

Hon Geoff Brock MP

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

Friday 21 April 2017

Annual funding for Community Wastewater Management System extended for 10 years

The State Government has committed to investing more than \$47 million over the next 10 years to extend the Community Wastewater Management System Funding Agreement to support the installation of essential infrastructure in regional towns.

A review of the Funding Agreement conducted last year concluded the CWMS program the fund supports was recognised as an outstanding success by industry participants, State agencies and local councils.

Background

The State Government provides \$4 million a year indexed over 10 years to the Local Government Association to support the installation of new communal wastewater management systems in regional towns where urban sewer systems are not provided by SA Water.

This funding allows councils to build new schemes which address critical public health and environmental needs. Councils can provide this service at a cost to their communities equitable with users of SA Water services.

Local Government currently operates 172 Community Wastewater Management Systems in 45 councils and authorities across the State.

Over the past decade, the State Government has allocated more than \$38 million with local communities contributing more than \$20 million since the inception of the current funding agreement in July 2008.

The current 10 year funding agreement expires on June 30 2017.

Quotes attributable to Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock

The State Government funded CWMS program supports councils to provide an essential service to their communities.

These schemes not only ensure that public and environmental health standards in our regional towns are met, but also often provide the necessary infrastructure for those communities to pursue economic development opportunities.

The combined \$58.5 million State Government and community investment in the CWMS over the past 10 years has resulted in more than 3,000 connections to 11 new wastewater treatment facilities in our regions.

We know there is a continuing need for new schemes. This ongoing commitment over the next decade will allow even more regional councils to install modern wastewater management facilities in their towns.

Quotes attributable to Local Government President, Lorraine Rosenberg

The CWMS program is another fantastic example of state and local government working together for the benefit of communities, and we are thrilled the Government has committed to extending this partnership.

The benefits of CWMS are not limited to public health – these projects generate much needed regional employment through the construction phase, provide support for existing SME businesses such as pubs and caravan parks, and in some cases can open up new economic opportunities for remote and rural towns.

The LGA looks forward to working with the Government, councils and communities over the coming decade to facilitate the development of essential CWMS infrastructure across our State.

Media Contact: Richard Lower 0419 838 646