MINUTES
of the
M&MLGA GENERAL MEETING
held on the 5th April, 2013
at the
Lameroo Memorial Hall, 63 Railway Terrace South,
Lameroo, SA
And which commenced at
10.00am.
The General Meeting was open to the Public.
MINUTES

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Murray and Mallee Local Government Association (M&MLGA) which commenced at 10.00am on Friday 5th April, 2013 at the Lameroo Memorial Hall, 63 Railway Terrace South, Lameroo, SA

ATTENDEES:

Berri Barmera Council (BBC): Mayor Peter Hunt, Vice President and Deputy Mayor Andrew Kassebaum.

Coorong District Council (CDC): Tim Tol, Deputy CEO (proxy).

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


Mid Murray Council (MMC): Mayor David Burgess, President and Russell Peate, CEO (proxy).

The Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB): Mayor Allan Arbon, OAM and Deputy Mayor Barry Laubsch.

District Council of Renmark Paringa (RPC): Mayor Neil Martinson.

Southern Mallee District Council (SMDC): Mayor Gordon Hancock and Anthony Renshaw, CEO (proxy).

M&MLGA – Peter Campbell, CEO.

Guests:

Chris Russell, LGA SA,
Barry Parsons, Consultant,
Mick Petrovski, OS/LGR,
Brenton Lewis, RDA, Murraylands and Riverland Board,
Tim Whetstone, MP, Member for Chaffey,
Dr. John Virtue, BioSecurity SA.

1. OPEN and WELCOME.

The President welcomed all those in attendance, making special mention of guests present and declared the Meeting open at 10.00 am.

1.2 Open and Welcome – Mayor Gordon Hancock, Southern Mallee District Council welcomed all to the Southern Mallee District Council area.

He made mention of:

- Level of Council debt which is under control
• Council’s solid and liquid waste disposal facilities
• The State Government’s withdrawal of Sports and recreation funding
• And Council’s need to encourage participation of young volunteers.

He wished all attendees a successful Meeting.

2. APOLOGIES.

An attendance list will be circulated. Members and Attendees are asked to record any additional apologies.

John Dawkins, MLC, Sharon Starick, Graham Brook and Terry Banks, SA MDB NRM Board, Cr. Mark Ward and Peter Ackland, CEO, DCLW, Patrick Secker, MP, Member for Barker, Michael Boyd, CEO, CDC, Mayor Kevin Burdett, DCKEM, David Beaton, CEO, BBC, Deputy Mayor Kevin Myers, MMC, Tony Siviour, CEO, RPC, Mayor Roger Strother, CDC, Ivan Venning MP, Member for Schubert, Deputy Mayor Jeff Nickolls, SMDC, David Storey, DPTI, Peter Bond, CEO, RCMB, Deputy Mayor Peter Hunter, RPC, Adrian Pederick, MP, Member for Hammond and Will Zacharin, BioSecurity SA.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

The Minutes of the M&MLGA General Meeting held on Friday, 1st February, 2013 at the Rural City of Murray Bridge Council Chamber, 2 Seventh Street, Murray Bridge, SA 5253 were previously electronically circulated, and uploaded to the Association’s website at www.mmlga.sa.gov.au under the “Minutes” tab.

Motion resolved: That the Minutes of the General Meeting held Friday, 1st February, 2013 be accepted as a true and correct record.
Moved: BBC Seconded: RCMB Carried.

4. BUSINESS ARISING.

Item 4.1 – (4.2 – 2/13) & (4.5 – 12/12) & (4.7 – 10/12) & (5.4 – 8/12) – River Murray Ferries Working Party – Mid Murray Council (MMC).

Agenda Report:

In accordance with the resolution at the Association’s February, 2013 General Meeting, a letter and submission to the Minister was finalised and forwarded on the 6th March, 2013.

A copy of the correspondence is attached as APPENDIX 1.
As at the time of formulation of this Agenda, no firm deputation date has been finalised.

During the period since the last General Meeting, Robert Brokenshire, MLC has introduced a Road or Ferry Closure (Consultation and Review) Bill 2013, for which the LGA sought comment from the Association.

Advice was provided to the LGA following brief consultation with relevant Councils resulting in a letter forwarded by the President of the LGA in explanation of the Association’s position.

A copy of the letter is attached as APPENDIX 2.

The CEO advised that the Delegation to Minister Koutsantonis took place on the 3rd April, 2013 in Adelaide. Attendees were the President, Mayor David Burgess, Russell Peate, CEO, MMC and the CEO.

The President provided a verbal update Report on the Deputation to Minister Koutsantonis.

General discussion ensued.

**Motion resolved:** That:

1) the Reports be received, and

2) the actions of the CEO be endorsed, and

3) That the President advises the Minister that local government is of the opinion that the asset management and operation of the River Murray Ferries is the preserve of the State Government and that as such all expenditures should remain with the State Government.

Moved: RPC  Seconded: RCMB  Carried.

**Item 4.2 – (4.7 – 12/12) & (8.2 – 10/12) - Potato Imports from New Zealand – Southern Mallee District Council (SMDC).**

*Agenda Report:*

At the Association’s December 2012 General Meeting, the CEO advised that the SAROC Committee had resolved the following, (in part):

“**That following initial engagement, should it be considered prudent, that the LGA Secretariat, in conjunction with affected LGA regions, form a delegation to meet with government agencies and Peak Industry Bodies to reinforce local government concerns on this matter.**”
Given that the Murray and Mallee region is a major producer of fresh potatoes, the CEO has directly arranged for representatives from BioSecurity SA to be present and address the Meeting, to be followed by questions and answers.

This will take place at Item 11.

General discussion ensued.

Item 4.3 – (4.1 – 12/12) & (4.2 – 10/12) & (4.2 – 8/12) & (4.2 – 6/12) & (4.3 – 3/12) & (4.4 – 2/12) & (10.1 – 12/11) - Lifting of the ban on fishing for catfish in the River Murray – Renmark Paringa Council on behalf of the Riverland Councils.

Agenda Report:

The following Press release was provided to the ABC Riverland by the Association’s President:

Hope remains for Murray catfish season.

Posted Wed Feb 20, 2013 2:07pm AEDT

“The Murray Mallee Local Government Association says it is pleased its proposal for a catfish season in the River Murray has been raised in the South Australian Parliament.
The Association reached a stalemate with Primary Industries and Regions SA last year, with neither willing to fund a catfish population survey.
The issue has now been raised in Parliament, with Family First MLC Dennis Hood calling on the Government to commission the survey.
The local government association’s President, Dave Burgess, says he hopes it will spark some action.
"I'm glad to see it raised at that level and for those ladies and gentlemen to discuss the issue and bring it to wider attention and hopefully the wise heads will send a directive down to the department to deal with it," he said.
Mr Burgess says it is up to the Government and not local councils to monitor the populations of native species.
"I would believe it’s a responsibility to know what sort of fish, especially native fish, that are in our river and the catfish, so I thought it would have been good, valuable information and a pretty small price to pay for that information," he said.
The Minister for Fisheries, Gail Gago, says the Government will consider funding the $25,000 survey.”

PIRSA has applied for funding through the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) Tactical Research Fund (TRF) to engage the recreational community and support the understanding of the Stock Status of River Murray Freshwater Catfish. The FRDC TRF can support majority of the project.
The next Meeting of the Catfish Working Group is on the 8th April, 2013 at Murray Bridge. A copy of the Agenda and updated “Catfish Plan” is attached as APPENDIX 3.

General discussion ensued.

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

**Item 4.4 – (8.2 – 2/13) - Employee Sick Leave– Mid Murray Council (MMC).**

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

**Agenda Report:**

In accordance with the resolution at the Association’s last General Meeting, the CEO prepared a SAROC Report. Upon review by the LGA, an interim decision was made that this matter not be brought into the public forum, but be dealt with initially on a Council to LGA basis.

Russell Peate, CEO, MMC has advised that he will provide a brief verbal Report.

Russell Peate, CEO, MMC provided a brief verbal Report mentioning that the LGA SA now had a greater appreciation of the problem facing local government.

Russell advised that he will provide a further update Report for the next General Meeting.

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

**Item 4.5 – (8.3 – 2/13) - Proposed alteration to the interpretation of the requirement for Council’s financial contribution for powering, maintaining and installing street and traffic lights on state government controlled roads – Coorong District Council (CDC)**

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

**Agenda Report:**

In accordance with the resolution 8.3 -2/13, the CEO provided a Report to the SAROC Committee, a copy of which is attached as APPENDIX 4.

Further, the LGA has provided the following comment:

“Section 26 (11) of the Highways Act 1926 provides that:
If the Commissioner installs or causes the installation of street lighting in a district in the exercise of the Commissioner's powers under this section, the Commissioner may require the council to pay to the Commissioner for payment into the Highways Fund (by payments made at times specified from time to time by the Commissioner) half of the reasonable costs paid by the Commissioner to an electricity entity for the operation and maintenance of the lighting.

Recovery of street lighting changes from Councils, pursuant to section 26, has been undertaken by The Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) for a number of years.

Recently DPTI undertook a review of the charges it was incurring to update the recovery of costs that would be applicable to Councils. (DPTI have subsequently advised these costs had not been reviewed for the past five or six years and that they had been “under recovering” the true cost during this time).

The LGA was not made aware of or consulted on the review until it had been completed.

The LGA CEO, Wendy Campana, wrote to the CEO of DPTI advising of concerns that Councils would not have previously been aware of the review and subsequently will not have budgeted for increased costs within existing budgets. Deferral of application of the new costs until the 2013/14 financial year was requested.

DPTI subsequently replied and advised that they would not defer the 1 January 2013 application of costs. The LGA President, Mayor Kym McHugh has now written to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure seeking a review of this decision.

The SAROC Committee resolved as follows:

“That the LGA State Executive Committee request the LGA Secretariat to continue to strongly lobby the State Government opposing the proposal from DPTI to cost shift public street lighting charges onto Local Government.”

General discussion ensued.

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

**Item 4.6 – (10.2 – 2/13) - State Government withdrawal of funding for the MD Basin water operations – CDC.**

*Agenda Report:*
Resolution 10.2 – 2/13 states:

“That the Association write to the State Government expressing concerns regarding the withdrawal and lack of funding for the operations for the regulation of water flows along the River Murray.”

Soon after the February, 2013 General Meeting, Minister Ian Hunter, MLC made a public announcement providing what would appear to be plausible reasons for State Government financial withdrawal on the basis that continuation of funding would do nothing other than subsidise the other States which had, or in the process of, also withdrawing or reducing funding.

Following consultation with the President, it was decided to not write to the Minister immediately, but to re-present the Item to Delegates in an attempt to potentially find a more strategic and beneficial approach to this Item.

General discussion ensued noting that the Victorian Government had recently agreed to increase their funding for River Murray Water Operations.

It was generally agreed that the Association writes to Minister Burke requesting him to encourage agreement between the States for unified action, providing a copy to Minister Ian Hunter.

Item 4.7 - 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).

Chris Russell, LGA SA, provided a verbal Report and spoke to a handout, a copy of which forms part of these Minutes.

Questions and answers ensued.

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

Mick Petrovski, Director, OS/LGR provided a verbal Report.

Questions and answers ensued.
Motion resolved: That the Reports provided at Items 5.1 and 5.2 be received.  
Moved: RPC  Seconded: DCLW  Carried.

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

Item 5.3.1 – SAROC.

Agenda Report:

A SAROC Meeting was held on the 20th March, 2013 in Adelaide and was attended by The President, Mayor David Burgess, Vice President Mayor Peter Hunt and the CEO.

The SAROC Key Outcome Summary is attached as APPENDIX 5.

There was no further comment.

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

Item 5.3.2 – Murray and Mallee Zone Emergency Management Committee (ZEMC).

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

Agenda Report:

A Meeting of the ZEMC Committee was held at Swan Reach on the 12th February, 2013. A copy of the Minutes is attached as APPENDIX 6.

Delegates may note that the immediate priorities are to complete the Flood Risk Assessment and develop treatment options. DEWNR is associated with this work as well to get this formatted and dispersed – this will be made an Agenda item for ZEMC to track progress.

Local councils will need to identify all structures along the riverbank that can be damaged due to the rise and fall of the river.

Some monies are available for assistance to create a standard template for councils to utilise for assessments to be made – application would need to be made collectively but is earmarked for developing options for river flood use on the website etc. The next scheduled Meeting is for the 16th April, 2013.
Motion resolved: That the Report be received.
Moved: RPC Seconded: RCMB Carried.

Item 5.4 – Chief Executive Officer’s Report.
Motion resolved: That the Report be received.
Moved: MMC Seconded: CDC Carried.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

Item 6.1 – Financial Statements as at 28th February, 2013.
Motion resolved: That the Financial Statements as presented in APPENDIX 8 be noted.
Moved: SMDC Seconded: RCMB Carried.

7. STRATEGIC ISSUES – Legend: General, Environmental, Economic, Social and Governance.

7.1 STRATEGIC ISSUES - GENERAL.

Item 7.1.1 – (7.1.1 – 2/12) & (7.1.3 – 4/11) - Murray and Mallee Local Government Association (M&MLGA) Strategic Plan (Plan) 2011-2014 Review – CEO, M&MLGA.
**Agenda Report:**

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1999 and of the Association’s Charter for a Regional Subsidiary, the Association’s Strategic Plan 2011-2014 is due for a review, which allows for subsequent compilation of the Association’s Annual Business Plan and Budget for 2013-2014 period to be presented for adoption at the Association’s June, 2013 AGM.

The draft revised Plan, attached as **APPENDIX 9** was electronically circulated for comment, changes, inclusions and or deletions to Member Councils on the 25th February, 2013 with responses due by the 22nd March, 2013. To date there has been 2 responses, one with a specific request to include outcomes from the Regional Annual Priority Forum (which had been included but in slightly differing terminology).

Delegates have the opportunity to provide comment at this Meeting and put forward any further changes for consideration and or consider the necessity to undergo a more extensive review at a later date.

Delegates were provided the opportunity to provide comment at the Meeting and put forward any further changes for consideration and or consider the necessity to undergo a more extensive review at a later date.

**Motion resolved:** That the Association’s draft Strategic Plan 2011-2014 as reviewed, be adopted.
Moved: DCLW Seconded: BBC Carried.

**Item 7.1.2 – (7.1.1 – 2/13) & (7.1.1 – 12/12) & (7.1.1 – 10/12) - (8.1.3 – 6/12) & (7.1.3 – 3/12) & (7.1.3 – 2/11) & (7.1.1 – 12/11) & (7.1.1 – 10/11) & (7.1.1 – 8/11) & (8.1.3 – 6/11) & (7.1.1 – 4/11) - Strategy for Regional South Australia – draft Statement for Regional SA (Statement).**

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**Agenda Report:**

On Tuesday 18th December, 2012, Hon Gail Gago MLC, Minister for Regional Development released the draft Statement for Regional South Australia.

Under LGA Circular 10.3 Councils now have the added opportunity to provide comment into an LGA response to the Statement. Comment must be received by the 8th April, 2013.

The RCCC is the ultimate body responsible for coordinating feedback to the Minister.

On behalf of the Association, the CEO provided comments which were included in the initial SAROC/SACES Report, with the SAROC Committee resolving the following at the 23rd January, 2013 meeting:
Moved Mr. Ian McSporran and Seconded Mr. Peter Campbell that the SAROC Committee:

1. notes the report; and
2. endorses the LGA Secretariat to provide feedback to the Minister for Regional Development on the draft Statement in consultation with Regional Local Government Associations. In this submission the LGA:
   a. recognise the work being undertaken by individual Local Government Authorities, Regional LGA’s and Regional Development Australia Board’s in promoting and undertaking development activities within Regional South Australia;
   b. provide a way forward to meet the urgent infrastructure demands of communities and businesses within Regional South Australia to allow the South Australian economy to grow; and
   c. provide confidence for the development of South Australia.

It is fair to say that there is general dissatisfaction with the content of the draft Statement, and that little or no regard was paid to the content of the SACES Report Recommendations, which broadly represented the views of country Councils as represented by the SAROC Committee.

General discussion ensued.

**Motion resolved:** That:

1) The Report be received, and

2) that the Association provides an individual response reinforcing the views reflected in the SAROC/SACES Report, and

3) that Member Councils be encouraged to provide an individual response to the Statement for Regional SA LGA Circular, being mindful of the restricted timelines for responses.

Moved: MMC  Seconded: BBC  Carried.

Item 7.1.3 – (7.1.2 – 2/13) & (7.1.2 – 12/12) & (7.1.2 – 10/12) & (5.3 – 8/12) - Murray and Mallee Annual Community Planning Forum – Annual Priority Working Party (Working Party) - CEO, M&MLGA.

*Agenda Report:*

A Meeting of the Working Party was held following the Association’s General Meeting on the 1st February, 2013.

Participants agreed that Member Councils should be provided with the opportunity to increase their representation and that the whole process would benefit from independent professional facilitation.
In accordance with the general agreement of the Working Party members, the CEO forwarded the following email to all Member Council CEO’s and RDA on the 7th February, 2013:

“Dear President and Member Council CEO’s and CEO, RDA,

Following the February 1st General Meeting of the Murray and Mallee LGA, the small working party that has been formed to progress the MMLGA Annual Community Forum Working Party, met for the first time. The Working Party representatives are from the following Councils: RPC, RCMB, MMC, SMDC and DCLW.

This working party has been formed to progress both the issues that were identified at the inaugural Community Forum, held on 9th November, 2012 and to ensure that these Forums result in a clearly defined agenda of priorities for the Murray and Mallee Region.

With this in mind, all Murray and Mallee Region Councils and the RDA, for those that are not currently represented, are invited to send a representative, or increase their representation to the working party meetings which are expected to meet on a monthly basis, commencing April, 2013. The April, and subsequent bi-monthly meetings will coincide with the Association’s General Meetings with date(s) for the intervening months determined at the April 13 Meeting. The core job (Terms of Reference) of this working party, and of the Community Forums is the creation of a clear set of regional priorities - what is most important to the M&M Region, and how these priorities will, or could be, progressed. It is a clear statement of our priorities that is reviewed and updated regularly, that will place our region in the strongest position to achieve what we know is most important to our region, and to respond as effectively as possible to plans, strategies, policies and funding opportunities that may be developed by other spheres of government.

This work will underpin progress on the four priorities identified in the 2012 Community Forum, namely:

1. The review and re-writing of the Murray and Mallee Regional Planning Strategy.

What is your council and RDA’s views on the regional priorities that should be included in the next iteration of the Planning Strategy? While there is not a revision of the Planning Strategy currently underway, the working party agreed that, as we are working to identify our regional priorities, we could get on the ‘front foot’ rather than take a reactionary approach and start thinking now about what our region wants in the Planning Strategy, so that we are ready to engage with the State Government when the review takes place. To assist your comments, the Murray and Mallee Regional Planning Strategy is available here: http://www.sa.gov.au/upload/franchise/Housing,%20property%20and%20land/PLG/Region_plan_Murray_Mallee.pdf

2. The preparation of a suitable regional response to the SA State Infrastructure Plan, when released for comment. Further information will be provided to councils and RDA when available
3. The development and implementation of a Regional Freight and Transport Plan. The M&MLGA Regional Transport Strategy Committee met recently and resolved to provide the following Recommendation to the M&MLGA:

“The Association facilitates the formulation of a regional plan to address the development of transport infrastructure to enhance economic development of the region taking into account the meeting of social, environmental and safety needs for all potential users of transport services.”

This Recommendation, along with budgetary allowance, will be provided to M&MLGA Delegates for resolution at the Association’s April 13 General Meeting (Refer Item 7.3.3 – 4/13).

4. Promotion of access to the National Broadband Network and improvements to the mobile telephone service for the entire region.

The Working Party recognized that the importance of 1. above, into which other stakeholder plans such as RDA, SAMDB NRM, Councils etc. and Items 2. 3. and 4 will feed.

To facilitate this process, the Working Party suggested that:

a) An amount of $5k be re-allocated from the Association’s Shared Resource Cluster Project (current balance $25k) and

b) That the CEO approach Barry Parsons to determine his interest in facilitating the process and formulation of appropriate responses.

These Items will be provided at the April, 2013 General Meeting for M&MLGA Delegates to resolve.

Should all this progress Barry has agreed to the proposal on the basis that commencement would not be before April of this year.

I look forward to your Council’s and RDA advice of senior nominations to the Working Party.”

Other than one Council’s confirmation of existing membership, and the RDA’s confirmation of the appointment of Brenton Lewis to the Working Party, no other advices have been received.

The Working Party is to meet following this General Meeting. A copy of the Agenda is attached as APPENDIX 10.

There were no further Member Council nominations to the Working Party.

**Motion resolved:** That:

1) The Report be received, and
2) That a new accounting Project Line termed “Annual Priorities Project” be created, and that an initial amount of $5,000.00 be transferred from the Shared Resources Cluster Project (current balance $25,000.00) to the Annual Priorities Project line, and

3) That the Association agrees to the Working Party’s request to appoint Barry Parsons as Working Party facilitator to the end of the calendar year and to remunerate him on an allowance basis not exceeding the sum of $5,000.00 payable on an agreed basis between Barry Parsons and the CEO.

Moved: MMC    Seconded: SMDC    Carried.

7.2 STRATEGIC ISSUES – ENVIRONMENTAL.

Item 7.2.1 – (ongoing) - SA MDBNRM Board Delegate Representative Report

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

Agenda Report:

There have been some recent issues of discussion between Cr. Inez Bormann, M&MLGA NRM Board Delegate, the President, Mayor Dave Burgess and the SA MDB NRM Board focusing on the NRM Board’s expectations and responsibilities of the Local Government Delegate to the Board.

Citing workload and lack of clarity of LG Delegate expectation matters, Cr. Inez Bormann resigned her position on the Board on the 19th March, 2013.

Member Councils should commence consideration for the provision of a replacement Local Government Delegate to the SA MDB NRM Board.

The President has advised that he will provide a brief verbal Report.

The President provided a brief verbal Report. He advised that he had requested a brief from the SA MDB NRM Board on their idea of the role and responsibilities of the Local Government representative to the Board. This advice will be promulgated to Member Councils in the near future, with the request to provide a local government Board Member nomination.

Motion resolved: That the Report be received.
Moved: MMC    Seconded: CDC    Carried.
Item 7.2.2 – (ongoing) - SA MDBNRM Board – Board Representative Report.

Hugo Hopton, Regional Manager, SA MDB NRM Board provided a verbal Report and spoke to a previously supplied electronic presentation and a handout, a copy of both forms part of these Minutes.

Questions and answers ensued.

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

Item 7.2.3 – (7.2.3 – 2/13) & (7.2.4 – 12/12) & (7.2.3 – 12/11) & (7.2.3 – 10/11) & (8.2.2 – 6/11) & (7.2.2 – 4/11) & (7.2.2 – 2/11) etc. – Regional Waste Management Strategy - Solid Waste Levy (SWL) – Waste to Resources Fund (WRF).

Agenda Report:

In accordance with the resolution at the Association’s 1st February, 2013 General Meeting, the CEO wrote to the Hon. Ian Hunter, MLC and provided a Report to the SAROC Committee. A copy of both documents is attached as APPENDIX 11.

There has been no Ministerial response other than acknowledgement of correspondence receipt.

In response to the SAROC Report provided by the CEO referred to above, the LGA provided the following response:

Refusal to pay the increase in the Waste Levy is a difficult concept as it is a legislated requirement to pay it on all waste going to landfill. The responsibility to pay the Levy to the EPA would ultimately lie with the licensed owner of the landfill and in most cases, this is not the Council.

Councils usually pass on any Levy payments via contracts or gate fees at a landfill or transfer station. That is, a Council would rarely be responsible to pay the Levy directly to the EPA.

Because of this, refusal to pay an increased Levy could potentially cause conflict between a Council and a contractor or landfill licensee, and possibly result in loss of services.

The LGA is continuing to represent to the Government that any increase to the Levy will not result in better waste management or environmental outcomes and simply increase cost of living for ratepayers. The LGA is also finalizing a business case for funding a suite of Local Government activities.
and waste management initiatives, which will form the basis for lobbying to access funds from the Waste to resources Fund.

The LGA Secretariat does not support this motion as it is currently written as it advocates for a position that encourages Councils from meeting a legislated obligation. However the LGA will continue to lobby for changes to the current Levy arrangements.

The SAROC Committee, at the 20th March, 2013 meeting resolved as follows:

“That the State Executive Committee requests the LGA Secretariat to:
1. continue to reinforce with the State Government, Councils’ opposition to increases in the Solid Waste Levy;
2. highlight to the State Government Councils’ dissatisfaction with access to the increasing balance of the Waste to Resources Fund, affecting Councils’ ability to achieve the State Waste Strategy Targets; and
3. request the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation to provide a program schedule for expenditure of the Waste to Resources Funds, including remaining unspent funds, within three months.”

The CEO will maintain a follow-up brief.

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

Item 7.2.4 – (7.2.4 – 2/13) & (7.2.3 – 10/12) & (7.2.3 – 4/11) & (7.2.3 – 2/11) & (7.2.3 – 8/10) & (8.2.3 – 6/10) & (7.2.3 – 4/10) & (7.2.3 – 2/10) etc. – Climate Change - CEO, M&MLGA).

Agenda Report:

A Meeting of the Climate Change Integrated Vulnerability Assessment – SA Murray-Darling Basin Region – Steering Committee is to be held on the 11th April, 2013.

The purpose of the Meeting is to select a Consultant for Phase 2 of the IVA Project from tenders received.

The Phase 2 Project cost is $180,000 cash for project + in-kind, made up as follows: $115,000 from the Commonwealth, $5,000 from RDA, $50,000 from DEWNR and $10,000 from the SA MDB NRM Board. Part of the funding is to support project management.

Further hard copy information is available from the CEO on request.

The CEO advised that the Project Manager of the Integrated Vulnerability Assessment Stage 2 Project was seeking local government membership on
the Steering Committee, for which travelling expenses and sitting fees applied.

General discussion ensued.

The President called for nominations. Deputy Mayor Andrew Kassebaum, BBC agreed to accept the position.

**Motion resolved:** That:

1) the Report be received, and

2) Deputy Mayor Andrew Kassebaum, BBC be appointed as the local government representative on the IVA Steering Committee.

Moved: BBC  Seconded: RPC  Carried.

### 7.3 STRATEGIC ISSUES – ECONOMIC.

**Item 7.3.1 – (ongoing) - Regional Development Australia, Murraylands and Riverland Board Inc. (RDA Board) – Draft Council/RDA Funding Agreement (Agreement) and Regional Update Report.**

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**Agenda Report:**

The LGA SA recently released the draft Council/RDA Funding Agreement compiled by Norman Waterhouse. A copy of the draft Agreement is attached as APPENDIX 12.

On the 4th March, 2013, the CEO provided Member Councils and the RDA with the following advice:

“At the Association’s October, 2012 General Meeting the following was resolved:

‘That the Association supports the RDA to seek further funding support beyond June 2013 and that the Association be the peak body for RDA/Local Government communication.’

As you would be all aware, the LGA has been working with Norman Waterhouse to develop a draft funding agreement that Councils can use to confirm future funding for RDAs. As a result of the State withdrawing its core funding for RDAs, this agreement will replace the current State/Local Agreement with RDAs developed by the Crown and due to expire on June 30 2013.
The LGA has attempted to simplify the agreement so that it is easier for all parties to negotiate and monitor. To this end it is suggested Councils adopt the same output expectations and KPIs that are in the new agreement between the Commonwealth and RDAs. This will streamline reporting formats and timeframes. The KPIs in the Federal Agreement are based on improved regional planning, a whole of government approach and economic development outcomes.

Also included is a section in the agreement where Councils can list up to three individual KPIs they wish to establish with our RDA. These KPIs should of course be negotiated with the RDA and be realistic and reasonable for both parties. There may even be scope for groups of councils to develop a number of common KPIs which would support a more strategic use of resources.

The process for finalising the Agreement so that Councils can confirm their commitment to RDAs is as follows:

1. Councils review the document and provide comments to the CEO, M&MLGA by 29 March 2013.
2. RDAs review the document and provide comments direct to the LGA of SA (with a copy to their corresponding LGA) by 29 March 2013.
3. The M&MLGA will forward consolidated feedback to the LGA of SA by Monday 8 April 2013 (to be sent to david.hitchcock@lga.sa.gov.au)
4. Feedback is sent to Norman Waterhouse for consideration and the Agreement is re-drafted. The final agreement is sent to the M&MLGA CEO who will liaise with Member Councils and then inputs Council details, funding amounts and KPIs into the document and arranges signing at a meeting of the Regional LGA prior to 30 June 2013. It is expected that this would occur at the Association’s 7 June 2013 AGM.
5. A copy of each signed agreement will be then forwarded to the LGA for record keeping.”

The CEO will provide a verbal update on Point 1 above.

The RDA Board has responded to the LGA in respect to Point 2 above, a copy of which is attached as APPENDIX 13.

Brenton Lewis, CEO, RDA (Murraylands and Riverland) Board will provide an address to Delegates.

The CEO advised that responses from Member Councils coincided with those raised by the RDA Board and that no further requests for alterations was received.

Brenton Lewis, CEO, RDA (Murraylands and Riverland) Board provided a address to Delegates, making mention of:

- RDA Board Roadmap development.
- Update on Federal Government funding to the RDA.
- Confirmed the Board’s points of difference with the Council/RDA funding template provided to Councils and the Association.
• Updated information on the RDAF Round 3 and 4 funding applications
  announcements.
• Provided further details on the $265m Federal Government funding
  initiative for the State.
• Provided advice to Councils on the Uni SA 3rd year student 60 day
  work program availability at no cost to Councils, and
• Encouraged Councils to achieve clearer strategic objectives for the
  region.

Questions and answers ensued.

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

**Item 7.3.2 – (7.3.2 – 2/13) & (7.3.2 – 12/12) & (8.3.2 – 6/12) - (7.3.2 – 3/12) &
(7.3.2 – 2/11) & (7.3.2 – 12/11) & (7.3.2 – 10/11) & (8.3.2.2 – 6/11) & (7.3.2.2
– 4/11) - Special Local Roads Program (SLRP) Funding Applications –
2011-2012 Funding Round – CEO, M&MLGA.**

*Agenda Report:*

**2013-2014 SLRP Road Funding Applications:**

The CEO called for Member Councils’ 2013-2014 SLRP Road Funding
Applications on the 15th February, 2013.

**Submissions are to be in the hands of the CEO by the 15th April, 2013.**

**Higher Level Strategic Regional Transport Plan:**

Delegates would be aware of the endorsed Annual Regional Priorities
emanating from the Regional Annual Planning Day held on the 9th November,
2012 at Bowhill.

Of specific importance in relation to this Item is the following priority:

• The development and implementation of a Regional Freight and
  Transport Plan (Action 3.3)

This matter was considered by the Association’s Regional Transport Strategy
(RTS) Committee at the meeting held on the 29th January, 2013 when the
following was resolved:

**Motion resolved**: That the Committee recommend to the M&MLGA that the
Committee’s additional terms of reference include: “To facilitate a plan for the
development of transport infrastructure which will enhance economic
development of the region taking into account the meeting of social,
environmental and safety needs for all potential users of transport services.
and

**Motion resolved:** That it is the RTS Committee’s recommendation that:

1) The Association facilitates the formulation of a regional plan to address the development of transport infrastructure to enhance economic development of the region taking into account the meeting of social, environmental and safety needs for all potential users of transport services, and

2) That the Association endorses the draft Consultancy Brief as provided, (with noted alterations referred to above), and

3) That the Association authorizes the CEO to seek consultancy tender prices in accordance with the Association’s purchasing policy, such that

4) An appropriate tender price be considered for inclusion into the Association’s 2013-2014 Annual Budget for consideration at the June, 2013 AGM.

Should Delegates wish to access a copy of the Consultancy Brief, it can be accessed from the Association’s website at www.mmlga.sa.gov.au under the “Committees” tab – Regional Transport Strategy Committee – Agenda.

Given timing constraints between the RTS Committee resolution, the 2013-2014 Budget formulation and the calling of tenders, the CEO sought tender prices on a selective tender basis with the closing date being the 15th March, 2013. Tenders have been received from HDS Australia, AECOM and Parsons Brinkerhoff.

The tenders received will be considered for selection/recommendation by an April/May RTS Committee Meeting yet to be called, subject to potential resolution of the Recommendation below.

**Motion resolved:** That:

1) the Reports be received, and

2) that the Association’s Regional Transport Strategy Committee’s Terms of Reference be expanded to include “To facilitate a plan for the development of transport infrastructure which will enhance economic development of the region taking into account the meeting of social, environmental and safety needs for all potential users of transport services” and

3) that the Association facilitates the formulation of a regional plan to address the development of transport infrastructure to enhance economic development of the
region taking into account the meeting of social, environmental and safety needs for all potential users of transport services, and

4) that the Association endorses the draft Consultancy Brief as provided and agreed by the RTS Committee, and

5) that the CEO provides an allowance of an amount not exceeding $55k in the Association’s 2013-2014 Annual Budget for consideration at the Association’s June, 2013 AGM, and

6) that the Association delegates the responsibility of preferred tender selection and awarding of a potential contract to the Association’s Regional Transport Strategy Committee, and

7) the actions of the CEO be endorsed.

Moved: SMDC Seconded: DCKEM Carried.

Item 7.3.3 – (7.3.3 – 2/13) & (7.3.2 – 12/12) & (7.3.2 – 10/12) - (8.3.3 – 6/12) & (7.3.3 – 2/12) & (7.3.3 – 12/11) & (7.3.3 – 4/11) & (7.3.3 – 2/11) & (8.3.3 – 12/10) & (7.3.3 – 10/10) & (7.3.2 – 8/10) & (8.3.2 – 6/10) & (7.3.2 – 4/10) & (7.3.2 – 2/10) etc. – Broadband Development - Regional Enhancement.

Agenda Report:

There have been some past Council requests for a presentation from NBN Co on current roll-out activities and clarification on matters of interest. This, for a number of reasons, has been difficult to organize but the Association has been assured that such a briefing will occur for the Association’s August 2013 General Meeting.

The District Council of Karoonda East Murray has been successful with the preparation of their Expression of Interest for the RDAF Round 4 with the Mindarie Connect Project.

The Association’s draft Strategic Plan 2011-2014 revised 4/13 states:

“Improve electronic communication in the region

- Expedite NBN rollout
- Improve mobile phone coverage”

On request by Council, the Association provided a Letter of Support for the Project, a copy of which is attached as APPENDIX 14.

At the time of formulation of the Letter of Support, the draft Strategic Plan 2011-2014 revised 4/13 had not been adopted. As such the following Recommendation is made:

General discussion ensued.
Motion resolved: That:

1) the Report be received, and
2) the actions of the CEO be endorsed.

Moved: RPC  Seconded: RCMB  Carried.

7.4 STRATEGIC ISSUE – SOCIAL.

Item 7.4.1 – Ongoing – Community Transport Needs and Access.

Agenda Report:

Peter Smithson, CEO, DCKEM advised that there has been no meeting of the MMTAC held during the period.

No further comment was made on this Item.

7.5 STRATEGIC ISSUE – GOVERNANCE.

Item 7.5.1 – (7.5.1 – 2/13) & (7.5.1 – 12/12) & (7.5.2 – 10/12) & (8.5.3 – 6/12) & (7.5.3 – 3/12) & (7.5.2 – 8/11) & (8.5.1 – 6/11) & (7.5.1 – 4/11) & (7.5.1 – 2/11) - Council Performance Improvement Program – CEO – M&MLGA.

Agenda Report:

Resource Sharing:

Delegates have been previously advised that the Murraylands Member Council CEO’s met in the afternoon on the 3rd December, 2012 at Karoonda to commence initial investigation/negotiations with the view to resource sharing between identified Councils.

The Meeting was facilitated by Janet Binder, on behalf of the LGA who compiled a Report over the Christmas period to the LGA. There are differing opinions on the way forward between the participating Councils and the LGA SA, including potential financial or professional facilitation assistance.

To assist in clarification of this issue, the CEO has facilitated a meeting between Wendy Campana, CEO, LGA SA and participating Council CEO’s on the 4th April, 2013, subsequent to the formulation of this Agenda.
Russell Peate, CEO, MMC has advised that he will provide a brief verbal Report.

Video Conferencing initiatives:

This confirms the arrangement for a demonstration in Adelaide of the I Vision capability for all Member Council CEO’s and their nominated personnel. The demonstration coincides with the afternoon of the first day of the LGA SA Annual General Meeting on the 18th April, 2013 in Adelaide.

Date: 18th April, 2013.
Place: Telstra Building – 30 Pirie Street, Adelaide – meet in the main foyer.
Time: 2.00pm (sharp).
Advice to CEO of number attending from each Council – by the 15th April, 2013.

Attached as APPENDIX 15 is a copy of the LGA’s Consultancy Report on Video Conferencing along with a relatively lengthy Report to the LGA State Executive Committee.

At the 20th March, 2013 SAROC Meeting, the Committee was provided with a copy of the State Executive Report for noting. At this meeting, the CEO expressed numerous serious concerns about the content of the reports and Pilot Project Brief. The concerns raised were unanimously supported.

To ensure the Project monies were earmarked, the State Executive resolved the Recommendation affirmatively, with the proviso that the Pilot Project Brief be amended to include and mirror input from Regional LGA’s, to ensure relevance for regional councils beyond the capacity to video conference with Adelaide.

Resource Sharing:

Russell Peate, CEO, MMC provided a brief verbal Report.

Video Conferencing initiatives:

THE CEO provided a further verbal update Report.

General discussion ensued.

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

8. BUSINESS/AGENDA ITEMS SUBMITTED.
(including CORRESPONDENCE, NOTICES OF MOTIONS, DISCUSSION and INFORMATION ITEMS etc.) – other than those dealt with separately.
Item 8.1 – Decrease in Funding for Sport and Recreation – Mid Murray Council (MMC) – Notice of Motion.

*Agenda Report:*

*Attached as APPENDIX 16 is correspondence received from Mid Murray Council.*

Russell Peate, CEO, MMC spoke to this Item.

**Motion resolved:** That the CEO provide a Report to the SAROC Committee, recommending that the LGA State Executive request the LGA Secretariat highlight with the State Government and Opposition of the importance of the retention of sport and recreation funding in regional areas, for the benefit of SA communities at large.

Moved: RPC  
Seconded: MMC  
Carried.

Item 8.2 – Cuts to Health Support Services – Mid Murray Council (MMC) – Discussion Item.

*Agenda Report:*

*Attached as APPENDIX 17 is correspondence received from Mid Murray Council. As there is no specific motion provided, the correspondence is presented for consideration/discussion from which a motion may emanate. Consideration of this Item could be coupled with the following Item 8.3.*

Russell Peate, CEO, MMC spoke to this Item and advised that this Item should not be coupled with Item 8.3 and that this Item 8.2 was provided for information purposes.

Item 8.3 – Health Funding – Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB) – Correspondence/Discussion Item.

*Agenda Report:*

*A copy of email correspondence received from RCMB follows:*

“Council at its meeting on the 18 March 2013 resolved to submit the following late Notice of Motion to the Local Government Association meeting in April 2013.

Your support would be appreciated.”
That the Rural City of Murray Bridge submits the following notice of motion to the Local Government Association General Meeting:

That the LGA General Meeting calls on the State Government to provide appropriate levels of funding and support to rural hospitals, aged care homes, as a demonstration and recognition of their support and duty of care for the health and wellbeing of SA rural communities including areas of palliative care and mental health."

Mayor Allan Arbon, RCMB spoke to this Item.

Motion resolved: That:

1) the correspondence be received, and

2) Member Councils be encouraged to support the stance of the Rural City of Murray Bridge seeking LGA support in ensuring the State Government provides appropriate levels of funding and support to rural hospitals, aged care homes, as a demonstration and recognition of their support and duty of care for the health and wellbeing of SA rural communities including areas of palliative care and mental health.

Moved: RCMB Seconded: MMC Carried.

Item 8.4 - Insurance cover for volunteers over 90 years of age – District Council of Loxton Waikerie – Information Item.

Agenda Report:

The purpose of this Report is to provide information to the Murray and Mallee Local Government Association in regard to the provision of insurance cover for volunteers over 90 years of age within local government programs.

Council queried, with Local Government Risk Services, the issue of the provision of insurance cover for volunteers over 90 years of age who volunteer in local government programs. Insurance cover had been raised as a matter of significant concern within a facility of Council. A number of volunteers had reached, or were close to, the age of 90 and expressed concern at having to modify, or cease, their involvement within an organisation that means a great deal to them and where their volunteer efforts are valued.

The latest advice received from Anthony Genovese, Divisional Manager, LGRS, as at 21 March 2013, is as follows:-

“I can now confirm that the Insurer has agreed to provide a Capital Benefit of $10,000 to Council volunteers that are over the age of 90 years of age. This is only the Capital benefit extension at this stage.
We have requested further clarification to see if we can also provide:

SECTION C: INJURY ASSISTANCE BENEFITS
Limit 100% of actual non medical related expenses incurred for home help, childminding and the like, up to a maximum of $10,000 per insured person (as defined).
Once we have clarified this position we will advise all Councils of the extension in cover. I trust this helps in the interim. Regards,

Anthony Genovese, Divisional Manager, Local Government Risk Services.

The provision of cover to be offered, and with clarification sought regarding additional benefits, will ensure that cover within local government volunteer programs is likely to meet the needs of Council’s volunteer base. - Karen Wetherall, Governance Officer, District Council of Loxton Waikerie.

Steve Bateman, DCLW spoke to this Item.

General discussion ensued.

Motion resolved: That the Item be noted.
Moved: DCLW Seconded: BBC Carried.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED LISTING.

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

(Many of these would have been received by Member Councils through their mail stream. Delegate may access one or more of the Items on application to the CEO.

Motion resolved: That the Correspondence Listing be noted.
Moved: RPC Seconded: CDC 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.

Item 10.1 – Regional Public Health Plan – Mid Murray Council (MMC).

Russell Peate, CEO, MMC reminded Member Councils under the Public Health Act that each Council, or the Region representative of Member Councils, of the requirement to undertake and complete a Public Health Plan.
The CEO verbally provided the following information as it would apply to the region:

“The basic steps to develop a Regional Plan are as follows:
1. Establishment of governance arrangements for coordination of Regional Public Health Planning (eg: through the Murray and Mallee LGA)
2. Participation in Steering Committee for project
3. Engagement of consultants (if necessary)
4. Internal and external stakeholder consultation
5. Audit of existing Council activities that contribute to Public Health
6. Review of existing data regarding state of public health in the district/region
7. Additional research (if required)
8. Public consultation regarding regional public health concerns, priorities, actions and performance indicators
9. Review of Draft Report and draft Regional Public Health Plan
10. Public consultation regarding Draft Report and Regional Public Health Plan
11. Final Report and Plan endorsed
12. Integration of the Plan into contributing Council’s strategic documents, Business Plans and work plans.

As a ball park figure I suggest each Council budget between $3-5,000 for support to prepare a Regional plan resulting in a combined budget of $24,000 - $40,000. The focus of the expenditure is the preparation of a report and draft Plan, some further expenditure may be required for consultation subject to the degree of public consultation thought necessary within the Region. An appropriate level of consultation will need to be determined having regard to Councils existing consultation policies and the requirements of section 51(11) of the Act (provide a copy of the draft Plan to the Minister, incorporated hospital, relevant public health partner authority and take steps to consult with the public).

Motion resolved: That Member Councils agree to the concept of the production of a Regional Public Health Plan and that an allowance of up to $40,000 be provided in the Association’s 2013-2014 Annual Budget for consideration at the Association’s Annual General Meeting to be held on the 7th June, 2013.
Moved: RCMB Seconded: MMC Carried.

11. GUEST SPEAKERS – A PowerPoint presentation was provided by Dr. John Virtue, a copy of which forms part of these Minutes.

Questions and answers ensued.

12. CLOSE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

General discussion ensued.
**Motion resolved:** That on the occasions that the Association’s General Meeting date corresponds with that of the Karoonda Farm Fair, that the Association’s General Meeting be held at Karoonda.
Moved: BBC  Seconded: SMDC  Carried.

The President thanked all those who attended the Meeting. In addition he thanked the Southern Mallee District Council for provision of the venue and catering. He declared the Meeting closed at 1.20pm.

Next Meeting: **Annual General Meeting** – 7th June, 2013 – Berri Barmera Council area.

Signed: ……………………………………………
President.

Date: 7th June, 2013.
LGA Regional Topical Report for April 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LGA representative</th>
<th>Chris Russell</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose</strong></td>
<td>The Regional Topical report is provided as an information update for Regional LGA meetings and is current at the time it is supplied to the Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recommendation</strong></td>
<td>That the item be noted</td>
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**1. Independent Commissioner Against Corruption**
On 19 February, the State Government announced the appointment of the Independent Commissioner, Justice Bruce Lander QC. The Commissioner will have powers of the Office for Public Integrity, which will receive all complaints and pass them on to the appropriate agencies including SA Police, the ICAC and the Ombudsman. Justice Lander has advised that the procedures for distributing complaints, including referring complaints back to Councils, will be developed in consultation with Local Government.

For further information contact andrea.malone@lga.sa.gov.au

**3. ICAC Papers**
The *Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012 (SA)* (the ICAC Act) was passed by the South Australian Parliament on 29 November 2012. Although some minor provisions came into operation on 20 December 2012, most of the Act is yet to start. However, it is expected to begin operation towards the end of 2013, on a date or dates to be set by proclamation.

The LGA has produced a series of papers designed to be of practical assistance to all Local Government Council Members, Chief Executive Officers, Managers and Officers. These papers are published on the LGA website’s new ICAC page: http://www.lga.sa.gov.au/goto/ICAC

The LGA is undertaking individual Council briefings, on request and the Education and Training Service has also scheduled formal training sessions about the ICAC. Further information is available by Circular

**4. Local Excellence Program**
The Expert Panel is meeting with all Regional LGAs and other key Local Government bodies such as the LGA’s MLGG, before producing any reports. They will be referring to their interim report at the LGA Showcase and General Meeting on April 18/19.

**5. Codes of Conduct**
The LGA has made a submission on a draft code of conduct for Councillors, based on feedback from Councils. The LGA released the draft code of conduct for Local Government Employees in mid-February. The Gifts and Benefits section of the draft code of conduct for councillors (see separate item below) will be replicated in the Employees’ code. Feedback on these two documents is due by 5 April 2013. For further information contact andrea.malone@lga.sa.gov.au

**6. Planning Review**
On Monday 18 February, Planning Minister John Rau announced a major review of the State’s 20 year old planning system, which was welcomed by the LGA President. The Planning Improvement Project will be led by an independent expert panel, chaired by Brian Hayes QC and Minister Rau has promised an exhaustive and community driven review. The Minister has indicated that he expected the review panel would examine the role of Councils in the planning
process and the LGA will be seeking engagement with the panel on Local Government’s planning issues. The LGA’s, through its planning reform agenda, is currently addressing 12 key planning issues and is developing a suite of resources to assist Councils to prepare for and manage growth and undertake legislated planning functions. For further information contact lisa.teburea@lga.sa.gov.au

8. Business Partner Program
The LGA’s Business Partner Program 2012-13 is well under way in all regions. There are 13 regional clusters of Councils, each with an assigned ‘Business Partner’. The Business Partner is spending up to 12 months to help each Council, in co-operation with the other Councils in each cluster, update its infrastructure and asset management plan, and its long-term financial plan, and ensure that these plans are generally consistent with each other, and with each Council’s preferred affordable service levels.

The intent is to provide support on a geographic ‘cluster’ basis and build capacity within clusters and thereby facilitate future collaborative activity in these areas specifically, and also more generally. The Business Partner has made contact in the first instance with each CEO, and sought permission to involve the finance and asset management professionals of each Council in a local workshop. For further information contact shane.sody@lga.sa.gov.au

9. Meetings with Ministers and Members of Parliament
Schedules of meetings with State Ministers have been amended following the Cabinet reshuffle by Premier Jay Weatherill. The President has conveyed Local Government’s thanks to former Minister for State/Local Government Relations, Russell Wortley, the former Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Water and River Murray, Paul Caica, the former Minister for Health, John Hill and the Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Pat Conlon for their generosity in holding regular meetings with the LGA.

Minister Gail Gago, has been returned to the State/Local Government Relations portfolio. She held the Local Government portfolio from 2008 – 2011. The President has met with Minister Hunter and have meetings scheduled with other Ministers with portfolios relevant to Local Government.

In addition, the Opposition Leader, Steven Marshall has announced his new Shadow Cabinet. We now have two Opposition MP’s, Martin Hamilton-Smith (inner Cabinet) and Steven Griffiths (outer Cabinet) overseeing the Local Government portfolio. The President has met with Shadow Ministers, Vickie Chapman, Duncan McFetridge, Stephen Wade and Steven Griffiths.

Further meetings with Opposition Members of Parliament and minor parties are continuing and will be accelerated in the lead up to the 2014 State Election.

10. LGA Study Tour to New Zealand
Between April 6 and 13, the LGA is leading a Local Government study tour to New Zealand. Tour participants will visit Wellington, Tauranga and Auckland to gather information to assist the work of the Independent Expert Panel which is due to report to the LGA Membership at the end of 2013. (See LGA Circular 7.10)

11. Planning Update
The LGA will soon be calling for Expressions of Interest for individuals to participate in issue-based ‘working groups’ to progress the Local Government Planning Reform Agenda. These working groups will act as ‘think tanks’ on specific planning issues that can be quickly assembled and activated to provide advice on and review initiatives relevant to that issue. The outcomes of the working group will be reported through to the State Executive Committee and contribute to the LGA’s planning work program. The EoIs will be reviewed by the LGA and working group membership determined by having the best mix of experience and diversity. For further information contact lisa.teburea@lga.sa.gov.au
12. Local Government Funding Agreements with (RDAs)
CEOs of regional Councils have been advised that the LGA, working with a law firm, has developed a generic funding agreement to replace the current agreement which expires at the end of June 2013. RDAs and Councils are encouraged to begin negotiations on funding amounts, as a matter of urgency, with the understanding that an agreement will be available to sign in early 2013. For further information david.hitchcock@lga.sa.gov.au

13. Local Government China Forum
The LGA in partnership with Economic Development Australia (EDA) plans to host a Local Government China Forum in Adelaide shortly and we are finalising dates with key attendees. The State Government released its China Strategy on 13 December 2012. The Strategy highlights the importance of playing to South Australia’s strength in minerals and energy, tourism, agriculture, food and wine, clean technologies, professional services, advanced manufacturing and education.

14. Workforce Planning Project
The first and second rounds of this project have been completed with 21 Councils developing their own workforce plans and workforce development strategies using the LGA workforce planning service. Round three has begun in Keith and round four will begin in early May 2013 with the final 30 Councils in two locations (Port Augusta and Adelaide). Finalisation of the project in Port Lincoln is to be re-scheduled.

The LGA is able to heavily subsidise the project from Local Government Reform Fund and LG R&D Scheme allocations. To support the project a workforce planning manual is being developed as well as a library of generic Local Government job profiles to assist Councils to undertake training needs analyses. A consultant has been engaged for a specific project with country Councils to identify strategies to address accessing skills and expertise in job areas where there are constraints to employing suitable persons. The consultant will be specifically looking at job requirements and innovative strategies, other than direct employment, to fulfil these needs.

15. Waste Management
The LGA has received a first draft of a business case for funding specific waste management issues, including detailed funding analysis/options for future Local Government waste management services, including e-waste. A number of options for returning funding to Local Government for waste management are explored in the business case, using information gathered from last August’s survey of Councils. This business case will strengthen the LGA’s lobbying position for release of funding from the Waste to Resources Fund. It is anticipated that this body of work will be released in the next few months. For further information contact simon.thompson@lga.sa.gov.au

16. Updating the Australian Constitution
The parliamentary committee charged with investigating the likelihood of Australians voting ‘yes’ in a 2013 referendum to recognise local government in the Constitution has recommended that a referendum on the issue be put to voters at this year’s federal election.

17. Awareness Campaign
The LGA’s campaign to raise awareness has begun in earnest with the LGA career website pages taking on the new branding in place of the old “Shape Your World” branding. Further developments will be advised soon. The LGA has contracted video production company TAV which is currently liaising with individual Councils to film real stories for use in the campaign. For further information contact chris.russell@lga.sa.gov.au or 8224 2030.

18. Public Lighting
The LGA has been negotiating with SA Power Networks (SAPN), previously ETSA Utilities, on behalf of Councils to establish, regulatory, compliant and cost reflective Public Lighting charges for 2010-15. Collectively, these costs are in the order of $15 million per annum.
Following receipt of a public lighting costing proposal from SAPN the LGA and DPTI provided an extensive submission which indicated our concerns with regulatory compliance in establishing depreciation methodology and determination of actual versus accrued costs. The SAPN advised that the DPTI/LGA submission of October 2012 was rejected and a short summary document was provided to the LGA/DPTI.

The LGA and DPTI have now reviewed the summary document and on 4 January formally advised SAPN that the additional information provided (by SAPN) did not alter the views contained in the extensive October 2012 submission. The LGA and DPTI are now waiting for a response from SAPN and if further negotiations are not feasible the dispute will be referred to Australian Energy Regulator. For further information contact david.hitchcock@lga.sa.gov.au

19. PBS Heavy Vehicle Route Assessment Tool Trial
Eight Councils comprising both rural and metro ones have agreed to participate in a trial to assess an on-line web based system developed by MAV. A workshop to explain what is involved and required from the participating Councils was held in Adelaide on 31 January. Results of the trial will inform the LGA of its suitability for adoption by all Councils in South Australia. For further information refer to LGA Circular 47.10 or contact neville.hyatt@lga.sa.gov.au

20. Bushfire prevention survey
In October, The LGA asked Councils for information about their work in bushfire prevention to inform a Statewide survey. The LGA acknowledges Councils participation in the survey which is the first in depth one of its kind in South Australia. Summary copies of the report have been sent to Councils and the CFS and will be publicly released after the consultation period. For further information contact neville.hyatt@lga.sa.gov.au

21. South Australian Public Health Act
Provisions for the preparation of Regional Public Health Plans came into operation on 1 January 2013. Information was provided to Councils in Circular 51.11. Draft guidelines for the preparation of Regional Public Health Plans are being finalised as a result of feedback from pilot Councils. Support to collate data on the state of public health in the region is being prepared along with training on the application of the guidelines.

The LGA is also providing training for Environmental Health Officers and managers of public health to develop a consistent approach to the administration of the new South Australian Public Health Act. The three day Public Health Short Course is fully subsidised by the LGA with the support of SA Health. Dates for 2013 are contained in LGA Circular 3.7 and are available on the LGA website. The first suite of Public Health Information Papers has been circulated to Councils and is available on the LGA website www.lga.sa.gov.au/goto/publichealth. For further information contact: ian.hawkins@lga.sa.gov.au

22. Financial Assistance Grants
Both the Federal Government and the State Government have announced separate and independent reviews of funding of the Financial Assistance Grants to Local Government.

The LGA will be providing submissions to both reviews and Council feedback on the terms of reference or specific issues of interest have been sought by LGA circulars 51.2 and 51.7. As a component of the LGA Local Excellence program, a small working group of Metropolitan and regional Councils has been established to assist with development of the LGA submission.

The timing of the reviews provides a good opportunity to work collaboratively with the State Government to build and submit relevant and agreed principles that we would like to see embedded in both the State and National objectives for distribution of Financial Assistance Grants to South Australian and local Councils.

The President has written to the South Australian Treasurer and the Minster for State/Local Government Relations suggesting that a joint State / Local Government working group be
established to facilitate this approach. For further information contact david.hitchcock@lga.sa.gov.au

23. Sport and Recreation
On the 20 December 2012 the State Government released its mid-year budget review. The review showed that Recreation and Sport Facilities Programs will be cut by $500,000 in 2014/15 and a further $3.5 million in 2015/16.

The President met with Leon Bignell, Minister for Recreation and Sport, on 20 March, to discuss the proposed cuts. The LGA is developing a strategy for the upcoming State Election to raise awareness of the need for additional sport and recreation funding. For further information contact kate.symes@lga.sa.gov.au.

24. Video Conferencing
The LGA State Executive Committee, at its meeting on 21 March 2013, considered a recommendation to conduct a pilot program to establish video links, in the first instance, between the LGA and one Council in each country region. The State Executive Committee resolved that further consultation would be taken with SAROC executive before a tender for the pilot was called. The proposed pilot program would have three main purposes:

- to deliver interactive LGA training sessions to the regions;
- to allow country-based Members and staff to participate more often in Adelaide-based professional development and networking opportunities; and
- to make it easier for Councils to recruit Adelaide-based independent members to their audit committees and CDAPs.

25. LGA Procurement
LGA Procurement Centre of Excellence continues to offer a wide range of contracts available for Councils to access. All contracts have been through a rigorous tender process to ensure compliance with all value for money principles and include Contracts for Mobile Garbage Bins, Tractors, Gardening and Lawn Equipment, Trucks, Corporate Wardrobe, Stationery and Office Equipment, Playground and all associated equipment and services. Contracts are accessible through Vendorpanel an online Request for Quotes system. New contracts are regularly added.

Councils are encouraged to download the Procurement Handbook and comprehensive and updated suite of procurement model documents from the LGAP website. Free advice on procurement and use of the standard documentation is available via the LGA Procurement Advisory Hotline. In addition, a heavily subsidised training program has been developed to assist Councils. Phone 8224 2000 to speak with a procurement expert. For further information contact: andrew.haste@lga.sa.gov.au or hazel.kotro@lga.sa.gov.au

26. Council employee participation in emergency response operations
Councils were advised of the development and release of the LGA’s policy position for Council involvement in emergency response operations in November last year – refer to LGA Circular 50.1. The LGA in consultation with its legal advisers and LGA MLS will continue to develop its position and provide updates as the situations evolves. For further information contact: neville.hyatt@lga.sa.gov.au

27. Council Visits
Wendy and the President have visited 67 of SA 68 Council’s over the past 22 months and a meeting with the remaining Council has been scheduled before President McHugh’s term of office expires on 19 April.

For further information please contact: Mary Ann Stenberg Media Officer on maryann.stenberg@lga.sa.gov.au or 8224 2063

RETURN TO MINUTES
NRM UPDATE

- River Murray Youth Council invites new members for 2013
- Sustainable Landscapes - Key happenings
- New on-line tool maps community’s most treasured spots
- Community invited to apply for South Eastern BushBids, vegetation management funding
- Buying fodder? – don’t feed weeds
- Landscape feral goat control in parks
- Prospering in a Changing Climate – Grant Program
- South Eastern BushBids – A partnership in biodiversity conservation
- BushBids!! Are you involved
- Environmental watering on Chowilla Floodplain
- Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation visits the region
- Weed and Vermin Forum Seeks Community Input, Direction
- NRM Volunteer Small grants available
- Launch of Berri Natural Resources Centre

River Murray Youth Council invites new members for 2013

Teenagers who care about the environment are being invited to register for the River Murray Youth Council (RMYC) – Lower Murray.

Natural Resources, South Australia Murray-Darling Basin (NR SAMDB) Education Coordinator Jodie Sommerville said joining the council is a fun opportunity for students to work together and take action on local environment issues. The RMYC meet monthly during the school year to discuss ideas about the local environment and to plan projects within the community. Other exciting activities include field trips, camps and student presentations. Members of the RMYC are supported by a group of mentors including NR SAMDB staff, environmental specialists and teachers.

Any interested person wishing to find out further information was encouraged to come along to the RMYC information session recently held at the Swanport Wetland.

The RMYC is supported by the NR SA MDB Education Team. The activities of the Youth Council are funded by Caring For Our Country, an Australian Government initiative and the NRM levy. For more information or to register for this session contact Jodie Sommerville on 0422 624 721 or email her at jodie.sommerville2@sa.gov.au

Some Key happenings:

- Work is underway in earnest in the Sustainable Irrigation team to firm up projects for the Board’s Round 3 On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program (OFIEP) which received in-principle funding approval late last year for $36.5m.
- The Land Management team is proving to be very attractive to investors with funds being obtained from DEWNR to deliver Future Farm Landscape project for farming groups in the Mallee and Eudunda district (first workshops scheduled early March) and a project to collect, collate and report on data collected as part of the Mallee Sandy Soils Project; and from Mid Murray Council for works at a Hutton Road demonstration site to begin shortly.
- The Landscape Resilience team has also attracted some funds with Native Vegetation Council approving a new project of $187,550 for the next 12 months as follow up Reporting for Woorinen Recovery Project.

  Also of significance is the revitalisation of the Habitat 141 project with an MOU being signed at regional level and by CEO for DEWNR and identification of priorities within the Zones.

- The Operations team recommenced goat trapping at White Hill (behind State Flora site at Murray Bridge) with a further 8 feral Goats being captured - they are believed to be the last of the feral goats in that area so that is a great outcome. They were destroyed by Monarto Zoo staff and the carcasses used for feeding Zoo carnivores (who much appreciated the snack).

- Phase 2 of Atmosphere’s Integrated Vulnerability project has been initiated with Phase 1 being wrapped up and the report being distributed shortly. Good news is that the partnerships established can be continued to address the gaps already identified.

- The review of NRM Group support arrangements has been completed and the report has been submitted will to the Board for consideration.

- Applications received for NRM Group membership are being considered and announcements will be made shortly.

New on-line tool maps community’s most treasured spots

An exciting new website mapping tool has been developed to allow community members to nominate areas of value to them. The website aims to encourage people to tell us why they value a particular “patch” and why it is so important to them.

The SA MDB NRM Board Presiding Member Mrs. Sharon Starick says it’s a wonderful new initiative. “This is an exciting new way to tell the SA MDB NRM Board what the most significant parts of your community are,” she said. “It could be a natural landscape, or somewhere that has a social connection for you – whatever it is, we want to know!”

The online tool has been developed to be user-friendly and accessible to everyone at a time and place that is convenient to them. Special areas can be identified as points on a Google map with importance characterised by either: social and cultural values; economic values; natural environmental values; development potential; or places for protection against development. Contributions can be made by logging onto: http://c2c.mappingsa.info/

For those who don’t have access to on-line facilities, a hard copy survey is available from Natural Resource Centres at 2 Wade Street, Berri or 110A Mannum Road, Murray Bridge or Phone (08) 8532 9100.

Buying fodder? – don’t feed weeds

Are you a landowner seeking to purchase fodder? Fodder can be a potential source of weeds and could lead to the spread of weeds, previously unseen on your property. Something you might consider besides the nutritional quality is the “cleanliness” of the fodder.

Natural Resources, SA Murray-Darling Basin (NR SA MDB) Operations Manager, Peter Michelmore is reminding landowners about the risk of weed introduction through the purchase of contaminated fodder. Ranges to River Natural Resources Management Group Chairperson, Ms Monique White, also stated that farmers need to be extremely cautious about the type of feed they purchase in the coming months, noting that weeds are costing Australian agriculture at least $4 billion a year and we don’t want to see this cost increase as a result of contaminated fodder arriving at the farm gate. “As available paddock feed starts to disappear and supplies of stored fodder or grain start to diminish, it is critical graziers are vigilant and are not tempted to purchase feed of dubious quality,” she said.

It’s important to remember that all sources of fodder can contain weeds. A fact sheet is available from the Natural Resource Centres at Berri and Murray Bridge to assist farmers when buying fodder. Alternatively “Fodder Management Guidelines” can be downloaded from the website at http://www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au

The easy-to-understand guidelines outline the basic responsibilities of both the fodder producer and the purchaser. It highlights the best ways of storing, transporting and distributing the new fodder to minimise the risk of a major weed outbreak.
NRM Officers from NR SAMDB can provide assistance with weed identification. Another good Australian website for weed identification is www.weeds.org.au. For further information contact Peter Michelmore on (08) 8391 7500.

Landscape feral goat control in parks

Danggali Conservation Park and Wilderness Protection Area, Cooltong and Pooginook Conservation Parks and Gluepot Reserve were closed for an aerial control program from 6pm on Sunday 24 February to 6pm on Friday 1 March. To allow an important pest animal control program to be carried out.

The control program in the Riverland will focus on the management of feral goats to restore habitats and ecosystems and forms part of a collaborative effort with land managers within the Riverland Biosphere. The pest animal control program supported DEWR’s No Species Loss strategy to restore important habitat for threatened species. Mallee reserves are ecologically important for our state as they support a diverse range of temperate and semi-arid plant species and provide critical habitat for malleefowl, black-eared miners, western whipbirds and other species of significance. Effective management of feral species such as goats is a critical aspect of regional conservation initiatives to ensure the future of our native animals and plants.


Prospering in a Changing Climate – Grant Program

Prospering in a Changing Climate – A Climate Change Adaptation Framework for South Australia provides the foundation for South Australians to develop well-informed and timely actions to increase their preparedness for the impacts of climate change.

The Framework provides guidance for how climate change adaptation activity will occur in South Australia. The Framework articulates the roles and responsibilities of all parties and recognises that adaptation to climate change is a shared responsibility and involves a joint effort by all levels of government, business, communities and individuals.

While governments can provide leadership and coordination, the Framework encourages action at an individual, regional and local level. This approach recognises that climate change and its economic, social and environmental impacts will vary across South Australia and it is necessary to develop locally relevant adaptation responses.

The overall purpose of this grant program is to assist regions and sectors to undertake projects to implement the Climate Change Adaptation Framework for South Australia. Applicants eligible for funding include local governments or the Local Government Association. For further information on the Framework, please visit: www.sa.gov.au/climatechange.

South Eastern BushBids – A partnership in biodiversity conservation

Private land-owners can now access funds to help preserve and manage significant native vegetation areas on their properties for future generations to enjoy. South Eastern BushBids is a land stewardship program that aims to provide long term protection and management of native vegetation areas by agreement with private landholders. Private landholders, with support from the State Government, will work to maintain and enhance biodiversity values in the South East and surrounds.

Since 2007, more than 9,000 hectares of private land has been placed under long term conservation management agreements with BushBids. Participating landholders have committed to undertake activities to protect and improve their native vegetation, such as fencing, reducing grazing pressure, pest animal and pest plant control, and creating buffer zones.

Natural Resources, SA Murray-Darling Basin (NR SAMDB) have been responsible for developing BushBids and working with landholders to achieve these excellent results. Now Natural Resources, South East will partner with Natural Resources, SAMDB to manage the South Eastern BushBids program. The partnership between the two regions is a positive step towards managing the region’s biodiversity assets at a landscape scale.
Woodland habitat for a number of threatened fauna and flora including the Bush Stone Curlew, Red Tailed Black Cockatoo, Coloured Spider Orchid, Sandhill Greenhood, Diamond Fire-tail Finch and Brush Tailed Possum is included in the program area.

In March 2013 South Eastern BushBids called for expressions of interest from private landholders who have areas of native vegetation on their property within the program boundary. Landholders set their own price as part of a tender for the conservation management services they are prepared to undertake. All applications will be assessed and successful tenders will be those that offer the best value for money. Landholders seeking further information should contact NR SAMDB Project Officer for Land Stewardship, Sheree Edwards on ph: 8532 9103 or go to the website www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au. This initiative is funded by the Australian Government’s Biodiversity Fund.

BushBids!! Are you involved

An exciting opportunity is opening for private landholders to receive stewardship payments to improve the quality and extent of native vegetation on their property! Following on from two previous successful BushBids projects in the South Australia Murray-Darling Basin (SA MDB) Region, South Eastern BushBids promises to be just as invigorating and rewarding for private landholders.

What is unique about BushBids? Landholders set their own price by bidding for funding to deliver management actions in a competitive bid process. Landholders decide what they want to do and how much they want to be paid for doing it. Projects can be as simple as improving or increasing fencing to protect vegetation, revegetation or bush care.

Landholders are encouraged to become involved in the BushBids program because it has the potential to assist and improve land management, increase native flora and fauna, and the landholder gets to find out what is on their land— you never know what you might find.

Landholders with property in the South Eastern BushBids boundary from Murray Bridge to the SA/ Vic border, south to Naracoorte were encouraged to come along to an information session or go to the website www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au for further information.

Environmental watering on Chowilla Floodplain

Waterbirds, frogs and surrounding vegetation are now more abundant following the delivery of environmental water to a wetland on the Chowilla Floodplain. Eighty megalitres of environmental water from The Living Murray was delivered to Brandy Bottle wetland in the Chowilla Floodplain Icon Site during Spring with a further 20 megalitres pumped during December to provide a top up as water levels dropped. DEWNR staff coordinated the environmental watering. Brandy Bottle was the only watering site identified at Chowilla not to have received water through environmental watering in 2011-12, or from the high flows in early Spring 2012.

Monitoring was undertaken at the site prior to and following the pumping of water to the site. Results indicate improvements in the health of long-lived vegetation species such as River Coolabah, Black Box and River Red Gum trees along the margins of the water hole. The watering enabled the regeneration and growth of understory plants including Lignum and Spiny flat sedge which provide habitat for the five species of frogs recorded calling at the site during and after the watering event. Eight species of waterbirds were also recorded following the watering.

The monitoring shows even relatively small watering events such as this at Brandy Bottle provide positive outcomes to help restore the health of the floodplain. The environmental watering program has played a critical role in maintaining these key sites as drought refuge for flora and fauna and avoiding the loss of long lived vegetation such as the iconic River Red Gum and Black Box communities.

The Living Murray is a joint initiative funded by the South Australian, Victorian, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and Commonwealth governments coordinated by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation visits the region

On Friday 1st March Minister Hunter met with the SA MDB NRM Board and staff, and looked through the recently-launched Natural Resources Centre at Murray Bridge.
The Minister said it was a great opportunity to meet with the Board and to continue working with the community to act on land management issues together, noting that the visit provided valuable insight into some of the local issues such as management of the Lower Murray Swamps, as well as and how SA MDB NRM Board works with the community to manage natural resources in the region.

The Minister also noted that the region’s communities play a central role in helping to protect the environment and ensuring a sustainable future.

Mr Hunter praised the SA MDB NRM Board for their strong history of community partnerships and their ongoing efforts to care for the local environment. The Minister also visited the Aboriginal Learning on Country (ALOC) Team working at Monarto Zoo to view the work they undertake and their achievements so far.

SA MDB NRM Board Presiding member Mrs Sharon Starick described how the Board was made up of farmers, small business owners and people with a long association with the region, who understand the local community, noting that it is especially important that those affected by decisions get to help shape the solution.

**Weed and Vermin Forum Seeks Community Input, Direction**

The community was invited to have a say and help develop priorities at an upcoming *Weed and Vermin Forum*. The Forum was held at Parilla Sports Club on Wednesday 20 March 2013, from 2 pm onwards with a BBQ Tea supplied. Community input was sought around:

- Current process for roadside control
- Local weed priorities
- Mapping—weed and vermin hot spots
- Declared plants and what this means for landholders
- Weed and vermin control in Parks
- Branched Broomrape—Will it be an issue in the Southern Mallee?
- Improving sandy soils

This forum was hosted by the Mallee and Coorong NRM Group, which is a committee of the SA MDB NRM Board. The group provides information and advice on local NRM issues.

**NRM Volunteer Small grants available**

NRM Volunteer Small Grant funding of up to $1,000 for natural resources management projects in the SA MDB NRM region is available for community groups wanting to make a difference.

Applications are invited for SA MDB NRM Board 2013 round of the NRM Volunteer Small Grants. A NRM Volunteer Small Grant can be used for a range of activities including purchasing equipment, project management expenses and training to build skills, knowledge and awareness. Community groups, who are encouraged to apply for funding, have an essential role in managing our natural resources sustainably for the future and the grants will assist them to carry out their work.

Applications can be found on the SA MDB NRM Board website at [www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au](http://www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au) under Get Involved/Funding Opportunities/Current Opportunities. Applicants can also contact Natural Resources, South Australia Murray-Darling Basin Capacity Building Support Officer, Danielle Packer on phone 8580 1830 or by email Danielle.Packer@sa.gov.au.

**Launch of Berri Natural Resources Centre**

Wednesday 3\(^{rd}\) April Minister Ian Hunter, Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Water and River Murray, Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation launched the Berri Natural Resources Centre. Involving many participants and stakeholders, Wade Street was closed to facilitate environmental street stalls showcasing the work of the SA MDB NRM Board, Berri Barmera Council and many other NRM partners. The Minister also inspected NRM Projects in the Riverland Region.

RETURN TO MINUTES
People and Parks

A Visitor Strategy for South Australia's National Parks, Marine Parks and Reserves

Briefing to 2013

Government of South Australia
Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
South Australia’s Protected Area System

More than 300 parks and reserves

Parks and reserves on public land – 22% of the State

Government of South Australia
Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
South Australia's Protected Area System

19 new marine parks

10% of State waters
These parks are the centrepiece of the State’s conservation efforts and vital to the lifestyles of South Australians.
Responding to the challenge

- DEWNR in cooperation with community representatives has developed the People and Parks Strategy.

- It outlines a suite of initiatives to make parks more appealing, attract more people to parks and to encourage their involvement in conservation activities.

- This new Strategy will guide the innovative and sustainable development of recreation and tourism in parks.
Visitor Strategy - Purpose

1. Guide the provision of facilities and services for Visitors

2. Boost investment by the private sector in nature based tourism

3. Involve more people in conservation
A new vision

By 2020 South Australia’s national parks and reserves will be celebrated for the benefits they provide to communities and the unique contribution people make to conservation.
People and Parks - Goals

Enriching our lives – Our lives will be enriched by enjoyment of south Australia’s national parks and reserves

Enhancing parks – Our enjoyment of parks will also benefit the conservation of parks

Shared stewardship for parks – Parks will be cared for by the community

Growing community benefits and prosperity – Parks will provide health, social and economic benefits for South Australians
Building solid foundations

1. **Conservation first**: People who use parks for recreations and tourism have a responsibility to contribute to the long-term protection of parks.

2. **Appropriate Access**: People should have a reasonable opportunity to enjoy access to parks and learn about their natural and cultural values.

3. **Community service**: Parks are an integral part of the landscape and play an important role in supporting healthy, vibrant and prosperous communities.

4. **Responsible management**: Decisions about the way parks are used should be based on evidence and risk assessment and adaptive management principles.
# Thinking strategically

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<td>GOAL 1 - Enriching our lives</td>
<td>Target 1 – By 2020 50% of South Australians will visit parks annually</td>
<td>Strategy 1 - Create exciting new places to visit.</td>
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<td>Strategy 2 - Promote visitor use, enjoyment, understanding and awareness of parks and their value</td>
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<td>Target 2 – By 2020 more recreation and tourism partners will make action to enhance parks each year.</td>
<td>Strategy 3 – Make sure that recreation and tourism is sustainable</td>
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<td>GOAL 2 – Enhancing parks</td>
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<td>Strategy 4 – Involve people in setting the future directions for recreation and tourism in parks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOAL 3 - Shared stewardship for parks</td>
<td>Target 3 - By 2020, 90% of visitors will increase their knowledge and understanding of parks each time they visit.</td>
<td>Strategy 5 – Make it easier for partners to provide recreation and tourism experiences for visitors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOAL 4 - Growing community benefits and prosperity</td>
<td>Target 4 - By 2020, parks will make an even greater contribution to the wellbeing of the community and the South Australian economy.</td>
<td>Strategy 6 – Develop an understanding of the social, health and economic benefits of parks.</td>
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Understanding how people use our parks

Considering use of parks:

- Urban Fringe Zone
- Accessible Zone
- Outback Zone
- Iconic tourism and recreation experiences
Determining priorities and major projects

Some of the initial actions to guide the way:

- Visitor access policy and risk assessment procedure.
- CTO licence & permitting policy
- Facilitate opportunities for private sector, community groups, education Marketing and branding strategies.
- Website upgrade and improved distribution network.
- Innovative group to build on existing health initiatives.
- Redevelop Seal Bay visitor precinct.
- Develop multi-day walks KI & Flinders Ranges.
- Adelaide Hills: expand suite of cycling trail experiences
- Research: social, marketing and baseline data
What Does this means for SAMDB region??

Challenges
- Drought and climate change
- Water resources under threat
- Pressures on biodiversity and productive land
- Managing the impacts of population growth, recreation and tourism
Implementing People and Parks Guiding framework – actions to change the way we do business and long term priorities that focus our work

Establish community monitoring projects to engage community groups and the private sector in encouraging adaptive management practices Action 3.1

Develop and implement a program of priority works to close and/or rehabilitate places and trails which are impacting on park values. Action 3.4

In partnership with NRM Boards, develop plans for engaging communities in the implementation of People and Parks. Action 4.2

Enable the private sector and other partners to provide visitor services in parks. This will be facilitated at priority sites when a benefit to parks and visitor experiences has been demonstrated. Action 5.1

Initiate partnerships with schools and other educational providers in managing outdoor education and recreation precincts for use by schools and the general public Action 5.3
Implementing People and Parks Guiding framework – actions to change the way we do business and long term priorities that focus our work

Revitalise existing iconic tourism sites and popular places within urban fringe parks and accessible parks Strategy 1 Long term priority

Create new experiences within urban fringe parks and accessible parks, in partnership with clubs, schools, the private sector and others Strategy 1 Long term priority

Develop engaging information and interpretation for marine parks and popular places within urban fringe parks and accessible -Strategy 2 Long term priority

Maintain priority sites, especially those that are important to local communities Strategy 3 Long term priority

Engage as many people as possible in the planning for recreation and tourism in parks Strategy 4 Long term priority
Discussion

Identifying Priority visitor sites and projects in the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin

Local governments involvement:
Support the strategy by partnering with DEWNR and catering for visitors in a coordinated way, regardless of land management responsibility
Thank you
Biosecurity in South Australia

Presentation to M&MLGA
5 April 2013

Will Zacharin  John Virtue
Executive Director  Manager
Biosecurity SA  NRM Biosecurity
What is Biosecurity?

**Biosecurity** is the management of risks to the economy, the environment and the community, of pests and diseases entering, emerging, establishing or spreading.

**Key stakeholders involved:**
- State Govt – PIRSA, DEWNR (and NRM Boards), SA Health, EPA
- Industries (nationally Animal Health Australia, Plant Health Australia)
- Communities and individuals; and
- Commonwealth Govt (DAFF)

*Biosecurity is a shared responsibility*
Why does it matter?

COSTS AND IMPACTS – FOOT AND MOUTH IN UK 2001

• Cost economy at least $10 billion.
  Made up of
  – 35% to tourism
  – 31% to Government
  – 28% to health, education and other indirect costs
  – 4% to farmers
  – 2% to food industry

• Similar impacts if had a FMD outbreak in Australia.
Australian recent experience

COSTS AND IMPACTS – EQUINE INFLUENZA IN AUSTRALIA

• Combat States – NSW and Queensland
• Eradication campaign - $110 million plus salaries of Government agency staff
• 2000 people involved – 400 people/day at control centres
• SA had up to 60 people involved at any one time over 10 weeks
• Estimate of over $1 billion impact on racing industry
• Enormous social inconvenience.
RECENT PESTS IN AUSTRALIA

• Branched broomrape - $42 m since 2001 and transitioning to management.
• Red Imported Fire Ants - $251 m since 2001 nationally and ongoing eradication.
• European House Borer - $9 m since 2004 nationally and transitioning to management.
• Electric ants - $9 m since 2007 and transitioning to management.
National incursion threats

• CSIRO reports there are ~30 new pest and disease incursions into Australia each year.

• Over a 12 month period in SA there were 58 border/post border insect detections of which 1 was an exotic.

• 5 new vertebrate detections in SA since 2008 (cane toads, red eared slider, corn snake, Indian myna, red whiskered bulbil)

• 88 new plant species recorded as naturalised/tentatively naturalised in SA since 2008 (albeit some from review of existing herbarium specimens collection)
Impacts and costs to industry & govt

• Direct costs to primary industries
e.g. Weeds $209m p.a. in SA (ABS 2007)
• Loss of export markets for Australian products
• Associated impacts on tourism, movement of people and associated industries
• Environmental impacts
  • Invasive species key global threat to biodiversity
• Loss of social amenity
• Loss of community & consumer confidence
Governance in Australia (1)

**GOVERNMENT**
- Standing Council on Primary Industries (SCoPI)
- Primary Industries Standing Committee (PISC)
- National Biosecurity Committee
- Sectoral committees e.g. weed, plant health, marine

**INDUSTRY & GOVERNMENT**
- Animal Health Australia
- Plant Health Australia
- National Advisory Groups
- NBC Stakeholder Engagement Forum

**INDUSTRY & COMMUNITIES**
- NRM/CMA regions, local govt
- National Farmers Federation and associations
- Peak industry bodies
The **Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB)** was signed by the Prime Minister in January 2012. It sets out roles & responsibilities for an improved national biosecurity framework.

Three other national agreements address emergency response:

1. Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA)
2. Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD)
3. National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA)

These agreements set out governance roles, operational responsibility and cost sharing.
State arrangements

• Biosecurity SA is a division of PIRSA, covering:
  - Animal health (28)    - Aquatic pests (4)
  - Plant Health (63)     - Food safety (9)
  - Rural chemicals (5)   - Emergency management (5)
  - NRM biosecurity (vertebrate pests & weeds) (22)

• Reports to Ministers Gago (MAFF) & Hunter (MSEC)

• works across government (e.g. DEWNR, Dept of Health) and with industry
• Went out for targeted stakeholder consultation Dec to Feb

• Across govt policy (i.e. inclusive of Biosecurity SA, DEWNR, DoH, NRM)

• Links to Target 13 of State NRM Plan:

  Limit the establishment of pests and diseases and reduce the impacts of existing pests)
Draft State Biosecurity Policy

Five priority elements:

1. Biosecurity risks to the integrity & reputation of SA’s primary products, including food are effectively managed.

2. Government agencies will work together with industry & the community to enhance biosecurity.

3. Government agencies will respond to pests and disease threats, food safety risks & contaminants through a coordinated & effective biosecurity system.

4. The spread of pests & diseases within South Australia will be managed to reduce economic, social & environmental impacts.

5. Incursions of new pests and diseases will be detected early & contained to enable eradication whenever possible.
Draft State Biosecurity Policy

Guided by the following principles:

1. Effective biosecurity requires collaboration & an understanding of accountability between governments, industries, communities and individuals

2. Science underpins the effective development, implementation, monitoring & review of biosecurity strategies & policies

3. Rapid and accurate pest & disease identification or contamination sources is fundamental

4. A risk management approach is applied in setting priorities & investment across the biosecurity management continuum

5. Preparedness, prevention & early intervention activities are the most cost effective approach to biosecurity

6. An adaptive management approach is needed that monitors outcomes, adopts new technology, applies existing knowledge & adapts to changing circumstances

7. The cost of biosecurity programs should be shared equitably between all beneficiaries & risk creators
NRM & Biosecurity
Object (1)(e) of NRM Act 2004

- “provides for the prevention or control of impacts caused by pest species of animals and plants that may have an adverse effect on the environment, primary production or the community”

- Chapter 8 of NRM Act is “Control of Animals and Plants”

- On-ground management of declared weeds and vertebrate pests primarily thru NRMBs/DEWNR

- NRM Biosecurity in Biosecurity SA provides state policy development, regional coordination and technical support
Biosecurity management continuum

- **Prevention**: Weed absent
- **Eradication**: Small number of localised populations
- **Containment**: Rapid increase in distribution and abundance, many populations
- **Asset based protection**: Weed widespread and abundant throughout its potential range

### Economic returns
- **1:100**: Prevention
- **1:25**: Eradication
- **1:5-10**: Containment
- **1:1-5**: Asset based protection
Take a risk management approach:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEED RISK</th>
<th>FEASIBILITY OF CONTAINMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negligible &gt;113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negligible &lt;13</td>
<td>LIMITED ACTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low &lt;39</td>
<td>LIMITED ACTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium &lt;101</td>
<td>MANAGE SITES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High &lt;192</td>
<td>MANAGE WEED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very High &gt;192</td>
<td>MANAGE WEED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National drivers

Vertebrate Pests Committee
• Review of Australian Pest Animal Strategy
• Incursion detection & response
• Animal welfare codes of practice

Australian Weeds Committee
• Review of Australian Weeds Strategy
• Weeds of National Significance (20+12)
• National Invasive Plant Surveillance Framework
National drivers

Australian Government investment

• Invasive Animals CRC extension 2012-2017
  - rabbit RHD & new biocontrols (4 of our staff)
  - also engage on mice, wild dogs, incursions, birds….

• Caring for our Country
  - weeds and pest animals
  - Australian Feral Camel Management Project

• Biodiversity Fund & Carbon Farming Initiative
  - invasive species, corridors, emission prevention
NRM Biosecurity 12/13 milestones

Pest Communication & Advice

- Review of NRM Act plant declarations
- State Wild Dog/Dingo Strategy
- State Buffel Grass Strategy
- NRM Act revise mouse policy and new fox policy
- Teaching at Adelaide Uni vertebrate pests course
- website, factsheets, quarterly newsletter
- technical/policy support to NRM / DEWNR
- Australian Weeds Committee (lead on WoNS WG)
- Vertebrate Pests Committee (lead on Incursions WG)
- SA Pest Animals Conference
NRM Biosecurity 12/13 milestones

Incursion Prevention & Response

• Dog Fence Board maintenance of fence
• aerial baiting south of Dog Fence
• Monarto Zoo containment audit of declared animals
• weed diagnostics – State Herbarium weeds botanist
• pathways risk analysis (5 key weeds)
• Alert Weeds/Alert Pests – education/awareness
• weed field surveillance guidelines
• barbary doves in metro Adelaide (management plan)
• biosecurity in the mining industry
NRM Biosecurity 12/13 milestones

Established Pest Management

• feral camel removal – APY, Simpson, MT
• rabbit biological control – with IACRC & Uni Adelaide
• mouse monitoring
• 1080 usage oversight of use in NRM/DEWNR
• opuntioid cacti & silverleaf nightshade WoNS
• broomrape transition to management
• WoNS & buffel grass outlier control
• declared plants herbicide guide
• mapping WoNS & new declared plants (with DEWNR)
• Cape tulip biocontrol – CSIRO collaboration
The review – Timeline

PUBLIC CONSULTATION PERIODS

October to December 2011
October to December 2012
Winter 2013

Phase 1 | Phase 2 | Phase 3

Increase in proposed changes to declarations

47 plants
All currently declared

49 plants
Some currently declared
Some new proposals
Some for delisting

40+ plants
Some currently declared
Some new proposals
Some for delisting
Conclusions (1)

- Biosecurity is a shared responsibility.
- Biosecurity is of increasing importance to SA, for agriculture, environment and social amenity.
- Industry Deeds (EADRA & EPPRA) are in place to respond to animal and plant health emergencies.
- New national arrangements to encompass environment and community pests and diseases (NEBRA).
- Direct and indirect impacts and costs to industry & community can be enormous.
Conclusions

• Biosecurity is fundamental in effective NRM and should remain a significant regional focus of activities – for biodiversity, primary industries & public safety

• Need to follow a risk management approach and invest in priorities across the management continuum

• Community expects a mix of activities on both widespread and emerging pests, although the latter has the higher benefit:cost for govt investment

RETURN TO MINUTES