



NORTHERN AND YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes

Ordinary Board Meeting 21st February 2025

Adelaide Plains Council

Council Chamber, 1 Redbanks Road, Mallala

OPENING OF MEETING

The President Mayor Rodney Reid opened the meeting at 10.03 am and welcomed all attendees.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY & WELCOME

Mayor Wasley also welcomed everyone to the meeting on behalf of the Adelaide Plains Council and provided an Acknowledgement of Country paying his respects to the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains; the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands we gathered on. He acknowledged their cultural beliefs and their past, present and on-going connection to the land.

I ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Present:

Mayors: Rodney Reid, Mark Wasley, Bill Gebhardt, Leonie Kerley, Sue Scarman, Ken Anderson, Allan Aughey, Bill O'Brien, Roslyn Talbot, Ken Anderson, Grant Chapman, Darren Braund, Leon Stephens (online), Stephen McCarthy (online).

CEOs: Paul Simpson, Richard Dodson, Darren Starr, Henry Inat, Dylan Strong, Sean Holden, David Stevenson.

Others: Bridget Ransome (N&YLG), Angela Ruddenklau (PIRSA), Hon Tony Piccolo MP, Issaac Solomon, Michael French, Dr Amanda Taylor (online), Professor Deborah Turnbull (online), Anthony Fox.

Welcome

Mayor Wasley gave a presentation outlining the challenges that the Adelaide Plains Council has faced in relation to the dispute over appointment of elected members via the electoral commission, advising that the cost to Council has been \$90,000 in legal fees to date.

Mayor Wasley also reported on the growth being experienced in the Adelaide Plains region, which has created issues around lack of infrastructure to meet the demands of the growth and the provision of potable water which is hindering progress.

The presentation also included details of the Two Wells main street development incorporating the establishment of a major supermarket and other services; the doubling of the Gracewood housing development; Eden and Liberty housing developments; and the expansion of the local Xavier College which now sees over 1,000 pupils enrolled.

With the anticipated growth and more expansion expected, it is also anticipated that the town of Mallala will be a very different township in the coming years.

1.1 Apologies

Mayor Bim Lange, Mayor Ruth Whittle, Desley Culpin, Peter Ward, Martin Borgas, Martin McCarthy, Andrew Cameron, Peter Ackland, James Miller.

1.2 Leave of Absence Nil

1.3 Conflict of Interest Nil

1.4 Previous meeting minutes Northern and Yorke LGA

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on 9th December 2024 had been distributed.

Motion: That the minutes of the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association Special Meeting held on 9th December 2024 and Circular Motion held on 20 December 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Moved: Mayor Aughey Seconded: Mayor Scarman CARRIED

1.6 N&YLGA Action List

N&YLGA Meeting – 7 June 2024

Item	Topic	Action	Status	Comment
4.2	Advocacy Plan / consultation with member councils	The CEO is currently visiting councils to gain a better understanding of their needs in relation to advocacy.	On-going	
	Roads / Transport Plan	HDS has been appointed as consultants and conducted their first workshop on 30 th January 2025	On-going	Refer agenda item 4.5
4.7	Forums	Waste	On-going	Date set for CWMS workshop 18 th February 2025

1.7 Report Title: Deferred / Adjourned Items Nil

2 PRESENTATIONS

2.1 2025 Small Town Re-Invention Conference

Hon Tony Piccolo MP presented on the 2025 Small Town Re-Invention Conference being held at Kapunda in September this year. Delivered by the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. with a focus on sustainability through economic development. The conference will involve showcasing small communities (townships of 5,000 people or less). It was noted that the Northern & Yorke region has a number of small communities, some doing well, some struggling.

The conference will showcase townships and will include a range of speakers, and a range of examples of town re-invention. The focus of the event is to develop and grow a community of leadership to energise local townships. The event is scheduled from 22nd-27th September this year and will be based out of the Kapunda Football Club.

The content will include masterclasses; tours; and councils will be invited from across the mid-North to become involved and to showcase their communities e.g. Light Regional Council arts and tourism. Hon Tony Piccolo invited councils to consider participating in this event and confirmed that the State Government has agreed to become a sponsor.

As well as the conference there is a proposal to create a Community Leaders Program in a lead up to the conference to create local empowerment and build capacity in regional communities.

Attendance is encouraged by mayors, council staff and any members of the community, and regional stakeholders. The organisers seek to provide a manageable registration fee to encourage local attendance.

2.2 Equip Psychological Well-being Project

Dr Amanda Taylor and Professor Deborah Turnbull presented on the Equip program, 'Helping Rural Communities Prepare for Natural Disasters.'

The Equip project is a community-based program designed to improve mental health and psychological well-being in regions impacted by weather events.

The Equip project was originally conducted in New South Wales as a pilot program. The content and delivery goes well beyond disaster recovery as it is about proactive mental health awareness to support regional communities so they can prepare, withstand and adapt to major impacts.

It was noted that in the development of many disaster recovery projects, the psychological piece is often ignored. The Equip program is flexible and community led. The project will train local facilitators and is funded for 5 years. The intention is to employ a local community member to be able to connect locally to meet the needs of each community. Workshops can be run locally to the community members.

The program is structured so that skills learned are embedded over the longer term. With a key focus on physical preparedness and knowing how to respond both for acute and sub-acute events. In this way it makes it more relevant and accessible.

Equip is a research project, so there will be some surveys and communications throughout the project, with funding available for New South Wales, Western Australia and South Australia; there is capacity for 3 locations in South Australia.

The project includes built in incentives for local people to be compensated for their time. A local advisory group will be established for each site, to ensure things are flowing and a local person will be employed to run the project.

Overall, the intended outcome of the project is to increase resilience and increase preparedness as a result of natural disasters. The long-term goal is to also develop on-going local partnerships, ensuring that there is continuation of activities that meet community needs.

2.3 Childcare Model Yorke Peninsula

Michael French presented a model of childcare centres based on his experience as a Registered Training Organisation, with a focus on Early Learning Training which led him to connect with the Yorke Peninsula Council.

The emphasis of the model in Yorke Peninsula was to create a strong partnership approach in establishing, opening and operating new childcare centres. The model also has an emphasis on local workforce creation needs being a key feature of success.

It was noted that it is imperative from the start for regional spaces to access the local community to be trained up to work in local childcare centres.

The key drivers of success, despite the high cost of infrastructure was the need to have shared risk between local government and a private operator. As a training provider that supports workforce creation, it was essential from the start to conduct staff training in a local face-to-face scenario, to ensure practical based training within the community.

Over an 18-month period In Minlaton, 121 childcare places created, 68 staff employed, 200 families have accessed the service which has included \$1.8m of wages flowing through to the local economy.

Michael French added that a shared services model through Early Learning Centre, allowed community services to be brought back into the community, e.g. delivering diabetes information, GP attendance and appointments etc. there are a variety of ways to use these facilities for optimum local community benefit.

He noted that one size does not fit all but the model can be replicated, e.g. the hub and spoke model of service delivery where an approved provider can run the service from a central office which can provide all administration aspects as a type of 'back office,' so local centres can focus on local delivery.

This concept also considers when a key staff member leaves, centralised support can ensure continuity of childcare service delivery.

The hub and spoke model can be done in a regional area and with proper planning the service can open when it needs to open. It was noted that the break-even requirement to run childcare should not go below 20 children per day with the largest costs being wages followed by rent.

Meeting adjourned 11.02 am

Moved: Mayor Reid Seconded: Mayor Gebhardt CARRIED

Meeting re-commenced at 12.09 pm

Moved: Mayor Reid Seconded: Mayor Gebhardt CARRIED

3 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

3.1 Audit & Risk Management Committee

Motion: That the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association receives and notes the Draft Audit and Risk Management Committee Minutes.

Moved: Mayor Kerley Seconded: Mayor Scarman CARRIED

3.2 Executive Committee

Motion: That the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association receives and notes the Draft Executive Committee Minutes.

Moved: Mayor Anderson Seconded: Mayor Talbot CARRIED

3.3 Review of Road Transport Plan

Motion: That the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association receives and notes the update of the Review of the Road Transport Plan.

Moved: Mayor Wasley Seconded: Mayor Kerley CARRIED

4 REPORTS FOR DECISION

4.1 N&YLGA Finance Report Budget Review 3 / 2024-25

Motion: That the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association receives and approves the N&YLGA Finance Report, Budget Review and recommendations.

Moved: Mayor Anderson Seconded: Mayor Chapman CARRIED

4.2 2025 Small Town Re-Invention Conference

Motion: That the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association approves the sponsorship of the 2025 Small Town Re-Invention Conference to an agreed amount of \$2,000. N&YLGA CEO Bridget Ransome to provide in-kind support to the Conference.

Moved: Mayor O'Brien Seconded: Mayor Reid CARRIED

4.3 2025 ALGA Conference

Motion: That the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association approves the CEO of N&YLGA Bridget Ransome to attend the 2025 ALGA Conference and report back to all councils relevant information from the conference.

Moved: Mayor Talbot Seconded: Mayor O'Brien CARRIED

4.4 Economic Development Australia Membership

Motion: That the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association approves membership in Economic Development Australia for N&YLGA CEO Bridget Ransome.

Moved: Mayor Talbot Seconded: Mayor Scarman CARRIED

5 MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

5.1 Motion of which notice has been given

Motion: That in recognition of the fact that Adelaide Plains Council (APC) will be out of pocket on a court matter affecting the sector more broadly, namely the Court of Disputed Returns determination into the 2022 periodic elections error, that the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association lobby SAROC to ensure APC is duly compensated for the balance of the outlay not reimbursed through the costs order issued by the court.

Mayor Talbot asked if Mayor Wasley was disputing the court's decision or wanting reimbursement of funds. Mayor Wasley explained that we need to lobby the LGA to support the council with finance, that this should not be coming from individual councils.

Mayor Aughey commented that the Electoral Commission provides professional services, and we expect consultation from them. Mayor Wasley added that the commission does not just conduct local government elections, they are responsible for other types of elections e.g. State elections.

It was recommended that a letter of encouragement be sent to SAROC to pursue something with the LGA, to recover some of the cost.

Moved: Mayor Wasley Seconded: Mayor Stephens CARRIED

5.2 Motions without notice

Nil

5.3 Questions with notice

Nil

5.4 Questions without notice

Nil

6 MEMBERS' COMMUNICATION

6.1 Chairperson's Report

Motion: That the Chairperson's report for February 2025 be received and noted.

Moved: Mayor Scarman Seconded: Mayor Aughey CARRIED

6.2 Members' Update

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS Nil

8 CLOSE – NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 12.43 pm.

Next Meeting: Friday 6th June 2025 at 10.30am to be hosted by Orroroo Carrieton Council (venue to be advised).