

Program Review: An Evaluation of the ‘Local Government Agricultural Planning Program’

INTERVIEW GUIDE

Key informant interviews with LGAP ‘founders and shapers’

The focus is on EFFICACY

Focus on LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL PLANNING PROGRAM

Focus on LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1. The aim of the LGAP program is, “to develop practical and viable solutions to rural-urban issues and identify opportunities that benefit both agriculture and the community.”

- a) What does this mean to you?
- b) If this objective was achieved then what do you think would be the outcomes?
- c) Which of these outcomes do you think are the most important?

2. What is the role of a local government in achieving these important outcomes?

3. For the LGAP program, “The overarching expected outcome of an Agricultural Area Plan is that it be formally Adopted and used to guide implementation activities.” In your view, what are the intended benefits of formally adopting an Agricultural Area Plan?

4. [if possible, refer to previous statements to provide bridge to this question, e.g., you have used the two terms AAP and agricultural planning interchangeably; you have used the two terms AAP and agricultural planning very differently]
To what extent do you distinguish between Agricultural Area Plans and agricultural planning?

[Note: a discussion between the two terms may arise. Engage in a full discussion to help the interviewee understand the difference. A better understanding will help us to understand the efficacy of the LGAPP. It will also prepare the interviewee for the next question.]

5. I’d like to re-visit the first question about the aims of the LGAP program. You stated that the most important outcomes were ... [list as required].

- a) Would you like to add to or revise this list of important outcomes?
- b) You also stated that the role of a local government is to ... [list as required].
Would you like to add to or revise your response?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

IAF LGAPP Brochure

“For local governments, the benefits of developing an Agricultural Area Plan can be expected to include reduced urban/rural conflict, improved local economic activity from farming, consistency with provincial policy and legislation, and sustainable communities with balanced economic diversity. Agricultural issues and the impact of decisions on the business of farming will be better understood by those charged with local planning and bylaws.”

Strengthening Farming

“An agricultural area plan focuses on a community's farm area to discover practical solutions to issues and identify opportunities to strengthen farming and ultimately to contribute to agriculture and the community's long-term sustainability.”

IAF Supporting Local Government Agriculture Planning Programs (Revised December 2008)

“The Foundation funding can be used to support a range of activities relating to agriculture within municipalities and regional districts that leads to development of a shared vision and the implementation of a plan for agriculture in the community.”

“The overarching outcome of an AAP is that it be formally adopted.

Therefore a proposal must identify how the results of the planning process will be used to:

- ensure the inclusion of the Agriculture Advisory Committee on an on-going basis in local government plans, bylaws and regulations;
- develop a shared vision of agriculture in the community;
- enhance agriculture opportunities in the community;
- lessen the potential for land use conflict; and,
- integrate agriculture with other priorities within rural areas.”