

Report No:	RCN12-07-05
File No:	
Date:	12 July 2012
<b>Decision Required</b>	

## REPORT SUMMARY

**Report to:** Full Council  
**Meeting Date:** 26 July 2012  
**Report Author:** L McKenzie, Chief Executive  
**Subject:** **South Island Strategic Alliance – Terms of Reference**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since mid-2011 the Zone members of the South Island Councils have been discussing the need for the South Island to work more collaboratively:

- on joint projects and procurement where efficiencies or cost savings may be achieved; and
- a need for a combined South Island approach with central government and with other stakeholders.

The outcome of these discussions between Mayors, Chairs and CEOs of the South Island Councils has been a decision to form a South Island Strategic Alliance (SISA). This grouping will be a coalition of the willing, rather than any structured governance or management structure.

The Alliance will include the membership of the combined LGNZ Zone 5 & 6 groups (i.e. Mayors, Chairs, CEOs or their delegates). While SISA is to operate separate to LGNZ there is no intention to operate contrary to LGNZ. It is simply an opportunity to advocate for all councils in the South Island on key issues, as the case arises.

Strategic guidance was needed for SISA and a Terms of Reference has been crafted to provide a guiding document for that strategic direction.

At its meeting of 20 June 2012, the Combined LGNZ Zone 5 & 6 members resolved to:

- 1/ endorse in principle the proposed Terms of Reference for a South Island Strategic Alliance; and**
- 2/ recommend to the constituent councils that the Terms of Reference be adopted; and**
- 3/ recommend the respective Mayors and Chairs be authorised to become signatories; and**

**4/ advise LGNZ of the intended course of action**

In order to proceed, the attached Terms of Reference now needs to be adopted by the constituent Councils.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Tasman District Council adopts the Terms of Reference for the South Island Strategic Alliance (SISA) as outlined in Appendix One.

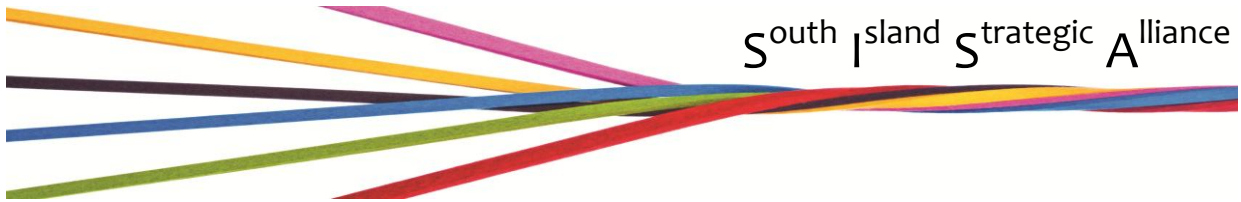
**DRAFT RESOLUTION**

**THAT the Tasman District Council**

- 1. receives the report RCN12-07-05 and;**
- 2. adopts the Terms of Reference for the South Island Strategic Alliance` (SISA) dated 5 July 2012.**

**Appendices:**

Appendix One – SISA Terms of Reference dated 5 July 2012



## **SOUTH ISLAND STRATEGIC ALLIANCE (SISA)**

Following are Terms of Reference for a South Island Strategic Alliance consisting of a membership of the Mayors/Chairs, supported by the CEO's, of the combined LGNZ Zone 5 and 6 groups.

### ***Purpose***

The purpose of the SISA is to provide for collaboration at a senior level between the LGNZ Zone 5 & 6 groups for responding to and managing a range of common and mutual interests to South Island local authority issues. SISA will facilitate;

- The ability for these parties to cooperate in areas of mutual benefit
- A combined South Island approach with central government and LGNZ
- The ability to work collaboratively with other Zones to develop local government positions on issues.
- Collaboration which will lead to the identification of strategic opportunities and may lead to sharing of services or shared procurement activity between alliance members.

SISA will be a collaborative body that may make recommendations to constituent councils and central government but holds no decision making authority.

### ***Objectives***

The overall objective is to maximise sustainable development opportunities for all of the South Island and its contribution to New Zealand.

- a) Identify strategic opportunities, and to collaborate on joint initiatives, which will support social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing across the South Island;
- b) Recognise and utilise the strengths of each region for the greater good of the South Island and New Zealand as a whole;
- c) Help coordinate and encourage beneficial interrelationships and connections between economic activities/services across the alliance;
- d) Share information, expertise, databases and research where there is a mutual interest and benefit;
- e) Encourage integration and consistency of planning across the South Island;
- f) Develop agreed positions as appropriate on matters of national importance and major government initiatives, and to communicate these positions to central government and relevant national organisations;
- g) Investigate opportunities for achieving cost efficiencies by sharing responsibilities and services, such as through one-stop shops and centres of excellence.

## ***Benefits***

- A means to better meet our statutory obligation to evaluate, plan for and manage inter authority issues as they affect our functions and responsibilities.
- Provide a means for efficient administration of Local Government legislation to support South Island economic development in a sustainable manner and meet the requirements of the local authorities and regional councils as outlined in the LGA and RMA Acts.
- A stronger and more unified voice into central government initiatives.
- Access to sharing specialist/professional services strengthening the autonomous role of individual members within the alliance.
- The opportunity to decrease costs in the provision of ratepayer services.

## ***How this will work***

- SISA will meet twice a year.
- The meeting will be attended by where possible the Chairperson/Mayor and Chief Executive of each alliance partner or his/her nominee.
- Each partner will fund their own participation
- Chief Executive's will identify officer resource to support SISA projects.
- SISA compliments LGNZ processes or structures.
- SISA will support the continued growth and development of shared services and shared procurement initiatives.

## ***Principles***

- The parties will work in good faith in a pragmatic, workable, collaborative relationship at the governance and management levels
- The primary strategic and major issues are at the inter-authority level.
- The parties recognise each council's right to make decisions for their region, city or district, and that these decisions may not always be in the interests of neighbouring councils
- Each party will seek to communicate on matters of mutual interest in an open, honest, respectful and proactive way.

- Where a party to this agreement has a significant disagreement with the position of another, each party will seek to accommodate, acknowledge or at least fairly represent the dissenting view of the other.
- Nothing in this agreement alters any statutory rights or obligations under any Act.
- This agreement neither precludes nor constitutes a joint venture, pooling arrangement, partnership or formal business organisation of any kind, nor an obligation to perform a contract with any other party.
- SISA administration and projects will be funded by agreement with participating councils.