



**Legatus Group CWMS Advisory Committee**

**20 October 2021, 10am**

**Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84268845473?pwd=V0pHZitYSGJncUJZQWQxNU1ZdIVFUT09>

Meeting ID: 842 6884 5473

Passcode: 493199

**AGENDA**

**1. Welcome and apologies - Andrew MacDonald (Chair)**

Welcome to Glenn Sanford from Adelaide Plains Council who is a prospective new member of the Advisory Committee.

**2. Previous Minutes**

Draft Minutes from the previous meeting on 27 August 2021 can be found at:

<https://legatus.sa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/CWMS-draft-Minutes-27-August-21.pdf>

The minutes were noted at the Legatus Group meeting of 3 September 2021 which also resolved that the Legatus Group CEO write to the LGA CEO acknowledging the value and support which has been provided to the sector by Michelle Wittholz, the LGA CWMS Program Manager.

**3. Matters Arising**

**3.1 Feedback on CWMS survey**

The last meeting resolved to send the survey report to its Councils prior to forwarding it to the Legatus Group members and then to the LGA to include in their reform process.

The Legatus Group CEO has provided the results of the survey to Legatus Group members advising them of the 16 key points listed below with any feedback to Paul Chapman.

1. CWMS are the third largest asset of Councils, after roads and buildings
2. Many CWMS are old and approaching capacity
3. Only one Council is planning a new CWMS
4. All Councils support Legatus advancing sophisticated asset management with UniSA
5. CWMS staff had multiple roles and are rarely in senior positions
6. Operating expenses are relatively small and are highest when contractors are used extensively
7. CWMS are rarely discussed by Elected Members
8. Government assistance is welcome but LGA role criticised as limited
9. No strong support for an expanded Legatus role
10. Contractors typically provide only specialist services such as electrical work
11. No strong evidence was provided that use of contractors is cost effective
12. Significant support for a coordinated approach to contracts and a role for Legatus
13. Few Councils have dedicated, specialist CWMS staff
14. Most training is on-the-job
15. Broad support for Legatus initiative to provide online, on-demand training
16. Broad support for Legatus connecting Councils to universities

This item is for **discussion**. Feedback will be included into the Legatus Group Business Plans and in advice to the Board.

### **3.2 Cross-jurisdictional comparisons**

The last meeting resolved to progress a study of CWMS governance arrangements in different Australian jurisdictions in collaboration with the LGA. It was intended that a letter be sent to the LGA but that has been delayed and this matter will be raised directly with the LGA CWMS Management Committee.

This item is for **noting**.

### **3.3 Auditor-General's report and LGA reform agenda**

The Advisory Committee undertook to hear back from the Legatus Group as to whether it sought to progress investigating the report and the Committee would then reconsider the matter. Sam Johnson, CEO District Council of Mount Remarkable, and Stephen Rufus, CEO District Council of Peterborough, spoke to the issue at the Legatus Group

meeting of 3 September 2021. Mayor Peter Matthey advised that he had recently been appointed by the LGA to Chair the LGA CWMS Committee and that he is getting up to speed on the matter.

The Legatus Group approved that its CEO and Project Manager be invited to attend a LGA CWMS Committee meeting to discuss areas of operational support. A letter was sent to Michelle Wittholz at the LGA and an invitation received for Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

This item is for **discussion**.

### **3.4 Drought Innovation Hub**

This item is carried over from the last meeting. Simon Millcock will report the outcomes of the recent meeting in Orroroo to the Advisory Committee.

This item is for **noting**.

## **4. Other Business**

### **4.1 Sub-regional CWMS workshops**

Two workshops will be hosted by Legatus and Michelle Wittholz from the LGA: on at Maitland on 27<sup>th</sup> October and 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

The purposes are:

- Provide an overview of CMWS from the recent Legatus survey
- Update on latest developments in regulation
- Hear from you on current challenges
- Adjust our work plans to accommodate you
- Consider the role of the LGA in managing CWMS.

The proposed agenda is:

- Survey results and their implications
- CWMS and the LGA
- CWMS Advisory Committee activities
- Regulation update

This item is for **discussion**.

#### **4.2 2022 CWMS Conference**

The Conference is planned for April 2022 at the Mount Gambier campus of UniSA.

This item is for **discussion**. Input is sought on the date, relevant topics, case studies and speakers.

#### **4.3 Monitoring ESOCSA's verify-trust and accountability approach**

This new approach to regulation being instituted by ESCOSA (previously considered under the title of Ethically Based Regulation) will begin after June 2022. In the interim, ESCOSA will work with Councils (and other small scale water service providers) to develop understanding of the approach and to make an assessment of which Councils can be 'trusted' and so allowed lesser reporting. All Councils must now join the Energy and Water Ombudsman SA scheme.

The approach will be fully applied after July 2022 and new reporting requirements will apply for the 2021-22 period, at which time Legatus' monitoring role can be further discussed.

This item is for **noting**.

#### **4.4 On-line, on-demand CWMS training course**

The Legatus Group received funding from the LGA R&D Grant to assist with the development of scripts for an on-line, on-demand, CWMS learning platform.

The content for nine training modules has been drafted. These are now required to be developed into scripts prior to production. A Request for Quote has been distributed for this work and responses might be available in time for review at the meeting.

This item is for **noting**.

#### **4.5 Research activities with UniSA**

Legatus is hosting a Workshop on 27<sup>th</sup> October to discuss with UniSA a range of possible research activities. Members of the Advisory Committee are invited to attend. Issues to be discussed include:

- The remote sensing project on CWMS pumps at two participating Councils
- Detecting Business Problems Workshop held at Pt Pirie
- Liveable Regions – Regional Urban Greening: moisture sensors to optimise irrigation choices
- Improved asset management in Councils
- Knowledge gaps between councils: problems have been solved somewhere but solutions are unknown to others.

Other issues being considered are:

- Regional Resilience Drought Planning
- Smarter Regions CRC

This item is for **feedback**.

#### **5. Close and date of next meeting**