



# LEGATUS GROUP

5 December 2019

ABN: 34 728 242 315

**Chairman:**  
Mayor Peter Matthey

**Chief Executive Officer:**  
Simon Millcock

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**Member Councils:**

Adelaide Plains Council  
Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council  
Copper Coast Council  
District Council of Barunga West  
District Council of Mount Remarkable  
District Council of Orreroo Carrieton  
District Council of Peterborough  
Light Regional Council  
Northern Areas Council  
Port Pirie Regional Council  
Regional Council of Goyder  
The Barossa Council  
The Flinders Ranges Council  
Wakefield Regional Council  
Yorke Peninsula Council

The Hon David Littleproud MP  
Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural  
Disaster & Emergency Management  
Parliament House  
**CANBERRA ACT 2600**

Dear Minister Littleproud

**Subject: Drought assistance funding in South Australia**

The Legatus Group on behalf of its fifteen (15) member councils would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the support from the Australian Government, for the Drought Communities Programme and the Future Drought Fund.

In December 2018 we wrote to Prime Minister Morrison seeking support for equity, and requested further clarity regarding the decision-making processes; as at that time only seven (7) of our member councils had been assessed as eligible for the Drought Communities Programme.

During the past twelve months seven (7) more of our member councils have become eligible for the Drought Communities Programme. We are pleased to note that this funding will provide very much needed assistance to communities across our region. Additionally, our members have shown the capacity to deliver the programme, even when short time frames have been required.

The board has asked me to write to you to bring to your attention that there are remaining issues around equity. The Barossa Council have not been deemed eligible. I respectfully ask that this matter be reviewed.

We were very pleased to see the Future Drought Fund Consultative Committee visited South Australia. The initial one meeting was expanded to two; however, there was a very short time frame given to stakeholders, this factor

inevitably impacted upon the number of attendees. In particular, there was no meeting held in our region even though fourteen (14) members were considered affected.

We strongly support the Federal Governments' Future Drought Fund, and wish to impress upon you; that we believe, Local Government plays a pivotal role in the delivery of projects and programs, into the future.

We reiterate our ongoing concerns raised in our letter to Prime Minister Morrison, as sited. Many of our communities are severely lacking appropriate health services, medical practitioners, and in particular mental health services, and providers.

Legatus, and our partners, are taking an active role in longer-term drought issues. Our organisation together with strategic partners continue to assist with planning and delivery; identifying gaps in the current services and programs that are being delivered, and strategically assisting our member councils to move forward with sustainability.

Our partnership with Regional Development Australia and Natural Resource Management is assisting the continuity of planning; and the identification of regional strategic projects, that are scoped and ready for activation when funding opportunities arise.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Matthey', written in a cursive style.

Chairman  
Mayor Peter Matthey

cc:

Rowan Ramsey MP, Member for Grey

Mayor Erika Vickery, Chair, South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils

Mr Brent Finlay, Chair, Future Drought Fund Consultative Committee