

# **Local Government Transport Advisory Panel**

## **Minutes of the meeting held 10 May 2006 at LGA House 16 Hutt Street Adelaide**

Present: Cr J Burgess (Chairperson), W Iasiello, M Elford (DTEI), J Gascoigne (LGGC), D Hitchcock (LGA) A Renfrey (LGA)

Apologies: Mayor B Hurn

The chairperson J Burgess welcomed all members and advised that the purpose of the meeting was to give consideration to regional and metropolitan Local Government road funding priorities in accordance with the Special Local Roads Program.

Road funding applications are to be assessed utilising the Roads Infrastructure Database which includes assessment of the primary purpose of the road and priority with other roads as identified by respective Regional LGAs. Primary purposes include the categories of Freight, Tourism, and Social.

Before considering the applications the panel discussed the favourable result of the recently announced Australian Government Budget which in addition to providing an increase in general purpose grants to Local Government also provided an additional \$307.5 million in the Roads to Recovery Program nationally. This resulted in an additional amount of \$3.75 million being available for the LGTAP to include in the funding allocations to be decided at this meeting.

It was also noted LGTAP is required to provide advice of its recommendations to the SA Local Government Grants Commission and subsequently the Federal Minister for Transport by the third week in June 2006. Endeavours will be made to ascertain any indications of AusLink Strategic Regional Program funding implications by this time.

Cr J Burgess identified an interest in his respective Council application (Northern Areas Council). The panel resolved to note the interest and determined that it would be a reasonable expectation that any representative Council member or employee fulfilling the role of panel member will have some element of interest as the LGTAP is the process where by Councils seek allocated road funding. Members of the panel agreed that it would be more appropriate for him to remain in the capacity as Chairman.

In discussing applications received it was noted that some Councils were not proposing to make appropriate contributions to their applications. (50% contribution is required by metropolitan Councils and 30% contribution is required by rural Councils). It was also noted that where a Council has not yet expended previous SLRP funding allocations adjustments are to be made to deduct interest earned, from the unspent monies, from any future funding allocations. It was agreed that D Hitchcock should prepare a suitable paper to inform Councils of funding contribution requirements and to reaffirm the benefits of Councils and Regional LGA's undertaking a strategic approach to funding submissions.

The panel considered all applications and then determined relevant funding allocations as indicated in the attached spreadsheet.

Subject to further advice being received by J Gascoigne regrading final road funding as determined by the Australian Governments budget. D Hitchcock will then confirm funding recommendations to the SA Local Government Grants Commission.