MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT THE RENMARK PARINGA COMMUNITY AND CIVIC CENTRE, EIGHTEENTH STREET, RENMARK. SA.
MINUTES

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Murray and Mallee Local Government Association (M&MLGA) held at 10.00am on Friday 10th August, 2007 in the Renmark Paringa Community and Civic Centre, Eighteenth Street, Renmark. SA.

ATTENDEES:

Berri Barmera Council (BBC): Mayor Peter Hunt, Deputy Mayor Rhonda Centofanti and Cr. Les Hill (non-voting).

Coorong District Council (CDC): Mayor Keith Scobie, Deputy Mayor Roger Strother and Tim Drew, CEO (proxy non-voting).

District Council of Karoonda East Murray (DCKEM): Mayor Kevin Burdett, Peter Smithson, CEO.

District Council of Loxton Waikerie (DCLW): Mayor Dean Maywald, Deputy Mayor Leon Stasinowsky, President, Peter Ackland, CEO (proxy) and Cr. George Clark (non-voting).

Mid Murray Council (MMC): Mayor Ian Mann, Vice President, Deputy Mayor David Burgess, Cr. Inez Bormann (proxy non-voting) and Dean Gollan, CEO (non-voting).

The Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB): Cr. June Phillips (proxy) and Kym Miller, Acting CEO (proxy).

District Council of Renmark Paringa (RPC): Mayor Neil Martinson, Barry Hurst, CEO and Deputy Mayor Louis Dimou (proxy non-voting).

Southern Mallee District Council (SMDC): Mayor John Ramke and Rodney Ralph, CEO (proxy).

M&MLGA – Peter Campbell, CEO.

Guests:

Hon. Karlene Maywald, MP, Minister for the River Murray.
Hon. Michael Pengilly, MP, Shadow Minister for State/Local Government Relations.
Hon. Adrian Pederick, MP, Member for Hammond.
Michael Barry, LGA SA.
John Hanlon, Executive Director, OS/LGR.
Margaret Wagstaff, Independent Reviewer for the LGA Elections.
Lynley Jones, Country Health SA.
Terry Banks, SA MDB NRM Board.
Christine Thompson, Dept. Families and Communities, Affordable Housing Unit.
1. OPEN and WELCOME

The President, Cr. Leon Stasinowsky welcomed all those in attendance, making special mention of Guests and the new CEO of the Southern Mallee District Council, Rodney Ralph and declared the Meeting open at 10.03 am.

1.2 Open and Welcome - Mayor Neil Martinson welcomed all Attendees to the Renmark Paringa area. He made reference to the new Renmark Paringa Community and Civic Centre building which was opened in May, 2007 at a cost of $3.6m, achieved with no Council loan borrowings.

He referred to new developments in the Council area including the new Woolworths, Big W and Mitre 10 complex which is estimated to halt approximately $40m spending leakage to interstate. In addition there have been $3m renovations to the Renmark Hotel and the Renmark Club and $2m on the Renmark Caravan Park, all of which will encourage further tourism in the area. Mention was made on the construction of 253 independent living units in proximity of the Renmark Hospital.

He recognised that the Drought and subsequent water restrictions will have a devastating effect on the local economy.

2. APOLOGIES.

Barry Parsons, LGA SA, Hon. John Dawkins, MLC, Stephen Rufus, CEO, BBC, David Altmann, CEO, RCMB, Brenton Lewis, CEO, MRDB, Jane Gasciogne, PIRSA, Hon. Patrick Secker, MP, Hon. Ivan Venning, MP, Mayor Allan Arbon, RCMB, Cr. Barry Laubsch, RCMB, Cr. Milton Weinert, RCMB, Ray Najar, MDA and Cr. George Gum, SMDC.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

The Minutes of the M&MLGA Annual General Meeting held on Friday 1st June, 2007 held at the Mid Murray Council Offices, Main Street, Cambrai SA, were circulated, via uploading to the Association’s website at www.mmlga.sa.gov.au under the “Minutes” tab.

Motion resolved: That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held Friday, 1st June, 2007 be accepted as a true and correct record.
Moved: BBC Seconded: CDC Carried.
4. BUSINESS ARISING.

Item 4.1 – (4.2 – 6/07) & (4.2 – 4/07) & (4.2 – 2/07) & (5.2 – 12/06) & (4.2 – 10/06) & (4.2 – 8/06) etc. - Review of the Impounding Act 1920 – MMLGIG.

Motion resolved: That the Report be received.
Moved: RPC Seconded: DCLW Carried.

Item 4.2 – (4.4 – 6/07) & (4.6 – 4/07) & (8.1 – 4/06) - Native Vegetation (Legislation).

Cr. Les Hill, BBC, Cr. Inez Bormann, MMC, Mayor Neil Martinson, RPC and Michael Barry, LGA SA provided verbal Reports.

Motion resolved: That the Reports be received.
Moved: MMC Seconded: BBC Carried.

Item 4.3 – (11.1 – 6/07) – Community Insurance - Rural City of Murray Bridge:

General Discussion ensued.

Motion resolved: That the copy of the Report from Local Government Risk Services to the Local Government Association be noted.
Moved: MMC Seconded: DCLW Carried.

Item 4.4 – (4.4 – 4/07) & (10.1 – 2/07) – Infrastructure changes in the River Murray – Coorong District Council.

This Item was deferred to be dealt with at Item 7.2.3

Item 4.5 - Any other Business Arising.

There was no other Business Arising.
5. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS.

Item 5.1 – Report(s) from Representative(s) of the Local Government Association of SA (LGA SA).

Michael Barry, LGA SA, spoke to a handout which forms part of these Minutes.

General discussion ensued with reference to Community Wastewater Management Scheme funding arrangements.

Item 5.2 – Report(s) from Representative(s) of the Office of State Local Government Relations (OSLGR).

John Hanlon, Executive Director, OSLGR provided a verbal Report.

Motion resolved: That the Report at Item 5.1 and Item 5.2 be received.
Moved: CDC Seconded: BBC Carried.

Item 5.3 – Reports of Delegates. (other than those applicable to Strategic Issues - Environmental, Economic, Social and Governance).

Item 5.3.1 – SAROC.

Motion resolved: That the Report be received.
Moved: DCLW Seconded: MMC Carried.

Item 5.4 – Chief Executive Officer’s Report.

Motion resolved: That the Report be received.
Moved: RPC Seconded: SMDC Carried.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS.


Strategic Plan ✓ Annual Business Plan ✓ Gov’t Imposed ✓ Budget Implications ✓ Budgeted ✓

Motion resolved: That the audited Financial Account Reports be adopted.
Moved: DCLW Seconded: CDC Carried.
7. STRATEGIC ISSUES.

7.1 STRATEGIC ISSUES - GENERAL.

There were no Strategic Issues – General for these Minutes.

7.2 STRATEGIC ISSUES – ENVIRONMENTAL.

Item 7.2.1 - SA MDB NRM Board. (Delegate Representation).

Terry Banks, SA MDB NRM Board provided a verbal update. Minister Maywald advised that she will expedite Ministerial approval for the appointment of Rodney Ralph as LG representative to the SA MDB NRM Board as soon as she receives the request.

Otherwise, no further comment was made on this Item.

Item 7.2.2 – (8.2.3 – 6/07) & (7.2.3 – 4/07) & (7.2.3 – 2/07) & (8.2.3 – 12/06) & (7.2.3 – 10/06) & (7.2.3 – 8/06) & (8.2.3 – 6/06 etc. – Regional Waste Management Strategy.

General discussion ensued.

John Hanlon, OS/LGR and Michael Barry, LGA SA provided verbal responses. Otherwise no further comment was made on this Item.

AT THIS POINT IN THE MEETING THE HON. KARLENE MAYWALD, MP, MINISTER FOR THE RIVER MURRAY WAS IN ATTENDANCE TO PROVIDE VERBAL REPORTS AND ANSWER DELEGATE’S QUESTIONS:


Minister Maywald provided a verbal update on this Item.

Motion resolved: That the Minister’s letter of reply and verbal update be noted.

Moved: BBC   Seconded: MMC   Carried.
Item 7.2.3 – (8.2.4 – 6/07) & (7.2.4 – 4/07) & (7.2.5 – 2/07) & (8.2.6- 12/06) – Regional Drought (Committees).

Strategic Plan √  Annual Business Plan ×  Gov’t Imposed ×  Budget Implications ×  Budgeted ×

General discussion ensued with Minister Maywald advising that the LGA SA should liaise directly with the Drought Committee of Cabinet, chaired by the Hon. Rory McEwan, MP.

Motion resolved: That the Report be received and that Delegates to attend a meeting to be convened by the LGA to devise a draft strategy to support drought affected primary producers and businesses in meeting their Council rates obligations are to be Peter Ackland, DCLW and Mayor Ian Mann, MMC.
Moved: MMC  Seconded: CDC  Carried.

- **Wetland Closures – DC Loxton Waikerie.**

Minister Maywald provided a verbal Report – Questions, Answers and General Discussion ensued.

- **Water Restrictions – Renmark Paringa Council and Rural City of Murray Bridge.**

Minister Maywald provided a verbal Report – Questions, Answers and General Discussion ensued.

- **Water Recycling Initiatives – Rural City of Murray Bridge.**

Minister Maywald provided a verbal Report – Questions, Answers and General Discussion ensued.

- **River Murray Salinity Ministerial PAR – Murray and Mallee LGA.**

Minister took the question regarding the forwarding of the River Murray Salinity Ministerial PAR on notice with the Minister to advise in due course.

- **National Plan for Water Security – Minister Maywald.**

Minister Maywald provided a verbal Report – Questions, Answers and General Discussion ensued.

The President thanked Minister Maywald for her attendance and the Reports provided.
7.3 STRATEGIC ISSUES – ECONOMIC.

Item 7.3.1.1 – (8.3.2 – 6/07) & (7.3.2 – 4/07) & (7.3.3 – 2/07) & (8.3.3 – 12/06) & (7.3.4 – 10/06) & (7.3.4 – 8/06) & (8.3.3 – 6/06) etc. – Broadband Development, Regional Enhancement.

Motion resolved: That the Report be received and that the Association, in conjunction with the Murraylands Regional Development Board, write to the Hon. Senator Coonan, the Federal Member for Barker and the General Manager, Elders Telco lobbying for greater geographical broadband coverage for the region to be funded by money saved by the prevention of overbuilds on existing networks.

Moved: MMC Seconded: RPC Carried.

Item 7.3.1.2 – Broadband Project Management – Murraylands Regional Development Board.

Motion resolved: That the CEO be authorised to pay the MRDB the sum of $1,100.00 plus GST from the Mobile Telephone Line Account.

Moved: MMC Seconded: CDC Carried.

Item 7.3.2 – Review of the Planning Strategy for Regional South Australia – Murray and Mallee Region - Planning SA.

General comment noted that Planning SA consultation process with Member Councils has already commenced.

7.4 STRATEGIC ISSUE – SOCIAL.

Item 7.4.1 – (8.4.1 – 6/07) & (7.4.1 – 4/07) & (4.1 – 2/07) & (8.4.1 – 12/06) & (7.4.1 – 10/06) & (7.4.1 – 8/06) & (8.4.1 – 6/06) etc. – Strategic Issue – Transport – Community Needs and Access (Status Report) and

Item 7.4.2 – (8.4.2 – 6/07) & (7.4.2 – 4/07) & (7.4.2 – 2/07) & (8.4.2- 12/06) & (7.4.2 – 10/06) & (7.4.2 – 8/06) & (8.4.2 – 6/06) etc. – Riverland Community Transport Strategy.

Item 7.4.3 – (8.4.3 – 6/07) & (7.4.3 – 4/07) & (7.4.3 – 2/07) & (8.4.3 – 12/06) & (7.4.3 – 10/06) & (7.4.3 – 8/06) & (8.4.3 – 6/06) etc. – Murray Mallee Community Transport Scheme (MMCTS).

Motion resolved: That the Report be received.

Moved: MMC Seconded: BBC Carried.
General discussion ensued.

**Motion resolved**: That Mayor Allan Arbon continue to provide representation on the M&MSTF and that Peter Ackland be reconfirmed as local government representative on the Riverland RFG and Peter Campbell be nominated as local government representative on the Murraylands RFG.

Moved: MMC  Seconded: CDC  Carried.

General discussion ensued.

**Motion resolved**: That the M&MSTF be invited to provide information on their activities in relation to the Riverland at a Riverland Councils Forum with a view to invite community representation on the M&MSTF from the Riverland.

Moved: RPC  Seconded: DCLW  Carried.

### 7.5. STRATEGIC ISSUE – GOVERNANCE.

**Item 7.5.1 - M&MLGA Annual Report 2006-2007.**

Motion resolved: That the Association’s Draft Annual Report 2006-2007 to which Audited Accounts 2006-2007 are to be appended, be received and adopted.

Moved: CDC  Seconded: BBC  Carried.

**Item 7.5.2 – Local Government Research and Development Fund (LGR&DF) Annual Report 2006-2007.**

Motion resolved: That the LGR&DF Report be endorsed.

Moved: DCLW  Seconded: MMC  Carried.
8. BUSINESS/AGENDA ITEMS SUBMITTED.  
(including CORRESPONDENCE, NOTICES OF MOTIONS, DISCUSSION ITEMS etc.)

Item 8.1 – Control of Corellas – Mid Murray Council – Discussion Item.

Motion resolved: That the CEO prepare a submission to the LGR&DF to provide funding to engage a consultant to provide a Report on the preferred and appropriate measures that local government can undertake to control Corellas.
Moved: MMC   Seconded: BBC   Carried.

Item 8.2 – Murray and Mallee Local Government Inspectorial Group (MMLGIG) – Cadet and Traineeships for positions of Planning, Environmental Health, Building and General Inspector Officer Roles – Correspondence.

No further comment was made on this Item.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED LISTING.

Item 9.1 – Correspondence received – Listing – other than that dealt with separately.

Motion resolved: That the Correspondence Listing be noted.
Moved: SMDC   Seconded: DCLW   Carried.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS:

An opportunity for Members to raise items of general interest or significant issues that have arisen since the Agenda was formulated.

Coorong District Council: Requested that Minister Rankine, Minister for State/Local Government Relations be invited to an Association Meeting. John Hanlon, OS/LGR advised that he will take the matter up with the Minister.

At this point in the Meeting, the President gave the following guests the opportunity to briefly address Delegates:

Hon. Adrian Pederick, MP – spoke on the Berri Hospital upgrade, Recreational Motor Cycle riding, Native Vegetation, Lower Lakes levels, Desalination and Lower Lakes Infrastructure.

Terry Banks, SA MDB NRM Board – spoke on Grant Information and NRM Forum Invitations.
Lynley Jones, Country Health SA – spoke to a handout that forms part of the Minutes. Questions and Answers ensued.

11. GUEST SPEAKERS.

Margaret Wagstaff, Independent Reviewer for the Independent Review of Local Government Elections provided a powerpoint presentation to the Delegates, a copy of which forms part of these Minutes.

Christine Thompson, Dept. of Families and Communities – “Affordable Housing Program” – provided a verbal presentation to Delegates with Questions and Answers ensuing.

12. CLOSE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The President thanked all those who attended the Meeting and declared it closed at 1.22pm.

Next General Meeting - the Rural City of Murray Bridge Council area - 5th October 2007.

Signed……………………………..
Cr. Leon Stasinowsky – President.

5th October, 2007.
LGA Report for: Central Local Government Region / Murray and Mallee Local Government Association 10 August 2007

In attendance: Adam Gray / Michael Barry

LGA Annual General Meeting and Workshops
The LGA AGM and associated workshops will be held on 18 & 19 October 2007 at the Adelaide Convention Centre. The program for this event is currently being developed, and is expected to consist of two half days commencing at approximately 1pm on Thursday 18 October, and concluding with lunch at 12.45pm on Friday 19 October.

An informal networking dinner is also being jointly arranged by the LGA and LGMA for Thursday 18 October at 7pm, at the Mercure Gravener Hotel on North Terrace.

It is expected that the workshops associated with the AGM will include the following topics Shared Services; Current Local Government Reviews and Public and Environmental Health Act. The program and registration details will be available on the LGA website in coming weeks.

Please refer to Circular 30.4 for further information about AGM Council Notices of Motion. Enquiries about the AGM and workshops may be directed to Erica Thomas on 8224 2029 or email erica.thomas@lga.sa.gov.au.

Emergency Management
The current LGA Emergency Management Australia funded projects are drawing to a conclusion. Final reports are being drafted for submission at completion of the projects at the end August/beginning September.

The LGA has received a further year’s funding under the Federal Government’s Working Together to Manage Emergencies grant program. This funding will allow a continuation of current emergency management planning work and the addition of work to coordinate Zone Emergency Management Committees.

The LGA will be holding an Emergency Management Residential Seminar at the Barossa Weintal Resort in Tanunda from 1-2 November 2007. This one-and-a-half day residential seminar aims to provide attendees information on a range of emergency management issues relevant specifically to the Local Government sector. For further information contact Vicki Dubury on 8224 2081 or vicki.dubury@lga.sa.gov.au.

Local Government Research & Development Scheme September 2007 Call
The Local Government Research & Development Scheme (LGRDS) will conduct one funding call this year, in September. The call for funding submissions will open on Monday, 3 September 2007 and close on Friday, 5 October 2007 at 5.00pm.

Submissions for funding are invited from eligible organisations with project proposals consistent with the Principles and Purposes of the Scheme. Applicants should refer to the 2007 Annual Business Plan and Guidelines for Funding Applications when preparing a proposal for funding.
It is anticipated that funds of approximately $300,000 will be available for allocation at the September 2007 call. Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals of up to $25,000 in view of the fact that there have been increasing demands on Scheme funding over recent years. This does not preclude proposals being submitted requiring larger amounts.

At the close of the submission period the LGR&DS Advisory Committee will review project proposals and make recommendations to the LGA State Executive Committee. All proponents will be advised of the outcome of their submissions by Friday 30 November 2007. Further information will be available via a LGA Circular next week.

Waste Management

At the June 2007 Senior Executive Committee meeting the Committee received a verbal briefing on the progress of the LGA Solid Waste Levy (SWL) strategy including the concept of Councils running common petitions across the State. The petition proposal was enthusiastically supported.

In the period since the June 2007 meeting the solid waste levy campaign has progressed with many Councils addressing letters to key Ministers, including Hon Gail Gago MLC, generating articles in print media (primarily this has been via information included with rates notices and messenger press) and circulating the petition amongst their communities. The LGA has also been actively engaging the media on this issue.

NWC Statewide Wastewater Recycling Project – Existing CWMS Schemes

The LGA CWMS Projects Advisory Committee is meeting next week to firm up on potential allocations to the 41 Council / 69 projects of the June 2006 submission to the Federal Government. Efforts are underway to gain updated information from all 41 Councils prior to next week’s meeting. It is important for Councils to provide their best information to the LGA in time for this meeting. We have three years to acquit the entire program, so projects which are “ready to roll” are likely to receive subsidy funding first (commencing in a few weeks’ time).

Affordable Housing

Affordable Housing is emerging as a key issue for the upcoming Federal Election. It was also acknowledged as a matter to include in the LGA’s Strategic Plan at the recent workshop along with the formation of the LGA Working Group.

The South Australian Government is holding the Housing Summit 2007 on 14 August and Local Government, through the Local Government Association (LGA), has been invited to send a limited number of representatives to the Summit. The LGA jointly with the Minister for Housing sent a letter to metropolitan Councils and to Regional Associations in late July regarding attendance at the Housing Summit on 14 August and at the pre-Summit briefings with the Minister on 8 and 10 August for, respectively, metropolitan and regional Council representatives. These briefings also provided an opportunity for Local Council representatives to identify key issues for the Summit to consider. The metropolitan briefing was well attended and allowed for a robust exchange of views.

Attendance responses for the Housing Summit from regional Councils and Associations has been rather limited and the LGA is seeking to encourage a broader representation by regional Councils and Associations.
LGA Education and Training Service

**Personal Assistants' Residential Seminar**

**For:** Executive and Personal Assistants

**Presenter/s:** Kate Reynolds will facilitate Thursday's proceedings and provide a session on public speaking. There will also be a range of other presenters involved.

**Location:** Adelaide Pavilion on the Park, South Terrace, Adelaide

**Date:** 6 & 7 September 2007  
**Time:** 9:00am Start

**Cost:** $352 incl. GST for full program

**Managing Employees Residential Seminar**

**For:** CEOs and Human Resources Managers and Officers

**Presenter/s:** There will be a range of presenters

**Location:** Barossa Council, 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa

**Date:** 13 & 14 September 2007  
**Time:** 9:45am Start

**Cost:** $352 incl. GST for the full program
Rationale for Reform
- Ageing SA population
- Increasing demand for health services
- Unsustainable budgets (<$3 billion in 2004/05; >$4 billion by 2010)
- International shortage of health workforce
- Ageing infrastructure
- >70% disease in Aust. is chronic

Parallel Reform Processes
- Services – development of Health Care Plans for SA and Country
- Governance – draft Health Care Bill, Boards become Health Advisory Councils
- Administration – formation of clusters of health units (13 in Country SA)
- Business services – consolidation across Country SA, Govt. shared services
- Increased accountability

Service Reform
- SA Country Health Care Plan – develop by June 2008; first draft in December
- Consultation workshops soon – geographical communities of interest, clinical, etc
- Secure future services – safety & quality
- Increase capacity for country people to be treated in country SA
- Plan services around populations, health needs, projected demand
- Plan for service distribution, workforce, capital infrastructure, IT, transport
- Increased focus on prevention, Primary Health Care, responsibility for own health
- Better integration – metro/ country; acute/ community; GPs and health services, , stepped model of care
- Clinical networks – cancer, cardiac, child health, etc
- Country service delivery roles – four levels:
  - general hospitals (Berri, Mt Gambier, Whyalla, Pt Lincoln)
  - integrated health services (surgery, birthing services, specialists visit from general hospitals)
  - “GP Plus Services” (country version being developed)
  - remote health clinics

Governance Reform
- Health unit Boards become Health Advisory Councils (HAC - 44 initially)
- Country Health SA Board to become a HAC
- Other HACs can be established by Minister eg Ambulance volunteers
- HACs can be incorporated where need to hold real property
- Some hospitals are owned by Crown, so some HACs will not be incorporated and Country Health Assets Authority will likely be set up – hybrid model

Administration Reform
- Minister announced 13 clusters of health units in Country
- General Hospital Director/CEO to have responsibility for surrounding health units
  (Riverland health units have been discussing formation of a cluster; Mallee already operates in this fashion with an Area Manager)
- General Hospitals to provide clinical leadership also (eg Medical Director)
- 14 vacant CEO positions in Country; new structure will evolve over a couple of years

Financial Reform
- 2007/08 transition year to accrual budgets in 2008/09
- Benchmarking across Country – transitional grants in 2007/08 where above benchmark
- Funds reallocated to boost out of hospital care to avoid admissions.
FACT SHEET - DRAFT HEALTH CARE BILL

A System of Health Care
The draft Health Care Bill establishes the legislative foundation for the new system of health service delivery set out in the State Health Care Plan released in June 2007.

Under the proposed Health Care Bill, the Department of Health, through the Chief Executive, will have full responsibility for managing the whole of South Australia's public health system. This is a major improvement in public accountability in health care.

The Minister for Health and the Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse will be able to ensure that there is consistent state-wide planning and better coordination of public health services.

Incorporated hospitals
Country Health SA, along with the three metropolitan regions, will each become an incorporated hospital. The Chief Executive Officer, Country Health SA will report directly to the Chief Executive of the Department of Health.

Objects and Principles
The Objects and Principles in the Bill were guided by the Generational Health Review. They place health promotion, accident and illness prevention and supporting and building healthy communities and individuals at the forefront of health service delivery. They recognise the dependence of a good health system on the involvement of communities and volunteers in the planning and delivery of health services. They provide for the recognition of Aboriginal people and the need for services to support values that respect Aboriginal culture. They take into account the requirements of country people and health professionals working in the country and the need for services to support improved health outcomes for communities and populations with particular needs.

The Health Performance Council
The draft Bill will establish the Health Performance Council as a high level advisory and reporting body independent of the Department of Health. The Council will provide advice to the Minister on the operation of the health system, health outcomes for particular population groups and the effectiveness of methods used within the health system to engage communities and individuals in improving their health outcomes.

Country Health Assets
There are 2 options proposed:

- The first option provides for the establishment of multiple local incorporated Health Advisory Councils to hold these assets.
- The second option establishes a Country Health Community Assets Authority with appropriate skills to hold and manage the assets of the local hospital sites.

Both options ensure that local Health Advisory Councils will continue to have important advisory and advocacy roles in planning for their community’s health care needs.

Testamentary Gifts and Trusts
The draft Bill has a new part dealing with how testamentary gifts and trusts to a hospital are to be managed. This part ensures that the intentions of the person who makes a bequest will be honoured.

Constitutions
Model constitutions or rules have been developed for the bodies proposed under the draft Bill - the Health Performance Council, incorporated and unincorporated Health Advisory Councils and the Country Health Community Assets Authority. These model constitutions describe the functions and limitations, the process of election or appointment of members and other important matters. They may be varied to suit the purposes of a particular body.
FACT SHEET - COUNTRY HEALTH CARE PLAN

The State Health Care Plan

The State Health Care Plan provides a long-term vision for health service delivery in South Australia. It is a major step towards an integrated health care system for South Australians. $100 million will be invested in country hospitals under the State Health Care Plan resulting in:

- more country patients receiving care closer to home;
- increased services at Mt Gambier, Pt Lincoln, Whyalla and Berri;
- increased cancer services, renal services and other surgical and mental health services in the country; and
- an expanded focus for Port Augusta Hospital as a Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

The first country GP Plus Health Care Centres will be established at Port Pirie and Ceduna.

The Country Health Care Plan

The Country Health Care Plan will complement the State Health Care Plan. The development of the plan will be undertaken over the next 6 to 12 months by Country Health SA in collaboration with Statewide Service Strategy Division, Department of Health. Input will be sought from all stakeholders including local communities, private and not for profit service providers, local government and the Australian Government. At the end of this period we will have a clear picture of the future system of health service delivery in country South Australia.

Planning Principles

The following principles will underpin the Country Health Services Plan:

- A population health approach in planning the level and location of services, with services provided safely, effectively and efficiently to meet the needs of local populations;
- A consistent approach to service delivery with a focus on the needs of the individual and communities rather than the needs of the provider;
- An appropriate balance between in hospital and out of hospital health services;
- Improving the coordination and integration of services to present a complete system of health care to the consumer;
- Improving early intervention and illness prevention services;
- Optimising opportunities across Government, with the private sector, non-government organisations and the Australian Government;
- Achieving health productivity benchmarks based on national best practice;
- Consolidating clinical expertise to enhance safety, quality and sustainability and the provision of safe and effective clinical teaching and research;
- Optimising access to elective and emergency services; and
- Ensuring affordability and long-term financial sustainability.

How will the plan improve country health services?

For the first time we will have a truly integrated system of health service delivery across country South Australia and metropolitan Adelaide. By focusing high-level services on the four country General Hospitals, many of the services currently provided in Adelaide will be provided by the country General Hospitals. This in turn will make it easier to attract and retain the highly-skilled health professionals we need in the country and will make service provision more efficient.

Below the level of the country General Hospitals, we will be aiming to establish sustainable services according to needs of the community:

- Local integrated health services (combining community hospitals and community health care to provide a range of low level acute primary and residential care services),
- Small community health services (where primary health care needs will be met through resident nurse practitioners, community nurses, allied health staff and intensive care paramedics supported by visiting GPs).
Independent Review of Local Government Elections

The BIG PICTURE

- Independent Review jointly commissioned by Minister and LGA President
- Terms of Reference
- 3 Issues Papers (June)
- Community Engagement/Feedback (June-July)
- Interim Report (October)
- More Community Engagement/Feedback
- Final Report (December)

Independent Reviewer:
Margaret Wagstaff

Six Main Issues

1. Compulsory versus voluntary voting
2. Review the property franchise
3. Responsibility for election promotion
4. Developing and supporting future candidates
5. Dual candidacy
6. Rules for 'Caretaker' period

Many other issues in 3 Issues Papers
1. Improve Voter Participation

Three Themes

Voter participation in Local Government elections in South Australia 1983 - 2006

% Voter turnout (S.A. 2006) by LG enrolment

Voter enrolment per council area
1. Improve Voter Participation

Av. Voter participation (VICTORIA 1999-2006)
compared to population
N.B. Compulsory voting
1. Compulsory versus voluntary voting

- SASP Target - 50% voter participation by 2014;
- Familiar arguments:
  - Is voting a civic obligation; OR
  - is compulsion an unnecessary infringement on liberty?
- Compulsory voting in State, Federal elections - also for local government in three States (NSW, Vic, Qld)
- Half-way houses - perhaps selective compulsory voting:
  - Only for residents?
  - Only for councils with previous low turnouts?
  - Only in metropolitan Adelaide?

2. The property franchise

- Business owners, commercial tenants, landlords all may vote using their property franchise;
- Familiar arguments:
  - Democracy is for individuals (i.e. one person, one vote) OR
  - ‘No taxation without representation’
- Few property owners use their property franchise vote - their absence drags down participation rate;
- No property franchise for State, Federal elections; nor for Qld, NT local gov’ts;
- Wider property franchise (multiple votes) in Vic, NSW
- City of Adelaide has 47% franchisee vote - other councils average 12%
- Half-way houses - perhaps
  - require property franchisees to apply for enrolment?
  - property franchise only for ‘principal ratepayer’ (not commercial tenant)?
1. Improve Voter Participation

G7: What were the main reasons that you decided not to vote in the recent Council elections?

- **BASE: Did not vote (n=342)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>% of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Couldn't be bothered/ was not interested</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didn't have enough information about candidates</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was too inconvenient</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didn't feel my vote could make a difference</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only living in area for a short time</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didn't like any of the candidates</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An issue on ballot</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of information about election</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It doesn't matter who you vote for - all Councillors are the same</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couldn't understand the system</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can't recall</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was too old</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am happy with the Council</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not competent</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No election in my street/vale</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reluctant in voting by putting papers in envelopes, so didn't send it</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didn't receive ballot papers</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know / Can't recall</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. 3. Responsibility for election promotion

- Section 12: SEO **conducts** but local government **promotes** election;
- A potential conflict of interest - should it be a neutral body, such as the SEO?
- How should SEO calculate cost to councils of election promotion funds?
Independent Review of Local Government Elections

SIX MAIN ISSUES

4. Developing and supporting future candidates

2. Improve Representation

4. Developing and supporting future candidates

- 2006 candidates:
  - record numbers, contests, more women, young people,
  - little progress with NESB, aboriginal, non-professional workers;
- Office for Women Resource Kit (Feb 2007);
- LGA-SEO materials for 2006 candidates well received;
- Child care facilities?
- Increased allowances?
- Community leadership programs (e.g. Playford, Salisbury)
- What else should be encouraged or required?

5. Dual candidacy

- Few councils choose Mayor from within ranks of councillors - most Mayors are popularly elected as such;
- A council cannot change its system without a poll;
- Contrast State, Federal elections; leaders are always elected from within ranks of Members;
- Those who contest Mayoralty cannot have fallback option of contesting councillor position;
- Unsuccessful mayoral candidates are lost to local government for up to four years (excepting supplementary elections);
- WA and NSW permit dual candidacy in local government;
- Disadvantages include:
  - possible voter confusion
  - greater cost to conduct elections
  - vote-counting delays
6. Caretaker conventions

- Caretaker rules are designed to:
  - prevent outgoing governments binding their successors
  - prevent the use of public resources to advantage incumbents
  - ensure staff act impartially to all candidates.
- Caretaker rules before State & Federal elections are *conventions*, not in legislation.
- For local governments, only in Victoria are caretaker rules *legislated* (Qld is examining the issue).
- Victorian caretaker rules prohibit councils:
  - publishing any electoral matter except about the election process
  - making major financial decisions e.g. employment of a CEO, or large contracts.
- LGA has released a model caretaker policy

HOW CAN MORE PEOPLE BE ENCOURAGED TO VOTE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS?

- Should elections be promoted better?
- Should electoral reforms continue to get additional "properly franchised" voters?
- Should voting become compulsory?
- How can we encourage a more diverse range of candidates?

Have your say on these and other issues.

The INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS wants to hear from you.


where you can find out more about the range of issues included in the review, make your submission, or take the 10-minute survey.

Submissions close on 10 August 2007

Government of South Australia
Office for State / Local Government Relations
Independent Review of Local Government Elections

Independent Reviewer:
Margaret Wagstaff

Three Themes
1. Improve Voter Participation
2. Improve Representation
3. Improve Election Process

Six Main Issues
1. Compulsory versus voluntary voting
2. Review the property franchise
3. Responsibility for election promotion
4. Developing and supporting future candidates
5. Dual candidacy
6. Rules for 'Caretaker' period

Many other issues in 3 Issues Papers