



11 March 2020

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Adelaide Plains Council
Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council
Copper Coast Council
District Council of Barunga West
District Council of Mount Remarkable
District Council of Orroroo Carrieton
District Council of Peterborough
Light Regional Council
Northern Areas Council
Port Pirie Regional Council
Regional Council of Goyder
The Barossa Council
The Flinders Ranges Council
Wakefield Regional Council
Yorke Peninsula Council

Professor Julie Mills
Pro Vice Professor
University of South Australia
Mawson Lakes SA 5095

Dear Julie

Re: Strategic Research Action Plan UniSA and Legatus Group

Following the 2019 University of South Australia (UniSA) and Legatus Group PhD Intern Project on Regional Sludge Viability and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between The Legatus Group and UniSA in late September 2019 we have continued to discuss the possible cooperative activities.

This has included dialogue between our organisations including a joint meeting held on 6 February 2020 plus attendance by UniSA reps to Legatus Group Advisory Committees and my attendance at the UniSA Transparency Project Seminar.

During this time the Legatus Group have been able to confirm that they are taking the lead on behalf of the SA Regional Organisation of Councils via the Local Government Association of SA on the management of a SA Regional Waste Management Strategy and a Joint Community Wastewater Management Services (CWMS) Arrangement.

We also thank you for confirming that Associate Professor Nicholas Chileshe will be a member of the Reference Group for the SA Regional Waste Management Strategy.

The Legatus Group are looking to develop their own Regional Waste Management Action Plan and in partnership with SA Water a Smart Irrigation Scheduling and Temperature Sensor System Project.

I am currently preparing the Legatus Group 2020/2021 business plan and in keeping with our MoU I would like us to now consider the next steps which is to develop the Strategic Research Action Plan (SRAP) based on our key priorities and the dialogue over the past few months.

I am suggesting that the SRAP covers a period of two years commencing July 2020 and that it is developed subject to our budget confirmations and that a review is to be held each March to allow for consideration of business planning. Areas of collaboration to include:

- Regional Waste Management
- Collaborative research project on implementing the Circular Economy in regional SA
- Regional Sustainability Hub

- Monitoring, sensors, data gathering and development of artificial intelligence for council managed land / assets
- CWMS including
 - Asset management
 - Data gathering regional sludge
 - CAPEX and OPEX – related to CWMS
 - Training – compliance re waste operations
- Develop extended partnership with Legatus Group Regional Partners including Regional Development Australia organisations, Regional Local Government Associations and Landscape Boards.

Projects for specific consideration in 2020/2021:

1. Legatus Group CWMS Asset Monitoring / Sensor (focus research on pumps)
2. Mid North Sustainability Hub (assistance with concept plans re inclusion of waste management trial sites)
3. Legatus Group Regional Sludge (focus research on discerning the characteristics of CWMS sludge)
4. SA Regional Waste Management Strategy (member of the reference team and specific partnership on the cost model for regional waste management)
5. Legatus Group Regional Waste Action Plan (member of reference group and specific partnership on (1) Food waste monitoring Clare Valley Restaurants and (2) Data gathering from Legatus Group region on can and bottle collections.
6. SA CWMS Conference (via presentations)
7. Regional Drought Futures Fund Project/s (member of reference group)

The Legatus Group would welcome input from UniSA on specific projects of interest to the University and confirms its membership of the UniSA Collaborative research project on implementing the Circular Economy in regional SA being driven by Dr Robert Crocker, Deputy Director, China Australia Centre for Sustainable Development UniSA.

The Legatus Group will seek to commit in its 2020/2021 budget an amount of \$50,000 cash plus in-kind that would include an allocation of funds to cover 2 x 4 or 5 month PhD Interns through the Australian Postgraduate Research (APR) Intern program for UniSA students to deliver on research for agreed specific projects. The APR Intern project consists of a contribution of \$52,000 (with a 50% rebate to Legatus Group) and this include \$11,000 to academic mentor fees to the University.

This would leave an allocation of \$24,000 cash plus in-kind which could be used to develop research funding applications to the ARC and other programs such as the Local Government Association R&D program and Green Industries SA based on the agreed projects in the SRAP.

Welcome your thoughts on the process that would work best for the University to progress with the SRAP which I am sure will include more detail specific to the topics and actions plus relevant timings that will suit both partners.

Yours sincerely



Simon Millcock
CEO