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**Legatus Group CWMS Advisory Committee**

Wednesday 12th August 2020

10.00 – 11.30 am

Via zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84425379045?pwd=aU9saWoxTmMwbGY3N0FhVFI4bnRWZz09>

Meeting ID: 844 2537 9045

Passcode: 353932

**AGENDA**

1. **Welcome and apologies**

Apologies received from Hayden Battle.

1. **Previous Minutes**

Draft Minutes from the meeting of the Legatus Group CWMS Advisory Committee (the Advisory Committee) on 26th May 2020 can be found at:

<https://legatus.sa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/draft-Minutes-26-May.pdf>

*Andrew MacDonald, Chair of the Committee, provided a report for the Legatus Group meeting on 5 June 2020 which included the minutes of meetings held on 6 March 2020 and 26 May 2020. At the meeting of 5 June 2020 Mayor Lange (Barossa Council) discussed a recommendation regarding the Asset Management by Remote Sensing (see item 3.4 below) currently being progressed and noted that these systems maybe already be in place. The meeting noted the report.*

1. **Matters Arising**
   1. **Proposal for PhD Internship looking at capital expenditure**

Discussions at UniSA have developed the attached proposal for a PhD scholar to undertake research and report on the design criteria which affect capital expenditure in regional CWMS. The work would be undertaken during 2020 and a presentation will be made to the CWMS conference.

This item is for noting.

* 1. **Cross-Council collaboration and alternative business models for CWMS in regional South Australia**

As a result of discussions of these matters at the last meeting, the Project Officer was involved in a meeting of the regional LGA Executive Officers, including the Chair of SAROC Mayor Erika Vickery. The exchanges at that meeting focussed on issues which would become part of the development of the Discussion Paper, referred to in item 4 below.

These issues are for discussion under item 4.

* 1. **Proposed CWMS training course**

The Working Group formed at the last meeting has not yet met. That Working Group is aiming to develop the content for core parts of the course dealing with operation. The Project Officer has drafted those parts and Michelle Wittholz (CWMS Manager at the LGA) is reviewing them. The content will then be reality- and relevance-tested by members of the Working Group.

In addition, a funding request (attached) has been made to the LGA R&D Fund for resources to progress the content, once drafted, to the stage where it can be handed to a digital production company. The funding decision is due in September.



This item is for noting.

* 1. **Asset management by remote sensing proposal**

Progress on this issue has been confined to providing information to the Legatus Board at its meeting of 14 August (attached). The upshot is that this proposal is unlike the typical SCADA alarms and monitors. Condition monitoring and the machine learning involved is new to South Australian Councils and is currently used nowhere in CWMS.

In addition, the preliminary work to develop estimates of the cost of pump maintenance at the Copper Coast Council has also been undertaken and a draft of the briefing to the Council is attached. It shows that pump maintenance is a significant expense and success with this proposal can deliver important savings to Councils.

Part funding for this project by the Legatus Group is being considered by the Legatus Group Special meeting on 14 August 2020.

This item is for noting.

* 1. **Discussions with LGA Mutual**

The Advisory Committee is seeking to address the many issues arising from the CWMS Communications Sessions currently underway. At its last meeting, the Advisory Committee sought to work with LGA Mutual “to better assess if Councils are appropriately accounting for and valuing the risks associated with CWMS”.

Subsequent discussions with LGA Mutual indicate they cannot assist with this matter: they hold no information on CWMS risk analysis by Councils; they offer no advice to Councils on it; and, they have declined to be involved in preparing advice to SAROC regarding CWMS.

LGA Mutual have offered to make a risk analyst available to a CWMS Workshop for the purpose of leading a discussion of CWMS risks. This process is not intended as an assessment of the adequacy of current valuations.

The Advisory Committee is invited to consider its support for a CWMS Risk Workshop.

1. **Recommendations to the Drought Futures Fund**

The last meeting noted progress with two projects being considered for funding applications under the DFF. Subsequent discussions with the projects’ proponents led to the connection between the price of recycled water from CWMS and the willingness of Councils to take up water efficiency options: recycled water is sometimes supplied effectively for free and this reduces the incentives for Councils to invest in water efficiency programs, even when subsidised through the DFF.

As a result, recommendations were made that this matter be investigated further:

* How is recycled water being priced by SA regional Councils?
* What evidence is there of its over-use or misuse?
* Is recycled water available for best use during drought induced water restrictions?

The work could be extended to consider means to encourage efficient pricing of recycled water by regional Councils. The stakeholders for this work include Councils, SA Water, LGA and ESCOSA.

This item is for noting.

1. **CWMS Discussion Paper for SAROC**

This paper will be drafted after the last of the CWMS Communications Sessions, currently being run in each of the regional LGAs and due for completion at the end of August. The aim is to discuss means by which the many issues facing Councils owning CWMS can be addressed in an on-going and effective manner. The work of the Advisory Committee has been recognised as significant in scope and importance. The Discussion Paper will make recommendations for continuing it.

Discussion at the Regional LGA Executive Officer meeting has emphasised the primary task of making the case for change in CWMS. Currently, the Advisory Committee has only anecdotal evidence of chronic difficulties and, in the absence of an understanding of how Councils value CWMS risk (as discussed in item 3.5 above), no means to make the case are currently identified.

The paper is also to consider the prospects for simplifying reporting requirements. This matter was discussed at the last CMWS Conference, especially the view that some regulatory reporting was repetitious and some had no obvious rationale. Despite efforts to provide evidence, neither proposition was supported by facts and both were rejected by the regulators.

The Advisory Committee is asked to consider the content of the Discussion Paper. The input will be used by the Project Officer and LGA CWMS Manager in drafting the paper.

1. **Other business**
   1. **CWMS Conference**

The Eyre Peninsular Regional LGA has offered to host the annual Conference which had previously been planned for Kadina.

The Advisory Committee is asked to consider the offer.

1. **Date of next meeting**