

Regional Executive Officers Forum

Communique to SAROC Members

July 2019

1.COASTAL COUNCILS

- The combined Regional Coastal LGAs and Metropolitan Seaside Councils, in partnership with Local Government Risk Services, State Government and academics, are preparing a new funding application to the 2020 Local Government Research and Development Fund.
- The application will focus on developing a new funding model for SA Coastal Councils, recognising current funding and support arrangements are disparate, often inconsistent and inequitable and, fundamentally, not enough to address the escalating task in years ahead.
- Limestone Coast LGA will be the lead applicant.

Recommendation: For Information

2.RATING EQUITY – ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Noted issues raised by the Minister for Local Government regarding the disincentive for renewable energy investment and the loss of economic benefit if Councils are able to rate renewable energy facilities.
- In response, regional LGAs are confirming in-principle and cash support for a new LG R&D fund application that will undertake an independent economic impact analysis of renewable energy facilities on SA Councils and communities.
- Legatus Group will be the lead applicant.

Recommendation: For Information

3.GROWING OUR REGIONS

Noted current consultation by the State Government regarding development of PIRSA's Regional Development Strategy.

Concern raised that SAROC has still (over a year later) not received any response by the Regional Development Minister or Department to its 2018 'Growing our Regions' strategy, which sought a commitment by Government to three long term goals:

- 30% of South Australia's population to be based outside Greater Adelaide
- 30% of the State Government public service to be based outside Greater Adelaide
- A Royalties for Regions program to support new, strategic and catalytic regional infrastructure (*ie not substituting government core business for road maintenance*)

Recommendation: That SAROC (a) submit the 'Growing our Regions' strategy to PIRSA's Regional Development Strategy consultation and (b) continue to pursue a meeting with the Minister for Regional Development.

4.STATE PLANNING REFORMS

Noted implementation of planning and design code for regional Councils is due by later in 2019.

Significant issues emerging for regional Councils, including concern over the metropolitan focus of elected member and CEO engagement by the Department.

Recommendation: That SAROC seek from the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, stronger engagement of Regional Councils (particularly elected members) ahead of the regional implementation of the planning reforms.

5.WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY FOR SMALL COUNCILS

Noted all regions are considering options for stronger Council collaboration and efficiencies in relation to waste management, resource recovery and the circular economy.

There is a need for specific advice that takes into account the small, dispersed population and long transport distances facing regional Councils, particularly in light of changing global markets and community expectations.

The Regional LGA's will consider a joint application to the Research and Development Fund to investigate waste and resource recovery solutions (including waste to energy) for small, rural Councils in South Australia.

Recommendation: For Information