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*Moving forward together*

# Local Government as Partners in South Australia's Strategic Plan: Where We Go From Here

A presentation by  
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SASP – Community Connection  
Department of the Premier & Cabinet  
to  
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# Where I'm Coming From

- Here on a 12 month contract
- Heading up a new unit – SA Strategic Plan - Community Connection
- Working hand-in-glove with the new Office of the Executive Committee of Cabinet
- Focus will be on institutionalizing community engagement in SASP



# Community Engagement: The Oregon Experience

- High community participation on initiatives in the early days.
- Education and child development issues were well represented in plan implementation.
- A few very significant efforts build on strategic plan but are not dependent on it.
- The process has survived for 15 years thanks to a large handful of influential “true believers.”



# Oregon and South Australia are a lot alike.

- Small populations relative to the country (~ 1/100 and 1/10).
- Each has one relatively large metropolitan area.
- Economies are based on natural resources and manufacturing.
- Complacent populations despite lagging economies.
- Known for innovation.



# Overview of South Australia's Plan

- Long-term, holistic economic vision for the state
- Developed by state government but intended for community ownership
- Highlights over 100 measurable “targets” that are generally quite ambitious
- Overseen by Executive Committee of Cabinet

# The plan has six objectives.

- Growing Prosperity
- Improving Well-being
- Attaining Sustainability
- Fostering Creativity
- Building Communities
- Expanding Opportunity

*These four support the top two.*



# SASP Community Connection – Engaging the Community



# SASP Community Connection – Engaging the Community

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**Awareness**



**Consultation**

**Collaboration**

**Ownership**

# SASP Community Connection – Where are we today?

- Community Awareness
  - Quite low among South Australians
  - Moderate among community leaders
  - Unknown level among local government community
  
- Community Consultation
  - Not common practice in state government, but growing
  
- Community Collaboration
  - A handful of good established examples
  - No guidelines or criteria
  - None yet generated specifically for SASP
  
- Community Ownership
  - Executive Committee of Cabinet –  
a step toward community governance???

# SASP Community Connection – Five Roadblocks to Success

1. Why is this important?  
*We have not made a compelling case for SASP.*
2. What's in it for me?  
*The prevailing attitude appears to be “Sure we'll work on SASP. How much new funding can you give us?”*
3. That's confidential!  
*Virtually no information on progress to date is available to potential community partners.*
4. What do you want us to do?  
*Similarly, very little information is available on what willing groups or individuals could do to support the plan.*
5. We've been down this track before!  
*Many community members are skeptical that SASP will have a lasting effect.*

# SASP Community Connection – What's next?



- Community Awareness
  - Upgrade our website
  - Launch an awareness campaign
  - Develop periodic SASP community “products” including a 2006 report card
  
- Community Consultation
  - Communicate regularly through e-mails
  - Update SASP with community input in 2006
  
- Community Collaboration
  - Create a partnership program
  - Link NGO general support public dollars to SASP
  - Establish ten test collaborations

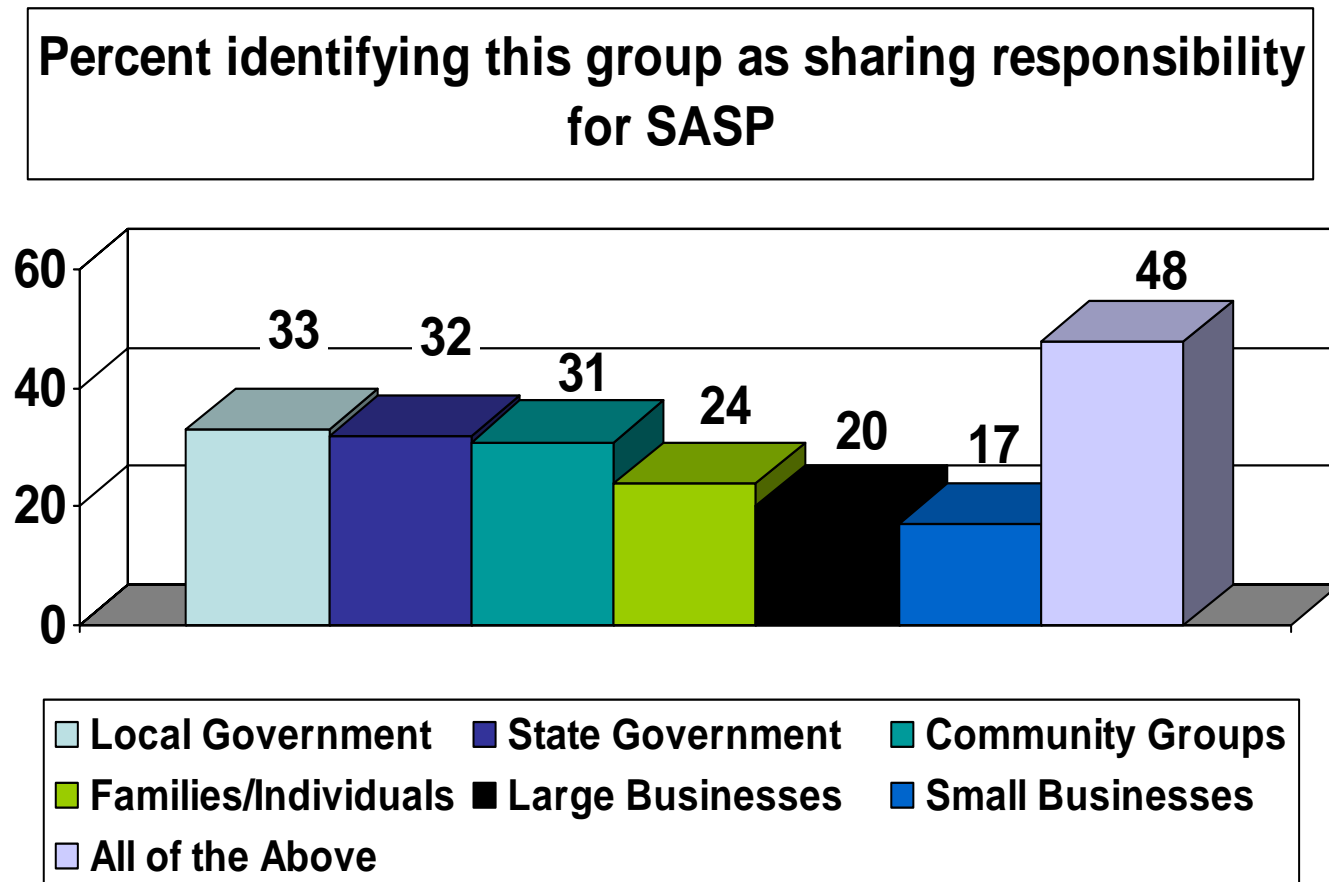
# Role of Local Government in Implementing SASP



## Local Government

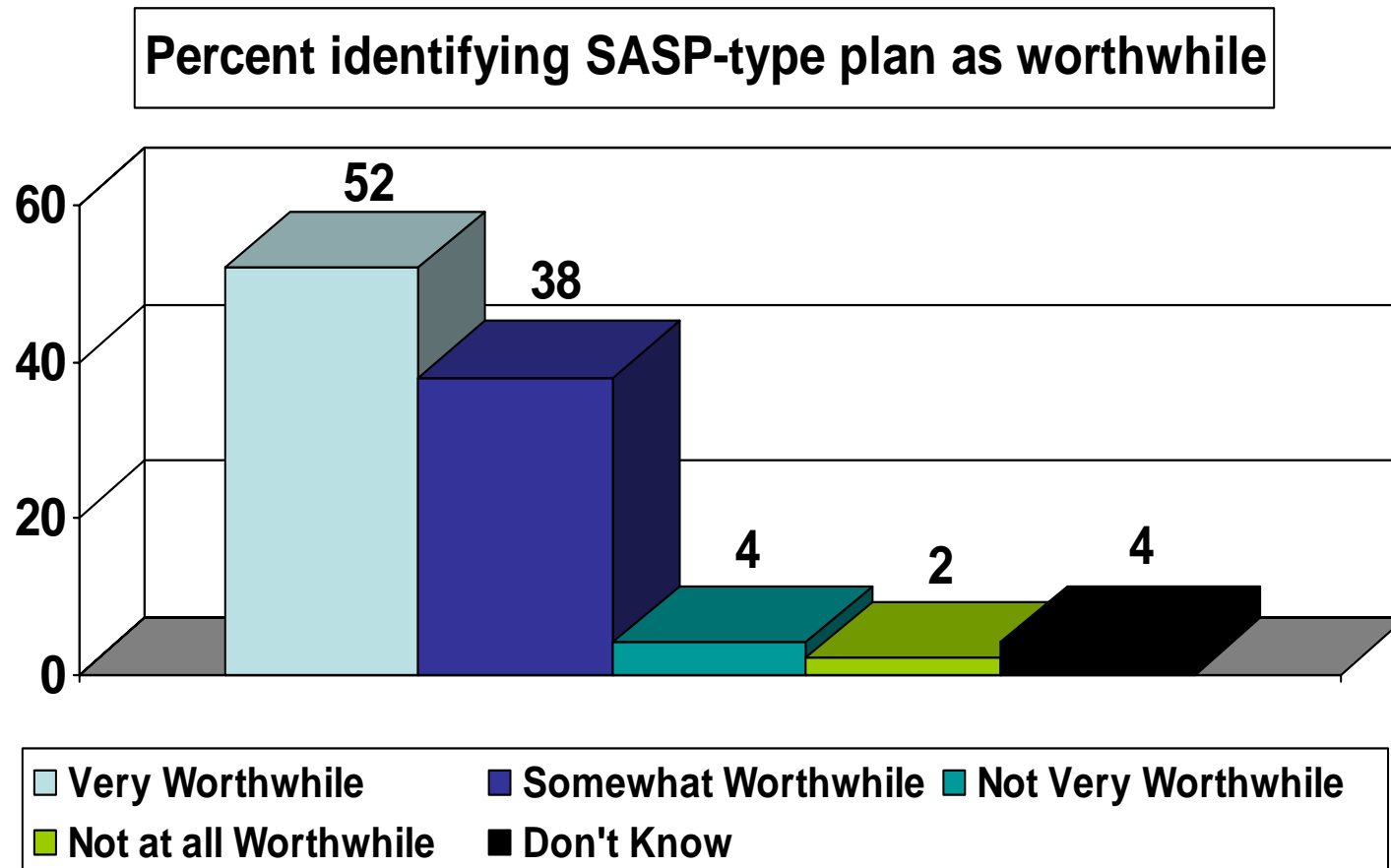
- Is perceived as an important player by the community.....

# Local government was one of the top vote-getters as a needed participant in SASP.



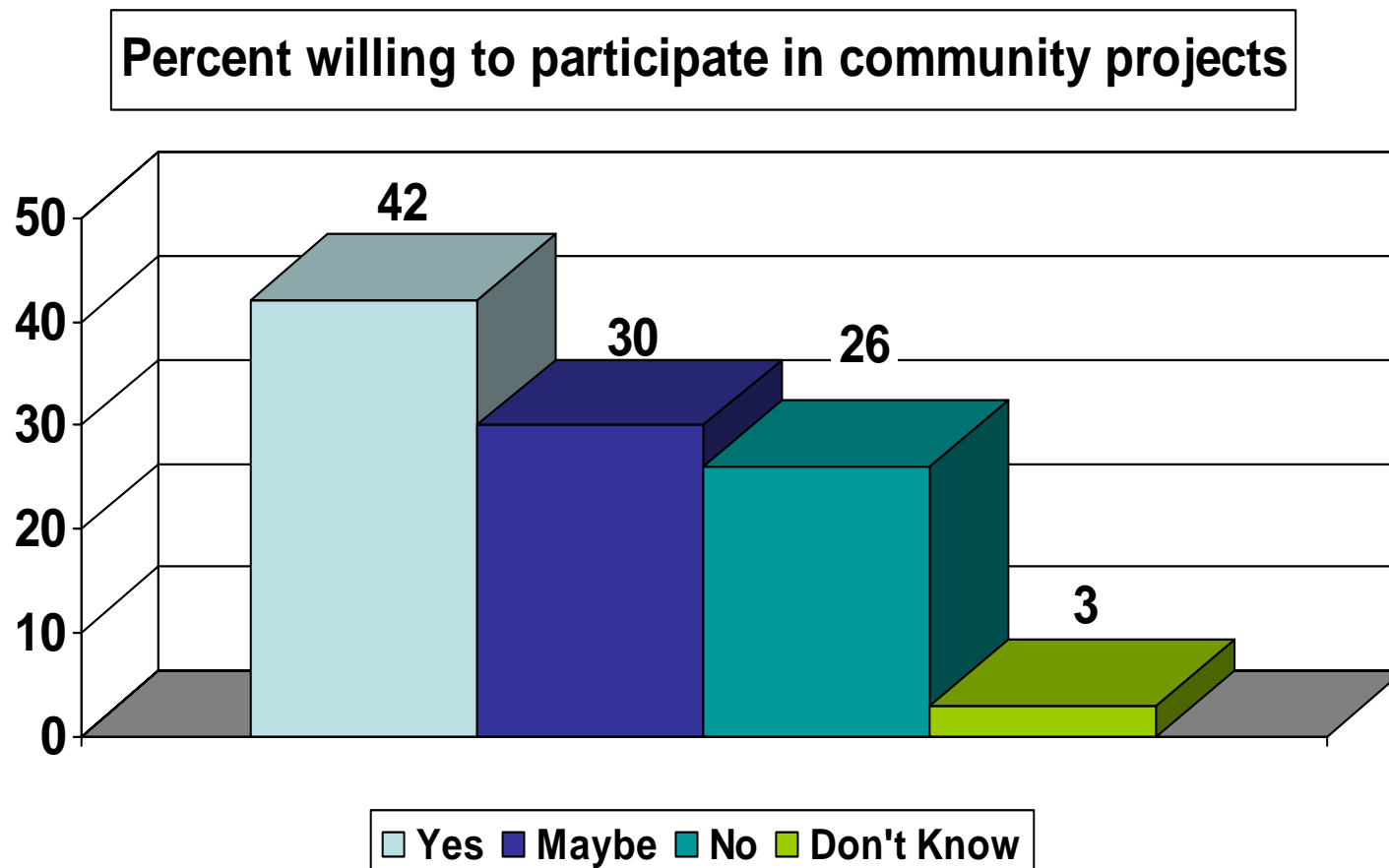
*Survey of 1411 randomly chosen South Australians – 09/05*

The vast majority of respondents (90%) felt an SASP-type project was worthwhile.



Survey of 1411 randomly chosen South Australians – 09/05

About half of all respondents would be willing to participate in SASP-related community projects.



Survey of 1411 randomly chosen South Australians – 09/05

# Role of Local Government in Implementing SASP

## Local Government

- Is perceived as an important player by the community....
- Is already an important player in plan implementation
  - State Local Government Relations Agreement
  - Ministers' Local Government Forum
  - “Making the Connections” Project
  - Northern Region project mapping;
  - Some Council alignments
- Has a specific role to play
  - Target T5.7 will require aligning plans & sharing initiatives
- Can advance the plan in numerous other ways
  - Carve out specific aspects of targets
  - Introduce the plan to your networks
  - Educate others about the importance of your sector
  - Recognize achievement
  - Use your networks for future consultation

# SASP Community Connection will take on three projects with local government.

SASP Community Connection and partners will:

- Develop consistent regional and local data for plan indicators wherever possible;
- Provide guidance/examples of how council strategic plans can link up with the SASP; and
- Flesh out one topic of mutual interest to state and local governments (e.g. accommodating population target) through a collaborative process.

*We will also provide assistance to local planning and implementation efforts as time allows.*



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*For more information:*

**[www.SAplan.org.au](http://www.SAplan.org.au)**



Government  
of South Australia