



MEDIA RELEASE

13 Regional Mayors support the *Undrinkable, Unthinkable* campaign to urgently address regional water crisis

01 December 2023

The Legatus Group, representing over 22 per cent of the State's Councils, has overwhelmingly put its collective support behind The Flinders Ranges Council in its plight to end the water crisis that has plagued the Quorn township for more than three decades.

A Notice of Motion, put forward to the 15 Mayors from the Legatus Group by The Flinders Ranges Council at the Legatus Group's Ordinary Meeting held in Balaklava today and calling for improved water quality for the Quorn township, was strongly supported by Member Councils.

Mayor Rodney Reid, Chairperson of the Legatus Group, said "The Group was strong, proud and committed in standing alongside and supporting the Flinders Ranges Council in its campaign, and in advocating for improved water quality for the Quorn township."

In moving the Notice of Motion at the Meeting, Mayor Ken Anderson from the Flinders Ranges Council spoke of the Council's new campaign calling for urgent water quality improvements in the town of Quorn, which it launched following the results of an SA Water survey which revealed a staggering 97% of residents don't drink the mains water due to its extremely poor quality.

"The assessment underscores the critical need for immediate action to rectify water quality issues plaguing the town – yet, despite this, no budgetary allocation has been made by SA Water for the next four years," Mayor Anderson added.

He told the meeting "The high chlorine, chloride and salt count in Quorn's water supply fails to comply with SA Water's own indicators and the community is forced to spend hundreds or thousands of dollars each year on alternatives such as bottled water."

"The Council and the Community are pleading for an end to the water crisis that has been plaguing the regional town for more than three decades" Mayor Anderson added.

"Our campaign *Undrinkable, Unthinkable* aims to draw attention to the water crisis and push Quorn up on SA Water's priority list to get the problem fixed".

"As clearly evidenced in the Quorn Community, undrinkable tap water places a significant financial, environmental and health toll on our rural communities," Mayor Reid said.

"The vital importance of regional investment by the State in critical infrastructure to support economic growth, community health and wellbeing and investment attraction cannot be underestimated," Mayor Reid added.

The Legatus Group of Councils stands strong and united with the Flinders Ranges Council in urging SA Water and the State Government to build a desalination plant to service the residents of Quorn with drinkable mains tap water, with the ability to support population growth.

“It is unacceptable that in a developed State like South Australia, that communities such as Quorn have to endure inferior and inadequate infrastructure and services such as this,” Mayor Reid concluded.

The Legatus Group encourages everyone within its 15 Member Councils, from across the Barossa, Adelaide Plains, Flinders Ranges, Yorke Peninsula, Mid North and Clare Valley, to get behind the cause and to stand with the residents of The Flinders Ranges Council by signing its petition: www.frc.sa.gov.au/water

Photo (Below): Legatus Group Mayor’s Stand Strong with The Flinders Ranges Council at the Legatus Meeting in Balaklava in calls to end 30-year water crisis



About Quorn:

Quorn is located in South Australia's Flinders Ranges, 335km north of Adelaide. Governed by the Flinders Ranges Council, it has a population of 1,230 residents, while approximately 500,000 tourists and visitors pass through each year. Quorn is home to the historic Pichi Richi Railway and is widely known as the gateway to the outback.

About Legatus

The Legatus Group is the trading name of the Central Local Government Region which is a regional subsidiary established under the Local Government Act 1999 (SA). The purpose of the Legatus Group is to undertake the co-ordination, advocacy and representation of the constituent councils at a regional level. Through the increased facilitation and co-ordination of local

government activities relating to economic and community development at a regional level, the object of improving benefits to the communities of the constituent councils is enabled.

The Legatus Group aims to 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.

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