

105

### CABINET COVER SHEET

- 1 **TITLE:** **FRAMEWORK FOR FACILITATING IMPROVED REGIONAL COORDINATION**
- 2 **MINISTER** **The Premier**
- 3 **PURPOSE** **To seek Cabinet endorsement of a strategy for facilitating and encouraging SA public sector agency cooperation at the regional level, thereby addressing a key recommendation emanating from the South Australian Regional Development Task Force (1999) for improved regional coordination.**
- 4 **RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR IMPLEMENTATION:** **There are no additional budget resources required to implement this initiative.**
- COSTS**
  - This financial Year **Nil**
  - Next financial Year **Nil**
  - Subsequent years **Nil**
  - Source of funds **Agency budgets**
- 5 **RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT POLICY:** **This initiative is considered to be complementary to the Government's policy on supporting regional areas.**
- 6 **CONSULTATION:** **The SMC has endorsed the framework as described in this submission. The Minister of Regional Affairs was consulted as was the Department of Treasury and Finance. In addition, portfolios with a significant regional presence were also consulted in developing this framework.**
- 7 **FAMILY IMPACT STATEMENT:** **There is no impact on families.**
- 8 **URGENCY:** **The 10 day rule applies.**
- 9 **RECOMMENDATIONS:**
  - 9.1 That Cabinet endorse the Framework for Facilitating Regional Coordination.
  - 9.2 That Cabinet approve the formation of the Regional Facilitation Groups.

A/ **SIGNATURE OF MINISTER:**  
**PORTFOLIO:**  
**DATE:** 11/6/02





Office for The  
Commissioner for  
Public  
Employment

DPC 019/02CS

**MINUTES forming ENCLOSURE  
to**

12 June 2002

**FOR CABINET**

**RE: FRAMEWORK FOR FACILITATING IMPROVED REGIONAL COORDINATION**

**1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet endorsement of a strategy for facilitating and encouraging SA public sector agency cooperation at the regional level, thereby addressing a key recommendation emanating from the *South Australian Regional Development Task Force (1999)* for improved regional coordination.

**2 BACKGROUND**

2.1 The South Australian Regional Development Task Force was established in 1998 to review aspects of regional development policy and strategy, and to address specific Terms of Reference. It was required to conduct its investigations in consultation with appropriate stakeholders. The final report was presented to the then Premier in April 1999.

2.2 The report described an "Integrated Regional Development System" as the foundation for a more integrated approach to regional development. Amongst specific recommendations was the establishment of a Regional Development Issues Group (RDIG) to:

- Provide leadership and coordination within the public sector on regional issues.
- Promote a whole of government approach to regional development.
- Facilitate integrated, effective and responsive regional service delivery.
- Monitor progress in priority areas identified by the Regional Development Council.

2.3 The RDIG ran a 6 month trial in the Riverland to evaluate the desirability of a Regional Coordination program across South Australia that included the assessment of the suitability of utilising a role of regional coordinator. The outcomes of this trial were reported to the Senior Management Council (SMC) in November 2001. The SMC then asked the Office for The Commissioner for Public Employment (OCPE) to undertake some further work.

2.4 SMC recently received and endorsed the recommendations of the Commissioner for Public Employment on a Framework for Facilitating Improved Regional Coordination.

### 3 DISCUSSION

3.1 Representatives of the following portfolios were consulted during the development of the framework – Department of Environment and Heritage, Justice, Department of Administrative and Information Services, Department for Water, Land and Biodiversity, Department of Primary Industries and Resources, Department of Transport & Urban Planning, Department of Human Services, Department of Education, Training and Employment. Their views and opinions were sought in relation to:

- The extent to which regional coordination could be improved;
- Why regional coordination is difficult to achieve; and
- Options and measures available for improving regional coordination.

### 4 DEFINITION – REGIONAL COORDINATION

The SA Regional Task Force considered what was meant by the terms "region" and "regional development". They concluded that "region" was essentially a term to describe areas outside metropolitan Adelaide. They also acknowledged that the term "remote" had additional special significance in South Australia as it referred to Outback areas of the state. The task force believed that regional development " ... is about regional communities improving their economic, social, cultural and environmental well being by fully developing the potential of a region and its people" (page 6). But in making such comments they also found that the term also "lacked both a consistent definition and a common understanding" (page 6).

The task force report did not, however, specifically address "regional coordination". Nonetheless, the task force discussed and reviewed some economic frameworks. Based on such discussion and review, this paper proposes regional coordination be measured against three key criteria that should be used to determine the effectiveness of regional coordination. These criteria can then assist to focus future improvement efforts. The three criteria are:

- Targetted to service delivery
- Optimising resource allocation
- Reducing replication/overlap

### 5 REGIONAL FACILITATION FRAMEWORK

5.1 The regional facilitation framework will not circumvent the responsibility and authority for service provision from the responsible agency, but is aimed at facilitating improvements at the regional level via the exchanging of information and facilitating improved interagency communication, coordination and cooperation.

- 5.2 The proposed framework is a mechanism available to the SMC to facilitate and improve the administration of public services and in so doing provide the SMC with regionally focussed operational groups. The broader strategic development issues associated with regional development are not part of the role of the Regional Facilitation Groups described under this framework.
- 5.3 The framework has the state being divided into 6 regions based on the locations of key district offices or large numbers of employees. These regions are Riverland, Murraylands, West Coast, Mid North, South East and Spencer and the model is represented on the attached sheet.
- 5.4 At each location there would be a Regional Facilitation Group (RFG). The Regional Facilitation Framework is centred around a key senior level employee within a region taking on the additional responsibilities of facilitating improvements at a regional level with regard to the exchanging of information and facilitating improved interagency communication, coordination and cooperation.
- 5.5 It is important to emphasise that accountability for service delivery outcomes remains unchanged by the formation of the RFG. Service responsibilities will continue to remain the responsibility of the relevant agency and not the RFG Facilitator or the members of the RFG.
- 5.6 The focus of the RFG is to ensure that from a whole of government perspective that the opportunities to maximise service delivery outcomes, resourcing issues etc are achieved.
- 5.7 All agencies/portfolios within the area of these regional centres would have an appropriate representative on the RFG. The people who would fulfil the role of RFG Facilitator in these regional centres could come from a range of occupations (eg senior Police Officers, agency Regional Managers, District Superintendents, TAFE Directors, School Principals etc).
- 5.8 The role of OCPE is to initially facilitate and guide the establishment of each RFG and to subsequently support the regular reporting of each RFG to the SMC.

## 6 REPORTING LINES OF THE REGIONAL FACILITATOR

- 6.1 The RFG Facilitator would keep the SMC apprised on developing or emerging regional issues and options available by forwarding a brief outline of issues, activities, problems etc to OCPE.
- 6.2 The OCPE would compile a consolidated quarterly report from all Regional Facilitation Groups for the SMC, unless more frequent reports are deemed necessary.

## **7 ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no additional budget allocations required for this initiative.

## **8 RISK MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT**

There are no significant risks associated with this initiative.

## **9 STATE DEVELOPMENT & SOCIAL IMPACT**

Given that improved service delivery is an outcome it is reasonable therefore to expect some indirect regional development and social benefits.

## **10 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

There is no environmental impact from this initiative.

## **11 REGIONAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

It is considered that support for this initiative will assist regional areas through facilitating improvements with regard to service delivery, resource allocation and minimising overlap at the regional level. Such improvements will be achieved via the exchanging of information and improved interagency communication, coordination and cooperation.

## **12 REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT**

There is no regulatory impact from this initiative.

## **13 SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

There is no impact to small business from this initiative.

## **14 FAMILY IMPACT STATEMENT**

There is no impact on families from this initiative.

## **15 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

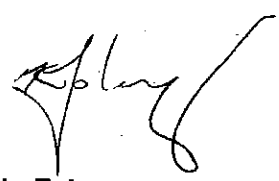
There are no staffing implications associated with this initiative.

## **16 CONSULTATION**

- 16.1 All members of **SMC** endorse this strategy.
- 16.2 The **Minister of Regional Affairs** was specifically consulted on this matter and is supportive of the initiative as it is seen as complementing the **Government's** policy on improving agency coordination and support in regional areas.
- 16.3 **Department of Treasury and Finance** have been consulted and provided comments which were incorporated into the submission.

**17 RECOMMENDATION**

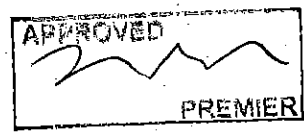
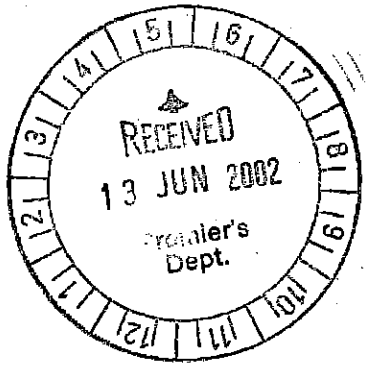
- 17.1 Cabinet endorse the Framework for Facilitating Regional Coordination.
- 17.2 Cabinet approve the formation of the Regional Facilitation Groups.



Kevin Foley  
ACTING PREMIER

**In Cabinet**

1 JUL 2002



*Refer to account for  
copy Cabinet in Post Agency.*

# REGIONAL FACILITATION FRAMEWORK

