

Issue No. 2

The Systemic Sustainability Study (SSS) Taskforce met on Wednesday, February 19 and discussed the 41 recommendations made by the SSS Panel.

A priority matrix was created that categorised each of these recommendations into short, medium or long term time frames and allocated priorities of **high, medium** or **low**.

Priority	Recommendation
High	1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41
Medium	5, 8, 9, 20, 21, 28
Low	4, 19

The matrix and all recommendations are available from www.walga.asn.au

The following recommendations have been identified as being of a high priority and work that should be undertaken in the short-term:

RECOMMENDATIONS COMPLETED

Recommendation 1:

That the WA Local Government Association develop a comprehensive engagement process to enable industry consideration of this report and its recommendations leading towards an industry wide action plan.

The SSS Taskforce has been created for this purpose.

Recommendation 2:

Establish a Local Government Summit to debate and consider the basis for further industry investment and Council implementation of priority actions and recommendations.

Industry forum scheduled for April 20.

Recommendation 15:

That the Association support the directions and principles established by themselves, UDIA, and DPI in their 2006 *Contributions to Community* Industry report, in particular to offer support for principles that:

- inform community planning processes; and
- are linked with long run financial and asset management plans to ensure an appropriate contribution is made for funding and maintaining community infrastructure.

Completed.

Recommendation 13:

That the Association continue to work with the State Government and the Mining and Resource Industry to ensure that:

- local communities share directly in the benefits of the State's natural resource strengths; and
- service, capacity and infrastructure impacts on Local Government services and communities imposed by State Agreements are adequately funded and resourced.

Achieved for new State Agreements, but current State Taskforce outcomes may warrant further action.

Recommendation 17:

That any campaign position that is adopted by the Association and Local Government to be supported by consistent information and quality data.

The Association has undertaken that they will ensure future policy positions are supported by consistent and quality information.

RECOMMENDATIONS IN PROGRESS

Recommendation 10:

That Councils focus on capital management, including an assessment of debt funding levels in individual Councils.

This recommendation will be addressed at the industry forum on April 20.

Recommendation 14:

That the Association advocate to increase the use of developer charges (where appropriate) by Councils to assist the creation of new community infrastructure.

The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) and the Association have developed a joint proposal which is pending action by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

Recommendation 18:

That a state-wide "blitz" be funded by the industry to successfully communicate their case for better and more equitable road funding and associated infrastructure funding, including:

- accurate and consistent information on the current condition of local roads; and
- the requirements needed to address the current infrastructure backlog.

This has been included in the 2007-08 State Budget Submission.

Recommendation 23:

That the Association champion an accrual based best-practice approach towards asset management for all Councils, involving:

- a change of practice for those Councils operating on a 'historical cost' basis;
- significant investment by the industry and State Government in strengthening capacity and technique across Local Government.

Funding for these changes in the form of the Association's Western Australian Asset Management Improvement Program (WAAMI) has been included in the 2007-08 State Budget Submission.

Recommendation 24:

That Councils should be encouraged to move towards an asset renewal based approach that is consistent with asset management and strategic financial plans.

Funding for these changes in the form of the Association's Western Australian Asset Management Improvement Program (WAAMI) has been included in the 2007-08 State Budget Submission.

Recommendation 33:

Given that sustainable progress will not be made on reducing the infrastructure backlog faced by Local Government unless additional annual revenues of approximately \$120M per year are secured, it is recommended that:

- The Association develop a campaign strategy to leverage funding to eliminate the infrastructure backlog in conjunction with improved asset management practices.

This has been included in the 2007-08 State Budget submission and is also supported on a national scale by the ALGA.

Recommendation 38:

That the Association establish a task force to develop an implementation approach and to build the detail of the proposed industry plan with input from across the sector.

The SSS Taskforce has been established and will work on a proposed industry plan, to be presented in November 2007.

Recommendation 39:

That the Association host an industry summit early in 2007 to formalise the sector's position on each of the recommendations and to consider

implementation proposals as may be developed by the Task Force.

*An industry forum - The Journey: From Cost Shifting to Sustainability has been set for **Friday, 20 April.***

RECOMMENDATIONS NEXT TO BE ADDRESSED**Recommendation 7:**

The creation of guidelines to help to promote and execute resource sharing and amalgamation initiatives for Councils such as:

- mechanisms and incentives to assist Councils who wish to pool or share resources on an agreed basis;
- transition guidelines for those Councils who determine to proceed with amalgamation processes; and
- the role of government partners in one-off capital incentives to the participating Councils to ensure successful change and better community service and infrastructure outcomes.

Recommendation 29:

That the Association use the *International Infrastructure Management Manual (IIMM 2006)* to create templates to assist Local Governments in preparing their asset management plans.

Recommendation 35:

That the Association use the Industry Planning Process to identify a number of case studies or demonstration projects to pilot new resource sharing approaches to:

- Regional road funding, planning and management;
- Technical services; and
- Corporate Services.

Recommendation 36:

That the Association work with the State Government to strengthen the scope and intent of the Connecting Local Government Fund.

Recommendations 3, 6, 11, 12, 16, 22, 25, 26, 27, 31, 32, 34, 37, 40 and 41 were categorised as medium or long term time frames and will be progressed in due course.

Recommendations 5, 8, 9, 20, 21, and 28 were categorised as medium priority and 4 and 19 as low priority and will also be progressed throughout the year.

The fourth Taskforce meeting will be held on Thursday, March 8.
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