SAROC Committee Meeting – Key Outcomes Summary – 19 September 2019

Guest Speaker – Hon Tim Whetstone, Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

The Hon Tim Whetstone, Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development addressed the meeting about the drought and State Government assistance, biosecurity, and the proposed ban on Snapper. He also answered questions from members about topical issues in the Primary Industries and Regional Development portfolios.

Crown Lands as Economic Drivers

The committee requested the approval of the LGA Board of Directors for the following item of business to be included on the agenda for the LGA Annual General Meeting to be held on 31 October 2019: That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to write to the Minister for Environment and Water requesting the State Government work in partnership with Local Government to undertake a comprehensive review of all Crown Lands with the aim of identifying areas of Crown land which could be made available to help stimulate economic development in regional areas.

Drought Communities Program

SAROC agreed to write to the Prime Minister thanking the Australian Government for their support through the Drought Community Support Initiative to seek a meeting as a matter of urgency between the LGA President, Chair of SAROC and the Hon. David Littleproud MP Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management to:

- explain the current circumstances facing regional SA communities with regards the continuing rainfall deficiencies, and
- discuss issues of equity and clarity on the decision-making process for the current and any future Drought Community Support Initiatives with regards South Australia.

SAROC will also identify a process for partnering with Regional Development South Australia for continuity planning and identification of regional strategic projects that are scoped and ready for activating when funding opportunities occur and write to local Federal Members of Parliament thanking them for their support and request their support in highlighting to the Federal Minister for Water Resources the current impacts of the drought in South Australia.

Rural Medical Workforce Plan Consultation

The committee noted the report on Rural Medical Workforce Plan Consultation and endorsed the LGA’s draft submission to the Consultation Draft Rural Medical workforce Plan (RMWP).
SA Regional Waste Management Strategy

The committee agreed that the Legatus Group would manage the delivery of a draft SA Regional Waste Management Strategy in partnership with others including the LGA and SA Regional Organisations of Councils subject to being able to secure the required resources. They also discussed the allocation of up to $30,000 from the SAROC budget to the Legatus Group subject to the Legatus Group being able to develop a project brief and scope of work for the delivery of a draft SA Regional Waste Management Strategy.

Inquiry into jobs for the future in Regional Areas

The committee endorsed the LGA submission to the Select Senate Inquiry into Jobs for the Future in Regional Areas.

Planning and Design Code

The committee requested that the LGA President write to the Chair of the State Planning Commission requesting that Phase 2 of the implementation of the Planning & Design Code until July 1 2020 to allow more thorough collaboration and consultation with regional councils.