



**Draft Agenda Legatus Group CWMS Advisory Committee
2 December 2022**

10.30

via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89803685520>

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Attachments: Nil

1. Welcome

Appointment of Chair

On the 16 September meeting Mayor Wayne Thomas was appointed as Chair of the Legatus Group Community Wastewater Management Scheme Advisory Committee (CWMSAC) for that meeting to await the outcome of the Local Government elections. Mayor Thomas was not returned and as such is no longer a board member of the Legatus Group.

Recommendation:

- a. That _____ is appointed to chair this meeting.
- b. That the committee recommends that the Legatus Group are invited to appoint a board member to the committee.

2. Attendance:

Members: TBC

Non-Members: Simon Millcock, Paul Chapman and Tracey Rains (Legatus Group)

3. Apologies

TBC

4. Conflict of Interest

5. Minutes of previous meeting

Draft Minutes from the previous meeting held on 16 September 2022 were distributed to all members and have yet to be presented to the Legatus Group (this will occur at their 16 December 2022 meeting) and can be found at <https://legatus.sa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/draftMinutes-CWMS-AC-Sept-22.pdf>

Recommendation: That the Legatus Group Community Wastewater Management Scheme Advisory Committee minutes of the 16 September 2022 be taken as read and confirmed.

6. Matters Arising from those minutes

6.1 State-wide workshops

Author: Paul Chapman

In conjunction with the LGA and on behalf of the Advisory Committee, Paul Chapman has hosted three CWMS Workshops in Regional Local Government areas: Limestone Coast in September and Southern, Adelaide Hills in early November and Eyre Peninsula in late November 2022. These activities are part of the Service Level Agreement between the Legatus Group and the LGA.

The Advisory Committee particularly asked for feedback on ESCOSA's new Verify-Trust Accreditation approach under which Councils are progressively reviewed to be classified as Category A, when ESCOSA has no reason 'to suspect the licensee is not engaging in a competent operation' or, as Category B in which case ESCOSA will 'apply tailored regulation, place on Commission website' (ESCOSA VTA Inquiry, Aug 2020). Discussions at the Workshops show that

many Councils are unaware of the development but some had been reviewed, some surprised at being Category B and some of them confirmed as Category A.

Other major themes to emerge from the Workshops include:

- Challenges are associated with the small scale of operations
- Difficulties are experienced in filling and maintaining CWMS staff positions due to the unusual skill set required
- There is a perceived lack of appreciation of CWMS and its challenges by many elected members
- A number of Councils declared their interest in divesting from CWMS
- CWMS are complicated and risky assets
- There are likely to be benefits from the LGA playing a role as a central point of support for CWMS Councils.

Recommendation: That the Committee notes the workshops and the emerging themes.

6.2 Annual CWMS Conference

Author: Paul Chapman

DRAFT

The last meeting determined that the 2023 Conference would be organised in cooperation with UniSA, held at the Mawson Lakes campus and that the State Government Minister with responsibility for CWMS would be invited to address the gathering.

The relevant Departments are:

- The [Office of Local Government](#) makes the arrangements for the State's subsidy payment of \$4.1 M annually to the LGA of SA;
- The [Department of Health & Wellbeing](#) sets the standards by which CWMS must operate and is the approving authority for new schemes; and
- The [Environment Protection Authority \(EPA\)](#) issues operating licences for CWMS (where schemes service a population greater than 1000 or are in a water protection zone where schemes service a population of more than 100).

The previous meeting also asked which South Australian Government Minister is responsible for CWMS. Advice from LGA is that the relevant Minister is Hon Geoff Brock Minister for Local Government. However, it is significant that the Minister's role is limited to overseeing the funding deed with the LGA which assists Councils to build new CWMS. There is no Minister with responsibility for owning and operating CWMS. Licence holders alone are responsible.

Through discussions with Professor Chris Chow at UniSA a draft program is being prepared which will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting. In the meantime, members of the Committee are asked to suggest two case studies for the morning program and two presentations from the wastewater industry.

Recommendation: That the Committee notes confirmation of the venue and requests the Legatus Group to invite the Minister for Local Government and provides suggestions for case studies and industry presentations for the Conference.

6.3 On-line, on-demand CWMS training course

Author Paul Chapman

The last meeting directed that feedback be collected and collated on progress with the course. However, the course is yet to be made available. It is understood the content is being reviewed, again, by the relevant State Government agencies

For noting.

6.4 UniSA and Yorke Peninsula CWMS expansion project

Author Paul Chapman

As discussed at the last meeting, this project involves adding a constructed floating wetland to an existing CWMS treatment plant to achieve a 25% increase in capacity. The first phase of the work, undertaken as a supervised post-graduate report, has used existing studies to make estimates of the size of the wetland needed and determine if the space available is adequate. These estimates are based on previous research into the efficacy of the selected native plants. The design also needs to keep the public away from the wastewater initially discharged from the plant.

The design concept is for a system of three concentric ponds with the initial discharge into the centre pond and plants to clean the wastewater in the remaining two. The analysis shows that there is sufficient space on the golf course adjacent to the plant at Ardrossan. A detailed design will be provided to the Council.

The next phase is to install a test bed of water plants within the CWMS treatment plant area. This is needed to test the assumptions made about the plants' abilities to clean the wastewater and is essential to address that risk to the project. In conjunction with Legatus, UniSA has prepared an application to the LGA CWMS Management Committee to partly fund the research in conjunction with the Legatus Group. This second phase would run into 2024 and lead to a final recommendation to the Yorke Peninsula Council.

The application submitted to the LGA R&D Grant Scheme was not successful with a recommendation that this be referred to the LGA CWMS Management Committee for their consideration.

The Legatus Group letter of support for the grant application was a financial contribution of \$4,000 and in-kind contributions of \$1,500.

Recommendation: That the Committee notes completion of the first phase and endorses the funding application from UniSA to the LGA CWMS Management Committee.

6.5 Using sludge in regional composting facilities

At the last meeting, the Committee undertook to maintain a view of this important regional project and at this stage no updates are available.

For noting.

7. Other Business

7.1 CWMS Awareness training for elected Council members

Author Paul Chapman

The Legatus Group CEO and Project Manager, other Regional LGAs and the LGA Secretariat have discussed this matter as a means to inform newly elected Council members of the scale, importance and risks associated with CWMS.

The proposed agenda would describe CWMS, their history and common technologies. The role of Legatus, the Advisory Committee and the LGA CWMS Management Committee would be presented along with an outline of regulation and typical challenges. The risks of owning and operating CWMS would be made plain.

Recommendation: That the Committee supports the preparation of an online presentation in conjunction with the LGA to increase awareness of CWMS among Council Elected Members.

7.2 Introducing the new LGA CWMS Manager

David Eggers has been appointed as the new LGA CWMS Manager and has been invited to join the meeting. He will update the Advisory Committee on the role of the LGA and the LGA CWMS Management Committee and on the status of the new draft funding agreement with the South Australia Government.

The Legatus Group CEO and Project Manager will meet with Andrew Wroniak and Andrew Lamb from the LGA Secretariat and David Eggers and Tom McKellar from the LGA's CWMS Management Committee on 13 December 2022. Among other things, the meeting will discuss the CWMS Discussion Paper previously provided through the Advisory Committee and the role of the LGA in assisting Councils with CWMS. Committee members are invited to suggest issues to raise at the meeting. A report of the meeting will be prepared for the Committee.

For discussion

7.3 Brainstorming the activities of the Legatus CWMS Advisory Committee

Note: It was agreed to keep this item at foot for all future meetings.

At the last meeting the following ideas were raised

- a. Adding solar panels to CWMS plants.

Paul has collected information on this issue, based on previous student research papers from the UniSA:

- The solar system would work best if pumping and other high energy activities at the plant were scheduled for times when the solar system is charging
- Batteries will improve the performance
- Neither will substitute entirely for a grid connection which will be needed to provide backup.

These considerations suggest that the initiative might not be cost reducing, at least not in the near term. It is likely the project would need some external funding to subsidise the capital cost if it were to be cost saving. An alternative might be to consider bio-gas production as a renewable energy supply to CWMS plants, generated from its operation.

For discussion

8. Close and next meeting.