirability of maximising Local Government autonomy, independence and the sector's capacity for self-management must be recognised by the other spheres of government in legislation and policy.

- 3.2.3 The amalgamation of Councils must only be undertaken on a voluntary basis, where there is demonstrable support from the affected Councils and their communities.
 - 3.2.4 Local Government supports the achievement of cost savings and efficiencies through regionalisation and shared service provision.
 - 3.2.5 State Government intervention in the governance arrangements of a Council must not occur unless that Council is effectively unable to govern.
- 3.3 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS AND AGREEMENTS
- 3.3.1 The LGA recognises communities are best served where governments seek to cooperate to deliver outcomes most effectively and efficiently.
 - 3.3.2 The LGA will work to document learnings and model best practice in partnership with other spheres of government.
 - 3.3.3 Formal agreements should be used to establish frameworks for communication and cooperation between Local Government and the other two spheres of government. These agreements will be based on mutual respect and facilitate governments working more productively together for the benefit of communities. Overarching agreements of this nature will be signed by the LGA, on behalf of Local Government in South Australia
 - 3.3.4 Where appropriate, sub agreements or protocols will be negotiated which deal with specific issues.
 - 3.3.5 Formal agreements between the State Government and the LGA must be observed by Local Government and all agencies of the State Government. Together with related protocols, these agreements form the basis for the partnership between State and Local Government.
 - 3.3.6 In the case of formal agreements involving the Federal Government, the States and Local Government, it is appropriate that the Australian Local Government Association sign those agreements on behalf of State and Territory Local Government, following consultation with LGAs.
 - 3.3.7 Where appropriate a legislative framework should be established for formal agreements between State and Local Governments.
 - 3.3.8 Relationships between State and Local Government should use mechanisms for negotiation as set out in both State and Local Government Association policy and any formal agreements which may be in place from time to time.
 - 3.3.9 Where financial or functional transfers occur between spheres of government, the objectives, amounts to be transferred, management and evaluation mechanisms must be negotiated and embodied in formal agreements, together with clear funding arrangements.

3.4 REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

- 3.4.1 There should be a Legislative Protocol agreed between State Government and the LGA.
- 3.4.2 The Legislative Protocol must provide for adequate and meaningful consultation with Local Government through the LGA prior to the progression of any legislative changes which either involve or may impact on Local Government.
- 3.4.3 Consistent with the Legislative Protocol State Government should consult annually with the LGA on a schedule of legislative priorities.
- 3.4.4 Any review of legislation involving or impacting on Local Government must have regard to and be consistent with the following objectives:
- the provision of open, responsive and accountable government;
 - ensuring that democratic decision-making is as close as possible to the communities affected by the decision;
 - co-operation and/or partnership arrangements between the spheres of government where appropriate or practicable, to ensure the best outcome for the community;
 - the provision of appropriate resources to fund service delivery;
 - achieving efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of services; and
 - the development and implementation of Local, State and Federal Government objectives and strategies.
- 3.4.5 State and Federal governments should establish 'whole of government' mechanisms for the co-ordination of their agencies in approaches to Local Government, especially in relation to legislation affecting Local Government.
- 3.4.6 Local, State and Federal governments should be bound by the same legislation, controls and requirements as the rest of the community.

3.5 STATE GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS

- 3.5.1 The LGA will work with the appropriate Ministers to ensure effective across Government coordination and interaction with Local Government. The Ministerial arrangements and Cabinet processes should maximise continuous improvement in relationships with Local Government in the interest of the SA community.
- 3.5.2 The unit of staff responsible to the Minister responsible for State/Local Government relationships should be in a position to take an across Government role and have a clear co-ordination role in relation to improving relationships with Local Government.
- 3.5.3 Submissions to the State Cabinet must incorporate an assessment of impact (regional impact statements/Local Government impact statements) on Local Government and, where appropriate, advice on the outcomes of

consultation with the LGA and Councils, within a framework negotiated with the LGA.

3.6 REPRESENTATION ON STATE COMMITTEES

- 3.6.1 Local Government must be given the opportunity to be represented on all appropriate State committees, Commissions, working groups etc where the subject matter affects or is likely to affect, Local Government.
- 3.6.2 The State Government must be given the opportunity to be represented on all appropriate Local Government committees etc where the subject matter affects or is likely to affect State Government responsibilities.
- 3.6.3 Where Local Government representation is required on any committee, advisory body or any other form of committee, the representative must be a formal nominee of the LGA, which may include a Council approved representative from the relevant Council(s) where there are areas of consideration that are specific to a particular Council(s).

3.7 STRATEGIC PLANNING

- 3.7.1 The strategic plans of Federal, State and Local Government must be aligned in areas of common interest, by a consultative process between the three spheres of government. Local Government recognises its responsibilities under legislation to give due weight to the plans and strategies of other spheres of government.
- 3.7.2 Local Government supports the continued development and implementation of a Strategic Plan for South Australia.
- 3.7.3 A legislative framework must be established to ensure that successive governments develop and maintain, in consultation with Councils and their communities, a strategic plan for the State.
- 3.7.4 Where practicable, South Australia's Strategic Plan should provide clear targets at a regional level as a basis for implementation of the Plan and measurement of progress. The regions used for this purpose should align as closely as possible with Local Government regions, and Local Government should have the opportunity to comment upon and suggest changes to targets as they are developed.

4. INFRASTRUCTURE

This Chapter deals with infrastructure including roads, transport, utilities, stormwater and waste disposal systems. Refer to the chapter titled 'Community Wellbeing' for policies relating to community infrastructure, including parks and community buildings.

Principles

Councils in South Australia are the custodians of infrastructure and assets on behalf of their communities. They have an obligation to ensure that current assets are managed efficiently and effectively and that decisions regarding the acquisition of new assets and the sale and maintenance of current assets are undertaken in an open and transparent fashion.

Relative to annual income, the South Australian Local Government sector is 3 times more asset intensive (i.e. value of assets/income) than the State Government and 9 times more asset intensive than the Commonwealth Government. It follows that asset management is a more critical responsibility for Councils than for other spheres of government. A fair and equitable distribution of funding according to demonstrated needs is crucial to allow Local Government to continue to fulfil its role in this area.

Sound asset management is key to the financial sustainability of every Council.

4.1 LOCAL ROADS

- 4.1.1 Local, State and Federal Governments must contribute to the development and maintenance of Australia's local road system (including roads, footpaths and cycle tracks).
- 4.1.2 Local Government has a right and responsibility to construct, develop and maintain local roads and in doing so is entitled to an equitable share of Federal and State funds (including user charges) for the purposes of developing and maintaining roads under the control of Councils.
- 4.1.3 Local road funding must be distributed equitably on the basis of need and capacity of communities to pay. Funding provided for local roads must:
 - be inclusive of all classes of vehicles appropriate to use each Local Road; and
 - have direct relationship between funds raised (including user charges) for roads and expenditure on roads.
- 4.1.4 Local, State, and Federal governments should agree on an appropriate classification system for South Australia's local road network. The classification system should give recognition to relevant planning and road access issues including relevant classes of vehicles.

- 4.1.5 Local Government must have full control of all traffic calming measures placed on local roads. Relevant measures must comply with appropriate Australian standards.
- 4.1.6 State Government should be responsible for all road infrastructure where a State Government road is located on a Council road reserve.
- 4.1.7 Councils must be provided with State or Federal government assistance where a change in State or Federal government policy results in increases to vehicle and traffic volumes on local roads.
- 4.2 PASSENGER TRANSPORT INCLUDING COMMUNITY TRANSPORT
- 4.2.1 Local Government recognises that provision of public passenger transport services and associated infrastructure (including bus shelters and bus stops) are the responsibility of the State Government, and any participation by Local Government in the provision and maintenance of these services and infrastructure should be subject to appropriate reciprocal funding arrangements.
- 4.2.2 Local Government reserves discretion to determine whether to provide local passenger transport services, support others to do so, or act as an advocate for the community in seeking provision of such services by others. The type of service provision and role in which Local Government may elect to be involved will vary according to community needs.
- 4.2.3 State or Federal government assistance for community transport must recognise the role of Councils through the provision of increased and equitable funding to Local Government for these purposes.
- 4.2.4 Local Government supports and encourages establishment of locally based Passenger Transport planning processes, to ensure:
- integration of activities;
 - better tailoring of services to meet local needs;
 - avoidance of duplication; and
 - encouragement of resource sharing to facilitate efficient use of existing and new resources.
- 4.2.5 Locally based planning processes for Passenger Transport must include community, Local, State and Federal Government representation
- 4.2.6 The State Government Agency responsible for Passenger Transport must consult with Local Government on the efficient and effective provision of public transport especially where:
- bus routes change;
 - there are changes to the frequency or standard of the service; or
 - there are increased/decreased demands for service.

4.3 TRANSPORT PLANNING

4.3.1 Local Government recognises its responsibility to plan for community transport needs. This includes:

- sustainable local road systems that provide appropriate and equitable access and levels of service for all communities and the benefit of industry;
- a balance between amenity, freight efficiency and viable alternatives to the use of private motor vehicles; and
- the long term financial sustainability of local road and transport systems

4.3.2 Transport planning measures such as priority roads and transport routes proposed by the State Government must only be introduced following negotiation and approval by Councils.

4.3.3 Transport planning should facilitate segregated bicycle transport, separate from transport vehicles through the efficient and safe use of cycle tracks.

4.4 STORM WATER MANAGEMENT (See also 7.5 – Water Resources)

4.4.1 Local and State governments share the responsibility to ensure that stormwater infrastructure is provided and maintained to reduce the risk of flood and to conserve the State's water resources.

4.4.2 The Stormwater Management Authority established by State legislation must manage State and Federal Government contributions to stormwater infrastructure.

4.4.3 Local Government will work with the State Government through the Stormwater Management Authority and regional NRM Boards to ensure an integrated approach to the planning and adequate funding of stormwater management and flood mitigation on a catchment basis.

4.4.4 Local, State and Federal Governments and the regional NRM Boards will work together to apply water sensitive urban design as an effective flood mitigation measure.

4.5 COMMUNITY WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (FORMERLY STEDS)

4.5.1 Councils are best placed to provide Community Wastewater Management Systems as an alternative to SA Water sewer services.

4.5.2 Councils will work with the LGA and the State Government to ensure that both funding and the technical expertise is available for the provision of systems at a cost which is comparable to the equivalent SA Water sewer charge.

4.6 STATUTORY EASEMENTS

- 4.6.1 Provisions for statutory easements and rights of way must be available for Councils for existing and proposed Community Wastewater Management Systems, water supply systems, and stormwater drains on all lands.

4.7 RAIL SERVICES

- 4.7.1 Local Government supports the maintenance and/or enhancement of the existing rail service network as a means of effectively and efficiently transporting large quantities of goods or passengers.
- 4.7.2 Where rail services are terminated, resulting in increased freight and passenger movement on local roads, road funding allocations must be adjusted to take account of the resulting additional damage caused to the road system.

4.8 AERODROMES

- 4.8.1 Aerodrome owners or operators (whether licensed or unlicensed) should adopt and conform to the appropriate Civil Aviation Safety Authority standards.
- 4.8.2 The Federal Government must consult with Councils on local planning and transport policies and strategies when planning or developing facilities at airports on Commonwealth land.
- 4.8.3 Where additional security infrastructure or services are required as a result of Federal Government requirements appropriate funding should be provided to aerodrome owners or operators.

4.9 CAR RALLIES

- 4.9.1 Members of car clubs participating in rallies must conform with the requirements of the Confederation of Australian Motor Sports to ensure minimum road damage and the responsible use of motor vehicles on public roads.

4.10 DATA (INFRASTRUCTURE)

- 4.10.1 Councils will work to increase the accuracy and availability of data to ensure that South Australia is well placed to provide information to other spheres of government on issues such as infrastructure maintenance backlogs and relative need.

4.11 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

- 4.11.1 Other governments should provide financial support to assist Local Government to provide and maintain the extensive range of community infrastructure in Local Government's care.

5. ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT

Principles

Local, State and Federal Governments in partnership with industry, economic development boards, business enterprise centres and the community have a complementary role in ensuring the economic well being of all South Australians. Through the provision and maintenance of both social and built infrastructure Local Government can create a climate conducive to sustainable economic development.

Local Government seeks to facilitate economic development by building partnerships for sustainable development, in which the strategic plans of Councils complement the policies of other spheres of government and industry to enhance, improve and promote business opportunities, including those that will address future challenges and lead to improvements in localised infrastructure.

5.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S ROLE

5.1.1 Local Government will continue to play a vital role in the economic well being of South Australia. The role of Councils will include:

- their day to day operations as employers, purchasers of goods and services, and owners of property;
- the facilitation of a business environment conducive to sustainable economic development;
- the provision of local and regional leadership, development planning, and regulatory and other services which support economic activity;
- the provision and maintenance of key infrastructure;
- contributing to the setting of economic policy at the regional, State and National levels; and
- giving due weight to regional, State and National economic planning in their own strategic management planning.

5.1.2 Local Government reserves the right to draw its economic planning and policy setting from collaborative regional approaches with other Councils and stakeholders and to deliver infrastructure, regulatory systems, and business support services through regional mechanisms such as Regional Development Boards and Business Enterprise Centres.

5.1.3. Local Government plays a crucial leadership role in attracting new investment from the private sector, through the redevelopment and upgrading of Council properties.

5.2 ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

- 5.2.1 Local Government acknowledges its responsibility to better plan for the maintenance and renewal of economic infrastructure such as roads, buildings, parks, ovals, reserves and storm water management facilities, all of which underpin economic activity within the State.
- 5.2.2 Local Government acknowledges its responsibility to manage its taxation, charging, borrowing and lobbying powers to ensure the retention and maintenance of priority economic infrastructure.
- 5.2.3 Local Government will seek the co-operation of industry groups and State and Federal governments in regional infrastructure planning to ensure the adequate funding of local and regional infrastructure needs.
- 5.2.4 The use by State Government of 'major project status' provisions of planning legislation should be consistent with the economic development objectives of local and regional areas.
- 5.2.5 Local Government supports the rollout of the National Broadband Network and the provision of equitable access to high-speed broadband internet across the nation. Local Government will be seeking positive and continuing engagement from the Federal Government and NBN Co during the rollout of the Network. This includes support in developing the Digital Economy, including online service delivery for Local Government.

5.3 BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES

- 5.3.1 Local Government is in a unique position to facilitate business support information and services through Council offices, libraries, direct services and through bodies such as Regional Development Boards and Business Enterprise Centres.
- 5.3.2 Local Government will encourage initiatives which support business development such as business networking and business clustering at local and regional levels.
- 5.3.3 Federal and State funding for joint activities with Councils in business/tourism support must be supported by 3-5 year program agreements, and based on negotiated agreements which specify objectives and performance criteria, reporting mechanisms and review processes. Such agreements must commit parties for the specified period, irrespective of elections, subject to non-performance clauses or agreed variations.

5.4 EMPLOYMENT CREATION

- 5.4.1 Local Government will lobby State and Federal government to ensure that employment programs recognise the role Councils can play in the provision of worthwhile community projects and the diversity of employment/career opportunities in Local Government.

- 5.4.2 Local Government acknowledges the importance of ensuring that its participation in employment programs is targeted at areas of occupational demand, and provides appropriate training, support, and occupational health and safety and workers compensation arrangements.
- 5.4.3 Local Government will collaborate with all spheres of government, regional development boards, business enterprise centres, local industries, high schools and other registered training providers such as TAFE, to assist in identifying and addressing existing and future skill shortages in the community.

6. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Principles

Local Government is accountable to its communities for ensuring that its financial governance practices reflect autonomy and transparency and underpin the provision of services at levels that are sustainable in the long-term, and are commensurate with Councils' responsibilities.

Local Government recognises its obligation for consistent, accurate and timely reporting of its long-term financial position to its communities, and to not leave payment for today's services to future generations.

Local Government also recognises its responsibility to ensure the most effective and efficient use of resources available, and to engage the community in contributing appropriately to the cost of infrastructure and other services.

Local, State and Federal governments have complementary roles in ensuring that the financial arrangements between all three spheres of government provide fair and equitable outcomes for communities.

6.1 FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.1.1 Revenue sources available to Local Government must ensure autonomy, stability, sustainability and predictability. Councils must have available to them by law and as of right, revenue sources commensurate with their responsibilities.

6.2 FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE

- 6.2.1 A key objective for Local Government is the achievement and maintenance of the financial sustainability and accountability of SA Councils, both collectively and individually.
- 6.2.2 A council's long-term financial performance and position is sustainable where planned long-term service and infrastructure levels and standards are met without unplanned increases in rates or disruptive cuts to services.
- 6.2.3 Local Government supports infrastructure and asset management planning including identification of capital expenditure on renewal, replacement, upgrading or acquisition of assets, depreciation of assets, and infrastructure renewal/replacement backlogs.
- 6.2.4 Councils should monitor and report their ongoing financial performance against accepted sector-wide performance indicators.

- 6.2.5 The LGA will work with Councils to promote consistent reporting of:
- the development of revenue and financing policy statements;
 - differentiating between 'no policy change' and 'policy change' annual spending and funding changes (including rating changes);
 - long term financial planning;
 - annual financial results;
 - key financial indicators;
 - tax expenditures including those imposed by legislation; and,
 - community service obligations including those imposed by legislation.
- 6.2.6 Local Government supports the provision of training on financial governance roles and responsibilities of Council Members, and the LGA providing/brokering training focussed on key advances in best practice in financial governance.
- 6.2.7 Local Government supports that Chief Executive Officers and senior managers must accept as their duty:
- providing frank and fearless advice to Council Members on all matters pertaining to financial governance and accountability;
 - putting in place appropriate systems to achieve and maintain financial sustainability and accountability; and,
 - managing the organisation in ways that can achieve the goals set by Council.
- 6.2.8 Local Government supports Councils seeking to target as annual goals the achievement over their planning cycles of operating surpluses and capital expenditure on renewal or replacement of existing assets so as to closely match each Council's infrastructure and asset management plan.
- 6.2.9 Local Government supports Councils adopting internal and external financial reporting practices, in accordance with standards and codes applying to the Local Government Sector.
- 6.2.10 The imposition of penalties for late payment or incentives for early payment of rates is a matter for decision by individual Councils.
- 6.3 REVENUE SOURCES
- 6.3.1 Local Government supports Councils exploring appropriate use of various revenue sources including rates, tied and untied grants, developer contributions and tax sharing, in the interests of achieving financial sustainability at levels commensurate with Council responsibilities. Where the responsibilities of individual Councils include a regional or State focus, specific funding should be provided for those responsibilities.

6.4 SELF-RAISED REVENUE

- 6.4.1 Councils must have autonomy and flexibility in determining locally raised revenue whilst observing principles of equity and accountability and legislative constraints.
- 6.4.2 Other spheres of government must not enter normal revenue fields of Local Government in competition with and to the detriment of Local Government.
- 6.4.3 State Governments must not interfere with the autonomy of Local Government by imposing limits on rating.
- 6.4.4 All land should be rateable including State authorities or religious organisations with identifiably profit based activities.
- 6.4.5 Federal and State governments should pay individual Council charges for services provided to properties owned by the Crown.
- 6.4.6 Rates concessions or rebates must be at the discretion of Councils in response to local circumstances and issues.
- 6.4.7 Councils must have maximum local flexibility in rating, including the ability to rate differentially by land use and locality.
- 6.4.8 Councils must be permitted to adjust rates on properties between valuations to reflect movements in prices and costs.
- 6.4.9 Councils should be able (either through the LGA or individually) to set their own fees and charges for the provision of services and facilities or to expiate offences. The State should progressively de-regulate such fees and charges.
- 6.4.10 Councils must be able to engage in a broad range of activities subject to the recognition that such activities complement broader community goals, are based on appropriate business cases and risk management assessments and do not compromise the financial security of the Council.
- 6.4.11 Developers should be required to make reasonable contributions to offset the added financial impact of new developments on local communities.

6.5 INTERGOVERNMENTAL FINANCES

- 6.5.1 Federal and State governments should accept the principle of equitable revenue sharing with Local Government. Accordingly, Local Government is entitled to receive a guaranteed share of Federal taxation.
- 6.5.2 The vertical fiscal imbalance between the Federal, State and Local Governments must be addressed.

- 6.5.3 Local Government supports the Australian Local Government Association's positive involvement in the negotiation of a tripartite Intergovernmental Agreement and ongoing Council of Australian Government (CoAG) processes to expose and minimise cost shifting and encourage good practice behaviour between governments.
- 6.5.4 The Federal Government should not attempt to reduce tax sharing percentage levels or tie those funds derived from shared tax revenues to specific purposes.
- 6.5.5 Local Government's revenue sharing entitlement must not be amalgamated with the State Government's revenue sharing entitlement.
- 6.5.6 Local Government's revenue sharing entitlement should be calculated as a fixed percentage of total Federal taxation. The distribution of revenue sharing entitlements for Local Government between States and Territories should be based on needs. Every Council should be guaranteed a per capita share of the funds allocated to South Australia at the level set by negotiation with the LGA. Allowance should be made for non-residential consumption of services i.e. where the per capita population funding does not reflect demands on services.
- 6.5.7 The Federal Government should determine revenue sharing with Local Government after consultation with the LGA and the State Government.
- 6.5.8 In moving to equitable sharing of revenue shares between States and Territories no State or Territory funding should be reduced in dollar terms with changes phased over time through increased funding.
- 6.5.9 The annual revenue sharing allocation should be guaranteed to be not less than if it were increased in accordance with the Consumer Price Index.
- 6.5.10 The LGA, on behalf of Councils, will engage with the State and Federal Governments early during their Budget processes regarding:
- impacts on Local Government; and
 - specific purpose programs.
- 6.5.11 The LGA will work to ensure that State and Commonwealth Governments recognise the benefits of partnering with Councils to deliver more effective services at the local level through specific purpose grants.
- 6.6 SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS COMMISSION
- 6.6.1 Distribution of grants should be a function of the SA Local Government Grants Commission with agreed LGA representation.

- 6.6.2 The Grants Commission must remain an independent Statutory Authority. State or Federal Governments should not have the power to override allocation decisions by the Commission.
- 6.6.3 The LGA should be represented at relevant Grants Commission hearings.
- 6.6.4 Composition of the Grants Commission should be 50% State members and 50% Local Government members appointed by the LGA.
- 6.6.5 The Chairperson of the Grants Commission should be a joint appointment by the State Government and the LGA.
- 6.6.6 Grants must be allocated between Councils with the aim of fiscal equalisation.
- 6.7 UNTIED AND SPECIFIC PURPOSE GRANTS
- 6.7.1 The State and Federal governments should recognise that a general system of untied revenue sharing grants is the most appropriate and effective means of financial assistance to Local Government.
- 6.7.2 Specific purpose grants may be appropriate:
- for local roads based on a proper assessment of needs;
 - to achieve national or State objectives and priorities through Local Government participation, provided the conditions are implemented in consultation with the LGA and participating Councils. Where changes adverse to participating Councils are proposed, ample notice is to be given and, where appropriate, compensation/phasing agreed; and
 - provided that Federal or State tied funding is not at the expense of the untied revenue sharing entitlement.
- 6.7.3 Specific purpose grants should be negotiated with the ALGA and the LGA and should be:
- program based;
 - based on local/regional strategic plans;
 - program wide funded; and
 - based on negotiated agreements.
- 6.7.4 When State and Federal Governments are establishing programs to be provided by Local Government with funds from narrowly defined specific purpose or more broadly defined block grants:
- a consultative committee, comprising representatives of the initiating, funding government and Local Government should negotiate the goals to be achieved by the project and the conditions to be attached to the grants;

- where appropriate, the funds should be provided in diminished "stepped grants" where it is a long-term aim that Local Government should become fully responsible for funding the Program with forward commitments disclosed;
- such projects should be subject to annual review and evaluation but be funded on a three or four year rolling program; and
- where appropriate, indexation of grants should be based on the most relevant deflator having regard to the costs affecting the program.

6.7.5 State and Federal Governments must not reduce funding programs for functions in which roles and responsibilities are not clear, except by agreement with the LGA and/or the Australian Local Government Association.

6.7.6 Specific funding should be provided to Councils for recreational facilities and buildings of national, State and regional significance.

6.7.7 Negotiated agreements on funding transfers between the spheres of government must be embodied in a contractual document and include negotiated:

- objectives;
- roles and responsibilities for each sphere of government;
- broad policy and organisational arrangements;
- outcomes;
- accountability arrangements and evaluation; and
- renegotiation provisions.

6.7.8 Where such negotiated agreements extend beyond the life of a Parliament and where required by the LGA, appropriate legal instruments should be put in place to guarantee the agreement for its life.

6.7.9 Councils will recognise, in their communications with ratepayers, both tied and untied funding received from other spheres of government and the purposes to which these funds are applied. Councils must be free to determine the nature and method of communication with their own communities, depending on the circumstances in each case.

6.8 BORROWINGS AND INVESTMENTS

6.8.1 Councils will make prudent use of borrowing to finance the acquisition of new infrastructure assets and the upgrading of existing infrastructure assets and, where considered appropriate, to fund the elimination of any major backlog in the renewal or replacement of existing assets.

6.8.2 Local Government's capacity to borrow must not be limited in any way.

6.8.3 Legislative controls on the borrowing and investment powers of Councils should ensure maximum flexibility.

- 6.8.4 Councils should adopt policy to govern their decisions in relation to borrowings and investments, to recognise appropriate use of debt, facilitate the affordability of services, and address intergenerational equity in relation to the payment for these services.
- 6.9 INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONCESSIONS
- 6.9.1 There must at all times be a reasonable and fair relationship between concessions given to and received by the three spheres of government which accords proper weight to the relative financial strengths of each sphere of government involved and does not worsen the vertical fiscal imbalance.
- 6.9.2 Endowments to Councils to assist in the construction and/or maintenance of projects conferring charitable, welfare or historical benefit on the community, should be fully tax deductible to the benefactor.
- 6.10 REVENUE COLLECTION FOR OTHER GOVERNMENTS
- 6.10.1 Local Government must not be required to levy or collect revenues on behalf of other spheres of government unless the arrangements are acceptable to the Local Government Association, following consultation with Councils.
- 6.10.2 Where Local Government provides services for or on behalf of State or Federal Governments, those governments should meet all costs incurred in providing those services (or on a mutually agreeable commission basis), including those associated with administrative overheads.
- 6.10.3 Where Local Government is required to undertake revenue collection for another sphere of government or where Councils choose to include such revenue payments on their rates notices there must be clear indication that these are not Council charges. This is to provide transparency and accountability to ensure the community is aware that the revenue being collected is not being retained by Councils.
- 6.11 APPLICATION BY GOVERNMENTS OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE
- 6.11.1 All Governments must ensure that 100% of any special purpose revenue, such as funds generated through the imposition of a levy or other mechanism is applied only for the specific purpose for which the revenue has been generated.
- 6.11.2 All funds received through special purposes revenue should be separately recorded by all spheres of government and reported in their accounts so as to ensure funds are applied for the specific purpose for which the revenue has been generated.

7. ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Principles

Local Government has a long standing and ongoing commitment to environmental and natural resource management, enshrined in legislation and reinforced by community expectations.

Local Government recognises the need to work with State and Federal governments, the community, and business sector, to better address environmental and natural resource management issues including resource conservation, community access, ecologically sustainable development and climate change.

Local Government recognises that it needs to continue to adopt and promote environmentally responsible and sustainable approaches to carrying out its roles and responsibilities.

7.1 ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS

- 7.1.1 Local, State and Federal Governments must co-operate in the development of comprehensive strategies to manage and protect both the natural and built environment, including places and/or structures of cultural and spiritual heritage.
- 7.1.2 Local Government needs to be represented on Federal and/or State authorities and advisory committees to ensure that community views are considered in the development and delivery of effective environmental and natural resource management programs.
- 7.1.3 Any allocation of environmental responsibility to Local Government by the other spheres of government must include a corresponding equitable allocation of funds and other required resources to enable the undertaking of those responsibilities.

7.2 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- 7.2.1 Local Government supports the concept of the Greening of Australia and will continue to participate in programs to assist in the greening of the nation.
- 7.2.2 Local Government supports the concept of an Australia-wide network of conservation reserves, recognising the intrinsic value of such resources, their role in protecting Australia's unique flora, fauna and ecological systems and their importance to the Australian psyche and economy.
- 7.2.3 Designated conservation reserves, crown lands and transport corridors owned and managed by the State and or Federal Government should be adequately resourced to enable proper management and ensure adequate

noxious weed and feral animal control, whilst balancing recreational access to ensure these areas are recognised and valued by the community.

- 7.2.4 Local Government supports rail, roadside and reserve vegetation programs. Incentives and activities in relation to native vegetation retention and revegetation should be encouraged, subject to practical considerations concerning the provision and maintenance of community infrastructure.
 - 7.2.5 Local Government supports a balance between the protection of native vegetation, planning and development and bushfire prevention strategies for the protection of communities.
 - 7.2.6 Local Government supports the concept of integrated Natural Resource Management (NRM) as a co-operative mechanism to develop and implement ecologically sustainable use of the State's natural resources and environment.
 - 7.2.7 Local Government will work cooperatively with regional NRM boards in areas or matters of mutual interest or concern and actively seek opportunities for joint NRM planning and delivery of NRM projects where all parties will benefit.
 - 7.2.8 Sharing of information, data, and other resources between NRM Boards and Councils will be based on mutually agreeable terms.
 - 7.2.9 Local Government supports initiatives for ecologically sustainable management of the State's natural resources, including programs related to the management and protection of land, coasts, estuarine, marine, water, vegetation and soil.
- 7.3 BUILT ENVIRONMENT
- 7.3.1 Urban planning schemes and policies need to reflect environmental and social trends, needs and responsibilities and provide for the protection of the natural environment in urban and near-urban areas as a priority. Energy vulnerability of communities, particularly in the urban fringes and near-urban areas needs also to be incorporated as a priority.
 - 7.3.2 Local Government seeks legislative power to maximise developers' contributions in new or re-developments, aligned to minimising the 'ecological footprint' of developments and maximising community health and well being.
- 7.4 WASTE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
- 7.4.1 Local Government recognises its role in the provision of cost effective and ecologically sustainable waste and resource recovery services to the community.

- 7.4.2 Local Government recognises the need for partnerships between State and Local Government bodies and the private sector in providing waste and resource recovery services.
 - 7.4.3 Local Government supports continual improvement in the efficiency and environmental sustainability of the waste and resource management sector, and the further development of waste sector markets.
 - 7.4.4 Local Government recognises that waste management and resource recovery challenges faced by metropolitan Adelaide are distinct from those in regional SA.
 - 7.4.5 Local Government recognises the use of fees, charges and levies as legitimate tools to affect waste management and resource recovery policy. Local Government believes that the revenue raised must remain in the waste management and resource recovery sector, and be used to reward and encourage waste reduction initiatives and further develop and refine waste management practices and technologies.
- 7.5 WATER RESOURCES - INCLUDING SURFACE AND GROUND WATER
- 7.5.1 Local Government supports the right of the community to water of an ecologically sustainable quantity and quality capable of supporting a continued healthy lifestyle.
 - 7.5.2 Local Government supports water being allocated to its highest and best economic use subject to minimum requirements for human health and water dependent surface and ground water ecological systems being met first.
 - 7.5.3 Local Government supports the installation of house-hold rainwater tanks and advocates the use of water captured by those tanks for domestic and house-hold use. Water captured in this way must remain un-metered and free of charge.
 - 7.5.4 Local Government supports and where appropriate will partner in the investigation, development and application of appropriate community water supply technologies (such as desalination, aquifer storage and recovery and water re-use schemes) to secure future water availability for the community and minimise the impact on ecological systems.
 - 7.5.5 The LGA must be consulted by the State Government in any preparation of state wide management plans to address Local Government's role in ensuring sustainable management of water resources.
 - 7.5.6 Local Government supports that National, State and catchment level strategies for the protection of water resources and reticulation avenues against environmental damage by hazardous substances should receive priority attention.

- 7.5.7 Local Government supports the principles and practices of water sensitive urban design, which must be adopted, advocated and incorporated into urban planning and development strategies, policies and plans.
- 7.5.8 Local Government recognises stormwater as a potential resource to reduce the demand and reliance on the River Murray and other traditional water supply sources and supports the ongoing assessment of opportunities in this regard.
- 7.6 BIOSECURITY - INVASIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS
- 7.6.1 Local Government recognises that feral animals, noxious plants and opportunistic overabundant native species can have significant environmental, social and economic impacts in land, water and marine environments and therefore need to be effectively managed in an integrated way.
- 7.6.2 Local Government will effectively manage biosecurity threats on its land and will partner where appropriate with neighbouring Councils, NRM boards, the State and Federal Government through projects and activities to comprehensively address such threats.
- 7.7 CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOSSIL FUEL VULNERABILITY
- 7.7.1 Local Government recognises four priority areas for action to address climate change;
- reduction of Australia's greenhouse emissions through effective mitigation strategies;
 - planning for and adapting to climate changes which cannot be avoided;
 - significant structural adjustment in businesses and communities which may arise from transitioning to a low carbon economy and adapting to the impacts of climate change; and
 - the provision of leadership and support for both Councils and their communities
- 7.7.2 Local Government supports an integrated approach to the development and implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, including shared responsibility and collaboration across all levels of government, industry and the community.
- 7.7.3 Local Government supports long term and strategic consideration of climate change issues across the range of Local Government functions and services.
- 7.7.4 Local Government will provide leadership to the community in understanding and acting upon climate change, and where appropriate will contribute to the investigation, development, application and/or use of

alternative renewable energy technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- 7.7.5 Local Government will incorporate a risk management and community viability approach to Council planning that accounts for the vulnerability of Councils and communities to diminishing global, liquid fossil fuel energy supplies.
- 7.7.6 Local Government will seek carbon offset accreditation of its greening/ planting/ revegetation programs by the Australian Greenhouse Office and other relevant authorities, as part of Local Government's contribution to reducing carbon emissions, and recognising its role as a significant open space and land manager where these programs occur.
- 7.7.7 State and Federal Governments should invest more in public transport and other infrastructure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Local Government will work to promote the development of good access to public transport and the subsequent reduction of private car usage.

7.8 KYOTO PROTOCOL

- 7.8.1 Local Government supports the Kyoto Protocol for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and believes that Australia should be a signatory to a binding global response and strategy.

8. COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Principles

Local Government recognises its role with the other spheres of government in ensuring that all sections of the community have access to:

- *information, lifelong learning and resources;*
- *recreational opportunities and open space;*
- *opportunities for artistic and cultural expression and experiences;*
- *opportunities to have a say in decisions about actions which affect their lives;*
- *a safe urban environment;*
- *adequate and affordable housing;*
- *adequate health care and other human services; and*
- *racial, sexual and religious equality and freedom.*

Local Government acknowledges and recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first people of Australia and accepts its role with the other spheres of government in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

8.1 LIBRARIES

- 8.1.1 The LGA, the State Government and the non-government sector must co-operate in the maintenance of the state wide community information services network which includes specialist state wide services, regional centre services and local services, including determining equitable funding arrangements.
- 8.1.2 Local community information services should provide a comprehensive and complementary network in which libraries and Council office foyers and switchboards play a significant role.
- 8.1.3 State funding for Libraries should be secured in agreements of 5-10 years duration and should incorporate factors for population growth and cost increases libraries to ensure facilities and services are adequate, given local and regional community expectations and needs.
- 8.1.4 The establishment of joint use libraries with educational institutions should be fostered where appropriate to achieve clear cost savings and improvement of services. Funding and management arrangements for such libraries should be agreed between Councils and the State Government.
- 8.1.5 Regional co-operation in the provision of library and information services should be supported.
- 8.1.6 Funding for all aspects of the provision of library facilities and services should continue as an agreed formula grant to Local Government. The State allocation should be sufficient to allow the achievement of agreed

objectives. Subsidies should be paid in advance to allow efficient implementation of projects.

- 8.1.7 The percentage decline of the State share of Library funding should be reversed with the aim of restoring 50/50 funding, to reflect the Local/State partnership that exists in providing public library services.
- 8.1.8 The Federal Government should make grant funds available to libraries to enable initiatives to be taken to complement other Federal activities.
- 8.1.9 Representation on the Libraries Board should be comprised of 50% representatives of the State and 50% representatives nominated by the LGA. The Chairperson should be a joint appointment of the State and the LGA.
- 8.1.10 Councils must have the ability to obtain full cost recovery for non-core library services.

8.2 RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- 8.2.1 Local Government will work, in co-operation with the other spheres of government, non-government bodies, community organisations, and the private sector to maintain appropriate recreational facilities and services which are equally accessible to all sections of the community, recognising that different community groups may have specific needs.
- 8.2.2 Council contributions to the recreational and cultural needs of their communities through support to local groups, provision of halls, ovals and other facilities, and non-financial (in-kind) support to create local opportunities, must be recognised and not undervalued by State and Federal Governments and their agencies.
- 8.2.3 To complement State and local sport and recreation development plans and South Australia's Strategic Plan, the State Government should recognise that Councils are major providers of sport and recreation facilities. The State Government should, in consultation with the LGA and other appropriate groups, develop a state wide plan to provide and maintain sport and recreation facilities and infrastructure.
- 8.2.4 The State Government should have as a priority the provision of assistance for the development of local facilities in co-operation with Councils and should support (financially and with expert advice) the development by Councils of local sport and recreation development plans which complement such State plans.
- 8.2.5 Federal assistance for sport and recreation should recognise the role of Councils and aim to enhance involvement through the provision of increased funding to Local Government.

- 8.2.6 Local Government will collaborate with other stakeholders to deliver 'Community Development Programs'. Local Government will enhance and develop Neighbourhood and Community Centre facilities as key education and learning facilities in our communities.
- 8.2.7 Local Government's significant role in the support and development of volunteer based approaches to a wide range of community activities should be recognised.
- 8.2.8 Local Government has a key role in the provision of community support programs and ongoing lobbying of the State and Federal Governments for appropriate levels of funding to assist older people and people with a disability to be able to continue living independently in the community.
- 8.3 PUBLIC SAFETY
- 8.3.1 Local Government recognises the community's right to security and safety in the public realm. While public safety is primarily a police responsibility, Local Government will work in partnership with key stakeholders to engage with the community to prevent and reduce opportunities for crime. Where possible when addressing public safety issues, a problem solving approach needs to be used to understand the issues and develop possible solutions.
- 8.3.2 Councils, the Police and other appropriate agencies should work together to develop and support local community crime prevention programs such as "Neighbourhood Watch" and "Safe Houses" for children.
- 8.3.3 Vandals should be made to pay the cost of their offences or undertake community work in lieu of costs.
- 8.3.4 Local Government will work collaboratively with Police and other key stakeholders to address problematic alcohol consumption in public areas to reduce negative impacts on the community and facilitate agreement on how to minimise alcohol related harms.
- 8.3.5 Councils must have the power to declare "Dry Areas" to prohibit the consumption of alcohol and confiscate alcohol on reserves, roads and all land vested in the Council.
- 8.3.6 Where the declaration of a dry area will affect a particular agency or section of the community, Councils will undertake meaningful consultation with the parties affected prior to deciding whether to make the declaration.
- 8.4 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
- 8.4.1 Local Government believes that shared responsibility and participation by all spheres of government, business and the community is the best way to ensure the fundamental need for sustainable community safety and security.

- 8.4.2 Councils should have a supportive role in local emergency management arrangements through collaborative strategic planning, community advocacy and engagement and participation with regional partners.
- 8.4.3 Local emergency management measures should be consistent with State and National plans and objectives.
- 8.4.4 Councils should develop local emergency management risk assessments in collaboration with regional emergency management stakeholders and having regard to regional plans.
- 8.4.5 Councils should address cost recovery, indemnity, liability and personal compensation issues based on the arrangements available to State agencies, to allow Local Government to more effectively contribute to sustainable emergency management.
- 8.4.6 Local Government recognises that State emergency services have a limited capacity to respond to widespread, sustained or serious emergencies, and that Councils must therefore contribute to coordinated emergency response and recovery capabilities.
- 8.4.7 Local Government supports Councils being included in the State Emergency Management Plan as participating agencies for the following 'functional services':
- agriculture and animal services;
 - engineering;
 - health and medical;
 - fire;
 - State Emergency Service (i.e. floods & severe weather); and
 - transport.
- 8.5 ARTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
- 8.5.1 Local Government is committed to maintaining a culturally diverse, tolerant and open society, united by an overriding commitment to our nation, and its democratic institutions and values.
- 8.5.2 Councils should encourage and support local people and local communities to participate in arts and cultural activities by:
- developing and implementing arts and/or cultural policies;
 - working with other spheres of government to facilitate community arts, cultural development, and events;
 - identifying and celebrating local cultural practices, communities and activities;
 - inspiring creative activity which celebrates local cultural identity and diversity;
 - promoting, fostering, and facilitating a strategic approach to arts and cultural activities, including long term services and programs;

- providing access to local, state and national arts and cultural activities and services;
- valuing the contribution of volunteers to local arts and cultural efforts;
- ensuring the widespread participation and involvement of all sections of the community, including those not traditionally associated with cultural and community activities and those with diverse cultural backgrounds;
- providing opportunities for children and young people to participate in high quality arts and cultural activities in an active and audience capacity in their local environment;
- providing adequate resources for arts and cultural development; and
- articulating relationships with and support from neighbouring Councils, regions, State and Federal governments and their agencies.

8.5.3 Councils should create, preserve and enhance public places and nurture public art and culture by:

- integrating land use planning, capital works development, local place and landscape design, cultural identity and opportunities for artistic expression;
- creating opportunities for the inclusion of innovative public art and design that will foster ongoing dialogue and debate in the development of the urban environment;
- providing and maintaining facilities for cultural and artistic expression and opportunities for artists' involvement in the development these public spaces;
- locating, preserving and maintaining collections and materials that celebrate local traditions and cultural history thereby offering insights into local identity and local distinctiveness; and
- maximising opportunities to include artists on design teams and integrate public artworks at the earliest design stage of new developments and urban and regional renewal programs.

8.5.4 Councils should foster cultural enterprise and employment by:

- encouraging and extending partnerships between arts and cultural organisations and local community and educational services, regional boards, State and Federal governments and local businesses;
- linking arts and cultural planning and programs with local, regional and state economic development opportunities;
- employing new technologies to extend the range of access, services and creative networks in support of arts and cultural programs;
- ensuring best value is achieved with both external grants and local resources;
- fostering joint ventures between Councils and, where appropriate, between Councils and Indigenous Organisations;

- encouraging business development, employment and training opportunities;
- Identifying opportunities to develop sustainable local arts and cultural programs and activities that will deliver positive local social and economic outcomes; and
- encouraging sponsorship and support from major businesses which have a local profile.

8.5.5 Local Government's significant direct and indirect support of local arts and community cultural development activities (including festivals, community arts projects, museums, performing arts centres, art galleries, orchestras, murals etc.) must attract increased financial support and recognition from the State and Federal Governments.

8.6 RECONCILIATION

8.6.1 Local Government recognises:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first peoples of Australia;
- the loss and grief held by Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders caused by alienation from traditional lands, loss of lives and freedom, and the forced removal of children;
- the customs and traditions of Indigenous Australians and their spiritual relationship with the land;
- the right of Indigenous Australians to live according to their own beliefs, values and customs, and the vital importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples contribution to strengthening and enriching the heritage of all Australians; and
- the need for a partnership approach with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as part of addressing the needs of whole communities throughout Australia.

8.6.2 Local Government supports:

- the vision as expressed by the former Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation of "a united Australia which respects this land of ours, values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and provides justice and equity for us all";
- indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians working together for a national agreement or other instrument of reconciliation; and
- the need to improve non-Indigenous understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues and find new ways to work together in partnership to ensure the principles of equity and access for all members of the Indigenous community to culturally appropriate services and programs.

8.6.3 Local Government commits to:

- developing and promoting, as appropriate, Indigenous involvement in events and celebrations of significance which respect the dignity and protocols of the local Indigenous community;
- taking effective action on issues of social and economic concern where they lie within the sphere of interest and responsibility of Local Government;
- participating in education processes which enhance the increased knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage and the needs of Indigenous communities; and
- developing strategies that improve the level of participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in local government at all levels.

8.6.4 Councils will work with State and Federal Governments and Aboriginal Communities to resolve Native Title Claims through negotiation in preference to litigation.

8.7 MIGRANTS

8.7.1 Local Government recognises and values the positive contributions migrants make, by raising awareness within local communities and celebrating diversity.

8.7.2 Local Government recognises the significant role it plays in provision of services to migrants, including the fostering of community linkages and networks, and other services related to community health and wellbeing.

8.7.3 State and Federal Governments should provide adequate resources to Councils to develop programs to assist new migrants to integrate into local communities.

8.8 HOUSING

8.8.1 The most appropriate role for Local Government (individual Councils or regions) is to attract, encourage and facilitate the provision of houses by the private, State and community housing sectors to ensure:

- adequate supply of serviced land for housing, by forward planning;
- co-operation with private and social housing providers;
- efficient development control systems; and
- policies which encourage diversity of housing types and social mix in the local area.

8.8.2 Local Government involvement in housing should facilitate:

- the provision of a varied range of dwelling types, prices and tenures to meet the diverse needs of the general population;

- priority provision of housing to sections of the population most disadvantaged in the housing system;
- minimising the cost of housing;
- the inclusion of 'high needs' and 'affordable' housing;
- the provision and co-ordination of appropriate support services for housing;
- housing that is available to support active independent lifestyles as people grow older, addressing the location, layout and design of retirement housing, and having regard to the Australian Standard for Adaptable Housing;
- the creation of ecologically sustainable housing and neighbourhoods; and
- improved accessibility between housing, employment and services.

8.8.3 Local Government supports initiatives designed to facilitate a change in the nature and basis of zoning, from policies which segregate residential areas primarily according to density and dwelling type, to performance standards which guide such matters as:

- layout;
- privacy;
- noise insulation;
- siting;
- orientation for climate;
- appearance;
- preservation of desirable character and amenity;
- provision of private open space;
- on site water retention;
- heritage significance; and
- landscaping.

8.8.4 Councils should consider adopting urban design guidelines which ensure compatibility between provision of affordable housing and improved local amenity.

8.8.5 Local Government should have direct access to funding from other spheres of government, to facilitate the involvement of Councils or regions in:

- housing through either capital projects or developmental work including housing studies and integrated local area planning projects;
- the establishment of Council information systems on local housing;
- the training of Council staff in housing issues; and
- ensuring Councils have appropriate resources to take a more active role in facilitating housing provision.

8.8.6 The LGA will be an essential partner in influencing national and state housing strategies and the allocation of funds for implementation of such strategies.

8.8.7 Local Government advocates that all spheres of government should evaluate the impacts of releasing broadacre land for housing development including addressing increased demand for adequate service provision and infrastructure.

8.9 HEALTH

8.9.1 Local Government recognises that it provides programs services and activities which make significant and positive contributions to the health and wellbeing of the community.

8.9.2 Councils should consider the health impacts of their services, and the promotion of community health and well being, when preparing and reviewing their Strategic Management Plans.

8.9.3 Local Government will work in co-operation with other spheres of government, non-government bodies, community organisations, and the private sector, to maintain an appropriate standard of health for all sections of the community, whilst recognising that different community groups may have specific health needs.

8.9.4 Delegation to Councils by the Minister responsible for Health, of any of the Minister's powers and functions should include provision of appropriate resources to Councils to fulfil such delegated responsibilities including technical support and training.

8.9.5 SA Health and the Department of Health should consult with the LGA about the allocation of funding to support wellbeing and community health initiatives in local communities, and ensure that Councils have ready access to medical advice on preventative, environmental and public health matters when required.

8.9.6 Information about general health issues and services in local areas should be channelled through planned and existing local community and Council information services.

8.9.7 State and Federal Governments must support local preventative health measures for all sections of the community and recognise the impact of GP shortages on community services in some areas and provide incentives to attract GPs to these local areas.

8.9.8 The LGA, Environmental Health Australia, and the Department of Health should co-operate to provide circumstances in which Environmental Health Officers can enhance and expand their pro-active (assessment, planning, management and education) role in environmental and public health. This should include the availability of courses to enable Environmental Health Officers to obtain or upgrade their qualifications, and ensure that people living in remote areas have access to these programs.

- 8.9.9 The LGA, the Department of Health and Aged Care Services and other appropriate organisations should review the current legislation and arrangements governing the licensing of nursing homes considering the quality of care and appropriateness of accommodation services for frail older people and people with disabilities.
- 8.9.10 Immunisation programs presently undertaken and funded by Local Government should be the financial responsibility of the other spheres of government.
- 8.10 POPULATION POLICY
- 8.10.1 Local and State Governments must work together to establish a sustainable population policy for South Australia which addresses water resources and other environmental issues, skills shortages, future infrastructure needs and targets specific areas of population growth and/or decline.
- 8.10.2 Local Government will give consideration to the implications of an ageing community in population policy development including the provision of services and facilities.
- 8.10.3 Local Government supports the establishment of partnerships between the other two spheres of government and 'growth' Councils to address population growth issues.
- 8.11 YOUTH
- 8.11.1 Local Government in South Australia affirms its respect for all young people and acknowledges their right to be involved in matters which impact on their quality of life and aspirations for the future.
- 8.11.2 Local Government recognises the needs of young people in existing consultative, planning and service functions to ensure those needs are catered for in accordance with the principles of access and equity.
- 8.11.3 Local Government acknowledges:
- the important role young people play in the social, economic and cultural life of the community – now and into the future;
 - young people's right to participate in local affairs and the need to encourage their involvement as future voters and community leaders;
 - the diversity of young people's interests and cultural backgrounds, and their need for cultural and artistic expression;
 - young people are not a homogenous group and their needs and interests will be influenced by age, gender, background, socio economic status and life experience;
 - the central role education, training, employment, and access to social support play in enabling young people to participate in community life and equip them for the future; and

- that Councils have a leadership role in understanding and responding to the needs of young people, and representing their interests to other spheres of Government and the broader community.

8.11.4 Local Government supports:

- participatory structures and membership which reflect the diverse interests and cultural backgrounds of young people locally;
- partnerships and shared responsibility between Councils, young people, other spheres of government and with community agencies to foster collaborative responses and enhanced access to affordable community services and support;
- the participation of young people in fun activities to learn new skills, develop capacity to participate in community life, and engender community spirit and pride; and
- the review and monitoring of trends, and responsive and flexible approaches to address emerging youth issues in culturally appropriate ways.

8.11.5 Local Government commits to:

- fostering a safe community where young people are respected, have opportunities to belong, and feel they are valued in the community;
- enhancing communication with young people – listening, responding and providing feedback about matters impact on their quality of life;
- involving young people in meaningful ways in civic life, such as planning and decision making processes, and in voting and elections;
- strengthening strategic partnerships between government, community and industry resulting in a greater array of activities and opportunities for young people;
- promoting a positive image about the role young people play in the community and celebrating their achievements;
- representing the needs of young people to community agencies and other spheres of Government; and
- advocating for the provision of infrastructure to enable young people to access accommodation, social, educational and employment opportunities, and support services.

8.12 AGEING OF THE COMMUNITY

8.12.1 Local Government, in partnership with State and Federal Governments, is in a prominent position to foster relationships with the ageing population, recognize and respond to diversity, and better understand the needs of this growing community group in South Australia.

8.12.2 Local Government will:

- provide infrastructure and facilitate development which is conducive to the physical health, and the overall wellbeing of older people in the community;
- plan and provide services and programs that are flexible and locally appropriate to the needs of older people;
- engage with the ageing community and ensure their participation in local decision-making and development of community networks; and
- ensure advocacy on behalf of the local ageing community with other government and non-government organisations.

8.13 VOLUNTEERING

8.13.1 Local Government recognises and supports the value of volunteering in the community and will strive to adopt sustainable volunteer management systems and practices which provide safe and rewarding opportunities for volunteers to make positive contributions to community services and well being

9. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Principles

Local Government in consultation with the community and other spheres of government has a role in planning for future development of the community taking into account the need to integrate economic, environmental and social considerations.

Local Government recognises the need to protect our heritage whilst at the same time ensuring growth and economic development for communities.

9.1 PLANNING LEGISLATION AND POLICY

9.1.1 All legislation and policy which deals with planning and development (including Development Plans) must:

- recognise Local Government as the primary authority for planning;
- allow Councils to promote and enforce orderly land use as a major way of implementing overall development planning for communities;
- ensure role clarity and consistency across all legislation controlling development to avoid confusion of powers and responsibilities;
- balance the interests of a land user/owner with those of the community;
- integrate economic, environmental and social considerations;
- be easily interpreted by, understood by and accessible to all sections of the community; and
- be amended only with LGA involvement and/or consultation/involvement with Councils.

9.2 PLANNING AUTHORITIES AND PROCESS

9.2.1 Councils in conjunction with the State Government must continue to have a role in the regulation of the built environment to ensure that:

- it is consistent with the desired character of an area;
- the community's need for open space is recognised;
- adequate access is provided for all sections of the community;
- there is recognition of the challenges presented by an ageing population; and
- there is recognition of the likely impacts of climate change and the principles of sustainability.

9.2.2 State and Federal Governments should recognise that Councils are best placed to plan for the overall development of local communities, and should support Councils in their decisions.

9.2.3 Local, State and Federal Governments and their agencies must be subject to the same development controls as the rest of the community.

- 9.2.4 Council processing of development applications must be funded on a cost recovery basis from the applicant.
 - 9.2.5 Decision making by Councils and Development Assessment Panels should be subject to assessment by an external and independent authority.
 - 9.2.6 The Development Assessment Commission and the Development Policy Advisory Committee must be independent of the State Government.
 - 9.2.7 The Development Assessment Commission, the Development Policy Advisory Committee and the Department of Planning and Local Government should be adequately and appropriately resourced. In the case of the Commission and the Advisory Committee, such resourcing should be independent from that of the State Government Department which supports them.
 - 9.2.8 The Development Assessment Commission should be responsible for development control only in matters in which Councils or the State or Federal Governments have an interest or which Councils agree to refer to the Commission.
 - 9.2.9 Local and State Governments should jointly fund and facilitate activities to educate the community on the objectives and operation of the South Australian planning system.
 - 9.2.10 The LGA supports best practice in planning and development and the work of the Development Assessment Forum (DAF), with Local Government representation via the ALGA.
- 9.3 BUILDING AUTHORITIES AND PROCESS
- 9.3.1 The costs of building approvals and inspections should be funded on a cost recovery basis from the applicant.
 - 9.3.2 As the sphere of government which is primarily responsible for administration and enforcement of the Development Act, Local Government must retain its representation, nominated by the LGA, on the Building Advisory Committee and any other relevant bodies, and be consulted about any matter affecting standards or procedures.
 - 9.3.3 Local Government's responsibilities and liability for building should be limited to those statutory powers and duties for which full cost recovery is permitted.
- 9.4 HERITAGE
- 9.4.1 Local, State and Federal Governments should identify and maintain that part of our heritage worthy of preservation and work together with the community and private sector to ensure preservation of that heritage. Councils may provide incentives to encourage good management of local

heritage items but allocation of local resources for such incentives should remain a local decision.

- 9.4.2 While the designation of local heritage items must remain the responsibility of Local Government, the State Government should acknowledge the importance to the community of the conservation and promotion of built heritage, and contribute financially (and on an equitable basis) with Local Government to conserve heritage items, particularly State Heritage Buildings.
- 9.4.3 Local Government supports the provision of Federal Government funding to ensure that adequate finance is provided to maintain buildings of historic importance.
- 9.4.4 Taxation incentives should be provided for private expenditure on works associated with the restoration and maintenance of buildings on Local, State and Federal Government heritage registers.
- 9.4.5 The procedures specified in Australian heritage legislation should include appropriate provisions for notices to be served on both the owner of any property proposed for listing and the Council responsible for the area within which the proposed listing is situated.

10. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Principles

Regional Development is defined as “communities improving their economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing by fully developing the potential of a region and its people” (South Australian Taskforce for Regional Development 1999).

The increased focus on regional development, brought about by the 2010 agreement between the Australian Labour Party and “the Independents” to form government, has provided a valuable platform to promote regional issues. The principles of the agreement: “ensuring that Regional Australia has its voice heard; has its needs and special circumstances considered diligently; gets to benefit from economic development; and gets fair access to services”, are supported by State and Local governments.

Local Government recognises the value in working in regional settings to represent the interests of their communities and to collaborate on regional projects and programs.

Through Regional Local Government Associations (LGAs) and Regional Development Australia Committees (RDAs), State and Federal governments can work at a local level to improve the prosperity and well being of communities.

Local Government recognises opportunities for working collaboratively across regions with direct involvement by representatives from their local communities as members of State Government, Federal Government and intergovernmental boards.

All spheres of government should adopt ‘whole of government’ approaches to exploring issues impacting on regions ensuring across agency collaboration and discussions occur with an appointed “lead agency” and “lead Minister”.

10.1 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT – LOCAL GOVERNMENT’S ROLE

- 10.1.1 Councils, through their elected members, are the elected representative voice for people and businesses in their local communities.
- 10.1.2 Councils have formed Regional Local Government Associations (LGAs) and the Metropolitan Local Government Group (MLGG) to achieve mutually held objectives and to address Local Government issues and opportunities on a regional level.
- 10.1.3 LGAs and the MLGG provide a strong regional representative basis for working with State and Federal governments and participating on boards and committees (such as RDAs).
- 10.1.4 Councils are required under the Local Government Act to prepare annual strategic plans for their local area and in doing so consider regional development goals.

- 10.1.5 Local Government acknowledges RDAs and their role, function and membership as outlined in:
- the Memorandum of Understanding between the LGA and the relevant State and Federal Ministers;
 - the rules of each association; and
 - the funding agreement between each Council and its respective RDA.

These agreements should be reviewed periodically to ensure they are effective.

10.2 REGIONAL RECOGNITION

10.2.1 Local Councils, in collaboration with their respective RDA, will promote the contribution regional communities make to the state and national economies.

10.2.2 State and Federal governments should recognise the contribution that regions make to the State and national economies when developing policy, programs and making funding commitments that impact on regions.

10.2.3 The budgets of State and Federal governments should be itemised to show allocations made to each region.

10.3 REGIONAL REPRESENTATION & COORDINATION

10.3.1 Regional bodies established by State and Federal governments must be underpinned by agreements with Local Government that outline:

- their role and functions;
- geographic boundaries;
- how plans and strategies will be developed and monitored;
- funding and support;
- how Local Government representation will be achieved; and
- reporting, accountability/transparency of the regional body to the community and governments.

10.3.2 Local Government acknowledges that governments or affiliated structures often determine their regional boundaries differently. Where feasible, and for ease of management, these regional boundaries should be aligned and agreements should be reached.

10.3.3 Regional LGAs and the MLGG are the vehicle for governments to consult, engage and negotiate with communities on policy decisions that affect communities or particular regions. Unless the Councils in the region determine otherwise. Strong communication and working relationships between Local Government and regional organisations such as RDAs and Natural Resource Management Boards (“NRMs”) will ensure all relevant parties are informed and engaged.

10.4 RESOURCING FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 10.4.1 Local Government will contribute financially and in kind to regional bodies where a demonstrable benefit is evident. Where a withdrawal of funding occurs by State or Federal Governments, Local Government will assess the benefits of continuing to collaborate and co-invest with the remaining party.
- 10.4.2 Infrastructure development funds, made available through State and Federal governments are important in bringing Council, community and consortia projects to fruition. Funding criteria should be developed in consultation with eligible applicants, before funds are announced, to ensure they are applicable to the needs of regional communities.
- 10.4.3 Local Government recognises the role that regional bodies (e.g. RDAs) are playing in building a strong regional development platform for South Australia and these bodies should be resourced appropriately by all spheres of government to fulfil these functions.

11. GROWING COUNTRY COMMUNITIES

Principles

South Australia's country communities¹ underpin the State's economy through a diverse industry base including primary production, mining and tourism.

Products and raw materials originating from country regions help to sustain the livelihood of all South Australians.

Industries and businesses located in country regions will play a significant role in achieving specific goals in the South Australian Strategic Plan (2011):

increasing the value of South Australia's export income to \$25 billion by 2020; growing the contribution made by the food industry to \$20 billion by 2020; and increasing the value of minerals production and processing to \$10 billion by 2020.

Country communities seek to be supported by appropriate levels of service and infrastructure in recognition of the increasing role they will play in developing South Australia's economy.

The State's goal of increasing regional populations, outside of Greater Adelaide, by 20,000 people or more by 2020 (South Australian Strategic Plan 2011), will be achieved through careful planning in collaboration with Local Government.

When all spheres of government work collaboratively in the early stages of developing policies and plans that impact on the social, environmental and economic growth of country communities, benefits will be delivered to all South Australians.

11.1 A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO GROWING COUNTRY COMMUNITIES

11.1.1 A mechanism to achieve strong relationships between Local, State and Federal governments can be achieved through regional committees and boards. These relationships are not limited to South Australia and some regions will benefit from working across State borders.

11.1.2 The prosperity of South Australia's country communities is dependent on Local, State and Federal governments working together to address:

- population growth or maintenance;
- employment generation;
- investment in infrastructure;
- development of human capital;
- health of families and communities;
- quality of life;
- sustainable use of natural assets; and

¹ Country communities are defined as those represented by Councils (or the Outback Communities Authority as is the case in the Outback) in the Outback and Far North region, Eyre Peninsula Local Government Area, Central Local Government Region, Murray Mallee Local Government Area, Southern & Hills Local Government Area; and the South East Local Government Area. The LGA also acknowledges there are a number of peri urban Councils that have similar issues to Councils located wholly in country areas and the application of this policy may also be relevant to these Councils.

- a profitable business environment

11.1.3 Recognition of the contribution that country communities make to South Australia's economy will be demonstrated through a commitment by the Premier to place a greater emphasis on the economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing of country communities across all Ministerial portfolios.

11.1.4 Strategic plans for country regions must be developed in partnership with Councils and take into consideration the preservation of a region's heritage and valuable agricultural land.

11.2 GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY IN COUNTRY AREAS

11.2.1 The decision making processes of State and Federal governments will be underpinned by the preparation of Regional Impact Assessment Statements. These assessments are required to demonstrate thorough consideration of the economic, social and environmental impacts of government decisions and the feasibility of alternative options. The statements should be prepared independent of government, allow reasonable time for regional consultation and made available for public scrutiny.

11.2.2 Policy development and decisions taken by Local, State and Federal governments will be enhanced through formal interaction with Regional Local Government Associations (LGAs) and other intergovernmental structures such as Regional Development Australia Committees (RDAs).

11.2.3 Coordinated planning in country areas is important. Annual forums conducted jointly by Local, State and Federal governments should form the basis of the initial planning of activities, programs, projects and budgets impacting on country regions. These forums should be coordinated jointly by Regional LGAs and Regional Development Australia Committees (RDAs).

11.2.4 Local, State and Federal governments should agree on, and make publicly available, indicators to assess outcomes achieved by policies and programs in country regions. These indicators should be established in consultation with Councils and be developed with an "understanding of place".

11.2.5 State and Federal government budget papers should include regional chapters outlining decisions that impact on country regions.

11.3 RESOURCES TO GROW COUNTRY COMMUNITIES

11.3.1 Development in country regions will occur through coordinated investment by Local, State and Federal governments. Private sector investment in facilities and infrastructure in country regions is crucial and should be encouraged by all spheres of government.

- 11.3.2 Recognition of the cost differentials that exist in country regions will provide a strong basis for attracting investment and developing areas that can sustain growth.
- 11.3.3 Timely and accurate preparation of land use plans by the State Government for country regions, will assist Local Government to fulfil its legislative requirement to ensure Council plans give consideration to sustaining and growing their local area and region.
- 11.3.4 The concept of Royalties for Regions (adapted to a South Australian context) will ensure investment in enhanced services to meet the needs of country communities. Dispersal of royalties will occur through a fair, equitable and transparent process

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