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MINISTER'S
OFFICE

20 AUG 2014

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Hon Geoff Brock MP
Minister for Regional Development
Level 17, 25 Grenfell Street
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Dear Minister

The Premier wrote to Chairs of all Boards and Committees on 8 July 2014, seeking to reform South Australian government boards and committees. In his letter, the Premier invited all boards and committees to consider their functions and to liaise with ministerial and departmental staff in preparing a response.

The letter from the Premier advises that Ministers will be responsible for recommending which boards and committees should be exempt from being abolished.

The Regional Communities Consultative Council (RCCC) met on 31 July 2014 to discuss its response to the Premier's letter.

The Terms of Reference of the RCCC relate to advising the Minister on the broader impact of decisions on regional communities and of opportunities for initiatives to advance the social, economic and environmental development across regions. In undertaking its role, the RCCC has, up to now, brought a whole range of issues to the attention of previous Regional Development Ministers as a result of its in-depth engagement with broad sections of regional communities.

The letter from the Premier has resulted in the RCCC re-examining its role, in line with the Premier's future expectations of boards and committees, and other developments such as the government's Charter for Stronger Regional Policy. As a result of these deliberations, the following points are made:

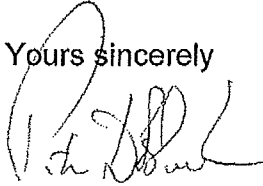
- The RCCC is seeking to reinvigorate its method of consultation to ensure it remains a strong direct conduit for government engagement with regions, not a filter.
- While the government has sophisticated ways of bringing their views and ideas to communities, communities often find it difficult to find ways to bring their views back to government. The RCCC acts as a strong and direct conduit to this community - to - government interaction and connection.

- It is renewing its approach seeking to focus on a small number of key issues impacting on South Australian regions, such as:
 - the impact of Federal Budget decisions on regional South Australia;
 - priorities for young people in regional South Australia; and
 - sharing between regional communities case studies of positive examples of how regions are meeting challenges or creating opportunities.

In acknowledgement of its proposed changed focus going forward, the RCCC has agreed to review the composition of its membership and in particular invite skilled experts to advise the Council on key areas of focus.

To support our proposed changed focus, the RCCC would like to nominate three of its members – Kay Matthias, George Beltchev and myself- to meet with you to discuss in greater detail its role going forward. Please contact Regions SA on 8226 0449 if you would like assistance with coordination of such a meeting.

Yours sincerely



Peter Blacker
Chair
Regional Communities Consultative Council