



Notes of Legatus Management Group meeting

Friday 1 February 2019 10.00 am Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council Chambers

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present: Colin Byles (Chair Northern Areas), Andrew Johnson (LGA), Helen Macdonald (Clare and Gilbert Valleys), Wayne Hart (Mt Remarkable), Darryl Whicker (Flinders Ranges), John Coombe (Copper Coast), Martin McCarthy (Barossa), James Holyman (Port Pirie), Patrick Jones (Goyder), Angie-Marie Fuss (Adelaide Plains), Leanne Kunothe (Clare and Gilbert Valleys), Tom Jones (Adelaide Plains), Richard Dodson (Light), Steven Griffiths (Wakefield), Kelly Westell (Wakefield), Andrew Cole (Barunga West) Penny Sternal (Barunga West), Dylan Strong (Orroroo Carrieton) and Simon Millcock (Legatus Group).

1.2 Apologies:

Andrew Cameron, Brian Carr, Peter McGuinness, Colin Davies, Peter Ackland, David Stevenson and James Miller.

2. WELCOME

Colin Byles welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited people to introduce themselves with special welcome to new CEO Dylan Strong and Acting CEO's Steven Griffiths and John Coombe. Noted that 13 of the 15 councils were represented for the LG Risk Services workshop and that invite had been extended to operational staff along with CEOs for this workshop.

3. LOCAL GOVT RISK SERVICES WORKSHOP

Colin Byles welcomed Dr Andrew Johnson CEO LGASA Mutual Pty Ltd to the workshop.

Simon Millcock provided a background on the workshop which was to seek consensus on key topics associated with LG Risk Services and suggest ways to progress through a regional approach. A series of key points which had been raised following previous discussions and feedback and they were distributed with the agenda and provided to Andrew Johnson as starting points for the workshop.

Dr Helen McDonald and Martin McCarthy expanded on the issues raised and there was general consensus that the points raised were issues being experienced by all. Andrew Johnson was happy to take these in the form they were presented noting the honest reflection of concerns raised. Focus is the high levels of negativity under the current structure and the need for creating new opportunities to move forward.

Martin McCarthy outline the following 6 topics as starting points for discussion and solutions:

- a. Completely remove the so-called reward system and bonus system it doesn't work – charge us a premium and let us get on with it.
- b. Restructure Regional Risk Coordinators to actually deliver not be the overseer otherwise no benefit in the role.
- c. Rewrite the system into three tiers that match risk and capacity – whilst not wanting to be too rigid policy should be a few pages at most supported by high level processes.
- d. Remove current auditing and paper compliance with capacity building and support on the ground through real observation of activities no just what is written.

- e. Invest in smart technology for the sector that makes startups, risk assessment, reporting etc quick easy relevant and about safety.
- f. Help us move to behavioral safety environment not prescriptive.

Dr Andrew Johnston provided background to the scheme and the new board which is a wholly owned subsidiary LGASA Mutual Pty Ltd, established to oversee the LGA owned Schemes (Workers Compensation Scheme and Mutual Liability Scheme) and manage the contract with JLT for the delivery of the day to day operations of the Schemes.

He advised that all SA councils are currently members and that focus has been on governance and establishment of the board and finalising a performance-based contract with JLT. Recognised the need for increased communication with members and that he has met with some councils and the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association and sees great value in this workshop as it will assist with the development of their strategic plan. The board is seeking feedback to assist and the strength of having a united approach on key issues from the Legatus Group will be of value. General discussions were held with Andrew.

The meeting noted that there are some current sub-regional collaborations and opportunities for more of this to occur. The role of Regional Risk Coordinators was questioned including their work environment. The negative behavioural approach taken by the scheme impacts the ability to attract and retain local employees by councils and assist with career paths. Audits were a topical talking point including the needs around continuous improvement. The meeting recognised that some solutions are being progressed and that some councils are at different stages of their own journey.

Andrew outlined there will also be a series of conversations for councillors around the governance of the scheme and what councillors are covered for.

Andrew outlined that he would be taking back the concerns raised and they were not dissimilar to what has been heard so far. The meeting agreed it would set up a working group to fine tune the key recommendations based around the six points raised by Martin which will assist with improvement. Andrew offered to meet with the working group. Other items for the agenda for the working group is a complaints feedback process and the grants which are available under the scheme as they could assist with some additional resources for the region.

The following people expressed interest in being on the working group: Dr Helen Macdonald, Martin McCarthy, James Holyman, Darryl Whicker, Penny Sternal and Patrick Jones. Simon Millcock to arrange and coordinate the meeting.

Patrick Jones, Angie-Marie Fuss, Kelly Westell and Penny Sternal left the meeting.

4. REGIONAL HEALTH

The meeting heard from Courtney Thorpe (Coordinator Yorke & North Country SA PHN), Larissa Mackrill (Disability Workforce Coordinator) and Alan Zubrinich (Chair NDIS Disability Workforce Hub). Each provided a brief overview of their work and the role that local government can have in providing assistance. They are supportive of a regional health forum that focusses on local government.

The response by the Legatus Group to the Parliamentary Review SA Public Health was noted and Martin McCarthy outlined the response from the Barossa Council. Concerns were raised around the lower than projected outcomes for the NDIS in the region both from service to clients and loss of revenue for the region.

The Disability Action Inclusion Plan which all Local Governments will have until October 2020 to complete could be a collaborative approach across the Legatus Group and to be listed as agenda item for the next Management Group meeting.

5. LEGAL PRESENTATION

Steve Nolis from LGASA Commercial Solutions introduced Michael Durrant – Partner from HWL Ebsworth who have been secured by the LGA to provide expert legal advice to the local government sector.

Michael provided a presentation on HWL Ebsworth including their services, experience and pricing structure. A copy of his presentation is to be distributed to all Legatus Group CEOs.

Discussion held on the Media Training being undertaken by LGASA Commercial Solutions and the discounted rate for clusters of councils for undertaking the training. Simon Millcock to follow up and assist with coordination for any who wish to undertake clustering.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

The Legatus Group CEO provided a report on current projects and general discussion held.

The meeting noted that there was a current vacancy of 2 CEOs on the Legatus Group Road and Transport Infrastructure Advisory Group and Dr Helen Macdonald and Wayne Hart expressed their interest in filling these vacancies. Motion to be placed endorsing both at the next Legatus Group meeting.

Noted that there is a workshop on the 13 February for the next phase of the LGA Council Ready (emergency management) program and general discussions held on the concerns in the time it has taken for the regional positions to be generated given it has been over 2 years since application was submitted.

There will be 2 more rubble royalty payments due as the changes will not take place until 1 July 2019 but that those councils who do pay will not need to budget for this expense from July 2019.

Noted that 6 of the 15 councils have responded to the survey for the digital maturity project with some concerns expressed around the repetitive nature of the questions and the time taken to respond whilst recognising also the value of the results and the project.

General discussion on the roll out of the drought funding and that this matter is listed as an agenda item for the next Legatus Group meeting and councils may wish to raise any issues there.

7.2 LED Street Lights – remain on agenda

7.3 Illegal Dumping – remain on agenda

7.4 Regional Roadside Vegetation Management Plan – remain on agenda

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

8. CLOSE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting was closed at 2.25 pm and agreement that meetings remain in Clare with next meetings being:

- Friday 10 May
- Friday 16 August
- Friday 15 November