

May 2013



EPLGA NEWS

EPLGA - Providing a cohesive viewpoint, a strong voice and a forum for co-operation to assist in the delivery of local government services across Eyre Peninsula.

Next EPLGA Board Meeting

- Wudinna Telecentre
 - Friday 28th June 2013
 - Commencing 11.00am
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LGA President's Forum

- Thursday 13 June.
- Two key issues
 - 1) the Local Excellence Panel's report
 - 2) the scope for the LGA's State Election Platform.

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Executive Officer Hits the Ground Running

The newly appointed Executive Officer, Tony Irvine commenced the expanded EO role on 18th March 2013. Sixty percent of his time is spent on the EPLGA business as usual and forty percent on the LGA of SA "Outreach Services" pilot program. To date he has worked at familiarising himself with the various programs and support services provided by the LGA and its entities and

identifying issues that Councils may be facing and undertaking an assessment of the support that the LGA could provide to assist in resolution of the issues, in the early stages. An annual works program will be developed in collaboration with the regions CEO's & the LGA's Executive Officer, Wendy Campana. A part of the planning is to connect Councils with services that they seek

from the LGA, including providing feedback to the LGA about refinements and adjustments to the services that are required. To allow the pilot to be given every opportunity to succeed it will be critical that an annual engagement program is established that is consistent with the priorities of the Councils in the region and the LGA of SA.

RDA Whyalla & Eyre Peninsula Funding

All member Councils are aware of the State's withdrawal of core funding to the RDAWEP which has placed pressure back onto them to make up the shortfall. The three year funding agreement is being reviewed to ensure the region has a fully functional economic development board that is able to meet its vision and goals and ultimately assisting the region to "win" its fair share or more of new development and jobs. Negotiating a new agreement with 11 Councils, State

Government & Federal Government as signatories can be difficult at the best of times. However with our region on the cusp of many "once in a life time" opportunities the current negotiation situation calls for integrity on behalf of all parties and some real regional leadership including regional team work. Whilst we can all continue to complain about the State's decisions on this matter, it is the region which has the most to lose. Like never before the EPLGA

member Councils have to be very clear in what it expects of the RDAWEP and the RDAWEP like never before needs to engage the EPLGA Councils in a partnership where our region can meet its aspirations and goals to ensure we keep our future in own collective hands and not be dictated by others from afar. The RDAWEP was proclaimed by Michael O'Niell (SACES) at the Elliston EPLGA Conference, as one of Australia's top four RDA performers.

Fire & Emergency Services Act Review



A regional submission was prepared and forwarded to Paul Holloway in relation to the FESA Review.

The submission was developed through consultation & written responses from Councils throughout the region. Through this process a "majority" position was taken when collating all the council responses. Individual Councils with

different views to the "majority" were recommended to present their views as a single Council response. Reference in the submission was made on increasing penalties, improving the burning permit processes, seeking more land holder input into the Bushfire Management Committees, better consultation with Council management,

specifying the Fire Prevention Officer's role and authority in the regulations and the absence of other agencies planning for emergency situations. Whilst not in the EPLGA's submission the Executive Officer in meeting with Paul Holloway was alerted to some submissions recommending that the Harvest Voluntary Code of Conduct be made mandatory.

'Whilst not in the EPLGA's submission the Executive Officer in meeting with Paul Holloway was alerted to the issues around the Harvest Voluntary Code of conduct and some wanting the code made mandatory'

Special Local Roads Top Ranked Applications

District Council of Streaky Bay:

Sceales Bay Road fourth funding application in a five year program - ranked 1

District Council of Kimba:

Balumbah - Kinnaird Road final funding application for final year of a four year program. - ranked equal 2

District Council of Cleve:

a. Balumbah - Kinnaird Road third funding application in a five year program (5 kms only) - ranked equal 2

b. Balumbah - Kinnaird Road third funding application in a five year program (10 kms and extension of part a.) - ranked equal 2

City of Whyalla:

Whyalla Norrie Industrial Estate Upgrade - single

year application - ranked 4

District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula:

Flinders Highway - single year application - ranked 5

SMEC undertook an independent review and ranking process on all nominated regional roads. The criteria used for ranking is in need of review and the EO has a report for the June 2013 EPLGA Meeting on this.

Rural Addressing Congratulations from CFS



Kevin May, Executive Officer, Region 6 Volunteer Management Committee congratulated those Councils which have fully introduced rural addressing. Volunteers have reported to him that where the scheme is fully in place, their job of

locating a fire or other emergency is made much easier, allowing them a greater opportunity for earlier intervention during an incident. He encourages those Councils yet to fully implement such a scheme to do so at their earliest

convenience. This overcomes the confusing mixture of lot numbers and street numbers in some zones known as townships or rural living areas. Time is of the essence when emergency services are called to save life and/or property.

Jobs Summit

The Eyre Peninsula Skills and Workforce Summit, recently held at Wudinna, provided the opportunity for the regions key industries and Local Governments to meet face to face and listen to each other's current and future workforce needs. The input provided by the Summit participants and the invited speakers highlighted some necessary improvements and innovative solutions to attraction and retention strategies and industry related training models so that skill sets are developed that are relevant to the Eyre Region.

The following is a bullet point summary of input provided by participants throughout the day.

Partnerships, opportunities, priorities;

Research & Development;

- ☐ Develop partnerships and collaboration
- ☐ Determine training objectives / projections from existing reports
- ☐ Conduct a skills audit
- ☐ Skills On Eyre site – promote and utilise / greater potential for the Skills On Eyre site
- ☐ Look at RTO's scope of training programs to match demand
- ☐ Agreement that Skills Demand Timeline is developed to inform regional skills demand by industry / sector
- ☐ Review existing reports to collect data and facts
- ☐ Enable existing strategies and plans (not re-inventing the wheel – enabling existing strategies)
- ☐ Cross industry training was well received (as a concept)
- ☐ Map the existing resources available and the current utilisation of the them (community centres, tele-

centres, TTC)

Skills Needs Analysis;

- ☐ Based on the skills needs analysis (SNA) outcomes, RTO's to deliver programs that build capability for future regional needs
- ☐ Address skills gaps on a regional /sector front – which will require communication between sectors

- ☐ Consider the FRDC careers pathway project findings (as presented by Samara Miller) as part of the SNA

- ☐ Cross- Industry Training (for e.g. an Eyre Peninsula Skills Set)

Skills Sets / Gap Training;

- ☐ Training tailored to industry demands and delivered where needed
- ☐ Demand driven training
- ☐ Suggested courses / skills;
 - OH&S (Workplace Safety)
 - Soft Skills / Employability Skills
 - Business Basics – Finance / BAS / Superannuation / Communication
 - Mentoring
 - Farming / Agronomy – eg; courses provided by Minnipa Ag Centre
 - Succession Planning
 - Skills for value adding / marketing
 - IT Skills for Agriculture
 - Leadership
 - Small business operations
 - Low-rainfall farming systems
 - Local Government Shared Service (Skill Set)
 - Management Training (incl. 2IC, supervisor etc)
 - Media Training
- ☐ **Employer Capability;**
- ☐ Build the employer of choice capability using case studies
- ☐ Marked improvement in Job Design
- ☐ Job Sharing

- ☐ A welcome back policy
- ☐ Opportunities for university students
- ☐ Salary packaging and incentives
- ☐ New / adaptive business structures

Policy / Strategy;

- ☐ The three key regional industries working together (Mining / Exploration, Seafood and Agriculture) can attract / maintain the Government training dollar for the region much better than one industry can on its own.
- ☐ Target the current 5% under employed – incl. women returning to workforce and disabilities
- ☐ Develop the skills of the training providers
- ☐ Councils as the hub of doing the work
- ☐ Use Social Media
- ☐ Make sure the scope of RTO delivery match the needs of the region
- ☐ Business /community welcome back (process to encourage / welcome people back to the EP)
- ☐ Careers pathways approach (FRDC example) adapted across the region
- ☐ Regional attractiveness (Employers of Choice in the region)
- ☐ Retention is the first principle (especially the youth)
- ☐ Accept there is a need for skilled migrants, 457's and backpacker labour on the EP
- ☐ Provide work experience opportunities for young people (this needs resourcing)
- ☐ Need to do some evaluation of the projects effectiveness
- ☐ Legacy / longevity strategy for the project
- ☐ Regional register of employee skills
- ☐ Sharing workers locally
- ☐ Skills and knowledge as a core value for employers
- ☐ Develop case studies to promote the success of the project
- ☐ Better use of resources – skills industry training centres and community resources
- ☐ Believe and invest in the EP



“the opportunity for the regions key industries and Local Governments to meet face to face and listen to each other’s current and future workforce needs.”

Federal Member for Grey's Position sought on Referendum

So much has been done to advance the case for constitutional recognition for local government

The EPLGA has sought support from Rowan Ramsey, Federal Member for Grey in relation to constitutional recognition for Local Government. Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) President Felicity-ann Lewis has declared that the national campaign to convince Australians to vote 'yes' to include local government in the Constitution to secure funding for local services and infrastructure will intensify now that the Federal Government has given its commitment to a September 2013 referendum.

"The Government's decision to support holding a referendum at the time of the September federal election is the signal we have been waiting for to carry forward our fight to protect federal funding for councils," Mayor Lewis said.

"We now need bipartisan support and I call on the Opposition, and all political parties, to support the referendum proposal and referendum funding legislation, when it is debated in Parliament next week.

"We have recently advertised for a National Campaign Director to lead an integrated campaign involving every council across the country.

"As we have argued for many years, the only way to protect direct federal funding for

community services and infrastructure is to have local government recognised in the Australian Constitution.

"Councils want financial certainty. They need formal recognition as legitimate recipients of direct federal funding. Without it, funding under programs such as Roads to Recovery are at risk of High Court challenge.

"Recent High Court decisions in the Pape Case and Williams Case, which both considered the power of the Commonwealth to provide direct funding to entities not included in the Constitution, only strengthen our case to formalise the Commonwealth's arrangements for funding councils directly.

"So much has been done to advance the case for constitutional recognition of local government and our efforts have received considerable support. We have been encouraged by final recommendations of both the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government and the Federal Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government, which supported and endorsed a 2013 financial recognition referendum.

"As I have said on numerous occasions, local government wants to win this referendum

which is in the interests of every local community. We accept that getting a referendum passed will be a major challenge. But local governments across the country support the financial recognition option and are committed to working hard within their local communities to get a referendum on the question of financial recognition passed by the majority of voters in the majority of states."

Federal Member, Rowan Ramsey has indicated he will not oppose the referendum position of local government and stated "I have no particular problem with the proposal and will not be opposing it, however having spoken to quite a number of councillors about the issue, I am not completely convinced they fully understand this amendment to the Constitution does not guarantee funding, only the Commonwealth's ability to provide funding if it wishes.

Only last year I was lobbied by local government to make sure the Roads to Recovery Grants were preserved. They were at risk then as they will be at any time in the future should any government decide to reduce or remove them. The constitutional change does not address any right of local government to finance.

Having said that, I see little down-side."

Regional Mining and Infrastructure Plan Consultation

Public feedback is currently being sought on the Regional Mining and Infrastructure Planning project interim report for the Eyre and Western region which is aimed at guiding the rollout of key transport and logistics, energy and water projects in the region.

The project provides a regional approach to infrastructure planning to meet the current and future needs of the mining industry. The interim reports identify current infrastructure gaps, project future mining growth, and identify current and future infrastructure needs. It has also identified a list of potential infrastructure projects that respond to the key issues across the region. Feedback will inform the prioritisation of solutions when detailed in the final Plans.

Find out more about the project and have your say by visiting the RDAWEP website [our website](#), attending a drop in session near you or visiting one of our public displays.

Community Information 'drop in' sessions

As part of the public consultation process, we will be holding 'drop in' sessions around the region. There you will be able to access the reports, ask any questions and help inform the final plan.

Public Displays

Public displays will be set up at the Whyalla Library, Whyalla City Council, Port Lincoln City Council, Port Lincoln Library, the District Council of Ceduna and the District Council of Cleve from the week commencing 20 May 2013.

Online Feedback Portal

Have your say today on the interim report. Download the report from the [website](#) and submit your feedback [online](#).

Contact RDAWEP for more on this.

For further information about the project or the upcoming sessions please contact Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula on (08) 8645 7811.

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<http://eplga.sa.gov.au>

Major Event Dates**President's Forum**

The 2013 LGA President's Forum will be held on Thursday 13 June at the Intercontinental, North Terrace, Adelaide. Please [click here](#) for more information. If you have any questions please contact Rebecca Wake on 8224 2046 or rebecca.wake@lga.sa.gov.au

2013 LGA Roads and Works Conference

The 2013 LGA Roads and Works Conference will be held on Wednesday 21 (dinner only), Thursday 22 August and Friday 23 August 2013 at the Chaffey Theatre, Renmark. Visit www.lga.sa.gov.au/goto/roadsandworks or contact Rebecca Wake on 8224 2046 or rebecca.wake@lga.sa.gov.au for further information.

OTHER DATES:

EPLGA Meeting: Friday 6th September 2013, Cowell

EPLGA Meeting: Friday 6th December 2013, Wudinna

LGA AGM: 24-25 October, Adelaide Entertainment Centre

ALGA NGA: 16-19 June, National Convention Centre, Canberra

ALGA Roads Congress: 12-14 November, Alice Springs Convention Centre, Alice Springs

EPLGA 2014 Conference : (Waves of Change : Oceans of Opportunity): 23 - 24 February 2014, Tumb Bay