

November/ December Newsletter 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- PIRSA Roundtable to address drought conditions 19th December 2024
- NYLGA Audit and Risk Committee 4th February 2025
- NYGLA Executive Committee 14th February 2025
- NYLGA Board Meeting 21st February hosted by Adelaide Plains Council
- Community Wastewater Innovation Fund Project workshop TBA

At the November Board Meeting the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer for the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association, Bridget Ransome was welcomed to the meeting.

Other highlights from this meeting included:

- Barunga West Council continuing as a member
- Road and Transport Plan and Special Local Roads Program SLRP funding
- Advocacy for both State and Federal governments in supporting drought affected regions
- Chairperson's report for November 2024.

SAROC DROUGHT RESPONSE

At the recent SAROC meeting in Adelaide on Wednesday, 4th December, Mayor Rodney Reid reported on the drought situation being experienced across regional South Australia and the flow-on impacts this is having upon regional communities.

The Secretariat within the Local Government Association agreed to take this issue further on behalf of regional councils and will seek to arrange further consultation with Mayors and CEOs from across the region.

PIRSA DROUGHT RESPONSE

The CEO of Northern and Yorke Local Government Association and a number of councils have been invited to a workshop entitled *Barossa Gawler Light Adelaide Plains Dry Seasonal Conditions Round Table* on Thursday, 19th December.

The purpose of this event is to recognise the impact the dry conditions are having on the region with a view to bringing together key stakeholders to discuss the challenges and issues being experienced in the region.

ADVOCACY

The Northern and Yorke LGA CEO, along with Mayor Rodney Reid are organising to meet with all local MPs across December and January to continue discussions of importance to the region.

The CEO is also organising catch-up meetings with each member council – Mayor and CEO within the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association to ascertain and summarise key local areas of focus and any issues and concerns. Please make contact if you have yet to organise a meeting.

COMMUNITY WASTEWATER INNOVATION FUND 2024

The CEO attended a meeting with representatives of University of South Australia to discuss a project entitled *Climate Resilience Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS) Through Data Driven Awareness and Connectivity for Regional SA Communities*

Regional SA Councils need to ensure their community wastewater infrastructure/asset management is carried out efficiently and effectively to deliver required service levels. A large volume of data is being collected for CWMS asset planning and operations. However, part of this data may not be fully utilised.

This project aims to provide mechanisms to create linkages between disparate high-value data for advanced analytics including focusing on climate resilience, risk management and preventative CWMS asset maintenance. Case studies will be selected to build a demonstration portal for visualisation of information with advanced analytics across assets and climate change to improve the asset planning and maintenance program.

This project will deliver an advanced analytics proof-of-concept demonstration portal to support prediction model building for climate resilience. More importantly, as an innovation, this demonstration portal will also include unstructured data (e.g. incident reports) for improved decision support.

During an initial first workshop, the project team is seeking advice from CWMS-related stakeholders to identify high-value CWMS data and sources and to understand advanced analytics requirements (prediction models) in relation to the CWMS asset management priorities. It is also hoped that the workshop will facilitate discussion among all participating LGA members on CWMS challenges and 'best-practice solutions' i.e. how does the solution enable LGAs to be responsible data stewards?

This workshop is proposed to be scheduled early in the new year. If you would like to receive information as it becomes available please email the CEO at ceo@nylga.com.au to register your interest.

REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATE

The CEO met with HDS Australia Pty Ltd on 4th December 2024 to receive a briefing on the review of the Regional Transport Plan.

The HDS project was approved to proceed by the Executive Committee of the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association at their meeting on 1st October 2024.

It has been 7 years since the then Legatus Group commissioned HDS to undertake the original *2030 Regional Transport Plan*. The proposal will include a 2040 review and update; and the fee for the project will be spread over 2 financial years within the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association budget.

PSYCHOLOGICAL PREPAREDNESS AND WELLBEING PROGRAM FOR REGIONS

A new psychological preparedness and wellbeing program opportunity for regional communities is under development. The program aligns well with the priorities identified in the *Regional Drought Resilience Plan*.

The Equip program aims to support ongoing community resilience, wellbeing, and psychological preparedness for natural hazards and extreme weather events. Currently, most services and support are in the context of recovery, and so are limited to being provided post-extreme weather event only. This leaves a significant gap in community need for building preparedness and supporting community resilience in a sustainable way over the longer term.

The equip program aims to address this need, was developed specifically for rural Australians, and is community led and based, ensuring that the program is tailored to local needs, and the skills and knowledge developed remain with the community long after the project finishes. The current stage of the project will involve communities across NSW, SA, and WA, after the program was successfully trialled in NSW in 2023.

This program is fully funded and includes funds to employ community members to support the connections across the community. A local advisory group will be developed (who will receive an honorarium), and they will meet a number of times throughout the project duration to provide guidance for the program and ensure that it continues to meet local needs. A series of community events will also be held as an opportunity for community members to learn about the program and support community engagement.

If you are interested in your community being involved, or if you have any questions or would like to hear more about this initiative, please contact the CEO of the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Please be advised that there is a vacancy within the Audit and Risk Committee at present. The requirement for this vacancy is that a nomination must be an officer from within a council.

The Chair of the Road Transport and Infrastructure Advisory Committee is also vacant, and we are seeking a nomination to this role within this committee.

Expressions of interest are also being sourced for the Waste Management Advisory Committee.

Please direct all enquiries to the CEO Northern and Yorke Local Government Association in the first instance.

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