

12.2 REPORT TITLE: MANAGING GROWTH - UPDATE
DATE OF MEETING: 5 MARCH 2012
FILE NUMBER: 48/030/064

Strategic Plan Ref:

Goal Area 4 Human Settlements and Transport

Purpose:

To provide an update on the management of growth and seek endorsement for further information to be forwarded to SA Water as input to the Request for Proposal on Wastewater process.

Summary – Key Issues:

- The State Government has established an informal transport infrastructure working group as an interim mechanism; and
- Endorsement is sought for additional information as input to the SA Water Request for Proposal on Wastewater.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Note the establishment by the State Government of the informal working group on transport infrastructure as an interim mechanism; and
2. Endorse the additional Council input to the SA Water Request for Proposal on Wastewater (attachment 1)

Background:

1. This item provides an update post the item considered at the council meeting held on 20 February 2012.

Discussion:

Transport Infrastructure

2. Council has been verbally advised that the proposed legally binding agreements on transport infrastructure between developers in the consortium and State Government provide for the establishment of an Advisory Committee to the Minister for Transport, the Hon Patrick Conlon MP.

3. Council has also been advised that a member of the Advisory Committee would be nominated by Council.
4. Given the lengthy and ongoing delay in the finalisation and execution of the agreements, Council recently proposed that an interim group be established now to facilitate a co-ordinated approach to transport infrastructure planning.
5. This proposal has been supported by the State Government and the developers in the consortium.
6. The State Government has established an informal working group on transport infrastructure planning and invited Brian Clancey to attend, along with a representative of the developers in the consortium and senior officers of the Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI).
7. The informal working group will exist as an interim mechanism only. The inaugural meeting is scheduled for 29 February 2012.

Wastewater/Integrated Water Management

8. Council has been invited to have input to the SA Water Request for Proposal (RFP) on Wastewater.
9. The RFP is essentially a comprehensive project brief that the two consortium selected by SA Water will shortly be issued to respond to.
10. As an initial step council has already forwarded to SA Water the high level objectives and guiding principles endorsed at the council meeting on 20 February 2012.
11. Additional content sought for inclusion in the RFP is contained in Attachment 1 with a recommendation that this be endorsed and forwarded to SA Water.
12. In this context, Andrew Stuart has recently written to John Ringham, Chief Executive of SA Water and proposed that the Steering Committee now established via the MOU between council and SA Water meet as soon as practicable. Members of the Steering Committee from Council are Andrew Stuart and Brian Clancey.
13. Discussion regarding process options and various scenarios has been proposed.
14. The first meeting of the SA Water Community Reference Group for wastewater and the augmentation of potable water is to be held on Wednesday 7 March.

Draft Structure Plan

15. The draft structure plan for Mount Barker, Littlehampton and Nairne is currently being revised in accordance with the resolution of the Strategic Planning and Development Policy (SPDP) Committee meeting held on 13 February 2012 and more recent feedback from DPTI.
16. Once these revisions are completed a revised draft will be considered at a SPDP Committee meeting. The timing of this is to be advised.
17. At the same meeting it is intended to provide advice that is awaited from DPTI regarding pathway options for the draft structure plan.

Economic Development/Employment Generation

18. The follow up workshop on council's role in facilitating economic development and employment generation in the region was held on 29 February 2012.
19. The workshop outcomes are now being formulated by the workshop facilitator Mr Stephen Hains for subsequent council consideration.

Meeting with Deputy Premier

20. A time for the Mayor's meeting with the Deputy Premier is still to be advised further to the email advice from his office as contained in the agenda for the previous council meeting.

Community Engagement:

Informing only	Refer council's website.
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Policy:

Not applicable to this item.

Budget:

Direct budget provision for 2011/12 was originally \$180,000.

Actual and committed expenditure from 1 July 2011 to end January 2012 for infrastructure related implications is \$147,000.

Various other budget lines exist that have a relationship to managing growth which means that there is provision for additional funds in 2011/12 e.g. the Mount Barker Town Centre Strategy budget of \$60,000.

Statutory/Legal:

Not applicable to this item.

Staff Resource Requirements:

Resource demands continue to be substantial with associated opportunity cost implications.

Environmental:

Refer attachment 1.

Social:

Not applicable to this item.

Risk Assessment:

Not applicable to this item.

Asset Management:

Refer attachment 1.

Conclusion:

Establishment of the informal working group on transport infrastructure by the State Government is a positive step as is council contributing additional information as input to the SA Water RFP on wastewater process.

Key Contact

Brian Clancey
General Manager
Infrastructure & Projects

Sponsor of Project

Andrew Stuart, CEO

Attachments

Council Input to SA Water RFP

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District Council of Mount Barker

Input to SA Water Request for Proposal

(29 Feb 2012)

The following points are additional to the content of the Guiding Principles and High Level Desired Outcomes as formally endorsed by council previously and forwarded to SA Water.

The points below are forwarded in the context of a 50 – 60 year horizon. The points are grouped, but are not in any particular order.

Council reserves the right to subsequently provide additional points, pending further discussion with SA Water.

It is also acknowledged that ultimately there will be phases of procurement such as design, construction and commissioning and that some of the points below will have greater relevance to some of these phases than others.

Part A - Process

The recently established SA Water/Council Steering Committee is to have an active role in the Request For Proposal process, with due acknowledgement of the need for confidentiality.

Part B - Content

Technology

1. Design and construction of a new treatment plant is to maximise flexibility to facilitate the take up of technological advancements that occur in the future.
2. Examine the option of varied water quality post treatment processes, to be made available to different users for different purposes.
3. Maximise the capability for remote monitoring and operation of the treatment plant and related infrastructure.

Integrated Water Management

4. Consideration be given (post treatment) to forecast demand (quantity, quality and location) with distribution having regard to environmental and economic objectives i.e. increase rural land productivity and generate additional employment.
5. Consideration is given to the possible interface of wastewater with stormwater at collection, treatment, storage and distribution stages.

6. Consider the option of the future use (particularly long term) of the existing council lagoons for stormwater detention and treatment to facilitate or complement possible storage options including Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR).
7. Acknowledge the option of a regional approach to integrated water management including to reduce demand for potable water and allow substitution of lower quality water for alternate uses.

Asset Management

8. Whole of life asset approach including operation, maintenance and renewal of treatment and reticulation infrastructure with a soundly based business case to underpin the preferred approach.
9. Proposed siting to allow for the possible increase in flooding risk arising from increased climate variability and peak flows.
10. Proposed location of reticulation infrastructure and related implications including legal and practical accessibility considerations for the purposes of ongoing maintenance.

Environmental

11. Provision is made for the effects and implications over time of climate change (water availability/quality, temperature changes).
12. Seek to minimise the production of waste and by-products from the treatment process and/or maximise the use of such products, including in conjunction with green organics processing and demand for mulching and composting materials arising from residential developments.
13. Carbon effect to be positive or at least neutral through a range of design innovations and subsequent strategies.
14. Best practice site management to apply during the construction phase to minimise any environmental impacts.
15. Identify and minimise any environmental issues that are likely to arise with output from a new treatment plant including the risk of discharges to natural watercourses, forecast flow rates and intended supply of water for re-use.

Economic

16. Infrastructure roll-out should be approached to facilitate orderly development to ensure efficient resource use and cost effectiveness to developers and purchasers.
17. Wherever possible water infrastructure roll-out should be co-ordinated with other infrastructure in terms of both alignment and the timing of works to maximise co-location and achieve cost effectiveness.

18. Wherever practical, ensure that local community contractors/employees have the opportunity to tender for the required work during the construction phase.

Social

19. Design and construction to have due regard to public health and safety including prevention of any unauthorised access and interference.
20. Minimise any disturbance to the local community during the construction phase.
21. Minimise any odours from a new treatment plant.

Other

22. Acknowledge the option to investigate the conversion (over a staged period of time) to sewer the existing Community Wastewater Management System (including reticulation infrastructure and septic tanks) in the towns of Mount Barker, Littlehampton and Nairne, which may be the subject of further examination at some future time.
23. What role the existing council wastewater treatment plant and reticulation infrastructure might play is to be included in the evaluation (business case) for the preferred approach, particularly interim/short term scenarios/options.

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