

Local Government Transport Advisory Panel (LGTAP)

Notes of the meeting held 10am, Wednesday 1 October 2008 LG House, Hutt Street Adelaide

Present: Mayor Brian Hurn, Barossa (Chair), Mayor Kym McHugh (Alexandrina), Wally Iasiello (Port Adelaide Enfield), Jane Gascoigne (OSLGR), Mark Elford (DTEI), David Hitchcock (LGA)

Mayor Hurn (Chair) welcomed everyone and outlined the purpose of the meeting which was to:

- further consider the recommendations of the LGTAP review(Binder report); and
- facilitate discussion and establishment of appropriate Special Local Road Program policy to assist with consideration of future funding processes. .

The meeting commenced discussion on the agenda items in relation to the LGTAP review, funding submissions from Councils and LGTAP administration of applications.

LGTAP Review by Janet Binder – Response to Recommendations

1. *Training and awareness sessions are provided to Councils and the regions on the overall LGTAP assessment process.*

LGTAP response –The Chair, Mayor Brian Hurn and Executive Officer, David Hitchcock will undertake visitations to each regional LGA and the metropolitan LGG roads/transport committee to explain the SLRP application and funding process and the role of the LGTAP panel.

2. *A review of the notification process be undertaken in order to make the process more efficient and effective for regions and Councils.*

LGTAP response – The LGTAP provide SLRP funding recommendations for consideration to the LGA State Executive Committee which then provides those recommendations to the SA Local Government Grants Commission (SALGGC). The SALGGC in turn advises endorsement to the Minister for State/Local Government Relations for the 15% of identified local road grants and the 15% of the supplementary road funding (provided for 4 years from 2007/08).The SALGGC also in turn advises endorsement of recommendations to the Federal Minister for Local Government regarding the 15% of roads to recovery 2 road grants.

In this regard LGTAP only provides recommendations and it is the prerogative of the respective Ministers to announce successful applications. However LGTAP is mindful of timing constraints of Council budget processes and the LGTAP Chairman will verbally inform Regional LGA Executive Officers of SLRP recommendations. This process will only be an indication of LGTAP recommendations and should not be construed as formal advice.

3. *LGTAP as part of its assessment process visit Councils and the roads in question to get an understanding of the issues.*

LGTAP response – The LGTAP will undertake inspection of roads submitted for SLRP funding. However it is not feasible to inspect all roads and inspection will be undertaken on a case by case basis.

4. A policy position is determined with regard to the issue of maintenance versus construction particularly when considering the impact of financial sustainability on Councils.

LGTAP response –LGTAP policy for funding of SLRP applications has been focussed on construction and sealing of new roads, as opposed to maintaining (resealing) existing roads.

Further work will be undertaken to include consideration of Financial Sustainability concepts for sealed and unsealed roads and the capacity of Councils to maintain funding and maintenance of long term projects.

LGTAP will seek to engage resources to review the roads data base to determine if finalising the “second half” or engineering component of the data base will assist with considering the funding applications. It is understood the Central LGA have separately included a “financial sustainability” assessment process in their considerations and this will be investigated for possible application.

5. Consideration is given to developing strategies to deal with what is seen as a process that disadvantages Councils with predominantly tourism roads, for example Councils such as Kangaroo Island Council.

LGTAP response –Regional LGA’s and the Metropolitan Local Government Group have previously been requested to identify the priority rating for each regional road funding application within each specific category (Freight, Tourism, Social). To further assist in LGTAP’s deliberations regional LGA’s will be requested to also separately list the order of priority of all road funding applications to be considered, regardless of category. For example a region might list the following

Priority	Road	Category
1	abc	Tourism
2	def	Freight
3	ghi	Social
4	xyz	Social
Etc		Freight

Following discussion on the LGTAP review recommendations members then considered issues in relation to:

Funding Submissions from Councils

- LGTAP will not fund feasibility or scoping studies;
- Resources will be engaged to develop new application guidelines to identify to what extent financial and project costs (eg % of overheads and % of administration costs) should be included in funding application details;
- Only one funding application for any road will be considered and Councils must submit their funding applications to the “primary” region they are constituted to be a member of. Regional LGA’s are encouraged to indicate support for applications that cross boundaries or have strategic linkages to their own transport strategy.
- It is not appropriate to provide funding over extended time frames. LGTAP will provide continuing project commitment up to 5 years. Where funding is required for a continuing project beyond 5 years the regional LGA will be requested to review the project and provide substantiation why funding should continue.

LGTAP Administration of Applications

Currently LGTAP invites regional funding applications in February / March of each year. However regional LGA's generally commence their process with Councils in October/ November of the preceding year. This causes confusion with Councils when the LGTAP letter of invitation to apply arrives and involves unnecessary explanation to Councils why there has been a duplicate process.

Additionally regional LGA roads/transport committees have a rigorous assessment process which is somewhat duplicated at the LGTAP consideration process. Opportunity exists to reduce the supporting information to be supplied in submissions to LGTAP and the need for reproducing multiple copies of the information to the LGTAP members.

The LGTAP will discuss these issues with regional LGA road/transport committees to determine an appropriate funding application procedure.

Over Dimensional Route Kimba

The panel discussed correspondence from the District Council of Kimba regarding damage by DTEI to a Council road.

Members acknowledged the impact this issue has on Council; however it was considered to be a matter that should be resolved between DTEI and the Council.

Nominee of the Minister for State/Local Government Relations

Ms Jane Gascoigne noted that in her new capacity of Director Local Government Grants and Regional Communities she was no longer the Executive Officer of the SA Local Government Grants Commission. Jane suggested that it would be appropriate to include the new Executive Officer of the SA Local Government Grants Commission as an observer in future meetings.

The LGTAP noted that Jane remains the nominee of the Minister for State/Local Government Relations to the panel.