

Local Government Transport Advisory Panel

Notes of the meeting held 12 Noon, 14 May 2007 at LGA House 16 Hutt Street.

Present: Chairperson Mayor Brian Hurn (Barossa), Mayor Kym McHugh (Alexandrina) , Jane Gascogine,(LGGC) Wally Iasiello (Port Adelaide Enfield) Mark Elford (DTEI)

The chairperson Mayor Brian Hurn welcomed all members and advised that the purpose of the meeting was to give consideration to the 2007/08 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 LGA's and the Metropolitan Local Government Group. Primary purposes include the categories of Freight, Tourism, and Social.

The panel noted correspondence from the District Council of Robe seeking approval to defer expenditure of the 2006/07 Nora Creina road funding allocation to the 2007/08 financial. The panel agree to this request.

The panel noted correspondence (email) from the Adelaide City Council advising that there had been an under expenditure of \$45,000 SLRP funding on the 2006/07 allocation to the Pulteney Street project. The Panel resolved that Adelaide City Council be advised to retain the unspent funds and that the Council apply the unspent funds to the 2007/08 allocation as Pulteney Street is a continuing project. This means that the 2007/08 SLRP allocation will be \$45,000 less than requested for year two of the project.

Members discussed issues relating to the recently announced Australian Government budget allocation of \$250 million AusLink Strategic Program allocation of \$ 250 million. It was understood that successful applicants additional to the previous 2006 funding round would be announced within the next week. It was agreed that a final decision on 2007/08 SLRP allocations would not be made until these outcomes are known.

It was also agreed that a suitable mechanism should be implemented that required Councils to advise LGTAP that SLRP funds, as provided, had been spent and projects completed in accordance with the relevant applications. It was agreed that this process should be simple and a letter signed by the CEO advising to this effect would be sufficient.

Members reaffirmed the policy that justifiable project over runs would be funded. This was considered appropriate as a number of projects have terms of several years and progressive actual costs may differ from the initial total project cost estimates.

Mayor Brian Hurn noted that The Kangaroo Island Council had advised Southern and Hills LGA that due to their predominant tourism focus they are disadvantaged by the current road data base methodology which is weighted toward freight (primary purpose). Members suggested that the Southern and Hills LGA be advised that there may be merit in Kangaroo Islands comments however any special case funding considerations would need to be supported by the regional priority consideration process.

Members discussed the national attention being given to financial sustainability issues, particularly the shifting of focus from constructing new assets to maintaining existing assets. This is to be noted in the context of funding applications and the scheduled 2007 July review of LGTAP.

The Panel noted the recent announcement of a further \$250 million for the AusLink Strategic Program which may be of benefit if SA applications received funding. It is understood that the Australian Government will announce successful applications by the end of May 2007.

Figures sourced from the 2007/08 Australian Government Budget announcements indicated that a total of \$ 10.2 million would be available for allocation by the panel for the SLRP.

The available funding consists of:

- Local roads \$4.425m
- R2R2 \$3.75m
- Additional Road Funding \$2.025m
(Supplementary Local Roads)

It was agreed that total allocations should be consistent with the policy that funds are allocated on the basis of one third to metropolitan Councils and two thirds to rural/regional Councils.

All continuing projects would receive funding for 2007/08 and this amounted to \$ 6.123m (Metropolitan \$ 1.43m and Rural \$4.693m) The balance remaining to be allocated amounted to \$4.0703m (Metropolitan \$1.963 and Rural \$2.1073).

Queries were raised in relation to the following applications

- Loxton Waikerie- Alwoona/Lameroo
- Mt Barker - Bald Hills
- Adelaide Hills - Coldstore/fox Creek
- Cleve - Balumbah Kinnaird Road.

Mark Elford, Jane Gascoigne and David Hitchcock will undertake inspection of the Balumbah Kinnaird Road and also meet with the District Council of Cleve.

It was agreed that further investigations were required to clarify issues relating to these applications prior to finalising the 2007/08 program

A further meeting, date to be determined, is to be held to finalise these matters

Preliminary recommendations considered were agreed as per the attached spreadsheet.