

Ref: A543673



Government of South Australia
Department of State Development

19 August 2014

The Hon Susan Close
Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation
Level 6, 45 Pirie Street
Adelaide SA 5000

Reg	Further
File	FA29989
Ack	MIT14/00022
To	
Urgency	
Action	

Dear Minister Close

Further to your correspondence of 12 August, regarding the South Australian Government's boards and committees reform program, I confirm that my recommendation would be to abolish the Advanced Manufacturing Council (AMC) as of October 2014.

As you are aware, the terms of all AMC members were due to end in June 2015. It was my expectation that, having delivered on the original terms of reference, a decision to abolish the AMC would have been made at that time.

When it was established in 2012, the Council was tasked with achieving some short and medium term goals, in particular the development of a manufacturing strategy and to oversee the implementation of the initiatives it contained. As part of this process, the agency has been exposed to best practise industry policy from a number of jurisdictions and I am confident the appropriate resources are available to them to continue the policy development process in keeping with global trends.

I propose the responsibilities that previously rested with the AMC and are still relevant to South Australia's 10 economic priorities be transferred to the Value Add and Industry Growth subcommittee of the Economic Development Board (EDB) of which I am Chair.

The industry links established through the AMC will continue through the EDB, their Value Add and Industry Growth Subcommittee, the Manufacturing Leaders Network and the existing relationship with the Australian Industry Group.

I would like to keep you informed on my plans for AMC member, Mrs Maggie Beer. Mrs Beer was appointed to the AMC in April 2014 specifically for her expertise and experience in the food industry, food manufacturing and the contribution she could make to the development of a South Australian Food Road Map. Although responsibility for managing this project now sits with PIRSA, it was going to be overseen by the AMC. I am of the view that if the AMC is abolished, it is appropriate to retain Mrs Beer on the same basis as was originally agreed, i.e., as a member of the Food Road Map steering committee, on the equivalent of her AMC remuneration until June 2015 or until the project is complete. I will discuss appropriate options with PIRSA.

The Conservatory

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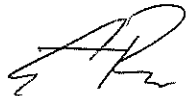


There is one issue regarding the abolishment of the AMC I would raise for your consideration. As Chair of the Council, I felt it was important to establish links with other bodies responsible for industry and/or economic development. As such, former South Australian Chief Scientist Prof Don Bursill, and Dr Ian Gould as a representative of the EDB had standing invitations to attend all AMC meetings and events as guests. The current Chief Scientist, Dr Leanna Read is also a member of the EDB and of the Value Add and Industry Growth subcommittee. In addition, when AMC member Mr Greg Combet was appointed to the role of Automotive Transformation Coordinator and subsequently Chair of the Automotive Task Force, there was a mechanism to align the objectives of the AMC, the EDB and the automotive transition program. In light of the significance of the departure of GM Holden and the impacts it will have on the industrial landscape in South Australia, I propose that, with the agreement of the Chair of the EDB, a replacement mechanism be considered to ensure the alignment between the Task Force and the EDB continues. I suggest two solutions:

1. To second Greg Combet to the Value Add and Industry Growth subcommittee of the EDB, or
2. Second me as Chair of the Value Add and Industry Growth subcommittee to the Automotive Task Force Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the boards and committees reform program, I will await your advice on the final outcome. It has been a great privilege to take on the role of Chair and I would like to thank you for your interest in, and support of, the AMC.

Kind regards



Prof Göran Roos
Chair
Advanced Manufacturing Council