

# NEWSLETTER

September 2011



*Revised Dates.....*

**DECEMBER BOARD MEETING –  
9<sup>TH</sup> DEC, Kimba.**

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
Streaky Bay, 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012.**

## TUMBY BAY BOARD MEETING



Members were pleased to have LGA President, Mayor Kym McHugh (left) and Minister for State and Local Govt Relations, Hon Russell Wortley, in attendance at the September 2<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting.

Minister Wortley added some context to the Burnside case and suggested that we need to take from it whatever we can, including the fact that it highlighted some examples of bad behaviour from some elected members. Looking forward, the Minister spoke about the need to work with the LGA on securing the Local Government Disaster Fund which can be depleted rapidly faced with a local disaster such as the latest mid North flooding event. His commitment to working cooperatively with councils was well received.

All regions can anticipate a visit from the Minister, who is determined to widely engage with Councils throughout 2011. This can only assist in promoting continued improvements in state/local government relations and the EPLGA has offered its thanks to the Minister for taking the time to visit.

It was also a pleasure to have President McHugh, accompanied by LGA CEO, Wendy Campana, in attendance. Emily White (Regional Liaison officer) also joined us and most members would already know Emily from her time with TEP.

The LGA issues discussed by all three included:

- Recognition of the outstanding contributions made by former President of the EPLGA, Mayor Jim Pollock, to both State Executive and SAROC
- Work that the LGA is doing with the CFS in relation to fire training for local govt staff who may possibly be caught in the fire ground during an event.
- Waste management issues, including the solid waste levy and the Zero Waste Regional Implementation Programme
- Recent agreement with Minister Hill on ongoing library funding (\$185m.)

Wendy also gave an update on the Local Excellence programme.

## NBN CONCERNS.

**Despite the broad claims by the federal government about the advantages of NBN in delivering broadband speed increases, we are clearly a region likely to miss out on those advantages.**

Streaky Bay deputy Mayor, Dean Whitford, raised the issue again at the Board meeting, advising that their Council was looking for other Councils to work in collaboration with them on this issue. RDA Chief Executive Officer, Mark Cant, highlighted their submission to the federal Dept of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy raising concerns about the failure to include EP.

## RDA ISSUES

**The process of recommending local government representatives to the RDA Whyalla and EP Board has again highlighted omissions and issues with the RDA Rules.**

The terms of local Govt representatives Mayor Allan Suter and Mr Allan Edwards are due to expire on November 20<sup>th</sup> 2011, as is the casual vacancy currently occupied by Cr Malcolm Catt. For the past year, EPLGA has advised the RDA Board of its support for the City of Port Lincoln to have a dedicated seat, since the Funding Agreement indicates up to six local government nominations can be made to the 14 member Board.

For some time, the federal position has been that each SA RDA Board should only be allowed to nominate 4 Board Members, despite the formula in the signed Funding Agreements. However, the day prior to our Board meeting, we were advised that the federal government would no longer pursue their demands.

EPLGA Board Members have supported the following:

- 6 local govt nominations; 3 from City of Whyalla, 1 from City of Pt Lincoln and the remaining 2 from the nine district councils
- Whyalla and Port Lincoln will use their own process to determine their members. The district Council will use the coordination assistance from EPLGA Executive Officer
- The CEOs Working Group will identify all the issues for local government that need directing by the Rules and seek an opportunity to remedy these with the RDA Board and/or relevant Ministers.

While we will nominate the four additional representatives (Mayor Pollock and Cr Velthuizen have terms expiring in 2013) we recognize that there may be constitutional changes that have to be made.



*Bernadette Clelland (DC Franklin Harbour) and Mayor Julie Low, President EPLGA at the Board meeting.*

### **LGA 2011 AGM & Assoc Sessions: 27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> October, ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE**

#### **EYRE AND WESTERN PLAN.**

**The period for written consultation in relation to the draft Plan has now ended and the Dept of Planning is collating the results.**

State agencies are also making input before we again organise a meeting with Dr Donna Ferretti to pursue a final plan.

The draft plan was released so long after the initial consultation period that it is anticipated that significant updating will be required.

Chief Executive, Ian Nightingale, is currently seeking feedback from Councils in relation to streamlining processes relating to many aspects of the planning framework, including the significant backlog of DPA assessments. For several councils, there has been in excess of a 2 year delay in assessing plan amendments, resulting in interruptions to residential and other developments. Advice at the last two Board

meetings is that priority will now be given to those DPAs consistent with the regional plan.

#### **CEOS LOOK AT THE STARR REPORT.**

**Assisted by Michael Barry and Shane Sody (LGA) EP Council CEOs have begun discussing the Starr Report which highlights some of the issues that will impede Councils' success into the future.**

The LGA is asking for identification of regional projects designed to explore ways of working more cooperatively and efficiently into the future with three projects under consideration.

CEOs discussed opportunities for some sub-regional approaches with the three Southern Councils having a geographic opportunity. Cultural similarities should enable Kimba, Cleve and Franklin Harbour to also work together on some initiatives.

While not identified as a key issue, Ian Burfitt suggested that regional Councils face an immediate and strong threat from mining. We know the expected positives are well documented, but it will also challenge workforce retention, infrastructure planning, amenity planning and some small communities will face a rate of expansion not previously seen. Discussion was held about the need for a thorough impact assessment to be prepared.

*BELOW: CEOs Lachlan Miller (Streaky Bay) and Rod Pearson (Lower EP) at the CEOs forum.*



#### **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.**

Mr Tony Piccolo, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier and member for Light, attended the Sept Board meeting with a panel of speakers from Uni of Adelaide and TAFE who highlighted options for delivery of post secondary education to regional SA.

While there was general acknowledgement that the will is there, the logistics of making it happen are challenging. In the meanwhile, any comments about either delivery models or identifying priority courses can be forwarded to

[dlaube.eplga@rdawep.org.au](mailto:dlaube.eplga@rdawep.org.au)