



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS COMMISSION ACT 1992

No. 30 of 1992

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

Section

PART I PRELIMINARY

1. Short title
2. Commencement
3. Repeal
4. Interpretation

PART II THE ACCOUNT

5. The Account
6. Available moneys
7. Payment of amounts

PART III THE COMMISSION

8. Establishment of Commission
9. Conditions of membership
10. Remuneration and expenses
11. Proceedings of the Commission
12. Validity of acts of Commission and immunity of members
13. Misuse of confidential information
14. Staff
15. Functions of Commission
16. Inquiries and investigations
17. Principles to be applied by the Commission
18. Consideration of recommendations

PART IV COUNCILS

19. Information to be supplied to Commission

PART V MISCELLANEOUS

20. Financial report
21. Reports
22. Statement of payments to be furnished
23. Regulations
24. Transitional provision



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A.D. 1992

No. 30 of 1992

An Act to provide for the continued existence of the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission; to provide for the exercise and performance by it of its powers and functions; to repeal the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission Act 1976; and for other purposes.

[Assented to 21 May 1992]

The Parliament of South Australia enacts as follows:

**PART I
PRELIMINARY**

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the *South Australian Local Government Grants Commission Act 1992*.

Commencement

2. This Act will come into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

Repeal

3. The *South Australian Local Government Grants Commission Act 1976* is repealed.

Interpretation

4. In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears—

“the Account” means the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission Account continued in existence under section 5 of this Act:

“area” means the area in relation to which a council is constituted:

“the Commission” means the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission continued in existence under section 8 of this Act:

“the Commonwealth Act” means the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1986* of the Commonwealth as amended and in force for the time being (and includes an Act (if any) passed in substitution for that Act):

“Commonwealth funds” means any amount received under the Commonwealth Act in respect of allocations that have been approved under that Act:

“council” means a council under the *Local Government Act 1934* and includes any person or body (not being a person or body exercising any powers within the area of a council as defined for the purposes of that Act) prescribed as a council for the purposes of this Act:

“grant” means a grant payable under this Act:

“member” means a member of the Commission.

PART II THE ACCOUNT

The Account

5. (1) The *South Australian Local Government Grants Commission Account*, established at Treasury, continues in existence.

(2) The Account will consist of—

- (a) amounts received from the Government of the Commonwealth for the purposes of this Act;
- (b) such amounts as are appropriated by the Parliament for the purposes of this Act;
- (c) any income and accretions produced by the investment of money from the Account;
- (d) any other money received by the Commission for the purposes of this Act.

(3) The Account may be applied towards—

- (a) payments to councils under this Act;
- (b) administrative costs and other expenses related to the administration of this Act.

(4) The Treasurer may, after consultation with the Commission, invest money that is not immediately required for the purposes of the Account.

Available moneys

6. The Minister must, after consultation with the Commission, as soon as practicable after the commencement of each financial year, by notice in the *Gazette*, specify the total amount that will be available from the Account for payment of grants under this Act.

Payment of amounts

7. When Commonwealth funds are paid into the Account, the Commission must ensure that appropriate payments are made without undue delay from the Account to councils in accordance with any relevant approval obtained under the Commonwealth Act.

PART III THE COMMISSION

Establishment of Commission

8. (1) The South Australian Local Government Grants Commission continues in existence.

(2) The Commission consists of the following members appointed by the Governor—

- (a) a member nominated jointly by the Minister and the Local Government Association of South Australia to be the presiding member of the Commission;

(b) a member nominated by the Minister;

and

(c) a member nominated by the Local Government Association of South Australia.

Conditions of membership

9. (1) A member of the Commission will be appointed on such conditions and for such term, not exceeding five years, as the Governor may determine and on the expiration of a term of office will be eligible for reappointment.

(2) The Governor may appoint a suitable person to be a deputy of a member of the Commission and that person may, in the absence of that member from the duties of office, act as a member of the Commission.

(3) The provisions of this Act relating to nomination of a member of the Commission extend to the appointment of a deputy of that member.

(4) The Governor may remove a member of the Commission from office if the member—

(a) contravenes, or does not comply with, a condition of appointment;

(b) becomes mentally or physically incapable of carrying out satisfactorily the duties of office;

(c) is guilty of neglect of duty or dishonourable conduct;

or

(d) is absent, without leave of the Commission, from three or more consecutive meetings of the Commission.

(5) The office of a member of the Commission becomes vacant if the member—

(a) dies;

(b) completes a term of office and is not reappointed;

(c) resigns by written notice addressed to the Minister;

or

(d) is removed from office by the Governor pursuant to subsection (4).

(6) On the office of a member of the Commission becoming vacant, a person must be appointed in accordance with this Act to the vacant office.

Remuneration and expenses

10. The members of the Commission (and any deputy) are entitled to such fees, allowances and expenses as the Governor may approve.

Proceedings of the Commission

11. (1) The presiding member of the Commission will, if present at a meeting of the Commission, preside at the meeting and in the absence of that member a member chosen by those present will preside.

(2) Two members constitute a quorum of the Commission and no business may be transacted at a meeting of the Commission unless a quorum is present.

(3) Each member present at a meeting of the Commission is entitled to one vote on a matter arising for decision at the meeting and the person presiding at the meeting has, in the event of an equality of votes, a second or casting vote.

(4) A decision carried by a majority of the votes cast by the members present at a meeting of the Commission is a decision of the Commission.

(5) The Commission must cause minutes to be kept of its proceedings.

(6) Subject to this Act, the proceedings of the Commission may be conducted as it thinks fit.

Validity of acts of Commission and immunity of members

12. (1) An act or proceeding of the Commission is not invalid by reason only of a vacancy in its membership or a defect in the appointment of a member.

(2) No personal liability attaches to a member of the Commission for an act or omission by the member or the Commission in good faith in the exercise or discharge, or purported exercise or discharge, of the member's or the Commission's powers, duties or functions under this Act.

(3) A liability that would, but for subsection (2), lie against a member of the Commission lies against the Crown.

Misuse of confidential information

13. A member of the Commission must not use confidential information gained by virtue of the member's official position for the purpose of securing a private benefit for the member personally or for some other person.

Penalty: Division 5 fine or division 5 imprisonment.

Staff

14. (1) The Commission will have such staff (comprised of persons employed in the Public Service of the State) as is necessary for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Commission may, by arrangement with the appropriate authority, make use of the services, facilities or employees of a government department, agency or instrumentality.

Functions of Commission

15. (1) The functions of the Commission are as follows:

(a) to make recommendations to the Minister as to the amounts that should be paid to councils by way of grants under this Act;

(b) to perform other functions assigned to the Commission by or under this Act or by the Minister.

(2) The Commission will have the power to do all things necessary or expedient for the efficient and proper performance of the Commission's functions.

Inquiries and investigations

16. (1) In the exercise of its functions the Commission may hold such inquiries and make such investigations as it considers necessary.

(2) For the purpose of an inquiry the Commission has and may exercise the powers of a commission as defined in the *Royal Commissions Act 1917* and that Act will apply and have effect in all respects, as if—

(a) the Commission were a commission as so defined;

and

(b) the subject matter of the inquiry were set out in a commission of inquiry issued by the Governor under his or her hand and the public seal of the State.

(3) Subsection (2) does not prevent the Commission from inquiring into any matter in such other manner as it sees fit.

Principles to be applied by the Commission

17. (1) The Commission must, when formulating a recommendation to the Minister as to the amounts that should be paid to councils by way of grants under this Act—

- (a) ensure that the total amount of grants recommended in any financial year equals the total amount specified under section 6 for that financial year;
- (b) ensure that the recommended allocation of amounts to councils accords with principles formulated by the State for the purposes of the Commonwealth Act;

and

- (c) comply with any relevant provision of the Commonwealth Act.

(2) The Commission may, in relation to a particular council, take into account any special needs of, or problems experienced by, that council.

(3) The Commission must forward any recommendation to the Minister as soon as practicable after completing its formulation of the recommendation.

Consideration of recommendations

18. (1) On receipt of a recommendation of the Commission, the Minister may—

- (a) approve the recommendation;

or

- (b) refer the recommendation back to the Commission with a request to the Commission to consider such matters and take such other steps as are specified in the direction either in relation to the whole or any part of the recommendation.

(2) A request under subsection (1) (b) must contain a statement of the reasons for the request.

(3) The Commission must, after considering the request under subsection (1) (b), reconsider its recommendation in view of that request and make such amendments, if any, to its recommendation as it appears necessary or desirable.

(4) The Commission must then resubmit its recommendation with or without amendment to the Minister and the Minister must thereupon approve the recommendation.

PART IV

COUNCILS

Information to be supplied to Commission

19. (1) The Commission must in respect of each financial year, by notice in writing to each council, require that council within the time specified in the notice to provide the Commission with such information as to the affairs of the council in such form as is specified in the notice.

(2) The Commission may from time to time, by notice in writing, require a council within the time specified in the notice to provide the Commission with such further or other information as to the affairs of the council in such form as is specified in the notice.

(3) Where a council fails to comply with a requirement under subsection (1) or (2) in relation to a financial year, the Commission is not bound to make a recommendation as to the payment of a grant to that council.

PART V
MISCELLANEOUS

Financial report

20. (1) The Minister may, either on his or her own initiative or at the request of the Local Government Association of South Australia, refer to the Commission for inquiry and report any matter relating to local government finance.

(2) The Commission must comply with such a request as soon as it is reasonably practicable after it is made.

Reports

21. (1) The Commission must, on or before 30 September in each year, submit a report to the Minister on the activities of the Commission during the previous financial year.

(2) The Minister must, within 12 sitting days after receipt of a report under subsection (1), cause copies of that report to be laid before each House of Parliament.

Statement of payments to be furnished

22. As soon as practicable after the end of the financial year, the Minister must furnish to the Treasurer of the Commonwealth—

(a) a statement, in accordance with a form approved by the Treasurer, specifying the payments made by the State during that financial year in accordance with the Commonwealth Act and the dates of those payments;

and

(b) a certificate by the Auditor-General certifying that, in the opinion of the Auditor-General, the contents of the statement are correct.

Regulations

23. The Governor may make such regulations as are necessary or expedient for the purposes of this Act.

Transitional provision

24. The members of the Commission holding office immediately before the commencement of this Act will continue to hold office for the balance of their respective terms.

In the name and on behalf of Her Majesty, I hereby assent to this Bill.

ROMA MITCHELL Governor