



EPLGA

ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13



Photography by Robert Lang



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2012/13 has proven to be an eventful year with many changes taking place. In December 2012 we said farewell to Diana Laube and welcomed Tony Irvine to the position of EPLGA Executive Officer.

Tony, a familiar face to local government on Eyre Peninsula and South Australia, commenced work on 19th March 2013 in the expanded EO role. It was opportune that the Association was able to take advantage of the LGA "Outreach Services" pilot program that was mooted at the time he commenced as the EO. Sixty percent of Tony's time is spent on EPLGA business and forty percent on "Outreach Services" projects. One of aims of the pilot program is to provide a way of connecting Councils with the services that they seek from the LGA and at the same time provide feedback to the LGA.

On behalf of member councils I thank Diana for the five and half years of excellent work she did on our behalf and the professional way she represented this region at SAROC and the LGA. Though Dianna officially retired in January she continued to help out until March which was much appreciated. I wish her all the best for the future.

Other new faces at EPLGA Board meetings are Wudinna Chairman Eleanor Scholz who replaces the long term serving District Council of Wudinna Chairman Tim Scholz and. the new CEOs - Geoff Moffatt at Ceduna, Rob Forster at Elliston and Trevor Smith at Tumby Bay.

Farewell to Ian Burfitt, Mary Deakin and Steve Kerrigan, and thank you for your contribution.

The withdrawal of State Government core funding to the RDAWEP was extremely disappointing. It was heartening to see member councils demonstrating regional leadership and working together to ensure the regional has a fully functional board that is able to continue assisting the region. After meeting with RDAWEP Board Members the EO and EPLGA Board Executive were successful in having clauses inserted in the agreement to review funding arrangements and an additional review that will consider a number of other issues raised by member councils. No doubt there will be further changes following the federal election.

In June 2013 the EPLGA adopted the Eyre Peninsula Roads Strategy 2013 and Road Assessment 2013 Summary Report and addendum as prepared by SMEC. The EP Roads Strategy is critical in obtaining road funding to our region and to assist councils to meet increasing demands on their road networks.

With increasing demands for road funding and infrastructure funding it is becoming more evident that a more robust methodology is needed to assist EP councils present their case for increased funding.

A major responsibility of my role as President is to represent the 11 member councils at SAROC and LGA Board meetings. SAROC continues to be a valuable forum for regional representatives and the EOs to discuss issues that are specific to regional councils which are then brought to the LGA Board member's attention. The LGA Board meetings consist of representatives from both the regional and metropolitan areas and the focus is governance and policy.

The "Making Regions Matter" forum on 17th April 2013 was a success. Tony and Anita Crisp from the Central Region LGA have continued work on this issue and at the last SAROC other regions agreed to support a combined "Making Regions Matter". This joint approach will ensure it becomes a tool that all regions can utilise and therefore be united in lobbying to make regions matter.

EPLGA Board meetings continue to provide an opportunity for various agencies and groups to inform local government members of opportunities or projects that are happening or about to start in the region. During the year speakers included Minister Russell Wortley, Agrifoods representative Christian Pike, LGA Procurement, Matt Pinnegar from BP Australia, Assoc Professor Michael O'Neil from SA Centre for Economic Studies, ElectraNet, Ombudsman Richard Bingham, SA Ambulance and Planning SA.

I thank Eddie Elleway as Senior Vice President and Mayor John Schaefer Junior Vice President for their support for the year. I would also thank Lachlan Miller, Alan McGuire and Katrina Allen for their assistance during the EO recruitment process.

The introduction of ICAC, new Federal Government and the State Government election early next year and local government elections later in the year will bring new challenges. I look forward to working with all member councils to ensure Eyre Peninsula remains important.

MAYOR JULIE LOW

THE REGION

Local Government and Regional Population

Local Government formally began in the region on 1st July 1880 after the establishment of the District Council of Lincoln and, on 18th August 1921, the Municipality of Port Lincoln was proclaimed.

In 2011, the regional population was 55,651 people, comprising 3.5% of the South Australian population.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	LAND AREA		POPULATION	
	Km ²	% of Region	No.	% of Region
Whyalla	1,032.5	2.35	22,088	39.69
Port Lincoln	30.4	0.01	14,086	25.31
Ceduna	5,427.1	12.40	3,480	6.26
Cleve	4,506.7	10.30	1,733	3.11
Elliston	6,500.0	14.85	1,046	1.88
Franklin Harbour	3,283.0	7.50	1,273	2.29
Kimba	3,986.2	9.10	1,088	1.95
Lower Eyre Peninsula	4,771.0	10.90	4,916	8.83
Streaky Bay	6,232.0	14.25	2,102	3.78
Tumby Bay	2,615.9	6.00	2,586	4.65
Wudinna	5,393.8	12.34	1,253	2.25
REGION	43778.6	100.00	55,651	100.00

Table : RDAWP Local Government Land Areas and Population.

Regional Demographic Change

Since 2001, the regional population has increased by 3.34% but this growth is not consistent across the region as a whole. The District Councils of Elliston, Wudinna and Kimba experienced population decline of -15.2%, -13.7% and -8.5% respectively, but the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula experienced growth of 17.2%. Population growth was also experienced in the coastal Councils of Streaky Bay, Tumby Bay and Port Lincoln:

The demographic change is caused by several reasons, with the desire for a sea change lifestyle being a key factor. Streaky Bay and Tumby Bay are very desirable coastal locations and new estate developments have been established to cater for the growing housing demand, notably by retirees from the agricultural sector. Population growth in the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula stems from several locational and lifestyle advantages including numerous coastal townships and proximity to the regional city of Port Lincoln and Port Lincoln Airport.

Kimba and Wudinna, however, are the only Councils in the region without a coastline and this impacts their appeal and tourism development potential.

A loss of employment opportunities from the rationalisation of farming properties is believed to be the main reason for population decline in the coastal council of Elliston. This is supported by ABS mesh block data which indicates that the 15.2% decline is not consistent across the Council area. The coastal township of Elliston grew from 201 people in 2006 to 292 in 2011, whereas the population of the inland

farming town of Lock declined from 144 to 129 in the same period.

(It should be noted that for Census data collection purposes, the boundaries of Elliston and Lock were changed between 2006 and 2011. The population increase at Elliston may well be a product of an expanded town boundary, rather than population growth. Similarly, the population decline at Lock may well be a product of a slightly diminished town boundary, rather than population movement).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	2001	2006	2011	% Change
City of Whyalla	21,552	21,416	22,088	2.4
City of Port Lincoln	13,199	13,603	14,086	6.3
DC Ceduna	3,683	3,572	3,480	-5.8
DC Cleve	1,832	1,896	1,733	-5.7
DC Elliston	1,205	1,132	1,046	-15.2
DC Franklin Harbour	1,267	1,277	1,273	0.5
DC Kimba	1,181	1,116	1,088	-8.5
DC Lower Eyre Peninsula	4,070	4,402	4,916	17.2
DC Streaky Bay	1,986	2,024	2,102	5.5
DC Tumby Bay	2,453	2,541	2,586	5.2
Wudinna DC	1,425	1,314	1,253	-13.7
TOTAL	53,853	54,293	55,651	3.34

Table : Population Change, Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula Region (ABS Census Data 2001, 2006 and 2011).

Aboriginal Population

In 2011 the region had 3,225 Aboriginal people comprising 5.7% of the regional population, which is notably above the proportions in South Australia (1.9%) and Australia (2.6%). 80% of the region's Aboriginal people (2,572) live in the local government areas of Whyalla, Port Lincoln and Ceduna. The greatest concentration is in Ceduna, where Aboriginal people comprise 24.9% of the Council population.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	2001		2006		2011	
	No	% of Population	No	% of Population	No	% of Population
Whyalla	630	2.9	767	3.6	921	4.2
Port Lincoln	621	4.7	700	5.1	785	5.6
Ceduna	824	22.4	859	24.0	866	24.9
Cleve	7	0.4	11	0.6	10	0.6
Elliston	12	1.0	19	1.7	18	1.7
Franklin Harbour	4	0.3	12	0.9	12	0.9
Kimba	0	0.0	6	0.5	11	1.0
Lower Eyre Peninsula	65	1.6	101	2.3	143	2.9
Streaky Bay	17	0.9	31	1.5	33	1.6
Tumby Bay	26	1.1	12	0.5	20	0.8
Wudinna	11	0.8	13	1.0	19	1.5
REGION	2,217	-	2,531	4.8	2,845	5.7

Table : Aboriginal Population, Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula Region (ABS, Census 2001, 2006 and 2011).

Location and Environment

The region has a coastal and rural environment with approximately one third of South Australia's coastline stretching over 2,000 kilometres from the upper Spencer Gulf to the Western Australian border. The landscape features a rugged and relatively undeveloped coastline, particularly on the western side of the Eyre Peninsula. The coastal and marine environment includes both marine and conservation parks and encompasses approximately 250 islands ranging in size from about 180 to 40,000 square metres.

The region has a characteristic Mediterranean climate with warm to dry summers and cool, wet winters. Mean annual rainfall varies from 250mm in the north and northwest to more than 500mm in the south.

The geographical relief is undulating and low, with most areas less than 150 metres above sea level. The largest hills are located in the Gawler Ranges north of Wudinna with granite peaks reaching 500 metres. The Koppio Hills form a spine down the central part of lower Eyre Peninsula and are the most significant topographical feature in the southern part of the region.

A large proportion of the land has been cleared for agricultural production; however significant areas of native vegetation remain. Vegetation clearance for agricultural purposes ranges from 14% in the far west to 72% in the south. About 15% of the region's grazing area is covered with scattered vegetation. (Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board, *State of our Resources, Recognising the State of Natural Resources of the Eyre Peninsula*, 2009).

Industries and Services Overview

The region is well positioned to facilitate and support a broad range of significant developments. The economy is extremely diverse with world-leading companies in agriculture, manufacturing, fishing and aquaculture, and fast growing mining, tourism and renewable energy industries.

Based on employment, the main industries are primary production (agriculture, fishing and aquaculture), health and social care, manufacturing, retail trade, education and training, and construction. Tourism and mining are the region's fastest emerging industries and have significant potential for future growth.

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 2001	EMPLOYMENT 2011	% CHANGE
Agriculture, Fishing & Forestry	4,012	3,338	-16.8
Health Care & Social Assistance	2,111	2,996	29.5
Manufacturing	2,786	2,890	3.6
Retail Trade	2,481	2,669	7.0
Education & Training	1,764	1,967	10.3
Construction	1,340	1,813	26.1
Accommodation & Food Services	1,356	1,595	15.0
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	999	1,260	20.7
Public Administration & Safety	1,152	1,172	1.7
Mining	199	957	79.2

Table 5: RDAWEP Top Ten Industries by Employment, 2011. (ABS Census 2011 from www.myregion.gov.au).

Primary production (agriculture, fishing and aquaculture) is the largest industry employing 3,338 people or 13.1% of the regional workforce. Employment in primary production declined by 16.8% during the last decade (from 4,012 people in 2001 to 3,338 in 2011), largely due to the rationalisation of farming properties which reduced employment opportunities in the agricultural sector.

Primary production nevertheless remains the major industry in the region and is integral to business growth and development in other industry sectors – ABS, *2011 Census*, from www.myregion.gov.au.

Agriculture

The region produces approximately 42% of South Australia's total agriculture production, with a total value exceeding \$500 million per annum. The region is renowned for its high quality premium grains, particularly high protein wheat, malting barley varieties, milling oats and canola. During the 2011 harvest, Eyre Peninsula produced 41% of South Australia's wheat crop, 25% of the barley crop and 32% of the canola crop. The average annual volume of all grain crops is 2.2 million tonnes, although this peaked to 3.2 million tonnes in 2009. In 2011 the region produced 2.5 million tonnes of grain and, on average, 97% of Eyre Peninsula's grain production is exported. (Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics – ABARE – *Crop Report*, June 2012).

Livestock continues to attract high prices and farmer interest in the sheep industry remains stable. The rising value of livestock has rejuvenated interest in the sheep industry and there has been significant reinvestment in meat and wool in recent years.

Fishing and Aquaculture

The commercial fishing and aquaculture industry produces about 80% of South Australia's seafood product and employs over 1,024 people. Tuna farming and oyster growing are the largest employing sectors. The industry is highly trade focused exporting over 80% of seafood produced from the region to markets in New Zealand, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the USA.

In 2010/11 the region's aquaculture industry accounted for 97% of South Australia's total aquaculture production, valued at \$234.7 million, and employed 87.3% (635) of the State's 727 FTE employment positions in the sector. (EconSearch Pty Ltd, *The Economic Impact of Aquaculture on the South Australian and Regional Economies, 2010/11*, A report for PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, May 2012).

The region is renowned internationally for the production of the highest quality, sashimi grade Southern Bluefin Tuna most of which is exported to Asia – notably Japan. In 2010-11, the tuna farming sector of the aquaculture industry generated \$125 million in direct business turnover, with a flow-on effect to processing and transport of \$11 million and flow-on to other sectors of \$115 million. The direct contribution to gross regional product (GRP) was \$57 million with GRP of \$68 million generated in other sectors of the regional economy. The tuna farms were responsible for the direct employment of 177 FTE and 36 FTE in the processing and transport sector, and indirect employment of a further 519 FTE jobs locally (i.e. a total of 732 FTE positions in the region). (EconSearch, 2012, p.28).

Other important sectors of the region's aquaculture industry include the production of oysters, abalone, mussels and marine finfish which collectively generated product value of \$77.66 million in 2010-11 and directly employed 444 FTE people in the region. (EconSearch, 2012, pp. viii and 9).

The industry also has an important sardine fishery which is critical to the tuna farming sector because approximately 94% of the sardine product caught in South Australia waters is sold for tuna fodder (86% as fresh fodder and 8% frozen) with the remaining 6% sold for human consumption. (Econsearch Report for PIRSA, **Economic Indicators for the South Australian Sardine Fishery 2010-11**, June 2012, pp. 24-6).

The Eyre Peninsula has a domestic and international reputation for its high quality range of premium seafood. This reputation has been built on sound environmental management, sustainability, and entrepreneurship. In a major marketing initiative in 2010, Eyre Peninsula developed a generic regional food brand under the banner of *Eyre Peninsula Australia's Seafood Frontier* to differentiate the region's seafood product as world's best quality. (RDAWEP, *Brand Eyre Peninsula 2012-2013 Food Prospectus*, 2012).

Health and Social Care

The health and social care sector is the largest employer in South Australia and the second largest industry in the region. The health and social care industry offers a diverse range of facilities and services in all townships with regional hospitals located in Whyalla, Port Lincoln and Ceduna. The Ceduna and Whyalla hospitals underwent major redevelopment in 2010 and 2012 (at \$36 million and \$69 million respectively) and the \$40.5 million redevelopment of Port Lincoln Hospital commenced in 2013 after construction was delayed from 2012. (*Port Lincoln Times*, Delays for Lincoln hospital upgrade, Tuesday, May 22 2012, p.3).

Eight smaller hospitals at Cummins, Elliston, Streaky Bay, Tumby Bay, Wudinna, Cleve, Cowell and Kimba provide a range of primary health services, including residential aged care.

In 2011 the health and social care sector employed 2,996 people or 11.8% of the regional workforce. This is a fast growing industry with a 29.5% growth in employment from 2,111 people in 2001 to 2,996 in 2011 and business growth of 36.9% since 2007.

Projections indicate that South Australia's population aged 65 and over will increase to 22.6% in 2020 and 25.7% by 2030. (DFEEST, 2012, p.5). The region's health sector is therefore expecting further growth due to a growing demand for aged care services.

Manufacturing

Manufacturing and resource processing is the region's third largest industry employing 2,890 people in 2011 or 11.3% of the regional workforce. The manufacturing sector has experienced modest employment growth of 3.6% since 2001, but numerous future growth opportunities are pending at Whyalla with several new industrial initiatives planned.

Whyalla is the second largest city in regional South Australia and the principal centre for manufacturing, steel production and resource processing in the Upper Spencer Gulf region. Whyalla is strategically located with transport, engineering, business, retail and education sectors directly servicing the demands of mining and mineral processing developments. Whyalla is consequently being positioned as "South Australia's Mining Services Hub". The establishment of new mining operations in the northern areas of South Australia has potential to further develop Whyalla as the key manufacturing centre of the region.

In recent years steel making at Whyalla by Arrium has increased significantly from 460 thousand tonnes to over 8 million tonnes per annum in 2013. This growth led to a significant expansion of Arrium's Whyalla Port to increase its export capacity for cape class vessels. (*Whyalla News*, Cape vessel milestone as first ship heads through Arrium's new port, Tuesday, February 12, 2013, p.2).

Pending new industrial developments at Whyalla include:

- Construction of a fuel terminal at Port Bonython (Senex Energy Limited, ASX announcement, March 9, 2012), a \$650 million bulk commodities export facility (Flinders Ports Pty Ltd, Flinders Ports website and Media release, March 2012, www.flindersports.com.au),
- A \$1 billion urea manufacturing plan (Archean Group, 2012 Archean website www.archeangroup.com),
- A \$350 million ammonium nitrate manufacturing plant (Deepak, 2012, Deepak website, www.dfpci.com), and
- Construction of a commercial demonstration site for the manufacture of Biofuel from low energy algae harvesting and other feedstock. (Muradel development brochure 2013, *Fast Tracking Nature Sustainably*, www.muradel.com.au). (This project has received development approval and was in the process of construction in June 2013).

Retail Trade

The retail trade sector is an integral part of all townships and has the highest concentration in the provincial cities of Whyalla and Port Lincoln. Collectively, the retail sector is the region's fourth largest industry employing 2,669 people in 2011 or 10.5% of the regional workforce. The retail sector has experienced steady employment growth of 7.0% since 2001. The growth and sustainability of the retail sector is largely reliant on the success of the region's other industries – particularly primary production, manufacturing, mining and tourism – and many retail businesses have been established to directly support and service these enterprises.

The retail sector received a significant boost with the opening of a third major supermarket (Foodland) in Port Lincoln during 2012 and the commencement of a \$22 million upgrade of Westland Shopping Centre at Whyalla in May 2013. (*Whyalla News*, Upgrade Work Begins, Tuesday, May 28, 2013, p.1).

Mining

The region's mining sector is small in comparison with other industries. In 2011 mining employed 957 people or 3.8% of the regional workforce. But mining is having an economic impact and is the fastest growing regional industry with a significant 79.2% growth in employment during 2001-2011.

This growth is the result of unprecedented mining exploration activity in the Lower Eyre Peninsula, which large resources of iron ore, coal and graphite along with uranium, gold and kaolin prospects.

Eyre Peninsula is located in the mineral provinces of the Gawler Craton and Eucla Basin which are rapidly becoming one of Australia's most promising mineral frontiers. The region has the largest deposit of gypsum in the Southern Hemisphere, significant iron ore resources and an emerging world class heavy mineral sands province.

During 2011-13, commodities being mined and exported from the region included:

- Iron ore: 8-9 million tonnes per annum during 2013 being exported by Arrium from Whyalla (*Whyalla News*, Arrium Predicts Iron Ore Sales Increase, Tuesday October 9, 2012, p.2),
- Gypsum: 1.69 million tonnes exported by Gypsum Resources Australia during 2011 from Thevenard Port,
- Heavy mineral sands: 400,264 tonnes exported by Iluka Resources during 2011 from Thevenard Port, and
- Salt: 120,334 tonnes exported by Cheetham in 2011 from Thevenard Port. (Thevenard export data from Flinders Ports Statistics, www.flindersports.com.au).

The mining impact will grow significantly in forthcoming years as new mining enterprises in iron ore, mineral sands, kaolin, graphite and uranium move from exploration to operation. The region presently has five operational mines with a further twelve mines awaiting approval.

Tourism

Tourism is a fast growing industry and has significant development potential due to the region's rapidly growing reputation for unique and diverse nature based visitor experiences and premium seafood products.

Tourism is becoming an important sector for the regional economy, with visitor expenditure exceeding \$277 million in 2011-2012 from 700 businesses. (SATC, Regional Tourism Profile for Eyre Peninsula 2011-2012. Also see, *Whyalla News*, Tourism Finally Recognised, Thursday, June 27, 2013, p.3).

In 2012, with the exclusion of the Adelaide Tourism Region, the Eyre Peninsula was the fourth most popular tourism region in South Australia with 390,000 visitors and the third highest region for visitor nights (1,593,000). Over the period from June 2010-June 2012, the annual visitation in the Eyre Peninsula Tourism Region averaged 326,000 domestic visitors (intra and interstate) and 14,000 international visitors. The collective visitation generated an average of 1,647,000 visitor nights per annum, with international visitors staying an average of 12.1 nights in the region. (SATC Tourism Research, *Overnight Travel - South Australian Regions, Year Ending December 2012*, and SATC, *Eyre Peninsula Regional Tourism Profile 2010-2012*, September 2012).

Due to the success of the regional food brand *Eyre Peninsula – Australia's Seafood Frontier*, the initiative has been adopted as the tourism brand for the region as a whole to drive strategic business and tourism development. The brand is presently being used to position the region as a culinary tourism and conference destination. (RDAWEP, *Brand Eyre Peninsula 2012-2013 Tourism Prospectus*, 2012).

Renewable Energy

Renewable energy has the potential to become a major industry in the region due to natural assets of consistent wind resources, abundant sunshine and high wave action. The region has an estimated 300 cloud free days per annum, making it an ideal location for large scale solar energy farms. The Eyre Peninsula also has a landscape suitable for large scale wind farms and has been identified as offering extensive opportunities for wind generation with four wind zones experiencing wind speeds above 8 metres per second and potential to produce more than 10,000MW of generation. (Macquarie, Worley Parsons and Baker & McKenzie, *Green Grid, Unlocking Renewable Energy Resources in South Australia*, 2012 p.1).

Two wind farms exist at Cathedral Rocks near Port Lincoln and Mt Millar near Cowell which supplement the power transmission network on the Lower Eyre Peninsula.

Several other innovative renewable energy projects are in the process of being progressed. These include

- **Green Grid Proposal:** The staged development of four wind farms at Port Lincoln, Elliston, Cleve and a site near Port Augusta, including the construction of a 500kV transmission network. Stage 1 would cost \$613 million and generate 2,000MW of power. Stage 2 would double the generation to 4,000MW and provide power in the longer term to Heywood in Victoria and Mount Piper in New South Wales. (Macquarie et al, 2012 pp.41-43).
- **Pacific Hydro Pilot Project:** Australian company Pacific Hydro uses hydroelectric technology to generate electricity. Wind generators power pumps to transfer sea water to reservoirs, which is then passed through turbines to generate power. The combination of wind and hydro technologies arguably produces a more efficient means of power generation as the hydro component can maintain power production during low wind periods. Pacific Hydro has a pilot demonstration site north of Coffin Bay in the process of being progressed. (www.pacifichydro.com.au).

Muradel Biofuel Commercial Demonstration Plant:

Australian company, Muradel, is developing a commercial scale demonstration site at Whyalla to produce sustainable Biofuel from microalgae. A pilot plant at Karratha provided promising test results but the demonstration site is located at Whyalla. Whyalla was selected for the demonstration plant because of the climate conditions, available flat and non-arable land, abundant seawater, established transport infrastructure, and availability of skilled labour. Demonstration trials will occur during 2013-14 to identify the most cost efficient method to produce Biofuel to compete with existing fossil-derived products and reduce carbon emissions. (Muradel development brochure 2013, *Fast Tracking Nature Sustainably*, www.muradel.com.au).

MEMBER COUNCILS 2012/13

- City of Whyalla
- City of Port Lincoln
- DC Ceduna
- DC Cleve
- DC Elliston
- DC Franklin Harbour
- DC Kimba
- DC Lower Eyre Peninsula
- DC Streaky Bay
- DC Tumby Bay
- Wudinna DC

REPRESENTATIVES:

At the 75th AGM of the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association, held at Kimba on 9th December 2011, the following Office Bearers were confirmed for the 2011/12 financial year:

PRESIDENT: Mayor Julie LOW (DC Lower Eyre Peninsula)

SNR VICE PRESIDENT : Mayor Eddie Elleway (DC Franklin Harbour.)

JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT: Mayor John Schaefer (DC Kimba)

Our President and Senior Vice President are our nominated representatives to SAROC and State Executive Forums.

Other local government representatives to regional Boards have been as follows:

RDA Whyalla and EP BOARD:

Mayor Jim Pollock (City of Whyalla)

Cr Jack Velthuizen (City of Whyalla)

Cr Colin Carter (City of Whyalla)

Mayor Allan Suter (DC Ceduna)

Cr Bryan Trigg (DC Cleve)

Cr Malcolm Catt (City of Pt Lincoln)

EYRE PENINSULA NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD

Mayor Laurie Collins (District Council of Tumby Bay)

ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE, 1981-2020.

A highlight on the EPLGA calendar is the Annual Conference, hosted each year by a member Council. To assist in host Council planning, the following schedule is included:

2000 DC Franklin Harbour
2001 DC Cleve
2002 DC Streaky Bay
2003 DC Elliston
2004 DC Tumby Bay
2005 Whyalla CC
2006 DC Ceduna
2007 DC Lower Eyre Peninsula
2008 DC Kimba
2009 DC Wudinna
2010 DC Franklin Harbour

2011 DC Cleve
 2012 DC Streaky Bay
 2013 DC Elliston
2014 DC Tumby Bay
 2015 Whyalla CC
 2016 DC Ceduna
 2017 DC Lower Eyre Peninsula
 2018 Port Lincoln CC
 2019 DC Kimba
 2020 Wudinna DC

The 2014 conference will be held on Monday 24th February 2014 at Tumby Bay.

BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2012/13

Under the terms of our Charter, the following Board appointments were current as at June 30th, 2013:

MEMBER COUNCIL	BOARD MEMBER	DEPUTY BOARD MEMBER
Ceduna	Allan Suter (Mayor)	Lynton Brown (D/Mayor)
Cleve	Roger Nield (Mayor)	Jodie Jones (D/Mayor)
Elliston	Pat Clark (Chairperson)	Kym Callaghan (Dep Chair)
Franklin Harbour	Eddie Elleway (Mayor)	Gavin Jackson (D/Mayor)
Kimba	John Schaefer (Mayor)	Dean Johnson (D/Mayor)
Lower Eyre Peninsula	Julie Low (Mayor)	Paul Pedler (D/Mayor)
Port Lincoln	Bruce Green (Mayor)	Neville Starke (D/Mayor)
Streaky Bay	Rob Stephens (Mayor)	Dean Whitford (D/Mayor)
Tumby Bay	Laurie Collins (Mayor)	Murray Mason (D/Mayor)
Whyalla	Jim Pollock (Mayor)	Merton Hodge (Cr)
Wudinna	Eleanor Scholz (Chair)	Neville Scholz(D/Chair)

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES, 2011/12

Our core activities always include reacting to legislation and policy changes that are likely to negatively affect our region. This year ongoing concerns and/ or participation have been with:

- State and federal Marine parks
- Recreation Fishing limits
- Natural Resources Management
- Regional Development Australia Funding
- Regional Recognition/ Lobbying
- Mining & Impacts
- Fire & Emergency Services Act Review
- MFS Workplace Safety Bill
- Job creation & co-ordination
- Development Act Reform
- Coastal Access
- Independent Commission Against Crime implantation
- Various roads and waste issues
- Regional Strategy for LGA
- Emergency Planning
- Time Zones
- Water Planning
- Regional planning

Projects carried out 2012/13

Regional Training Projects

Following the recommendations of the One System Consultancy, we successfully sought funding through DFEEST for the running of *Certificate IV in OHS* on Eyre Peninsula. Eight Councils have participated with the relevant officer attending day long sessions approximately every month. This project is nearing completion with 2 participants to finalise their assignments to allow the acquittal process to take place for grant funding.

Emergency Management Planning

After success at the Natural Disaster Mitigation Grant rounds, we were advised that our funds could be held over and we were invited to undertake the EMP project with Risk services. This project was completed. Funding is continuing to be held over until regional emergency planning is completed then individual Council Emergency Plans will be reviewed or renewed with the funding to align with the regional planning.

The regional zone emergency planning require the following

- EPLGA to engage with the ZEMC (Zone Emergency Management Committee) to avoid duplication of work

- The project used the ZONE Risk assessments as a basis for work performed to date & in the future
- a commitment to compliance for the zone plans with NERAG and ISO31000. The Project engaged and incorporated NERAG (National Emergency Risk Management Guideline) components
- CERMS (Council Emergency Management Plans) are to be NERAG Compliant.
- any contractors engaged in this project are to be NERAG qualified.

A series of bushfire risk assessment workshops were held during August and Sept 2013 to assist the Councils and other regional stakeholders in their emergency planning.

Regional Collaboration

The concept of a combined forum was first proposed by the EPLGA's then Executive Officer, Diana Laube in 2012. It was looked at holding the event centrally to both our regions in either Port Augusta or even on the ferry – halfway across Spencer Gulf – however timing and logistics meant that it ended up being more convenient to hold it in conjunction with the LGA conference, when most Councils would already be in one place at one time. The purpose of the forum was to hear from those within the political sphere about how the voices of rural communities can be heard and to give us some insight as to how to get our issues 'on the table' and seriously considered. Country areas often battle to have their voices heard and this is felt acutely in South Australia as we are faced with the reality of being a 'one city state'. Although the weight of population often works against us politically, there are some great examples of politicians and academic experts who are particular champions of rural and regional issues.

There were two main parts to the forum – firstly to hear the views of those in politics about the best way to get the issues of country communities on the table and considered – particularly as we headed into federal and state elections. The panel discussion was designed to provide a cross-section from a wide range of politics – state and federal, lower and upper houses, major and minor parties and independents. We were very pleased to have Professor Dean Jaensch to summarise the panel session and to challenge our thinking about how we can influence the political debate.

The second part of the forum - which was discussion by our local government delegates on the three strategic areas/ themes for country communities: strengthening regional investment, growing regional centres and reconnecting Government with regional communities.

We then introduced three expert table facilitators (the “Three Wise Men”) to help guide our discussions on the themes - Professor Dean Carson from Flinders University, Associate Professor Michael O'Neil from Adelaide University and Dr Paul Chapman from Carnegie Mellon University.

We were very pleased to have Lynne Breuer (State Labor Member for Giles); Dan Van holst Pellekaan (State Liberal Member for Stuart); Geoff Brock (Independent Member for Frome); Rob Brokenshire (Family First MLC) and Mark Parnell (SA Greens MLC) to assist us and give good counsel. As is always the risk with members of Parliament being called away for other duties - we did have apologies from

Member for Grey – Rowan Ramsey and Labor Duty Senator for Grey – Alex Gallagher. Member for Wakefield – Nick Champion was also a late apology due to other commitments.

A "Regions Matter Too" draft strategy was developed in June 2013 for discussion at a state regional level. This was the outcome of a regional forum held between the Central & EP LGA's.

Outreach Services Pilot Program

With the retirement of Ms Diana Laube the EPLGA and LGA of SA sought to employ a person with the capabilities of undertaking a pilot of how the LGA of SA could deliver "Outreach Services" to the EP Region. The position would be not only be 0.4 FTE for the LGA "Outreach Services" but also 0.6 FTE for the EPLGA "Business as Usual" services making the role a full time contract position for 2 years.

Tony Irvine commenced the expanded role of Executive Officer for the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association (EPLGA) and LGA Outreach Support Officer on the 18th March 2013. To assist him in meeting the needs of the eleven Member Councils, the EPLGA, the Eyre Region and the LGA of SA a pilot program in addition to "business as usual" for the next two years was established outlining defined areas of focus. The pilot program includes:

- Assisting with the preparation of LGA policy on regional development;
- Preparing a profile of the region with a focus on what it contributes to the economic growth of the State & nationally;
- Governance needs of each council;
- Legislative compliance in the assets management and long term financial planning;
- Skills assessment in the areas such as IT, planning, environmental health etc and develop a regional training plan;
- Short term employment requirements rather than full time employees;
- Shared services arrangements to assist in meeting the short/long term skills needs and other needs;
- Opportunities arising from the Local Excellence Program – trailing new ways of doing things. For example improving performance, systems & processes that sustain good performance, raising the image of Local Government, effective engagement across the region & State as a whole (i.e. political clout) with other spheres of government, seeking financial arrangements to support the programs required;
- Positioning Local Government & the region for the State 2014 elections by gathering evidence of the needs of the sector & possible solutions that could be an "ask" in an election environment;
- Identify any "centre of excellence" that may exist within the region;
- Developing CEO, Works Manager & any other forums to assist in the sharing of resources and information – save the same thing being undertaken 11 times;
- Managing local issues for the member councils – advocacy, lobbying, problem solving etc.

The LGA and the EPLGA centred the two year pilot on:

- Preserving the current important role of the Executive Officer of the EPLGA;
- Enhancing the connections between the work of the EPLGA and that of the LGA where it is mutually beneficial to do so;
- Enhancing the services of the LGA to be an "outreach" service but targeted to needs identified

by the EPLGA/ Region;

- Appointment of a resource that is made jointly between the LGA & EPLGA to deliver on the ground services to Councils;
- Agreeing on a program of works/activity and the funding model required;
- Address other issues deemed important to the success of the pilot.

EPLGA CEO's Committee

On 28th June 2013, the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association (EPLGA) established a Chief Executive Officer Committee to 'meet from time to time to consider issues of relevance to Eyre Peninsula Councils, and to provide advice to the EPLGA Board on those issues'.

The Committee's role is:-

1. To provide high level strategic advice to the EPLGA about its identified priority issues.
2. To arrange and coordinate reports to the EPLGA on those priority issues.
3. To initiate reports and advice to the EPLGA on other matters identified by the Committee to be of strategic regional significance.
4. To assist and advise the EPLGA about the development and implementation of its Management Plan and other plans.
5. To share operational information and expertise amongst the committee members and other agency Chief Executive Officers of similar.

The membership of the Committee comprises the Chief Executive Officers of all Councils which are members of the EPLGA.

Other working groups may be established from time to time to undertake specific tasks on behalf of the EPLGA Board or CEO's Committee.

Regional Roads Priorities - review ranking & prioritisation criteria

At the June 2013 EPLGA Board Meeting a resolution was passed to undertake a review of the criteria used to prioritise regional roads to be submitted for funding from the Special Local Roads Funding Program.

A discussion paper was released to seek support for the methodology to be used in the review. Stakeholders were in agreement with the discussion paper and from this the project was scoped for the consultants to carry out the work required. A desired outcome is a roads database for the entire region.

Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan

The Executive Officer and President sit at the Eyre Peninsula Integrated Climate Change Adaptation (EPICCA) Committee table.

Under the State Climate Change Adaptation Framework, areas across the State, including the Eyre Peninsula, are required to develop a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan. EPICCA facilitated the development of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Eyre Peninsula.

EPICCA's goal was to develop and implement practical, regionally-appropriate and sensitive measures to

address the likely impacts of climate change.

EPICCA commissioned Stage 1 of this work - a knowledge audit to establish the information base for further adaptation planning.

The approach to developing the Regional Adaptation Plan was to:

- a) engage with representatives of key sectors on the Eyre Peninsula to identify current and future decisions that could be impacted by climate change;
- b) to identify and prioritise adaptation options for the region.

Three workshops were run as part of this project.

Regional Skills Initiative

The Executive Officer was appointed to a position on the Agrifoods Advisory Committee which was established to develop and implement workforce development strategies and industry nationally endorsed qualifications to meet the current and emerging needs of enterprises, employees and students throughout regional and urban Australia.

The Committee worked with a vast array of stakeholders at all levels:

- on the ground with enterprises, regional communities and research organisations to drive adoption of new and better workforce planning and skills development;
- with schools, Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) and the tertiary sector more broadly to drive high quality delivery and assessment of skills;
- with industry peaks and key bodies to build their voice as advocates and change agents of the national skills and workforce development agenda;
- with the three tiers of government to drive evidentiary-based policy formation which supports the needs of agrifood sectors and the challenges facing regional Australia's workforce.

The District Council of Cleve held a round table to address their sub-regional needs and the three Lower Eyre Peninsula Councils were involved in workforce planning through the Agrifoods initiative.

Regional Water Re-use Plan & Funding

In June 2013 a funding submission was lodged to establish a Regional CWMS Users Group with a view to improving regional skills in this area plus having a forum for the sharing of information. The bid was successful and hence a users group has been established.

The Eyre Peninsula Council's jointly own and operate 13 community wastewater management schemes servicing 5775 property connections.

Eyre Peninsula Council's are acutely aware of the potential impact of the Water Industry Act and the increasing regulatory and reporting environment surrounding CWMS operations due to their classification as an essential service.

The following desired outcomes of a CWMS User's group were identified:

- Establishment of users group to facilitate knowledge sharing across Council's operating CWMS'
- Identification of regional capacity and skills gaps to provide for the efficient and compliant ongoing operation and maintenance of existing and new Community Wastewater Management Schemes
- Promote regional training to maintain skill sets required to ensure sustainability
- Development and implementation of standardised recording and reporting mechanisms
- Facilitated development of up-to-date, user friendly operation, maintenance, monitoring and contingency plans
- Schematic mapping of existing schemes to assist with understanding of catchment capacities and constraints
- Development and implementation of standardised accounting systems to assist in comparisons between schemes and Council's
- Identify opportunity for shared resources, including platforms for remote access
- Identification of potential shared procurement opportunities in areas such as spare parts inventories, septic tank desludging and drain flushing.

It was proposed that the initial development of an EPLGA CWMS User Group be facilitated by an external third party, a model which proved successful in the South East Council's User Group.

The member Council's of a CWMS User Group commit both management and operational resources to this project and it is intended that this initial commitment will continue through to the ongoing operations of the User Group as a recognised working group of the EPLGA.

Development of a Regional Training & Development Plan to assist training programming & relativity.

An increase in Council participation has been witnessed through the Executive Officer of the EPLGA being a link and encouraging Councils to participate in LGA sponsored training programs such as CDAP Member training, Code of Conduct Training etc. This was also contributed to the Executive Officer giving advice to the LGA on where to hold such training and when so as to avoid clashes with regional seasonal events (e.g. harvest) and other events.

Management Plan - review.

At the June 2013 EPLGA Board meeting the EPLGA Board considered and adopted the draft EPLGA Management Plan 2013 -16.

To avoid some confusion between the Business Plan prepared by a Council, the EPLGA uses the term "Management Plan." This "Management Plan" was for the period - 2013 to 2016 but will be reviewed annually and has an updated annual work plan & budget included for the current year. It also includes the strategic directions the EPLGA wishes to take for the period 2013 - 16.

MANAGEMENT PLAN PERFORMANCE

1. ACTIVELY ASSIST MEMBERS BY REPRESENTING THEIR COMBINED INTERESTS.

- 1 Seek invitation to provide responses to legislative and policy changes that materially impact our region
- 1.2 Seek the mandated preparation of regional impact statements prior to any state legislated changes likely to affect our region

Comment: Include in 2013/14 Budget to prepare own regional statement & to have all regions to do the same with a view to having our own regional statement developed from the individual regions statements.

- 1.3 Prepare coordinated submissions to relevant inquiries and proposals on behalf of members.

Comment: The Fire & Emergency Services Act review response was an example of the region working together in preparing a single regional response.

- 1.4 Take an active interest in regional waste management, water planning, marine parks, mining, food security, climate change, local workforce planning and any activities that could impose changes to our region.

Comment: President &/or Executive Officer actively involved in regional committees and/ or meetings dealing with regional waste management, water planning, marine parks, mining, food security, climate change, local workforce planning and other activities that may impose change upon the region.

- 1.5 Continue to advocate for roads funding opportunities.

Comment: The development of a roads database for all EP roads and to be used as a tool for prioritising regional roads is well underway.

- 1.6 Develop a coordinated approach to the Commodity Freight Routes across the region, being mindful of divergent needs between Councils.

Comment: Comments in 1.5 will apply to this as freight roads will be weighted to assist in the prioritisation of regional roads seeking funding assistance.

2 BUILDING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE PROMOTION OF OUR SECTOR AND OUR REGION

- 2.1 Ensure we are represented at SAROC, State Executive Committee meetings and the General meetings of the LGA.

Comment: The President & Executive Officer attend these meetings when held.

- 2.2 Ensure regular information flows to our member Councils via Newsletters, website updates, media announcements and personal contacts.

Comment: Newsletters are continuing to be published and the website is maintained to assist. The media are used as and when needed and are sent the meeting agendas & minutes.

- 2.3 Seek reports from regional partners at EPLGA Board Meetings and forums

Comment: Regional partners have a standing agenda item at each Board meeting to present to the constituent Councils.

- 2.4 Actively seek direct engagement with state government partners in order to allow bottom up, and more streamlined, planning and engagement.

Comment: The EPGA has been a strong advocate for state government partners to visit the region on planning & engagement matters. e.g. ITLUS planning, Development Act reform, RESIC meeting etc.

- 2.5 Seek opportunities to partner with industry and community groups to promote the economic and social prosperity of Eyre Peninsula.

Comment: The partnering with Agrifoods to develop workforce planning & cross qualifications & training is a great example of this action being undertaken. The Executive Officer sits at the Agrifood Advisory Committee table. 6 Councils have participated in the Agrifoods initiative to date.

- 2.6 Work with member Councils to facilitate economic expansion by coordinating the approach to structure planning, ensuring consistency with the principles contained in the Eyre and Western Plan.

Comment: The Executive Officer has been involved in the Tumby Bay & Port Neill Structure Planning sessions and sits at their advisory group tables. He has also been involved in the Greater Port Lincoln Structure Plan consultation and spoken the District Council of Wudinna on the issue.

- 2.7 Work with state departments and regional partners to better coordinate Infrastructure Planning consistent with the principles in the Eyre and Western Plan.

Comment: The Executive Officer along with Council representatives have been involved in the Integrated Transport & Land Use planning undertaken by the state government. The plan is for the region to develop its own infrastructure plan to feed this into state government plans. The region is also involved in RDAWEP Infrastructure planning.

- 2.8 Investigate ways to encourage the state government to streamline its regional consultation processes to avoid multiple meetings that duplicate effort.

Comment: This has been an issue discussed at the SAROC level and continues to be pursued.

3 RAISE THE PROFILE OF THE ASSOCIATION BY GREATER MEDIA PRESENCE.

- 3.1 Issue a media release after each Board meeting and at any occasion where deemed appropriate.

Comment: Media used as and when appropriate. Agenda & minutes of the Board are distributed to regional media to seek interest.

- 3.2 Develop a media policy for the organization and designate how TV and radio interviews will be conducted.

Comment: Media Policy adopted at June 2013 EPLGA Board meeting.

- 3.3 Consider the nomination of media representatives to present a coordinated and endorsed approach to all media.

Comment: Still managing media in house.

4 ASSIST MEMBER COUNCILS BY COORDINATING REGIONAL INVESTIGATIONS OF OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 4.1 Actively participate in meetings that promote Continuous Improvement activities in Councils.

Comment: The Outreach Services Pilot Program is about the continuous improvement of activities in Councils. This is a 2 year program funded by the LGA of SA & is 0.4 FTE of the Executive Officer's time.

- 4.2 Continue to promote regional training opportunities to assist Councils to up skill workforce.

Comment: The Executive Officer has been assisting with this through better co-ordination of type of training required, when it could be held & the most suitable location for training. The Councils response has been excellent, highlighting the success of this effort.

- 4.3 Facilitate Shared services investigations and discussions at either the regional or sub regional level, where appropriate.

Comment: The Executive Officer has maintained his role in the Lower Eyre Peninsula Councils shared service project.

- 4.4 Liaise with the LGA program managers to assist in linking funding opportunities to Council activities.

Comment: Funding has been gained for the Outreach Services Pilot, the Lower EP Councils shared services, the EP CWMS Users Group as an example of this working.

- 4.5 Review our Charter.

Comment: A reviewed charter was presented to the Sept 2013 EPLGA Board meeting.

- 4.6 Coordinate a regional or sub regional approach to road upgrades required for resource sector expansion.

Comment: A Mining Roundtable was held in the Oct 2014 to assist with this type of planning. A report from the SA Centre for Economic Studies was part funded by the EPLGA & LGA to assist with these issues.

- 4.7 Review the methodology of preparing the Eyre Peninsula Road Strategy.

Comment: The Roads Strategy was re-worked in 2013 and since this a database was developed to include all EP roads with a methodology prioritisation tool inbuilt to give better road prioritisation.

- 4.8 Prepare regional submissions to fund combined approaches to governance activities required of Councils, where agreed by Members.

Comment: No action as yet.

5 DEVELOP WAYS TO DIRECTLY ENGAGE WITH BOTH STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS TO ASSIST IN REGIONAL PROMOTION

- 5.1 Include funding in the Annual Business Plan to allow deputation to both State and Federal parliaments on key issues that arise.

Comment: Funding included in the 2013/14 budget for such.

- 5.2 Liaise with other regional LGA and RDAs where combined lobbying best represents our interests.

Comment: The Executive Officer meets bi-monthly with other regional LGA's Executive Officers to manage such issues as joint collaboration & lobbying. The Executive Officer is located in the RDAWEP Port Lincoln Offices and has a good connection to RDAWEP lobbying efforts.

- 5.3 Seek opportunities to strengthen working relationships with the senior levels of state

government.

Comment: The Executive Officer has good political connections and uses these when needed.

6 UNDERTAKE A TWO YEAR "OUTREACH SERVICES" PILOT PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LGA OF SA .

6.1 Establish a funding agreement for \$70k per year with the LGA of SA.

Comment: Established.

6.2 Establish a work plan for the pilot program in consultation with member councils and the LGA of SA.

Comment: Established & reported against to EPLGA & LGA of SA.

6.3 Prepare a case study of the pilot program for future reference.

Comment: Being prepared as the program advances.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

While the measurement of performance is a key component of planning, the nature of the workload for the Executive Officer has typically made KPI setting and measuring difficult. Much of the day-to-day operational activity remains reactive and in response to legislated and policy changes that routinely emerge. However, the following measurement may be an indication of performance for each year.

KPI	MEASURED BY	TARGET SCORE
Member General Satisfaction	Number of formal complaints	Zero complaints from members Actual: Zero complaints received
Member attendance at meetings , workshops, training	Number of members who are represented	All members Actual: Usually all 11
Competitive funding secured	Dollars secured	Equal to membership (\$140K) Actual: Outreach Program \$70k Lower EP Shared Services \$14k EP CWMS Group \$31k Regional Capacity \$38k
Achieved annual work plan		All items either achieved or timeframes for completion, and process, in place. Some subject to external funding.

		Actual: On target
EPLGA is represented at LGA regions meetings	Number of meetings attended	100% Actual: 100%
Co-ordinate regional training activities on EP	Number of days training per year	At least 6 Actual; target reached
Annual review of Executive Officer	Final achievement score	Average Rating of 3/5 for personal evaluation undertaken by EPLGA Executive Actual: Review to occur in Feb 2014.
Greater media activity	Number of interviews and media releases	At least one interview per month. Media releases at least every 2 months. Actual: Meeting target

Use of Financial Resources.

The following audited statement indicate another year of solid financial performance.