



CEO'S NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 25 August Legatus Group Audit – Risk Management Committee (Jamestown)
- 26 August Legatus Group Waste Management Advisory Committee (online)
- 9 September Legatus Group AGM and Ordinary Meeting (Burra)
- 14 September SAROC meeting (Clare)
- 6 October Legatus / EPLGA / USG Regional CEO's Forum (Port Augusta)

The Legatus Group AGM is on Friday 9 September 2022 and this newsletter provides an update on recent and upcoming work by the Legatus Group.

CAPACITY BUILDING

July and August have provided great opportunities for increasing awareness on key aspects of the role of Local Government including:

- Regional SA Disability and Ageing Lifestyle Expo (Kadina)
- Accessible Tourism Forum (Kadina)
- Community Development Forum – Regional Resilience (Burra)
- Native Food Cultural Awareness Forum (Quorn)

All forums were well attended, and the Legatus Group website is being updated to allow presentations to be available. Several new initiatives for the region were launched at these forums and this newsletter outlines some of these.

DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN

The Northern and Yorke Drought Resilience Plan, after extensive consultation led by RDA Yorke and Mid North has been forwarded to PIRSA for submission to the Commonwealth where it will be assessed by CSIRO as the Commonwealth's independent Assessor with feedback anticipated by end of September 2022.

MENTAL HEALTH WELLBEING ADVOCACY

The Legatus Group and Lifeline Broken Hill Country to Coast have signed an MoU to support the continued development with other service providers in the region, on a centralised model for supporting the delivery of mental health services and have secured support from several areas. House of Assembly Members of Parliament for Narrunga, Frome and Stuart have all jointly signed a letter to the Minister for Health seeking the government's commitment to secure funding to continue and expand the Lifeline Connect Program.

This followed the Legatus Group commissioning an update on their Wellbeing report across their 7 northern councils which indicated the issues around access and support for mental health have become worse. While the recently released 2021 Census results show the region is well above the State and National average for those diagnosed with long-term mental health conditions. This topic has received media coverage and a meeting was held with Nadia Clancy MP the Premiers Advocate for Suicide Prevention to gain further support.

2022/2023 PROJECT UPDATES

- **Roads:** HDS have been contracted to provide a Regional Route and Road Action Plans – Intermediate Update, prepare the 2023 Regional Roads Database and 2023-24 SLRP Regional Priorities List.
- **Disability Inclusion:** Open your Door to Nature - a moderately scaled intervention providing the opportunity for people living with a disability to participate in and benefit from nature-based recreation with their families, carers and peers will be trialled Sept – October in the Barossa Valley, Clare Valley, Yorke Peninsula and Southern Flinders.
- **Community Development:** 7 Podcasts for the Southern Flinders have been released through the community development Brighter Futures program, delivered by Kristine Peter and the team at Storytowns Audio Tours who joined forces with locals to write and record this self-driving audio guide.
- **Local Govt Workforce:** The report is in its final's stages following interviews and workshops by Torrens University and is due to be presented at the September Legatus Group meeting.
- **Regional Resilience:** Support has been provided to the co-design of a community leadership initiative for the region being led by the Leaders Institute of South Australia for 2023.
- **Waste:** The Legatus Group have established a Waste Management Advisory Committee to progress actions within the Region Waste Management Action Plan and they meet later this month.
- **CWMS:** The LGA have continued funding the Joint CWMS Arrangements with the Legatus Group and this will include supporting member councils on their management and operations, sector reform, research, and training with the on-line program to be released soon.

GRANT FUNDING

- District Council of Peterborough's application to Recycling Infrastructure Grant will be announced soon.
- LGA R&D Grants – An application has been submitted for a Carbon Offsetting for Local Government project and support provided by the Legatus Group as a partner to four other grant applications.
- Special Local Roads Grants have been assessed and currently waiting on announcements for over \$4m worth of projects in the Legatus Group region.

LEGATUS GROUP STRATEGIC PLAN / CHARTER

The draft Legatus Group Strategic Plan and Charter variations have been provided to all member councils and a report will be provided to the 9 September Legatus Group meeting.

Councils may wish to participate in national research on new income for councils

Rural Councils Victoria, the state's peak body representing rural communities, is calling on councils across Australia to take part in a nation-wide research project to find innovative ways for councils to find new income streams. Councils are encouraged to participate by contacting Thomas Milverton of SGS Economics and Planning at tmilverton@sgsep.com.au to receive a link to the online survey. This survey would best be completed by Council's CFO or other staff member with detailed knowledge of Council's income streams.

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