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Infrastructure SA  
GPO Box 2343  
ADELAIDE SA 5001  
Via email: [infrastructure@sa.gov.au](mailto:infrastructure@sa.gov.au)

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Re: 20-Year State Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper**

The District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula welcomes the opportunity to provide comments towards the 20 Year State Infrastructure Strategy.

Council fully recognises the challenge of managing infrastructure across a broad area from a relatively small population base as exists in South Australia.

In this regard Council supports the proposal to develop a pipeline of infrastructure projects that have been rigorously assessed and prioritised.

***Regions***

The following comments are provided in relation to our Regions:-

- Council strongly suggests that investment in the regions should be a priority for the State Government, as growth of South Australia's regional cities and towns to a size where they contain more than the current 30 per cent of the state's population is seen as a key to future prosperity in the state;
- Council notes that 75% of the state's roads are managed by Local Government, and an increase in the regional population will add capacity for non-metropolitan local government to manage that infrastructure; and
- Investment in regional transport modes will be critical to growing our regions.

***Transport Infrastructure***

The following comments are provided in relation to transport infrastructure:-

- Council notes that congestion is increasing on metropolitan roads, while Adelaide has the lowest take up of public transport across mainland Australia;
- Council is aware that the State Government is investing heavily to modernise the transport systems in Adelaide, but suggests that a balance needs to be found between modernising Adelaide's infrastructure and actions aimed at growing regional South Australia;

- In this regard Council suggests that growth in investment in metropolitan infrastructure be matched against growth in metropolitan population and growth in metropolitan gross domestic product (or other appropriate measure), with the analysis looking at predicted growth over future years along with historical growth;
- Reference in the discussion paper to the road and rail freight task increasing by 2.6 per cent per annum represents a significant challenge to both the State Government and Local Government. The decisions made by relevant parties to close the rail network on Eyre Peninsula will add to the pressure on arterial roads, and any decision of the State Government to neglect the upgrades and maintenance on these roads will have massive long term ramifications for the government;
- Recognising the demands on regional roads and the desire to grow our regional populations, Council supports investment in regional transport infrastructure commensurate with Long Term Asset & Infrastructure Management Plans developed in accordance with predicted future production and export of commodities; and
- The importance of regional airports to both connect our regions with Adelaide, and as a means of bringing tourism to the regions should be recognised, and in this regard Council supports the continuance of 'Support Regional Aviation' contributions made in recent state budgets.

### ***Ageing Population***

The following comments are provided in relation to the ageing population:-

- Council supports the notion of future investment in infrastructure and accommodation for our ageing populations, noting that making sufficient investment in the ageing population across metropolitan and regional areas will present a huge challenge; and
- Council supports infrastructure that would enable people to age in place.

### ***Health***

The following comments are provided in relation to Health:-

- Council notes and supports the notion of future investment in major hospitals;
- However, in setting budgets for such investment the State Government should again reflect the aim of growing regional South Australia, and provide increased funding to ensure that our regions are supported by local hospitals, doctors and associated medical staff;
- In relation to the provision of health services to regional areas, the structure of health services should be seriously considered, including: -
  - Support to single doctor practices in rural and remote regions by way of the provision of locums and registrars;
  - Developing structures under which sufficient exposure is provided to grow the skills and experience of regional GP's, while at the same time encouraging their ownership of local practices, including at more remote locations;
- Lack of reliable NBN is a major barrier to delivering quality health care. Telehealth is a compromise on face-to-face care that is often pushed by government but even this compromise is further diluted by the lack of good quality, reliable, high-speed broadband; and



- A positive learning exposure for both medical and nursing students along with registrars is important but impossible to achieve with current NBN being unreliable and at variable speed.

### **NBN**

The following comments are provided in relation to the National Broadband Network:-

- A paradox applies to NBN broadband in that while most people would agree that the communities which would benefit most from reliable, high-speed broadband are those that are the most remote, government policy dictates that these small, isolated communities receive the lowest standard of broadband i.e. fixed wireless to a business premises compared to some metropolitan households receiving fibre to their premises. This inadequate technology is crippling small business in rural and remote communities.

### **Export Ports**

The following comments are provided in relation to export ports on Eyre Peninsula:-

- Ensuring that our primary producers are competitive in global markets has never been more important, and on Eyre Peninsula we are seeing multiple potential new export proposals, to support grain, iron ore, hydrogen and other products;
- It is important that the government makes decisions in relation to which export ports are supported, taking a lead in prioritising and bringing to fruition export options to maximise competitiveness and profitability to our primary industries; and
- Council strongly encourages the State Government to engage with Local Government in developing proposals for infrastructure leading to all existing and new export ports.

### **Education**

The following comments are provided in relation to education:-

- Council supports on-going investment in education, noting that educational standards will be critical to future prosperity;
- Council requests that the State Government invest in future expansion of child care centres in regional towns, as provision of such services is important to families and professional people living in regional towns, and to attracting and retaining further professionals.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

[DELETED]

**RODNEY PEARSON**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

*[Faint signature of Rodney Pearson]*

cc Lea Bacon, Local Government Association of SA