



2019/2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The Legatus Group AGM held on Friday 4 September 2019 adopted the annual report.

The Legatus Group Charter requires that the AGM receive the Legatus Group's Annual Report which may incorporate reports from committees and any representatives reports from other organisations.

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The Legatus Group Charter clause 6.3 Annual Report

6.3.1 The Legatus Group must each year, produce an Annual Report summarising the activities, achievements and financial performance of the Legatus Group for the preceding Financial Year.

6.3.2 The Annual Report must incorporate the audited financial statements of the Legatus Group for the relevant Financial Year.

6.3.3 The Annual Report must be provided to the Constituent Councils by 30 September each year.

The Legatus Group is a regional subsidiary of:

- Adelaide Plains Council
- Barunga West Council
- Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council
- Copper Coast Council
- 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

The Central Local Government Region was established in 1998 under Section 200 of the Local Government Act 1934 as a controlling authority. It now continues in existence as a regional subsidiary of its member Councils under Part 2 of Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 1999 by the provisions of Section 25 of the Local Government (Implementation) Act 1999. In 2016 the

Central Local Government Region of South Australia adopted the trading name of Legatus Group to which it is referred. The Legatus Group is established to:

- undertake co-ordinating, advocacy and representational roles on behalf of its Constituent Councils at a regional level
- facilitate and co-ordinate activities of local government at a regional level related to community and economic development with the object of achieving improvement for the benefit of the communities of its Constituent Councils
- develop, encourage, promote, foster and maintain consultation and co-operation and to strengthen the representation and status of local government when dealing with other governments, private enterprise and the community
- develop further co-operation between its Constituent Councils for the benefit of the communities of the region
- develop and manage policies which guide the conduct of programs and projects in the region with the objective of securing the best outcomes for the communities of the region
- undertake projects and activities that benefit the region and its communities
- associate collaborate and work in conjunction with other regional local government bodies for the advancement of matters of common interest.

The Legatus Group is a body corporate and is governed by a Board of Management which has the responsibility to manage all activities of the group and ensure that they act in accordance with its Charter.

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Legatus Group Board of Management: The Board consists of all principal members (Mayors) of the Constituent Councils which for 2019/2020 were:

Council	Delegate
Adelaide Plains Council	Mayor Mark Wasley
Barunga West Council	Mayor Leonie Kerley
Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council	Mayor Wayne Thomas
Copper Coast Council	Mayor Roslyn Talbot
District Council of Mount Remarkable	Mayor Phillip Heaslip
District Council of Orroroo Carrieton	Mayor Kathie Bowman
District Council of Peterborough	Mayor Ruth Whittle OAM
Light Regional Council	Mayor Bill O'Brien
Northern Areas Council	Mayor Denis Clark
Port Pirie Regional Council	Mayor Leon Stephens

Regional Council of Goyder	Mayor Peter Matthey OAM
The Barossa Council	Mayor Bim Lange OAM
The Flinders Ranges Council	Mayor Peter Slattery
Wakefield Regional Council	Mayor Rodney Reid
Yorke Peninsula Council	Mayor Darren Braund

Office Bearers for 2019/20

Chairman:	Mayor Peter Matthey OAM
Deputy Chairs:	Mayor Kathie Bowman Mayor Bill O'Brien
South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils	Mayor Peter Matthey Mayor Bill O'Brien
Chief Executive Officer:	Mr Simon Millcock
Auditor:	Dean Newbery and Associates

Chairman's Report

It has been my pleasure to serve as Chairman in 2019/20 and take this opportunity to report on some highlights of the past year.

The Legatus Group provides a pivotal role in supporting member councils and advocating state-wide in the areas of Rating Equity for major energy producers, Community Wastewater Management Schemes, regional roads and coastal management. It is also taking a leadership role in the Regional Waste Management Strategy for the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC).

The organisation assisted all member councils in their successful efforts to access the Drought Communities Programme. The commitment by the Legatus Group on issues such as wellbeing, were a contributing factor for the State Government increasing resources to the Family and Business Support program, where two extra positions were made available. The drought continues to have a significant impact to regional SA, and our advocacy around inconsistencies re needs, assistance and funding are continued to be raised as appropriate.

The impacts of COVID-19 have been wide reaching, and I wish to recognise all councils in their efforts to support their communities. The disruptions to local government and Legatus will have an ongoing impact. Future implications are yet to be known, however as an organisation, strategic planning will assist in developing a way forward. As a broader region we escaped the devastating impact of bush fires in the summer of 2020. However, we acknowledge that there were significant impacts on the Yorke Peninsula, where member councils played a pivotal role in supporting communities.

Local government have been operating under the new LGA structure and this has meant a heavy load on our resources, for example, the new Planning and Design Code and consultation on the Local Government Reform Bill.

Announcements made by the state and federal government regarding funding for both the Horrocks and Barrier Highways are yet to result in any tangible results. The Road and Transport Infrastructure Advisory Committee have been active this year, and resulted in the renewed Deficiency Action Plan, a robust assessment of this year's Special Local Roads Program funding applications; and the release of the 2030 Industry Engagement report on the Legatus Group Regional Transport Plan. The Legatus Group 2019 Road and Transport Forum held in early July 2019 represented a very successful outcome by the committee, and future events are planned.

The region has been proactive in supporting the challenges and changing environment through the management of the Sector Agreement for the Climate Change Adaptation Plan, the release of a second report on a Regional Sustainability Hub, and the commencement of the Sustainability Hub Concept Plan (a Legatus Group funded project). The Legatus Group also managed the Yorke Mid North Coastal Management Action Plan which was released in early 2020 and have commenced (through funding from the Landscape Board) the implementation of the plan. In line with these initiatives the Legatus Group delivered a Regional Climate Ready webinar series throughout June due to COVID-19 restrictions.

We continue to encourage and foster closer working relationships with the three Regional Development Australia (RDA) organisations and Natural Resource Management Boards. Legatus Group was to have hosted the Yorke Regional Planning Forum in Clare, (impacted by COVID-19) a series of successful webinars took its place.

Legatus Group CEO committed large amounts of time to the development of the Conference and Forum and Mr Simon Millcock demonstrated immeasurable flexibility in changing these events to webinars at short notice. These events are available on our website as a result and provide a great resource. I also note with positivity his efforts to support regional councils through his role with the Functional Support Group re Waste and as the Chair of the Regional LGA Executive Officers Forum. On these collaborations, and his input, I again commend his work.

Collaborations have continued with regional organisations through the delivery of the Creative Industries report, Visitor Information Services report and Youth into Volunteering report. The collaboration and establishment of MoUs and partnerships with South Australian Universities, the City of Prospect and the Smarter Regions CRC are fruitful associations with long term benefit. The board through its CEO continues to position the Legatus Group as a proactive force in the region for engagement with all tiers of government. These advocacy and collaborative activities have enabled the securing of valuable and cost-effective research in areas that are of significance to local government, stakeholders and community.

The Audit and Risk Management Group Committee have ensured that the work plan has assisted us in improving our governance, and recommendations around variations to our policies and charter.

There has been valuable feedback gained from the Legatus Group Management Group meetings and information sharing opportunities by and for the CEO group. I note with interest their involvement with the Planning Commission and the ongoing discussions on Local Government Risk.

The Community Wastewater Management Advisory Committee assisted in the extension of the Joint CWMS program, staging of a successful SA conference and overseeing the release of the regional sludge viability report. Their continued work on issues around training and reduction in red tape is to be commended.

Whilst still in its infancy the Legatus Group Visitor Information Services Advisory Committee, are a great support via recent webinar, on the reopening of tourism in our region.

It has been pleasing to see the continued dialogue with the six State Government Members of Parliament, and our Federal Member. We are particularly enthused by their attendance at our board meetings.

In closing I would like to thank everyone who has taken a proactive role in progressing the strategic initiatives of the region. I thank Mayors Bill O'Brien (and also in his role on SAROC) and Kathie Bowman for your roles as Deputy Chairs.

Feedback tells that the reports prepared by Legatus Group CEO are progressed to the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC), and to other stakeholders and partners in all tiers of government. The organisation strives to continue to provide and improve upon strong partnerships and a collaborative approach, with our other regional local government associations, stakeholders and tiers of government. These activities are coordinated and managed by our CEO Mr Simon Millcock. I wish to thank him for his committed, dedicated and consistent approach in the development and delivery of the of the goals and directions of the board.

I would like to acknowledge all the Board members and those who have committed time to the Advisory Committees in what has been a tumultuous year. Your valuable service to the communities and the region continues to provide much needed leadership into the future.

Mayor Peter Matthey OAM
Chairman Legatus Group

CEO Report

In 2019-2020 the Legatus Group undertook a series of research papers and completed or commenced projects associated with the Legatus Groups Strategic and Business Plans, Yorke Mid North Regional Plan, Regional Climate Change Sector Agreement and the SAROC Strategic and Business Plans. The effort this year was to identify key projects in these plans and ensure that engagement and data were to be the drivers for ongoing programs. This was designed to increase the level of interest from other possible partners and to secure increased funding for the region by ensuring alignment with grant programs.

There was a significant increase in interest in partnering with the Legatus Group which has seen the Legatus Group become one of only 2 South Australian Showcase regions for both the Smarter Regions Cooperative Research Centre submission and for the Hub and Spoke Regional Innovation Hub project. Coupled with the Legatus Group support has been securing for the region the 2020 Parks and Leisure SA/NT and Mainstreet SA Conferences.

This year included a number of successful grant applications which have been acquitted or reporting on accordingly with \$550,340 (75%) of the Legatus Group's income coming from outside membership fees. This has placed the Legatus Group in a solid financial position which is reflected in the forthcoming 2020 – 2021 business plan and budget.

This year saw my attendance and deliver of the agendas, minutes and reports to over 30 Legatus Group Board / Committee, Yorke Mid North Alliance and SAROC meetings whilst managing the delivery of several regional forums, workshops and webinars. Administration responsibilities included the added roles of Chairing the Regional LGA Executive Officers, Secretariat to the Murray Darling Association Region 8 and a member of LGA Functional Support Groups associated with COVID-19 reference groups.

There were a series of forums and workshops including the 2019 Legatus Group Road and Transport Forum (plus a further information session on the progress of Major Road works by DPTI) and the 2019 SA Community Wastewater Management Conference. These provided a valuable opportunity for increased knowledge for both Elected Members and Operational Staff for member councils.

In response to COVID-19 there was a digital preparedness webinar which included topics such as cyber security and a Tourism Recovery webinar. Both were developed specifically for the Legatus Group councils recognising the competing demands on operational staff and programs being run by the LGA and others.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the planned Yorke Mid North Forum and SA Climate Ready Conference were cancelled after the planning had been completed. In their place were the successful 7 week series of webinars which included 23 presenters and over 250 people registered. These are a great resource for councils and can be found at: <https://legatus.sa.gov.au/regional-learnings/>

The Drought played a significant role with input into the Future Drought Fund Consultative Committee and efforts to develop and identify a strategic approach to funding opportunities for the region. A working group was established and the delivery of a gap analysis on emerging themes for drought response and climate change resilience report <https://legatus.sa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Drought-resilient-region-Gap-analysis-and-emerging-themes-report-v2.pdf> was completed. This is being used to position Legatus Group projects such as the Smart Irrigation for Public Spaces, Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse of Wastewater along with support for Wellbeing projects at a broader strategic level.

Whilst unsuccessful for funding of one of the two regional wellbeing officer roles via the LGA the Legatus Group was successful in securing a Local Government Information Linkages and Capacity Building Program for an Inclusive and Accessible Tourism Experiences for the Yorke Peninsula project for 20/21.

Support has been provided to the Legatus Management Group for key presenters at their meetings and their dialogue around Local Government Risk Management and changes to Planning.

Partnerships have been strengthened in the year with regional and state-based State Govt agencies including: SA Water, DIPT, PIRSA, DIS and DHS. This has led to new programs and forums / workshops being held and or supported for our region. Further work is required in the health sector and offers to assist continue.

The following is a list of 2019/2020 Legatus Group reports and projects:

1. Rating Equity report (completed) <https://legatus.sa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Rating-Equity-Impact-Assessment-Final-Report-03Feb20.pdf> Note that the Legatus Group supports the approach by SAROC seeking a commitment from the State Government in working with local government on amendments to rating policy with regards to electricity generators.
2. Visitor Information Services report (completed and formation of advisory group) <https://legatus.sa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Legatus-Group-Tourism-Visitor-Information-Services-Report-July-2019-Final.pdf>
3. Regional Transport Industry Engagement report (complete) <https://legatus.sa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Industry-Engagement-Document-.pdf>
4. Regional Sludge viability report (completed) <https://legatus.sa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Final-Report-Draft-Legatus-Group-Sludge-Viability-Project-.pdf>
5. Local Roads updated deficiency report (completed) <https://legatus.sa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Regional-Transport-Plan-Road-Deficiency-Action-Plans-Apr-20-endorsed.pdf>

6. Coastal Management Action Plan (completed and implementation project commenced) https://landscape.sa.gov.au/files/sharedassets/northern_and_yorke/coast_and_marine/ny_coastactionplan_final_050520.pdf
7. Creative Industries report (completed) <https://legatus.sa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Final-Creative-Industries-Report-April-2020.pdf>
8. Youth in Music (commenced) <https://legatus.sa.gov.au/yim/>
9. Youth into Volunteering (report completed and projects commenced) <https://legatus.sa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Final-Report-Youth-Volunteering-20-April-2020.pdf>
10. Brighter Futures – Project completed in Yongala, Mundoora, Balaklava, Crystal Brook and Jamestown and commenced with Orreroo Carrieton and Flinders Ranges.
11. CWMS (ongoing) with significant communication with CWMS staff, at the annual conference and in a series of communications sessions. The work has grown to have a state-wide scope and involves close collaboration with the LGA CWMS Manager. The work has focused on addressing the training needs, including for regulatory compliance; developing applications of new technology to equipment monitoring (in cooperation with UniSA); undertaking research into equipment selection and design criteria for new Schemes; and, advancing the concept of a biosolids composting plant to deal with CWMS sludge. More generally, the work is addressing the broader strategic aim of enhancing the governance of CWMS.
12. SA Regional Waste Management Strategy (commenced)
13. MoU and Strategic Research Action Plan established with University of SA and MoU established with the University of Adelaide
14. Reconciliation Action Research project (commenced)
15. Pit and Quarry Management report to SAROC (completed)
16. Restricted Access Vehicle Route Assessment Tool (completed and progressed to SAROC)

Benefits to constituent councils:

- Identify training needs for the Legatus Region Constituent Councils.
- Regional collaboration and priority setting and sharing of knowledge and resources in the areas outlined above.
- Delivery of regional strategic and business plans and annual work plans.
- Operate Legatus Group in accordance with legislative requirements and board policies and procedures.
- Well regarded by members and stakeholders as valid and relevant through regional collaboration and undertaking or supporting actions on identified priorities.
- Identify regional priorities through collaboration with members and stakeholders and develop agreed actions and/or support.
- Advocate with a single and united voice and in partnership with other Regional LGA's.
- Fostering of economic, environmental and social sustainability through pro-active, innovative, efficient and collaborative approaches to priority issues.

Benefits across the local government sector:

- Assistance with coordinating workshops and consultation sessions and improved regional delivery of LGA services.
- Identified and aided with regional and longer-term outcomes for Constituent Councils.
- Facilitates stronger regional collaboration on projects and areas for sharing of knowledge and services.
- Being able to undertake research projects on the needs specific to regional councils.

Observation:

This has been an extremely difficult year for all sectors of the community which is replicated in the local government sector. Working in isolation with increased workloads has been compounded with increased levels of anxiety and, as organisations we need to ensure the wellbeing occurs internally as well as with the support being provided to our communities.

The focus on securing data to assist in decision making and to assist with raising policy issues has seen continued constructive dialogue with Constituent Councils, Members of Parliament, Ministers, the Local Government Association SA, public servants and other regional stakeholders. The platform is in place to now expand on these reports and projects via tangible and constructive programs.

Simon Millcock
CEO Legatus Group

The Legatus Group Audit and Risk Committee summary of activities undertaken, and recommendations made during 2019-2020. The committee met on 4 occasions during 2019-2020 with the following attendance.

Date	No of Members Attending
22 Aug 2019	4
1 Nov 2019	3
13 March 2020	3
22 May 2020	4

Committee Member	No of Meetings Attended
Chairman Kathie Bowman	4
Mayor Denis Clark	2
Peter Ackland	4
Colin Byles	3
Ian McDonald	4

The following table sets out the principal issues addressed by the Committee for 2019-20 year.

Principal Issues Examined	Recommendations to Board
Financial Report	No issues, unqualified audit, adopted for the 18/19 financial year.
Review of budget against actuals	Noted no issues and supported the allocation of the expenditure identified of carry over reserves and accumulated surplus for 20/21 business plan and budget.

Review of work plan, internal controls	Work planned maintained and review undertaken of policies including 3 new policies (1) Working from Home (2) Agenda items and Meeting Presentations (3) Board Members Code of Conduct being adopted
Charter	Variations to charter supported re the 5.1 budget via report on ways to assist with streamlining the current charter and the process for seeking approval of the budget and its reviews.
Business, Budget and Strategic Plan	Noted the development of the 2019-2020 business plan and budget and recommended streamlining of the presentation of current budget when reviewed.
Membership	Recommendations to Board re membership of Audit Committee
Equity / reserves	Recommendations to Board on levels to be held

Chairman Kathy Bowman

Chairman Legatus Group Audit and Risk Management Committee

Financial Statement

The financial statement for the year ending 30 June 2019 was presented at the 4 September 2020 Legatus Group AGM. The Legatus Group Charter requires that the AGM receive the audited financial statement for the preceding financial year.

The 2019/2020 Legatus Group audited annual financial report was undertaken by Dean Newberry and Partners. This report was prepared by Mr Sean Cheriton The Flinders Ranges Council Acting Finance and Administration Manager and was an agenda item at the Legatus Group Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 21 August 2020. This meeting endorsed the Legatus Group annual financial statement for the year ending 30 June 2019 as presenting a fair view of the state of the financial affairs of the Legatus Group and that the board adopt the annual financial statement. The meeting also recommended that the Legatus Group retain Dean Newberry and Partners as Auditors for the year end 30 June 2021.

The reports and statements form part of the Legatus Group Annual Report and will be distributed to Constituent Councils for inclusion with their own annual reporting requirements.

The regulations also require that on an annual basis, the Chief Executive Officer of each Constituent Council, the Legatus Group Chair and the Chair of the Audit Committee provide a statement of certification that the auditor is independent of the subsidiary. This has been completed.