

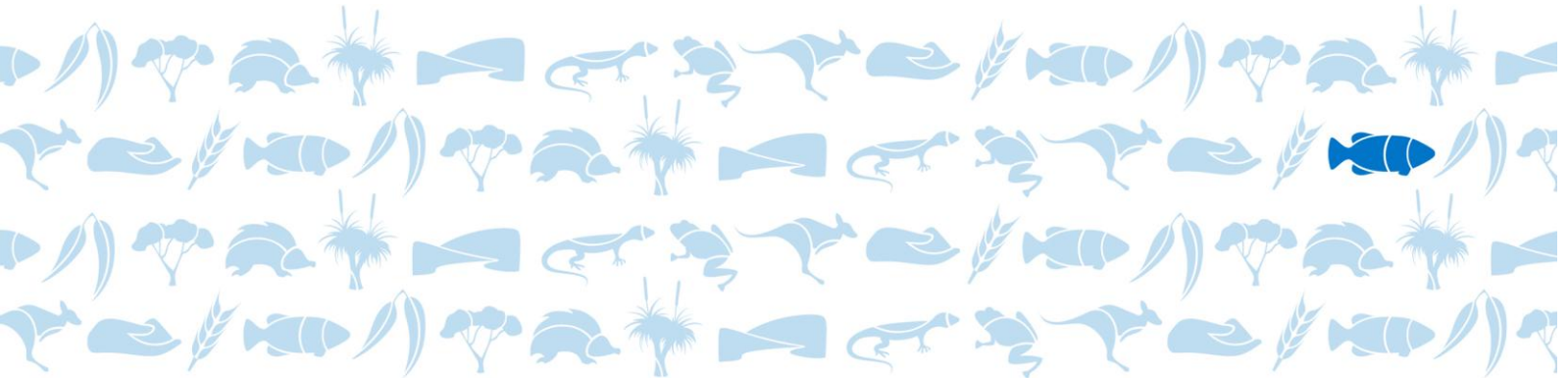
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT NRM

# ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION PLAN

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

January 2007



**Government of South Australia**

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin  
Natural Resources Management Board

### **Closing Date for Comments**

All submissions should be received by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

### **Written submissions should be directed to:**

John Johnson  
General Manager  
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board  
PO Box 2343  
MURRAY BRIDGE SA 5253  
P: 08 8532 1432 or M: 0427 394 517  
F: 08 8531 1843  
E: [enquiries@samdbnrm.sa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@samdbnrm.sa.gov.au)  
[www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au](http://www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au)

### **For further information contact:**

Mellissa Bradley  
Senior Policy Officer (Local Government)  
P: 08 8532 1432 or M: 0427 394 517  
E: [mellissa.bradley@samdbnrm.sa.gov.au](mailto:mellissa.bradley@samdbnrm.sa.gov.au)

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page #</i>
Executive Summary	4
Section 1 – Context	6
Section 2 – Local Government and NRM	9
Section 3 – Proposed tools and processes	14
Section 4 – Proposed Action Plan	18
Appendices	23

---

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Purpose of paper

The *Local Government NRM Engagement and Communication Plan 2006/07* has been prepared for distribution to and discussion with constituent councils and regional Local Government Associations (LGAs) within the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management (SA MDB NRM) Board region.

The SA MDB NRM Board seeks to work closely with Local Government to develop and shape relevant NRM policy, processes and projects within the region.

This document provides a framework for the NRM Board and staff to engage with and enhance partnerships and projects with the constituent council elected membership and staff, and regional Local Government Associations (LGAs). It is divided into four core sections:

1. Section 1 Context
2. Section 2 Local Government and NRM
3. Section 3 Proposed tools and processes
4. Section 4 Proposed Action Plan

### Approaches for working with Local Government

Throughout the document three key approaches are proposed to strengthen the working relationship between Local Government, LGAs and the NRM Board:

- Consultation and Involvement in development and delivery of the Engagement and Communication Plan;
- Establishment of Local Government NRM Advisory Groups; and
- Promotion of NRM Board support and services.

### Key Local Government issues

The key Local Government issues identified by the SA MDB NRM Board are grouped into five themes that are explored in more detail in section 2.4:

- Establishing a flow of strategic NRM information across councils within the SA MDB NRM Board region;
- Increasing the prominence of NRM projects as a priority for Councils;
- Increasing awareness of NRM support services and funding opportunities available through the SA MDB NRM Board;
- Preparing project concepts, budgets, and funding submissions that have a strong NRM focus; and
- Protecting the region's natural resources.

---

## Key messages

The key messages of this document are:

- Local Government is a valued partner, without which the Board's objectives and targets could not be met;
- Board staff are available to assist local governments with the scoping of project proposals, the preparation of funding applications and support the implementation of water quality improvement and water conservation projects;
- The Board seeks to work in partnership with Councils to achieve improvements in Development Plan policy development, interpretation and implementation to protect and enhance natural resources; and
- The Board is committed to building the capacity of Councils to effectively manage the natural resources of their respective communities.

---

## 1. CONTEXT

### 1.1 Background to NRM process – state level

In 2006 the South Australian Department for Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation produced the *State Natural Resources Management Plan* (the Plan).

A requirement under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, is that the state Plan encourages partnerships and collaborations around NRM policy development and activities. The Plan integrates a range of previously separate administrative arrangements and has been prepared as a guiding document for groups, agencies and persons including the Regional NRM Boards.

### 1.2 Background to NRM process – regional level

The SA MDB NRM Board is one of the eight NRM Boards across South Australia.

Within each of the designated eight NRM regions in South Australia, NRM Boards have the opportunity to develop “Regional Natural Resource Management Plans” (Strategic Plans).

In addition, NRM Boards are positioned to develop “Investment Strategies” that address funding requirements for NRM programs, projects and administration for the coming years.

In their NRM Investment Strategy 2006/07 to 2007/08 (produced in February 2006), the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board articulates a range of proposed programs. A number of these programs have a direct interface with Local Government, including:

- *Program 3: Land Use Policy;*
- *Program 4: Land and Water Management;*
- *Program 6: Wetland Management;*
- *Program 7: Pollution Management;*
- *Program 9: Biodiversity Protection and enhancement;*
- *Program 10: Pest Animal and Plant Management and*
- *Program 12: Fostering Community Engagement.*

---

### **1.3 Consistency with Regional Natural Resource Management Plan**

Consistent with the Board's "Regional Natural Resource Management Plan" (currently in development) and the Board's "Investment Strategy" (February 2006), this Engagement and Communication Plan has been prepared within the context of the initial SA MDB NRM Board's Concept Statement Vision and Targets, as follows:

*Improve the condition and sustainability of natural resources, based on:*

- *Sustainable limits*
- *Landscape scale management*
- *Capability, capacity, commitment and connections*
- *Threat abatement*
- *Institutional reform*
- *Benefits to the environment, economy and society*

*Identify risks and barriers to achieving the management change required to achieve the aspirations for the condition of the natural resource assets.*

### **1.4 Purpose of the Local Government NRM Engagement and Communication Plan 2006/07**

The *Local Government NRM Engagement and Communication Plan 2006/07*

has been developed to work with relevant Councils and regional Local Government Associations (LGAs) using three key approaches:

#### **1. Consultation and Involvement in Communication Plan**

Meet with Councils and regional LGAs on a one on one basis.

#### **2. Establishment of Local Government NRM Advisory Groups**

Work with Councils to establish:

- four sub – regional Local Government NRM Advisory Groups that will provide direct Local Government connections with corresponding NRM Groups, and hence the NRM Board.
- a SA MDB NRM Mayors Forum that will provide an opportunity for strategic level discussions on NRM as it relates to Local Government business.

#### **3. Promotion of NRM Board support and services**

Promote the range of in-house services – programs and support that are available to Local Government through the NRM Board and staff.

## 1.5 Spheres of Influence

As part of the *Local Government NRM Engagement and Communication Plan 2006/07*, the SA MDB NRM Board is committed to using appropriate methods and tools to inform and engage with all partners.

Understanding the difference between the tools and their sphere of influence is important for effective partnering on NRM initiatives.

As a framework, the Board will apply a combination of the following tools and techniques when working with Local Government:

<b>Tool</b>	<b>Broad principle</b>
<b>INFORM</b>	Keep partners and stakeholders informed of decisions
<b>CONSULT</b>	Obtain feedback from partners and stakeholders. A commitment to listen and acknowledge partner and stakeholder concerns and aspirations.
<b>INVOLVE</b>	Work together to ensure that joint concerns and aspirations are reflected in the alternatives developed.
<b>COLLABORATE</b>	Partner on decision making process. All parties contribute directly to solutions / outcomes.

*Produced by Strategic Matters. Adapted from IAP2*

These tools are highlighted against strategies in the Proposed Action Plan (section 4).



---

## 2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NRM

### 2.1 Relationship between Boards and Local Government

Local Government has much to offer to regional natural resources management processes from a strategic perspective. It is for this reason that Local Government and regional LGAs are recognised as valuable partners in the NRM process.

Local Government is involved in the protection and enhancement of natural resources as part of their day to day functions and operations and generally have a strong appreciation of their role in natural resources management at a local level.

Local Government involvement in NRM as defined within the Objects of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* is stated simply as:

*“the Local Government sector is to be recognised as a key participant in natural resource management, especially on account of its close connections to the community and its role in regional and local planning”.*

While the NRM Act describes how the NRM Council and NRM Board membership needs to include knowledge, skills and experience across twelve key areas, including Local Government and Local Government administration, in addition to arrangements for NRM levy collection via Councils, no further guidance regarding the role of Local Government in natural resources management is prescribed. In effect this permits each NRM region to establish its own agenda in terms of the working relationships between Councils and the NRM Board and Councils and sub-regional NRM Groups.

*(For more information on the NRM Groups – refer to Appendix A).*

The SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board aims to build upon existing relationships with its constituent Councils to provide strategic leadership and policy guidance for:

- the alignment of Council Strategic and Corporate Plans with the State and Regional NRM Plans;
- Council Development Plan reviews;
- asset management, including stormwater master plan development and wastewater management planning.

Opportunities for cooperation between the Board and Local Government will be strengthened through the encouragement and facilitation of greater involvement of Councils in the development of the Regional NRM Plan and associated annual Investment Strategies.

The method by which the Board will seek input from all stakeholders to aid the development of the Regional NRM Plan and Investment Strategy is detailed within the draft Engagement Strategy for the Development of the Regional Natural Resources Management Plan for the SA Murray-Darling Basin (currently under development).

## 2.2 Local Government within the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board area

Seventeen local councils are located within the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board region. *Refer to Figure 1.* It is the intent of this Engagement Plan to work directly with individual Councils within the SA Murray-Darling Basin region.

The Councils within the SA Murray-Darling Basin have been categorised as either:

- > a **Primary Council**, meaning the majority of that Council's area (geography) is located within the Board's area, as listed below;

Alexandrina Council	Mid Murray Council
Berri Barmera Council	District Council of Mount Barker
Coorong District Council	Rural City Murray Bridge
Regional Council of Goyder	District Council Renmark Paringa
District Council of Karoonda/ East Murray	Southern Mallee District Council
District Council Loxton Waikerie	

- > a **Cross Regional Council**, meaning part of that Council falls within the Board's area, and hence their major contact for NRM issues is a neighbouring NRM Board, as listed below.

Adelaide Hills Council	District Council of Peterborough
The Barossa Council	Tatiara District Council
Northern Areas Council	City of Victor Harbor.
City of Onkaparinga	

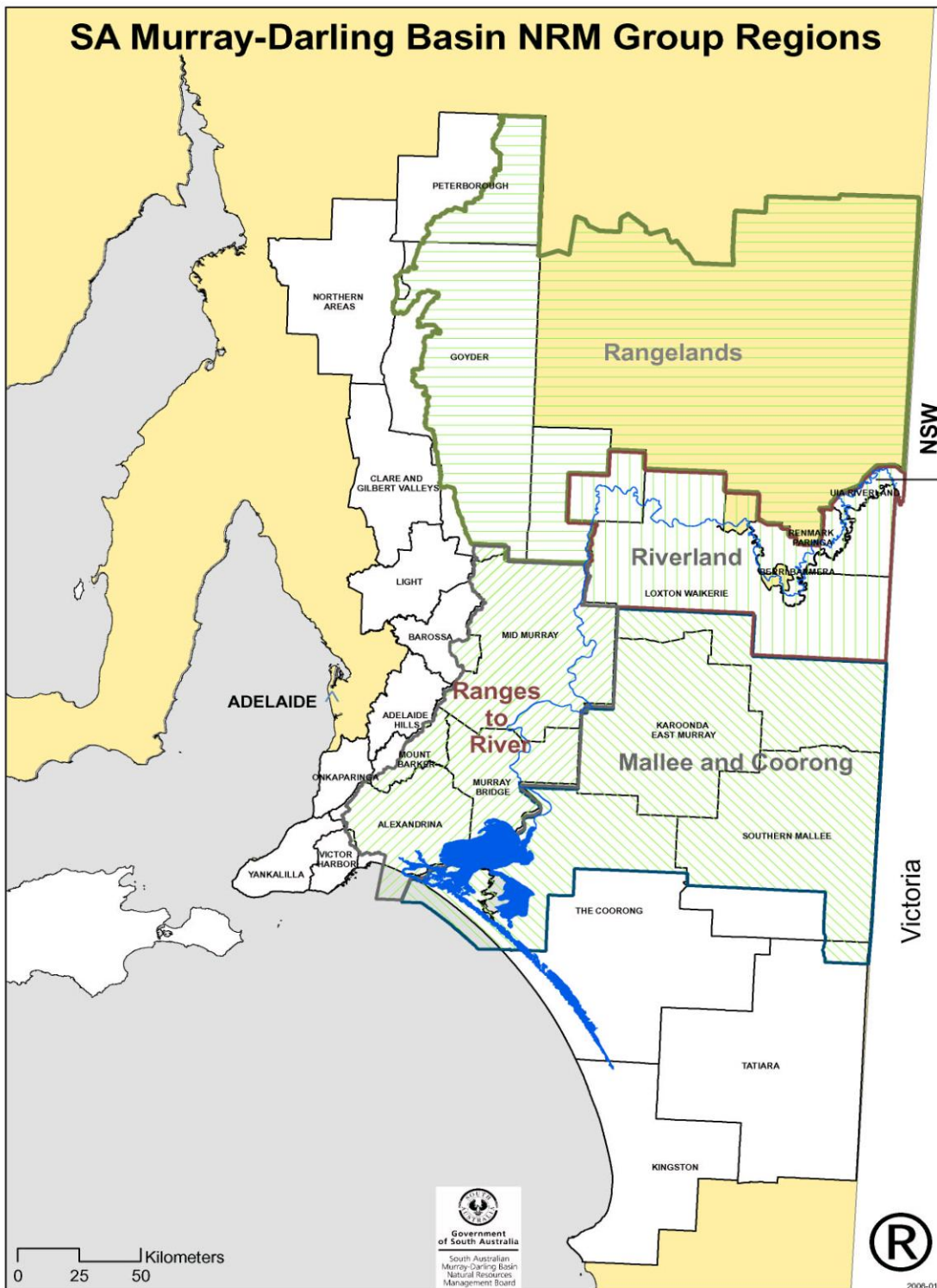
However there are a number of situations where the SA MDB NRM Board may need to engage in a more intensive manner with some of the Cross Regional Councils. This will be particularly relevant when addressing cross boundary issues such as water allocation planning.

## 2.3 Regional Local Government Associations

Traditionally the **Murray and Mallee Local Government Association (LGA)** has been the major conduit by which the Board has engaged with a significant proportion of Councils within its region. This *Local Government NRM Engagement and Communication Plan* will continue to strengthen this relationship.

The *Local Government NRM Engagement and Communication Plan 2006/07* also focuses on actions that will enhance and strengthen the relationship with the **Southern and Hills LGA** and **Central LGA**. It is envisaged that this will be achieved through a range of mechanisms including briefings to each regional Local Government Association and meetings with their respective executive officers regarding Local Government involvement in the strategic direction for NRM for the region. More detail is provided in Section 3 *Proposed tools and processes* and Section 4 – *Proposed Action Plan*.

Figure 1: South Australian Murray-Darling Basin NRM Group Regions



## 2.4 Snapshot of Local Government NRM Issues

In preparing the *Local Government NRM Engagement and Communication Plan 2006/07* the SA MDB NRM Board appreciates the multi layered issues that Local Government is confronting in the NRM arena.

In recognition of this, a quick analysis of likely Local Government NRM issues, the response from the NRM Board and some suggested joint processes for moving forward are highlighted below. More detailed information is located in section 4 – the [proposed] Action plan.

1. Establishing a flow of strategic and operational NRM information across councils within the SA MDB NRM Board region;
2. Increasing the prominence of NRM projects as a priority for Primary Councils;
3. Increasing awareness of NRM programs, support services and funding opportunities available through the SA MDB NRM Board;
4. Preparing project concepts, budgets, and funding submissions that have a strong NRM focus; and
5. Protecting the region’s natural resources.

Issue	SA MDB NRM Board Commitment
Establishing a flow of strategic and operational information across councils within the SA MDB NRM Board region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Meet with Primary Councils and regional LGAs on a one on one basis.</li> <li>&gt; Advise Cross Regional Councils of proposals in writing.</li> <li>&gt; Coordinate the establishment of Local Government NRM sub-regional Advisory Groups and provide executive officer support to these groups.</li> <li>&gt; Seek input from Councils regarding local NRM priorities, eg pest and animal control, biodiversity management etc.</li> </ul>
Increasing the prominence of NRM projects as a priority for Primary Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Meet with Primary Councils and regional LGAs on a one on one basis.</li> <li>&gt; Promote the range of in-house NRM Board programs and support that are available to councils.</li> <li>&gt; Identify / map key issues with relevant councils.</li> <li>&gt; Work towards an “investment strategy” re cost efficiencies relating to life cycle management and costing of assets eg: water recycling.</li> <li>&gt; Work with Councils to align NRM project cycles with council budgets.</li> </ul>

<p>Increasing awareness of NRM programs, support services and funding opportunities available through the SA MDB NRM Board</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Meet with Primary Councils and regional LGAs on a one on one basis.</li><li>&gt; Brief Councils on NRM programs and promote the range of in-house NRM Board support that are available to councils.</li><li>&gt; Engage Local Government in activities stipulated in the Capacity Building Plan.</li><li>&gt; Measure effectiveness of the Capacity Building Program.</li><li>&gt; Promote strategic positioning of NRM Board to councils.</li><li>&gt; Promote "Investment Strategy" of NRM Board to all councils.</li><li>&gt; Brief Elected Members and senior staff on resources available to them through the NRM Board, including in-house personnel, community information sheets, training opportunities etc.</li></ul>
<p>Preparing project concepts, budgets, and funding submissions that have a strong NRM focus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Meet with Primary Councils and regional LGAs on a one on one basis.</li><li>&gt; Promote the range of in-house NRM Board programs and support that is available to councils, in particular project scoping, project budgeting, grant submissions and project implementation support.</li><li>&gt; NRM Board staff to assist with the preparation of funding applications.</li></ul>
<p>Protecting the region's natural resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Engage Local Government in activities stipulated in the Capacity Building Plan.</li><li>&gt; Measure effectiveness of the Capacity Building Program.</li><li>&gt; Promote and run a number of "hands on" NRM workshops eg: roadside management (water and vegetation focus).</li></ul>

### 3. PROPOSED TOOLS AND PROCESSES

In order to work more effectively with Local Government the SA MDB NRM Board proposes a range of strategies that are highlighted in more detail below:

- 3.1 Local Government Briefings
- 3.2 Establishment of NRM Sub-Regional Advisory Groups
- 3.3 Promotion of NRM Board Programs and Support
- 3.4 Enhanced Strategic Alliances
- 3.5 Increased Partnership Agreements
- 3.6 Targeted and effective print media

#### 3.1 Local Government Briefings

As an initial activity, the SA MDB NRM Board will conduct a series of awareness raising briefings with Councils and regional LGAs.

The focus of these sessions will be to:

- a) introduce Councils to the NRM Board's roles and responsibilities;
- b) highlight the opportunities within the SA MDB NRM Board programs and administrative structure, which specifically cater for the needs of Local Government, including technical support and capacity building initiatives;
- c) explore joint opportunities, including funding partnerships;
- d) create opportunities for sharing of information to and from Local Government and the NRM Board;
- e) provide details of the SA MDB NRM Plan and Investment Strategy development and consultation processes;
- f) seek feedback on the SA MDB NRM Board's Engagement and Communication Plan.

#### 3.2 Establishment of Local Government NRM Advisory Groups

##### Sub-Regional Local Government NRM Advisory Groups

In an initiative to strengthen NRM communication and input in the regions it is proposed that four Local Government NRM sub-regional Advisory Groups will be established for each of the four NRM Group regions within the SA Murray-Darling Basin.

*Refer to Figure 1 South Australian Murray-Darling Basin NRM Group Regions for details of NRM Group boundaries relative to Local Government boundaries.*

Importantly, the Executive Officer function of the Advisory Groups will be provided by the SA MDB NRM Board staff.

These Advisory Groups, proposed to be held quarterly in each sub-region, will provide Councils with:

- > A conduit by which to influence and be informed of the activities of their relevant NRM Groups;
- > A mechanism for Councils to provide advice and guidance on local NRM priorities, and Local Government related programs and initiatives within the NRM Plan and Investment Strategy;
- > An opportunity to raise NRM issues for which they require further information;

- 
- > A mechanism for cross regional/state/national NRM issues affecting Local Government to be discussed (a standing invitation will be provided to relevant neighboring NRM Boards, Australian Government representatives, Local Action Planning Groups etc);
  - > A mechanism for the Board to inform Councils of Board programs of direct relevance to Local Government business and the needs of their community, including:
    - Water Quality Management
    - Biodiversity Management
    - Water allocation, policy and licensing issues
    - Pest animal and plant control activities, and
  - > A platform for discussion on the above and any other relevant matters.

The Advisory Groups will provide a mechanism by which Local Government can influence the NRM agenda throughout the SA Murray-Darling Basin, and also assists communication between the parties.

Any matters of regional or sub-regional significance raised by the Advisory Groups will feed into Board processes via the sub-regional NRM Groups and direct Board staff involvement.

### **SA MDB NRM Board Mayors' NRM Forum**

The proposed SA MDB NRM Board Mayors NRM Forum will provide an opportunity for strategic level discussions on NRM as it relates to Local Government business.

This Forum will provide Mayors and Chief Executive Officers with:

- > A conduit by which to influence and be informed of the activities of the NRM Board;
- > A mechanism for Councils to provide feedback and guidance on strategic matters affecting Local Government's role in Natural Resources Management;
- > An opportunity to raise NRM issues for which they require further information;
- > A mechanism for cross regional/state/national NRM issues affecting Local Government to be discussed; and
- > A platform for discussion on the above and any other relevant matters.

It is proposed that the Mayors' NRM Forum will be held twice per year, with agendas being prepared by the Board based upon items raised by either individual Councils or regional Local Government Associations, with flexibility to address emergent issues.

### **3.3 Promotion of NRM Board Programs and Support**

The SA MDB NRM Board will offer councils a range of services that will build partnerships around core NRM themes. In particular the Board has available:

#### ***Technical Support***

Technical and financial support for Local Government projects that will:

- > improve the water quality of catchment water resources so that they are suitable for recreational, environmental, and consumptive uses, and/or
- > achieve water conservation through avoidance, re-use or water use efficiency.

---

### ***Planning and Infrastructure***

In particular the Board is seeking to invest in partnerships with Local Government to address:

- > Stormwater management and re-use
- > Wastewater re-use infrastructure
- > Water conservation and efficiency
- > Development plan policy improvements relating to NRM.

### ***NRM Capacity Building***

Further, the Board aims to maximise Local Government participation in capacity building and training initiatives to provide Council staff with the skills and resources to improve their ability to protect the natural resources within their respective Council areas, both as part of Council operations and activities associated with new development.

It is important that all Councils within the SA Murray-Darling Basin are aware of these programs, so that each has an equal opportunity to access these funds and services.

## **3.4 Enhanced Strategic Alliances**

### ***Cross Regional Issues***

Several of the Board's constituent Councils also fall within the boundary of another state Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board. These Councils are faced with the need to become involved with the functions of more than one Board and consequently are experiencing "information overload" on NRM issues.

As a strategy, the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board will work closely with relevant neighbouring NRM Boards to align programs wherever possible to minimise duplication of effort by Local Government and achieve efficiencies.

The SA Murray-Darling Basin will continue to ensure Cross Regional Councils are informed of all emerging matters relating to the Local Government NRM functions via general correspondence. The Board will however engage directly with these Councils on cross regional issues identified to date that will require synergies across NRM regions including: NRM Plan development, Investment Strategy Development, policy development and implementation support, capacity building and training.

### ***State agency alliances***

The Board will work with relevant state agencies to achieve a range of outcomes to support Local Government initiatives in NRM, including:

- Improvements in development assessment referral (*River Murray Act 2003*) processes and outcomes;
- greater access to NRM information and data;
- review of policy or legislative barriers to effective implementation of NRM; and
- coordination of funding processes, where possible.



---

### ***NRM Board and National links***

The Australian Government has several positions dedicated to the supporting Local Government initiatives in natural resources management. It is important that the Board works closely with these positions to ensure opportunities for cross regional and national partnerships are identified and utilised.

Further, by keeping the Australian Government informed of successful Local Government natural resource management projects, funded through national programs such as the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, National Water Initiative and Natural Heritage Trust, the Board can promote the significant contribution of Local Government to NRM and thereby engender mature partnering arrangements for future funding initiatives.

### **3.5 Increased Partnership Agreements**

The Local Government Association has established a working group to develop a model Protocol and Memorandum of Understanding for Local Government Engagement in Natural Resources Management (NRM). The process will draw upon the related work undertaken by Jim Hullick for the Murray Darling Association and experiences interstate.

The SA Murray-Darling NRM Board will review and provide comment on the draft LGA Model Local Government Engagement Protocol and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and engage with regional LGAs and individual Councils to works towards consensus on the nature and content of the agreement.

### **3.6 Targeted and effective Print media**

The NRM Board will build upon existing arrangements with local newspapers to ensure the environmental benefits of joint Board and Council projects (eg roadside vegetation management, stormwater treatment and wastewater reuse) are promoted.

The Board will actively work with Councils to assist marketing of partnership projects and other Board initiatives of interest to Local Government via Council community newsletters and a Local Government NRM Newsletter to be developed by the Board.

Section 4 highlights a range of strategies and actions the SA MDB NRM Board is keen to discuss and pursue with consistent council and relevant bodies.

## SECTION 4 PROPOSED ACTION PLAN

### PART A – SA MDB NRM Local Government Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2007

The first component of the plan focuses on the stakeholders within the Local Government sector.

The SA MDB NRM Board proposes the following strategies, actions and timing:

Stakeholder Group	Strategy	Actions	When	Responsibility
<b><i>Establishing a flow of strategic information across councils within the SA MDB NRM Board region</i></b>				
Other state NRM Boards management and staff	Explore opportunities for collaboration on Local Government initiatives to achieve consistency across NRM Boards and associated cost efficiencies <i>(involvement)</i>	Convene a meeting with representatives of <u>all</u> NRM Boards to identify opportunities for collaboration for Local Government projects across areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; policy development</li> <li>&gt; Local Government Engagement Protocol and MoU</li> <li>&gt; Capacity Building and training</li> </ul>	December 2006	Principal Project Officer (Local Government)
MDB NRM Mayors' Forum	Presiding Member and General Manager of SA MDB NRM Board work with Mayors and Chief Executives Officers from constituent councils to manage issues of political and strategic significance <i>(involvement)</i>	Presiding Member of SA MDB NRM Board initiate meeting with all Mayors from constituent councils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; First Mayors' forum held by Mar 2007</li> <li>&gt; Thereafter six monthly meetings</li> </ul>	March 2007	General Manager
NRM sub-regional Advisory Groups	Board together with NRM Groups work with Councils to address NRM policy and operational issues relevant to Local Government. <i>(involvement)</i>	Establishment of Local Government NRM sub-regional Advisory Groups that provide a mechanism by which Local Government can influence the NRM agenda throughout the region.	April 2007 (ongoing)	Deputy General Manager

Stakeholder Group	Strategy	> Actions	When	Responsibility
Cross regional Councils - Elected Membership and Executive staff members	Align programs and consultation with Local Government wherever possible, to minimise duplication of effort for Cross Regional Councils and achieve efficiencies. <i>(consulting and informing)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Work with neighboring NRM Boards as significant partner for NRM, and offers Board support where appropriate.</li> <li>&gt; Meet with each of "cross regional" councils, jointly with other NRM Boards (if possible), to clarify the roles of each Board in relation to Council NRM business</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ongoing</li> <li>2. June 2007</li> </ol>	Principal Project Officer (Local Government)
Regional LGAs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote Board programs that support Local Govt NRM activities</li> <li>2. Encourage adoption of MoU and Protocol for Local Government Engagement in NRM</li> </ol> <i>(involvement, consulting and informing)</i>	<p>Provide briefing to LGA meeting x 3 Include in the briefing details of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. LG involvement in the strategic direction of NRM for the region including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Engagement and Communication Plan</li> <li>&gt; Board programs which align with Local Government business,</li> <li>&gt; Development Plan policy and asset management</li> <li>&gt; Technical support available to LG</li> <li>&gt; Local Government NRM Investment Strategy Summary document</li> <li>&gt; Capacity Building program, including training for LG in NRM</li> <li>&gt; review and provide comment on the draft LGA Model Local Government Engagement Protocol and Memorandum of Understanding</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. March 2006</li> <li>2. Within 3 months of the release of the Draft LGA Model Local Government Engagement</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Principal Project Officer (Local Government)</li> <li>2. Senior Policy Officer (Local Government)</li> </ol>

Stakeholder Group	Strategy	Actions	When	Responsibility
<b><i>Increasing the prominence of NRM projects as a priority for Primary Councils</i></b>				
Primary Councils – Elected Membership and Executive staff members	Meet with each of councils on one on one basis re: Board programs that support Local Govt NRM activities <i>(involvement and consulting)</i>	Provide briefing and workshop session to Ordinary meeting of Council Include in the briefing details of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; LG involvement in the strategic direction of NRM for the region;</li> <li>&gt; Board programs which align with Local Government business;</li> <li>&gt; Development Plan policy, and asset management</li> <li>&gt; NRM investment within each NRM Group region;</li> <li>&gt; Technical support available to LG;</li> <li>&gt; Local Government NRM Investment Strategy summary document, highlighting funding opportunities of relevance to Local Government</li> <li>&gt; Capacity Building program, including training for LG in NRM</li> </ul>	June 2007	Principal Project Officer (Local Government)

Stakeholder Group	Strategy	Actions	When	Responsibility
<b>Increasing awareness of NRM support services and funding opportunities available through the SA MDB NRM Board</b>				
Primary Councils – Senior Management and relevant staff	Meet with each of councils on one on one basis re: Board programs that support Local Government NRM activities. <i>(involvement and consulting)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Meet with planning, engineering and environmental staff to identify opportunities for the Board to support Council NRM projects.</li> <li>&gt; Promote Board skills building services and tools, including:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) “hands on” NRM workshops eg: roadside management (water and vegetation focus);</li> <li>(b) guidelines to aid the Development Assessment (DA) processes, eg water sensitive urban design information sheets;</li> <li>(c) natural resources impact assessment advice on development proposals, as required.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	December 2006	Principal Project Officer (Local Government)
<b>Preparing project concepts, budgets, and funding submissions that have a strong NRM focus</b>				
Primary Councils – Senior Management and relevant staff	Meet with each of councils on one on one basis to commence scoping of possible projects to be funded / developed and implemented jointly by Local Govt and SA MDB NRM Board <i>(involvement and consulting)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Identify potential partnership opportunities for policy development, asset management, capacity building and training.</li> <li>&gt; Work towards an “investment strategy” re cost efficiencies relating to life cycle management and costing of assets eg: water recycling.</li> </ul>	December 2006	Principal Project Officer (Local Government)

## Part B SA MDB NRM Board Communication Plan 2007

In addition to working directly with the Local Government sector, the SA MDB NRM Board is committed to communication with key partners and the broader community.

The SA MDB NRM Board proposes the following strategies, actions and timing:

Stakeholder Group	strategy	Action	When	Responsibility
<b><i>Establishing a flow of strategic information across councils within the SA MDB NRM Board region</i></b>				
Councils elected members and staff	Improve information flow between Board, NRM Groups and Councils <i>(consulting and informing)</i>	Establish Local Government NRM Forum to address Local Government roles and projects in NRM for each NRM Group region, x 4	Every 4 months (or as required for emergent issues).	Principal Project Officer (Local Government)
Council elected members and staff	Raise awareness of Board funded programs To be underpinned / supported by the budget within Council <i>(consulting and informing)</i>	Release Local Government Newsletter, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Details of Local Government partnership projects</li> <li>&gt; Forthcoming LG NRM training Opportunities</li> <li>&gt; Regulatory/ policy developments</li> </ul>	2 x per year, 1st issue November 2006	Senior Policy Officer (Local Government)
Broader Community	Promote Board and Local Government jointly funded programs, to raise awareness of the importance of water quality, wastewater reuse, water conservation and biodiversity management within public open space. <i>(consulting and informing)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Seek to include editorials on Board and Local Government jointly funded projects within Council newsletters</li> <li>&gt; Continue to include Local Government NRM project features in regular Board columns within local print media</li> <li>&gt; Cite success stories that are relevant and meaningful.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Senior Project Officer (Local Government)

---

**Appendix A -  
Terms of Reference for NRM Group**

1. Manage existing Catchment/Water Allocation/INRM Plans, Animal and Plant Control Plans, Soil District Plans and Regional Investment Strategy projects in their area of responsibility, within budgets approved by the Board
2. In collaboration with the Board, contribute to the development of Natural Resources Management plans through the provision of local advice and knowledge
3. In collaboration with the board and other NRM Groups, as appropriate, develop, implement or participate in NRM Programs at the local level and promote regionally consistent and integrated approach to the management of natural resources
4. In collaboration with the Board and other NRM Groups, promote public awareness of the importance of integrated and sustainable NRM within its area and undertake or support educational initiatives with respect to NRM
5. Provide advice to the Board and other bodies on policies and strategies related to the management and implementation of NRM Programs and the assessment natural resources condition within its area
6. Establish advisory committees under the direction from, or with the approval of, the Board or required by regulation
7. Provide advice on compliance activities at the local level, such as controlling pest plants on road reserves, soil conservation matters and other compliance activities, if delegated by the Board
8. In collaboration with the Board monitor and evaluate the activities and outcomes of the implementation of the NRM Plan
9. Provide advice and report to the Board on activities and outcomes achieved from the implementation of the NRM Plan and the allocation of resources ( financial, human, knowledge) at the local level
10. Review any outstanding issues related to the NRM Group boundaries or cross boundary issues, and make recommendations to the Board to assist the resolution of those issues
11. Work collaboratively with adjacent NRM Groups, State agencies, Australian Government, constituent councils, relevant industry, environmental and community groups and, if relevant, persons who own occupy land within the area of the NRM Group to engender integrated and sustainable development and management of natural resources within its area
12. Conduct business (meetings, workshops and other events) in accordance with the requirements of the NRM Act 2004 and the policies of the Board.
13. In accordance with the NRM Act 2004, will ensure that an Annual Report is prepared and presented to the Board by 31 October each year.