

Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the LGA Annual General Meeting will be held on

Friday 28 October 2022 at 2pm

**In the William Magarey Room, Adelaide Oval
War Memorial Drive, North Adelaide**



Clinton Jury
Chief Executive Officer

28 September 2022

Agenda

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10. Next Meeting

The LGA Ordinary General Meeting will be held on a date yet to be confirmed.

12. Close

5.1 Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 8 April 2022

Minutes of Previous Meeting

From: Kianna Al Jaber, Executive Assistant
Meeting: Annual General Meeting 28 October 2022
ECM: 782438 Attachment: 774352

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting confirms the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 8 April 2022 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings held.

Discussion

The Ordinary General Meeting of the membership was held on 8 April 2022. The draft minutes are attached for confirmation as to their accuracy.

Draft

Draft Minutes of the LGA Ordinary General Meeting held on Friday 8 April 2022 at 11:00am at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre, 98 Port Road, Hindmarsh SA.

1. Open & Welcome

The President opened the meeting at 11am and welcomed members and staff.

Present:

President	Mayor Angela Evans
Chief Executive Officer	Clinton Jury
Executive Director Corporate Governance	Andrew Johnson
Executive Director Public Affairs	Lea Bacon
Executive Director Member Services	Nathan Petrus
Executive Assistant to the CEO & President (minutes)	Ashlea Lyall
Executive Assistant (E-voting)	Kianna Al Jaber
Executive Assistant and Administration Coordinator (E-voting)	Sarah Ryan

Member Councils (voting delegates):

City of Adelaide	District Council of Cleve
Adelaide Hills Council	Coorong District Council
Adelaide Plains Council	Copper Coast Council
Alexandrina Council	District Council of Elliston
The Barossa Council	Regional Council of Goyder
Berri Barmerra Council	District Council of Grant
City of Burnside	City of Holdfast Bay
Campbelltown City Council	District Council of Karoonda East Murray
District Council of Ceduna	District Council of Kimba
City of Charles Sturt	Kingston District Council
District Council of Franklin Harbour	Light Regional Council
Town of Gawler	District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula
Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council	



Draft

District Council of Loxton Waikerie
City of Marion
Mid Murray Council
City of Mitcham
Mount Barker District Council
City of Playford
City of Mount Gambier
Rural City of Murray Bridge
Naracoorte Lucindale Council
City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters
City of Onkaparinga
District Council of Orroroo Carrieton
City of Port Lincoln
Port Pirie Regional Council
City of Prospect
Renmark Paringa Council

District Council of Robe
City of Salisbury
Southern Mallee District Council
District Council of Streaky Bay
City of Tea Tree Gully
District Council of Tumby Bay
City of Unley
City of Victor Harbor
Wakefield Regional Council
Town of Walkerville
Wattle Range Council
City of West Torrens
City of Whyalla
Wudinna District Council
Yorke Peninsula Council

2. Apologies

Barunga West Council
District Council of Ceduna
District Council of Coober Pedy
The Flinders Ranges Council
Kangaroo Island Council
District Council of Mount Remarkable
Northern Areas Council

District Council of Peterborough
City of Port Adelaide Enfield
Port Augusta City Council
Municipal Council of Roxby Downs
Tatiara District Council
District Council of Yankalilla

3. Notices & Arrangements

The Chief Executive Officer outlined the notices and arrangements for the meeting.



Draft

4. President's Address

The President provided a verbal report. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

5.1 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 29 October 2021

Moved Berri Barmera Seconded Naracoorte Lucindale that the Ordinary General Meeting confirms the minutes of the Annual General meeting held on 29 October 2021 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings held.

Carried

5.2 Resolutions and Actions from Previous Meetings

Moved Kimba Seconded Wakefield Regional that the Ordinary General Meeting notes progress with resolutions resulting from the Annual General Meeting of 29 October 2021 and outstanding resolutions from earlier general meetings.

Carried

6. LGA Business

6.1 LGA Member Services Update

Moved Mid Murray Seconded Mount Barker that the Ordinary General Meeting notes the report.

Carried

6.2 LGA Advocacy Update

Moved Tumby Bay Seconded Berri Barmera that the Ordinary General Meeting notes the report.

Carried

6.3 Local Government Reform Update

Moved Wattle Range Seconded Burnside that the Ordinary General Meeting notes the report.

Carried



Draft

6.4 LGA Mutual Services Update

Moved Mid Murray Seconded Wudinna that the Ordinary General Meeting notes the report.

Carried

6.5 LGA Procurement Update

Moved Light Regional Seconded Adelaide Plains that the Ordinary General Meeting notes the report.

Carried

6.6 LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan Update

Moved Mount Barker Seconded Holdfast Bay that the Ordinary General meeting notes the report.

Carried

7. Recommendation Reports from the SAROC Committee

7.1 Implementation of an electronic portal for issuing of permits pursuant to the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 (Loxton Waikerie)

Moved Loxton Waikerie Seconded Renmark Paringa that the Ordinary General Meeting requests that the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services instructs and funds the SA Country Fire Service to implement an online portal for application, approval and issuing of permits pursuant to the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005, prior to the commencement of the 2022-23 fire season.

Carried

7.2 Electric Vehicles Taxes (Victor Harbor)

Moved Victor Harbor Seconded Mitcham that the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to advocate for the Federal Government to remove the Luxury Car Tax on Electric Vehicles and 'fuel efficient' vehicles.

Carried



Draft

7.3 Research into the Population Status and Decline of Little Penguins in South Australia (Victor Harbor)

Moved Victor Harbor Seconded Salisbury that the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to lobby the State Government to revisit the strategies and management plans around increasing the little penguin population within all Coastal Councils, to save them from extinction.

Carried

7.4 Stamp Duty on Residential Property in South Australia (Barunga West)

Moved Whyalla Seconded Wattle Range that the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to call on the South Australian Government to investigate options to exempt or reduce stamp duty taxes on regional residential property purchases to incentivise regional migration and increase regional residential demand, including from first home buyers.

Carried

8. Recommendation Reports from the GAROC Committee

8.1 Review of the Planning Development and Infrastructure Act (Norwood, Payneham & St Peters) and Lack of local representation in the new Planning System, under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (PDI Act) (Town of Gawler)

Moved Norwood Payneham & St Peters Seconded Gawler that the Ordinary General Meeting:

1. note that the new planning system has resulted in a loss of community voices and local knowledge in its decision-making process;
2. request the LGA to call on the State Government for an independent and comprehensive review of the Planning Development and Infrastructure Act and associated documents with respect to maintaining an effective and defensible democratic process in respect to:
 - a) local participation in planning;
 - b) local government representation in planning;
 - c) the protection of local heritage places and historic areas;
 - d) the preservation of neighbourhood character through consideration of appropriate design principles; and including
 - e) undertaking an independent review of the Community Engagement Charter; and



Draft

3. request the LGA to write to other relevant parties to express concern about the current state of planning in South Australia.

Carried

8.2 Rough Sleeper/Homelessness Initiative (Town of Gawler)

Moved Gawler Seconded Salisbury that the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to:

1. support and actively advocate for the provision of lockers in appropriate locations across all South Australian Local Government areas. Lockers to be made available via participating charity services, issued to people living rough or experiencing homelessness to store their belongings in a safe and dignified way;
2. ensure support for people in these situations is collectively encouraged across the entire local government sector in South Australia on an ongoing basis, and request the LGA be represented within the current governance structure of the SA Alliance to End Homelessness; and
3. support the formation and work of the SA Alliance to End Homelessness, including by committing to the principles contained in the Memorandum of Understanding by signing the MOU between the Institute of Global Homelessness and South Australian stakeholders (including the State Government).

Carried

8.3 Inclusion of Email Addresses in the Voters Roll (Adelaide)

Moved City of Adelaide Seconded Prospect that the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to lobby the Minister for Local Government to propose an amendment to the Local Government Elections Act 1999 to make it a requirement that, when a person, body corporate or group is submitting an application for enrolment in respect of an area or ward in accordance with the Act, an email address must also be provided for inclusion on the voters roll.

Lost



Draft

9. Recommendation Reports from the LGA Board of Directors

9.1 Review of Local Government Disaster Recovery Assistance Arrangements (LGA Secretariat)

Moved Naracoorte Lucindale Seconded Kimba that the Ordinary General Meeting requests that the LGA advocates that the State Government undertakes an urgent review of the Local Government Disaster Recovery Assistance Arrangements (LGDRRA) with a focus on:

1. Making the LGDRRA simpler and more definitive in terms of the support that will be provided to councils in the event of a natural disaster;
2. Significantly reducing the current thresholds for cost reimbursement to levels consistent with other State jurisdictions;
3. Ensuring that the significant internal costs borne by councils during and after a natural disaster are acknowledged and can be recovered in the funding frameworks;
4. Providing clarity on the eligibility of both the short-term and long-term costs relating to the clean-up of damaged verge trees and road clearance; and
5. Further clarity on the ability to recover direct counter disaster operations costs from Control Agencies and the merits of removing this ability so that the LGDRRA can be an all-encompassing funding framework.

Carried

10. Next Meeting

An Annual General meeting will be held on 28 October 2022 at Adelaide Oval.

11. Close

The meeting was declared closed at 12.03pm.

Minutes confirmed

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Chairperson

Date

2022 LGA President's Ordinary General Meeting Report

I'm pleased to present the President's Report to the 2022 LGA Ordinary General Meeting.

We've had a very busy past six months, with no signs of activity slowing down any time soon.

When we last came together at our 2021 Annual General Meeting, we had a new CEO who had been in the role for a whole three weeks, and whose energy and enthusiasm were very evident.

Clinton has now well and truly settled into the role and developed an understanding of the work of councils and the many challenges and opportunities they are dealing with. We're in a strong position to continue providing valuable leadership to the sector.

The Board recently commented on the seamless operation of the Secretariat throughout this period of change, so thank you to the LGA staff for your ongoing commitment to providing a high-quality service to our members.

Supporting this service, the LGA finalised a new partnership with LG Professionals SA and we welcomed the LG Professionals staff to Local Government House just prior to Christmas.

I understand the new partnership is working well and has already achieved some great outcomes and efficiencies for the sector. One of those has been the fantastic Showcase event that took place yesterday.

Looking beyond the day-to-day work of the LGA and councils, our community continues to work through the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, we are now experiencing the effects of opening up our State to the rest of the country, and the reality of living with COVID.

Since the start of the pandemic over two years ago, we have been proud of the role our sector has played in supporting communities through the uncertainty, and this work has continued this year.

Most recently, we have seen many councils working closely with the LGA and SA Health to deliver Rapid Antigen Test collection points right across our state - which also transitioned into postal voting collection points in the lead up to 19 March.

And then, if we didn't have quite enough on our plate, in February we experienced a damaging weather event. Ex-tropical cyclone Tiffany wreaked havoc in many communities, with widespread severe weather and flooding across the north and west of our state.

Many councils were affected by this extreme weather event, and we know many staff members worked around the clock as part of response and recovery efforts. Councils sought to locate vulnerable and isolated residents and worked to make roads and other public places safe for their communities.

The LGA also worked closely with councils through the Local Government Functional Support Group to coordinate the sector's response, gather evidence of damage and cost impacts and apply for disaster recovery funding. We were thrilled that our advocacy to the State Government for extraordinary assistance was successful and pleased to learn that up to \$19 million in funding will be made available to the most affected councils.

Another key focus area for the LGA early this year was our advocacy campaign leading up to the state election, under the banner of our platform *Local Voices for a Resilient South Australia*.

Throughout this campaign, we drew attention to the sector's priorities through engagement with stakeholders, regional visits, and reporting through media and social media channels. A highlight was our state election forums held with the major parties in the week leading up to polling day.

We gained interest and momentum in our calls for action in a number of key areas, including addressing shortages in housing and regional health services, and the need for increased funding for libraries and digital literacy programs, as well as jetties and coastal infrastructure.

We are excited about the opportunities that a new State Government presents for councils and communities, and we look forward to strengthening our relationships with the state's new leaders based on the solid foundation of our existing advocacy work.

We are particularly pleased to know we will have a regular seat at the cabinet table going forward and we will be keen to finalise and share the details of these arrangements in the coming weeks.

Equally, we are keen to see country cabinet sessions commence – bringing cabinet to the regions and facilitating a closer connection to our communities.

Looking toward the federal election, we've promptly moved to support ALGA's advocacy activities. As we've heard from ALGA President Linda Scott, their campaign is centred around four key themes, and we have provided case studies to highlight the importance of these for South Australia.

Our state has an especially strong story to tell around our proactive transition to a circular economy and tangible and practical benefits of transport and community infrastructure funding - and we have taken every opportunity to promote and leverage this work.

We have continued working with the Electoral Commission of South Australia in preparation for this years' council elections and we are committed to building on our previous successful awareness campaigns.

This years' campaign will have a strong focus on encouraging participation by under-represented groups including women, young people, people with disability, First Nations and culturally diverse communities, and I hope you are all busy encouraging leaders in your communities to throw their hats in the ring and run for council.

Another key priority for the LGA and the sector is the continuing implementation of local government reforms.

We saw several reforms come into effect toward the end of 2021, including important changes to the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*, such as new requirements for candidates in council elections to declare where they live and whether they are a member of a political party, and a welcome change banning the use of corflute election signs on public roads.

We are now preparing for further rounds of amendments to commence later this month and later this year, including changes to reporting processes for councils' Annual Business Plans and Budgets, and the establishment of a new rates oversight scheme by the Essential Services Commission of South Australia.

It is important to remember these reforms were finalised against the background of a rate-capping agenda. Last year, our sector's advocacy resulted in amendments that provide additional oversight of councils' financial plans, while maintaining their ability to make rating decisions free from interference.

While this was a brilliant achievement, Parliament has signaled its desire to see all councils present rating information consistently and enable meaningful comparisons to be drawn. It is now incumbent upon us to make sure this new process delivers the intended outcome. A considered approach now may save us the pain of further rate-capping debates into the future.

Another key change is the commencement of the new Behavioural Management Framework. The Framework consists of new state-wide Behavioural Standards, supporting policies to be adopted by each council, and a new Behavioural Standards Panel to hear and resolve complaints.

The Panel is made up of three appointments, one nominated by the LGA, one nominated by the Minister for Local Government and a Presiding Member who is a joint nominee. Early this year the LGA carried out an extensive selection process to identify its nominees, and we were thrilled when all appointments were made from the LGA recommended nominees.

The appointment of Thilan Legierse, Adam Crichton and Rosie Jervis as the inaugural panel members will result in a fully independent, as well as highly skilled and experienced panel. The new panel will commence its formal functions after council elections in November, and these developments represent an excellent outcome for our sector.

The other significant reform process that councils have been involved in is the implementation of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, and the new e-planning system.

It has now been 12 months since the Planning and Design Code came into effect right across the state and the LGA has worked closely with councils to monitor the effectiveness of the new system and keep track of issues and potential improvements.



We understand the State Government is open to undertaking a review of the system, and we will be advocating for the review to consider issues such as enabling councils to include more localised policy, further consideration of the impacts of infill development, an increased focus on the differing needs of regional South Australia, and additional measures to improve urban green cover.

The State Planning Commission will also undertake a review of the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide this year and the LGA will be coordinating input from councils. The review will present a vital opportunity for the local government sector to have a say on future planning policies for the metropolitan area, so we encourage as many councils as possible to participate in this process.

I know there are many important strategic issues to consider during the meeting today, so thank you for your ongoing support for the LGA and for your representation and advocacy on behalf of your councils and communities.

I look forward to the discussions today. Thank you.

5.2 Resolutions and Actions from Previous Meetings

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Meeting	Annual General Meeting	28 October 2022
ECM:	782390	

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting notes progress with resolutions resulting from the Ordinary General Meeting of 8 April 2022 and outstanding resolutions from earlier general meetings.

Discussion


The attached report outlines progress of resolutions from previous general meetings of the LGA.

Proposing items of business for an LGA Ordinary or Annual General Meeting is one of the important ways that LGA member councils participate in policy development and influence the advocacy agenda for local government. The LGA uses best endeavours to achieve the outcomes sought by member councils.


Following each General Meeting the LGA Secretariat provides a report to the LGA Board of Directors outlining a proposed course of action to progress each resolution. The actions endorsed by the LGA Board of Directors are then be incorporated into the LGA's work plan and communicated to the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer of the council that submitted the original item of business.

In addition to any engagement with the submitting council administration in order to adequately progress the issue, the LGA also writes to this council to provide a progress update prior to each General Meeting until the matter is closed.


All member councils continue to receive updates at General Meetings via this *Resolutions and Actions from Previous Meetings* report.

 = Completed/No further action required

Resolutions from the Ordinary General Meeting – 7 April 2022	Action Taken / Progress
<p>8.2 Rough Sleeper/Homelessness Initiative (Town of Gawler) (TC 773173)</p> <p>That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. support and actively advocate for the provision of lockers in appropriate locations across all South Australian Local Government areas. Lockers to be made available via participating charity services, issued to people living rough or experiencing homelessness to store their belongings in a safe and dignified way; 2. ensure support for people in these situations is collectively encouraged across the entire local government sector in South Australia on an ongoing basis, and request the LGA be represented within the current governance structure of the SA Alliance to End Homelessness; and 3. support the formation and work of the SA Alliance to End Homelessness, including by committing to the principles contained in the Memorandum of Understanding by signing the MOU between the Institute of Global Homelessness and South Australian stakeholders (including the State Government). 	<p>LGA Secretariat staff have highlighted the Town of Gawler's locker provision idea at forums featuring council staff and elected members, such as those mentioned above.</p> <p>The LGA will also liaise with the Town of Gawler to monitor the local development of this model and look for opportunities to showcase the project's success and/or learnings at a future LGA event.</p> <p>The South Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (SAAEH) is currently developing a governance framework. As part of this development, the LGA has participated in two preliminary workshop meetings (held on 12 April and 4 August 2022) which were partly focused on developing the SAAEH's governance framework. Each included approximately 20-25 participants from the South Australian Housing Authority's (SAHA) homelessness service provider alliance structure, as well as other interested stakeholders from the charitable sector. At these sessions, the LGA emphasised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the closest level of government to South Australian communities, councils are aware of the growing incidence of rough sleeping homelessness. • South Australian councils want to participate in lessening the incidence of rough sleeping homelessness through collaborative actions involving the State Government and service providers in the charitable sector. • However, South Australian councils cannot provide services they are not resourced to maintain. • In this context, a collaborative working group needs to be established which includes representatives from all relevant stakeholders, to discuss viable actions and the resources required for their fulfilment.

 = Completed/No further action required

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local government sector's role in this space is likely to be that of a facilitator – connecting service providers/charities and recording/reporting local data. <p>In this context, the governance framework of the SAAEH is likely to provide an effective vehicle for the local government sector to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share local intelligence regarding the occurrence and service demands of rough sleepers. • Detail actions taken by councils to alleviate affordable housing shortages. • Advocate for State Government policy/regulatory change and/or increased funding supports. <p>The LGA is also working closely with the SAAEH to arrange an opportunity for the LGA President to sign an updated MOU between the Institute of Global Homelessness and South Australian stakeholders, including the newly elected Malinauskas Government.</p>
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 = Completed/No further action required

8.1 Review of the Planning Development and Infrastructure Act (Norwood, Payneham & St Peters) and Lack of local representation in the new Planning System, under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (PDI Act) (Town of Gawler) (SPS 773046)

That the Ordinary General Meeting:


1. note that the new planning system has resulted in a loss of community voices and local knowledge in its decision-making process;
2. request the LGA to call on the State Government for an independent and comprehensive review of the Planning Development and Infrastructure Act and associated documents with respect to maintaining an effective and defensible democratic process in respect to:
 - a) local participation in planning;
 - b) local government representation in planning;
 - c) the protection of local heritage places and historic areas;
 - d) the preservation of neighbourhood character through consideration of appropriate design principles; and including
 - e) undertaking an independent review of the Community Engagement Charter; and
3. request the LGA to write to other relevant parties to express concern about the current state of planning in South Australia.

The LGA had advocated during the State election for an Independent Review of the planning system and the new State Government included the review as an election commitment.


The State Government has appointed a four-person industry panel to review South Australia's planning legislation, parts of the Planning and Design Code and the e-planning system.

The panel, to be led by planning consultant John Stimson, will investigate the relatively recently implemented Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act and Planning and Design Code. Mr Stimson will be joined by Cate Hart, the President of the Planning Institute of Australia (SA) and a senior public servant in the Department of Environment and Water, Andrew McKeegan, the executive director of transport property in the Victorian Department of Transport and a former senior South Australian planning bureaucrat, and Lisa Teburea, former Executive Director, Public Affairs with the LGA and recently appointed Executive Group Manager Planning and Urban Policy with the ACT Government.


The LGA Secretariat is developing a submission which will identify suggested changes to the PDI Act and associated regulations and will be provided to the Expert Panel as outlines in the Item of Business.

 = Completed/No further action required


<p>7.4 Stamp Duty on Residential Property in South Australia (Barunga West) (TC 773183)</p> <p>That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to call on the South Australian Government to investigate options to exempt or reduce stamp duty taxes on regional residential property purchases to incentivise regional migration and increase regional residential demand, including from first home buyers.</p>	<p>The Chair of SAROC, Mayor Erika Vickery OAM, has written to the Treasurer, Hon Stephen Mullighan MP, requesting that he investigate options to exempt or reduce stamp duty taxes on regional residential property purchases to incentivise regional migration and increase regional residential demand, including from first home buyers.</p>
<p>7.3 Research into the Population Status and Decline of Little Penguins in South Australia (Victor Harbor) (TC 773176)</p> <p>That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to lobby the State Government to revisit the strategies and management plans around increasing the little penguin population within all Coastal Councils, to save them from extinction.</p>	<p>The LGA President has written to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Hon Susan Close MP, requesting that she review the strategies and management plans applicable to increasing the little penguin population within all coastal councils, to save them from extinction.</p>
<p>7.2 Electric Vehicles Taxes (Victor Harbor) (KR 773175)</p> <p>That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to advocate for the Federal Government to remove the Luxury Car Tax on Electric Vehicles and 'fuel efficient' vehicles.</p>	<p>The LGA Secretariat has liaised with ALGA to inform its strategies for continuing to progress electric vehicles as an advocacy issue with the Federal Government. The LGA President has written to the Federal Government to advocate that they remove the Luxury Car Tax on Electric Vehicles and other 'fuel efficient' vehicles. The Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy has responded to say that his government is developing a National Electric Vehicle Strategy which will consider measures to increase sales and they have already introduced an Electric Car Discount to exempt many EVs from import tariffs and fringe benefits tax. The LGA will seek to have input into development of this national strategy.</p>

 = Completed/No further action required


<p>7.1 Implementation of an electronic portal for issuing of permits pursuant to the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 (Loxton Waikerie) (KR 773174)</p> <p>That the Ordinary General Meeting requests that the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services instructs and funds the SA Country Fire Service to implement an online portal for application, approval and issuing of permits pursuant to the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005, prior to the commencement of the 2022-23 fire season.</p>	<p>The LGA President has written to the Minister for Emergency Services, Hon Joe Szakacs MP, to advocate that he instruct and fund the SA Country Fire Service to implement an online portal for application, approval and issuing of permits pursuant to the <i>Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005</i>, prior to the commencement of the 2022-23 fire season. The Minister has responded to say he has asked the CFS to investigate sustainable options to improve this system and the LGA will continue to raise this issue as opportunities arise.</p>
Resolutions from the Ordinary General Meeting – 30 April 2021	Action Taken / Progress
<p>8.4 Seeking a comprehensive State Government review of mandatory statutory rebates and exemptions from payment of local government rates (Adelaide) (LB 734189)</p> <p>That the Ordinary General Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> calls for the State Government to undertake a comprehensive review of statutory rate rebates and exemptions; requests that the LGA urgently progresses the key action in the LGA Advocacy Plan for 2019-2023 (Financial Sustainability theme) that the LGA work with interested councils to undertake analysis and prepare an issues paper to inform and advocate for a review of the mandatory rate rebates that councils are compelled to provide; and requests that following preparation of the issues paper and consultation with interested councils, the LGA seeks to engage an appropriate economic advisory consultant to prepare a report for government advocating for changes to statutory rate rebates and exemptions in SA. 	<p>This issue has not previously progressed due to competing advocacy priorities. Both GAROC and SAROC have included advocacy seeking a review of mandatory statutory rebates and discounts in their Annual Business Plans.</p> <p>GAROC has allocated \$35,000 in its budget to support the development of an issues paper and economic analysis report that investigates the financial and economic impact of mandatory rate rebates and recommends appropriate legislative changes that promote a more equitable approach for all ratepayers.</p> <p>Accordingly, this activity will be undertaken in 2022-23.</p>

 = Completed/No further action required

Resolutions from the Annual General Meeting – 31 October 2019	Action Taken / Progress
<p>8.4 Fairer Allocation of Open Space Funding (Campbelltown) (SS 688279)</p> <p>that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA advocate to the Minister for Planning requesting that the Minister, in conjunction with local government, undertake a review of the Planning and Development Fund to investigate a financial model that is more equitable and appropriate for councils that are experiencing higher volumes of infill development, including multi storey development especially in relation to the subdivision of land under 20 allotments.</p>	<p>Following investigations undertaken by GAROC the LGA Board of Directors has adopted the following positions in relation to the Planning and Development Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Local government supports the Planning and Development Fund being used for the purpose it was established for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To improve access to public open spaces and places, and ii. To enable the planning, design and delivery of quality public space that is essential to healthy, liveable communities. b. That the State government engages with local government on the strategic direction of the Planning and Development Fund to support local government in delivering a broad range of open space needs identified in Councils' Open Space Strategies. c. The Planning and Development Fund should not be used for administrative purposes including the ongoing management of the online planning system, or public works or public policy that is not consistent with the aims and intent of the Planning and Development Fund, to improve access to public open space, and to enable the planning, design and delivery of quality public space that is essential to healthy, liveable communities. d. That the annual reporting process on the Planning and Development Fund be reinstated and expanded to include both financial inputs and outputs and to display this for each local government area e. Based on needs identified through open space strategic analysis, the funding process should explore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Funding that is uncoupled from the need for council contribution for strategically important open space projects based on solid analysis and evidence;

 = Completed/No further action required

	<p>ii. The ability for local government to lodge applications for funding all year round; and</p> <p>iii. State government agencies incorporated into this process where they are required to follow the same application process as local government.</p>
Resolutions from the Ordinary General Meeting – 12 April 2019	Action Taken / Progress
<p>7.3 Jetties (Tumby Bay) (KR 670924)</p> <p>that the Ordinary General Meeting requests that the LGA immediately begin negotiations with the current State Government to draft a lease or other agreement with local government collectively (for those councils that currently hold an existing lease agreement) to safeguard the future of jetties in South Australia without creating a financial burden on ratepayers, especially in rural and regional areas.</p>	<p>Negotiation with the State Government is ongoing.</p> <p>The LGA included this issue in its 2022 Local Voices for a Resilient South Australia election campaign. There was media interest in this issue throughout the election.</p> <p>The LGA President wrote to the Treasurer, Hon Stephen Mullighan MP, to highlight the need for funding for jetties as an immediate and practical issue whereby an injection of State funding would make a significant impact on the prosperity of local communities. The LGA's post-budget media release also expressed disappointment that the \$10 million for priority jetty maintenance work was not included in the Budget. The LGA President has subsequently written to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP, urging that the Jetties Strategic Plan be finalised and released to identify a sustainable approach to the future management and prioritisation of investment for SA jetties.</p>

 = Completed/No further action required

Resolutions from the Annual General Meeting -- 16 November 2017	Action Taken / Progress
<p>8.1 Community Land Management Plans (Charles Sturt) (KR 655308)</p> <p>That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to undertake a comprehensive review of their Community Land – Classification and Management Plans Guidelines to ensure that these guidelines take into consideration the decision handed down by Justice Malcolm Blue in the Supreme Court.</p>	<p>The LGA has been working with Local Government Risk Services on two projects to respond to the Coast Park decision: a revised Public Consultation Policy - Model Policy document and revised Community Land Management Plan (CLMP) guidelines. The draft consultation policy is currently being consulted upon.</p>

6.1 LGA Annual Report 2021-22

LGA Updates

From:	Karen Teaha, Director Media and Communications	
Strategy:	4 - Achieve	
Outcome:	4.1 We lead by example in the governance and operations of the LGA	
Meeting:	Annual General Meeting	28 October 2022
ECM:	782374	

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting receives and adopts the Local Government Association of South Australia's Annual Report for the year 2021-22.

Discussion

The LGA's 2021-2022 Annual Report, including abridged financial statements, was approved by the LGA Board of Directors on 15 September 2022 and is presented to the Annual General Meeting for adoption by member councils.

The Annual Report is published online via the [LGA website](#) and is available as a printed copy for each member council at the Annual General Meeting.

The consolidated audited financial statements of the LGA and controlled entities for the year ending 30 June 2022 are presented as a separate report to the Annual General Meeting.

Financial and Resource Implications

This activity has been anticipated in the LGA's work program and resources are available to progress this work.

6.2 Financial Statements 2021/2022

LGA Updates

From:	Andrew Wroniak, Director Corporate Services		
Strategy:	4 - Achieve		
Outcome:	4.1 We lead by example in the governance and operations of the LGA		
Meeting:	Annual General Meeting	28 October 2022	
ECM:	782572	Attachment: 781628	

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting receives and adopts the LGA of SA and controlled entities Financial Statements for the year 2021/22.

Discussion

The LGA Group operations were favourable to budget in the 2021/22 financial year. The LGA Group continues to maintain a strong asset base with both short and long term investments.

The LGA continues to meet its 10-year long-term financial plan forecasts posting a net surplus of \$4.262 million for the LGA Group for the year ended 2021/22.

The underlying surplus for the Group is \$1.776 million after excluding income gains from the book revaluation of LG House and minor asset sales of \$3.086 million and \$600,975 of risk incentive grant payments made from the Workers Compensation Scheme and Mutual Liability Scheme.

The attached consolidated financial statements for 2021/22 include the financial results for the following entities:

- LGA Parent Entity - Operations and Project activity - \$884,256 surplus before the gain from the revaluation of LG House
- LGA Procurement - \$121,168 surplus
- LGASA Mutual - \$19,073 surplus
- LGA Workers Compensation Scheme - \$874,730 surplus after risk incentive payments.
- LGA Mutual Liability Scheme - \$712,979 deficit after risk incentive payments to members

Transactions between individual entities are eliminated in the consolidated accounts.

LGA Parent Entity Operations and Projects - \$884,256 surplus (\$3.960 million surplus after asset revaluation)

LGA Parent - Operations (excluding change in the investment property and project activity).

LGA Parent Operations recorded an operating surplus of \$1.164 million.

The surplus is a positive financial result for the year due to staffing changes that resulted in savings from vacancies, increased returns from tenants at LG House and other operational savings. The LGA focused its efforts on the LG Reform changes and preparing for the

forthcoming local government elections. The LGA also assisted Councils through the relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions and stimulus packages that flowed from the State Government.

LGA Parent - Project Activity

The deficit in project activity is due to expenditure of previously received reserve funds for the Council Ready project which was completed during the year, as well as activity from the Research and Development Scheme. The LGA also provided grants of \$3.146 million from the Community Wastewater Management Scheme which is the LGA's largest grant program.

LGA Parent Overall

The net surplus of \$3.960 million is due to the operating result described above and the gain in the revaluation of the commercially leased floors at LG House of \$3.060 million, which is a non-cash adjustment. The increase in the valuation is due to the strong commercial market but also the investments the LGA has made in facilities for tenants and the installation of solar power.

LGA Procurement - \$121,168 surplus

LGA Procurement is reporting a surplus of \$121,168 with revenue of \$1.558 million and expenses of \$1.387 million. In 2021/22, LGA Procurement experienced growth in Council purchasing via aggregated supply contracts and project consultancies.

Majority of growth occurred in the contracts for Bitumen, Open Spaces and Earthmoving suppliers and there continues to be a strong demand by regional councils for LGA Procurement's project consultancy services.

Over \$150 million of purchases were made through LGA Procurement's managed contracts and consultancy services, saving councils approximately \$15 million.

LGASA Mutual - \$19,073 surplus

LGASA Mutual is the governing entity of the two Schemes with operating expenditure of \$687,662 in 2021/22.

Overall, LGASA Mutual is reporting an operating surplus of \$19,073 in 2021/22 compared with a deficit of \$8,628 in 2020/21.

LGASA Mutual had a closing cash balance of \$379,607 on 30 June 2022 compared with \$325,728 at 30 June 2020.

LGA Workers Compensation Scheme - surplus \$874,730

The operating result for the LGAWCS in 2021/22 was a surplus of \$874,730 after the payment of \$344,940 from the risk incentive grant program.

In conjunction with the Scheme's actuary, the Board determines the target range of accumulated services that the LGAWCS should hold. As closing balance of funds held were above the target range, LGASA Mutual board has agreed to provide a special distribution of \$1 million to members in the 2022/23 financial year.

At the end of the year, the LGAWCS held an accumulated surplus of \$18.450 million.

LGA Mutual Liability Scheme - deficit \$712,979

The operating result for the LGAMLS in 2020/21 was a deficit of \$712,979 after the payment of \$256,035 from the risk incentive grant program.

At the end of the year, the LGAMLS held an accumulated surplus of \$16.884 million which is within the target range for the scheme.

Conclusion

The Financial Statements for 2021/22 have been reviewed by the LGA's auditor PwC and have been certified by the LGA Board. The report presents fairly the LGA's performance and cash flows for the financial year and complies with Australian Accounting Standards and relevant legislative requirements.

Financial and Resource Implications

This activity has been anticipated in the LGA's work program and resources are available to progress this work.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Consolidated Financial Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Local Government Association of South Australia

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For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

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Local Government Association of South Australia

Board Members' Report

30 June 2022

The Board members present the financial report of the Local Government Association of South Australia and its controlled entities ("the Group") for the financial year ended 30 June 2022 and the auditor's report thereon.

Board members

The names of the Directors currently in office are:

Mayor Gillian Aldridge

Mayor Claire Boan

Mayor Angela Evans

Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross (appointed 2 May 2022)

Mayor Dean Johnson (appointed 2 March 2022)

Mayor Peter Matthey

Mayor Clare McLaughlin

Mayor David O'Loughlin

Mayor Keith Parkes

Mayor Erika Vickery

The following were Directors in Office from the beginning of the financial year, unless otherwise stated and resigned during the year:

Mayor Sam Telfer (resigned 31 December 2021)

Mayor Erin Thompson (resigned 19 March 2022)

Lord Mayor Sandy Verschoor (appointed 28 February, resigned 29 March 2022)

Board members have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Principal activities

The Group consists of the following entities, Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA), LGASA Mutual Pty Ltd (LGASA Mutual), Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme (LGAMLS), Local Government Workers Compensation Scheme (LGAWCS) and LGCS Pty Ltd as trustee for LGCS Trust No.1 (LGA Procurement). The principal activities of the Group during the financial year were as follows:

LGA

The LGA is a membership based peak body that provides leadership, advocacy and services to and on behalf of the member councils of South Australia.

LGASA Mutual

LGASA Mutual is wholly owned by the LGA, formed to provide independent strategic oversight of the LGAMLS and LGAWCS and to oversee the day to day service delivery contract held by Marsh Pty Ltd.

LGAMLS

The Scheme is a mutual risk product that offers discretionary indemnity and claims management service to its members in respect of their potential and actual civil liabilities. These services are provided to Local Government in South Australia and include the provision of risk management services to minimise the occurrence of civil liabilities and the provision of claims management services.

LGAWCS

The Scheme is a mutual risk product that offers discretionary indemnity and injury management services to its members in respect of their potential and actual liabilities that arise under the provisions contained in the Return to Work Act 2014 (RTW Act). These services are provided to Local Government in South Australia, and include the provision of claims management, worker rehabilitation and occupational health and safety management services, to minimise the occurrence of workers compensation liabilities.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Board Members' Report

30 June 2022

Principal activities

LGA Procurement

LGA Procurement provides procurement services to all South Australian councils and related entities. These services include training, templates and a large range of contracts providing benefits from aggregating procurement and specialty skills.

Results and review of operations for the year

The overall surplus for the Group for the financial year before special distributions and other items was \$4,261,928 (2021FY deficit: \$1,405,081). After the special distributions to scheme members and a gain from the revaluation of the investment in Local Government House the total comprehensive surplus was \$6,948,413 (2021FY: \$525,312). The results for each of the entities before inter-entity eliminations are as follows:

LGA

The LGA is reporting an operating surplus of the \$884,256 in the 2022FY (2021FY \$494,703). This comprises of an operating surplus from ordinary operations of \$1,164,074 (2021FY \$135,234) and a surplus in project activity of \$(279,818) (2021FY \$359,469). After the gain on investment property of \$3,060,388 (2021FY \$1,629,223) and net gain on disposal of assets of \$15,287 (2021FY net loss \$17,067) the Net Surplus is \$3,959,931 (2021FY \$2,106,859).

LGASA Mutual

In the 2022FY, LGASA Mutual is reporting an operating surplus of \$19,072 compared with a \$8,627 deficit in the 2021FY.

LGAMLS

The operating deficit for the 2022FY amounted to \$712,979 (2021FY: deficit of \$585,263) inclusive of payments to the risk incentive program of \$256,035 (2021FY: \$575,402). There were no special distribution to members in 2022FY or 2021FY.

LGAWCS

The operating surplus for the 2022FY amounted to \$874,730 (2021FY: deficit of \$183,768) inclusive of payments to the risk incentive program of \$344,940 (2021FY: \$856,301) and before the special distribution to members of \$Nil (2021FY: \$1,500,000). The net surplus for the year was \$874,730 (2021FY: deficit of \$1,683,768).

LGA Procurement

The operating surplus for the 2022FY was \$121,168 compared to a surplus of \$93,875 in the 2021FY.

Significant changes in the state of affairs

In the opinion of the Board members, there have been no other significant changes in the state of affairs of the entities in the Group during the year.

Likely developments

Information about the likely developments in the operations of the Group and the expected results of those operations in future financial years has not been included in this report.

Environmental issues

The Group's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulations under a law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory of Australia. However, the Board believes that the Group has adequate systems in place for the management of its environmental requirements and is not aware of any breach of those environmental requirements as they apply to the Group.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Board Members' Report

30 June 2022

Impact of COVID19

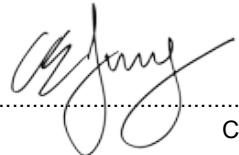
COVID19 has not had a material financial impact on the Group nor a significant impact on its operations.

Indemnification and insurance of officers and auditors

The Board members have not included details of the nature of the liabilities covered or the amount of the premium paid in respect of the members of the Board and officers' liability and legal expenses insurance contracts as such disclosure is prohibited under the terms of the contract.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Board:


President:
Mayor Angela Evans


Chief Executive Officer:
Clinton Jury

Dated this23rd..... day ofSeptember..... 2022

Local Government Association of South Australia

Statement of Surplus/(Deficit) and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

		Consolidated		Parent	
		2022	2021	2022	2021
Revenue and income from continuing operations	Note	\$	\$	\$	\$
Member contributions	7	35,092,159	33,627,722	-	-
Grant revenue		2,087,458	3,462,157	2,172,458	3,864,162
Subscriptions		2,429,685	2,370,421	2,429,685	2,370,421
Other revenue	7	8,472,702	5,737,304	8,071,060	5,711,355
Finance income		944,649	1,252,146	575,021	666,216
Total revenue from continuing operations		49,026,653	46,449,750	13,248,224	12,612,154
Expenses					
Employee benefits expense		(6,808,266)	(7,144,024)	(5,396,801)	(5,906,142)
Risk management, levies and other scheme expenses		(12,398,653)	(12,641,626)	-	-
Depreciation and amortisation		(730,475)	(728,403)	(711,418)	(707,991)
Grant expenditure	8	(529,109)	(583,360)	(547,614)	(583,360)
Net claims expense	9	(10,206,031)	(10,152,662)	-	-
Catastrophe insurance expense		(9,225,644)	(8,480,127)	-	-
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(6,863,479)	(5,769,308)	(5,149,768)	(4,283,837)
Finance expenses		(1,089,606)	(1,157,315)	(558,367)	(636,121)
Total Expenses		(47,851,263)	(46,656,825)	(12,363,968)	(12,117,451)
Operating surplus/(deficit)		1,175,390	(207,075)	884,256	494,703
Net gain/(loss) on sale of assets		26,150	(17,067)	15,287	(17,067)
Gain revaluation of investment property		3,060,388	1,629,223	3,060,388	1,629,223
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		4,261,928	1,405,081	3,959,931	2,106,859
Other Comprehensive Income					
Special distribution to members		-	(1,500,000)	-	-
Revaluation of operating land and buildings		2,686,485	620,231	2,686,485	620,231
Total comprehensive surplus/(deficit) for the year		6,948,413	525,312	6,646,416	2,727,090

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2022

	Note	Consolidated		Parent	
		2022	2021	2022	2021
		\$	\$	\$	\$
ASSETS					
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	10	49,472,139	44,494,919	7,902,679	7,060,981
Trade and other receivables	11	17,615,990	16,824,187	4,328,998	3,851,043
Financial assets	12	17,761,396	23,924,270	-	-
Prepayments		544,286	420,179	411,390	415,179
Reinsurance and other recoveries receivables	13	6,243,218	4,138,510	-	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		91,637,029	89,802,065	12,643,067	11,327,203
NON-CURRENT ASSETS					
Trade and other receivables	11	13,056,655	15,412,329	13,056,655	15,412,329
Financial assets	12	2	2	3	2
Property, plant and equipment	14	15,602,484	13,356,425	15,523,575	13,272,891
Investment properties	15	16,927,500	13,539,545	16,927,500	13,539,545
Intangible assets	16	637,165	777,642	637,165	777,642
Reinsurance and other recoveries receivables	13	12,402,393	12,489,334	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		58,626,199	55,575,277	46,144,898	43,002,409
TOTAL ASSETS		150,263,228	145,377,342	58,787,965	54,329,612
LIABILITIES					
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Trade and other payables	17	11,903,481	11,179,900	9,987,712	9,832,150
Borrowings	19	2,355,674	2,277,018	2,355,674	2,277,018
Employee benefits	18	835,968	902,239	621,759	689,282
Unearned member contributions	20	10,854,199	10,324,828	-	-
Outstanding claims liability	21	12,684,227	13,340,144	-	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		38,633,549	38,024,129	12,965,145	12,798,450
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Borrowings	19	13,056,655	15,412,329	13,056,655	15,412,329
Catastrophe margin		85,000	85,000	-	-
Employee benefits	18	225,345	201,136	184,693	183,777
Outstanding claims liability	21	26,574,138	26,914,618	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		39,941,138	42,613,083	13,241,348	15,596,106
TOTAL LIABILITIES		78,574,687	80,637,212	26,206,493	28,394,556
NET ASSETS		71,688,541	64,740,130	32,581,472	25,935,056
EQUITY					
Reserves	22	27,275,355	22,699,833	23,863,239	20,321,054
Retained earnings		44,413,186	42,040,297	8,718,233	5,614,002
		71,688,541	64,740,130	32,581,472	25,935,056
TOTAL EQUITY		71,688,541	64,740,130	32,581,472	25,935,056

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

2021 Consolidated

	Consolidated				
	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Project Reserve	Risk Incentive Reserve	Total Reserves
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2020	43,610,568	9,629,913	7,163,854	3,810,483	20,604,250
Surplus/deficit for the year from ordinary activities	1,405,081	-	-	-	-
Special distribution to members	(1,500,000)	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increment (decrement)	-	620,231	-	-	620,231
Total comprehensive surplus/(deficit) for the year	(94,919)	620,231	-	-	620,231
Transfer (to)/from project reserve	(2,907,055)	-	2,907,055	-	2,907,055
Transfer (to)/from risk incentive reserve	1,431,703	-	-	(1,431,703)	(1,431,703)
Balance at 30 June 2021	42,040,297	10,250,144	10,070,909	2,378,780	22,699,833

2022 Consolidated

	Consolidated				
	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Project Reserve	Risk Incentive Reserve	Total Reserves
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2021	42,040,297	10,250,144	10,070,909	2,378,780	22,699,833
Surplus/deficit for the year from ordinary activities	4,261,928	-	-	-	-
Revaluation of operating land and buildings increment (decrement)	-	2,686,485	-	-	2,686,485
Total comprehensive surplus / (deficit) for the year	4,261,928	2,686,485	-	-	2,686,485
Transfer (to)/from project reserve	(855,700)	-	855,700	-	855,700
Transfer (to)/from risk incentive reserve	(1,033,337)	-	-	1,033,337	1,033,337
Balance at 30 June 2022	44,413,188	12,936,629	10,926,609	3,412,117	71,688,541

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

2021 Parent

	Parent				
	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Project Reserve	Risk Incentive Reserve	Total Reserves
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2020	6,414,199	9,629,913	7,163,854	-	16,793,767
Total profit/(loss) for the year	2,106,859	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increment (decrement)	-	620,231	-	-	620,231
Comprehensive surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities	2,106,859	620,231	-	-	620,231
Transfer (to)/from project reserve	(2,907,056)	-	2,907,056	-	2,907,056
Balance at 30 June 2021	5,614,002	10,250,144	10,070,910	-	20,321,054

2022 Parent

	Parent				
	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Project Reserve	Risk Incentive Reserve	Total Reserves
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2021	5,614,002	10,250,144	10,070,910	-	20,321,054
Total profit/(loss) for the year	3,959,931	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increment (decrement)	-	2,686,485	-	-	2,686,485
Comprehensive surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities	3,959,931	2,686,485	-	-	2,686,485
Transfer (to)/from project reserve	(855,700)	-	855,700	-	855,700
Balance at 30 June 2022	8,718,233	12,936,629	10,926,610	-	23,863,239

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	Note	Consolidated		Parent	
		2022	2021	2022	2021
		\$	\$	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:					
Receipts from customers/members (inclusive of GST)		50,838,586	49,500,677	13,400,082	10,875,322
Receipts from grants		6,676,066	8,701,405	6,676,066	9,103,410
Interest received		944,649	1,266,978	575,021	681,049
Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of GST)		(40,679,692)	(38,366,822)	(12,562,941)	(10,936,136)
Claims paid		(11,202,428)	(12,500,017)	-	-
Borrowing costs		(1,089,606)	(1,157,315)	(558,367)	(636,121)
Distribution back to members		-	(1,500,000)	-	-
Grant payments	1.b	(3,945,220)	(2,148,816)	(3,963,725)	(2,148,816)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	10	1,542,355	3,796,090	3,566,136	6,938,708
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(450,990)	(2,349,383)	(447,420)	(2,349,383)
Cash realised from term deposits		6,162,874	13,485,215	-	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		5,711,884	11,135,832	(447,420)	(2,349,383)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:					
Repayment of borrowings		(2,277,018)	(2,200,989)	(2,277,018)	(2,200,989)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		(2,277,018)	(2,200,989)	(2,277,018)	(2,200,989)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		4,977,221	12,730,933	841,698	2,388,336
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		44,494,918	31,763,986	7,060,981	4,672,645
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	10	49,472,139	44,494,919	7,902,679	7,060,981

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

1. Parent reporting

The following information has been extracted from the books and records of the parent, Local Government Association of South Australia and has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards.

The parent information has been disaggregated into Secretariat activity and Project activity. Secretariat activity details the annual day to day operations of the LGA and Project activity includes activity funded from External Grants and Contributions to manage committed projects with specified outcomes.

Statement of Surplus/(Deficit) and Other Comprehensive Income

1.a. Detailed Table

	Secretariat 2022 \$	Secretariat 2021 \$	Project 2022 \$	Project 2021 \$	Total 2022 \$	Total 2021 \$
Revenue from continuing operations						
Subscriptions	2,429,685	2,370,421	-	-	2,429,685	2,370,421
Grant revenue	167,537	60,961	2,004,922	3,803,201	2,172,459	3,864,162
Other revenue	7,607,510	5,454,968	463,550	256,387	8,071,060	5,711,355
Finance income	574,725	663,569	295	2,647	575,020	666,216
Total revenue from continuing operations	10,779,457	8,549,919	2,468,767	4,062,235	13,248,224	12,612,154
Expenses						
Employee benefits - operating	(4,315,364)	(4,375,229)	(1,081,437)	(1,530,913)	(5,396,801)	(5,906,142)
Grant expenditure	-	-	(547,614)	(583,360)	(547,614)	(583,360)
Depreciation	(700,562)	(679,038)	(10,856)	(28,953)	(711,418)	(707,991)
Other expenses	(4,042,022)	(2,725,719)	(1,107,746)	(1,558,118)	(5,149,768)	(4,283,837)
Impairment loss on office furniture	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finance expenses	(557,435)	(634,699)	(932)	(1,422)	(558,367)	(636,121)
Total Expenses before sale/impairment of assets	(9,615,383)	(8,414,685)	(2,748,585)	(3,702,766)	(12,363,968)	(12,117,451)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	1,164,074	135,234	(279,818)	359,469	884,256	494,703

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

1. Parent reporting

1.b. Parent entity grant payments

The following table shows the grant payments made by the LGASA Parent, included in cashflows, that have resulted from the change in accounting policies of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058 Income for Not-For-Profit Entities

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Community wastewater management scheme	3,146,154	1,074,828
Early childhood community innovation	158,700	-
LG research and development scheme	448,021	488,360
Local govt youth led COVID19 recovery	53,211	445,681
Other grants	157,639	139,947
	3,963,725	2,148,816

Contingent liabilities

The parent entity did not have any contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2022 or 30 June 2021.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

2.a. Basis of preparation

These non-statutory general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board and relevant South Australian Legislation.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Group's functional and presentation currency.

Accounting policies

The financial statements include the consolidation of LGA and its' controlled entities ('the Group'). LGA is a body corporate established under the Local Government Act 1999 and is a not-for-profit entity.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Group in the preparation of the financial statements. The accounting policies have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

Outlined below are significant accounting policies related to the overall Group. Policies related specifically to the LGAWCS and LGAMLS ('the Schemes') have been separately disclosed in Note 2(h) - (n).

Historical cost convention

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis except for selected non-current assets, and financial assets and financial liabilities for which fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the financial position and performance of controlled entities from the date on which control is obtained until the date that control is lost. The Group controls an entity when the Group is exposed to, or has the rights to, variable returns from its involvements with the entity and an ability to affect those

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

2.a. Basis of preparation

returns through its power to direct the activities of the entity.

Intragroup assets, liabilities, equity, income, expenses and cashflows relating to transactions between entities in the consolidated entity have been eliminated in full for the purpose of these financial statements.

Appropriate adjustments have been made to a controlled entity's financial position, performance and cash flows where the accounting policies used by that entity were different from those adopted by the consolidated entity. All controlled entities have a June financial year end.

When controlled entities have entered or left the consolidated entity during the year, their operating results have been included/ excluded from the date control was obtained or until the date of control ceased.

A list of controlled entities is contained in Note 25 to the financial statements.

2.b. New Accounting Standards and Interpretations

New Australian accounting standards applicable for the first time during the period did not have a material impact on the group's results or financial statements.

Australian accounting standards not yet effective have not been early adopted by the group. Of these standards the following may have a material impact on future periods when adopted:

Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) 17 Insurance Contracts

AASB 17 Insurance Contracts was issued in May 2017 and will replace AASB 4 Insurance Contracts, which currently permits a wide variety of practices. AASB 17 will fundamentally change the accounting by all entities that issue insurance contracts and investment contracts with discretionary participation features.

The standard is not expected to be effective until the 30 June 2024 financial year for the group. At this point the group has not evaluated the impact of the standard.

2.c. Income Tax

The Group, and its related entities, is exempt from income tax under the Income Tax Assessment Act.

2.d. Financial instruments

Recognition and derecognition

Purchases and sales transactions of financial assets are recognised on trade-date, the date on which the group commits to purchase or sell the asset. Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or have been transferred and the group has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership.

Classification

The Group classifies its financial assets in the following measurement categories:

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

2.d. Financial instruments

- those to be measured subsequently at fair value (either through Other Comprehensive Income (OCI) or through the statement of surplus/(deficit)),
- those to be measured at amortised cost

The classification depends on the Group's business model for managing financial assets and the contractual terms of the cash flows.

For assets measured at fair value, gains and losses will either be recorded in Statement of Surplus/(Deficit) or OCI. For investments in equity instruments that are not held for trading, this will depend on whether the group has made an irrevocable election at the time of initial recognition to account for the equity investment at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI). The group reclassifies debt investments when and only when its business model for managing those assets changes.

Measurement

At initial recognition, the Group measures a financial asset at its fair value plus, in the case of a financial asset not at fair value through Statement of Surplus/(Deficit) (FVPL), transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the financial asset. Transaction costs of financial assets carried at FVPL are expensed in the Statement of Surplus/(Deficit). Financial assets with embedded derivatives are considered in their entirety when determining whether their cash flows are solely payment of principal and interest.

Subsequent measurement of debt instruments depends on the Group's business model for managing the asset and the cash flow characteristics of the asset. There are three measurement categories into which the Group classifies its financial assets:

- Amortised cost: assets that are held for collection of contractual cash flows where those cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest are measured at amortised cost.
- FVOCI: Assets that are held for collection of contractual cash flows and for selling financial assets, where the assets' cash flows represent solely payment of principal and interest are measured at FVOCI.
- FVPL: Assets that do not meet the criteria for amortised cost or FVOCI are measured at FVPL. A gain or loss on a debt investment that is subsequently measured at FVPL is recognised in the Statement of Surplus/(Deficit) and presented net within other gains/(losses) in the period in which it arises.

Impairment

The Group assesses on a forward looking basis the expected credit losses associated with its debt instruments carried at amortised cost and FVOCI. The impairment methodology applied depends on whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk. For trade receivables, the Group applies the simplified approach, which requires expected lifetime losses to be recognised from initial recognition of the receivables.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

2.e. Impairment of non-financial assets

At the end of each reporting period the Group determines whether there is evidence of an impairment indicator for non-financial assets. At each reporting date, the Group reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the Statement of Surplus/(Deficit).

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the consolidated entity estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

2.f. Capital Management Policy

The Group's objective when managing capital is to safeguard their ability to continue as a going concern, so that they can continue to provide services to members.

In order to maintain or adjust the capital structure, LGA may adjust the amount of contribution received from its members, adjust the excess surplus to its members via special distributions or enter into debt agreements.

LGA monitors capital on the basis of the total accumulated surplus. A special distribution may be made to its members where the total accumulated surplus exceeds the LGASA Mutual's targeted surplus.

2.g. Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office.

Receivables and payable in the statement of financial position are stated inclusive of GST.

Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

2.h. Classification of Mutual Risk Products

The Schemes are Mutual Risk Products as defined by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission and are neither authorised under, nor subject to, the provisions of the Insurance Act. The Schemes are not a product regulated by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority.

The Schemes are self-insured products where Members agree to Scheme Rules and whereby the Schemes agree to accept significant risk from the Members by making discretionary decisions on whether to compensate the Members for future claims.

Relevant reinsurance is purchased by the Schemes as a mechanism to protect the Scheme and Members. In respect to the LGAMLS, it is further protected through the backing of the Treasurers Indemnity.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

2.i. Unexpired Risk Liability

At each reporting date the Schemes assess whether the unearned members' contribution liability is sufficient to cover all expected future cash flows relating to future claims against current contracts. This assessment is referred to as the liability adequacy test and is performed separately for each group of contracts subject to broadly similar risks and managed together as a single portfolio.

Provision is made for unexpired risks arising from general business where the expected value of claims and expenses attributed to the unexpired periods of policies in force at the balance date exceeds the unearned members' contribution liability in relation to such policies.

If the present value of the expected future cash flows relating to future claims plus the additional risk margin to reflect the inherent uncertainty in the central estimate exceeds the unearned members' contribution liability then the unearned contribution liability is deemed to be deficient.

The entire deficiency, gross and net of reinsurance, is recognised immediately in the Statement of Surplus/(Deficit) or loss and other comprehensive income. As the Schemes do not have any intangible assets or deferred acquisition costs, the deficiency would be recorded in the statement of financial position as an unexpired risk liability.

2.j. Outwards Reinsurance

Premiums credited to reinsurers are recognised as outwards reinsurance premium expenses in accordance with the pattern of reinsurance service received over the membership or indemnity periods based on time.

2.k. Claims

The liability for outstanding claims is measured as the central estimate of the present value of the expected future payments for claims incurred at the reporting date, with an additional risk margin to allow for the inherent uncertainty in the central estimate.

Claims expense and a liability for outstanding claims are recognised as losses occur. The liability for outstanding claims includes claims reported but not yet paid, claims incurred by not yet reported (IBNR) and the anticipated direct and indirect cost settling those claims. Claims outstanding are assessed by reviewing individual claim files and estimating settlement costs of not reporting claims using statistics based on past experience and trends.

Excess amounts recoverable from a Scheme member are payable and are treated as a contribution towards the settlement of a claim.

The expected future payments are estimated on the basis of the ultimate cost of settling claims, which is affected by factors arising during the period to settlement, such as normal inflation. The expected future payments are discounted to present value at balance date using a risk-free rate.

Outstanding claim provisions were determined taking into account an actuarial review of the Schemes which occurred in August 2022, by Cumpston Sarjeant Pty Ltd. This review was based on initial claims data to 31 March 2022 and claims data to 30 June 2022 and included in their report received in August 2022.

The liability for outstanding claims is measured as the present value of the expected future payments, reflecting the fact that all claims do not have to be paid out in the immediate future. The expected future payments are estimated on the basis of the ultimate cost of settling claims, which is affected by factors arising during the period to settlement such as normal inflation. The expected future payments are discounted to present value at balance date using a risk free rate.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

2.1. Catastrophe Margin

The Workers Compensation Scheme has recognised the likelihood of future claims in relation to asbestos related illnesses. The provision is reviewed annually and the Scheme takes guidance from the Actuary in setting the amount provided.

2.m. Special Distribution to Members

The Mutual Liability Scheme and Workers Compensation Scheme set maximum levels of accumulated funds that should be held each year. When funds exceed the maximum level, a distribution of funds is provided to member councils.

2.n. Assets Backing General Insurance Liabilities

LGASA Mutual's investment strategies manage the funds invested with the Local Government Finance Authority of South Australia.

LGASA Mutual has determined that all assets are held to back its insurance liabilities and their accounting treatment is described below. As these assets are managed on a fair value basis, they have been valued at fair value through the Statement of Surplus/(Deficit).

The accounting policies applying to assets held to back LGASA Mutual's activities are:

Financial Assets

LGASA Mutual's value financial assets and any assets backing risk activities at fair value through the Statement of Surplus/(Deficit). Details of fair value for the different types of financial assets are summarised below:

- Cash assets and bank overdrafts are carried at face value of the amounts deposited or drawn. The carrying amounts of cash assets and bank overdrafts approximate to their fair value. For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand, call deposits and deposits where maturity is less than 3 months, net of bank overdrafts.
- Fixed interest securities are recorded at amounts based on valuation using rates of interest equivalent to the yields obtainable on comparable investments at balance date.

Receivables

Contributions due from members and amounts due from reinsurers under the reinsurance program are initially recognised at face value, being the amounts due. They are subsequently measured at fair value that is approximated by taking the initially recognised amount and reducing it for impairment as appropriate.

A provision for impairment of receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the Scheme will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables. The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows. The discount is calculated using the original effective interest rate. Where there is impairment a charge is recognised in the Statement of Surplus/(Deficit) and other comprehensive income.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

2.o. Right of Use Assets

A right-of-use asset is recognised at the commencement date of a lease. The right-of-use asset is measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability, adjusted for, as applicable, any lease payments made at or before the commencement date net of any lease incentives received, any initial direct costs incurred, and, except where included in the cost of inventories, an estimate of costs expected to be incurred for dismantling and removing the underlying asset, and restoring the site or asset.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful life of the asset, whichever is the shorter. Where the consolidated entity expects to obtain ownership of the leased asset at the end of the lease term, the depreciation is over its estimated useful life. Right-of use assets are subject to impairment or adjusted for any re-measurement of lease liabilities.

The consolidated entity has elected not to recognise a right-of-use asset and corresponding lease liability for short-term leases with terms of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets. Lease payments on these assets are expensed to the Statement of Surplus/(Deficit) as incurred.

2.p. Lease Liabilities

A lease liability is recognised at the commencement date of a lease. The lease liability is initially recognised at the present value of the lease payments to be made over the term of the lease, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, the consolidated entity's incremental borrowing rate. Lease payments comprise of fixed payments less any lease incentives receivable, variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, amounts expected to be paid under residual value guarantees, exercise price of a purchase option when the exercise of the option is reasonably certain to occur, and any anticipated termination penalties. The variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

Lease liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The carrying amounts are remeasured if there is a change in the following: future lease payments arising from a change in an index or a rate used; residual guarantee; lease term; certainty of a purchase option and termination penalties. When a lease liability is remeasured, an adjustment is made to the corresponding right-of use asset, or to the Statement of Surplus/(Deficit) if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset is fully written down.

2.q. Revenue

Revenue arises mainly from member contributions for mutual risk products, grant revenue and for subscriptions received from member councils

To determine whether to recognise revenue, the Group follows a 5-step process:

1. Identifying the contract with a customer
2. Identifying the performance obligations
3. Determining the transaction price
4. Allocating the transaction price to the performance obligations
5. Recognising revenue when/as performance obligation(s) are satisfied.

Revenue is recognised either at a point in time or over time, when (or as) the Consolidated Entity satisfies performance obligations by transferring the promised goods or services to its members.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

2.q. Revenue

The Group recognises contract liabilities for consideration received in respect of unsatisfied performance obligations and reports these amounts as grants received in advance in the Statement of Financial Position. Similarly, if the Group satisfies a performance obligation before it receives the consideration, the Group recognises either a contract asset or accrued income in its Statement of Financial Position, depending on whether something other than the passage of time is required before the consideration is due.

Grants

Grants and project funding that were received on the condition that they be expended in a particular manner were recognised as income when the Group gained control of the grant or the right to receive the grant. Grant monies outstanding at year end were placed in a reserve for allocation to expenditure in future years.

3. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The Board members make estimates and judgements during the preparation of these financial statements regarding assumptions about current and future events affecting transactions and balances.

These estimates and judgements are based on the best information available at the time of preparing the financial statements, however as additional information is known then the actual results may differ from the estimates.

The significant estimates and judgements made have been described below.

Valuation of land and buildings

Land and buildings are recognised at fair value based on periodic, but at least triennial valuations by external independent valuers, less subsequent depreciation for buildings. A revaluation surplus is credited to reserves in equity. Detailed information about this estimate and judgement is included in the Note 6.

Investment Property

Investment properties are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at fair value with any changes therein recognised in statement of surplus/(deficit). For policy on transfers between Property, plant and equipment and investment property to note 14 (a). For recognition and measurement policy refer to Note 15 (b).

At each balance date directors update their assessment of the fair value, taking into account external independent valuations. These valuations include a number of estimates and judgements as detailed in note 15.

Actuarial Assumptions and Methods - LGAMLS and LGAWCS

Actuarial Assumptions

The following assumptions have been made in determining the outstanding claims liabilities.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

3. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

Key Actuarial Assumptions

	LGAMLS		LGAWCS	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Case estimate development	(25.00)%	(25.00)%	-	-
Wage inflation	4.00%	3.00%	4.00%	3.00%
Superimposed inflation	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
Discount rate	3.50%	0.10%	3.00%	0.10%

The process used to determine actuarial assumptions

A description of the processes used to determine the above key actuarial assumptions is provided below.

In the independent actuary review for 30 June for the LGMLS and LGWCS was completed on 11th August 2022, the actuary was provided with claims data on claims incurred net of excesses and anticipated recoveries to reduce the liability of members. The actuary allow for:

- Developments in case estimates on reported claims based on an explicit case development parameter or Project Case Estimates method;
- Claims incurred but not reported and potential recoveries were all estimated by an inflation adjusted Payment per Claim Incurred method based on ultimate non-zero claim numbers projected by a Chain Ladder method and 5-year averages of late reported claims;
- Cost of claims likely to be reopened were estimated by an inflation adjusted Payment per Claim Incurred method based on ultimate non-zero claim numbers projected by a Chain Ladder method and 5 year average of reported claims;
- Expected investment earnings by applying a fitted payment pattern to the undiscounted sum of the above components and then discounts at the assumed discount rate;
- There were no recoveries either due or expected from reinsurance contracts.

Case estimate development

Development in net case estimates applied to open claims was -25.00% (2021 -25.00%) for all accident years.

Wage inflation

The independent actuary assumed wage inflation, per annum, based on recent inflation levels in South Australia as follows

	2022	2021
LGAMLS	4.00%	3.00%
LGAWCS	4.00%	3.00%

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

3. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

Claim administration expense

The independent actuary has not made an allowance for claim administration expenses on open claims as the amount of fees already represent approximately 4.5% of payments. A fixed fee of \$180,000 is charged by the Scheme Manager for this expense. The amounts allowed are comparable to those normally made by the public liability and professional indemnity insurers.

Superimposed inflation

The independent actuary assumed future superimposed inflation, the rate at which claims increase in excess of wage inflation, per annum as follows

	2022	2021
LGAMLS	2.00%	2.00%
LGAWCS	2.00%	2.00%

Superimposed inflation occurs due to non-economic effects such as court settlements increasing at a faster rate than wages or CPI inflation. Though there is no discernible trend of superimposed inflation in inflated claims insured, the independent actuary determined it is appropriate to included a nominal allowance for such inflation in future claims.

Discount rate

The estimates of the outstanding claims liabilities were discounted to allow for future investment income gains attributable to the liabilities. The estimates of reinsurance recovery assets were discounted to allow for future income losses attributable to the assets. The independent actuary assumed a discount rate of 3.50% per annum (2021 0.10%) for LGAMLS and 3.00% per annum (2021 0.10%) for LGAWCS based on current medium-term bond yields.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

3. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

Sensitivity Analysis

The outstanding claims liability included in the reported results is calculated based on the key actuarial assumptions as disclosed above. The movement in any of the above key actuarial assumptions will impact the performance and total accumulated funds of the Schemes.

The table below describes how a change in each of the assumptions will affect the outstanding claims liabilities

Wage inflation	Expected future payments are inflated to take into account inflationary increases. An increase or decrease in the assumed level of economic inflation would have a corresponding impact on claims expenses, with particular reference to longer tail claims.
Superimposed inflation	In addition to the general economic inflation rate an amount is superimposed to take account of non-economic inflationary factors, such as increases in court awards. Such rates of superimposed inflation are specific to the model adopted. An increase or decrease in the assumed levels of superimposed inflation would have a corresponding impact on claims expense, with particular reference to longer tail claims.
Discount Rate	The outstanding claims liability is calculated by reference to expected future payments. These payments are discounted to adjust for the time value of money. An increase or decrease in the assumed discount rate will have an opposing impact on total claims expense.
Case Estimate Development	Case estimates are initially established in accordance with established guidelines and by reference to the known facts. Where new information becomes available the initial case estimates will change. This development movement applied to open claims and will have a corresponding impact on claims expense.

(i) LGAMLS

Variable	Profit/(loss)		Total Accumulated Funds	
	Movement in variable	Movement by applying variable gross of reinsurance	Net of reinsurance	Total Accumulated Funds
Wage inflation	3%	1,445,000	110,000	(110,000)
	(3%)	(1,259,000)	(94,000)	94,000
Superimposed inflation	3%	1,484,000	112,000	(113,000)
	(3%)	(1,278,000)	(96,000)	96,000
Discount rate	3%	(1,445,000)	(107,000)	106,000
	(3%)	1,777,000	132,000	(133,000)
Case - estimate development	5%	216,000	3,000	(3,000)
	(5%)	(209,000)	(3,000)	3,000

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

3. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

(ii) LGAWCS

Variable	Profit/(loss)		Total Accumulated Funds	
	Movement in variable	Gross of reinsurance	Net of reinsurance	Total Accumulated Funds
Wage inflation	3%	540,000	-	(539,000)
	(3%)	(453,000)	-	453,000
Superimposed inflation	3%	553,000	-	(553,000)
	(3%)	(438,000)	-	439,000
Discount rate	3%	(1,134,000)	-	1,135,000
	(3%)	1,381,000	-	(1,381,000)

4. Mutual Risk Products - Risk Management (LGAMLS and LGAWCS)

Risk management objectives and policies for mitigating risk

LGAMLS and LGAWCS are established by legislation contained in the Local Government Act 1999. Membership is available to local government councils and prescribed bodies. LGAMLS and LGAWCS operate in South Australia to provide a claims management service to members in respect of their potential and actual liabilities. A member may seek indemnity from the Schemes in respect of a claim.

Under the rules, the LGA may, in its sole and absolute discretion, determine whether indemnity will be granted in respect of a claim. Should indemnity be granted, the LGAMLS and LGAWCS offers unlimited cover.

Actuarial models, using information from management information systems are used to confirm contributions and monitor claim patterns. Past experience and statistical methods are used as part of the process.

In respect to both Workers Compensation and Civil Liability risk events, they are by nature, random, and the actual number and quantum cost of the event during any one-year may vary from those using estimated statistical techniques.

Objectives in managing risk arising from mutual risk products and policies for mitigating those risks

The Schemes have an objective to control risk thus reducing the volatility of its operating surplus. In addition to the inherent uncertainty of workers compensation and civil liability risks, which can lead to variability in the loss experience, operating surpluses can also be affected by external factors such as competition and movements in asset values.

LGAMLS and LGAWCS rely on a strong relationship with its members and actively encourages them to adopt practices of risk management that reduce the incidence of claims to the Schemes.

Reinsurance strategy

LGAMLS and LGAWCS adopt a conservative approach towards the management of risk and did this by utilising various risk transfer options. The Board of the Schemes determine the level of risk, which is appropriate for the LGAMLS and LGAWCS having regards to ordinary concepts of prudence and regulatory constraints. The risk transfer arrangements adopted by the Schemes include the utilisation of commercial reinsurance arrangements and the negotiation of an indemnity agreement with the South Australian State Government Treasurer. These risk transfer arrangements assist the Schemes to limit its

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

4. Mutual Risk Products - Risk Management (LGAMLS and LGAWCS)

liability on single large claims and catastrophic events. These programs are regularly reviewed each year to ensure that they continue to meet the risk needs of LGAMLS and LGAWCS.

In the past ten years, LGAMLS and LGAWCS have managed their reinsurance program and risk transfer arrangements so that the exposure to each claim has been markedly reduced. LGASA Mutual has maintained its Treasurer's Indemnity on a long-term basis which is due to expire in September 2022.

Terms and conditions of membership

Membership to LGAMLS and LGAWCS is offered to eligible bodies and renewed annually on 30 June. Payment of the annual contribution confirms continuation of membership. Termination of membership is subject to at least 90 days written notice of intention as laid out by the rules. Once a claim is accepted and indemnity granted each claim is handled individually on the circumstances peculiar to the claim.

Product features (Mutual Liability Scheme)

The Scheme operates in South Australia. Should a claim be accepted the scheme provides indemnity to the member in respect of their civil liabilities for an unlimited amount, subject to any excess for any claim incurred anywhere throughout the world.

Operating surpluses arise from the total contributions charged to members less the amounts paid to cover claims and the expenses incurred by the Scheme.

Product features (Workers Compensation Scheme)

LGAWCS operates in South Australia, whereby the LGA is a group self-insurer which enables the scheme to operate under a delegated authority as described in the Return to Work Act 2014 (RTW Act). Should a claim be accepted, the scheme provides indemnity to the member in respect of their workers' compensation liabilities for amounts and benefits detailed in the RTW Act.

Operating surpluses arise from the total contributions charged to members less the amounts paid to cover claims and the expenses incurred by the Scheme.

Management of risks

The key risks that affect LGAMLS and LGAWCS are contribution risk, and claims experience risk.

Contribution risk is the risk that the Schemes do not charge contributions appropriate for the indemnity cover they provide. LGAMLS and LGAWCS partially manage contribution risk through their proactive approach to risk management that addresses all material risks both financial and non-financial. There are no specific terms and conditions that are expected to have a material impact on the financial statements.

Claims experience risk is managed through the non-financial risk assessment and risk management and reinsurance management process. Claims experience is monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that any adverse trending is addressed. LGAMLS and LGAWCS are able to reduce the claims experience risk of severe losses through the reinsurance program, and by managing the concentration of risks.

Concentration of risks

Risk are managed by taking a long term approach to setting the annual contribution rates that eliminates price fluctuations, appropriate investment strategy, reinsurance and by maintaining an active state-wide risk management profile. It is vital that the LGAMLS and LGAWCS keep abreast of changes in the general economic, legal and commercial environment in which it operates.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

4. Mutual Risk Products - Risk Management (LGAMLS and LGAWCS)

Interest rate risk

The reinsurance indemnity contracts contain no clauses that expose LGAMLS and LGAWCS directly to interest rate risk. The reinsurance contracts are long term arrangements, reviewed and payable annually.

Credit risk

LGAMLS and LGAWCS are exposed to credit risk on contracts as a result of exposure to reinsurers. The credit risk to reinsurers is managed through the Schemes regularly monitoring the financial rating of the reinsurers both prior to and during the reinsurance program.

In relation to the reinsurance and other receivables disclosed in note 3 in relation to the LGAMLS, the credit risk exposure is equal to the undiscounted aggregate value of claims. As at 30 June 2022 this amounted to \$21.78 million (2021: \$19.63 million).

5. Financial Risk Management

The main risks the Group is exposed to through its financial instruments are credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk relating to interest rate risk.

Financial instruments used

The principal categories of financial instrument used by the Group consists mainly of deposits with banks, local money market instruments, short-term investments, trade receivables, trade payables, loans to and from related parties, bills and leases.

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	49,472,139	44,494,919	7,902,679	7,060,981
Trade and other receivables	30,672,645	32,236,516	17,385,653	15,412,329
Term deposits	17,761,396	23,924,270	-	-
Total financial assets	97,906,180	100,655,705	25,288,332	22,473,310
Financial liabilities				
Trade and other payables	11,903,481	11,179,900	9,987,712	9,832,150
Borrowings	15,412,329	17,689,347	15,412,329	17,689,347
Total financial liabilities	27,315,810	28,869,247	25,400,041	27,521,497

The main purpose for non-derivative financial instruments is to raise finance for group operations.

The Group does not have any derivative financial instruments as at 30 June 2022 (2021: nil).

Liquidity risk

The Group manages liquidity risk by monitoring forecast cash flows and ensuring that adequate unutilised borrowing facilities are maintained.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

5. Financial Risk Management

Liquidity risk

The table below reflects the undiscounted contractual maturity analysis for financial liabilities.

Financial liability maturity analysis

Consolidated	Within 1 Year		1 to 5 Years		Over 5 Years		Total	
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial liabilities								
Trade and other payables	(8,256,991)	(10,516,656)	-	-	-	-	(8,256,991)	(10,516,656)
Borrowings	(2,355,674)	(2,277,018)	(11,454,188)	(9,922,273)	(24,106)	(5,490,056)	(13,833,968)	(17,689,347)
Total financial liabilities	(10,612,665)	(12,793,674)	(11,454,188)	(9,922,273)	(24,106)	(5,490,056)	(22,090,959)	(28,206,003)

Parent	Within 1 Year		1 to 5 Years		Over 5 Years		Total	
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial liabilities								
Trade and other payables	(8,256,991)	(7,593,686)	-	-	-	-	(8,256,991)	(7,593,686)
Borrowings	(2,355,674)	(2,277,018)	(10,265,021)	(9,922,273)	(2,791,634)	(5,490,056)	(15,412,329)	(17,689,347)
Total financial liabilities	(10,612,665)	(9,870,704)	(10,265,021)	(9,922,273)	(2,791,634)	(5,490,056)	(23,669,320)	(25,283,033)

The timing of expected outflows is not expected to be materially different from contracted cashflows.

Credit risk

The maximum exposure to credit risk, excluding the value of any collateral or other security, at balance date to recognised financial assets, is the carrying amount, net any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements.

The Group does not have any material credit risk exposure to any single receivable or group receivables under financial instruments entered into by the Group.

The average credit rating of the Scheme's reinsurance companies is 'A'. However, the Schemes do recognise that there may be the likelihood of a reinsurance company failing to meet its obligations. A reinsurer default provision has been raised to cover this.

Market risk

The Group's main interest rate risk arises from financial assets at fair value through the Statement of Surplus/(Deficit) and short term deposits with banks. Investments at variable rates expose the Scheme to cash flow interest rate risk. Investments at fixed rates expose the Scheme to fair value interest rate risk. All investments are held with Local Government Finance Authority. The Scheme has no formal policy in respect of the percentage of investments at fixed rates. Investments at fixed rates are made as and when opportunities arise.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

5. Financial Risk Management

The following table illustrates sensitivities to the Group's exposure to changes in interest rates. The table indicates the impact on how profit and equity values reporting at the end of the reporting period would have been affected by changes in the relevant risk variable that management considers to be reasonably possible. These sensitivities assume that the movement in a particular variable is independent of other variables.

Consolidated	2022		2021	
	+1.00%	-1.00%	+1.00%	-1.00%
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents	494,721	(494,721)	317,640	(317,640)
Short term deposits	177,614	(177,614)	239,271	(239,271)

6. Fair value hierarchy

Fair value hierarchy

This section explains the judgements and estimates made in determining the fair values of the assets that are recognised and measured in the financial statements. To provide an indication about the reliability of the inputs used in determining fair value, the group has classified its assets into three levels prescribed under the accounting standards. An explanation of each level follows underneath the table.

The table below shows the assigned level for each asset and liability held at fair value by the Group:

Consolidated	Level 2	Level 3
30 June 2022	\$	\$
Financial Assets	17,761,396	-
Land and freehold buildings	-	13,572,500
Investment property	-	16,927,500

Consolidated	Level 2	Level 3
30 June 2021	\$	\$
Financial Assets	23,924,272	-
Land and freehold buildings	-	10,860,495
Investment property	-	13,539,545

Parent	Level 2	Level 3
30 June 2022	\$	\$
Financial assets	2	-
Land and freehold buildings	-	13,572,500
Investment property	-	16,927,500

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

6. Fair value hierarchy

Parent	Level 2	Level 3
30 June 2021	\$	\$
Financial assets	2	-
Land and freehold buildings	-	10,860,495
Investment property	-	13,539,545

There were no transfers between levels 1 and 2 for recurring fair value measurements during the year.

Level 1: The fair value of assets is measured using reference to an active market where trades are freely made at arms length between willing and suitably invested partners.

Level 2: The fair value of assets that are not traded in an active market is determined using valuation techniques which maximise the use of observable market data and rely as little as possible on entity-specific estimates. If all significant inputs required to fair value an asset are observable, the asset is included in level 2.

Level 3: If one or more of the significant inputs is not based on observable market data, the asset is included in level 3.

Valuation techniques used to determine fair value

Specific valuation techniques used to value financial instruments include:

Term deposits - The fair value of term deposits is calculated as the present value of the estimated future cash flows based on observable government bond rate.

Land, Freehold Buildings and Investment Property - The Group's land and buildings were revalued at 30 June 2022 by independent valuers Knight Frank Valuation & Advisory South Australia. Valuations were made on the basis of open market value. Movement during the year relates to depreciation on the building.

Unlisted shares - The value of unlisted shares have been recorded at the initial value at recognition.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

7. Revenue

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Member contributions				
- Gross earned contributions	55,048,529	52,078,167	-	-
- Rebate to members	(19,956,370)	(18,450,445)	-	-
Total member contributions	35,092,159	33,627,722	-	-
Other revenue				
- Administrative charges	1,196,365	1,113,543	2,339,873	2,240,155
- Other Revenue	3,913,237	2,278,473	3,549,179	1,855,813
- Rent	912,192	771,199	1,263,926	1,095,635
- Outgoings	889,554	429,436	889,554	503,642
- Member Service Rebates	1,561,354	1,144,653	28,528	16,110
Total other revenue	8,472,702	5,737,304	8,071,060	5,711,355

Revenue is measured either at a point in time, or over time, depending on the recognition criteria of AASB 15 Revenue of Contracts with Customers. All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

Member contributions

Member contributions comprise amounts charged to members of the schemes for liability protection, net of amounts returned to members as bonuses. Member contribution revenue is recognised in the Statement of Surplus/(Deficit) and other comprehensive income which has been earned. The proportion of members' contributions received or receivable not earned is recognised in the statement of financial position as an unearned member contribution liability.

Member contributions are treated as earned from the date of attachment of risk. The pattern of recognition over the period of cover is based on time, which is considered to closely approximate the pattern of risks underwritten.

Grants

Grants that were received on the condition that they be expended in a particular manner have been recognised as income when the Group gains control of the grant or the right to receive the grant. Grant monies outstanding at year end are detailed in the Project Reserve in the Statement of Changes in Equity.

Subscriptions

Revenue from the provision of council subscriptions is recognised on a straight line basis over the financial year.

Other revenue

Other revenue comprises fees and charges received from Councils for services undertaken, rental and outgoings from the rental of space at LG House and rebate income from panel supplier contracts. Revenue is recognised in the accounting period in which the services are rendered. For fixed price contracts, revenue is recognised based on the actual services provided to the end of the reporting period as a proportion of the total value of services to be provided.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

7. Revenue

Finance income

Interest is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets. Finance income is taken into account on an accrual basis and includes any changes in the net market value of investments during the financial year.

8. Grant expenditure

Outlined below are the projects where expenditure was incurred during the reporting period:

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
LG Research and Development Scheme	448,021	488,360	448,021	488,360
Other grants	81,088	95,000	99,593	95,000
	529,109	583,360	547,614	583,360

Grant expenditure includes project expenditure paid to Councils or other recipients to deliver programs or activities for the benefit of the South Australian local government sector. Expenses are recognised when all obligations and conditions of the grant or subsidy agreement have been met.

9. Net claims expense

The result for the year includes the following specific expenses:

Direct Business

Current period claims relate to risk borne in the current financial year. Prior period amounts relate to a reassessment of the risk borne in all previous financial years

Consolidated	2022		
	Current year	Prior years	Net
	\$	\$	\$
Claims expense			
Claims and related expenses - undiscounted	14,376,865	4,304,962	18,681,827
Claims and related expenses - discounted	(698,006)	(2,492,515)	(3,190,521)
Claims and related expenses - net	13,678,859	1,812,447	15,491,306
Reinsurance and other recoveries revenue			
Reinsurance and other recoveries revenue - undiscounted	(2,878,443)	(4,437,592)	(7,316,035)
Reinsurance and other recoveries revenue - discounted	302,665	1,728,095	2,030,760
Reinsurance and other recoveries - net	(2,575,778)	(2,709,497)	(5,285,275)
Claims incurred net of recoveries	11,103,081	(897,050)	10,206,031

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

9. Net claims expense

Consolidated	2021		
	Current year	Prior years	Net
	\$	\$	\$
Claims expense			
Claims and related expenses - undiscounted	14,672,050	(4,861,353)	9,810,697
Claims and related expenses - discounted	(38,122)	494,697	456,575
Claims and related expenses - net	14,633,928	(4,366,656)	10,267,272
Reinsurance and other recoveries revenue			
Reinsurance and other recoveries revenue - undiscounted	(2,667,605)	3,049,967	382,362
Reinsurance and other recoveries revenue - discounted	(19,841)	(477,131)	(496,972)
Reinsurance and other recoveries - net	(2,687,446)	2,572,836	(114,610)
Claims incurred net of recoveries	11,946,482	(1,793,820)	10,152,662

Reinsurance and other recoveries revenue

Reinsurance and other recoveries paid on claims, reported claims not yet paid and IBNR (claims incurred but not yet reported) are recognised as revenue.

Reinsurance recoveries receivable on outstanding claims liabilities are measured as the present value of the expected future receipts calculated on a similar basis as the liability for outstanding claims.

Other recoveries receivable are recognised when certainty exists as to recovery from a third party and are measured at the present value of the expected future receipts calculated on the same basis as the liability for outstanding claims.

A provision for reinsurer default has been raised. The credit rating of the major current and historical reinsurance companies has been assessed. The actuary has assessed the appropriate provision based on the Australian and New Zealand cumulative default rates.

Workers compensation claims

Claims incurred expense and liability for outstanding claims are recognised in respect of direct claims by workers. The liability covers claims incurred but not yet paid, incurred but not yet reported claims and the anticipated costs of settling those claims. Claims outstanding are assessed by reviewing individual claim files and estimating unmodified claims and settlement costs using statistical and actuarial techniques. The liability for outstanding claims is measured as the present value of the expected future payments reflecting the fact that all the claims do not have to be paid out in the immediate future. The expected future payments are estimated on the basis of the ultimate cost of settling claims, which is affected by factors arising during the period to settlement such as normal inflation and 'superimposed inflation'.

Super imposed inflation refers to factors such as trends in court awards, for example, increases in the level and period of compensation for injury. The expected future payments are then discounted to a present value at the report date using discount rates based on investment opportunities available to the organisation on the amounts of funds sufficient to meet claims as they became payable.

The following average inflation (normal and superimposed) rates and discount rates were used in measuring the liability for outstanding claims.

Actuarial advice indicates these rates to be	2022	2021
Wage inflation rate	4.00 %	3.00 %
Superimposed inflation	2.00 %	2.00 %
Discount rate	3.00 %	0.10 %

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

10. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash at bank and in hand	9,865,986	11,852,935	7,902,679	7,060,981
Short Term Deposits	39,606,153	32,641,984	-	-
	49,472,139	44,494,919	7,902,679	7,060,981

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Net Surplus	4,261,928	1,405,081	3,959,931	2,106,859
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities				
adjustments for:				
- depreciation	730,475	728,403	711,418	707,991
- net gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(26,150)	17,067	(15,287)	17,067
- net (gain)/loss on disposal of investments	(3,060,388)	(1,629,222)	(3,060,388)	(1,629,222)
- special distributions to members	-	(1,500,000)	-	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:				
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(453,896)	4,090,589	1,877,719	1,967,482
- (increase)/decrease in prepayments	(124,107)	(170,051)	3,789	(165,936)
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	723,581	3,676,785	155,561	3,795,344
- increase/(decrease) in outstanding claims and unearned contributions	(467,026)	(2,973,797)	-	-
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	(42,062)	151,237	(66,607)	139,123
Cashflows from operations	1,542,355	3,796,092	3,566,136	6,938,708

11. Trade and other receivables

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
CURRENT				
Trade receivables	1,168,535	1,298,236	451,234	329,437
Accrued Income	2,062,854	1,706,000	1,522,090	1,244,588
State Local Govt Infra Partnership Receivable	2,355,674	2,277,018	2,355,674	2,277,018
Member contribution receivable	12,028,927	11,542,933	-	-
	17,615,990	16,824,187	4,328,998	3,851,043

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

11. Trade and other receivables

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
NON-CURRENT				
State Local Govt Infra Partnership Receivable	13,056,655	15,412,329	13,056,655	15,412,329
	13,056,655	15,412,329	13,056,655	15,412,329

Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are amounts due from members for services performed in the ordinary course of business. They are generally due for settlement within 30 days and therefore are all classified as current. Trade receivables are recognised initially at the amount of consideration that is unconditional unless they contain significant financing components, then they are recognised at fair value.

The Group holds the trade receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cashflows and therefore measures them subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

All outstanding receivables are paid within the Group's normal trading terms.

Accrued income

Accrued income includes revenue earned for services undertaken but have not been invoiced. Accrued income also includes grants and contribution revenue not invoiced but is due to be paid to the Group in accordance with a pre-existing agreement or government legislation.

Impairment

The Group applies a simplified approach to measuring expected credit losses which uses a lifetime expected loss allowance for all trade receivables and contract assets. To measure the expected credit losses, trade receivables and contract assets have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and all days past due. The Group has therefore concluded that the expected loss rates for trade receivables are a reasonable approximation of the loss rates for the other receivables.

The expected loss rates are based on the payment profiles of sales over a period of 36 months before 30 June 2021 respectively and the corresponding historical credit losses experienced within this period. The historical loss rates are adjusted to reflect current and forward looking information on macroeconomic factors affecting the ability of the customers to settle the receivables. The Group expected net loss is nil (2021: nil).

Loss allowance

Trade and other receivables are written off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery.

Impairment losses on trade and other receivables and contract assets are presented as net impairment losses within operating profit. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against the same line item.

State Local Government Infrastructure Partnership (SLGIP) receivable

State Government grant payments being made to the Group to reimburse costs attributable to the administration of the SGLIP program. The receivable is in accordance with the future receipts being received from the State Government as per

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

11. Trade and other receivables

the funding deed.

Member contribution receivable

Amounts due the LGAMLS and LGAWCS but not yet received from members for contributions for liability protection. Member contribution receivable is recognised at fair value.

12. Financial Assets

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
CURRENT				
Term deposits	17,761,396	23,924,270	-	-
	17,761,396	23,924,270	-	-
	Consolidated		Parent	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
NON-CURRENT				
Shares in controlled entities (at amortised cost)	2	2	3	2
	2	2	3	2

Term deposits are cash investments held with Local Government Financing Authority (LGFA) with maturity of more than three months. Investments are initially brought into account at cost and subsequently remeasured to fair value to market rates through the statement of surplus/(deficit).

13. Reinsurance and other recoveries receivables

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
CURRENT				
Reinsurance recoveries on paid claims	2,910,977	300,355	-	-
Reinsurance recoveries receivable	3,755,057	3,830,988	-	-
Discount to present value	(401,690)	31,501	-	-
Reinsurer default provision	(21,126)	(24,334)	-	-
	6,243,218	4,138,510	-	-

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

13. Reinsurance and other recoveries receivables

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
NON CURRENT	\$	\$	\$	\$
Reinsurance recoveries on paid claims	13,976,090	12,466,013	-	-
Discount to present value	(1,495,067)	102,503	-	-
Reinsurer default provision	(78,360)	(79,182)	-	-
	12,402,663	12,489,334	-	-

Assets arising from reinsurance contracts were estimated for each accident year, from the payments to date and estimated outstanding claims history at 30 June 2022, taking into account the reinsurance terms applying to that accident year. In calculating the present value of reinsurance recoveries on the outstanding claims liability, allowance was made for an average recovery delay of three months, as assumed by the independent actuary. Although all relevant insurers are solvent, a provision for the failure of an insurer to pay has been raised. The reinsurer default provision is \$99,756 (2021 \$103,516) calculated at a rate of 0.63% (2021 0.63%) on the discounted value of the total reinsurance recoveries.

14. Property, plant and equipment

	Freehold land & buildings	Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Right of Use Vehicles	Other works in progress	Total
Parent	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Year ended 30 June 2022						
Opening net carrying amount	10,860,445	1,964,242	177,826	70,972	199,406	13,272,891
Transfer to investment property	-	(327,566)	-	-	-	(327,566)
Additions	-	559,344	52,403	-	-	611,747
Transfers/Disposals	262,643	(178,119)	(34,158)	-	(199,406)	(149,040)
Depreciation expense	(237,073)	(258,499)	(45,885)	(29,485)	-	(570,942)
Revaluation	2,686,485	-	-	-	-	2,686,485
Closing net carrying amount	13,572,500	1,759,402	150,186	41,487	-	15,523,575

	Freehold land & buildings	Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Right of Use Vehicles	Other works in progress	Total
Parent	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Year ended 30 June 2021						
Opening net carrying amount	21,650,000	937,382	118,074	39,809	52,917	22,798,182
Transfer to Investment Property	(11,910,322)	-	-	-	-	(11,910,322)
Additions	-	2,048,584	100,104	70,569	199,405	2,418,662
Transfers	-	(18,431)	(15,000)	-	(52,916)	(86,347)
Depreciation expense	(297,992)	(204,765)	(25,352)	(39,406)	-	(567,515)
Revaluation	1,418,759	(798,528)	-	-	-	620,231
Closing net carrying amount	10,860,445	1,964,242	177,826	70,972	199,406	13,272,891

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

14. Property, plant and equipment

	Freehold land & buildings	Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Right of Use Vehicles	Other works in progress	Total
Consolidated	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$-
Year ended 30 June 2022						
Opening net carrying amount	10,860,445	1,967,024	258,578	70,972	199,406	13,356,425
Transfer to investment property	-	(327,566)	-	-	-	(327,566)
Additions	-	559,344	99,974	-	-	659,318
Transfers/Disposals	262,643	(178,119)	(67,295)	-	(199,406)	(182,177)
Depreciation expense	(237,073)	(260,646)	(62,797)	(29,485)	-	(590,001)
Revaluation	2,686,485	-	-	-	-	2,686,485
Closing net carrying amount	13,572,500	1,760,037	228,460	41,487	-	15,602,484

	Freehold land & buildings	Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Right of Use Vehicles	Other works in progress	Total
Consolidated	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Year ended 30 June 2021						
Opening net carrying amount	21,650,000	943,338	216,062	39,809	52,917	22,902,126
Transfer to investment property	(11,910,322)	-	-	-	-	(11,910,322)
Additions	-	2,048,584	100,104	70,569	199,405	2,418,662
Transfers/Disposals	-	(18,431)	(15,000)	-	(52,916)	(86,347)
Depreciation expense	(297,992)	(207,939)	(42,588)	(39,406)	-	(587,925)
Revaluation/(Impairment)	1,418,759	(798,528)	-	-	-	620,231
Closing net carrying amount	10,860,445	1,967,024	258,578	70,972	199,406	13,356,425

Land and buildings are recognised at fair value based on periodic, but at least triennial valuations by external independent valuers, less subsequent depreciation for buildings. A revaluation surplus is credited to reserves in equity.

The LGA identified that \$590,209 of Furniture Fixtures and Fitting were non-seperable from the Freehold Land and Building valuation as at 30 June 2021. The Furniture Fixtures and Fittings value was reduced accordingly with transfers to Freehold land and buildings of \$262,643 and Investment Properties of \$327,566.

On 1 December 2020, when LG House become fully tenanted, \$11,910,322 of land and buildings were transferred from Property Plant and Equipment to Investment Properties. Refer to note 15 for further details.

To the extent that an increase reverses a decrease previously recognised in the Statement of Surplus/(Deficit), the increase is first recognised in the Statement of Surplus/(Deficit). Decreases that reverse previous increases of the same asset are first recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of the remaining surplus attributable to the asset, all other decreases are charged to the Statement of Surplus/(Deficit).

Each year, the difference between depreciation based on the revalued carrying amount of the asset charged to Statement of Surplus/(Deficit) and the depreciation based on the asset's original cost, is reclassified from the property, plant and equipment revaluation surplus to retained earnings.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

14. Property, plant and equipment

All other property, plant and equipment is recognised at historical cost less depreciation.

Depreciation is calculated using a straight-line method to allocate cost or revalued amounts, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

Buildings	2.50 %
Building improvements	10.00 %
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	7.50 - 33.00 %
Motor vehicles	25.00 %
Right-of-use assets	Over the lease term

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the Statement of Surplus/(Deficit) and other comprehensive income. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

The Group is of the opinion that the current situation regarding COVID19 has not significantly impacted the fair value of property, plant and equipment and that a material impairment of asset values has not occurred.

(a) Transfer to/from investment property

When the use of land or buildings changes from operational to investment property, the property is remeasured to fair value and reclassified as an investment property. Any gain arising on remeasurement is recognised directly in the asset revaluation reserve.

When the use of investment property changes to owner-occupied or operational purposes, the property is measured at fair value as per directors' valuation and reclassified as prepaid operating lease.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

15. Investment Properties

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening Balances	13,539,545	-	13,539,545	-
Additions or/(transfers)	327,566	11,910,322	327,566	11,910,322
Gain / (loss) on revaluation of investment property	3,060,388	1,629,223	3,060,388	1,629,223
Balance at end of year	16,927,499	13,539,545	16,927,499	13,539,545

(a) Nature

Investment property is comprised of land and buildings intended to be leased to third parties and are not occupied by the Group. Land or buildings reclassified from Plant, Property and Equipment to Investment Property; or Land and buildings reclassified from Investment Property to Property, Plant and Equipment is described in note 14(a)

(b) Recognition and measurement

Investment properties are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at fair value with any changes therein recognised in the Statement of Surplus/(Deficit).

At each balance date, an external independent Full Scope valuation of the building is undertaken to determine the fair value of the Investment Property. The Full Scope valuation process incorporates a site inspection with building price indices, inflation, interest rates and other factors which may impact market values. The independent valuation was conducted by Knight Frank in June 2022 for the 30 June 2022.

In undertaking the valuation Knight Frank has undertaken the Capitalisation of Net Income and Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) approach with adoption of the Net Lettable Area and rental calculation in accordance with the lease.

The fair value hierarchy used in calculating fair value has been classified as level 3 on the basis that there are significant inputs that are not observable market data. Unobservable inputs include Capitalisation rate, Discount rate and annual net property income per square metre.

COVID-19 considerations

The Groups overall investment property portfolio value has remained stable despite COVID-19. The investment properties exclude owner-occupied or operations purposes. The valuation includes commercial properties which are supported by high quality tenants with long leases.

The external valuer has carried out the valuations by applying assumptions regarding the reasonably possible impacts of COVID-19 based on information available as at balance date.

(c) Leasing arrangements

The investment properties are leased to tenants under long term leases with rental payments monthly.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

16. Intangible Assets

	Computer software \$	Total \$
Parent		
Year ended 30 June 2022		
Balance at the beginning of the year	777,642	777,642
Amortisation	(140,477)	(140,477)
Closing value at 30 June 2022	637,165	637,165
	Computer software \$	Total \$
Parent		
Year ended 30 June 2021		
Balance at the beginning of the year	918,119	918,119
Amortisation	(140,477)	(140,477)
Closing value at 30 June 2021	777,642	777,642
	Computer software \$	Total \$
Consolidated		
Year ended 30 June 2022		
Amortisation	777,642	777,642
	(140,477)	(140,477)
Closing value at 30 June 2022	637,165	637,165
	Computer software \$	Total \$
Consolidated		
Year ended 30 June 2021		
Amortisation	918,119	918,119
	(140,477)	(140,477)
Closing value at 30 June 2021	777,642	777,642

The group amortises intangible assets with a limited useful life using the straight-line method over the following periods

IT development and software 8 years

Costs associated with maintaining software programmes are recognised as an expense as incurred. Directly attributable costs that are capitalised as part of the software include employee costs and an appropriate portion of relevant overheads. Capitalised development costs are recorded as intangible assets and amortised from the point at which the asset is ready for use.

Intangible assets are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

16. Intangible Assets

For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows which are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash-generating units). Non-financial assets other than goodwill that suffered an impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at the end of each reporting period.

17. Trade and other payables

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
CURRENT				
GST payable	1,062,175	1,041,612	-	-
Motor vehicles lease liability	41,976	71,518	41,976	71,518
Accrued expenses and other payables	2,542,339	2,473,084	1,688,745	2,166,946
Revenue and grants received in advance	8,256,991	7,593,686	8,256,991	7,593,686
	11,903,481	11,179,900	9,987,712	9,832,150

All amounts, apart from grants received in advance, represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Group prior to the end of the financial year which are unpaid. These amounts are unsecured non-interest bearing and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

Grants received in advance represent amounts received before the year end that are contractually due for payment to the grantee in subsequent financial years.

The carrying amount of trade and other payables are considered to be the same as their fair values, due to their short term nature.

18. Employee benefits

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
CURRENT				
Long service leave	385,786	421,483	277,699	298,724
Annual leave	450,182	480,756	344,060	390,558
	835,968	902,239	621,759	689,282

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
NON-CURRENT				
Long service leave	225,345	201,136	184,693	183,777
	225,345	201,136	184,693	183,777

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

18. Employee benefits

Short term obligations

Provision is made for the Group's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled plus related on costs. No liability for sick leave is recognised. The liabilities are presented as current employee benefit obligations in the balance sheet.

Based on past experience, the Group does not expect all employees to take the full amount of accrued leave or require payment within the next 12 months. The following amounts reflect leave that is not expected to be taken or paid within the next 12 months for the Group \$409,445 (2021: \$429,067) and the parent, LGA \$307,114 (2021: \$325,651).

Long term obligations

A liability for employee long service leave is recognised and is measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees to the reporting date. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels and period of service. Expected future payments are discounted using interest rates on national government guaranteed securities with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows. The obligations are presented as current liabilities in the balance sheet if the Group does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting period, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur.

19. Borrowings

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
CURRENT				
Other loans	2,355,674	2,277,018	2,355,674	2,277,018
	2,355,674	2,277,018	2,355,674	2,277,018
NON-CURRENT				
Other loans	13,056,655	15,412,329	13,056,655	15,412,329
	13,056,655	15,412,329	13,056,655	15,412,329

Borrowings are recognised at fair value. Borrowings are reduced in the balance sheet when the obligation specified in the loan agreement is discharged. The loan is a fixed interest loan and is due to be repaid in January 2028.

20. Unearned Member Contribution

Member contribution receivables is recognised as earned from the date of attachment of risk. The pattern recognised over the period of a year is based on time, which is considered to closely approximate the pattern of risks underwritten.

A liability of \$10,854,199 (2020: \$10,324,828) for contributions billed in advance has been recognised. These amounts offset equivalent amounts in contributions owing.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

21. Outstanding Claims Liability

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Central Estimate	38,836,606	36,252,350	-	-
Discount to present value	(3,292,906)	(102,384)	-	-
	35,543,700	36,149,966	-	-
	35,543,700	36,149,966	-	-
Risk margin	3,714,665	4,104,796	-	-
Gross outstanding claims liability	39,258,365	40,254,762	-	-
Gross claims incurred	42,551,271	40,357,146	-	-
Current	12,684,227	13,340,144	-	-
Non-Current	26,574,138	26,914,618	-	-
	39,258,365	40,254,762	-	-

Outstanding claims

A provision of \$39,258,365 (2021: \$40,254,762) has been made for the estimated cost of claims notified but not settled at year end and for the cost of claims incurred by year end but not reported until after that date. This amount has been based on a methodology by consulting actuaries which incorporates the claims history of the scheme's prior year of operation.

Risk Margin

The risk margin is an additional allowance for uncertainty in the ultimate cost of claims. The Board determines the overall margin adopted after considering the uncertainty in the portfolio, industry trends and the Scheme's risk appreciation.

To determine the margin adopted, the Actuary concluded that a risk margin of 25% of net outstanding claims as outlined below would be reasonable if the Scheme was to have approximately 75% probability of its claim provisions proving reliable.

The risk margin is added to the central estimate of net outstanding claims liability reduced by the appropriate reinsurance recoveries provided.

Risk margin applied

The risk margins applied for 75% level adequacy are as follows

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
LGAMLS	25.00 %	25.00 %
LGAWCS	20.00 %	20.00 %

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

21. Outstanding Claims Liability

Reconciliation of movement in discounted outstanding claims liability

	Gross		Recoveries		Net	
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July	40,254,762	42,522,089	(16,627,845)	(18,055,729)	23,626,917	24,466,360
Current year claims incurred	13,678,859	14,633,929	(2,575,778)	(2,687,446)	11,103,081	11,946,483
Previous years claims incurred	1,812,446	(3,470,357)	(2,709,496)	1,717,587	(897,050)	(1,752,770)
Incurred claims in income statement	15,491,305	11,163,572	(5,285,274)	(969,859)	10,206,031	10,193,713
All claims paid during the year	(16,487,702)	(13,430,899)	3,267,509	2,397,743	(13,220,193)	(11,033,156)
	39,258,365	40,254,762	(18,645,610)	(16,627,845)	20,612,755	23,626,917

22. Reserves

Asset revaluation reserve

The asset revaluation reserve records fair value movements on property, plant and equipment held under the revaluation model.

Project reserves

The project reserve records funds received by the Local Government Association of South Australia from external providers. These funds are then distributed as per the relevant funding agreements. Also included within the reserve are LGA funded projects with carry forward balances.

Risk incentive reserve

The risk incentive reserve comprises accumulated retained earnings from the schemes which are set aside to support councils' risk mitigation projects.

23. Liability Adequacy Test

The liability adequacy tests conducted by the independent actuary has identified a surplus.

LGAMLS

The liability adequacy test identified the central estimate of the present value of future cash flows for future claims to be \$4,486,000 (2021: \$4,749,000) with an additional component of present value of expected future cash flows in relation to risk margin, net of reinsurance, to be \$30,000 (2021: \$30,000).

In performing this test a risk margin of 25% (2021 25%) was used to secure a 75% (2021 75%) probability of adequacy.

The probability of adequacy for the outstanding claims liability is set at a level that is appropriate and sustainable to cover the Scheme's claims obligations after having regard to the prevailing market environment and prudent industry practice.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

23. Liability Adequacy Test

LGAWCS

The liability adequacy test identified the central estimate of the present value of future cash flows for future claims to be \$11,710,000 (2021: \$12,872,000) with an additional component of present value of expected future cash flows in relation to risk margin to be \$1,952,000 (2021: \$2,145,000).

In performing this test a risk margin of 20% (2021 20%) was used to secure a 75% (2021 75%) probability of adequacy.

The probability of adequacy for the outstanding claims liability is set at a level that is appropriate and sustainable to cover the Scheme's claims obligations after having regard to the prevailing market environment and prudent industry practice.

24. Contingencies

In the opinion of Board, the Association did not have any contingencies at 30 June 2022 (30 June 2021:None).

25. Interests in Subsidiaries

	Principal place of business / Country of Incorporation	Percentage Controlled (%)* 2022	Percentage Controlled (%)* 2021
Subsidiaries:			
Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme (1)	Australia	-	-
Local Government Workers Compensation Scheme (1)	Australia	-	-
LGCS Pty Ltd (Trustee for LGCS Trust No.1) trading as LGA Procurement	Australia	100	100
LGASA Mutual Pty Ltd	Australia	100	100

*The percentage of ownership interest held is equivalent to the percentage voting rights for all subsidiaries.

(1) The Local Government Association of South Australia has the capacity to control the Mutual Liability Scheme and Workers Compensation Scheme pursuant to the Local Government Act 1999 and they have been consolidated on that basis.

26. Key Management Personnel Remuneration

Key management personnel who have responsibility for the strategic direction and management of the Group include members of the Board and Chief Executive Officers. Total remuneration included within employee expenses for the year is shown below:

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits	876,682	891,293
Long-term benefits	14,935	129,460
Post-employment benefits	111,956	278,801
	1,003,573	1,299,554

Remuneration includes LGA, LGASA Mutual Pty Ltd and LGA Procurement.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

26. Key Management Personnel Remuneration

Transactions with key management personnel and other related parties

Related parties of Group include all key management personnel and their close family members and any entity that is controlled by those persons. Close family members are defined in *AASB 124 Related party disclosures* to include children, spouse or partner, children of the spouse or partner and dependents of the key management personnel and their spouse or partner.

There are no transactions to disclose for key management personnel and related parties.

The Group transact with Councils and State Government Agencies of which Board members may be key management personnel on terms which are consistent with the Group's normal commercial arrangements as disclosed in Note 27.

27. Related Parties

Key management personnel - refer to Note 26.

Other related parties include close family members of key management personnel and entities that are controlled or significantly influenced by those key management personnel or their close family members.

The following entities are considered related parties:

- Local Government Finance Authority
- SA Government Financing Authority

Loans to/from related parties

Unsecured loans are made to/from related parties on an arm's length basis. Repayment and interest terms are set for each loan and the loans are unsecured and repayable in cash.

	Opening balance \$	Closing balance \$	Interest income/ (expense) \$	Interest receivable/ (payable) \$
Loans from related parties				
2022	(17,689,257)	(15,412,329)	(550,551)	(46,952)
2021	(19,890,336)	(17,689,257)	(627,637)	(37,430)
Loans to related parties				
2022	59,864,983	63,159,263	576,135	160,036
2021	65,075,521	59,864,983	770,544	241,843

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

28. Events after the end of the Reporting Period

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Group, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Group in future financial years.

29. Statutory Information

The registered office and principal place of business of the association is:

Local Government Association of South Australia
Local Government House
148 Frome Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000


Local Government Association of South Australia

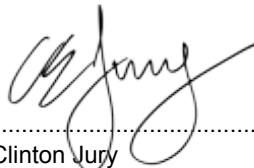
Statement by Members of the Board

In the opinion of the Board the financial report as set out on pages 6 to 46:

1. Present fairly the results of the operations of Local Government Association of South Australia as at 30 June 2022 and its state of affairs for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Local Government Association of South Australia will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:


President
Mayor Angela Evans


Chief Executive Officer.....
Clinton Jury

Dated this23rd..... day ofSeptember.....2022



Independent auditor's report

To the members of Local Government Association of South Australia

Our opinion

In our opinion the accompanying financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Local Government Association of South Australia (the Parent) and its controlled entities (together the Group) as at 30 June 2022 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and relevant South Australian Legislation.

What we have audited

The Parent and Group financial report comprises:

- the Parent and Consolidated statement of Surplus/(Deficit) and other comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2022
- the Parent and Consolidated statement of financial position for the year then ended
- the Parent and Consolidated statement of changes in equity for the year then ended
- the Parent and Consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- the notes to the financial statements, which include significant accounting policies and other explanatory information
- the Statement by Members of the Board

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report* section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

Emphasis of matter - basis of accounting and restriction on use

We draw attention to Note 1 in the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for internal purposes to assist Local Government Association of South Australia and its members. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for Local Government Association of South Australia and its members and should not be used by parties other than Local Government Association of South Australia and its members. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.



Other information

The members of the Board are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2022, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the members of the Board for the financial report

The members of the Board of the Parent are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as the members of the Board determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the members of the Board are responsible for assessing the ability of the Group to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar3.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

M. T. Lojszczyk
Partner

Adelaide
23 September 2022

6.3 Annual Reports for the LGA Committees

LGA Updates

From:	Lea Bacon, Acting Executive Director Public Affairs		
Strategy:	4 - Achieve		
Outcome:	4.1 We lead by example in the governance and operations of the LGA		
Meeting:	Annual General Meeting	28 October 2022	
ECM:	782367	Attachments:	777950, 778786, 779106, 782368

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting notes the Annual Reports for the year 2021-22 of the following Committees established under the LGA Constitution:

- a) **Greater Adelaide Regional Organisation of Councils (GAROC)**
- b) **South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC)**
- c) **CEO Advisory Group**
- d) **Audit and Risk Committee**

Discussion

Two Regional Organisations of Councils are established under Clause 19 of the LGA Constitution, being SAROC and GAROC. The role of SAROC and GAROC is regional advocacy, policy initiation and review, leadership, engagement and capacity building in the regions. Under their Terms of Reference SAROC and GAROC are required to adopt a four-year Strategic Plan, Annual Business Plan and Budget, and prepare an Annual Report each year outlining the activities undertaken in the previous financial year.

The 2021-22 Annual Reports of SAROC and GAROC have been received and approved by the LGA Board of Directors and are provided as an attachment to this report for noting by LGA member councils.

The Chairs of GAROC and SAROC will present their Annual Reports during the Annual General Meeting.

The LGA Board of Directors has an Audit and Risk Committee and a CEO Advisory Group in accordance with the requirements of the LGA Constitution. A summary report on the activities of each of these committees in 2021-22 is attached to this report.

Financial and Resource Implications

The LGA Secretariat provides executive and administrative support to the Committees established under the LGA Constitution. This activity has been anticipated in the LGA's work program and resources are available to progress this work.

2021-22 GAROC Annual Report

June 2022



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From the Chair

I am delighted to present the *2021-22 GAROC Annual Report*.

2021-22 marks the second year of the current GAROC term. I would like to thank all members, both current and former, for their dedication to the committee and to local government in South Australia.

As a strong, united voice for metropolitan councils, GAROC has continued to be a strong advocate on issues of strategic importance that are common across the metropolitan region. Our efforts have covered a broad range of issues including economic development and addressing climate change.

A priority this year has been our collective advocacy to the State Government to ensure that South Australia's planning system reflects leading practice, facilitates better design outcomes and supports local decision making.

On two occasions, GAROC was pleased to host the new Chair of the State Planning Commission, Craig Holden, and senior staff from the Attorney-General's Department. Following the 2022 State Election, the Committee also engaged early with the new Minister for Planning, Hon Nick Champion, in a wide-ranging discussion on planning issues important to our communities and how councils can engage in the update of the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide to ensure community voices are reflected in future reforms and policy.

A key role for GAROC is to consider proposed Items of Business for LGA General Meetings. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank all those councils who brought forward suggested motions for policy development. This had led to increased local government advocacy on issues important to the metropolitan community, including renewable energy, homelessness, boundary reform, illegal dumping.

In consultation with member councils, GAROC's next Annual Business Plan has prioritised advocacy activities in economic development, planning and stormwater.

We will continue to progress all these issues in the coming year and build on our work together with metropolitan councils to advance economic vitality, environmental health and social wellbeing in our communities.



Mayor David O'Loughlin Chair

GAROC committee



1. Introduction

The Greater Adelaide Regional Organisation of Councils (GAROC) is a committee of the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA).

The role of GAROC is to provide regional advocacy, policy initiation and review, leadership, engagement and capacity building in the GAROC Region. It supports the LGA to advance the interest of local government, by:

- supporting the activities of the LGA at a regional level;
- promoting communication between Members and between Members and the LGA;
- advocating in respect of matters which affect the GAROC Regional Grouping;
- encouraging engagement of Members within the GAROC Regional Grouping with GAROC and the LGA; and
- participating in policy development and implementation.

This Annual Report provides a summary of GAROC's activities from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.



2. Delivering GAROC's 2021-22 Annual Business Plan

Theme 1: Economic Development

Objective: Enable advocacy and partnership opportunities that recognise the specific needs and opportunities in metropolitan Adelaide and assist councils to contribute to creating conditions for productivity that supports sustainable job growth and pathways to employment.

Objective: Support member councils to play their important role in stimulating the economic and social recovery of their communities in post COVID-19 recovery.

GAROC's work in 2021-22 had a strong focus on economic development priorities. GAROC has continued to support the LGA's advocacy to the Federal Government and State Government for funding, initiatives and legislative/regulatory reforms that assist councils to support businesses and communities to respond and recover from the COVID19 pandemic.

Productivity Commission's Inquiry into reform of South Australia's regulatory framework

In response to feedback from GAROC and metropolitan councils, the LGA's submission to the SA Productivity Commission's Inquiry into reform of South Australia's regulatory framework included advocacy for:

- The re-establishment of the State-Local Government Red Tape Taskforce – incorporated into a wider framework of state-wide regulatory stewardship – to investigate and consider regulatory reform options implemented by and/or enforced by the local government sector.
- Greater transparency and structured stakeholder consultation be made part of the South Australian Government's Regulatory Impact Assessment processes and practice.
- A stocktake be conducted of South Australian business regulations.
- The South Australian Government establish a state-wide business regulatory concierge service to assist small and start-up businesses navigate their regulatory compliance responsibilities.

Final reports for both the [Inquiry into reform of South Australia's regulatory framework](#) and [tourism regulation review](#) are now available on the Commission's website and the State Government has also separately published its [official responses](#) to their recommendations.

[LGA analysis](#) of the Commission's findings, recommendations and the State Government's responses were also prepared for South Australian councils.

Shovel Ready

In 2021-22, GAROC supported the LGA's Shovel Ready program, which provided information, advice and support to metropolitan councils to leverage and create State and Federal grant funding opportunities.

Shovel Ready assisted the project application and delivery planning phases of 18 metropolitan councils through the Local Government Infrastructure Partnership Program, supporting a total of \$45,737,000 in project grant funding.

Economic development data tools and framework

GAROC is pleased to help support the Metropolitan Economic Development Practitioner Network to share best practice support for business and local economic development amongst the membership.

In 2021-22, through consultation with the network an opportunity emerged to help councils make the best use of the wide variety of on-line data tools they use to gain a better understanding of how their local economies are performing and to guide council decision-making and investment.

GAROC has commissioned a project to determine best practice use and cost-effective procurement of these data tools for councils' economic development purposes.

GAROC has also commissioned the development of a principles-based Economic Development Framework to assist metropolitan councils to develop and refine their own economic development plans and strategies. The framework will capture important considerations such as the economic value of vibrant, sustainable and connected communities.

Consultation with member councils is well underway and we look forward to delivering further advice on the data tools and economic development framework to councils in 2022.

Theme 2: Design, Planning and Placemaking

Objective: Advocate to the State Government and Parliament to ensure that South Australia's planning system reflects leading practice, facilitates better design outcomes and supports local decision making.

Objective: Provide assistance and resources to metropolitan councils that support their important role as local place makers and custodians of public spaces.

During 2021-22, GAROC has continued to prioritise advocacy on planning issues on behalf of metropolitan councils.

GAROC engaged early and met with the new Chair of the State Planning Commission, Craig Holden, and the new Minister for Planning, Hon Nick Champion, to highlight local government and community concerns with the planning system, the current 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide and a range of other planning matters.

GAROC has advocated that the State Government, the State Planning Commission and the local government sector work even closer together through collaboration to progress the issues outlined below to make the planning system work for all South Australians and improve the liveability of South Australia through co-designed policy development.

The Chair of GAROC, Mayor David O'Loughlin, also represents the LGA on the Ministers Liaison Group (MLG). The MLG comprises members of the key industry groups involved in planning and building and provides high level strategic advice on industry and sector-specific aspects of the implementation of the PDI Act.

Review of the planning system

In 2021-22, GAROC continued to support the LGA to work with all member councils to identify where improvements and enhancements to the new planning system could occur. GAROC has regularly provided this advice to the Minister, State Planning Commission and the Attorney-General's Department.

GAROC supported the LGA's advocacy that the State Government undertake an independent review of the *Planning Development and Infrastructure Act* (PDI Act) and regulations and associated documents (Practice Directions) following twelve months of operation.

Further to advocacy from the local government sector, the Labor government has committed to:

- review the planning code, in order to encourage “planning decisions that encourage a more liveable, competitive and sustainable long-term growth strategy”;
- protect the character and heritage of local communities;
- ensure greater tree canopy coverage and green open space;
- provide certainty to business, industry and communities by implementing appropriate design standards;
- improve the e-planning system;
- ensure a focus on balancing growth and protection for our streets and suburbs, to ensure Adelaide remains one of the world's most livable cities;
- address urban infill and the impact this has on open space and the amenity of our suburbs, together with heritage, including Aboriginal heritage; and
- ensure 10% of developer contributions that are paid to the Planning and Development will fund councils buying land to create pocket parks and to add to the existing open space network.

Review of 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide

GAROC consulted with member councils to inform an Issues Paper that was provided to the Planning Commissioner as a basis for further discussion as the State Government commenced review of the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide.

GAROC successfully advocated that the review takes a holistic approach, addressing opportunities for growth only if considered in the context of addressing liveability and sustainability pressures arising from development such as tree loss, additional hard surface runoff and stormwater loads, traffic and parking issues, dilution of historic character and provision of adequate employment lands proximal to additional living outcomes.

The GAROC Chair signed a joint letter from the LGA President and the Chair of SAROC to the Minister and Opposition Spokesperson outlining the importance of the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide in supporting the future direction, liveability and economic growth for both metropolitan Adelaide and the State, and the need for the plan to include evidenced based investigations and suitable level of collaboration and engagement with local government and their communities.

Environment and Food Production Areas review

Environment and Food Production Areas (EFPAs) were introduced to protect vital agricultural lands surrounding metropolitan Adelaide from urban encroachment.

In 2021-22, along with a number of metropolitan councils, GAROC made a submission to the State Planning Commission's review of EFPAs and associated bulk and infill land supply reports, highlighting that the reviews and reports do not appear to be considering:

- impacts on local road and stormwater networks;
- the need for additional open space and recreation facilities;
- the reduction in average private open space associated with infill development; and
- the associated loss of trees and landscaping.

The Commission and staff from the Attorney-General's Department subsequently met with GAROC to discuss these issues. The Commission's [EFPFA Review Outcomes Report](#) is available on the PlanSA portal.

Open space funding review

GAROC continued to engage with the State Planning Commission on open space and the urban tree canopy cover and sought a review of the Planning and Development Fund to ensure financial models that are more equitable and appropriate for councils experiencing higher volumes of infill development.

To support the provision and development of open space, the State Government delivers the Open Space Grant Program through the Planning and Development Fund which provides the means for open space and public realm investment across South Australia.

The fund is derived from payments in lieu of open space for development involving the division of land into less than 20 allotments and for strata and community titles. Metropolitan councils are experiencing an increase of infill developments under 20 allotments which is increasing the demand for open space. Accordingly, it is imperative to ensure that the Planning and Development Fund is operating optimally to ensure the efficient and appropriate funding and delivery of open space to South Australian communities.

In 2021-22, GAROC commissioned evidenced based research to identify how the equitable distribution of the Planning and Development Fund can be undertaken in a transparent and repeatable manner. To be delivered in the second half of 2022, the project will identify:

- models to provide funding to areas experiencing significant development pressure, including directing funds from subdivisions back to the councils where they were generated without restriction;
- opportunities for a pre-approval process for land purchases by councils, so that opportunities to buy key properties are not lost due to the timing of annual grant applications;

- possible changes to funding decisions and allocation approaches; and
- the advantages and disadvantages of the identified options.

This project is anticipated to be completed in the second half of 2022.

Private Certification System and Proposal for Audit

In November 2021, following an item of business from the City of Prospect, the GAROC Chair wrote to the Minister for Planning to request an urgent audit be undertaken of registered private certifiers (non-Government Accredited Professionals) to identify and address the numerous shortfalls that the local government sector identified with the private certification system.

The Chair of GAROC and the Planning Reform Partner subsequently met with representatives of the Accreditation Authority.

The Accreditation Authority has subsequently commenced a review of the Accreditation program which is anticipated to be undertaken during 2022.

Certificate of Occupancy

The Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA) was made aware that a request was made to the Minister to defer the reintroduction of Certificate of Occupancies (CoO) for Class 1a buildings for a further 18 months until 1 January 2024.

The request was made by the building industry as they considered that the July 2022 reintroduction of the CoO may result in delays in occupation of homes and payment of final progress payments to builders, with these delays being compounded by the increase in home approvals owing to the HomeBuilder stimulus package.

Following consultation with councils the LGA advised the Minister that delay of 18 months would appear both excessive and unnecessary and there should be consideration to implement CoO's to bring South Australia into line with other states. The LGA also suggested that should a further delay is to be considered, the LGA would suggest a delay only until 31 December 2022.

This matter was discussed at the recent Ministers Liaison Group meeting on 11 May attended by Mayor O'Loughlin and the LGA Policy Advisor. The Minister advised that he was supportive of a delay until January 2024, he also indicated that there would be no extensions beyond this time.

The LGA Secretariat will engage with the sector in relation to the development of housing occupancy requirements as they may differ between metropolitan and regional areas.

Arborist Qualifications, Standards and Methodologies

The City of Unley requested GAROC to consider an Item of Business relating to Arborist Qualifications, Standards and Methodologies under the PDI Act. Following consideration of this Item of Business the GAROC Chair wrote to the State Planning Commission requesting that this matter be considered as part of the Commissions review of regulated and significant trees. The following response was received from the Commission Chair:

As you have noted, the Commission is currently undertaking the Open Space and Trees Project (the Project) which will include both:

- An immediate assessment of tree species subject to regulated and significant tree protections, with a view to recommending to the Minister for Planning any immediate changes which can be made (Part 1).*
- A more comprehensive and long-term review of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017 as they relate to regulated and significant trees (Part 2).*

Through its work on Part 1 of the Project, the Commission has become aware of a number of matters which will likely warrant further consideration within Part 2. This will include matters such as the proper identification of tree species, as well as the qualifications, skills and experience of arborists working in the planning system, and the practices and procedures adopted by those professionals.

The Commission has requested Planning and Land Use Services to record your feedback within the register of matters to be further considered within Part 2 of the Project, which will be utilised in development of the detailed project scope.

I note it is the Commission's intention to also engage with the Local Government Association (and through them, GAROC) with respect to any proposed regulatory changes arising from Part 1 as well as Part 2 of the Project.

GAROC will continue to engage with the Commission and State Government on the matter of regulated and significant trees during 2022-23.

Theme 3: Environmental Reform

Objective: Support LGA advocacy to State and Federal Government and assists member councils to ensure that all levels of government undertake mitigation and adaptation actions that reduce climate risks and build community resilience.

Objective: Support councils to improve waste and recycling practices and deliver viable and innovative waste services that meet the needs of the community and grow the Circular Economy and advocate for State and Federal Government legislation, policies, funding and programs that will enable and support these outcomes.

Coastal management

Collaborative arrangements between metropolitan councils in coastal management has occurred via the Metropolitan Seaside Councils Committee (MSCC), which has been operational for more than 50 years.

In that time, it has been responsible for driving important strategic outcomes for metropolitan councils including the formation of the *Coast Protection Act (SA) 1972*, the formation of the Coast Protection Board (CPB), convening and sponsoring conferences and workshops, and supporting the initiation of the South Australian Coastal Councils Alliance (SACCA).

In partnership with metropolitan coastal councils and the Green Adelaide Board, GAROC provided \$7000 funding to support an independent review of the MSCC.

Recognising the growing scale and complexity of coastal protection, conservation and adaptation in the metropolitan area, the review recommended a stronger role for the LGA in coordinating the interests of metropolitan Adelaide councils. In response, GAROC agreed to co-fund coastal councils a one-year transitional arrangement for the executive coordination of the committee to come within the LGA Secretariat.

Climate change

In 2020-21, GAROC contributed \$10,000 towards the implementation of the Central Coordination for the Regional Climate Partnerships. This supported the LGA to enter into a grant agreement with Green Adelaide and the Department for Environment and Water, whereby the LGA hosts the coordination function of the Regional Climate Partnerships across both metropolitan and regional state government regions.

Leveraging these partnerships, in May 2022, GAROC hosted a workshop to bring metropolitan mayors together with the Regional Climate Partnership staff and the State Government to showcase local initiatives and inform future advocacy and projects. The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Hon Susan Close MP, attended the forum and spoke about the importance of the partnership between State and local government.

GAROC's Climate Change Action Forum built on a series of workshops held with subject matter experts in metropolitan councils. The forum identified further projects that can be developed in partnership with State and Federal Governments to progress tangible initiatives in priority areas such as climate risk management, hazard data, emissions reduction and urban development.

Food for the Earth – program outcome

In 2021-22 GAROC budgeted \$50,000 for a project proposal for metropolitan councils to partner with Woolworths to support community uptake of food waste recycling.

Following its own limited trial of compostable produce bags, Woolworths confirmed it would proceed with a full statewide rollout replacing polyethylene bags with fully compostable bags in their fresh produce areas over coming weeks. This is a huge win and an excellent step forward towards a circular economy, supporting council efforts to divert food from the solid waste bins and, in time, saving councils from buying and distributing these bags to local residents.

Woolworths' in-store and on-bag signage information will encourage customers to use the bags to capture food scraps and recycle them via green bins.

In 2022, Woolworths also made the decision not to progress with the Food for the Earth Project. It was understood that with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and disruptions in supply chains and logistics Woolworths needs to refocus its efforts back to its core business of putting food on shelves.

Theme 4: Reform and Innovation

Objective: Assist councils to enhance local government through innovations in benchmarking, systems thinking, data management and engagement processes.

Local government reform

During 2021-22 GAROC has received updates and provided advice to support the LGA in its role in the implementation of Local Government Reform, ensuring engagement on elements such as election reforms, member behaviour standards, and strategic management plans (annual business plans and budget and long-term financial plans) and changed annual reporting requirements.

GAROC continued to support the LGA's advocacy for a review of the mandatory rate rebates that councils are compelled to provide. It made a budget commitment of \$35,000 to support the development of an issues paper and economic analysis report that investigates the financial and economic impact of mandatory rate rebates and recommends appropriate legislative changes that promote a more equitable approach for all ratepayers.

Mandatory rate rebates

In 2021-22, the LGA Secretariat commenced preparation of the issues paper to inform consultation with member councils, which will be undertaken prior to commissioning a report from an economic advisory consultant in 2022-23.

Boundary Reform

Responding to a proposed Item of Business for a LGA General Meeting from the Adelaide Hills Council, GAROC invited Mr Bruce Green, Commissioner, and the Boundaries Commission team to its meeting to discuss the process for assessing requests for boundary changes.

Responding to varied reports about how the process is working, GAROC recognised that the new boundary reform process is still in its infancy, however its efficacy should be reviewed at some point. GAROC also agreed that the process would benefit from some rigour around timeframes.

GAROC recommended an Item of Business to the LGA Annual General Meeting for the sector to ask the SA Local Government Boundaries Commission to review its guideline to require a timeframe for proposals as it moves through preparation and lodgement stages, and that the LGA advocate for a review of boundary reform legislation in consultation with local government once a proposal for boundary reform has progressed through all stages of the statutory process (or within 5 years of the commencement of the legislation).

While the motion was lost at the AGM, GAROC's advocacy influenced the Commission to subsequently amended its Guidelines to enable the Commission to set timeframes for the referral of a Stage 2 proposal to the Commission, and for other elements of the Commission's processes.

3. Items of Business referred to the LGA Board of Directors or an LGA General Meeting

LGA 2021 Annual General Meeting – 29 October 2021

Proposed items of business recommended by GAROC and subsequently 'Carried' at the AGM.

- Cost and Timeframes for Adjustment to Telecommunication Pits of Road Reserves (Gawler)
- Clear and Consistent Rules for Purchased Renewable Electricity (Gawler)
- Homelessness (Port Adelaide Enfield)
- Illegal Dumping (Port Adelaide Enfield)

Proposed items of business recommended by GAROC and subsequently 'Lost' at the AGM.

- Boundary Reform Legislation Change (Adelaide Hills)

Proposed items of business referred by GAROC to the LGA Board of Directors for consideration and action.

- Fossil Fuel Divestment (Marion)

Proposed items of business progressed by GAROC without referral to the AGM.

- Request for a Review of the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide (Onkaparinga)
- Amending Minimum Garage Sizes (Campbelltown)
- Electronic Vehicles (Port Adelaide Enfield)
- Private Certification Audit (City of Prospect)

Proposed items of business not recommended by GAROC.

- Regular Print Media (Marion)
- Electronic Petitions (Port Adelaide Enfield)

LGA 2021 Ordinary General Meeting – 8 April 2022

Proposed items of business recommended by GAROC and subsequently 'Carried' at the AGM.

- Review of the *Planning Development and Infrastructure Act* (Norwood, Payneham & St Peters)
- Lack of local representation in the new Planning System, under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (PDI Act) (Town of Gawler)
- Rough Sleeper/Homelessness Initiative (Town of Gawler)

Proposed items of business progressed by GAROC without referral to the AGM.

- Tree advocacy: Arborist Qualifications/standards and methodologies (City of Unley)

Proposed items of business recommended by GAROC and subsequently 'Lost' at the AGM.

- Inclusion of Email Addresses in the Voters Roll (Adelaide)

4. Details of meetings

During 2021-22, GAROC meetings were held on the following dates:

• 5 July 2021	• 28 February 2022
• 6 September 2021	• 21 March 2022
• 1 November 2021	• 2 May 2022

Attendance

GAROC Committee member attendance at meetings (not including workshops) during the year was:

Member	Number of meeting eligible to attend	Number of meetings attended
Mayor David O'Loughlin	6	6
Mayor Gillian Aldridge	6	5
Mayor Claire Boan	6	6
Mayor Angela Evans	6	6
Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross	4	4
Mayor Karen Redman	6	4
Mayor Erin Thompson	3	3
Lord Mayor Sandy Verschoor	6	5
Mayor Jan-Claire Wisdom	6	5
Cr Geoff Eaton*	2	2
Cr Lindy Taeuber*	2	2
Acting Mayor Simon McMahon**	1	1

*GAROC Leave of Absences

Leave of absences arose at the 28 February 2022 and 21 March 2022 meetings due to Mayor Erin Thompson and Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross contesting seats in the 2022 South Australian State Election.

A nomination process and majority resolution from the Members comprising the South Regional Grouping (being the Cities of Marion, Mitcham and Onkaparinga) confirmed Cr Geoff Eaton (Onkaparinga) and Cr Lindy Taeuber (Mitcham) as Replacement Members until the election was declared.

GAROC appointed Lord Mayor Verschoor as acting Director on the LGA Board of Directors for the duration of Mayor Erin Thompson's corresponding leave of absence from the LGA Board.

In the 2022 South Australian State Election, former Mayor of Onkaparinga and GAROC committee member Ms Erin Thompson was declared as the elected candidate for Davenport on 29 March 2022.

This consequently caused a Casual Vacancy on the GAROC committee.

A nomination process and majority resolution from the Members comprising the South Regional Grouping (being the Cities of Marion, Mitcham and Onkaparinga) confirmed Acting Mayor Simon McMahon (City of Onkaparinga) was elected as a member of the GAROC Committee by the Southern Regional Grouping.

Acting Mayor McMahon fills the casual vacancy for the balance of the GAROC term ending after the LGA Annual General Meeting to be held on 28 October 2022.

Ms Thompspon's election as the Member for Davenport also caused a Casual Vacancy on the LGA Board of Directors.

GAROC appointed Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross as Director on the LGA Board of Directors for the balance of the current term ending after the 2022 LGA Annual General Meeting.

Guest Speakers	
6 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bruce Green (Chair), Peter Ilee and Tom Rossini, Boundaries Commission
1 November 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Craig Holden (Chair), Sally Smith (Executive Director Planning and Land Use Services) & Anita Allen (Director Planning & Development) – State Planning Commission
21 March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Craig Holden (Chair) & Sally Smith (Executive Director) State Planning Commission
2 May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister for Planning Hon Nick Champion

5. Communications and member engagement

GAROC's Communications Plan 2020-23 recognises that effective ongoing engagement and communication with member councils and stakeholders is essential to GAROC its business.

The Plan identifies the following communication goals:

Keep members informed	Strengthen relationships	Increase awareness	Build an identity
Proactively deliver clear, accessible, timely, relevant and targeted information in ways that best meet the interests and needs of member councils.	Strengthen relationships within our members and with stakeholders through communications activities, to increase confidence and foster trust.	Increase member and stakeholder awareness and understanding of GAROC's role, activities, projects and decision-making processes.	Build a positive reputation that reflects the GAROC Guiding Principles.

This Annual Report has identified the workshops and forums, networking events, and stakeholder meetings that GAROC has undertaken in line with its Communications Plan. Those activities were shared on the LGA's established social media channels to build awareness of the actions and outcomes.

Additionally, in 2021-22, GAROC continued to provide a regular e-news/email communication from the GAROC Chair to update metropolitan mayors and councillors on meeting outcomes, projects and opportunities for councils to participate in GAROC activities.



**Local Government Association
of South Australia**

148 Frome St
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 2693
Adelaide SA 5001

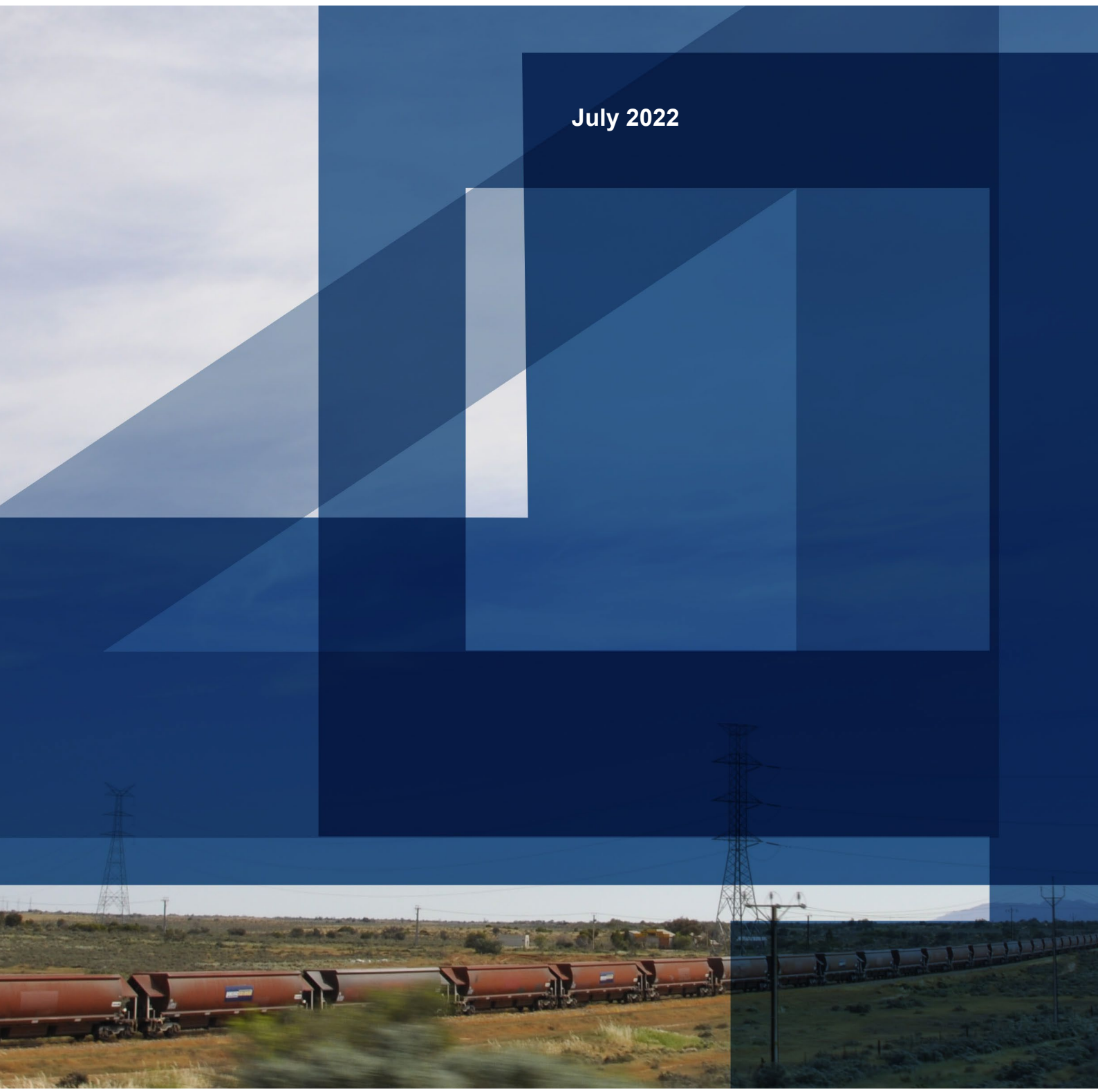
T (08) 8224 2000

E lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au

W www.lga.sa.gov.au

2021-22 SAROC Annual Report

July 2022





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From the Chair

I am honoured to present the *2021-22 SAROC Annual Report*.

The 2021/22 year has been an extremely busy time for SAROC with some significant work being undertaken in the areas of regional health and regional housing.

SAROC recognises that both issues need to be addressed with SAROC working in partnership with both the state and federal government to support the economic sustainability of the regions. These issues will remain a priority for SAROC in 2022/23. SAROC advocacy on matters including jetties and regional waste will also continue.



This year we have seen the commencement of the regional planning process. Although no Joint Regional Planning Boards were established, SAROC is looking forward to working with the State Planning Commission in 2022/23 to develop these plans across the regions to support the regional economic sustainability and liveability.

During the year SAROC invited a number of key speakers to present on matters of importance to regional councils, these presentations helped inform SAROCs decision making and we are grateful to these speakers for taking the time to attend our meetings.

I wish to thank the LGA Secretariat and the regional LGAs for their help during the year

I would also like to thank the members of SAROC for their participation and counsel and in particular I would like to acknowledge Mayors Burgess, Telfer and Barber for their contribution to SAROC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'E' followed by a horizontal line.

**Mayor Erika Vickery OAM Chair
SAROC committee**

1. Introduction

The South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) is a committee of the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA).

The SAROC committee supports the LGA to 'advocate, assist, and advance' the interests of local government by:

1. Supporting the activities of the LGA at a regional level.
2. Promoting communication between members, and between members and the LGA.
3. Advocating in respect of matters which affect the SAROC Regional Group.
4. Encouraging engagement of members within the SAROC Regional Group with SAROC and the LGA.
5. Participating in policy development and implementation.

Clause 9.10.3 of the SAROC Terms of Reference requires that:

'SAROC will provide an annual report to the Board of Directors by September each year summarising:

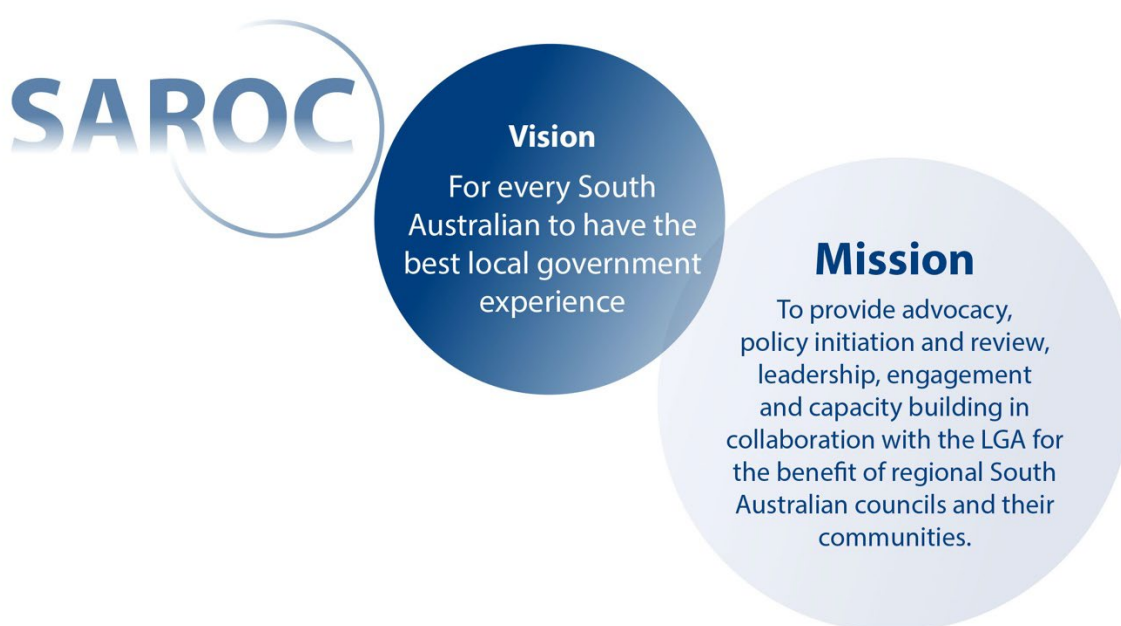
(a) the discharge of SAROC's responsibilities and functions under these Terms of Reference and against the strategic plan and annual business plan;

(b) the activities of SAROC during the financial year;

(c) items of business referred to the Board of Directors or a General Meeting during the financial year; and

(d) items being considered by SAROC which have not been reported to the Board of Directors and the intended actions in respect of those matters.'

This Annual Report provides a summary of SAROC's activities from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.



2. Delivering SAROC's 2021-22 Annual Business Plan

Theme 1: Economic Development

Objective: Enable advocacy and partnership opportunities that recognise the specific needs of the regions and support councils to drive sustainable economic development.

2021-22 activities

Report to Inform the Development of a Regional Housing Policy Toolkit

The SAROC Committee commissioned Leonie Boothby & Associates to develop a Regional Housing Policy Toolkit, designed to:

- consolidate advice on innovative policy options already available to regional councils seeking to facilitate residential development; and
- provide a policy reform advocacy agenda for the SAROC Committee to take to other levels of government.

In developing the toolkit, Leonie Boothby & Associates consulted with, local councils, South Australian Government agencies, Regional Development South Australia (RDSA), and other stakeholders involved in residential development.

In May 2022, SAROC received the 'Report to Inform the Development of a Regional Housing Policy Toolkit'. The report is structured into three key sections: 'Situational Analysis'; 'Local Government Regional Housing Support Framework'; and 'Local Government Sector Advocacy'.

It provides the evidence-base needed to produce the Regional Housing Policy Toolkit's two outputs:

1. An online Local Government Regional Housing Support Framework, which outlines a range of roles and actions that individual councils can take to assist in addressing identified regional housing supply challenges and barriers. This will be housed on the LGA's website and has been designed to evolve over time, as examples, tools and initiatives are identified, developed and shared by councils.
2. A Regional Housing Advocacy Agenda for the LGA and SAROC, outlining the current and forecast housing supply challenges and barriers in regional South Australia, and a series of recommendations for advocacy to other levels of government and stakeholders for further investigation, discussion, collaborative action, and policy reform.

A copy of the Leonie Boothby & Associates report is available as an attachment to the 26 May 2022 SAROC Committee [agenda](#).

Regional Housing Roundtable

In June SAROC held a Regional Housing Roundtable, with State Government representatives and representative Mayors from each of the Regional Local Government Associations.

The purpose of the roundtable was to enable regional Mayors to speak about the impacts that housing affordability and availability is having on their communities from both a social and economic perspective, to outline some of the causes and importantly the steps they have taken to address the issue.

It also enabled the State Government agency representatives to provide advice as to how the State Government is currently responding to the regional housing crisis and provide their thoughts on other actions that could be undertaken.

Housing supply and availability will remain a key priority for SAROC in 2022/23. SAROC will continue to support the LGA's advocacy for State and Federal Government policies that develop a roadmap for increasing regional housing supply that includes better incentives for private development in regional areas and alternative funding models for affordable housing projects and associated infrastructure, including a process to secure government funds.

RDSA Collaboration

During 2021-22, the LGA Secretariat has commenced regular contributions at monthly RDSA CEO meetings, providing an additional avenue for collaborative information sharing and policy dialogue, needed for effective advocacy on behalf of the economic development functions of both regional councils and RDAs.

Theme 2: Community Development

Objective: Support strong, vibrant and cohesive regional communities through advocacy and partnerships that unlock local government's potential to deliver quality community services and meaningful outcomes in public health and wellbeing.

Public Health and Community Wellbeing

SAROC has sought to assist councils and regional LGAs to build capacity and best practice in their development, review and renewal of regional public health plans and to assist regional councils and communities to respond and recover from the COVID-19 public health emergency.

It has also assisted regional councils to come together to identify common priorities among their updated Regional Public Health plans and to advocate for State Government funding to assist with implementation of key actions where necessary.

SAROC has sought to promote and share the learnings from the Community Wellbeing Alliance trials with all regional LGAs, and further promote the work of the Community Wellbeing Indicators research project commissioned by the Southern and Hills LGA.

A Community Wellbeing Alliance pilot program has been supporting some councils in the Murraylands and Riverlands LGA and Southern and Hills LGA to address specific health and wellbeing needs in the regions arising from regional public health plans and planning processes and identify opportunities to improve local government's role in supporting community wellbeing in regional communities.

The Community Wellbeing Indicators were successfully launched in April 2022 by the Chief Public Health Officer Professor Nicola Spurrier at an event held in LG House.

Regional Health Workforce Project

SAROC has continued to advocate to the Federal and State Governments for the provision of improved health services.

SAROC also supported the progression of a key action from the Rural Medical Workforce Plan 2019-2024 by working with the Rural Support Service to investigate how to maximise the personal and family supports provided to rural doctors by assisting efforts in housing, transport costs and childcare, and support for partners and families, including social and community supports.

During 2021/22 SAROC considered a comprehensive Regional Health Workforce Literature Review, prepared by the LGA, that outlines the unique challenges to accessing adequate health care and endorsed the use of a Regional Health Workforce Consultancy Brief to obtain quotes for a consultant to produce a toolkit for regional and remote councils dealing with health workforce shortages and/or challenges in attracting and retaining health professionals to live and work in their community.

SAROC will continue to support the LGA's advocacy to establish a formal role for the local government sector to shape state-wide and community-based initiatives to better address medical workforce shortages in regional areas.

Theme 3: Natural and Built Environment

Objective: Influence, inform and advocate for the State Government to address policy and legislative barriers that hinder councils from undertaking their roles in maintaining and enhancing the natural and built environment in regional South Australia.

Overabundant Species- Little Corellas

SAROC has continued to advocate for State Government commitment to fund implementation of a statewide Little Corella strategy that includes financial assistance to local governments for the development of integrated local management plans and the implementation of medium and long-term management options at a local scale.

SAROC established the 'Little Corellas habitat interventions' program following the EOI process and brought councils together to consider the outcomes and share learnings to inform future council activities. Through this program Little Corellas habitat intervention projects are taking place in Roxby Downs Council and the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

The SAROC Chair wrote to the former Minister for Environment and Water and Landscapes SA to provide details of the two projects being supported by the SAROC Little Corellas habitat interventions initiative and highlighting the benefits for a coordinated statewide little corellas management strategy

Regional Plans and the Review of the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide

SAROC endorsed the Chair of SAROC, in a joint letter from the LGA President and the Chair of GAROC, writing to the Minister for Local Government and Planning and Opposition Spokesperson on Housing and Urban Development, outlining:

- i. the importance of the Thirty Year Plan for Greater Adelaide and all other regional plans in supporting the future direction, liveability and economic growth for both metropolitan Adelaide and the State; and
- ii. the need for the State Government to provide the budget necessary for these plans to be prepared by the State Planning Commission, including enabling evidenced based investigations and collaboration and engagement with local government and their communities.

SAROC will continue to engage with the State Planning Commission during the preparation and consultation of the regional plans to facilitate the collaboration between the State Planning Commission and councils. SAROC will also continue to engage with and provide support to councils during the review of and consultation on the Regional Plans

Water Policy

SAROC continues to facilitate local government discussion relating to water policy including advocating for a national water policy.' The local government sector in South Australia performs an important role in water management and conservation. Given this, and the significant investment local government makes across various activities associated with water, SAROC has maintained an interest facilitating local government discussions relating to water policy and advocating for a national water policy.

SAROC approved a process for consultation with member councils to develop a policy position to support future advocacy regarding a national water policy.

Circular Economy and Regional Waste Management

SAROC, in conjunction with Green Industries SA and the Legatus group, held a SA Regional Waste Pathways Forum to explore the challenges and opportunities in regional waste, recycling and resource recovery and how local government, through the development of Regional Waste Management Plans can improve services offered to their communities and increase involvement in the circular economy.

This event brought together councils, regional LGAs, regional waste subsidiaries, state government and other stakeholders to hear from industry leaders about opportunities the transition towards a circular economy present to regional councils.

It was clear from all presentations, panel sessions and discussions with audience members that collaboration is key for regional councils to improve the waste and recycling services offered to the community, as well as to increase participation in the circular economy.

This includes collaboration with other councils, State Government agencies, universities and key industry players.

The LGA, through its SAROC Committee, has continued to support collaboration through advocacy and assisting its members through further developing its 'suite of resources' to support regional councils in waste management.

Regional visitor waste disposal – public awareness campaign

SAROC endorsed the development of a process for an illegal dumping/anti-litter holiday public awareness campaign, noting that the production and marketing of the campaign will be reliant on sufficient resourcing and stakeholder support.

This project responds to both an endorsed item of business from the [LGA 2021 AGM](#), calling for a campaign on illegal dumping, as well as the increased incidence of inappropriate visitor waste disposal practices in regional and remote South Australian tourist destinations.

The LGA Secretariat is actively consulting with councils and other interested stakeholders on the development of this public awareness campaign.

Coastal Management

SAROC has supported and informed LGA sector-wide advocacy for increased State and Federal funding for councils in coastal management, conclusion of the SA jetties funding and lease negotiations, response to the Parliamentary review of the Coast Protection Board, and finalisation and implementation of the forthcoming SA Government Coastal Strategy.

SAROC has continued to support the collaborative arrangements in the sector such as the SA Coastal Councils Alliance.

Theme 4: Financial Sustainability and Governance

Objective: Advocate to maximise contributions and investment from other tiers of government to contribute toward local government financial sustainability, and to assist councils to identify opportunities to support and strengthen governance arrangements.

Jetties-asset management

SAROC has supported the LGA's advocacy for future funding of jetties and provide policy support to a research project to further understand the economic, social and historic value of jetties in South Australia.

This research will build the evidence-base and document the economic value that jetties contribute to communities through tourism and recreation activities.

Fair Rating of Electricity Generators

SAROC has supported the LGA's advocacy that the State Government remove or recompense councils for state-government mandated discounts on rates for Community housing / Electricity providers / Religious services / Public cemeteries / Educational purposes.

SAROC reaffirmed its opposition to provisions in the Electricity Corporations (Restructuring and Disposal) Act 1999, which prevent councils levying fair rates on land used for electricity generation.

To support the ongoing advocacy being progressed by the LGA, SAROC, and Legatus member councils, SAROC has requested that the LGA Secretariat, Regional LGA's support the preparation of an issues paper to inform and advocate for a review of the mandatory rate rebates that councils are compelled to provide.

Borrow Pits

SAROC has continued to advocate for appropriate consideration of council borrow pit activities within the Mining Act and relevant regulations and has continued to pursue a commitment from the State Government to work with local government on a Code of Practice the rehabilitation of future borrow pits

SAROC recognised the significant financial and resourcing risk to regional councils from SafeWork SA's reinterpretation of the Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012, to include borrow pits as a mining activity. Through the LGA Secretariat and Local Government Risk Services (LGRS) discussions with SafeWork SA were held regarding council borrow pit activities. These meetings and subsequent correspondence have confirmed that SafeWork SA now consider the Act and regulations to apply to council activities in rubble raising in regional areas for roads maintenance programs, as follows:

1. Council as the Mine operator would be required to make its own determination that an individual mine manager is competent against the criteria of 615 A (9) (a) based on facts and circumstances of the work undertaken. The required level of competency the Council requires of the 'mine manger' would need to align with the complexity of the mining operation.
2. The requirement for a mine manager to be appointed to a particular mine would only be active as and when there were operational mining or processing activities taking place at the site. This would allow for a competent works operative to be designated as the mine manager for the site they are going to work on at that point in time, alleviating the need for them to be considered as a manager of multiple sites and the council and regulator having to go through this gazettal process every time a pit is opened or closed. Practically, a mine manager that was part of a crew or otherwise could move from site to site to undertake work which we understand is the practice of Council.
3. The requirements for a safety management system (Regulation 622) and the principal mining hazard management plan (Regulation 627) are able to satisfy as you have described, ie 'be captured and addressed through Councils overarching safety management systems, and in particular the hazard management processes including hazard identification and control, rather than through separate systems and documents.' What is important is the quality, relevance and application of those systems and processes

This interpretation clarifies that the requirement for a mine manager would only be active as and when there were operational mining or processing activities taking place at the site. This would allow for a competent works operative to be designated as the mine manager for the site they are going to work on at that point in time, alleviating the need for them to be considered as a manager of multiple sites and the council and regulator having to go through this gazettal process every time a pit is opened or closed.

LGRS are preparing an education program to be rolled out as councils are informed about this outcome.

Regional Local Roads- Mapping and Priorities

SAROC facilitated coordination between regional LGAs to prepare a SA Regional Local Road Priorities report that will enable a cross regional approach to support funding applications to State and Federal Government based on an agreed priority list.

SAROC received and approved the release of the HDS Australia/Legatus Group's draft SA Regional Road Priority Project report. A working group will be established comprising representatives from the LGA Secretariat, the Department for Industry and Transport, the Local Government Transport Advisory Panel, and Regional LGA EOs to assist with reviewing the recommendations.

3. Items of Business Referred to the LGA Board of Directors or an LGA General Meeting

LGA 2021 Annual General Meeting

SAROC agreed to recommend items of business on the following issues for the LGA Annual General Meeting on 29 October 2021.

Proposed items of business recommended by SAROC and subsequently 'Carried' at the AGM.

- Increasing South Australia's Influence at the National General Assembly (Wakefield)
- Regional Homelessness (and Housing Affordability) (Mount Gambier)

Proposed items of business not recommended by SAROC for consideration at the AGM.

- Equitable Distribution of Federal Roads Funding to Rural Councils within South Australia (Wakefield)
- Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme (NAIS) Water Pricing and Connection Costs (Adelaide Plains Council)

Proposed items of business progressed by SAROC without referral to the AGM.

- Social and Community Housing in the Murraylands (Murraylands & Riverland)

LGA 2022 Ordinary General Meeting

SAROC agreed to recommend items of business on the following issues for consideration at LGA Ordinary General Meeting to be held on 8 April 2022.

- Implementation of an electronic portal for issuing of permits pursuant to the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 (Loxton Waikerie)
- Electric Vehicles Taxes (Victor Harbor)
- Research into the Population Status and Decline of Little Penguins in South Australia (Victor Harbor)
- Stamp Duty on Residential Property in South Australia (Barunga West)

Other items of business

- Hoarding and Squalor in Regional SA (Southern & Hills LGA)

Southern & Hills LGA wrote to the SAROC Chair in October 2021 to seek support for LGA advocacy to the State Government for improved leadership, coordination, and resources for evidence-based and effective responses to hoarding and squalor in regional South Australia.

This motion was taken to the November 2021 meeting of SAROC. SAROC agreed to ask the LGA President to write to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, seeking urgent

action regarding the resourcing and coordination of services to appropriately respond to this issue.

SAROC noted the opportunity for the LGA to coordinate activities through the SAROC and GAROC committees to work in consultation with member councils to investigate how local government actions on hoarding and squalor in South Australia can be most effectively and sustainably coordinated.

SAROC will include 'Hoarding and Squalor' as an issue in the draft 2022-23 SAROC Annual Business Plan for future consultation with member councils and Regional LGAs.

Consequently, a letter was sent to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing and copied to the Minister for Planning and Local Government, the Shadow Minister for Health and Wellbeing and the Shadow Minister for Local Government. A response was later received from the Minister for Health and Wellbeing.

The LGA secretariat have progressed this motion with the motion now included in both SAROC and GAROCs Annual Business Plans 2022-2023, along with a budget allocation of \$30,000.

Furthermore, a Project Reference Group is being established and a Project Plan developed to progress this work.

- Managing offensive and unacceptable posts on social media platforms (Whyalla)

SAROC resolved not to refer an item of business on this issue to the LGA OGM. However, SAROC welcomed this issue being brought forward by the City of Whyalla and recognised the importance of this issue.

SAROC noted that:

- advocacy for policy and/or legislative changes to manage offensive and unacceptable posts on social media platforms is not the most efficient and effective solution available to the local government sector;
- the LGA has produced a 'Social Media Guide for Elected Members' that provides comprehensive support for elected members in their engagement on social media platforms;
- the LGA offers a range of training modules for elected members and council employees, including 'Responsible Social Media Use and Defamation Law'; and
- many councils already provide staff and elected members with access to a counselling service, should they suffer harm, or risk to their wellbeing, from social media activity.

Based on the SAROC discussion, the LGA will consider the information packs provided to candidates for local government elections and use these to provide further information about dealing with social media. The LGA Secretariat will also revisit the 'Social Media Guide for Elected Members' to provide advice to EMs on how to respond to social media 'trolls'.

- Community Wastewater Management Systems (Legatus)

SAROC noted an item of business received from the Legatus Group, asking SAROC to request the LGA to:

- a) continue to resource assistance to member councils operating Community Wastewater Management Schemes (CWMS) to maintain or improve infrastructure and to improve operations via collaborative approaches to training, procurement, risk management, research and other activities; and
- b) canvas its members councils operating CWMS to gain advice if they require assistance with decisions on remaining and or divesting from both the operations and assets of CWMS;

SAROC recognised that there may be opportunities for the LGA to support its members to maintain or improve existing infrastructure via collaborative approaches.

SAROC referred this issue to the LGA Board's CWMS Management Committee for advice and recommendations that may inform future consultation with LGA member councils on the type of support that may add value beyond the existing LGA programs and member services.

- ABC Southeast – weekly local news bulletins (Mount Gambier)

The City of Mount Gambier raised with SAROC its concerns regarding the loss of weekly local news bulletins on ABC Southeast.

Recognising that this issue has relevance to all regional councils and communities, SAROC endorsed that its Chair will write to the ABC to encourage them to maintain the provision of locally relevant broadcast news content in regional South Australia.

- Vocational Training and TAFE Capability in Regional Centres

SAROC considered an item of business raised by the Limestone Coast LGA (LCLGA) and agreed to include 'Vocational Training and TAFE Capability in Regional Centres' as an advocacy issue in the draft 2022-23 SAROC Annual Business Plan for future consultation with member councils and Regional LGAs.

4. Details of Meetings

During 2021-22, SAROC meeting were held on the following dates:

- 29 July 2021
- 23 September 2021
- 17 November 2021
- 2 March 2022
- 17 March 2022
- 5 May 2022
- 19 May 2022
- 26 May 2022

Attendance

SAROC Committee member attendance at meetings (not including workshops) during the year was:

Member	Number of meeting eligible to attend	Number of meetings attended
Mayor Erika Vickery OAM	8	8
Mayor Dave Burgess	1	1
Mayor Peter Hunt	8	8
Mayor Moira Jenkins	8	8
Mayor Peter Matthey OAM	8	8
Mayor Clare McLaughlin	8	4
Mayor Bill O'Brien	8	7
Mayor Keith Parkes	8	8
Mayor Richard Sage	8	7
Mayor Sam Telfer	3	3
Mayor Travis Barber	7	4
Mayor Brett Benbow	8	5
Mayor Dean Johnson	5	5
Mayor Caroline Phillips	7	4

Following the resignation from SAROC of Mayor David Burgess (Mid Murray Council), Mayor Caroline Phillips (District Council of Karoonda East Murray) was appointed to SAROC.

Following the resignation from the LGA Board of Directors of Mayor Sam Telfer (District Council of Tumby Bay), SAROC appointed Mayor Dean Johnson (District Council of Kimba) to the office of Immediate Past President on the LGA Board of Directors for the remainder of the term of the current Board.

In May SAROC noted the resignation of Mayor Travis Barber (District Council of Streaky Bay) from the SAROC Committee and the casual vacancy that it has created. The Eyre Peninsula LGA subsequently appointed Mayor Jo-Anne Quigley (DC Lower Eyre Peninsula) to SAROC, whose first SAROC meeting will be 21 July 2022.

Guest Speakers

29 July 2021

- Regional Development South Australia Chair, Hon Rob Kerin
Provided the committee with an update on the recent work of Regional RDA's, including updates on their priorities and primary focus on bolstering regional workforces

23 September 2021

- South Australia Housing Authority, Michael Guy and Eric Wisgard
Provided a presentation on the agency's draft Local Affordable Housing Plan Toolkit, developed as part of the government's 10-year Our Housing Future 2020-2030 strategy. When published, the SAHA toolkit will complement the SAROC Regional Housing Policy Toolkit commissioned at its last meeting.

17 November 2021

- State Planning Commission, Chair Craig Holden, Executive Director Planning & Land Use Services Sally Smith, Director Planning Development Anita Allen
Commenced the discussion on the regional planning program.

5 May 2022

- Leonie Boothby & Associates Pty Ltd, Leonie Boothby
Presented the 'Report to Inform the Development of a Regional Housing Policy Toolkit'.

5. Communications and Member Engagement

SAROC's 'Communications Plan 2020-23' recognises that effective ongoing engagement and communication with member councils and stakeholders is essential to SAROC its business.

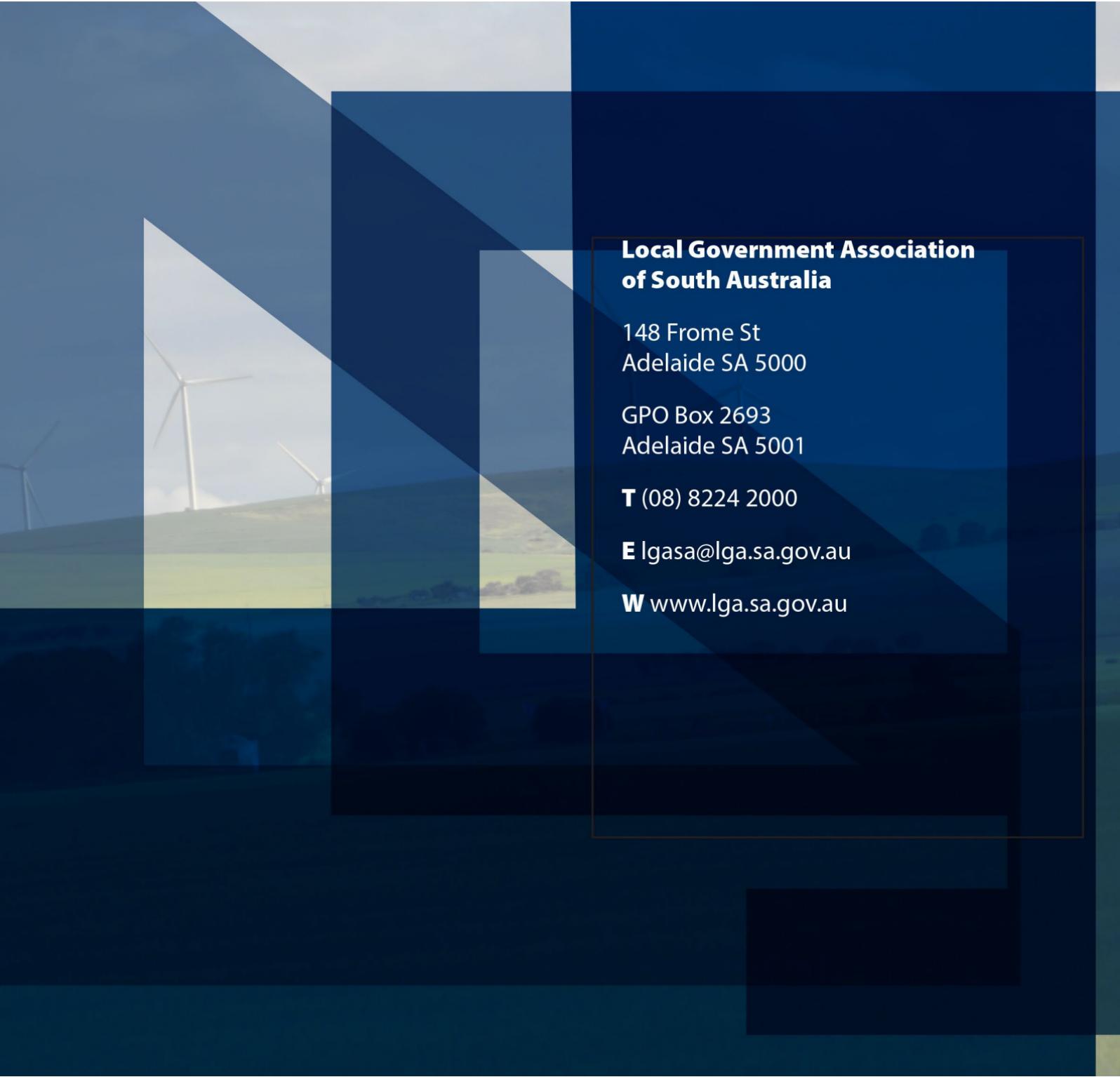
The Plan identifies the following communication goals:

- Keep members informed - Proactively deliver clear, accessible, timely, relevant and targeted information in ways that best meet the interests and needs of member councils.
- Strengthen relationships - Strengthen relationships within our members and with stakeholders through communications activities, to increase confidence and foster trust.
- Increase awareness – Increase member and stakeholder awareness and understanding of SAROC's role, activities, projects and decision-making processes.
- Build an identity – Build a positive reputation that reflects the SAROC Guiding Principles.

This Annual Report has identified the workshops and forums, networking events, and stakeholder meetings that SAROC has undertaken in line with its Communications Plan. Those activities were shared on the LGA's established social media channels to build awareness of the actions and outcomes.

In 2020-21, SAROC introduced a standing item on its agenda for each of the Regional LGAs to provide a short summary of to inform the Committee recent projects and issues.

SAROC also introduced a regular e-news/email communication from the SAROC Chair to update regional mayors and councillors on meeting outcomes, projects and opportunities for councils to participate in SAROC activities.

The background of the lower half of the page is a photograph of several white wind turbines on a green hill under a blue sky. This image is overlaid with a series of dark blue geometric shapes, including rectangles and triangles, some of which are semi-transparent, creating a modern, abstract design.

**Local Government Association
of South Australia**

148 Frome St
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 2693
Adelaide SA 5001

T (08) 8224 2000

E lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au

W www.lga.sa.gov.au

2021-2022 CEO Advisory Group Annual Report

August 2022



2021-2022

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From the Chair

It has been another challenging but always interesting year for the sector, and the LGA CEO Advisory Group has considered and provided advice on a range of matters of importance.

The key themes of this year have been the implementation of the local government reforms, the ever emerging and increasing risks of cyber security, performance monitoring and reporting and other strategic initiatives.

It is the goal of the Group to assist the LGA by providing advice from an executive perspective that considers both metropolitan and regional views.

It has been an honour to have been appointed as Chair for the 2020-2022 term and I thank my fellow members for their contributions and also for acting as a liaison point for other CEO's in their regions, this has assisted the LGA Board of Directors with the design and delivery of LGA services, programs and activities.

I am pleased to present this 2021-2022 CEO Advisory Group Annual Report to the LGA Board of Directors.



Paul Sutton

Chair

Introduction

The CEO Advisory Group is a committee of the LGA established under its Constitution.

As outlined in the Terms of Reference, the CEO Advisory Group will provide advice to the LGA Board on the design and delivery of policy and services to its members and will consider:

- the value and validity of services offered by the LGA to members;
- proposals for the further development of existing or new services by the LGA; and
- the effectiveness of operational policies adopted by the LGA in connection with member services.

Clause 7.8 of the Terms of Reference determines that:

The CEO Advisory group will provide a written report to the Board of Directors after each CEO Advisory Group meeting providing an update on any matters being considered by the group.

The CEO Advisory Group will provide an annual report to the Board of Directors by September each year summarising:

- a) the discharge of the CEO Advisory Group's responsibilities and function under these Terms of Reference;*
- b) the activities of the CEO Advisory Group during the previous financial year;*
- c) the issues referred to the Board of Directors during the previous financial year and whether or not each issue was resolved or addressed; and*
- d) issues being considered by the CEO Advisory Group which have not been reported to the Board of Directors and the intended actions in respect of those matters.*

Members of the CEO Advisory Group

- Ben Gower, Wattle Range Council (November 2020 – present)
- Tony Harrison, City of Marion (August 2021 – present)
- David Stevenson, Regional Council of Goyder (November 2018 – present)
- Deb Larwood, District Council of Kimba (November 2018 – present)
- John Moyle, City of Tea Tree Gully (November 2020 – present)
- Mario Barone, City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters (November 2019 – present)
- Michael Sedgman, Rural City of Murray Bridge (November 2018 – present)
- Paul Sutton, City of Charles Sturt (Chair, November 2020 - present)

CEO Advisory Group 2021-2022 activities

Local Government Reform

The *Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021 (the Amendment Act)* was assented to the Governor on 17 June 2021. Throughout 2021-2022, the CEO Advisory Group continued to provide advice on the implementation of the reforms and the training programs that support them. This included advice on the rollout of LG Equip, CEO Remuneration Reviews and phases of consultation.

The feedback from the Group informed the means of continued engagement with the sector and where there was room for improvement. The Group also provided insight into council networks that could be utilised to enhance the sector's awareness of the reform implementation program.

Performance Monitoring and Reporting Framework

There have been many iterations of performance reporting and benchmarking considered by the Group since its creation in 2018. This is in response to initiatives brought forward by the then State government following; the rate capping campaign, the review of the Productivity Commission, and our own sectors quest to fund meaningful ways that we measure and improve.

The State Government's Councils in Focus website was launched in 2021 and the Group provided their feedback on the website and potential strategies for councils in managing the perceptions of the data.

In May 2022 the Group received a presentation on a platform that assists in analysing internal and external feedback data. The Group also provided feedback on the potential sector interest of a pilot program.

Cyber Security

In August 2021 and May 2022, the Group considered reports on the Local Government Cyber Security Strategy and framework that has been led by the LGITSA Network.

The Group provided feedback on the strategy and reinforced its importance for the sector and the level of engagement needed in progressing the important project.

Members of the Group also joined the pilot group for executive leadership training on cyber security preparedness conducted by KPMG.

State Elections

In August 2021, the Group considered the LGA's State Election Strategy and provided feedback on the advocacy approach. The Group helped reinforce the LGA's thinking around key priority issues for the sector and areas that needed further attention.

The feedback reinforced areas of importance and included suggested additions to the program.

Emergency Management

In November 2021 the Group provided advice on the strategic direction of the LGA's emergency management activities. The Group was able to provide insights from both a metro and regional lens and provide feedback from the community services.

In 2022 the LGA began its review of the LGFSG plan that has been consulted on with the sector.

Special Local Roads Program (SLRP)

The Group provided advice on the strategic direction on the governance review of the program and feedback informed a report to the LGA Board of Directors.

2022 Council Elections

The Group considered a report in November 2021 on an 'effective leadership proposal' pertaining to the 2022 council elections.

The group also shared with ECSA via the LGA its thoughts on the proposed scope and direction of marketing and promoting the upcoming elections. This included insights on the best way for the LGA to engage with and activate member councils to support and deliver the campaign.

Potential LGA Services

The Group provided feedback on potential LGA services from time to time to inform the LGA on the sector appetite for differing services.

The advice given helped lead the LGA's thinking on priorities for the sector and the best models for these potential programs.

Strategic Issues

The Group provided advice on an ad-hoc basis on emerging issues of strategic importance that required a fast response.

Details of meetings

During the 2021-2022 financial year, a total of 4 regular meetings were held on the following dates:

- 5 August 2021
- 4 November 2021
- 3 February 2022
- 5 May 2022

The Group also held a joint workshop with the LGA Board of Directors on 17 March 2022.

The Secretariat sought out of session advice from the CEO Advisory Group on matters relevant to the Group's Terms of Reference from time to time throughout the year.

CEO Advisory Group member attendance at regular meetings during the year:

Member	Number of meetings eligible to attend	Number of meetings attended
Mario Barone	4	4
Tony Harrison	4	2
Ben Gower	4	4
Deb Larwood	4	4
John Moyle	4	3



Michael Sedgman	4	4
David Stevenson	4	3
Paul Sutton	4	4



148 Frome St
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 2693
Adelaide SA 5001

T (08) 8224 2000

E lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au

www.lga.sa.gov.au



2021-2022

LGA Audit and Risk Committee

Annual Report

September 2022

Introduction

Each year the Audit and Risk Committee provides a report to the LGA Board of Directors summarising its activities during the previous year. The Committee's annual report is a requirement of the Committee's Terms of Reference.

The main functions of the Committee are set out in part 8 of the Terms of Reference. The Committee has discharged its responsibilities and functions under the Terms of Reference.

Although External Audit is not specifically dealt with below, the Committee is tasked with various activities relating to the appointment of and liaison with the external auditor. The current external auditor appointment is for a three year period until the completion of the 2021/22 financial statements. The external auditors are invited to attend and do attend meetings of the Committee. The Committee met with the external auditor in the absence of management this year at the time of review of the financial statements for 2021 and will do so again when reviewing the 2022 statements. The Committee is extremely happy with the level of service provided to date by the current external auditor.

This report highlights the key topics of focus in the 2021/22 financial year and summarises focus areas for the next 12 months.

The report is intended to provide information to the Board to assist the Board in discharging its governance responsibilities.

Communication

Two-way communication between the Board and the Audit and Risk Committee is vital in ensuring the Committee provides value to the Board and that the advice being provided is relevant to the LGA.

The Board Member Representative attending the Committee remains essential in maintaining this communication. The Committee thanks Mayor Parkes for his contribution to the meetings and also wishes to record its thanks to Mayor Telfer who completed his term in December 2021.

Following each Committee meeting, I prepare a report to the Board summarising the key topics that I believe are the most relevant issues discussed during the meeting. This report is included with the Committee minutes.

The Committee also welcomes Board members to attend Audit Committee meetings or the Board referring issues to the Committee for review and feedback.

Summary of areas of focus during the year

Internal Audit Program

KPMG, LGA's internal auditors, undertook three scheduled reviews in 2021/22 covering Grant Management, Governance, and a review of the LGA's Expenditure and Liability Cycle. The Secretariat accepted the findings from these reviews and provided regular reports to the Committee on the actions being undertaken to address any findings.

The Committee also received updates from the Secretariat on actions from all audits since 2020. The Secretariat has continued to improve its Work Health and Safety program and Cyber security and has advised the Committee that all high risk areas have now been addressed.

In June, the Committee received a report on the LGA's Cyber Security, comparing its current processes with the new Local Government Sector ICT Security Framework. The Committee noted that work by the Secretariat would continue into 2022/23 for it to achieve a "Tier 1" Maturity level, the requirements of which are detailed in the Security Framework. The Committee will receive reports on progress.

Specials Audits - Grant Programs

There was an emphasis on audits and reviews of grant projects in 2021/22 that included the Community Wastewater Management Scheme, Special Local Road Grant Program, Regional Capacity Building Program and the Research and Development Scheme.

In July 2021, the LGA received a report from the Audit General's Department on the CWMS program highlighting several actions for the LGA to address. A number of the actions are expected to be resolved as part of the mid-term contract review which is currently occurring in collaboration with the State Government. The work addressing the Auditor General's findings is being reported to each meeting of the Committee.

The Committee has encouraged the Secretariat to ensure that not only are identified issues corrected/actioned but that the learnings from these reviews are taken into account in future activities.

The Secretariat has incorporated feedback from the reviews into its project management framework and grant management framework.

Business Changes

The Committee also provided feedback on some business changes during the year.

The LGA entered into an agreement with LG Professionals Group, resulting in the outsourcing of the LGA's event and training activity. Unfortunately, the agreement was entered into prior to reference to the Committee. However, the Committee provided feedback on the strategy, contracts, and other supporting information. The Committee also noted that should revenue recognition be impacted by the agreement it will need resolved when the financial statements are prepared and audited. The Committee understands that each year an annual business plan will be developed, setting budgets, service levels and KPIs, it will be necessary for these to be monitored by the Secretariat.

The Committee receives regular updates from LGA SA Mutual on the LG Safe project that is looking to reform the "One-System" WHS review system. This was highlighted by the LGASA Mutual Board as being a high risk project due to the risk of potential injury, to reputation and to service delivery. This project is continuing into 2022/23.

Updates were also received on the Local Government Reform Implementation project which was flagged as a high risk for the LGA. The State Government timeframes for implementing the program have taken longer than expected, reducing some of the risk for the LGA. Some key reforms will continue to be rolled out in 2022/23, including ESCOSA's oversight of council's long-term financial plans and the Behaviour Panel for elected members.

Policies, Frameworks and Reviews

The Committee continues to receive regular updates on team risk management action plans and quarterly updates on various grant projects. It also provided feedback on the Annual Business Plan and Budget for 2022/23 and the Long-Term Financial Plan.

The Committee also met with the CEO and Chair of LGASA Mutual and CEO of LGA Procurement during the year.

The policies reviewed during the year included:

- Grant Revenue Recognition Policy
- Sponsorship Policy
- Treasury Management Policy
- Records Management Destruction Policy
- Policy Framework
- Training Privacy Policy
- LGA Training Registration, Cancellation and Refund Policy
- Delegations and Matters Reserved for the Board Policy
- Appointments and Nominations to Outside Bodies Policy
- Review of Board and Committee Performance Policy
- Gifts and Benefits Policy
- LGAWCS Sector Peak WHS and RTW Policy
- LGAWCS Member Peak WHS and RTW Policy

Details of meetings

During the 2021/22 financial year a total of seven (7) Committee meetings were held on the following dates:

- 28 July 2021
- 6 September 2021
- 23 November 2021
- 16 December 2021 (*special*)
- 16 February 2022
- 13 April 2022
- 1 June 2022

Audit and Risk Committee member attendance at meetings during the year was:

Member	Number of meetings eligible to attend	Number of meetings attended
Ms Patricia Christie (Independent Member / Chair)	7	7
Mr David Powell (Independent Member)	7	7
Ms Lisa Bishop (Independent Member)	7	7
Mayor Sam Telfer (LGA Board Member Rep until December 2021)	4	4
Major Keith Parkes (LGA Board Member Rep from January 2022)	3	3

Future work program

The focus of the Committee during 2022/23 will include:

- Oversight of the LGASA Mutual's LG Safe project which will result in changes to the Work Health and Safety compliance and assessments across the sector.
- Cyber Security and compliance with the new ICT Local Government Cyber Security Management Framework.
- Oversight of a Work Health and Safety audit and Revenue and Asset Cycle Audit.
- Continued oversight of the LGA's risk management, including resolution of action plans, identification of risks in business units and continuous improvement to the LGA's risk culture.
- Continuing to review and provide feedback on the work being undertaken by the Secretariat to address external and internal audit findings, internal control gaps and improvements to processes.
- Policy reviews
- Reviewing and providing feedback on the Annual Business Plan and Budget.
- Oversight of the LG Professionals agreement to deliver Event and Training services to the LGA
- Progressing any items referred to the Committee by the LGA Board of Directors.

Patricia Christie

Chair, LGA Audit and Risk Committee



148 Frome St
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 2693
Adelaide SA 5001

T (08) 8224 2000

E lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au

www.lga.sa.gov.au

6.4 LGASA Mutual Annual Report 2021-2022

LGA Business

From:	Dr Andrew Johnson, Chief Executive Officer - LGASA Mutual	
Strategy:	4 - Achieve	
Outcome:	4.1 We lead by example in the governance and operations of the LGA	
Meeting:	Annual General Meeting	28 October 2022
ECM:	782157	

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting receives and notes the LGASA Mutual Annual Report for the year 2021-2022.

Discussion

David Holston, Independent Chair of LGASA Mutual Pty Ltd will present the annual report on the activities of LGASA Mutual, incorporating the LGA Mutual Liability Scheme and LGA Workers Compensation Scheme.

During the year LGASA Mutual welcomed two new Directors – Joanne Denley and Clinton Jury – who have both strengthened our Board. Joanne comes to the Board as an experience Board Director with a wealth of knowledge of RTWSA and self-insurance, while Clinton replaced Matt Pinnegar as the LGA Director on the Mutual Board.

Both Schemes continues to perform very well during the year, in some turbulent times which includes a difficult global insurance market, significant reduction in investment earnings, an ever-changing regulatory environment, and some recent adverse court cases which will have flow on effects for our Schemes.

Within this environment the LGA Workers Compensation Scheme had an outstanding year. It achieved its lowest claim numbers in the Scheme's history recording 419 claims, which is an 11% reduction from the previous year. In addition, lost time injuries were down 30%. The net impact of this being a reduction in scheme claims costs by over \$1.4 million.

This exceptional result is a credit to our members and the LGRS team. The focus on improving WHS practices and getting workers back to work as soon as practically possible has meant that the Board was delighted in approving a \$1 million special distribution back to our members at its September 2022 meeting. This further highlights the benefit of our Mutual model where we can return the saving that we collectively make. LGASA Mutual's strong financial result also allowed the Board to provide some 40,000 rapid antigen tests, worth some \$195,000, free of charge to councils, at a time when they were difficult to source.

Despite this exceptional result, we still believe that every worker should return home each day uninjured. To assist in achieving this objective the Board has committed significant funds to improve the WHS framework and systems used by councils. The LG Safe project has made its objective to provide a compliant WHS framework that is user friendly. A large amount of work has

been undertaken to consult the sector to determine their needs ahead of rolling out a simplified framework, more user-friendly documents and a greatly enhanced electronic system.

The importance of this work is further highlighted when we see in the broader WHS environment some of the recent changes to legislation; more companies and individuals being prosecuted for safety breaches; proposed industrial manslaughter legislation potentially being introduced; and we are seeing the reverse burden of proof being introduced.

During our discussions with our global reinsurers, LGASA Mutual continues to emphasise to them the great benefits of our mutual model, the consistent risk management across the sector, the value and consistency delivered through 100% council membership and the value of our long-term relationship. This has greatly assisted us to minimise the increases in our reinsurance costs, enabling us to continue to provide stable contributions to our members during challenging times. As a result, the local government Schemes priority to continue to provide Members with financial security, predictability and certainty in an uncertain risk environment has never been more relevant in today's world.

The LGA Mutual Liability Scheme has continued to provide excellent value to members during the year. The LGAMLS has assisted councils with the implementation of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act and Local Government reform; it continued to expand the capacity of councils through the Local Government Functional Support Group and funding of the national award-winning Council Ready program; as well as provided input into the new Behaviour Management Standards. The LGA Mutual Liability Scheme has continued to support councils with identifying and managing their strategic and operational risks as well as providing staff and elected member training.

LGASA Mutual is excited about the year ahead with the Board looking at implementing several new risk management programs. These range from a psychological health trial, a grievance mitigation model and to conduct a waste management risk assessment trial.

LGASA Mutual Board would like to extend its thanks for the hard work and dedication of the LGRS team who continue to deliver all the Scheme services and were pivotal in the delivery of another outstanding year for both Schemes.

The LGASA Mutual Board looks forward to continuing work with its members to add value to their business by providing unique cover and risk services to meet their needs.

The LGASA Mutual Pty Ltd's 2021-2022 Annual Report (including the Schemes abridged financial statements) will be available on the LGA's website prior to the meeting, and printed copies will be available at the meeting.

6.5 LGA Procurement Annual Report 2021/2022

LGA Business

From:	Robyn Cusick, Acting Chief Executive Officer - LGA Procurement	
Strategy:	4 - Achieve	
Outcome:	4.2 The LGA's financial sustainability is supported by a growth in revenue from value-adding member services and LGA Procurement	
Meeting:	Annual General Meeting	28 October 2022
ECM:	782575	

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting receives and notes the LGA Procurement Annual Report for the year 2021-2022.

Discussion

LGA Procurement achieved its financial organisational plan for the 2022 financial year, returning a slightly better than budget outcome for the year.

LGA Procurement remained customer focused, delivering information and assistance to buyers and suppliers via webinars and in-person sessions.

Procurement capability for the sector was improved through targeted training and investing back into the sector through advocacy, procurement solutions and education.

Mayor David O'Loughlin, Chair of LGA Procurement will present his annual Chair's report on the activities of LGA Procurement.

A link to the LGA Procurement Annual Report 2021/2022 can be found [here](#).

Financial and Resource Implications

This activity has been anticipated in the LGA Procurement's work program and resources are available to progress this work.

6.6 Local Government Research and Development Scheme

LGA Business

From:	Mathilde Thorsen, Project and Grants Coordinator	
Strategy:	2 - Assist	
Outcome:	2.4 We leverage grant funding for the benefit of councils, and their communities	
Meeting:	Annual General Meeting	28 October 2022
ECM:	782376	Attachment: 781905

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting notes the report.

Discussion

Pursuant to the MOU¹ between the LGA and the Treasurer, the LGA is required to provide an annual report on the activities and finances of the Local Government Research and Development Scheme to the LGA Annual General Meeting. A copy of this report is then provided to the Treasurer.

The attached 2021-22 Annual Report for the Local Government Research and Development Scheme was endorsed by the LGA Board of Directors on 15 September 2022 and includes:

- An overview of the Scheme, its operations and outcomes in 2021-22;
- Financial allocations for year ending 30 June 2022, and budget for 2022-23
- Details of projects approved 2021-22;
- Details of projects completed 2021-22;
- Details of current projects²;
- A list of projects proposed for 2022-23
- An overview of the Schemes priorities for 2022-23.

Financial and Resource Implications

All current projects have been anticipated in the Local Government Research and Development Scheme work program, and resources are available to progress these projects.

¹ The MOU was last updated in February 2020 and is available through the LGA website <https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/member-services/financial-sustainability/grants/research-and-publications/about-the-lg-research-and-development-scheme>

² Current projects as per 30 June 2022



Local Government Research & Development Scheme

Annual Report 2021-22

*Adopted by the LGA Board of
Directors on 15 September 2022*

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Background

The purpose of the Local Government Research and Development Scheme (established under section 31A of the *Local Government Finance Authority Act 1983*) is to fund projects that are of strategic benefit to local government.

Pursuant to the MOU between the LGA and the Treasurer,¹ the LGA is required to provide a report to the LGA Annual General Meeting that includes:

- a financial analysis and budget
- details of projects approved in the previous financial year
- details of projects completed in the previous financial year
- details of current projects
- a list of projects proposed for the current financial year.

This report addresses these points and provides an overview of the Scheme, its operation and outcomes in 2021-22 and how the LGA is meeting its responsibilities under the MOU. The appendices contain:

1. Financial allocations for year ending 30 June 2022, and budget for 2022-23
2. Approved projects² for 2021-22
3. Completed projects during 2021-22 (internal and external funding rounds)
4. Spotlight projects 2021-22
5. Current projects as of 30 June 2022
6. Proposed projects in 2022-23 (external funding round)

LGR&DS Advisory Committee

As outlined in the MOU, the LGR&DS Advisory Committee's purpose is to assist the LGA with the management of the Scheme. The Advisory Committee provides independent and objective advice to the LGA Board regarding the governance and operations of the Scheme, including providing oversight of projects funded by the scheme, and making recommendations to the LGA Board regarding applications for funding.

Three scheduled Advisory Committee meetings were conducted in 2021-22 (August, December, and April) as well as two out of session meetings (September, May). As of 30 June 2022, membership of the Advisory Committee comprised:

- Mayor Erika Vickery, Chair, Naracoorte Lucindale Council (LGA Board)
- Mayor Claire Boan, City of Port Adelaide Enfield (LGA Board)
- Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross, City of Mitcham (LGA Board)
- Anne Champness, Tatiara District Council (Country/Regional CEO)
- Henry Inat, Town of Gawler (Metropolitan CEO)
- Alex Hart, Manager Office of Local Government (Minister nominee)
- Professor Chris Leishman, University of South Australia (South Australian Universities)

¹ The MOU was last updated in February 2020 and is available through LGA website, <https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/member-services/financial-sustainability/grants/research-and-publications/about-the-lg-research-and-development-scheme>

² Approved projects contain all projects approved for funding during 2021-22.

- Abbie Spencer, ASU (Local Government Trade Unions)
- Clinton Jury (LGA CEO)

During the 2021-22, former Mayor Erin Thompson (City of Onkaparinga) and former LGA CEO Matt Pinnegar concluded their terms on the Committee and are thanked for their service.

Overview of Scheme Activities

In 2021-22, the Scheme allocated over \$1.9 million of funding for projects of strategic benefit to local government via two competitive grant rounds, regional capacity building allocations provided to Regional LGAs, allocations to SAROC and GAROC, and strategic initiatives initiated by the LGA CEO and Board of Directors. All allocations were approved by the LGA Board of Directors and informed by advice from the Scheme's Advisory Committee.

Funding was allocated based on the principles and purposes of the scheme³ and on the priorities identified in the 2021-22 Annual Business Plan for the Scheme. The 2021-22 Annual Business Plan was approved by the LGA Board of Directors in February 2021.

The priorities include:

1. Local Government Reform
2. Financial sustainability and cost pressures
3. Infrastructure Management
4. Community Awareness and Participation
5. Community Safety Wellbeing and Resilience
6. Local Government response and recovery to COVID-19
7. Climate, disasters and environment

As detailed in *Appendix 2*, seven projects were approved in 2021-22, with a total of \$799,400⁴ funding allocated through two grant rounds.

There were 18 project completions in 2021-22. Further details regarding these completions are available in *Appendix 3* with an overview of project highlights available in *Appendix 4*.

The Scheme also successfully implemented a range of grant management improvements in 2021-22 including:

- The development and implementation of the of a range of policies and procedures including:
 - Eligibility Policy and Procedure
 - Delivery Policy and Procedure; and
 - Finance Procedure
- The continued development and review of the guidelines, application, and project reporting templates.
- The LGR&DS Advisory Committee also initiated an independent review of the Regional Capacity Building Allocations Program. This was followed up by an action plan which will be fully implemented by 2022-23.⁵

³ <https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/member-services/financial-sustainability/grants/research-and-publications/about-the-lg-research-and-development-scheme>

⁴ This included \$390,000 for the LG Equip Program to support councils with the implementation of the LG reform.

⁵ LGA Board of Directors 18 November 2021, p.230 https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0024/1062609/LGA-Board-of-Directors-Board-agenda-18-November-2021.pdf

Budget overview

The financial report in *Appendix 1* outlines the financial position of the Scheme as at 30 June 2022. The report also includes the budget for 2022-23 financial year, which was approved by the LGA Board in May 2022.

Table 1 provides a summary of the Scheme's allocations for 2021-22. The total expenditure for 2021-22 was \$1,998,939.

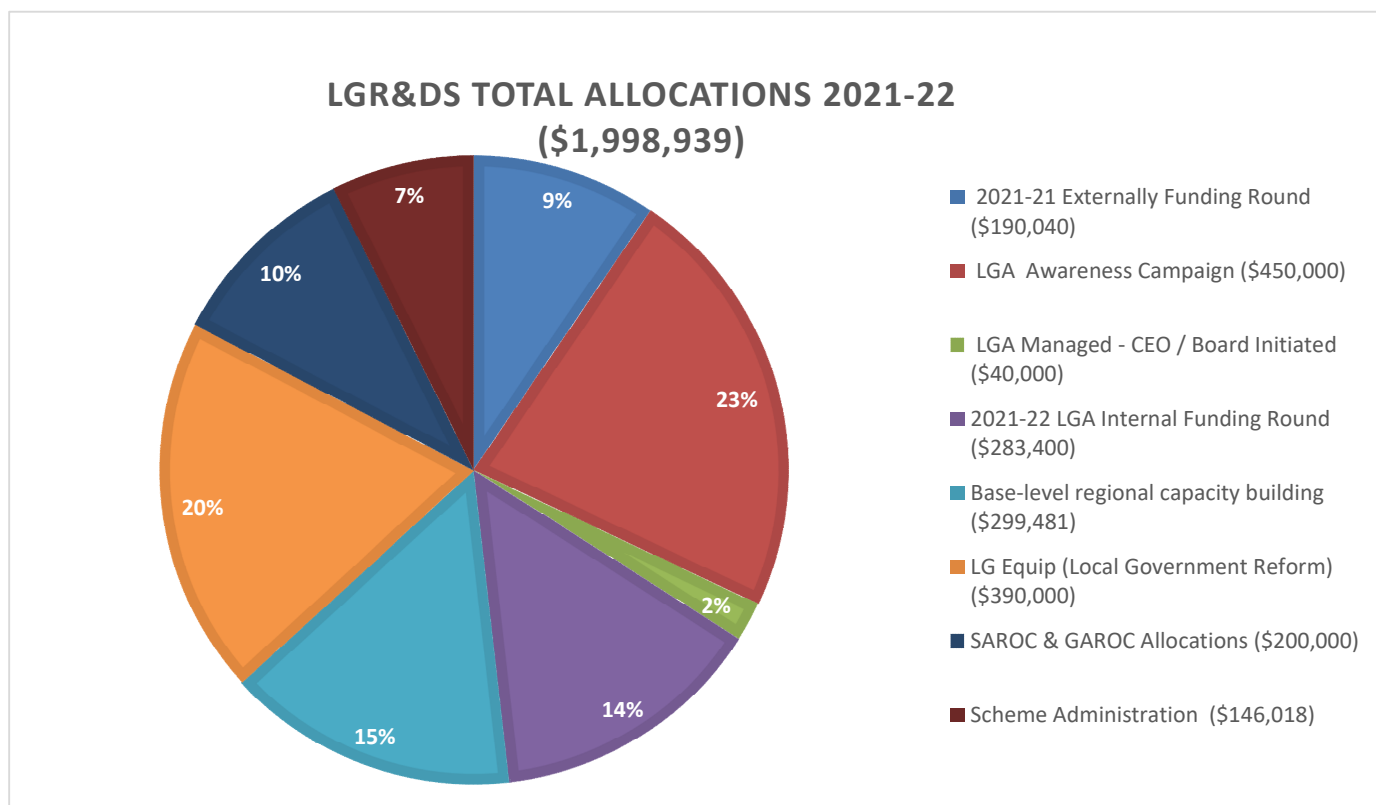
- 23% of the funding was allocated to the Local Government Awareness Campaign. This was due to a one-off additional allocation of \$250,000. The allocation was proposed by the LGR&DS Advisory Committee who recommended to strategically use some of the reserve balance to benefit the sector by increasing awareness of the value of councils in the lead up to the local government elections.⁶
- 20% of the funding was allocated to the LG Equip program which role is to support councils with the implementation of local government reform.⁷
- 14% of funding was allocated to three LGA managed projects through the internal funding round.
- 9% was allocated to three externally led projects through the external funding round and through milestone payments on previously funded external projects.
- 15% of the funding was distributed to regional LGAs and GAROC through the regional capacity building allocations.

The closing unallocated reserve balance at 30 June 2022 was \$182,278 which differs from the original budget forecast of \$618,814. This was due to reduction in the anticipated TER (Total Expense Ratio) funding and a strategic decision allocate some of the carry over funding to projects providing value to the local government sector.

⁶ Approved by the LGA Board of Directors in January 2022, https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0037/1089865/LGA-Board-of-Directors-Public-Agenda-20-January-2022.pdf

⁷ This funding was allocated prior to the internal and external funding round allocations, but the project proposal was assessed as part of the internal funding round.

Table 1 - LGR&DS allocations in 2021-22



New projects approved in 2021-22

The 2021-22 funding had less available funding than previous years due to a reduction in the TER funding and pre-allocation to the LG Equip program. Seven projects were approved for 2021-22 with a total of \$799,400 in funding allocated (\$283,400 for internal grant round and \$190,040 for the external grant and \$390,000 for LG Equip). A detailed overview of the projects is available in *Appendix 2*.

A total of 22 applications were assessed by the Scheme's Advisory Committee against the principles and purposes of the Scheme and the Scheme's Annual Business Plan, and recommendations were forwarded to the LGA Board of Directors for approval.

The projects included a wide range of topics such as:

- Local government reform implementation
- Community Wellbeing
- Preparation for the 2022 council elections
- Asset Management Plans
- Professional Framework Review
- Planning and design code implementation

LGA Research Library

Information regarding all projects funded by the Local Government Research and Development Scheme is available through the LGA Research Library⁸

Ongoing Allocations

In 2021-22 ongoing allocations accounted for 57% of Scheme expenditure. All ongoing allocations must address the principles and purposes of the Scheme, and outcomes are reported at least annually to the LGA Board.

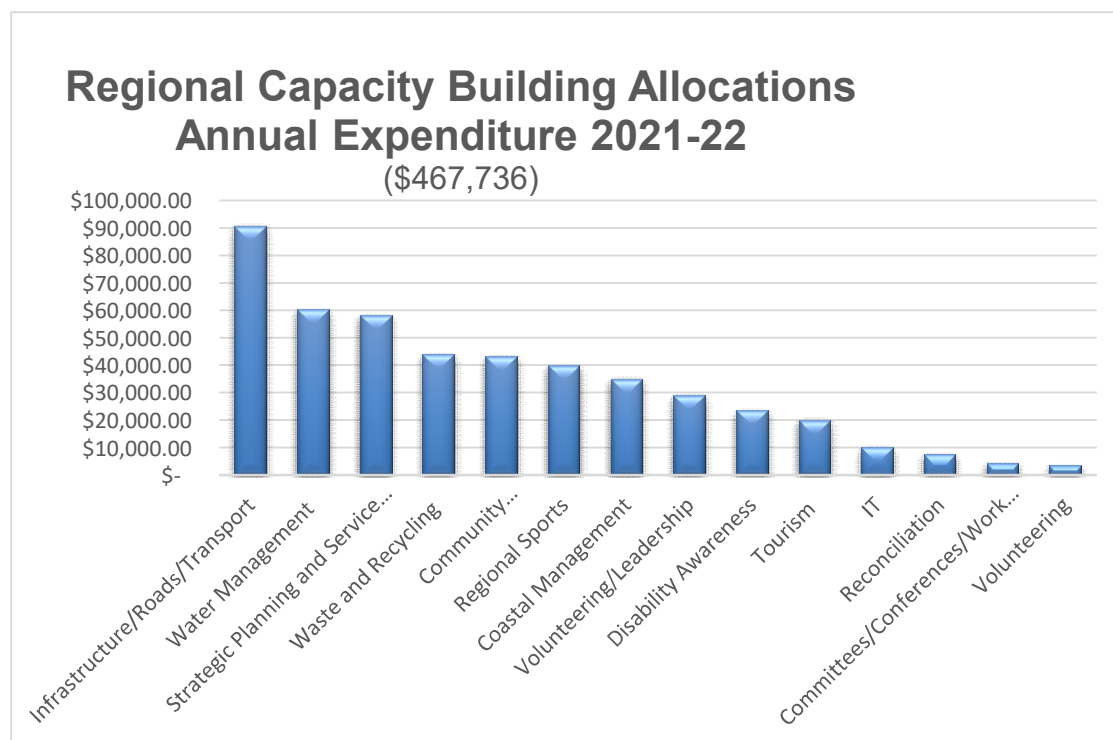
Regional Capacity Building Activities 2021-22

In 2021-22, Regional LGAs spent a total of \$467,736 on a range of regional capacity building projects, activities and initiatives.

Table 2 provides an overview of how the funding was spent, demonstrating that Infrastructure, Roads and Transport (\$90,536) and Water Management (\$60,084) and Strategic Planning. (\$57,918) were associated with the most spending. The chart also shows that the Regional LGAs have taken on the feedback from the LGR&DS Advisory Committee and ensured that the spending was in line with the regional capacity building guidelines and not spent on administration, membership fees or participation in conference etc.

The annual reports including the project outcomes have been published through the LGA Research Library, as well as by the Regional LGAs themselves.

Table 2 – Regional Capacity Building Expenditure 2021-22



⁸ <https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/member-services/financial-sustainability/grants/research-and-publications/research-library> (Please search for the project number to access any of the projects.)

SAROC and GAROC activities

GAROC and SAROC spent their funding on a range of projects and activities supporting and advocating on behalf of local government in South Australia including:

- Response into the productivity commission inquiry into the SA regulatory framework
- Shovel Ready –Support for council to leverage and create state and federal grant opportunities.
- Economic development tools and framework
- Planning – review of the planning system and advocating on behalf of local government to ensure that the planning system reflects leading practice and supports local decision making.
- Environmental reform
- Review of the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide
- Public Health and Wellbeing
- Regional Health Workforce Project
- Overabundant Species – Little Corellas
- Coastal Management and advocacy for coastal councils
- Regional Climate Partnerships
- Waste and Recycling – public awareness campaign in regional SA
- Regional Road Mapping

Further detail of GAROC and SAROC's outcomes are outlined in their annual reports.

Local Government Awareness Campaign

The awareness campaign has been run by the LGA Secretariat through the *Part of Your Everyday* campaign to promote the role, purpose and function of South Australian councils. The campaign has run in key phases over each month to highlight the diversity of council activities that benefit the community, particularly discretionary services.

The campaign's lead up in the three years to the council election year has aimed at building greater community understanding of the value of council services and laying the groundwork for the council elections campaign.

The campaign strategy has been delivered across a range of advertising and communication channels, including digital display, social media, newsletters, collateral and key influencers.

In 2021-22, a further extension to the campaign was received to develop and implement complementary communication and media activities alongside website and digital content over two financial years. Dedicated resources to support this work was secured in 2021-22 for engaging content and ensure strong alignment to the council election Enrol, Nominate and Vote campaign

Scheme Administration

These funds are used by the LGA for the administration of the Scheme, including to cover the salary costs of the Scheme's Executive Officer and costs associated with the Smarty Grants grant administration system.

Priorities for 2021 to 2023

2021-22

The LGA-led projects commenced implementation on 1 July 2021, and the externally led projects are commenced 1 November 2021.

The LGA Board of Directors⁹ approved funding for four LGA-led projects totaling \$295,000 in funding. The funding was provided to three new projects and additional funding for stage two of the LG Election project.

2022-23

The 2022-23 external funding included 32 applications requesting over \$2,8 million worth of funding. Initially there was only \$220,752 available for the external grant round. However, the LGA received favourable variations to the Scheme's revenue from increased profits from the LGFA.

Consequently, the Advisory Committee recommended that additional funding be directed to worthwhile strategic initiatives for the sector and six externally led projects totalling \$394,945 were approved by the LGA Board of Directors.¹⁰

All funded projects are provided in *Appendix 6*.

The LGR&DS Scheme is continuing to strengthen compliance. Over the next 12 months the scheme will:

- Continue to improve its grant management processes by ensuring the new policy framework is fully implemented.
- Fully implement the recommendations of the 2022 review of the regional capacity building allocation program.¹¹
- Conduct a review into the impact and effectiveness of the scheme.
- Review the principles and purposes of the scheme¹².

⁹ Approved by the LGA Board of Directors on 19 May 2022, https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0021/1147008/Public-LGA-Board-of-Directors-Agenda-19-May-2022.pdf

¹⁰ Approved by the LGA Board of Directors on 15 September 2022

¹¹ The action plan was adopted by the LGA Board on 18 November 2022 https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0024/1062609/LGA-Board-of-Directors-Board-agenda-18-November-2021.pdf

¹² As per the LGR&DS Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0027/1038663/ECM_764549_v8_25-01-01-LGR-and-DS-Advisory-Committee-Terms-of-Reference-Adopted-by-LGA-Board-of-Directors-23-Septemb.pdf

Appendix 1 - Financial allocations for year ending 30 June 2022 & budget for 2022-23

Local Government Association of SA						
Local Government Research and Development Scheme						
Allocations Report for Year to Date - 30 June 2022						
		2022/23			2021/22	
		Budget Full Year	Forecast Full year	Comment	Actual Full Year	Budget Full Year
					\$	\$
Income						
	LGFA TER Project funding	1,370,250	1,853,000	LGFA Forecasted increase to funding	1,281,349	1,377,500
	R&D Funds Returned - LGA internal	-			104,829	-
	R&D Funds Returned - External	-			29,050	-
	Total Income	1,370,250	1,853,000		1,415,227	1,377,500
Project allocations						
	Administration Fees	149,917	149,917		146,018	146,260
	LG Equip (Reform)	0	0		390,000	390,000
	LGA Managed - SAROC & GAROC	240,000	240,000		200,000	200,000
	LGA Managed - Base-level regional capacity building	240,000	240,000		299,481	299,486
	LGA Managed - Secretariat / Internal Projects	331,135	331,135		283,400	200,000
	LGA Managed - CEO / Board Initiated	40,000	40,000		40,000	40,000
	LGA Managed - Awareness Campaign	200,000	200,000		450,000	200,000
	Externally Managed Projects	220,757	394,945		190,040	133,333
	Total allocations LGR&D SCHEME	1,421,809	1,595,997		1,998,939	1,609,079
	Net Surplus/(Deficit) LGR&D SCHEME	(51,559)	257,003		(583,711)	(231,579)
Statement of R&D Reserves						
	Opening Reserve Balance	182,278	182,278		811,989	849,822
	Plus Inflows	1,370,250	1,853,000		1,415,227	1,377,500
	Less Outflows	(1,421,809)	(1,595,997)		(1,998,939)	(1,609,079)
	Future Project Allocations (22/23 onwards)				(46,000)	-
	Closing Reserve Balance	130,719	439,281		182,278	618,242

Appendix 2 - Approved Projects 2021-22

ID	Project Title	Organisation Name	Funds Granted
2021.01	Supporting councils in the implementation of the Planning and Design Code and PDI Act	Local Government Association of SA	\$50,000.00
2021.02	Local Government Reform Implementation (branded "LG Equip")	Local Government Association of SA	\$390,000.00
2021.03	2022 Council Elections Project - Phase One	Local Government Association of SA	\$150,000.00
2021.04	Support for councils in community wellbeing	Local Government Association of SA	\$83,400.00
2021.50	Local Government Authorised Persons Professional Framework Review	Local Government Authorised Persons Association	\$20,000.00
2021.66	Asset Management Plan Summary template	Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA)	\$7,000.00
2021.70	Local Government Cyber Security Toolkit	Local Government Information Technology SA Incorporated (LGITSA)	\$99,000.00

Appendix 3 - Completed Projects 2021- 22

ID	Project Title	Organisation Name	Project Highlights	Funds Granted	Completion date
2021.70	Local Government Cyber Security Toolkit	Local Government Information Technology Incorporated SA	This project has successfully developed a Cyber Security Framework and Toolkit for the use of Local Government. The toolkit includes a framework and a suite of supporting policies and tools which caters for the different risk profiles of Local Councils.	\$99,000	30/04/2022
2021.04	Review of the Regional Capacity Building Program	Local Government Association of SA	This project hired independent consultants URPS to review the Regional Capacity Building Allocation Program (RCBAP). The review recommended range of operational improvements to improve the outcomes of the grant and the LGA Secretariat action plan will be fully implemented in 2022-23.	\$20,000	30/09/2021
2020.67	Best Practice Guide for Grants Management for Local Government in South Australia	City of Holdfast Bay	This project has developed a Best Practice Guide for grant attraction and administration in SA councils. The guide offers comprehensive advice regarding all aspects of grant administration and attraction in SA councils. It includes guidelines, templates, and further references for exploration of grants.	\$32,000	31/12/2021
2020.66	Environmental Health Officers' response to COVID-19: A public health workforce needs assessment to ensure sustainability and future preparedness	Flinders University	This project identified the roles and responsibilities of local government Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It found that the SA environmental health workforce was used to varying degrees by local government, although notably, half the workforce believe they could have been better utilised.	\$38,200	31/12/2021
2020.65	Script development for Training Course re Community Wastewater Management Schemes	Legatus (Central Region LGA)	This project has developed the script required for the production and hosting of an on-line training course. This course is specifically designed for South Australian council owned and operated Community Waste Management Schemes(CWMS).	\$16,000	28/01/2022

ID	Project Title	Organisation Name	Project Highlights	Funds Granted	Completion date
2020.62	External and internal challenges facing regional population growth strategies: learning from the case of the Limestone Coast	Flinders University	<p>This project examined the successes and opportunities for sustained population growth in the Limestone Coast. Coronavirus has increased the net-migration in the region. However, it has also exposed the fact that immigration may no longer offer a strategic solution to regional population and workforce concerns.</p> <p>The project highlighted the availability and affordability of housing in the regions and the understanding and management of workforce vacancies as focus areas for the Limestone Coast.</p>	\$35,089	31/02/2022
2020.59	Modelling business clusters' readiness and resilience in managing and responding to COVID-19	The University of Adelaide	This research examines the characteristics that allowed businesses to survive better, re-adapt and overcome the COVID-19 crisis. Those characteristics provide valuable information for facilitating businesses recovery.	\$30,000	31/08/2021
2020.58	Strategies to increase turnout at council elections using evidence from randomised field trials	Electoral Commission SA	<p>This project aimed to identify communication strategies turnout to increase at council elections. The project undertook controlled trials at four supplementary council elections testing the efficiencies of different voter mobilisation messages.</p> <p>The results of the experiment provide a number of valuable lessons about what works and what does not work in terms of stimulating South Australian electors to vote at council elections.</p>	\$32,870	30/11/2021
2020.57	RPSA Voters Roll Practice Manual - 2022 Elections	Revenue Professionals SA	<p>This project updated the Voters Roll Practice Manual for the 2022 elections.</p> <p>The updated manual will provide advice on the statutory requirements of councils under the Local Government (Elections) Act 1999 and supporting regulations. The 2021 Voters Roll Practice Manual encompasses all updates to legislation since the 2018 elections.</p>	\$5,000	09/12/2021
2020.14	Public Lighting Support for SA Councils	Local Government Association of SA	This project has enabled the LGA to provide member councils with expert advice and guidance on public lighting and support the transition to LED lighting and a new regulatory framework.	\$30,000	27/07/2021
2020.02	Support Councils in the implementation of the PDI Act and Planning and Design Code	Local Government Association of SA	This project has provided advocacy, support and advice to councils in the implementation of the Planning Reforms. This included information sessions, training, legal advice and ongoing advocacy to support amendments of benefit to the sector.	\$100,000	30/06/2021
2019.68	Community Wellbeing Indicators for South Australian Local Government	Southern & Hills LGA	This project has developed a cost effective and practical tool to support small to medium sized and regional councils to monitor community wellbeing.	\$50,000	30/10/2021

ID	Project Title	Organisation Name	Project Highlights	Funds Granted	Completion date
2019.65	DPTI ePlanning integration	Local Government Information Technology South Australia Inc	This project supported councils with the development and implementation of the software and procedures required from the ePlanning Portal.	\$48,000	14/02/2022
2019.64	Regional youth volunteering trial	Legatus (Central Region LGA)	This project has created a range of videos which has assisted with increasing awareness and promoting volunteering among young South Australians as a pathway to employment wellbeing and development. The project supported number of regional communities in the Barossa and Mid North better understand the value they can provide through their volunteer programs. It has also enabled some youth in the region to be better equipped in handling issues amongst their peers with regards to wellbeing and issues around suicide.	\$10,000	06/12/2021
2019.51	Funding the Future – A New Approach for Coastal Management in SA	Limestone Coast Local Government Association	The project has generated a contemporary Needs Analysis and Literature Review of the funding landscape for coastal management in SA as well as a discussion paper proposing a number of recommendations for SACCA and its partners to pursue.	\$46,073	26/10/2021
2017.60	Community Wellbeing Alliance -two regional trials	Local Government Association of SA	The aim of this project was to enhance the health and wellbeing of regional communities, through the recruitment of Community Wellbeing Officers, working in co-operation with regional councils. Two trials were hosted by Southern and Hills LGA and Murraylands and Riverland LGA and the report are available through the schemes library.	\$150,000	02/12/2021
2016.53	Removal of organic chemicals from water by aquifer filtration in managed aquifer recharge schemes	Flinders University	The primary achievement of this project was to identify the emerging contaminants in managed aquifer recharge and how to remove these. The outcome of this project has led to multiple research articles and the results are being shared through the local government MAR User Group.	\$25,000	31/07/2021
2016.42	Valuing Social Outcomes	Local Government Professionals Australia, SA Community Managers Network	This project has finalised the development of a Valuing Social Outcomes (VSO) Tool and supporting documentation to support councils in measuring the social value of community development/community services programs they deliver in their communities.	\$50,000	31/09/2021

Appendix 4 - Spotlight projects 2021-22

Please note that further information regarding any of these projects is available through the [LGA Research Library](#)¹³

2020.67 Best Practice Grant Guide for Local Government in South Australia

Grant recipient: City of Holdfast Bay, LG SA Grant Network

Funding granted: \$32,000



The Best Practice Guide has been completed with the support to the LG SA Grant Network. The guide offers comprehensive advice regarding all aspects of grant administration and attraction in SA councils. It includes guidelines, templates, and further references for exploration of grants.

The guide has been developed through wide consultation across the sector and have been widely distributed across Local Government. The SA LG Network will ensure the guide remains relevant by continuing to review and update the guide on a regular basis.

The SA LG Grants Networks and the guide was a shortlisted for LG Professional award as a finalist for excellence in cross council collaboration.

2020.62 External and internal challenges facing regional population growth strategies: learning from the case of the Limestone Coast

Grant recipient: Flinders University

Funding granted: \$35,089

This project examined the successes and opportunities for sustained population growth in the Limestone Coast.

The project report noted that the coronavirus has increased the net-migration in the region. However, it has also exposed the fact that immigration may no longer offer a strategic solution to regional population and workforce concerns.

The report highlights the availability and affordability of housing in the regions and the understanding and management of workforce vacancies as focus areas for the Limestone Coast.

¹³ <https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/member-services/financial-sustainability/grants/research-and-publications/research-library> Please use the project number to search for the project

2020.14 - Public Lighting Support for SA Councils

Grant recipient: Local Government Association of SA

Funding granted: \$30,000



This project has assisted councils to successfully transition to a new regulatory framework for public lighting. The project has also identified and progressed other key issues of strategic importance for public lighting customers.

Through this project the LGA commissioned a consultant to provide a report which included information for councils regarding the new tariff agreement for public lighting.

The consultant has also held a number of meetings and briefings to provide councils with the necessary information to understand the new arrangements and execute new agreements with SAPN. A number of key priority issues for public lighting has been identified through this project. Subcommittees have since been developed to tackle these

priorities.

2019.68 - Community Wellbeing Indicators for South Australian Local Government

Grant recipient: Southern & Hills LGA

Funding granted: \$50,000



This project has developed a set of Indicators of Community Wellbeing for Local Government with the aim to track issues that are important to our communities, for public health, strategic planning and service provision.

This project responded directly to challenges faced by Community Wellbeing Council in finding data and feeling confident using it. The Indicators of Community Wellbeing report has been created as a updatable e-book containing 20 indicators of community wellbeing, a road map of ideas for data development for data gaps, and case studies and links to more detailed data to provide more context.

This project will be further promoted to the Local Government sector in 2022 with a launch event and seminar. These will be focused on evidence-based policy and decision-making.

2016.42 - Valuing Social Outcomes

Grant recipient: Local Professionals Australia (SA Community Managers Network)

Funding granted: \$50,000



This project has led to the development of the Valuing Social Outcomes (VSO) tool and supporting documentation. The VSO tool is available through the LGA research library and can be used to support councils in measuring the social value of programs they deliver in their communities.

The VSO Tool will enable councils to quantify the social value of delivering a community program to an individual or group of individuals over a period of time. To use the tool the councils must align the aims of the program with one or more of the 39 outcomes available in the VSO Tool.

Appendix 5 - Current project 30 June 2022

ID	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Organisation Name	Funds Granted	Start Date	Completion date	% Completed (as per last report)
2022.12	Coastal management- council coordination	This project presents the future intent for collaborative action within the local government sector to support long-term social, environmental, and economic resilience for effective coastal management and risk mitigation in South Australia. The project will work to implement a Coastal Coordinator role within the LGA to work with member councils to strengthen collaboration and increase capacity to deliver effective coastal management across SAs 34 coastal councils.	Local Government Association of SA	\$60,000	01/07/2022	30/06/2023	N/A
2022.04	Jetties Research Project: the economic, social and historic value of jetties in South Australia	This project will examine the social, economic value of jetties and complete a cost benefit analysis of the value to a town's economic value through people visiting the region, walking, fishing and swimming would support advocacy.	Local Government Association of SA	\$50,000	01/07/2022	16/12/2022	N/A
2022.02	Cost Impacts and Benefits of the PDI Act 2016	Assessment of the impact of the implementation new planning system (i.e the implementation of the PDI Act and P and D Code)	Local Government Association of SA	\$35,000	01/09/2022	28/04/2023	N/A
2021.66	Asset Management Plan Summary template	The Asset Management Plan Summary template is aimed to complement and align to (by summarising) the content of the 'Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan' required under the Local Government Act 1999.	Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia(IPWEA)	\$7,000	01/11/2021	15/11/2022	80%
2021.50	Local Government Authorised Persons Professional Framework Review	The aim of the Local Government Authorised Persons Professional Framework is to assist Councils to attract, appoint and develop appropriate staff to fully meet the needs of the role of an authorised person, reflecting the significant changes in responsibility that have occurred through legislative review over the last 15 years.	Local Government Authorised Persons Association	\$20,000	01/09/2021	15/08/2022	5%
2021.04	Support for councils in community wellbeing	This project supports the LGA's funding partnership with Wellbeing SA. A dedicated officer within the LGA will lead and coordinate a range of initiatives supporting and building the capacity of councils to invest in and strengthen community wellbeing planning and implementation.	Local Government Association	\$83,400	06/12/2021	22/12/2023	12%

ID	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Organisation Name	Funds Granted	Start Date	Completion date	% Completed (as per last report)
2021.03	2022 Council Elections Project - Phase One	The primary purpose for this project is ensuring that councils are provided with the support and resources they need to prepare for the 2022 council elections (enabling local campaigns to be integrated with the state-wide campaign).	Local Government Association of SA	\$300,000	01/07/2021	31/12/2022	50%
2021.02	Local Government Reform Implementation (branded "LG Equip")	LG Equip is a comprehensive and cost-effective program that will provide LGA members with all the information, resources and support they will need to successfully implement around 150 new outcomes under the proposed local government reforms. The R&D funding will be used to develop policies, guidelines and templates to enable councils to meet the requirements of the reforms. The LGA's legislation team will work closely with its legal advisors to develop these resources.	Local Government Association of SA	\$390,000	01/07/2021	31/12/2021	75%
2021.01	Supporting councils in the implementation of the Planning and Design Code & PDI Act	To support councils with the implementation of the Planning and Design Code.	Local Government Association of SA	\$50,000	01/07/2021	30/06/2022	80%
2020.61	Resilient South Pilot – Incorporating Climate Risk into Asset Management	This Resilient South project (Cities of Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham, Onkaparinga) provides the information required for councils and asset managers to confidently commit funds and resources towards climate risk management obligations. It is delivered in four phases over four years. The timing allows project outcomes to feed into the next round of legislated Asset Management Plans and LongTerm Financial Plans.	City of Marion	\$99,000.	01/11/2020	25/04/2025	17%
2020.54	Local government: Enabling resilient food systems in South Australia	The project has engaged local governments, communities and stakeholders to build the resilience of local food systems in the face of climate change risks. A local food system is a collaborative network that integrates sustainable food production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management in order to enhance the environmental, economic and social health of an area.	The City of Holdfast Bay	\$40,000	01/10/2020	30/06/2022	90%
2020.10				\$90,000	03/08/2020	13/01/2023	20%

ID	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Organisation Name	Funds Granted	Start Date	Completion date	% Completed (as per last report)
	'Improving educational content in preparation for 2022 Elections'	Review of the 2018 Election highlighted the opportunity for continuous improvement of the educational content for supporting staff, candidates and Elected Members in preparation for the next cycle of Council elections including: 1) Supporting responsible staff in managing council elections 2) building candidate awareness of the expectations of the leadership role 3) building ownership of the role, responsibilities and leadership effectiveness of Elected Members	Local Government Association of SA				
2020.07	Strategic Management Plan Templates	(implementation of Productivity Commission recommendations) The project will include the development of a set of model Long Term Financial Plan, Annual Business Plan and Annual Report templates.	Local Government Association of SA	\$150,000	01/07/2020	26/08/2022	80%
2019.16	Asset Management Integration	A project, to be managed by the LGA Secretariat, to produce: - a sector-wide asset management and financial planning 'Maturity Assessment Report'; and - a Model Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan with model template	Local Government Association of SA	\$100,000	19/09/2019	30/04/2023	30%
2018.09	Financial Sustainability Updates	Checking, revising and updating each one of the LGA'S 21 existing Financial Sustainability Information Papers to reflect recent changes in legislation, good practice and relevant standards.	Local Government Association of SA	\$15,000	17/05/2018	30/10/2023	30%
2018.01	Updated Procurement Resources	to assist councils to modernise their procurement practices, to provide better value for money and to reduce risk	LGA Procurement	\$40,000	17/05/2018	30/06/2022	95%
2015.52	GST Review of Local Government Fees and Charges	to collate a state-wide fees and charges list and obtain a GST Class Ruling from the ATO for the application of all collated fees and charges	SA Local Government Financial Management Group Inc	\$50,000	17/09/2015	31/12/2022	90%

Appendix 6 – Proposed Projects 2022-23

The following LGA Managed projects were approved by the LGA Board on 19 May 2022

ID	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Funds Granted	Start date	Completion date
2022.02	Cost Impacts of the PDI Act 2016	Assessment of the impact of the implementation new planning system (ie the implementation of the PDI Act and P and D Code)	\$ 35,000	01/09/2022	28/04/2023
2021.03	2022 council elections – Stage 2	The primary purpose for this project is ensuring that councils are provided with the support and resources they need to prepare for the 2022 council elections (enabling local campaigns to be integrated with the state-wide campaign). Additional funding granted to stage 2 of this project.	\$ 150,000	01/07/2021	31/12/2022
2022.04	Jetties Research Project: the economic, social and historic value of jetties in South Australia	This project will examine the social, and economic value of jetties and complete a cost benefit analysis of the value to a town's economic value through people visiting the region, walking, fishing and swimming would support advocacy.	\$ 50,000	01/07/2022	16/12/2022
2022.12	Coastal management- council coordination	This project presents the future intent for collaborative action within the local government sector to support long-term social, environmental, and economic resilience for effective coastal management and risk mitigation in South Australia. The project will work to implement a Coastal Coordinator role within the LGA to work with member councils to strengthen collaboration and increase capacity to deliver effective coastal management across SAs 34 coastal councils.	\$ 60,000	01/07/2022	30/06/2023
		Total approved by the LGA Board of Directors	\$295,000		

The following competitive grant round projects were approved by the LGA Board on 15 September 2022.

ID	Project Title	Organisation name	Brief Project Description	Funds Granted	Start date	Completion date
2022.61	Local Government Career Pathways & Workforce Toolkit for Regional South Australia (SA)	Torrens University Australia	This project will develop a Local Government Career Pathways & Workforce Toolkit tailored specifically to the needs of regional SA councils. The toolkit will contain a series of frameworks, strategies, and tools to assist regional councils in their quest to attract, develop and retain their workforces.	\$18,000	09/01/2023	31/08/2023
2022.67	Keys to the digital world: libraries and community centres' critical roles in digital access and connection	South Australian Council of Social Service	This project will draw on SACOSS' knowledge of digital inequity and strong stakeholder networks to produce a research report that outlines the existing work libraries and community centres are doing to address barriers to participating online and provides recommendations for additional work. It will provide an evidence base that libraries, community centres, local government and other stakeholders, including SACOSS, can use to advocate for increased resourcing to support libraries and community centres to further assist community members facing digital exclusion.	\$99,413	01/11/2022	03/11/2023
2022.74	Ending homelessness: a toolkit for local government	Flinders University	Ending homelessness: a toolkit for local government will provide a practical information toolkit formulated to assist local governments to be more actively involved in place-based efforts to end homelessness, particularly rough sleeping homelessness, and to do so as part of a collective with other stakeholders and other local governments where appetite/networks exist. The toolkit is comprised of a series of fact sheets outlining good practice approaches in terms of how local governments can and should be involved and the value of involvement. The project plan details the toolkit structure and focus of fact sheets.	\$78,720	01/11/2022	31/08/2023
2022.79	Quality public spaces: developing placemaking indicators and benchmarks	University of South Australia	This project aims to produce practical resources on placemaking that can aid SA local governments to strategically managing public spaces to achieve better placemaking outcomes for community wellbeing. The specific objectives of the project are as follows: Participants from each of the 19 participating councils will be interviewed and surveyed to identify indicators and develop a benchmark. Its metrics will be informed by interviews and surveys as well as desk research, with potential metrics being financial (budget,	\$38,000	01/11/2022	01/11/2023

			operating expenditure for promotion, energy, maintenance, cleaning etc.), HR, place activation and facility metrics.			
2022.86	Understanding and addressing the housing shortage in the Tatiara, Southern Mallee, Naracoorte Lucindale, and Coorong Local Government Areas	Tatiara District Council (in collaboration with Coorong and Naracoorte Lucindale District Council)	<p>There is current a shortage of 60 – 80 worker's dwelling in the Tatiara, Southern Mallee, Naracoorte Lucindale and Coorong Local Government Areas (Joint Councils).</p> <p>This project will undertake a feasibility study into the delivery of affordable housing for appropriately identified cohorts of people across the four Councils areas. The project is designed to identify opportunities for home ownership and finance options to support this and therefore address the shortage of housing and key worker accommodation. The project will explore the requirements of South Australian Government Financing Authority (SAFA) and also the National Housing Infrastructure Facility (NHIF) to allow the Project to proceed to implementation.</p>	\$112,000	01/11/2022	30/07/2023
2022.92	Shaping Local Civic Youth Leaders	City of Onkaparinga	Shaping Local Civic Youth Leaders is a pilot program led by the City of Onkaparinga, partnering with the Local Government Youth Development Network (LGYDN) members, local youth committees and local leaders to educate, train and support young people to realise their potential in local government. It is important that young people are given the knowledge, skill and opportunities to build their confidence and understanding of how to advocate for issues that are important to them. The program will directly target around 250 young people and their relationship with local government through three activities from October 2022 to November 2023,	\$48,812	31/10/2022	10/11/2023
			Total approved by LGA Board of Directors	\$394,945		

6.7 Special Local Roads Program

LGA Updates

From:	Alyssa Bates, Grants Coordinator	
Strategy:	2 - Assist	
Outcome:	We leverage grant funding for the benefit of councils, and their communities	
Meeting:	Annual General Meeting	28 October 2022
ECM:	782370	

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting notes the report.

Discussion

This report provides the Annual General Meeting with an update on the Special Local Roads Program and the Local Government Transport Advisory Panel.

Background

Managed by the LGA on behalf of the Federal Government, the Special Local Roads Program (SLRP) provides funding through an annual competitive grant round to South Australian councils for the construction and maintenance of strategic local roads.

Funding for SLRP is provided from:

- 15% of identified local roads component of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants.
- 15% of South Australia's Supplementary Local Road Funding (in available years).
- 15% of South Australia's allocation of Roads to Recovery.

In 2014, the LGA established the Local Government Transport Advisory Panel (LGTAP) to consider strategic local road funding allocations under the SLRP and make recommendations to the LGA Board of Directors, which flow to the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission and relevant State and Federal ministers for approval.

The current Local Government Transport Advisory Panel (LGTAP) includes:

- Mayor Keith Parkes (Alexandrina Council) – Chair and member of the LGA Board;
- Mr Richard Dodson (Light Regional Council) – member from a country Council;
- Mr Peter Tsokas (City of Unley) – member from a metropolitan Council;
- Mr Chris Dunn (City of Port Adelaide Enfield) – member from a metropolitan Council;
- Ms Bridget Mather (Coorong District Council) – member from a country Council;
- Mr Lea Bacon (LGA Representative);
- Mr Peter Ilee (South Australian Local Government Grants Commission) – nominee of the Minister for Planning and Local Government; and
- Mr Andrew Excell (Department of Infrastructure and Transport) – Proxy: Mike Wilde.

The LGTAP meeting minutes and agendas can be publicly accessed on the [LGA website](#).

SLRP and LGTAP Governance Review

LGTAP is governed by the LGTAP Terms of Reference. The SLRP operates and is governed by the SLRP Policy Manual.

In late 2021-22, LGTAP commenced a review and update of the governance of the SLRP, noting a need to improve how the program was administered and to increase awareness of how the program operates. The outcome of the review included adopting new Terms of Reference for the LGTAP and undertaking a comprehensive update of the SLRP policies.

In March 2022, a refreshed Terms of Reference and an updated SLRP Policy Manual was presented to the LGA Board of Directors for adoption.

The refreshed Terms of Reference was modelled on the Terms of Reference used for other LGA Board communities, including those used for other major grants such as the Local Government Research & Development Scheme's Advisory Committee. There were no substantive changes to LGTAP's core responsibility, but it better defined the LGTAP's role and how it reports through the LGA Board of Directors. In addition, the number of council representatives was changed from two to four to allow for better succession planning.

The updated SLRP Policy Manual provided an entire re-write of the previous Guidelines, Policy and Process document to more clearly communicate the overall objectives of the SLRP, the application and the assessment process. A process update and clarification was that the LGTAP retains responsibility for evaluating the applications, seeking comment from Regional LGAs during this assessment stage.

Another significant change relates to the assessment process. Previously, the assessment was managed via the SLRP database. The re-write of the Policy Manual included a weighted assessment criteria to better align the objectives of the SLRP with the assessment process. In addition, the assessment process was moved from the SLRP database to the LGA's electronic grant management system (Smarty Grants).

Finally, the updated Policy Manual included greater detailed direction regarding managing scope changes, extensions and fund management of SLRP projects.

The current LGTAP Terms of Reference and SLRP Policy Manual, as endorsed by the LGA Board on 17 March 2022, are available on the LGA website.

2022-23 SLRP Grant Round

Each year the LGTAP calls for applications for SLRP funding from Councils.

The 2022-23 SLRP Grant round opened on Monday 4 April 2022 and closed on Friday 20 May 2022. Thirty-six applications, requesting a total of \$21,122,000 of funding, were received as part of the 2022-23 SLRP Grant round.

At its meeting on 22 July 2022, the LGA Board of Directors endorsed the recommendations put forward by LGTAP, to support 29 SLRP projects with a total funding allocation of \$16,212,000 to the SA Local Government Grants Commission for appropriate recommendation and subsequent formal announcement by respective State and Federal Ministers.

An overview of SLRP Grant recipients can be publicly accessed on the LGA website.

Financial and Resource Implications

This activity has been anticipated in the LGA's work program and resources are available to progress this work.

6.8 LGA Advocacy Update

LGA Updates

From:	Lea Bacon, Acting Executive Director Public Affairs	
Strategy:	K.I 1 Leadership and advocacy	
Outcome:	1A Listen to, and represent members	
Meeting:	Annual General Meeting	28 October 2022
ECM:	781667	Attachment: 779219

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting notes the report.

Discussion

This report provides an update on the key advocacy activities being undertaken by the LGA on behalf of our members.

LGA Strategic Plan

The LGA's Strategic Plan 2021-2025, recognises the LGA will achieve greater influence for local government through a strategic and evidence-based approach to advocacy, partnering with state and federal government wherever possible, and by raising the profile of local government.

The LGA's advocacy seeks to help councils to provide high quality services, facilities and operations that meet the needs of communities, while driving downward pressure on rates.

The LGA's advocacy informs awareness campaigns that shine light on the role and value of local government to ensure that communities understand and value the services provided by local government.

The Strategic Plan acknowledges that success in advocacy is built upon being close to members and understanding what is important to them.

LGA Advocacy Plan

The LGA Advocacy Plan 2019-23¹ guides decision making about the prioritisation of resources, assists in identifying partnership opportunities with key stakeholders and enhances our accountability to our members.

The Advocacy Plan is reviewed each year following the adoption of the Annual Business Plans of the LGA, SAROC and GAROC to ensure that new and emerging issues are captured and to reflect changes in member priorities as identified through Items of Business carried at LGA General Meetings.

¹ https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0039/859188/ECM_713038_v11_LGA-Advocacy-Plan-2019-23-revised-July-2020.pdf

The attached Advocacy Plan has been updated to reflect the political and policy landscape following the South Australian and Federal elections in 2022, the implementation of local government and planning reforms, and seeks to maintain a focus on the priority issues identified in recent election platforms.

The attached LGA Advocacy Plan 2019-23 (revised) was endorsed by the LGA Board of Directors on 15 September 2022 and is provided to member councils for noting.

2022 South Australian Election

Prior to the 2022 State Election, the LGA ran the Local Voices for a Resilient South Australia election campaign². The LGA's approach was to reinforce the role of SA councils as effective partners in government, by highlighting past projects achieved through collaboration and focusing on practical actions state and local governments can take to deliver lasting benefits for our communities.

Focusing on opportunities to work in partnership with the State Government, our influenced-based approach aimed at cultivating beneficial long-term relationships which put us in a strong position to pursue our ongoing advocacy agenda.

A key LGA advocacy outcome was Labor's commitment to give local government a seat at State Cabinet. The LGA also gained interest and momentum across a number of our election asks, including in the areas of housing and health workforce shortages, funding for libraries and digital literacy programs, and commitment to finalise the jetties strategic plan.

Importantly, beyond the state election period the Local Voices platform has set the tone for the how State and local government will work together over the next term of Government through a mutually beneficial relationship - recognising opportunity to leverage influence and further opportunities over time.

State-Local Government Relations Agreement

At their meeting in May 2022, the LGA President and Minister for Local Government, Hon Geoff Brock MP, discussed the opportunity to establish a model for State-Local Government relations which will include SA Labor's pre-election commitment to provide representatives from the local government sector a quarterly audience with Cabinet.

It is understood that local government involvement in these quarterly meetings will not include observing the deliberations of Cabinet but will involve dialogue with Cabinet ministers about issues of strategic importance to the local government sector.

The LGA President has subsequently written to Minister Brock with an outline of a potential framework for a State-Local Government Relations Agreement, to inform the model currently being drafted by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC).

2022 Federal Election

The LGA's state election strategy was developed in parallel with the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) Federal Election campaign strategy - Don't Leave Local Communities Behind!³

The Local Voices platform focused on several issues that also align with Federal issues and ALGA's identified priorities, including in relation to housing availability and affordability, gaps in

² Local voices | LGA South Australia

³ https://alga.com.au/app/uploads/alga-election-priorities_web.pdf

digital connectivity, and the need to establish climate partnerships and transition to a circular economy.

Strong advocacy from ALGA, state and territory local government associations and councils around the nation delivered the following key advocacy outcomes and commitments from the Labor Government:

Grants

In 2022-23 the Federal Financial Assistance Grants provided to all councils will increase – at a minimum – from \$2.7 billion to \$2.8 billion, due to the application of indexation. Beyond these allocations, the new Federal Government has committed to providing “fair increases” to Financial Assistance Grants.

Labor committed to support the Coalition’s \$500 million commitment to the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program and increase this by \$250 million, pledged \$200 million per year for disaster mitigation through its Disaster Ready Fund, and \$400 million for expanding mobile coverage in regional Australia.

National Cabinet

Advocacy resulted in ALGA being appointed to National Cabinet for the first time, following the Morrison Government’s decision to abolish the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

2022-23 Federal Budget (October)

The LGA supported ALGA to highlight the following priorities for councils in October’s Federal Budget:

- No net reduction in funding to local government: including dedicated funding programs specifically for councils, as well as competitive grants programs that councils have been eligible to apply for and successful in delivering.
- Financial Assistance Grants – most grants for 2022-23 were pre-paid to councils in 2021-22. ALGA offered to work with the Government towards establishing a quantum for “fair increases” to Financial Assistance Grants, with a view to implementing phased increases for these grants from 2023-24.
- First and last mile funding: ALGA called for \$300 million per annum over four years to help address road freight first and last mile issues that are hindering national productivity. This request recognises sensible heavy vehicle reform that boosts productivity while acknowledging the capacity and financial constraints faced by council road managers.
- Reaffirming the 15 funding priorities for Australian councils in ALGA’s 2022-23 pre-budget submission, including \$20 million per year permanent supplementary road funding for South Australia.

The LGA and ALGA will submit full budget submissions ahead of the 2023-24 Budget, which will focus on how councils can play an increased role driving productivity, while improving the wellbeing of our communities.

SA State Budget 2022-23

In advance of the 2022-23 State Budget, the LGA President wrote to the Treasurer, Hon Stephen Mullighan MP, to highlight local government advocacy on funding for jetties and public libraries as two immediate and practical issues, whereby an injection of State funding will make a significant impact on the prosperity of local communities. It was noted that these are both issues that the LGA has been discussing with State Government and are significantly progressed with the relevant department and agencies.

The LGA prepared an analysis of the 2022-23 State Budget that was handed down on 2 June 2022⁴. The LGA welcomed the State Budget's significant investments in health services, public housing and homelessness supports, tourism industry assistance, and reforms to procurement processes designed to engage more local businesses.

The LGA, however, highlighted concerns about cuts to programs which were focused on increasing urban green cover and tree canopy in the Adelaide metropolitan area. The LGA President has subsequently written to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Hon Susan Close MP, to seek further clarification on the State Government's commitment to this important issue.

The LGA's post-budget media release also expressed disappointment that the return of annual indexation to public library funding and \$10 million for priority jetty maintenance work was not included in the Budget. The LGA President has subsequently written to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP, urging that the Jetties Strategic Plan be finalised and released to identify a sustainable approach to the future management and prioritisation of investment for SA jetties.

The President wrote to the Minister for Education about the importance of library funding, as well as the role of school community libraries in regional areas in supporting education, literacy and access to online services. The Government has now committed \$4M towards the Ceduna Area School Special Education Unit, thereby permitting the Ceduna School Community Library to remain on site.

Planning update

Minister for Planning

The new Minister for Planning, Hon Nick Champion MP, has attended a number of LGA activities, including attending a GAROC Committee meeting and the Regional and Metropolitan CEO Forums. The LGA President also met with the Minister on 25 July 2022 and discussed a range of issues relating to the implementation of the planning system.

Discontinuance of the ePlanning levy

The LGA has recently written to the Minister for Planning regarding the ePlanning levy that councils are required to pay to support the cost of establishing and maintaining the SA Planning Portal.

The LGA and councils have raised with previous State governments the inequity of councils being required to pay this levy.

⁴ ECM_777470_v3_LGA State Budget 2022-23 Highlights and Analysis

The LGA considers that State Government agencies, the development industry and all South Australians also benefit from the ePlanning system, as they can lodge and track applications online, make payments, submit and receive information and track projects and development applications in real time.

Based on the contribution schedule outlined in the correspondence, the LGA estimates that local government is contributing approximately \$1.2 million annually through the ePlanning levy.

The LGA also estimates that the State Government is also receiving in excess of \$10 million annually in lodgement fees. The LGA has requested that the Minister give consideration to apportioning the lodgement fee on a 50/50 basis between the State Government and local councils to enable councils to support the State Government in delivering the planning system to all South Australians.

Review of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*

The State Government has established an Expert Panel to provide advice to the State Government on matters relating to the new planning system.

To prepare the local government sector for this review, the LGA Secretariat has undertaken a review of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, supporting regulations and the Practice Directions to identify areas for improvement.

The LGA will provide a submission to the Expert Panel in the coming months.

Certificate of Occupancy

The LGA was made aware that a request was made to the Minister to defer the reintroduction of Certificate of Occupancies (CoO) for Class 1a buildings for a further 18 months, until 1 January 2024.

The request was made by the building industry, as they considered that the July 2022 reintroduction of the CoO may result in delays in occupation of homes and payment of final progress payments to builders, with these delays being compounded by the increase in home approvals owing to the HomeBuilder stimulus package.

Following consultation with councils, the LGA advised the Minister that the delay of 18 months would appear both excessive and unnecessary and there should be consideration to implement CoOs to bring South Australia into line with other states.

The Minister advised that he was supportive of a delay until January 2024. However, he also indicated that there would be no extensions beyond this time.

The LGA Secretariat will engage with the sector in relation to the development of housing occupancy requirements as they may differ between metropolitan and regional areas.

Planning and Building Staff Shortages within local government

The Minister was recently made aware that there was no longer an undergraduate planning course in South Australia, and that councils across the State were having difficulties in attracting and retaining qualified planning and building staff, particularly within the regions.

The private sector over the past 12 months has recruited a large number of experienced planners from councils, and many of these planners are now being contracted back to councils to assist them with the assessment of development applications.

The LGA has recently conducted a survey of councils, and from those who responded, it has been identified that there is a shortfall of 34 planning practitioners and 29 building practitioners.

While there is little likelihood of the undergraduate planning degree being established in the short term, there is the option of re-establishing the Certificate 4 (Planning) through TAFE or a registered training provider (RTO). This would necessitate funding from the State Government in preparing a syllabus based on the new system. Administration staff and possibly cadets could undertake this course to provide support for planning staff.

Other advocacy outcomes

Free flu vaccination program

On 29 May 2022, the State Government announced free flu vaccinations for all South Australians to relieve pressure on the state's hospitals. Initially the government only committed to reimbursing General Practitioners and pharmacists for the costs of providing these free vaccinations.

In response to LGA advocacy, SA Health has confirmed the State Government will also reimburse council vaccination clinics for the costs of administering both the National Immunisation Program funded flu vaccine and the non-funded flu vaccine. Councils were able to offer the free vaccine and invoice SA Health for all vaccines provided between 29 May and 30 June 2022.

Borrow pits

Via SAROC, the LGA has advocated for appropriate consideration of council borrow pit activities within the *Mining Act 1971* and relevant regulations.

The LGA Secretariat and Local Government Risk Services (LGRS) have held discussions with SafeWork SA regarding council borrow pit activities. These meetings and subsequent correspondence have confirmed how SafeWork SA consider the *Mining Act 1971* and regulations to apply to council activities in rubble raising in regional areas for roads maintenance programs.

New SafeWork SA interpretation clarifies that the requirement for a mine manager would only be active as and when there were operational mining or processing activities taking place at the site. This would allow for a competent works operative to be designated as the mine manager for the site they are going to work on at that point in time, alleviating the need for them to be considered as a manager of multiple sites and the council and regulator having to go through this gazettal process every time a pit is opened or closed.

LGRS are preparing an education program to be rolled out as councils are informed about this outcome.

LGA submissions⁵

ESCOSA Draft Framework and Approach – Advice to councils on Strategic Management Plans

As part of wide-ranging reforms to the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Local Government Act) the Strategic Management Plan Advice Scheme (SMP Advice Scheme) commenced on 30 April 2022.

The Essential Services Commission of SA (ESCOSA) developed a draft Framework and Approach setting out its proposals for administering the SMP Advice Scheme, seeking public submissions by 27 May 2022. The LGA received a strong and well considered response from councils on ESCOSA's proposals and provided a submission that confirms LGA and local government sector support a SMP Advice Scheme which aligns with that contemplated by the changes to section 122 and seeks to address:

⁵ [LGA Submissions | LGA South Australia](#)

- high level advice to councils which highlights where material amendments made (or proposed to be made) may affect a council's long-term financial sustainability (with reference to the already identified and industry-recognised financial indicator target ranges) and/or may affect a council's ability to maintain and implement their LTFP and IAMP(s);
- high level advice to councils on the appropriateness of the council's proposed approach to funding services and infrastructure as outlined in the funding plan within the LTFP and the IAMP(s) whilst having regard to the intended sources of total revenue and whether council has considered the appropriateness of the financial contributions proposed to be made by ratepayers.

The submission reinforced that the LGA and the local government sector do not support ESCOSA developing a SMP Advice Scheme which:

- expands the scope of the Scheme;
- seeks to limit the discretion bestowed upon councils under the Local Government Act;
- replicates work performed by other agencies (such as reporting data to the Local Government Grants Commission) and/or already required by legislation (e.g., every council must already audit its accounts); and
- will place upwards pressure on rates.

The LGA also raised significant concerns with the focus on rates and the proposed comparison of council rate increases against CPI. This was a perspective shared by many council submissions as part of the consultation process.

The Essential Services Commission of SA has completed its consultation seeking input on the framework for the new Strategic Management Plan Advice Scheme, which came into effect on 30 April 2022.

Disappointingly, the framework has not picked up some of the feedback provided by the sector, with only a small number of concessions made to the scheme.

The LGA welcomes the statutory framework set out in section 122 of the Local Government Act and recognises the value in council's receiving high level advice to improve their strategic management planning processes, long-term financial sustainability, and financial decision-making.

We recognise councils work hard for their residents, including keeping rates down. The LGA remains open and willing to work with ESCOSA on the details of how the scheme will run, including proposed costs to the sector.

The LGA is continuing to look at options to further engage and will seek to ensure the objectives of the scheme are kept focused on supporting councils with strategic management planning processes which can give confidence to communities on council operations. We have also discussed these matters with the State Government through the Minister for Local Government.

To support those councils in the first year of the schedule, the LGA is facilitating a Community of Practice.

ESCOSA's final advice for councils in year one of the four-year schedule is due to be made available in late February 2023. The LGA will keep members updated on this work as it continues.

Regional housing – advocacy and toolkit

Via SAROC, the LGA has developed advocacy for State and Federal Government policies that develop a roadmap for increasing regional housing supply that includes better incentives for private development in regional areas and alternative funding models for affordable housing projects and associated infrastructure, including a process to secure government funds.

At its meeting on 26 May 2022, SAROC received a final report from Leonie Boothby & Associates, which informed advocacy positions. The research advice is also informing the development of an online Local Government Regional Housing Support Framework (toolkit) – for individual councils to refer to when considering local interventions.

On 27 June 2022, SAROC held a Regional Housing Roundtable with senior State Government representatives from the Department for Trade and Investment, Renewal SA, PIRSA, SA Housing Authority, and the Department for Treasury and Finance.

At the roundtable, councils discussed the impacts that housing affordability and availability is having on communities from both a social and economic perspective and outlined both the causes and steps they have taken to address the issue.

SAROC has identified advocacy on policy reforms needed to:

- improve the financial incentives for regional housing developments;
- increase state and federal government funding for the expansion of essential services infrastructure; and
- establish case management resources to support the development of regionally specific business cases – needed to prove the financial viability of regional housing developments.

SAROC has written to the State and Federal Government (and Opposition) in the following terms:

Letter to the Premier and the Minister for Local Government to request support for State Government leadership in a coordinated response, and efforts across State and local government, including:

- a. acknowledging in Cabinet that this issue has critical implications for many ministers and their portfolios;
- b. development of a roadmap for increasing regional housing supply that includes better incentives for private development in regional areas and alternative funding models for affordable housing projects and associated infrastructure, including a process to secure government funds; and
- c. establishing collaborative Regional Housing Crisis Task Force (or similar) featuring suitable representation from State Government agencies and the local government sector, and sufficient staff resourcing to progress associated follow-up work.

Letter to the Australian Government's Minister for Housing, requesting:

- a. information about the Government's proposed National Housing Supply and Affordability Council;
- b. information about the criteria which will be used to determine the locations for the Government's proposed 20,000 new social housing dwellings and 10,000 affordable homes for frontline workers;
- c. the Government consider a new program that seeks to address the shortage of affordable rental housing by offering financial incentives for property developers, not-for-profit organisations, and community housing providers; and

d. the Government consider lowering the development project value threshold for access to the National Housing Infrastructure Facility, given the smaller scale of viable residential developments in regional South Australia.

Letter to the State Minister for Housing and Urban Development requesting:

- a. that he advises whether there are any resource or policy barriers which explain why Renewal SA is not currently engaging in any regional residential projects, at a time when severe housing shortages are being experienced throughout regional South Australia;
- b. consideration be given to Renewal SA making available suitably qualified case management staff, based in regional areas, to conduct regional data analysis and regional housing business case development; and
- c. consideration be given to the establishment of a Regional Development Housing Infrastructure Fund to finance the installation or expansion of essential services infrastructure systems, given the significant barrier to regional residential development infrastructure costs present; and

Letters to the Treasurers of both the Australian Government and South Australian Government requesting that they consider targeted tax incentives for regional first homebuyers and investors (including employers) to incentivise investment in regional residential developments.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ)

Following detailed consultation with member councils, the LGA made a submission regarding a Proposal for Food Safety Management Tools. SA councils have sought changes to the regulatory landscape in food standards for many years and the LGA has welcomed the proposals that progress a nationally consistent risk-based regulation system.

The LGA submission highlighted that the proposed reforms rely heavily on the systems, resources and guidance materials being available in time for implementation, as well as additional resources being in place to assist councils to communicate these proposals to their local food businesses and communities.

Review of the Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA)

With input from member councils and the Local Government Disability Advisory Group, the LGA provided a response to the Department of Human Services' Discussion Paper on a review of the *Disability Inclusion Act 2018*.

The LGA submission acknowledged that the Act is an important part of South Australia's legislative scheme. While local government's consensus view is that the legislation has been well received and no changes are required at this time, the submission provided additional feedback to improve collaborations on the promotion, engagement and support for implementing disability access and inclusion planning.

A key recommendation made in the submission was for the LGA and DHS to work together to explore additional grant opportunities / funding from state and federal governments to enable councils to support the implementation of the *Disability Inclusion Act 2018* (SA) and Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-31, and to deliver access and inclusion initiatives in local communities.

Research

Regional Health Workforce

SAROC has commissioned Dr Kristine Peters (Principal Consultant, KPPM Strategy) to develop a Regional Health Workforce Toolkit. Once completed, the toolkit will provide advice to councils experiencing health workforce shortages about actions they can take to attract (and retain) health professionals to live and work in their communities.

To inform this work, the LGA Secretariat has undertaken research and consultation with regional councils to investigate the key barriers preventing the recruitment of a sustainable health workforce, with a focus on general practitioners (GPs), and has explored successful actions previously taken by councils.

This work will inform future LGA advocacy, targeted at shaping state-wide and community-based initiatives which address health workforce shortages in regional areas.

Immunisation

The LGA has engaged a consultant to undertake evidence-based research and consult with councils to determine what the costs are to councils in providing immunisation programs. The findings will be used to support councils in making sound financial decisions and will further inform the LGA's advocacy that the State Government invest an additional \$2.4 million to provide ongoing, sustainable and equitable funding.

Partnerships

The LGA continues to partner with the State Government in the delivery of the following programs:

Wellbeing SA Public Health Partnership Agreement

In 2021, the LGA entered into a new agreement with Wellbeing SA to become a Public Health Partnership Authority. The agreement between the two organisations recognises the shared interest in progressing strategies to deliver better health and wellbeing outcomes through effective action in wellbeing and prevention.

The project will link councils with State Government-led initiatives, showcase impactful work by councils, identify the need for training or other resources, and amplify councils' voices to influence future policy development.

A new Senior Project Officer Wellbeing has started with the LGA, and she will lead the implementation of the agreement over the next two years.

Early priorities identified include walking campaigns and working with councils on promoting nature-based activities, urban greening, and mental health.

Local Government Early Childhood Community Innovation Grants

The Department for Education has partnered with the LGA to provide South Australian councils with the opportunity to apply for a one-off competitive grant of up to \$15,000 for individual councils and up to \$30,000 for collaborations between councils and/or community organisations.

These grants provide an opportunity for councils and local communities to respond directly to the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) results by considering initiatives that will support the needs of children (ages 0-5) and their families.

There were 18 applications for this grant program, with a total of \$180,000 allocated to the twelve successful projects which include projects as diverse as the City of Campbelltown developing a children's policy to a Little Creators STEM Workshop being delivered by the District Council of Loxton Waikerie. Councils have two years to deliver projects and the program provides a useful way to promote the AEDC data through councils and share learnings across the sector.

Heavy Vehicles Partnership Program

The two-year secondment of an officer from the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) has now concluded, culminating with the release of the Road Manager Guideline, adding to the wealth of resources available to councils on the LGA website.

Through the partnership with DIT, the officer was able to work closely with councils supporting them in their responsibilities as road managers, and the program received positive feedback from councils, industry, ALGA and other stakeholders. The future of this work is being discussed with DIT.

Regional Climate Partnerships Coordinator

The LGA is continuing its partnership with Green Adelaide and the Department for Environment and Water to provide central coordination for the Regional Climate Partnerships program, which establishes a network of cross-sectoral groups working to strengthen the climate resilience of their communities. The central Coordinator role, based at the LGA, has provided strength in collaboration, efficiencies, and clear direction for the local government sector. Activities such as the GAROC Climate Change Action Forum, hosted on 28 May 2022, have supported the work of the program. The Forum was attended by the newly appointed Deputy Premier, Hon Susan Close MP, who spoke passionately about the importance of state/local government partnerships, together with twelve mayors, and senior State Government agency representatives.

Items of Business

The LGA has undertaken the following actions to progress 'advocacy' related items of business carried by member councils at the Ordinary General Meeting in April 2022.

Implementation of an electronic portal for issuing of permits pursuant to the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 (District Council of Loxton Waikerie)

The LGA President has written to the Minister for Emergency Services, Hon Joe Szakacs MP, to advocate that he instruct and fund the SA Country Fire Service to implement an online portal for application, approval and issuing of permits pursuant to the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*, prior to the commencement of the 2022-23 fire season. The Minister has responded to say he has asked the CFS to investigate sustainable options to improve this system.

Electric Vehicles Taxes (City of Victor Harbor)

The LGA Secretariat has liaised with ALGA to inform its strategies for continuing to progress electric vehicles as an advocacy issue with the Federal Government.

The LGA President has written to the Federal Government to advocate that they remove the Luxury Car Tax on Electric Vehicles and other 'fuel efficient' vehicles. The Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy has responded to say that his government is developing a National Electric Vehicle Strategy which will consider measures to increase sales and they have already introduced an Electric Car Discount to exempt many EVs from import tariffs and fringe benefits tax.

Research into the Population Status and Decline of Little Penguins in South Australia

The LGA President has written to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Hon Susan Close MP, requesting that she review the strategies and management plans applicable to increasing the Little Penguin population within all coastal councils, to save them from extinction.

Stamp Duty on Regional Residential Property in South Australia (Barunga West Council)

The Chair of SAROC, Mayor Erika Vickery OAM, has written to the Treasurer, Hon Stephen Mullighan MP, requesting that he investigate options to exempt or reduce stamp duty taxes on regional residential property purchases to incentivise regional migration and increase regional residential demand, including from first home buyers.

Rough Sleeper/Homelessness Initiative (Town of Gawler)

In December 2021, the LGA was approached by the South Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (SAAEH), a state-wide collective of community and business representatives committed to ending rough sleeping homelessness.

As anticipated in this item of business, the LGA is currently working with SAAEH to:

- ensure that the LGA is represented within the governance structure of the SA Alliance to End Homelessness; and
- sign an updated MOU between the Institute of Global Homelessness and South Australian stakeholders (including the newly elected Malinauskas Government).

The LGA also co-hosted a local government forum on rough sleeping homelessness, targeted at mayors and CEOs on 4 August 2022, which detailed the international success of the Advance to Zero methodology, and explored how this methodology may be expanded beyond the inner-city Adelaide area.

The LGA is also liaising with Homelessness Alliance service providers and associated councils on their experiences in developing and implementing pilot projects using the Advance to Zero methodology.

Review of Local Government Disaster Recovery Assistance Arrangements (LGA Secretariat)

The LGA President has written to the Treasurer, Hon Stephen Mullighan MP, seeking support for a review of the Local Government Disaster Recovery Assistance Arrangements (LGDRAA), with a view to addressing the need to:

- make the LGDRAA simpler and more definitive in terms of the support provided to councils in the event of a natural disaster;
- significantly reduce the current thresholds for cost reimbursement to levels consistent with other state jurisdictions;
- ensure that the significant internal costs borne by councils during and after a natural disaster are acknowledged and can be recovered in the funding frameworks;
- provide clarity on the eligibility of both the short-term and long-term costs relating to the clean-ups of damaged verge trees and road clearance; and
- provide further clarity on the ability of councils to recover direct counter disaster operations costs from Control Agencies, and the merits of removing this ability so that the LGDRAA can be an all-encompassing funding framework.

The LGA has not yet received a response on this issue.

Financial and Resource Implications

Developing the evidence base and third-party support needed to successfully pursue legislative, policy or funding changes requires a significant investment of time and resources in data collection and analysis, policy research, consultation with members, stakeholder engagement, policy development and positioning through an advocacy strategy.

The LGA Advocacy Plan allows the LGA to be more strategic by defining the parameters of the LGA's advocacy activities and ensuring that adequate resources are available to give important issues the time and attention required to achieve the outcomes desired by members. The Plan provides a useful guide to the Board of Directors, SAROC and GAROC, when assessing the importance and urgency of any new issues raised.



LGA Advocacy Plan 2019 – 2023

First endorsed: September 2019

Latest revision: August 2022

Introduction

The object of the LGA is to achieve public value through the promotion and advancement of the interests of local government. From an advocacy perspective, the focus of the LGA is advocating to achieve greater influence for local government in matters affecting councils and communities.

The LGA is at the forefront of strategic policy development and reform in the local government sector. We seek to achieve influence for local government in matters affecting South Australian councils and their local communities. We do this by listening to and representing our 68 member councils and building positive relationships with people and organisations with an interest in or influence over matters of importance to local government.

There is significant value in the leadership and advocacy driven by the LGA in partnership with our member councils. Recent significant advocacy outcomes the LGA and our member councils have achieved include securing sensible, evidence-based local government reform within the *Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021* and state and federal stimulus funding for local government to support economic and community recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the national level, working with the Australian Local Government Association, we have secured the Commonwealth Government's commitment to extend South Australia's supplementary local roads funding to 2023, and extensions to the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund.

Speaking with one voice through the LGA gives the local government sector and SA councils a 'seat at the table' with decision makers. This means that our communities can enjoy the benefits of governments working in partnership towards common objectives.

Councils that are adequately resourced and supported by an enabling and contemporary state legislative framework are a strong partner in government and can make a great contribution to the economic and social progress of South Australia.

LGA Strategic Plan 2021-25

The LGA Strategic Plan 2021-25 identifies Advocacy as a key strategy and outlines the following outcomes that activities in this Advocacy Plan seek to deliver:

1. We are close to our members, seek their feedback and represent them with evidence-based advocacy on issues that matter.
2. Governments rely on our proactive contribution to policy and legislation that impacts councils, leading to better outcomes for communities.
3. Communities understand and value the services provided by local government and are encouraged to participate in council processes.

2019 – 2023 Advocacy Plan

The purpose of the LGA Advocacy Plan 2019-2023 is to define and prioritise the LGA's advocacy agenda to increase certainty and transparency for members about the outcomes being pursued on their behalf, and to ensure that sufficient resources are available to progress and monitor these important issues. The plan will help the LGA to deliver a focused and effective advocacy agenda over the next four years.

The Advocacy Plan is intended to sit alongside the LGA's Strategic Plan, Annual Business Plans and Policy Manual as an important part of the LGA's Strategic Management Framework. It guides decision making about the prioritisation of resources, assists in identifying partnership opportunities with key stakeholders and enhances our accountability to our members.

This Advocacy Plan is not a complete list of everything the LGA is doing on behalf of its members. The LGA provides a range of additional services that 'Assist' and 'Advance' councils, such as education and training, commercial services, guidelines and model documents, governance advice and research and development.

The Plan's four-year horizon recognises that effective, evidence-based advocacy can take time and the need for advocacy activities to be carefully timed around key events such as State and Federal Government budgets and election cycles.

While the LGA always uses best endeavours to forecast the key issues that will need to be addressed over the coming years, there will always be new issues for local government that emerge during the life of this plan that require an advocacy response from the LGA. The Advocacy Plan will be monitored quarterly and updated annually to allow for reprioritisation of the LGA's work plan as new issues emerge, issues evolve, or as member priorities change.

The issues and actions on the 2019-23 Advocacy Plan have been updated to reflect the current context of the local government, planning and waste reforms, as well as new advocacy to support the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the sector and member councils' actions to support economic and community recovery.

Aims - what successful advocacy looks like

Commitments / Relationships / Reputation

Commitments

Elicit genuine and specific commitments from State and Federal government that are relevant to local government's priorities and community outcomes.

Commitments can take the form of:

- funding for councils via targeted contributions and competitive grants – leveraging allocations from existing programs, as well as maintaining and building on existing commitments;
- legislation and regulations that enable local government services and consider implications (cost, appropriate support) for councils; and
- development of Government strategies and policies that reflect insights and experience of local government, including a 'seat at the table' with representation on relevant groups.

Relationships

Set the tone for how local government will work as a partner in government through mutually beneficial intergovernmental relations - recognising opportunity to leverage influence and further opportunities over time through ongoing advocacy.

Reputation

LGA advocacy creates the opportunity to progress and influence local government's brand and reputation with key decision makers and influencers:

- Government, ministers, Opposition and department agencies – build on the trust and credibility of the sector, reset conflicts and change the conversation on points of difference.
- Peak bodies and other key influencers – identify opportunities to align and build a coalition of support on common areas of interest

Principles - an influence-based approach

The LGA adopts an influence-based approach to advocacy and acknowledges that the most influential way to garner support or 'change the mind' of State Government decision making (our advocacy goal) is to:

- convey urgency and inspire action on priorities, with a focus on the meaningful and practical measures State and local government can pursue;
- acknowledge and build on our common ground, highlight shared achievements and demonstrate a credible track record to be built upon;
- adopt a tone that is positive, credible and likeable, while not glossing over points of difference or opportunities that may be missed;
- leverage local government as a respectful, reliable partner that is trusted by the governments, department agencies and the community;
- focus on areas of strength and relevance for the local government sector; and
- support positions with a small number of cohesive, compelling reasons, back with targeted examples and case studies from member councils.

2022-23 advocacy priorities and actions

The issues and actions set out in this Plan have been informed by our members through annual surveys, general meetings, the LGA Board of Directors, and the SAROC and GAROC committees. They also reflect legislative and policy reforms being undertaken by the State and Federal Government that are relevant to the role of councils and impact on local communities.

Local government has a broad range of roles and responsibilities, and the diversity of the sector's interests is reflected in the LGA's Advocacy Plan. Typically, the LGA will prioritise issues that have an immediate direct impact on local government such as changes to the responsibilities, funding, and compliance obligations of councils.

During 2022-23, the LGA will dedicate most of its advocacy focus and resources towards the following priority issues.

- supporting advocacy via the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to increase federal **Financial Assistance Grants** and secure long-term certainty of **supplementary road funding for South Australia**.
- establishing a **State-Local Government Relations Agreement** that provides a framework for ensuring State Government action responds to local needs and considers local solutions.
- informing the State Government's independent review of the **Planning Development and Infrastructure Act** and associated documents
- engaging with the State Planning Commission to enable close collaboration and evidenced based investigations during the review of the **Regional Plans** and the review of the **Thirty-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide**.
- developing a roadmap with state and federal governments for increasing **regional housing** supply that includes better incentives for private development in regional areas and alternative funding models for affordable housing projects and associated infrastructure, including a process to secure government funds.
- establishing a formal role for the local government sector to shape state-wide and community-based initiatives to better address **medical workforce shortages** in regional areas.
- achieving access to 50 per cent of council contributions to the Green Industry Fund (through solid waste levy payments) for local government in the form of grants for waste initiatives, trials and programs to support achievement of the State Government's waste targets or the transition to a **circular economy**.
- informing and encouraging a **review of mandatory rebates**, discounts and exemptions resulting in councils' discretion to determine rating structures which produce the best outcomes for all community members.
- securing the future funding of **South Australian libraries**, including restoring CPI to the Government's funding contribution, allocating funds to digital inclusion programs, funding a

dedicated grants program to drive innovation and reform, and finalising new arrangements for Schools Community Libraries.

- increasing state and federal government grant funding for **coastal adaptation** initiatives.
- improving **stormwater management** by securing increased funding in the Stormwater Management Fund and informing a stormwater reform process in partnership with the Stormwater Management Authority
- releasing the South Australian **Jetties Strategic Plan** that includes a \$10 million State Government investment in priority jetty maintenance and upgrades
- securing additional State Government investment to provide ongoing sustainable and equitable funding for councils to deliver **immunisation services**.
- delivering the advocacy identified in the **LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan 2021-23** to drive urgent and sustained action to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- establishing a **State-Local Government Climate Change Partnership** that provides long term certainty for the Regional Climate Partnership Sector Agreements, commits to practical action on adaptation and mitigation, and embeds South Australia's leadership on climate change at the national level.
- Lobbying for State Government leadership to provide ongoing operational support to ensure an effective response to **hoarding and squalor** in South Australia.
- Promoting the need for the Australian Government together with States and Territories to commit to a **national plan to end homelessness** by 2030 which addresses all the drivers of homelessness.
- informing the forthcoming legislated review of the **Dog and Cat Management Act 1995**.
- Negotiating the **implementation of local government reforms** and liaising with relevant State Government bodies to limit resource impacts and costs to council arising from the reforms including lobbying for further change where unintended consequences of reforms are identified.
- Liaising with State Government and key stakeholders to support councils to meet statutory strategic management planning requirements, enhance financial management capability and advocating for change in relation to **strategic management plan oversight arrangements**.
- Negotiating with the Legislative Review Committee to **reform by-law making arrangements** and so reduce the number of council by-laws disallowed by Parliament.

2019 – 2023 advocacy issues

Theme: Local Government Sector

Local government welcomes its role as a partner in government and shall continue to work closely with state and federal governments and other key stakeholders to seek solutions to issues that impact communities.

Objective: Advocate for sensible local government reform and build the respect of federal and state government in all transactions between the spheres of government.

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Local Government Reform – implementation	<p>The LGA has worked with member councils and the Parliament of South Australia to arrive at sensible and effective reforms that will drive downward pressure on council rates, improve the financial sustainability of councils, and deliver lasting benefits to South Australian communities.</p> <p>Implementation of the reforms contained in the Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021 will be most effective if they are driven by the local government sector through the LGA.</p> <p>The LGA has already allocated additional internal resources to help progress this work, but without additional funding support there is a risk that the reform implementation will fall short of the expectations of councils or their communities.</p>	<p>The LGA has allocated an additional \$250,000 to support the reform implementation project and seeks a matching contribution from the State Government to increase the LGA's capacity to deliver the benefits of a high-performing local government sector.</p> <p>LGA advocacy is also aimed at ensuring the commencement of each element of the legislative scheme occurs once councils have had time to update policies, procedures, IT systems, forms and processes and for council members and staff to complete training on the new arrangements.</p>	<p>Pursue opportunities to request an increase in State Government funding and resources to successfully implement meaningful local government reform.</p> <p>Continue to consult extensively with member councils as the LGA commences work on an implementation plan of the 150 outcomes required to support councils to implement the proposed changes.</p> <p>Liaise with relevant ministers and members of parliament to inform discussions and build support for required Ministerial approval.</p>	LGA Board

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
State- Local Government Relations Agreement	<p>Coordination across all governments in planning, funding and delivering facilities and services can maximise the value of investments by governments. This can be best facilitated through formal structures such as the State-Local Government Relations Agreement and the Premier's State- Local Government Forum.</p> <p>A more cooperative, strategic approach to providing and using public infrastructure will reduce duplication, lower asset operating costs and create a strong foundation for the attraction of businesses and skilled labour needed for economic growth.</p>	To enable local government to deliver on its potential as a partner to advance South Australia, the LGA is asking the State Government to support a State-Local Government Relations Agreement to provide a foundation for more productive state-local partnerships.	<p>Continue to outline the benefits of a formal partnership in correspondence with the Premier and senior Government Ministers.</p> <p>Proactively identify and pursue opportunities to work collaboratively with the State Government, through its departments and agencies.</p> <p>Develop proposals and seek to enter into agreements for grants and programs that deliver interdependent value for the state government, councils and their communities.</p>	LGA Board

Theme: Financial Sustainability

Local government acknowledges its statutory obligation to be sustainable and that this can only be achieved through attainment and maintenance of financial sustainability.

Objective: Maximise contributions, investment and the appropriate policy settings from other spheres of government to contribute toward local government financial sustainability.

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Federal funding to local government – FAGs	The financial sustainability of councils and their ability to provide essential services and infrastructure in their communities is impacted by the relative decline in core federal funding in the form of Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs).	Restore the quantum of Financial Assistance Grants to at least 1 per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue	<p>Support ALGA in developing a Federal advocacy campaign and promote the use of the campaign in SA.</p> <p>Build third party support from individuals and organisations that would benefit from increased local investment.</p> <p>Use member communications to encourage councils to acknowledge the financial contribution of the Federal Government toward local projects.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to identify projects and services being delivered by councils that support the priorities and objectives of the Federal Government.</p>	LGA Board

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Review of statutory fees, charges and mandatory rebates.	<p>In most cases, the fees and charges that are set by State Government regulations for the provision of services do not cover the cost of providing the service. For example, planning fees only cover between 20-30% of the cost of providing assessment services, with the other 70-80% subsidised by all ratepayers. Setting user fees and charges too low puts pressure on council rates and requires public funds to be used inequitably for private benefits.</p> <p>Where a State Government role or function is to be undertaken by Local Government on the State's behalf (mandated or by agreement) then those roles and functions must come with an appropriate level of funding and/or fees structures which actually recover the cost of service arrangements.</p> <p>Mandatory rebates place inequitable burden on all other ratepayers. Legislative changes are required to ensure that rates are charged equitably across all properties that have capacity to pay their fair share.</p>	<p>Commitment and action from the State Government to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adopt a policy that allows statutory fees and charges to be increased to achieve reasonable recovery of costs. undertake a review of mandatory statutory rebates and exemptions from payment of local government rates. <p>Relevant legislation be amended to remove or recompense councils for state-government mandated discounts on rates for: Community housing / Electricity providers / Religious services / Public cemeteries / Educational purposes.</p>	<p>Continue to outline the need for the State Government to conduct a comprehensive review of local government fees and charges to establish modern price setting principles which promote efficiency, flexibility and fairness in service delivery.</p> <p>Work with interested councils to undertake analysis and prepare an issues paper to inform and advocate for a review of the mandatory rate rebates that councils are compelled to provide; and engage an appropriate economic advisory consultant to prepare a report for government advocating for changes to statutory rate rebates and exemptions in SA.</p> <p>Continue to advocate for legislative changes that would see renewable energy generators paying a fair share of rates to reduce the financial burden on the wider community.</p>	<p>LGA Board</p> <p>GAROC</p> <p>SAROC</p>

Theme: Infrastructure and Assets

The LGA and our member councils recognise that with appropriate funding and partnership opportunities local government can be part of the solution in addressing the infrastructure challenges South Australia faces in ensuring liveable, vibrant and prosperous communities.

Objective: Enable advocacy and partnership opportunities that supports local government to fulfil its responsibilities in a range of public infrastructure and facilities that support families and businesses, create and support economic opportunity and build community inclusion and safety.

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Federal funding of South Australia's local road network	<p>South Australia has 11% of the nation's local roads and 7% of the population but receives only 5.5% of the Identified Local Roads component of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs).</p> <p>Since 2003, successive Federal Governments have allocated supplementary road funding to South Australia as a temporary fix to an unfair funding formula. SA councils need confidence and certainty that this funding is secure over the long term.</p>	Permanent reinstatement of South Australia's supplementary local roads funding – beyond 2021.	<p>Develop an options appraisal and issues paper to support future advocacy.</p> <p>Develop and implement an advocacy campaign at the federal level and leverage ALGA support where required.</p> <p>Support councils to undertake advocacy activities locally.</p> <p>Coordinate a delegation of members to Canberra to engage with representatives and decision makers.</p>	LGA Board
State funding of regional roads – road safety	<p>Local government recognises the importance of State Government investment in the strategic road network for economic and social prosperity.</p> <p>Local government acknowledges its obligation for the maintenance, renewal and safety of local road networks. Councils shall continue to fulfil this obligation recognising the significant obligation of federal/state governments in</p>	Increased State Government funds for the maintenance and upgrade of safe and high-quality regional roads.	<p>Incorporate this issue within the LGA's State Budget Submissions</p> <p>Coordinate advocacy with other peak body associations.</p> <p>Develop and implement actions from the LGASA Guide to Local Government Road Safety Actions and Strategies.</p>	SAROC

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
	providing financial assistance to the sector in discharging these duties.		Support engagement with member councils and liaise with state and federal government agencies to inform their respective Road Safety Strategies and Action Plans.	
Heavy Vehicle National Law – reform implementation	<p>The National Transport Commission (NTC) has undertaken a review of the Heavy Vehicle National Law and its supporting regulations. This may have various implications for councils in their role as local road managers.</p> <p>In May 2021, infrastructure and transport ministers approved a two-year HVNL Safety and Productivity Program to implement reform outcomes from the HVNL review.</p>	Ensure that the new Heavy Vehicle National Law appropriately considers and reflects the role of local government and implications for councils.	<p>Continue to engage with member councils to ensure that LGA advocacy is evidence based and reflects operational considerations.</p> <p>Undertake advocacy on relevant elements of the reform implementation.</p>	LGA Board
Electric Vehicles Fleet Incentives	<p>Local government recognises that electric vehicles provide for potential zero emission transport and reduce negative impacts such as toxic emissions, engine noise and greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Councils, because of their roles and responsibilities as road authorities, infrastructure providers, fleet managers and representatives of their local communities, can support and encourage the use of electric vehicles through their planning, policies, investment and procurement activities.</p>	<p>Federal Government to remove the luxury vehicle tax on electric vehicles and to introduce incentives for local vehicle manufacturing to create local industries to change the Internal combustion fleet to an electric fleet based on renewable, locally produced power.</p> <p>State Government to assist councils convert to an electric vehicle fleet by providing incentives.</p>	Pursue opportunities at the federal and state government level to develop a trial of a subsidy scheme and/or incentives in South Australia, for cars, light commercial vehicles, trucks and buses fueled by alternative energy sources including electric, hybrid and hydrogen vehicles.	LGA Board

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Jetties – State Government funding and maintenance agreements	Local government is seeking to speak with one voice as new lease and funding agreements for jetties are negotiated with the State Government.	Ensure that future lease or other agreements with local government collectively safeguard the future of jetties in South Australia without creating a financial burden on ratepayers, especially in rural and regional areas.	<p>Establish an LGA steering committee of member councils to inform and guide future advocacy.</p> <p>Develop an Issues Paper to clearly articulate the issues, gaps and options for future funding and lease or other arrangements.</p> <p>Seek to meet with and inform stakeholders as appropriate.</p>	LGA Board
Mobile Phone Blackspot – state and federal funding	Regional communities continue to experience poor telecommunications coverage across South Australia. Access to reliable mobile phone and internet connectivity are extremely important to individuals and communities in terms of every-day liveability and emergency services, and also for business operability, viability and sustainability.	Improved telecommunications coverage in regional and remote South Australia.	<p>Identify and map priority blackspot areas in South Australia</p> <p>Identify funding opportunities for councils' submissions.</p> <p>Incorporate funding requests in State and Federal Budget submissions.</p>	SAROC

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Stormwater management—state funding allocations	Although stormwater management is the shared responsibility of state and local governments, responsibility often falls to councils. Local government is limited in its ability to fund stormwater infrastructure or to make decisions that have cross boundary implications.	Improved governance, legislation and funding arrangements to support council responsibilities for infrastructure provision. Work with state government to ensure an integrated approach to planning and for adequate funding of stormwater management and flood mitigation.	Develop issues and discussion paper to inform a review of Stormwater Management Practices in South Australia. Include requests for additional stormwater funding in State Budget submissions.	LGA Board

Theme: Economic Development

Local government acknowledges that ensuring sustainable economic development is a shared responsibility of all spheres of government. Councils contribute identifying and implementing solutions to impacts on economic growth, while highlighting the significant responsibilities of federal and state government.

Objective: Influence federal and state government activities in identifying and implementing programs that promote local aims and produce positive local outcomes.

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Supporting economic development	Local government seeks state and federal funding, policy and legislation that supports economic and social recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.	<p>Reinstatement of the State/Local Government Red Tape Taskforce to ensure government continues to support local business as they recover from the impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>Collaborate with the State Government to advocate and leverage Commonwealth Government strategies that increase capacity for manufacturing within Australia – for example, strengthening local remanufacturing to support an Australian Circular Economy, and incentives for electric vehicle manufacturing and existing fleet upgrades.</p>	<p>Continue to pursue opportunities for advocacy arising from the Federal and state government response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Engage with councils to identify opportunities and share ideas about how to cut red tape costs for business and use this information to make submissions to the SA Productivity Commission's review of the South Australian Regulatory Framework.</p> <p>Work with relevant State Government departments to establish and promote a clear pathway for councils to identify and progress opportunities for investment attraction in local manufacturing.</p>	LGA GAROC

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
			Commission research to inform advocacy to State and Commonwealth Government on the funding programs, incentives and policy settings that are needed to stimulate local manufacturing in metropolitan Adelaide.	
Supporting regional economies	<p>Local government acknowledges the significant role that regional economies play in the economic stability of South Australia. In recognition of the specific needs of the regions, the LGA and councils seek to work with Federal and State Government, Regional Development Australia Boards and key regional stakeholders to support regional economies, particularly as communities seek to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The centralisation of the public service to Adelaide may directly contribute to loss of jobs and residents living and working in regional South Australia - a disconnect that is reflected in centralised policy and decision making. The more the public service is centralised into Adelaide, the more policy decisions are formed through a 'city' lens and the more connection with regional communities is lost.</p>	State and Federal government funding, initiatives and legislation that assists with the growth and development of regional South Australia, including commitments towards assisting regional councils and communities to respond and recover from the Covid19 public health emergency and the decentralisation of South Australia's population.	Key opportunities for advocacy will include assisting regional councils and communities to respond and recover from the Covid-19 public health emergency, implementation of South Australia's Regional Development Strategy, increased funding and appropriate locations for mobile phone towers to address blackspots, changes to mobile food van licencing, and responding to increased instances of drought and bushfire conditions.	LGA Board SAROC

Theme: Community Assets and Services

Local government acknowledges that protecting the health and wellbeing of its communities is a shared responsibility of all tiers of government and recognises the significant contributions that councils make in this area.

Objective: State and Federal Governments recognise and respond to the opportunities to work with councils to improve the quality of life of South Australians by better shaping neighbourhood development, improving infrastructure and access to public services.

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Libraries – state government funding	Libraries are a much loved community facility that provide a range of valued services to people of all ages. Public Library funding is the subject of a 10-year agreement between the State Government and the LGA, which is due to expire in 2021.	Renewal of the State/Local Government libraries funding agreement with no reduction in the level of State Government funding provided.	Design and implement a public awareness campaign to promote the value of libraries. Participate in negotiations with the State Government on behalf of the sector.	LGA Board
Aged Care Reforms – Commonwealth funding	Commonwealth age care reforms have created a high degree of uncertainty for councils and the communities they serve; however, there is a strong sense in our sector that there is an ongoing role for local government in supporting the needs of people as they get older.	Councils are sufficiently supported by the Commonwealth Government to provides a basic level of aged care services to support continued independence for people aged 65 and over living at home and delaying entry to more expensive residential care.	Seek opportunities to continue to advocate for going funding for those councils seeking to continue to provide services.	LGA Board
Lack of medical services in regional areas	The ongoing lack of medical services in regional areas means that councils are being relied upon to provide front-line medical services. This comes at a cost to ratepayers and can detract from councils' efforts to	Improved health services in regional and rural Australia – less reliance on local government intervention.	Continue to advocate to the Federal and State Governments for the provision of improved health services. Support for progression of a key action from the Rural	SAROC

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
	provide and maximise the benefits of community preventative health activities.		Medical Workforce Plan 2019-2024 by working with the Rural Support Service to investigate how to maximise the personal and family supports provided to rural doctors by assisting efforts in housing, transport costs and childcare, and support for partners and families, including social and community supports.	
Dog and Cat Management issues	<p>In 2022, there will be a legislated review of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.</p> <p>Dog and cat management issues impact on councils across the State and have the potential to impact on council resourcing requirements.</p> <p>Under current legislation, each council can determine the resources they put towards cat management and the by-laws they enact to support cat management operations. Councils make decisions based upon available resources, community expectations and competing funding priorities.</p>	<p>That cat management laws be consistent across local government jurisdictions whilst recognising resource limitations and operational realities of regional councils in administering the Act.</p> <p>That State Government through the Dog and Cat Management Board leads legislative reform including community consultation on cat management issues including registration and containment.</p>	Facilitate local government discussion relating to improved cat management laws to support greater consistency across local government jurisdictions in terms of administration of the Act and with a view towards legislative reforms on registration and containment and the powers of council authorised officers.	LGA Board SAROC

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Family and Domestic Violence training, education and development	<p>Family and domestic violence is a complex, serious and widespread problem in Australia, with individual and community impacts and social costs. However, it is also ultimately preventable.</p> <p>Councils play a role in creating safe public environments and can provide leadership across their communities in prevention of violence by promoting gender equity and equal and respectful relationships between men and women.</p>	As large employers, councils can influence and change workplace cultures to promote gender equity and the safety of women.	<p>Consult with member councils to determine what resources and programs currently exist to support employees and/or members of their communities impacted by Family and Domestic Violence and identify any further resources which should be developed.</p> <p>Liaise with the State and Federal Government to explore partnership opportunities to support the local government sector in providing consistent, best practice support and education to employees on matters relating to Family and Domestic Violence.</p>	LGA Board

Theme: Planning and Development

The LGA and our member councils recognise local government's role in future planning and development, and the importance of using planning processes to obtain enhanced planning and design outcomes for communities.

Objective: The State Government recognises the important role councils play and implements a fair, equitable and balanced planning system that facilitates high quality, sustainable and economically viable development.

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Planning Reform and implementation of the PDI Act	<p>The LGA has consistently advocated for a planning system that is accessible, integrated, accountable and supports local participation and decision making. Quality design outcomes are a hallmark of a great planning system.</p> <p>Local government acknowledges the benefits of an improved planning system and shall continue to liaise with state government on implementation of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016, through positive collaboration and mutual respect, and shall lobby against aspects of implementation in the Act that are not in the best interests of local communities.</p>	State Government recognition of the quality planning and design standards expected by local government and our residents that complement and preserve the fabric of local communities.	<p>Continue to host member forums and workshops that facilitate the exchange of information between councils and AGD and the State Planning Commission.</p> <p>Represent the views of local government on the Minister's Liaison Group.</p> <p>Provide regular briefings to key stakeholders and engage with industry groups to seek a range of perspectives.</p> <p>Make submissions on all key documents during the implementation of the new system.</p> <p>Make public statements that highlight the key issues of councils and communities.</p>	<p>LGA Board</p> <p>GAROC</p>

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Heritage and Contributory Items	Local government recognises the benefits of protecting our heritage while emphasising that classification of 'heritage' and 'conservation' status should be made locally, on the basis of evidence. Local government will oppose the implementation of policies that lack a sufficiently robust evidence base.	Local government interests on local heritage issues are fully represented, including community participation in heritage listing process and more robust heritage management, in any forthcoming State Government reviews or strategies.	Advocate for the State Planning Commission to prepare an amended to the Planning and Design Code to include Representative Buildings as an Overlay to enable them to be clearly identified in the Code. Facilitate ongoing engagement between metropolitan councils and the State Planning Commission to identify opportunities to strengthen the Planning and Design Code in relation to heritage and historic character protection.	GAROC
Infill Development	Local government recognises the need to contain urban sprawl. However, the increased densities resulting from infill development have placed additional pressure on services and infrastructure. In particular, member councils have raised issues associated with traffic management, carparking, stormwater management, loss of trees, provision of open space, privacy, overshadowing and design quality in relation to infill development.	South Australia's planning system reflects leading practice and that the Planning and Design Code and associated instruments deliver quality planning and design outcomes that improve the amenity, liveability and sustainability of communities. Councils to be engaged at the design stage of State Government infrastructure projects to ensure good urban	Engage with the State Government and State Planning Commission on the preparation of Design Standards for infrastructure in the public realm. Undertake forums and workshops with council staff on draft Design Standards to seek feedback. Provide submissions and influence outcomes through GAROC on draft Design	GAROC

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
		<p>design and coordinated, holistic placemaking that supports better outcomes as infill development occurs.</p> <p>The State Planning Commission's review Open Space and the Planning and Development Fund determines financial models that are more equitable and appropriate for councils experiencing higher volumes of infill development.</p>	<p>Standards developed with input from councils.</p> <p>Engage with metropolitan councils and undertake research to develop an LGA policy position on the preferred financial model within the Planning and Development Fund.</p>	
Non-compliant Building Cladding	The Grenfell Tower fire (London, 2017) highlighted the risk to public health and safety from non-compliant aluminium cladding on buildings.	An appropriate response from all spheres of government that properly informs but does not alarm the community unnecessarily and protects the interests of local government by determining steps for any remedial work by building owners to address problems with their buildings.	Continue to liaise with the State Government to ensure that councils are informed of future developments and are kept up to date with reliable expert advice when available.	LGA Board

Theme: Environment and Natural Resources

The LGA and our member councils appreciate local government's role in protecting the environment, managing the risks of climate change, and the importance of managing waste.

Objective: Influence, inform and advocate for the State Government to address funding, policy and legislative barriers that hinder councils from undertaking their roles in maintaining and enhancing the natural and built environment in regional South Australia.

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Climate Change – leadership, risk management and state of climate emergency	<p>The LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan 2021-23, recognises that responding to climate change is a shared responsibility across all levels of government and society.</p> <p>As the peak representative body for South Australia's councils, the LGA has an important role to advocate for urgent and sustained action to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. This will occur through direct advocacy to governments, partnerships, representation on influential decision-making bodies, and by raising awareness of the role and value of councils in managing climate risks.</p>	<p>State Government commitments that support councils, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of their Climate Change Action Plan 2021 -25 • State-Local Government Climate Change Partnership Proposal • Renewal of the Regional Climate Partnerships – Sector Agreements • Greater funding for councils to reduce their community emissions profiles, for climate risk management, waste management, coastal management and stormwater management. • Better recognition of and response to climate change in the Planning and Design Code 	<p>Working with member councils and the Regional Climate Partnerships coordinators to clearly identify and communicate their success in delivering practical, proactive, and positive climate action.</p> <p>Consult with member councils to determine climate change risk and management priorities.</p> <p>Review and update the "Managing the Risks of Climate Change" statements in the LGA Policy Manual based on recent science, evidence and practice.</p> <p>Increase awareness of the role and value of councils in managing climate risks through the LGA's ongoing awareness campaigns and</p>	LGA Board

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater support for the Electric Vehicle Strategy. <p>Greater Commonwealth Government funding and action on climate change, including funded schemes and incentives to support the uptake of electric vehicles.</p> <p>–</p>	<p>stakeholder engagement actions.</p> <p>Advocate for greater support for councils to address climate change via the local government members on the Premier's Climate Change Council.</p> <p>Ensure all relevant LGA Advocacy submissions address climate change impact.</p> <p>Pursue opportunities to work collaboratively with government agencies and other organisations with aligned goals and values on projects, programs and campaigns that will assist local government action on climate change.</p> <p>Maintain a high level of engagement with and participation in the Adaptation Practitioners Network.</p> <p>Continue to develop and maintain a productive working relationship with the Department for Water and Environment and Green Adelaide to ensure that the</p>	

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
			LGA continues to host the central climate change coordinator roles that underpin the Regional Climate Partnerships and the state/local government Adaptation Practitioners Network.	
Waste & Recycling	<p>The LGA's Waste Action Plan identifies local, state and federal actions required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stabilise the waste industry • ensure the ongoing commercial viability of recycling services; and <p>establish a circular economy as a means of achieving sustainability in waste management.</p>	<p>That the State Government commits:</p> <p>50% of the monies accumulated in the Green Industry Fund (collected from council contributions to the Solid Waste Levy) be committed back to local government for worthwhile waste, recycling and resource recovery endeavours that support the transition towards a more circular economy.</p> <p>a guaranteed minimum level of reinvestment of the Solid Waste Levy in the waste, recycling and resource recovery sector;</p> <p>to ongoing research and development in collaboration with local government and other stakeholders into alternative waste technologies and strategies such as organics</p>	<p>Continue to outline the impacts of the increased levy on councils and ratepayers, via the LGA public awareness campaign.</p> <p>Provide regular briefings to state and federal members of Parliament to build support for local government's position.</p> <p>Commission independent research into the waste, recycling and resource recovery industry in South Australia and the role of SA local government organisations (councils and council authorities).</p> <p>Seek opportunities to continue to advocate for the stated outcomes.</p> <p>Make public statements that highlight the key issues of councils and communities.</p>	<p>LGA Board</p> <p>GAROC</p> <p>SAROC</p>

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
		<p>composting for food waste; kerbside collection technologies/strategies to incentivise households to maximise recycling rates and minimise the amount of general waste going to landfill; and</p> <p>Green Industries SA to expand its Waste Education/Awareness campaign to provide clear messaging on recycling and organic waste strategies to help the South Australian community.</p> <p>Green Industries SA to work more closely with local government and businesses in the development of sustainable economy, including making a lot more funding available and substantially increases funding in the waste and resource recovery infrastructure program.</p>	Develop a partnership proposal and negotiate with Green Industries SA on a renewed Service Level Agreement with the LGA.	
Wine Bottles – Container Deposit Scheme	<p>Local government recognises its statutory obligation of managing municipal waste and its vital role in waste resource recovery.</p> <p>Councils continue to promote improved waste management practices in accordance with the waste hierarchy and work with</p>	Determine if there is sufficient support across local government to request the State Government amend the Container Deposit Legislation (incorporated into the Environment Protection Act 1993) to include wine bottles,	Continue to be actively involved in the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) review process, which is currently ongoing, including through membership of the EPA Stakeholder Reference Group for the review.	LGA Board

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
	<p>residents and businesses to further limit the creation of waste.</p> <p>Currently wine bottles are not included in SA's Container Deposit Scheme. The LGA has worked with councils to review the benefits and risks of including wine bottles in Container Deposit Legislation to determine a strong advocacy position and commissioned a waste audit and economic analysis on recycling costs for councils.</p>	and to achieve consistency with the treatment of other glass bottles in the waste stream, an increase in the recycling of bottles, and a reduction in the contamination of other recycled waste caused by broken glass.		
Overabundant Species – Little Corellas	Overabundant species, such as Little Corella populations across several council areas, are causing significant impact to councils that need to expend substantial resources being in deterring and managing a wide range of issues.	A State Government commitment to fund implementation of a statewide Little Corella strategy that includes financial assistance to local governments for the development of integrated local management plans and the implementation of medium- and long-term management options at a local-scale.	Advocate for and provide input to the SA Strategy for the Management of Little Corellas.	SAROC
Coastal Management	<p>The task of protecting and maintaining South Australia's coastal assets is beyond the funding capacity of coastal councils.</p> <p>South Australia's coastline is enjoyed by the broader community, as well as visitors to the State, so funding the upkeep of our coastal areas must be a shared responsibility.</p>	Equitable funding from Federal and State Government for coastal management works across South Australia.	<p>Include coastal management issues in submissions to Government, including budget submissions.</p> <p>Support the work of the South Australian Coastal Councils Alliance in researching issues and funding models and advocating for change.</p>	<p>LGA Board</p> <p>SAROC</p> <p>GAROC</p>

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
National Water Policy	<p>Local government recognises its obligation to conserve water resources, protect water quality, provide water for the environment and effectively manage storm and flood water. Councils contribute to improving water management infrastructure and processes, notwithstanding the responsibilities of federal and state governments.</p> <p>A National Water Policy is required that seeks to address the major challenges Australia faces in ensuring sustainable water supply in the face of increased climate variability and rising demand for water. In response, the Australian Government provides national leadership in water reform.</p>	Federal Government provides national leadership in water reform and makes a commitment to a national water policy.	Facilitate local government discussion relating to water policy including advocating for a national water policy.	SAROC

6.9 LGA Members Services Update

LGA Updates

From:	Nathan Petrus, Executive Director Member Services	
Strategy:	2 - Assist	
Outcome:	2.2 Councils draw upon our resources, services and advice in order to save time and money, and reduce risk	
Meeting:	Annual General Meeting	28 October 2022
ECM:	782397	

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting notes the report.

Discussion

The LGA's Annual Report 2021-22 provides a summary of many of the Member Services team's activities during the year, covering:

- Local government reforms
- LGA Training and Events
- Community Wastewater Management Scheme funding
- Legal Connect partnership with Norman Waterhouse Lawyers
- Web Solutions

Please refer to the Annual Report for information about those activities. This Member Services update discusses the following additional member services provided during 2021-22:

- supporting councils to implement the Local Government Cyber Security Framework;
- piloting a People and Culture support service for regional councils;
- providing governance support to councils;
- facilitating the Public Lighting Working Group.

Local Government Cyber Security Framework

The LGA has worked closely with Local Government Information Technology South Australia (LGITSA) and Local Government Risk Services to commence an awareness and training program to improve cyber security within the sector.

With the assistance of funding through the Local Government Research and Development Scheme, LGITSA developed a Local Government Cyber Security Framework and Toolkit for councils, which was released in April 2022. The LGA has worked with councils to raise awareness of the framework and toolkit and has commenced a cyber security executive training program, delivered through the Australian Cyber Security Centre. This training program will continue to be rolled out in 2022-23.

People and Culture Pilot Program

Following a competitive tender process, the LGA has engaged Bespoke HR to assist the LGA with the development of a new People and Culture service for councils. The service commenced as a pilot program with the following five regional councils participating:

- City of Port Lincoln
- District Council of Robe
- Coorong District Council
- Yorke Peninsula District Council
- Loxton-Waikerie

The services provided through the pilot program include:

- Helpdesk calls (HR support calls, unlimited low-level <15 minutes)
- People and Culture Audit (self-assessment and report debrief)
- Employee Survey (optional)
- LG Monthly Coaching Calls
- 5 hours towards other products/services

The outcomes of the pilot program are currently being evaluated and plans to extend the program to other councils are being developed.

A supporting HR Library service, which was developed by LGA's legal partners Norman Waterhouse Lawyers, will also be available for purchase in late 2022 and will provide councils with a comprehensive suite of HR template policies and procedures.

Governance support

The LGA's Governance Team provides assistance to councils through the promotion of best practice standards of governance, research, analysis and development of policies, guidance materials and procedures. This includes the provision of telephone/email assistance to council officers and council members on operational and legislative compliance matters. During 2021-22, the Team has been primarily focused on preparing and delivering information to member councils to support their implementation of the Local Government Reforms (discussed further in the LGA's Annual Report 2021-22). This work has included:

- Caretaker Guidelines and Model Policy
- Annual Reporting Guidelines
- Confidentiality Guideline
- Access to Council and Committee Meetings and Documents Guideline and Model Policy
- Local Government Election Sign guidance materials
- Website explanatory text for more than 100 provisions which commenced during the period
- Zoom Update sessions to support the commencement of provisions
- Consultation processes supporting the development of the Model Behavioural Management Policy and Model Behavioural Support Policy and participation in work to establish the Behavioural Standards Panel and associated resources
- Support to councils following the commencement of the Strategic Management Plan Oversight Scheme (more detail on this work is provided in the Advocacy Update), including the coordination of a Community of Practice for first tranche councils

The Governance Team has also delivered the following outcomes to members:

- Updated resources following changes to COVID-19 Notices
- The first three of a series of 13 Asset Management Information Papers aimed at enhancing asset management capacity and capability in the sector
- In conjunction with the SA Local Government Financial Management Group, updated Model Financial Statements
- Updated Better Practice Model – Financial Internal Controls
- Liaison with the Office of Local Government to ensure council/sector wide perspectives are used to inform legislative/policy processes

- Ongoing maintenance of the Delegations Framework
- Liaison/advocacy with the Legislative Review Committee in relation to council by-laws
- Support to the Nominations Committee, particularly in relation to the appointment of members to:
 - Stormwater Management Authority
 - Libraries Board of SA
 - SA Flood Warning Consultative Committee
 - Power Line Environment Committee
 - LG Transport Advisory Panel
 - CWMS Management Committee

Public lighting Working Group

The LGA continues to facilitate the Public Lighting Working Group, which brings together Councils, SA Power Networks and DIT, to share information and find ways of effectively working together on public lighting activities.

The focus of the Public Lighting Working Group in 2021-22 was:

- Main road lighting – pursuing opportunities for councils to transfer council-owned lights on main roads to the State Government, where there is a benefit.
- Asset management planning – developing guidelines to assist councils with public lighting asset management.
- Decorative lighting LED changeovers – discussing ways to improve collaboration on trials and approvals of new luminaires between stakeholders.
- Smart lighting – discussing governance and potential benefits to councils from smart lighting.

The PLWG continues to meet quarterly and publishes updates on the LGA's website.

Financial and Resource Implications

This activity has been anticipated in the LGA's work program and resources are available to progress this work.

6.10 Local Government Financial Indicators 2022

LGA Business

From:	Nathan Petrus, Executive Director Member Services	
Key Initiative:	K.I 3 Best practice and continuous improvement	
Strategy:	3B Benchmark, innovate and research	
Meeting:	Annual General Meeting	
ECM:	781644	Attachment: 781643

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting notes the report regarding Local Government Financial Indicators.

Discussion

From 2006 to 2017, the LGA worked with South Australian councils and the state government on a comprehensive Financial Sustainability Program to implement the recommendations of the *2005 Independent Inquiry into Financial Sustainability of Local Government in South Australia*.

The attached *SA Local Government Sector Financial Indicators Report 2022* (the report) delivers on a recommendation from the Inquiry that the LGA reports to each Annual General Meeting on the latest values, history and comparisons of key financial sustainability indicators for the sector as a whole.

The report presents analysis of the most recent SA Local Government Grants Commission Database Reports 2020-21 and demonstrates the ongoing progress in both the financial performance and financial position of the sector as a whole.

In 2020-21:

- the sector's adjusted **operating surplus ratio was 3.8 per cent** – showing that existing levels of income are sufficient to cover day-to-day spending. Overall, the sector's income exceeded operating expenses by \$98 million;
- the sector's **net financial liabilities ratio was 35 per cent** – showing that the net amount owed to others is a relatively modest portion of one year's income. The sector's net amount owed to others of around \$880 million at 30 June 2021 is also very low when put in the context of infrastructure and other physical assets valued at over \$26 billion; and
- the sector's **asset renewal funding ratio was 95 per cent**. While most councils are renewing and replacing their assets in either a satisfactory or optimal way, there are some councils that could improve on the capital spending needed to cost-effectively maintain desired and affordable service levels from their assets.

In summary, the evidence shows that South Australian local government is living within its means, has a low level of indebtedness, and generally is managing its assets satisfactorily.

The LGA Secretariat is currently working on expanding the Financial Indicators report to respond to the advice from the SA Productivity Commission's final report relating to the preparation of a broader 'State of the Sector' report, to be released in 2023.



SA Local Government Sector

Financial Indicators Report 2022

September 2022

1. Introduction

In order to provide an understanding of the current financial performance and position of the local government sector in South Australia, the Local Government Association (LGA) has undertaken analysis of the most recent SA Local Government Grants Commission Database Reports 2020-21.

The following report highlights the sound financial performance and position of the local government sector as a whole. The evidence shows that South Australian local government is living within its means, has a very low level of indebtedness, and generally is managing its assets satisfactorily.

In 2020-21:-

- the sector's adjusted **operating surplus ratio was 3.8 per cent** – showing that existing levels of income are sufficient to cover day-to-day spending. Overall, the sector's income exceeded operating expenses by \$98 million;
- the sector's adjusted **net financial liabilities ratio was 35 per cent** – showing that the net amount owed to others is a relatively modest portion of one-year's income. The sector's net amount owed to others of around \$880 million at 30 June 2021 is also very low when put in the context of infrastructure and other physical assets valued at over \$26 billion. It is comparable to a family living in a \$500,000 house having a mortgage of around \$16,500 and no other debts; and
- the sector's **asset renewal funding ratio was 95 per cent**. While most councils are renewing and replacing their assets in either a satisfactory or optimal way, there are some councils that could improve on the capital spending needed to cost-effectively maintain desired and affordable service levels from their assets.

2. Efficiency of local government

The local government sector in South Australia has an aspiration to be the most efficient sector of government. Sustaining good financial and asset management practices and seeking to continually enhance them are critical success factors for councils as they seek to improve the services they provide to their local communities.

South Australian councils collectively manage an annual budget in excess of \$2.5 billion and maintain infrastructure and other physical assets worth over \$26.7 billion.

Taxation revenue raised by councils (from general and other rates on property) was \$1,841 million in 2020-21. Together with other own-source funding (mainly user and statutory charges), approximately 86 per cent of local government operating revenue is from its own sources. The remaining revenue comes from grants from federal and state governments. The rates collected by councils nationally are less than 4 per cent of the total taxes paid by Australians.

South Australian councils manage their finances conservatively under difficult constraints. Local government can raise only one type of tax (council rates), has very low indebtedness, receives the lowest per capita level of grants from other levels of government in the nation, and relies on an ongoing extension of the Supplementary Local Roads Program to ensure a fair share of federal government grant funding.

Cost shifting from State to local government continues to apply pressure to council budgets. Key cost shifting pressures include mandatory rate rebates required to be provided to Housing SA properties transferred to community housing providers, and a shortfall in the reimbursement of council costs incurred in collecting the State's Regional Landscapes (RL) levy.

Within this context, South Australian councils are doing a lot with a little and often providing an increased range or level of services to a high standard.

In 2019, the South Australian Productivity Commission undertook an Inquiry into Local Government Costs and Efficiency. The Inquiry found that '*compared with each other, most councils achieved high levels of relative efficiency*'.

3. Local government financial sustainability

The LGA worked with South Australian councils and the state government on a comprehensive Financial Sustainability Program to implement the recommendations of the *2005 Independent Inquiry into Financial Sustainability of Local Government in South Australia*.

This report delivers on one of the Inquiry's recommendations that the LGA reports to each Annual General Meeting on the latest values, history and comparisons of key financial sustainability indicators for the sector as a whole.

Reform of financial management practices within local government in South Australia is ongoing. Changes have included increased scrutiny by the community, an expectation to do more with less, accrual accounting, improved management of infrastructure and other assets, planned performance measurement and benchmarking, improved internal controls and better governance arrangements.

A key objective for local government is the achievement and maintenance of the financial sustainability of South Australian councils, both collectively and individually. A council's long-term financial performance and position is sustainable where planned long-term service and infrastructure levels and standards are met without unplanned increases in rates or disruptive cuts to services.

Financial Sustainability Program

Under its Financial Sustainability Program from 2006 to 2017, the LGA:-

- prepared and updated a comprehensive series of information papers;
- implemented projects to assist councils with financial and asset management reforms;
- undertook training and briefing programs to further assist councils;
- attracted Federal Government funding to further the financial sustainability reforms that were undertaken by South Australian councils; and
- entered into an alliance with the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) to adopt internationally recognised approaches for preparing asset management policies and plans.

More information about the Program and resources for councils can be found on the LGA's Financial Sustainability Program webpage www.lga.sa.gov.au/FSP

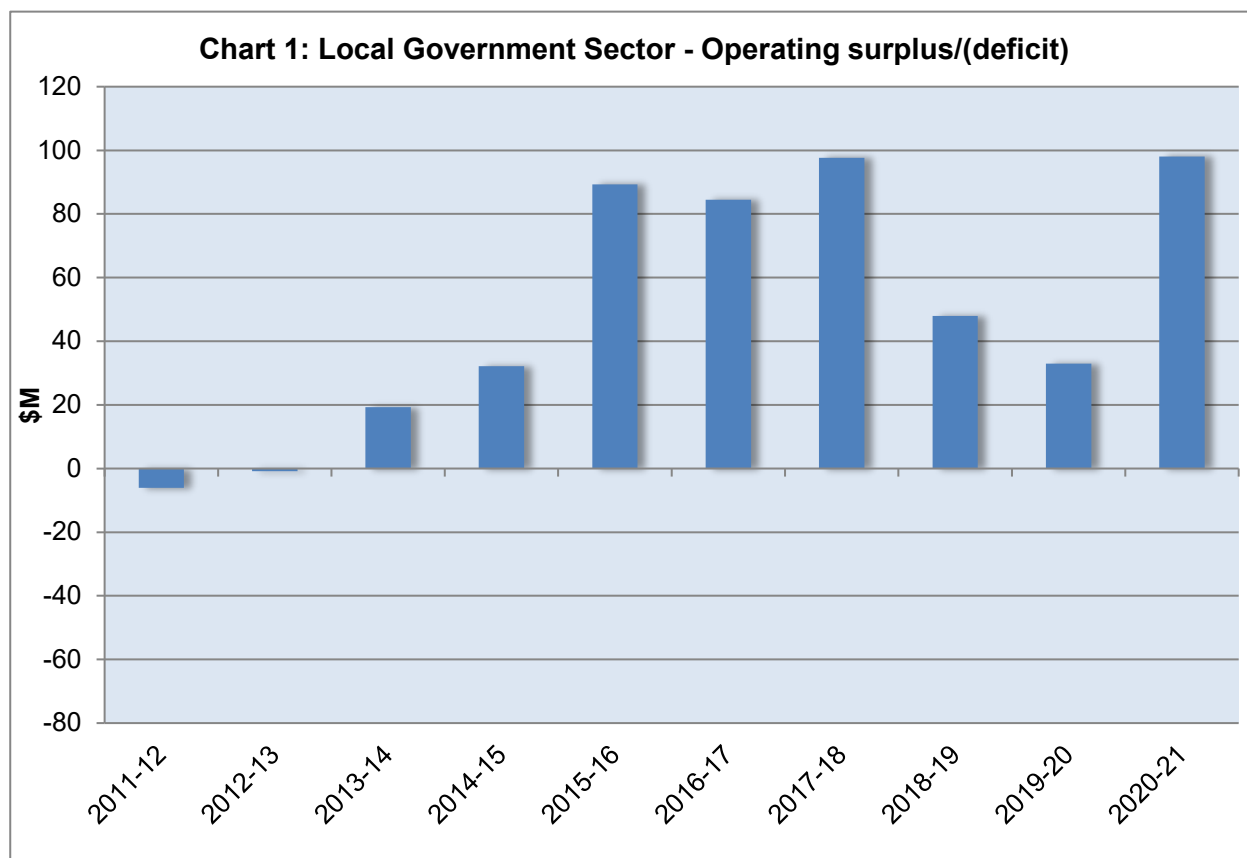
4. Measuring Financial Performance

The most critical measure of local government financial performance is the annual operating result which measures the difference between day-to-day income and expenses for a financial year.

Historically, the aggregate level of local government's annual operating deficit reduced steadily from 2000-01 (when expenses exceeded income by \$75 million) until 2007-08 (when the operating deficit was eliminated). Subsequently, an approximate 'break-even' operating result was recorded for five years up until 2012-13. Since then, there has been improvement in the financial performance of councils, with an operating surplus of \$98 million reported in 2020-21.

A total of 51 councils recorded an operating surplus in 2020-21 (compared with only 16 councils in 2000-01).

Chart 1 provides aggregate data for the last decade (from 2011-12 until 2020-21) covering the sector's operating surplus/(deficit). The data has been adjusted to remove the distortion otherwise caused by the irregular timing of receipt of Federal financial assistance grants (FAGs) received in some years.

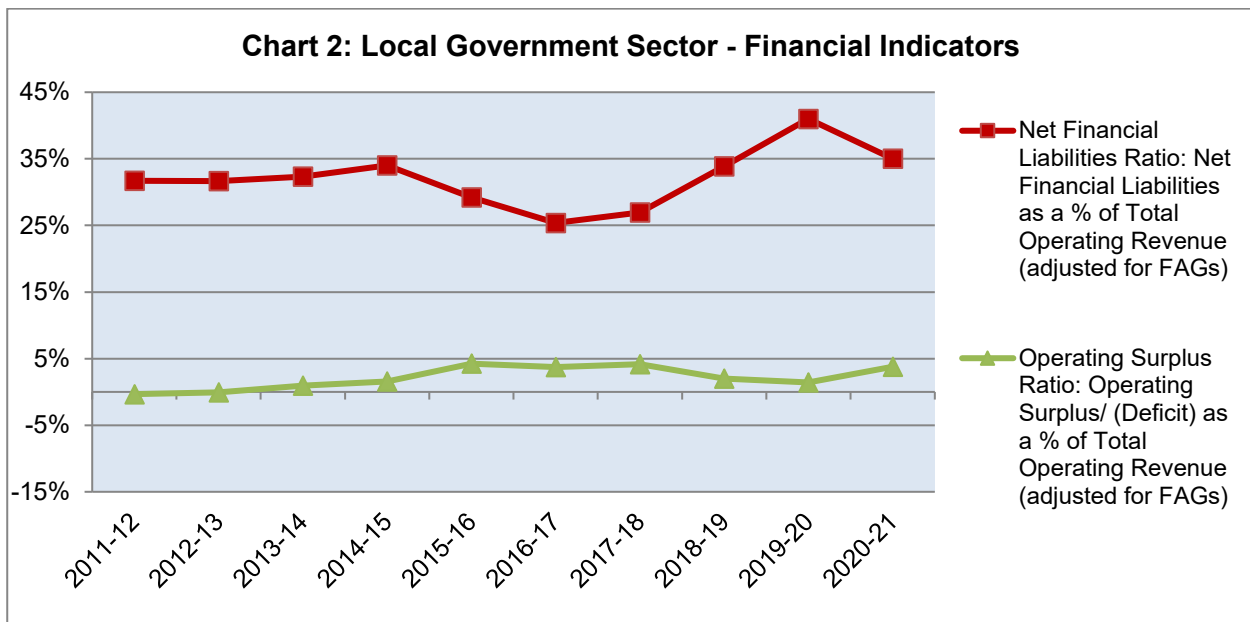


5. Financial Indicators

The following information provides an update on the latest values, history and comparisons of key financial indicators for the local government sector as a whole. The LGA appreciates the assistance of the SA Local Government Grants Commission in providing this data.

In 2006, local government in South Australia adopted two key indicators covering its financial performance (operating surplus ratio) and financial position (net financial liabilities ratio).

Chart 2 below provides aggregate data for the last decade (from 2011-12 until 2020-21) for these two indicators. Again, the data has been adjusted to remove the distortion otherwise caused by the irregular timing of receipt of Federal financial assistance grants (FAGs) in some years.



Indicator 1: Operating Surplus Ratio

The operating surplus ratio is calculated as the percentage by which the annual operating surplus or deficit varies from total operating income.

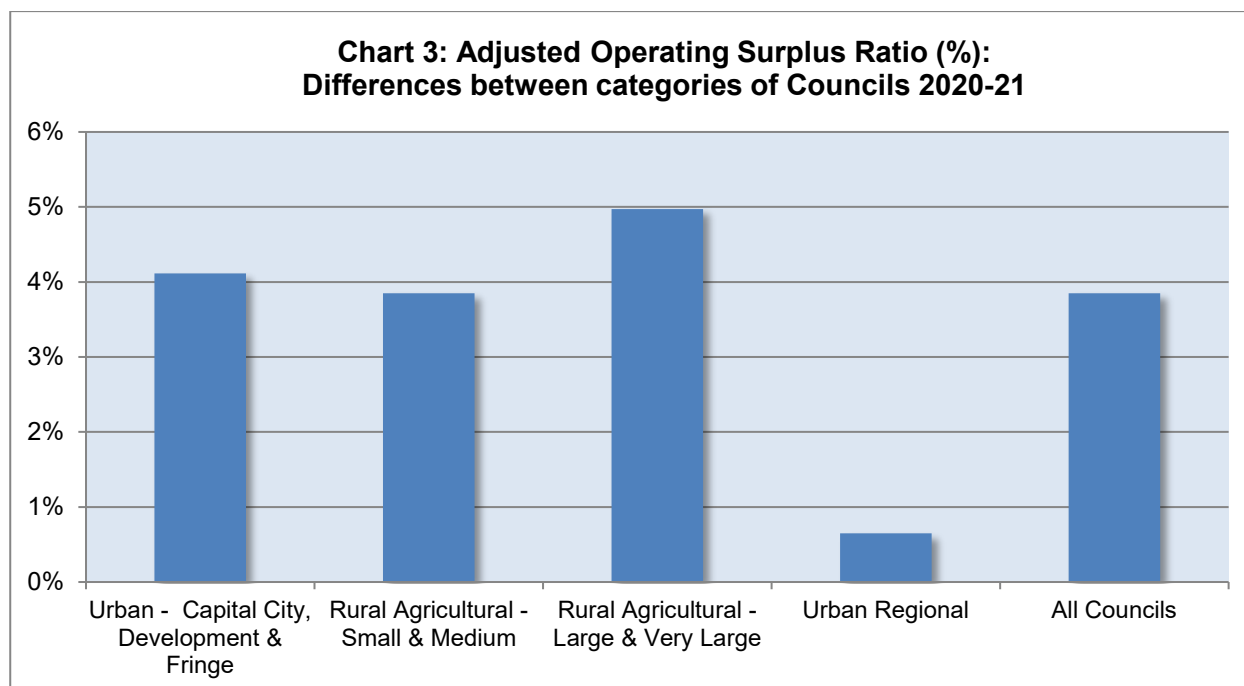
Guidance material provided to councils under the LGA's Financial Sustainability Program suggests that councils generally should seek to achieve, on average over time, a target range for an operating surplus ratio of between 0 per cent and 10 per cent.

As shown in **Chart 2** above, the local government sector's operating surplus ratio in 2020-21 was 3.8 per cent. This result compares with an operating surplus ratio of negative 0.3 per cent in 2011-12.

Historically, this ratio has been as low as negative 8.3 per cent in 2000-01 and recent performance represents a significant improvement in the financial sustainability of councils over the last two decades.

The local government sector's operating surplus ratio has consistently been within the target range for the last nine (9) years.

Chart 3 below shows the differences in the operating surplus ratios between categories of councils recorded in 2020-21.



Indicator 2: Net Financial Liabilities Ratio

Net financial liabilities represent the amount of money owed by councils to others less money held, invested or owed to councils. It is the most comprehensive measure of the indebtedness of a council as it includes items such as employee long service leave entitlements and other amounts payable as well as taking account of the level of a council's cash and investments.

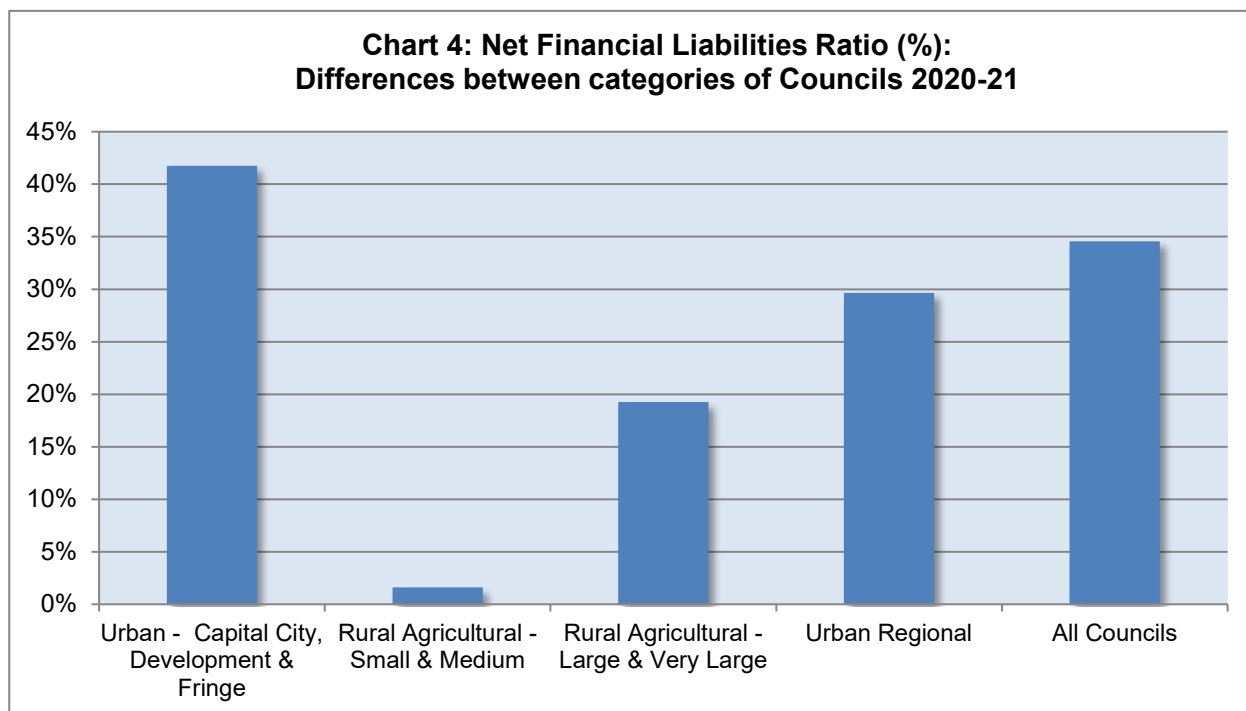
At 30 June 2021, the level of net financial liabilities was around \$880 million. This is very low when put in the context of local government infrastructure and other physical assets valued at over \$26 billion.

The net financial liabilities ratio is a measure of the significance of the net amount owed at the end of a financial year compared with income for the year.

There is no right or wrong target range for the net financial liabilities ratio. Councils generally seek to achieve a target range of between zero and 100 per cent, but higher than 100 per cent may be appropriate in some circumstances. A target range should be set by a council having regard to the target for its operating surplus ratio and the needs that are identified in its long-term financial plan and its infrastructure and asset management plan.

As shown in **Chart 2** (on the previous page), the net financial liabilities ratio for the local government sector in 2020-21 was 35 per cent. The ratio has consistently landed between 25 to 45 percent (ie. around the middle of the suggested target range) over the decade.

Chart 4 below shows the differences in the net financial liabilities ratios between categories of councils recorded in 2020-21. The chart highlights that some councils are averse to incurring debt to help finance the cost of infrastructure. This may lead to these councils under-investing in infrastructure relative to what their operating revenue streams will allow. Their service levels will be lower as a result.



Provided operating deficits are avoided, there appears to be considerable scope for some councils to increase their level of borrowings (or liquidate some of their large stock of cash and investments, which is equivalent to borrowing) to finance capital expenditure. Such borrowings could be undertaken for renewal or replacement of existing assets where a council's Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan suggests that it is optimal to do so.

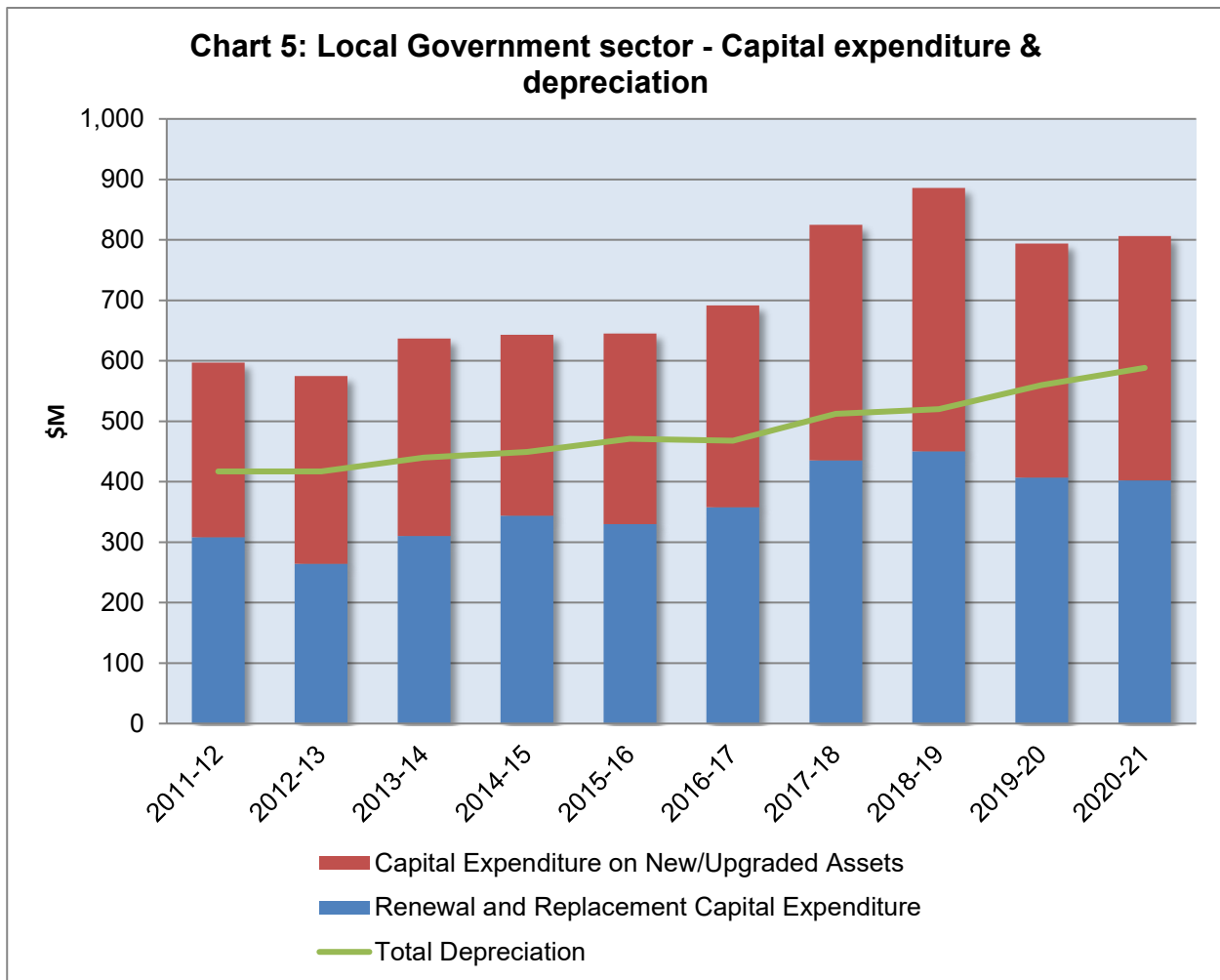
Of course, where a council is not achieving an underlying operating surplus, or trending towards doing so in the medium term, then generally any capital expenditure on upgrading or expanding infrastructure needs to be modest and targeted, because it normally will lead to additional maintenance and depreciation costs.

Capital Investment Expenditure

Overall, capital expenditure in 2020-21 was \$806 million. Covid-19 had an impact on capital expenditure, with some projects necessarily delayed due to lock-downs. Some councils also intentionally slowed or deferred decision-making on major projects to allow for the impacts of Covid-19 to be better understood.

One of the findings of the abovementioned *2005 Independent Inquiry into Financial Sustainability of Local Government* was that capital investment expenditure on renewal and replacement of existing assets was significantly less than that needed to minimise whole-of-life-cycle costs of assets.

Chart 5 shows the level of capital expenditure over the past ten years on renewal/replacement of existing assets on one hand and expenditure on new/upgraded assets on the other. This shows an increased expenditure on renewing and replacing existing assets in most years.



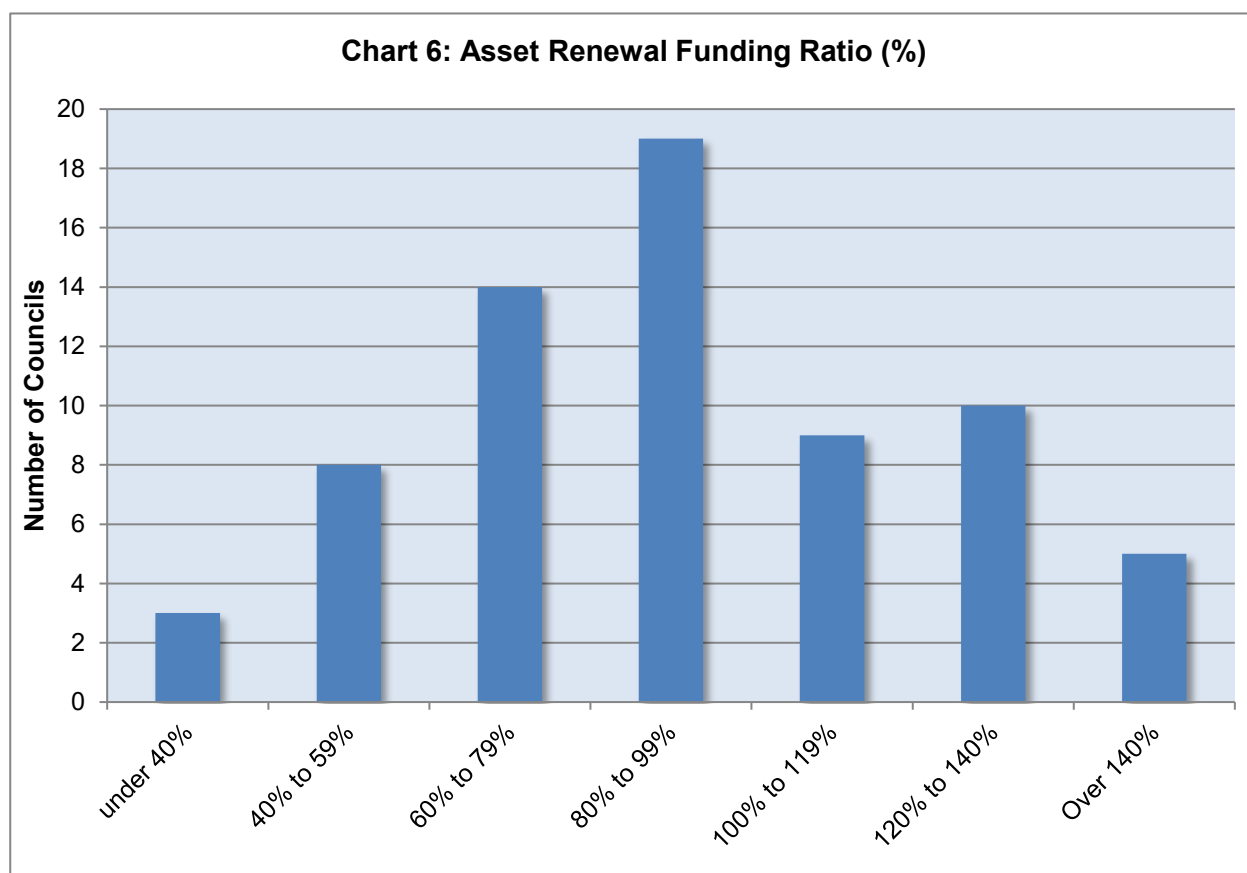
Indicator 3: Asset Renewal Funding Ratio

A third financial indicator adopted by the sector in recent years covers the asset management performance of councils. The asset renewal funding ratio represents the level of capital expenditure on renewal and replacement of assets relative to the level of such expenditure identified as warranted in a council's infrastructure and asset management plan.

This indicator is a measure of whether a council is accommodating asset renewal and replacement in an optimal and cost effective way from a timing perspective, relative to the risk it is prepared to accept and the service levels it wishes to maintain.

There are operational and other reasons why the asset renewal funding ratio result may vary between years. This may not necessarily detract from asset management performance if a council's target is achieved over the medium term (e.g. over a rolling 3 or 5 year average).

Chart 6 below provides summary information for the asset renewal funding ratio in 2020-21, 63 per cent of councils had a ratio higher than 80 per cent.



A note on the differing financial performance of councils

This report demonstrates the significant improvement in the financial performance and financial position of the sector as a whole. However, it needs to be emphasised that the current financial condition of individual councils varies substantially.

6.11 SAROC and GAROC Terms of Reference

LGA Updates

From:	Lea Bacon, Acting Executive Director Public Affairs	
Strategy:	4 - Achieve	
Outcome:	4.1 We lead by example in the governance and operations of the LGA	
Meeting:	Annual General Meeting	28 October 2022
ECM:	782372	Attachments: 687694, 687690

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting ratifies the LGA SAROC Terms of Reference (effective 8 January 2020) and LGA GAROC Terms of Reference (effective 23 July 2020).

Discussion

Clause 2.3 of the Greater Adelaide Regional Organisation of Councils (GAROC) Terms of Reference and the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) Terms of Reference specify that those documents will be presented to Members at a General Meeting for ratification annually.

The Terms of Reference are unchanged since last ratified by Members at the LGA Annual General Meeting in October 2020.

Members are asked to re-ratify the GAROC and SAROC Terms of Reference.

LGA SAROC Terms of Reference

Effective 8 January 2020



Local Government Association of South Australia

SAROC Terms of Reference

Received Ministerial approval on 8 January 2020 and re-ratified Members at the AGM held 29 October 2021

1. Establishment

In accordance with clause 19 of the Local Government Association of South Australia Constitution and Rules (**Constitution**) there are 2 regional organisations of Members: the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (**SAROC**) and the Greater Adelaide Regional Organisation of Councils (**GAROC**).

2. Terms of Reference

2.1. These Terms of Reference set out the functions to be discharged by SAROC.

2.2. The operation of the Terms of Reference may be altered by the Board of Directors either generally or in respect of specific circumstances by resolution with the exception of clauses 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4. A resolution for the purposes of this clause 2.2 will be reported to the chairperson of SAROC within 24 hours of the meeting of the Board of Directors at which the resolution was passed.

2.3. These Terms of Reference will be presented to the Members at a General Meeting for ratification annually (or more frequently as determined by the Board).

2.4. Clauses 4.2, 4.3 or 4.4 of this Terms of Reference may be altered only:

2.4.1. By resolution passed at a General Meeting of which at least 30 days' notice has been given to Members; and

2.4.2. With approval of the Minister.

2.5. The term:

SAROC Region means the combined local government area of each Member listed in the Schedule.

SAROC Regional Grouping means all of the Members of the Regional Groupings of Members as identified in the Schedule.

2.6. A capitalised term not defined in this document has the meaning provided for the term in the Constitution.

3. Status

SAROC is a committee of the LGA and is responsible to the Board of Directors for the discharge of its functions.

4. SAROC

4.1. Role

The role of SAROC is regional advocacy, policy initiation and review, leadership, engagement and capacity building in the SAROC Region.



4.2. Membership

Each Regional Grouping of Members listed in the schedule to these Terms of Reference will elect in accordance with clauses 4.3 and 4.4 from the Members of the Regional Grouping of Members, 2 Council Members as members of SAROC provided that each person elected is from a different Member.

4.3. Nominations for election to SAROC

- 4.3.1. The members of SAROC will be elected biennially.
- 4.3.2. In the year in which SAROC members will be elected, and at least 3 months before the Annual General Meeting, the Chief Executive shall write to all Members of the SAROC Regional Grouping, as listed in the schedule, calling for nominations for the membership of SAROC.
- 4.3.3. Each Member of the SAROC Regional Grouping may nominate a candidate for membership of SAROC, provided that:
 - 4.3.3.1. a person nominated as a member of SAROC must be a representative of a Member on the relevant Regional Grouping of Members; and
 - 4.3.3.2. only a Council Member can be nominated to SAROC.
- 4.3.4. A nomination of a person as a member of SAROC must be received by the Chief Executive Officer not later than 5 pm on the day specified for the closure of nominations (**Close of Nominations**). A nomination must be signed by the candidate indicating his or her willingness to stand for election and be in the form determined by the Chief Executive.

4.4. Election to SAROC

- 4.4.1. The Chief Executive shall be the returning officer for any election of members to SAROC.
- 4.4.2. After the Close of Nominations, the Chief Executive will notify Members of each Regional Grouping of Members of the candidates for membership of SAROC nominated by the Regional Grouping of Members.
- 4.4.3. If the only nominations received from a Regional Grouping of Members by the Close of Nominations match the membership positions described in clause 4.2 then the Chief Executive will declare those persons duly elected to those membership positions.
- 4.4.4. If the number of persons nominated by the Close of Nominations by a Regional Grouping of Members exceeds the number of membership positions described in clause 4.2, then an election for the purpose of clause 4.2 must be held in accordance with this clause.
- 4.4.5. In the event of an election being required, the SAROC Regional Grouping in consultation with the Chief Executive shall conduct an election.
- 4.4.6. The Chief Executive, in consultation with the SAROC Regional Grouping shall nominate the date, time and place for the counting of votes and shall invite



each candidate and a person nominated as the candidate's scrutineer to be present:

- (a) at the counting of the votes the Chief Executive shall produce unopened envelopes marked "Ballot Paper" and if satisfied that all votes are valid, count the number of votes received by each candidate;
- (b) in respect of an election for the purposes of clause 4.2, the 2 candidates from a Regional Grouping of Members with the most votes shall be deemed elected and the Chief Executive shall declare the candidates elected at the Annual General Meeting; and
- (c) in the case of candidates for membership positions described in clause 4.2 receiving the same number of votes, the Chief Executive shall draw lots at the counting of the votes to determine which candidate is elected.

4.4.7. The Chief Executive may, in his or her discretion, appoint a deputy returning officer and delegate any of his or her powers, functions or duties to that person who shall act accordingly.

4.4.8. The Chief Executive may, in his or her discretion, delegate any of his or her powers, functions or duties to an Executive Officer of a Regional Grouping of Members who shall act accordingly for the conduct of elections for the purpose of clause 4.2 in respect of the Regional Grouping of Members relevant to that Executive Officer.

4.5. Term of office

The term of office for members of SAROC shall commence after the Annual General Meeting of the year in which the member is elected. Each member of SAROC will serve for a period of 2 years or until a circumstance causing a casual vacancy as described in clause 4.7.2 occurs.

4.6. Duties

4.6.1. Each member of SAROC must:

- (a) undertake his or her role as a SAROC member honestly and act with reasonable care and diligence in the performance and discharge of functions and duties;
- (b) not make improper use of information acquired by virtue of his or her position as a SAROC member to gain, directly or indirectly, an advantage for himself or herself or for another person or to cause detriment to the LGA;
- (c) not make improper use of his or her position as a SAROC member to gain, directly or indirectly, an advantage for himself or herself or for another person or to cause detriment to the LGA; and
- (d) not act in any matter where the SAROC member has a conflict of interest (provided that an interest shared in common with all or a substantial proportion of the members of SAROC will not be an interest giving rise to a conflict of interest).



4.7. Absences and casual vacancies

- 4.7.1. A leave of absence may be granted to a member of SAROC by resolution of SAROC. A replacement member of SAROC will be appointed for the period of the leave of absence by resolution of the majority of Members comprising the Regional Grouping of Members relevant to the person the subject of the leave of absence.
- 4.7.2. A casual vacancy will occur in the office of a member of SAROC if the member of SAROC:
 - (a) dies;
 - (b) resigns from SAROC;
 - (c) is dismissed by resolution of the Board of Directors from SAROC for Misconduct;
 - (d) ceases to be a Council Member; or
 - (e) an administrator is appointed to administer the affairs of the Member for which the member of SAROC is a Council Member.
- 4.7.3. If there is a casual vacancy in the membership of SAROC then the Regional Grouping of Members relevant to the SAROC member the subject of the casual vacancy will appoint by resolution of the majority of Members comprising the Regional Grouping of Members another Council Member to serve as a member of SAROC for the balance of the membership term.

5. Responsibilities

5.1. Board of Directors

- 5.1.1. The role of the Board of Directors is to oversee corporate governance of the LGA and provide strategic direction and leadership.
- 5.1.2. The duties of the Board of Directors are to ensure that:
 - (a) the LGA acts in accordance with applicable laws and the Constitution;
 - (b) the LGA acts ethically and with integrity, respecting diversity and striving for gender balance participation in all activities;
 - (c) the activities of the LGA are conducted efficiently and effectively and that the assets of the LGA are properly managed and maintained;
 - (d) subject to any overriding fiduciary or other duty to maintain confidentiality, the affairs of the LGA are undertaken in an open and transparent manner; and
 - (e) the LGA performs to its business plan and achieves or better the financial outcomes projected in its budget.
- 5.1.3. The Board of Directors may from time to time refer matters to SAROC for consideration.
- 5.1.4. The Board of Directors will receive, consider and respond to any report and recommendations provided to the Board of Directors by SAROC.



5.1.5. The Board of Directors will periodically review the performance of SAROC.

5.2. SAROC

5.2.1. SAROC will fulfil its functions under these Terms of Reference in a timely, objective and professional manner consistent with the 'LGA Strategic Management Framework'.

5.2.2. SAROC may, through the Chief Executive and at the LGA's expense, seek external legal, financial or other advice on matters within its functions or concerning these Terms of Reference.

5.3. Chief Executive

5.3.1. The Chief Executive will make available to SAROC information of the LGA which is relevant to the functions of SAROC.

5.3.2. The Chief Executive will ensure that administrative support and other resources are made available to SAROC as included in the SAROC approved annual business plan and budget to enable SAROC to discharge its obligations under these Terms of Reference.

5.3.3. Resources made available to SAROC will include resourcing by the LGA Office or external resources considered appropriate by the Chief Executive acting in consultation with SAROC.

6. Functions of SAROC

6.1. LGA Object

6.1.1. The object of the LGA is to achieve public value through the promotion and advancement of the interests of local government by:

- (a) advocating to achieve greater influence for local government in matters affecting councils and communities;
- (b) assisting member councils to build capacity and increase sustainability through integrated and coordinated local government; and
- (c) advancing local government through best practice and continuous improvement.

6.1.2. SAROC will assist in the achievement of the LGA's object by:

- (a) supporting the activities of the LGA at a regional level;
- (b) promoting communication between Members and between Members and the LGA;
- (c) advocating in respect of matters which affect the SAROC Regional Grouping;
- (d) encouraging engagement of Members within the SAROC Regional Grouping with SAROC and the LGA; and
- (e) participating in policy development and implementation.



6.2. Consideration and referral of Member items of business

- 6.2.1. Any Member of the SAROC Regional Grouping may raise an item of business for the consideration of the Board of Directors or a General Meeting with SAROC. The item of business must be clearly described in writing, including an indication as to whether the impact of the item is confined to the Member or has broader implications for the local government sector.
- 6.2.2. SAROC will consider each item of business raised with SAROC by a Member.
- 6.2.3. A Member may be invited by SAROC to address a meeting of SAROC in respect of the proposed item of business.
- 6.2.4. Where considered appropriate by SAROC on the basis of the nature, scope and impact or potential impact of the item on the local government sector, SAROC will refer the item to either the Board of Directors or a General Meeting.
- 6.2.5. SAROC will inform the Member which has raised the item of business as to whether or not the item will be referred to the Board of Directors or a General Meeting.
- 6.2.6. Where an item of business is not referred to the Board of Directors or a General Meeting, SAROC may provide assistance or guidance to the Member in respect of progressing the matter.

6.3. Proposals for policy development

- 6.3.1. SAROC may develop proposals for policy positions for consideration at a General Meeting either in response to an issue raised by a Member within the SAROC Regional Grouping or independently.
- 6.3.2. A policy position developed by SAROC will be referred to the Board of Directors for consideration and determination as to whether or not the position should be put for consideration and adoption to a General Meeting.

6.4. Election to Board of Directors

- 6.4.1. SAROC will elect 3 members of SAROC (each of which must be a Council Member with relevant business and governance experience) to the Board of Directors.
- 6.4.2. In addition to Directors elected under clause 6.4.1, the chairperson of SAROC will be a Director.
- 6.4.3. The term of office as a Director of the 3 persons elected to the Board of Directors by SAROC and the chairperson of SAROC will commence after the Annual General Meeting of the year in which the person is elected and shall be for 2 years or until a casual vacancy in that office occurs.
- 6.4.4. Persons elected under clause 6.4.1 are eligible for re-election for subsequent terms.

6.5. Strategic and annual business planning

- 6.5.1. SAROC will develop, in consultation with the Members of the SAROC Regional Grouping, a 4 year strategic plan for regional advocacy, policy



initiation and review, leadership, engagement and capacity building in the SAROC Region. The strategic plan will be reviewed and updated annually by SAROC by June each year.

6.5.2. SAROC will develop, in consultation with the Members within the SAROC Regional Grouping, an annual business plan for the next financial year by June each year.

6.5.3. The strategic plan and annual business plan for the next financial year will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval by June each year.

6.6. Other functions

SAROC will undertake any other functions:

6.6.1. of SAROC set out in the Constitution; and

6.6.2. delegated by the Board of Directors to SAROC.

7. Budget

7.1 SAROC will by June each year develop and adopt a budget to cover anticipated expenses of activities under the strategic plan and annual business plan during the next financial year. After adoption by SAROC, the budget will be provided to the Board of Directors for consideration and approval.

7.2 SAROC will provide a financial report to the Board of Directors no later than September providing a true and correct record of the expenditure of SAROC against the annual budget.

7.3 The chairperson of SAROC will meet with the Audit Committee of the LGA or the LGA's external auditor on request to discuss the SAROC financial report.

8. Committees

SAROC may establish committees consisting of any person with relevant experience, skill or expertise for any purpose and determine the terms of reference for such committees.

9. Meetings of SAROC

9.1. Resolution of the Board of Directors

Requirements under this clause 9 may be altered, supplemented or replaced by resolution of the Board of Directors.

9.2. Frequency of meetings and venue

9.2.1. SAROC will meet at least once in each 2 month period at such times and places as shall be determined by the Chief Executive.

9.2.2. Any member of SAROC or the Board of Directors may convene additional meetings of SAROC.

9.2.3. Notice of a meeting of SAROC will be provided in writing to members of SAROC by the Chief Executive no less than 7 days prior to the meeting providing the date, time and place of the meeting and the proposed business to be conducted at the meeting.



9.3. Chairperson

- 9.3.1. The chairperson of SAROC will be a Council Member appointed by SAROC.
- 9.3.2. The chairperson will be the official spokesperson for SAROC.
- 9.3.3. If the chairperson of SAROC is absent from a meeting of SAROC then the members attending the SAROC meeting will appoint a chairperson for the purposes of that meeting.

9.4. Decision making

- 9.4.1. All questions arising at a meeting of SAROC shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the members of SAROC present and voting on each question.
- 9.4.2. The Chair of the meeting has a deliberative vote and, if there are equal numbers of votes on any question, a casting vote.

9.5. Meeting procedure

The meeting procedures determined by the Board of Directors from time to time will apply to meetings of SAROC.

9.6. Attendance

- 9.6.1. Meetings of SAROC will be closed to the public.
- 9.6.2. SAROC may invite any person to attend its meetings.

9.7. Minutes

- 9.7.1. Minutes will be kept of all SAROC meetings including a record of the actions of SAROC.
- 9.7.2. Within 48 hours of a SAROC meeting, the chairperson will review and confirm the draft minutes. The draft minutes will then be circulated to SAROC members for comment and if necessary amendment before being certified as correct by the chairperson.

9.8. Quorum

The quorum for a meeting of SAROC is one half of the members of SAROC, plus 1 member of SAROC (provided that at least 1 member elected by each Regional Grouping of Members must be present except for a Regional Grouping of Members with no representation on SAROC).

9.9. Performance assessment

SAROC will assess its performance against:

- 9.9.1. the strategic plan and annual business plan each quarter; and
- 9.9.2. these Terms of Reference annually.

9.10. Reporting

- 9.10.1. A Director elected by SAROC will provide a verbal report to the Board of Directors on key matters being considered by SAROC at each Board of Director's meeting at which the minutes of SAROC are to be considered by the Board of Directors.



- 9.10.2. Any matter relevant to regional advocacy, policy initiation and review, leadership, engagement and capacity building in the SAROC Region considered to be of significance to the corporate governance, strategic direction and leadership of the LGA will be reported by SAROC to the Board as soon as practicable after SAROC has considered the matter.
- 9.10.3. SAROC will provide an annual report to the Board of Directors by September each year summarising:
 - (a) the discharge of SAROC's responsibilities and functions under these Terms of Reference and against the strategic plan and annual business plan;
 - (b) the activities of SAROC during the financial year;
 - (c) items of business referred to the Board of Directors or a General Meeting during the financial year; and
 - (d) items being considered by SAROC which have not been reported to the Board of Directors and the intended actions in respect of those matters.

10. Access to information

- 10.1.1. SAROC is entitled, acting through the Chief Executive, to access any information or discuss matters with staff of the LGA Office.
- 10.1.2. A copy of the agenda for a SAROC meeting, reports to be considered by SAROC and minutes of SAROC meetings certified under clause 9.7.2 will be available to all Directors.
- 10.1.3. Subject to confidentiality requirements as determined by the Board of Directors or SAROC, a copy of the SAROC agenda, reports and minutes certified under clause 9.7.2. will be published on the LGA website for review by Members.

11. Administration

- 11.1.** Subject to clause 11.2, an administrator appointed to administer the affairs of the Member may exercise the rights and satisfy the obligations of the administered Member under these Terms of Reference.
- 11.2.** An administrator is ineligible to be a member of SAROC.

Schedule: List of Regional Groupings of Members in the SAROC Regional Grouping

Regional Grouping of Members	Members
Southern & Hills Councils	Alexandrina Mount Barker Victor Harbor Yankalilla Kangaroo Island
Legatus Councils	Adelaide Plains Barossa Barunga West Clare & Gilbert Valleys Copper Coast Goyder Light Mount Remarkable Northern Areas Orroroo Carrieton Peterborough Wakefield Yorke Peninsula Flinders Ranges
Eyre Peninsula	Ceduna Cleve Elliston Franklin Harbor Kimba Streaky Bay Tumby Bay Wudinna Lower Eyre Peninsula Port Lincoln
Limestone Coast	Grant Kingston Mount Gambier Naracoorte Lucindale Robe Tatiara Wattle Range

Murraylands & Riverland	Loxton Waikerie Mid Murray Karoonda East Murray Coorong District Southern Mallee Berri Barmora Renmark Paringa Murray Bridge
Spencer Gulf Cities	Port Augusta Port Pirie Whyalla



LGA GAROC Terms of Reference

Effective 23 July 2020



Local Government Association of South Australia

GAROC Terms of Reference

Adopted by the LGA Board on 23 July 2020 and re-ratified by Members at the AGM held 29 October 2021

1. Establishment

In accordance with clause 19 of the Local Government Association of South Australia Constitution and Rules (**Constitution**) there are 2 regional organisations of Members: the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (**SAROC**) and the Greater Adelaide Regional Organisation of Councils (**GAROC**).

2. Terms of Reference

2.1. These Terms of Reference set out the functions to be discharged by GAROC.

2.2. The operation of the Terms of Reference may be altered by the Board of Directors either generally or in respect of specific circumstances by resolution with the exception of clauses 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4. A resolution for the purposes of this clause 2.2 will be reported to the chairperson of GAROC within 24 hours of the meeting of the Board of Directors at which the resolution was passed.

2.3. These Terms of Reference will be presented to the Members at a General Meeting for ratification annually (or more frequently as determined by the Board).

2.4. Clauses 4.2, 4.3 or 4.4 of this Terms of Reference may be altered only:

2.4.1. By resolution passed at a General Meeting of which at least 30 days' notice has been given to Members; and

2.4.2. With approval of the Minister.

2.5. The term:

GAROC Region means the combined local government area of each Member listed in the Schedule and the City of Adelaide.

GAROC Regional Grouping means all of the Members of the Regional Groupings of Members as identified in the Schedule and, for the purposes of Clause 6 of these Terms of Reference and Clause 28.6 of the Constitution, includes the City of Adelaide.

2.6. A capitalised term not defined in this document has the meaning provided for the term in the Constitution.

3. Status

GAROC is a committee of the LGA and is responsible to the Board of Directors for the discharge of its functions.

4. GAROC

4.1. Role

The role of GAROC is regional advocacy, policy initiation and review, leadership, engagement and capacity building in the GAROC Region.



4.2. Membership

- 4.2.1. Each Regional Grouping of Members listed in the schedule to these Terms of Reference will elect in accordance with clause 4.3 and 4.4 from the Members of the Regional Grouping of Members, 2 Council Members of Members in the Regional Grouping of Members as members of GAROC provided that each person elected is from a different Member.
- 4.2.2. In addition to the members of GAROC elected in accordance with clause 4.2.1, the Lord Mayor of the City of Adelaide will be a standing member of GAROC.

4.3. Nominations for election to GAROC

- 4.3.1. The members of GAROC will be elected biennially.
- 4.3.2. In the year in which GAROC members will be elected, and at least 3 months before the Annual General Meeting, the Chief Executive shall write to all Members of the GAROC Regional Grouping as listed in the schedule calling for nominations for the membership of GAROC.
- 4.3.3. Each Member of the GAROC Regional Grouping may nominate a candidate for membership of GAROC, provided that:
 - (a) a person nominated as a member of GAROC must be a representative of a member on the relevant Regional Grouping of Members; and
 - (b) only a Council Member can be nominated to GAROC.
- 4.3.4. A nomination of a person as a member of GAROC must be by resolution of the Member received by the Chief Executive not later than 5 pm on the day specified for the closure of nominations (**Close of Nominations**). A nomination must be signed by the candidate indicating his or her willingness to stand for election and be in the form determined by the Chief Executive.

4.4. Election to GAROC

- 4.4.1. The Chief Executive shall be the returning officer for any election of members to GAROC.
- 4.4.2. After the Close of Nominations, the Chief Executive will notify Members of each Regional Grouping of Members of the candidates for membership of GAROC nominated by the Regional Grouping of Members.
- 4.4.3. If the only nominations received from a Regional Grouping of Members by the Close of Nominations match the membership positions described in clause 4.2.1, then the Chief Executive will declare those persons duly elected to those membership positions.
- 4.4.4. If the number of persons nominated by the Close of Nominations by a Regional Grouping of Members exceeds the number of membership positions described in clause 4.2.1, then an election for the purpose of clause 4.2.1 must be held in accordance with this clause.



- 4.4.5. In the event of an election being required, the Chief Executive shall conduct the election as follows:
- (a) at least six weeks before the Annual General Meeting, the Chief Executive shall deliver ballot papers to each Member of the Regional Grouping of Members;
 - (b) the ballot papers shall:
 - (i) list the candidates for election;
 - (ii) specify the day of closure of the election;
 - (iii) be accompanied by an envelope marked "Ballot Paper" and a second envelope marked "Returning Officer";
 - (c) each Member shall determine by resolution the candidate or candidates (as relevant) it wishes to elect;
 - (d) the chair of the meeting for that Member shall mark the ballot paper with an "X" next to the candidate or candidates (as relevant) that the Member wishes elected and seal the ballot paper in the envelope marked "Ballot Paper" inside the envelope marked "Returning Officer". Before sealing the second envelope the chair must indicate the Member's name on the inside flap of the envelope. The envelope may then be sealed and delivered to the Returning Officer;
 - (e) on receipt of the envelopes the Chief Executive must:
 - (i) open the outer envelope addressed to the "Returning Officer" and record the name of the Member which appears on the inside flap of the envelope on the roll of Member's eligible to vote; and
 - (ii) place the envelope marked "Ballot Paper" unopened into the ballot box;
 - (f) the Chief Executive shall nominate the date, time and place for the counting of votes and shall invite each candidate and a person nominated as the candidate's scrutineer to be present;
 - (g) at the counting of the votes the Chief Executive shall produce unopened envelopes marked "Ballot Paper" and if satisfied that all votes are valid, count the number of votes received by each candidate;
 - (h) in respect of an election for the purposes of clause 4.2.1, the 2 candidates from a Regional Grouping of Members with the most votes shall be deemed elected in respect of that Regional Grouping of Members and the Chief Executive shall declare the candidates elected at the Annual General Meeting; and
 - (i) in the case of candidates for membership positions described in clause 4.2.1 from a Regional Grouping of Members receiving the same number of votes, the Chief Executive shall draw lots at the counting of the votes to determine which candidate is elected.



- 4.4.6. The Chief Executive may, in his or her discretion, appoint a deputy returning officer and delegate any of his or her powers, functions or duties to that person who shall act accordingly.
- 4.4.7. The Chief Executive may, in his or her discretion, delegate any of his or her powers, functions or duties to an Executive Officer of a Regional Grouping of Members who shall act accordingly for the conduct of elections for the purpose of clause 4.2.1 in respect of the Regional Grouping of Members relevant to that Executive Officer.

4.5. Term of office

The term of office for members of GAROC shall commence after the Annual General Meeting of the year in which the member is elected. Each member of GAROC will serve for a period of 2 years or until a circumstance causing a casual vacancy as described in clause 4.7.2 occurs.

4.6. Duties

- 4.6.1. Each member of GAROC must:
 - (a) undertake his or her role as a GAROC member honestly and act with reasonable care and diligence in the performance and discharge of functions and duties;
 - (b) not make improper use of information acquired by virtue of his or her position as a GAROC member to gain, directly or indirectly, an advantage for himself or herself or for another person or to cause detriment to the LGA;
 - (c) not make improper use of his or her position as a GAROC member to gain, directly or indirectly, an advantage for himself or herself or for another person or to cause detriment to the LGA; and
 - (d) not act in any matter where the GAROC member has a conflict of interest (provided that an interest shared in common with all or a substantial proportion of the members of GAROC will not be an interest giving rise to a conflict of interest).

4.7. Absences and casual vacancies

- 4.7.1. A leave of absence may be granted to a member of GAROC by resolution of GAROC. A replacement member of GAROC will be appointed for the period of the leave of absence by resolution of the majority of Members comprising the Regional Grouping of Members relevant to the person the subject of the leave of absence.
- 4.7.2. A casual vacancy will occur in the office of a member of GAROC if the member of GAROC:
 - (a) dies;
 - (b) resigns from GAROC;
 - (c) is dismissed by resolution of the Board of Directors from GAROC for Misconduct;



- (d) ceases to be a Council Member;
- (e) the Member for which the member of GAROC is a Council Member is no longer a member of the Local Government Association; or
- (f) an administrator is appointed to administer the affairs of the Member for which the member of GAROC is a Council Member.

4.7.3. If there is a casual vacancy in the membership of GAROC, then the Regional Grouping of Members relevant to the GAROC member the subject of the casual vacancy will appoint by resolution of the majority of Members comprising the Regional Grouping of Members another Council Member to serve as a member of GAROC for the balance of the membership term.

5. Responsibilities

5.1. Board of Directors

- 5.1.1. The role of the Board of Directors is to oversee corporate governance of the LGA and provide strategic direction and leadership.
- 5.1.2. The duties of the Board of Directors are to ensure that:
 - (a) the LGA acts in accordance with applicable laws and the Constitution;
 - (b) the LGA acts ethically and with integrity, respecting diversity and striving for gender balance participation in all activities;
 - (c) the activities of the LGA are conducted efficiently and effectively and that the assets of the LGA are properly managed and maintained;
 - (d) subject to any overriding fiduciary or other duty to maintain confidentiality, the affairs of the LGA are undertaken in an open and transparent manner; and
 - (e) the LGA performs to its business plan and achieves or betters the financial outcomes projected in its budget.
- 5.1.3. The Board of Directors may from time to time refer matters to GAROC for consideration.
- 5.1.4. The Board of Directors will receive, consider and respond to any report and recommendations provided to the Board of Directors by GAROC.
- 5.1.5. The Board of Directors will periodically review the performance of GAROC.

5.2. GAROC

- 5.2.1. GAROC will fulfil its functions under these Terms of Reference in a timely, objective and professional manner consistent with the 'LGA Strategic Management Framework'.
- 5.2.2. GAROC may, through the Chief Executive and at the LGA's expense, seek external legal, financial or other advice on matters within its functions or concerning these Terms of Reference.



5.3. Chief Executive

- 5.3.1. The Chief Executive will make available to GAROC information of the LGA which is relevant to the functions of GAROC.
- 5.3.2. The Chief Executive will ensure that administrative support and other resources are made available to GAROC as included in the GAROC approved annual business plan and budget to enable GAROC to discharge its obligations under these Terms of Reference.
- 5.3.3. Resources made available to GAROC will include resourcing by the LGA Office or external resources considered appropriate by the Chief Executive acting in consultation with GAROC.

6. Functions of GAROC

6.1. LGA Object

- 6.1.1. The object of the LGA is to achieve public value through the promotion and advancement of the interests of local government by:
 - (a) advocating to achieve greater influence for local government in matters affecting councils and communities;
 - (b) assisting member councils to build capacity and increase sustainability through integrated and coordinated local government; and
 - (c) advancing local government through best practice and continuous improvement.
- 6.1.2. GAROC will assist in the achievement of the LGA's object by:
 - (a) supporting the activities of the LGA at a regional level;
 - (b) promoting communication between Members and between Members and the LGA;
 - (c) advocating in respect of matters which affect the GAROC Regional Grouping;
 - (d) encouraging engagement of Members within the GAROC Regional Grouping with GAROC and the LGA; and
 - (e) participating in policy development and implementation.

6.2. Consideration and referral of Member items of business

- 6.2.1. Any Member of the GAROC Regional Grouping may raise an item of business for the consideration of the Board of Directors or a General Meeting with GAROC. The item of business must be clearly described in writing, including an indication as to whether the impact of the item is confined to the Member or has broader implications for the local government sector.
- 6.2.2. GAROC will consider each item of business raised with GAROC by a Member.



- 6.2.3. A Member may be invited by GAROC to address a meeting of GAROC in respect of the proposed item of business.
- 6.2.4. Where considered appropriate by GAROC on the basis of the nature, scope and impact or potential impact of the item on the local government sector, GAROC will refer the item to either the Board of Directors or a General Meeting.
- 6.2.5. GAROC will inform the Member which has raised the item of business as to whether or not the item will be referred to the Board of Directors or a General Meeting.
- 6.2.6. Where an item of business is not referred to the Board of Directors or a General Meeting, GAROC may provide assistance or guidance to the Member in respect of progressing the matter.

6.3. Proposals for policy development

- 6.3.1. GAROC may develop proposals for policy positions for consideration at a General Meeting either in response to an issue raised by a Member within the GAROC Regional Grouping or independently.
- 6.3.2. A policy position developed by GAROC will be referred to the Board of Directors for consideration and determination as to whether or not the position should be put for consideration and adoption to a General Meeting.

6.4. Election to Board of Directors

- 6.4.1. GAROC will elect 3 members of GAROC (each of which must be a Council Member with relevant business and governance experience) to the Board of Directors.
- 6.4.2. In addition to Directors elected under clause 6.4.1, the chairperson of GAROC will be a Director.
- 6.4.3. The term of office as a Director of the 3 persons elected to the Board of Directors by GAROC and the chairperson of GAROC will commence after the Annual General Meeting of the year in which the person is elected and shall be for 2 years or until a casual vacancy in that office occurs.
- 6.4.4. Persons elected under clause 6.4.1 are eligible for re-election for subsequent terms.

6.5. Strategic and annual business planning

- 6.5.1. GAROC will develop, in consultation with the Members of the GAROC Regional Grouping, a 4 year strategic plan for regional advocacy, policy initiation and review, leadership, engagement and capacity building in the GAROC Region. The strategic plan will be reviewed and updated annually by GAROC by June each year.
- 6.5.2. GAROC will develop, in consultation with the Members within the GAROC Regional Group, an annual business plan for the next financial year by June each year.



- 6.5.3. The strategic plan and annual business plan for the next financial year will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval by June each year.

6.6. Other functions

GAROC will undertake any other functions:

- 6.6.1. of GAROC set out in the Constitution; and
6.6.2. delegated by the Board of Directors to GAROC.

7. Budget

- 7.1.1. GAROC will by June each year develop and adopt a budget to cover anticipated expenses of activities under the strategic plan and annual business plan during the next financial year. After adoption by GAROC, the budget will be provided to the Board of Directors for consideration and approval.
- 7.1.2. GAROC will provide a financial report to the Board of Directors no later than September providing a true and correct record of the expenditure of GAROC against the annual budget.
- 7.1.3. The chairperson of GAROC will meet with the Audit Committee of the LGA or the LGA's external auditor on request to discuss the GAROC financial report.

8. Committees

GAROC may establish committees consisting of any person with relevant experience, skill or expertise for any purpose and determine the terms of reference for such committees.

9. Meetings of GAROC

9.1. Resolution of the Board of Directors

Requirements under this clause 9 may be altered, supplemented or replaced by resolution of the Board of Directors.

9.2. Frequency of meetings and venue

- 9.2.1. GAROC will meet at least once in each 2 month period at such times and places as shall be determined by the Chief Executive.
- 9.2.2. Any member of GAROC or the Board of Directors may convene additional meetings of GAROC.
- 9.2.3. Notice of a meeting of GAROC will be provided in writing to members of GAROC by the Chief Executive no less than 7 days prior to the meeting providing the date, time and place of the meeting and the proposed business to be conducted at the meeting.

9.3. Chairperson

- 9.3.1. The chairperson of GAROC will be a Council Member appointed by GAROC.
- 9.3.2. The chairperson will be the official spokesperson for GAROC.



- 9.3.3. If the chairperson of GAROC is absent from a meeting of GAROC then the members attending the GAROC meeting will appoint a chairperson for the purposes of that meeting.

9.4. Decision making

- 9.4.1. All questions arising at a meeting of GAROC shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the members of GAROC present and voting on each question.
- 9.4.2. The Chair of the meeting has a deliberative vote and, if there are equal numbers of votes on any question, a casting vote.

9.5. Meeting procedure

The meeting procedures determined by the Board of Directors from time to time will apply to meetings of GAROC.

9.6. Attendance

- 9.6.1. Meetings of GAROC will be closed to the public.
- 9.6.2. GAROC may invite any person to attend its meetings.

9.7. Minutes

- 9.7.1. Minutes will be kept of all GAROC meetings including a record of the actions of GAROC.
- 9.7.2. Within 48 hours of a GAROC meeting, the chairperson will review and confirm the draft minutes. The draft minutes will then be circulated to GAROC members for comment and if necessary amendment before being certified as correct by the chairperson.

9.8. Quorum

The quorum for a meeting of GAROC is one half of the members of GAROC, plus 1 member of GAROC (provided that at least 1 member elected by each Regional Grouping of Members must be present except for a Regional Grouping of Members with no representation on GAROC).

9.9. Performance assessment

GAROC will assess its performance against:

- 9.9.1. the strategic plan and annual business plan each quarter; and
- 9.9.2. these Terms of Reference annually.

9.10. Reporting

- 9.10.1. A Director elected by GAROC will provide a verbal report to the Board of Directors on key matters being considered by GAROC at each Board of Director's meeting at which the minutes of GAROC are to be considered by the Board of Directors.



- 9.10.2. Any matter relevant to regional advocacy, policy initiation and review, leadership, engagement and capacity building in the GAROC Region considered to be of significance to the corporate governance, strategic direction and leadership of the LGA will be reported by GAROC to the Board as soon as practicable after GAROC has considered the matter.
- 9.10.3. GAROC will provide an annual report to the Board of Directors by September each year summarising:
 - (a) the discharge of GAROC's responsibilities and functions under these Terms of Reference and against the strategic plan and annual business plan;
 - (b) the activities of GAROC during the financial year;
 - (c) items of business referred to the Board of Directors or a General Meeting during the financial year; and
 - (d) items being considered by GAROC which have not been reported to the Board of Directors and the intended actions in respect of those matters.

10. Access to information

- 10.1.1. GAROC is entitled, acting through the Chief Executive, to access any information or discuss matters with staff of the LGA Office.
- 10.1.2. A copy of the agenda for a GAROC meeting, reports to be considered by GAROC and minutes of GAROC meetings certified under clause 9.7.2 will be available to all Directors.
- 10.1.3. Subject to confidentiality requirements as determined by the Board of Directors or GAROC, a copy of the GAROC agenda, reports and minutes certified under clause 9.7.2 will be published on the LGA website for review by Members.

11. Administration

- 11.1. Subject to clause 11.2, an administrator appointed to administer the affairs of the Member may exercise the rights and satisfy the obligations of the administered Member under these Terms of Reference.
- 11.2. An administrator is ineligible to be a member of GAROC.

12. Transitional provisions

12.1. Interpretation

- 12.1.1. Transitional arrangements associated with these Terms of Reference are set out in this clause 12.
- 12.1.2. In this clause 12:



“Commencement Date” means the date on which both of the following criteria have been satisfied (regardless of the order in which they are satisfied):

- (a) these Terms of Reference have been adopted by resolution passed at a General Meeting of which at least 30 days’ notice has been given to Members; and
- (b) the Minister has approved the amendments to clauses 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4.

“Previous Terms of Reference” means the terms of reference for GAROC in operation immediately prior to the Commencement Date.

“Transitional Period” means the period between the Commencement Date and the Annual General Meeting in 2020.

- 12.1.3. The term of office of each member of GAROC appointed prior to the Commencement Date will expire at the Annual General Meeting in 2020 or when a casual vacancy arises under clause 4.7.2.
- 12.1.4. If a leave of absence is granted under clause 4.7.1 in respect of a member of GAROC during the Transitional Period, a replacement member of GAROC will be appointed for the period of the leave of absence by resolution of the majority of Members comprising the Regional Grouping of Members specified in the schedule to the Previous Terms of Reference.
- 12.1.5. If a casual vacancy arises under clause 4.7.2 in respect of a member of GAROC during the Transitional Period, another Council Member will be appointed to serve as a member of GAROC for the balance of the membership term by resolution of the majority of Members comprising the Regional Grouping of Members specified in the schedule to the Previous Terms of Reference.

Schedule: List of Regional Groupings of Members within the GAROC Regional Grouping

Regional Grouping of Members	Members
North	Gawler Playford Salisbury Tea Tree Gully
West	Charles Sturt Holdfast Bay Port Adelaide Enfield West Torrens
South	Marion Mitcham Onkaparinga
East	Adelaide Hills Burnside Campbelltown Norwood Payneham & St Peters Prospect Unley Walkerville

148 Frome St
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 2693
Adelaide SA 5001

T (08) 8224 2000

F (08) 8232 6336

E lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au

www.lga.sa.gov.au

7.1 Landscapes Board Levy (City of Victor Harbor)

Recommendation Reports from the SAROC Committee

Submitted by:	City of Victor Harbor	
Approved by:	SAROC Committee	
Meeting	Annual General Meeting	28 October 2022
ECM:	781945	Attachment: 780051

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting requests the Local Government Association to request the State Government review the manner which they collect the Landscape levy from local communities. With the desired outcome being one in which Revenue SA collect the levy directly in alignment with the Emergency Services levy.

SAROC Committee's Comments

The matter raised in the Item of Business proposed by the City of Victor Harbor is of importance to the LGA and to the local government sector and is in alignment with the following LGA Policy:

1.2.6 Cost Shifting

Cost shifting and unsustainable increases in levies and charges from state government puts significant pressure on council rates and creates fiscal impacts in councils. Local government will continue to rigorously object to cost shifting in any form, including mandatory revenue collection for federal or state government.

SAROC amended the recommendation to suggest that the desired outcome should be one where Revenue SA collects the Landscape levy on behalf of the Landscape Board in the same way they collect the Emergency Services Levy.

SAROC considered that imposing this requirement on the Landscape Board would result in a significant administrative and financial burden and recognises that the State Government has an existing established agency who should be able to collect and distribute the Landscape levy.

LGA Officer's Comments

(Officer: Stephen Smith, Policy Advisor)

Local government collecting the Landscapes levy and the previous NRM levy has been a key advocacy platform for the LGA for many years. The LGA sought the deletion of those sections of the *Landscapes South Australia Act 2019*, that placed a mandatory requirement on councils to collect the Landscape levy on behalf of the regional landscape boards during debate on the Bill in 2019. The Labor opposition and most cross bench parties supported the LGA position, the Greens supported the Liberal Government to pass the legislation.

The LGA's long held position is that all spheres of government should be responsible for collecting their own revenue and have autonomy in how it is collected.

There are several areas of concern for Councils in collecting the Landscape levy, including:

- Community members mistaking the state government levy for increased council revenue.

- Where the Landscape levy remains unpaid by the landholder, the financial burden is on the Council as they are required to pay the full total of the levy to the Landscape Board.
- The hidden administrative costs to councils in collecting the levy on behalf of the State, particularly in relation to non-payment and rebates that are not recovered.
- The cost of the levy and the administrative arrangements for Landscape Boards has changed significantly since councils began collecting the levy in 2004.
- The Green Adelaide Board is solely appointed by the Minister. Local government is being required to collect a levy for a government operated and managed boards.

Sections 71 of the Landscapes SA Act provide a mechanism to enable Landscape Boards to collect the Regional Landscape levy, without the requirement for Councils to be involved.

Given that the Act has been in operation since 2019 it would be appropriate for a review of the levy collection process to be undertaken to determine the financial cost imposts on local government and to develop a more appropriate levy collection process.

Financial and Resource Implications

This activity has been anticipated in the LGA's work program and resources are available to progress this work.

LGA General Meeting – Proposed Item of Business

The purpose of this form is to request consideration by SAROC, GAROC or the Board of Directors of an item of business to be included on the agenda of an LGA General Meeting - refer Clause 16.3.1 of the LGA Constitution. Prior to submitting a proposed Item of Business, please refer to the Considering Proposed Items of Business for LGA General Meetings Guidelines.

Council Name	City of Victor Harbor
The body the item is being referred to <i>Proposals may only be submitted to the ROC of which council is a member, or to the LGA Board of Directors.</i>	SAROC
Subject of the proposed item of business	Landscapes Board Levy
Proposed motion for the General Meeting	That the Annual General Meeting requests the Local Government Association to request that the State Government review the manner in which they collect the Landscapes levy from local communities. With the desired outcome being one in which they collect the revenue for their own levy directly
Supporting information <i>Provide a summary of the issue(s), relevant background information, description of the impact on the sector and evidence that this is an item of strategic importance to local government.</i>	<p>Over the years the State Government has continued to shift a number of regulatory costs and burdens onto Local Government. One of the most ridiculous of these is requiring councils to collect a State Government tax on their behalf. The objection is not that we shouldn't be raising money to help with environmental projects, but rather that if councils are raising this money then arguably they are best positioned to spend it on projects that see real environmental impacts on the ground. Rather than the current situation that sees the sector collect the revenue (including the administration fee we are allowed to charge), then pass it to the State, who distributes it to the Boards who then spend what is left of the money raised. The layers between raising the money and spending it for environmental outcomes siphon off money that could otherwise have more of a real impact.</p> <p>If the state government wishes to raise money then they should bear the responsibility for it themselves. If they want councils to raise it, then let the sector spend it</p>
LGA Policy Manual <i>Does this item require a change to the LGA Policy Manual (new policy or amendment to existing policy)?</i>	<p>(please click here to view the LGA Policy Manual)</p> <p>No</p>
LGA Strategic Plan reference	<p>(please click here to view the 2021-25 LGA Strategic Plan)</p> <p>Strategy 1 – Advocate</p>

	Achieve greater influence for local government <i>1.2 Governments rely on our proactive contribution to policy and legislation that impacts councils, leading to better outcomes for communities</i>
Council Contact Officer submitting form	Kyla Walker kwalker@victor.sa.gov.au 8551 0573
Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting	Monday, 25 July 2022 OC3002022
Date submitted to LGA	29 July 2022

Please return Word version of completed form to lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au.
Refer to LGA Latest News in respect to deadlines for upcoming General Meetings.

7.2 EPA Solid Waste Levy (City of Mount Gambier)

Recommendation Reports from the SAROC Committee

Submitted by:	City of Mount Gambier	
Approved by:	SAROC Committee	
Meeting	Annual General Meeting	28 October 2022
ECM:	782380	Attachment: 780042

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to call for the Deputy Premier the Hon Susan Close, as Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, to provide the LGA with a detailed explanation of how the Solid Waste Levy funds collected by waste depot licence holders are allocated both in terms of general revenue and the Green Industry Fund and calls for an equitable distribution of funds between regional and metropolitan councils.

SAROC Committee's Comments

In considering this item of business, SAROC recognised the impact matters relating to the Solid Waste Levy (SWL) have on strategic local government endeavours relating to waste, recycling, resource recovery and the transition towards a more circular economy.

In approving this item of business, SAROC acknowledged the significant advocacy¹ and assist endeavours undertaken by the LGA in this space and the alignment between this item of business and existing LGA Waste & Resource Recovery policy positions²:

4.2.2 Solid Waste Levy

Local government recognises the use of fees, charges and levies as legitimate tools for waste management, but the level at which the solid waste levy is currently set is too high. Local government shall continue to lobby for an independent inquiry to determine the optimal level for the solid waste levy with regard to community benefits.

4.2.6 EPA Waste Reform Agenda

Local government acknowledges that the waste and resource recovery sector is highly regulated and recognises its role in this framework. Local government shall continue to lobby against further legislative and regulatory changes that result in councils incurring an even greater expense in providing waste management services.

LGA Officer's Comments

(Officer: Brianna McGee, Senior Policy Officer)

The proposed item of business from the City of Mount Gambier calling for a detailed explanation of how the SWL is allocated, aligns and progresses LGA advocacy seeking greater transparency and hypothecation to councils of the SWL.

¹For example: LGA Submissions:< <https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/news-and-events/news/submissions> >.

²<https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/about/overview-of-the-lga/corporate-documents/lga-policy-manual/environment-and-natural-resources/4.2-waste-and-resource-recovery>

A substantial amount of the cost of managing and processing waste and recycling is borne by councils and their ratepayers. This is particularly problematic in regional and rural areas where low volume and the tyranny of distance significantly reduces the viability of recycling operations.

Greater hypothecation and transparency of the SWL has been a key focus for LGA advocacy over many years.³ LGA advocacy on this issue intensified in 2018 following policy and market shifts (triggered by insecure end markets for recyclables) and continued following unprecedented increases to the SWL in 2020 resulting in councils experiencing significant increases in waste management costs.

A 2019/20, Environment, Resources and Development Committee Parliamentary inquiry into the Recycling Industry⁴ found that:

- Unexpected increases in the SWL has created challenges for councils and industry.
- There is a lack of transparency and accountability around (long-term) decision making for expenditure of the SWL.
- Regional councils have been disproportionately affected by policy and legislative changes to the SWL, even with assistance towards transport costs from state government.

LGA advocacy around transparency of the SWL has, and will continue to, focus on;

- the expenditure of funds from the Green Industry Fund being reinvested into councils and the waste, recycling, and resource recovery sector to support the transition towards a more circular economy (as opposed to more general climate change or environmental endeavours); and
- the SWL is clearly articulated in advance and there are no unexpected increases to ensure market stability.

Greater transparency regarding expenditure associated with the SWL and the Green Industry Fund, beyond information in state government budget papers and the parliamentary estimates committee process, as articulated by the City of Mount Gambier in its proposed item of business, is beneficial for councils and their communities.

Funds raised through the Solid Waste Levy

Section 17 of *Green Industries SA Act 2004* (SA) provides that at least 50% of the money paid by waste depot licence holders by way of the SWL⁵ goes to the Green Industry Fund. Additionally, it is understood that 5% is paid to the Environmental Protection Fund and 45% is directed to the SA Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to deliver its regulatory and administrative functions.⁶

As of 30 June 2022, the balance of the Green Industry Fund was nearly \$70million.⁷ It is estimated that the Green Industry Fund is projected to increase to “...\$75.5million, then to \$97.7million, then \$114.5million and by 2025-26, to \$142.5 million.”⁸

Evidence (**attached**) provided by the City of Mount Gambier highlights that as a waste depot licence holder, “the City of Mount Gambier has collected approximately \$8.1 million for the EPA Solid Waste Levy over the past five years.”

³ For example, through regular briefings to Members of Parliament, LGA submissions and the LGA Bin Tax campaign.

⁴ House of Assembly Environment, Resources and Development Committee, Parliament of South Australia, *An Inquiry into the Recycling Industry* (4th Report, 21 July 2020) < <https://www.parliament.sa.gov.au/en/Committees/Committees-Detail> >.

⁵ Solid waste levy is provided for under s113 of the *Environment Protection Act 1993* (SA).

⁶ Parliament of Australia, Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications, *Waste and Recycling Industry in Australia* (26 June 2018) Chapter 4: Waste Levies, page 64 at 4.97, <https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/WasteandRecycling/Report>.

⁷ State Government Budget, Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 195.

⁸ South Australia, *Estimates Committee A*, House of Assembly, 23 June 2022, 310 (Susan Close, Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) < <https://hansardsearch.parliament.sa.gov.au/search/calendar> >.

Green Industries has provided approximately \$13 million in grants for waste management to councils from the Green Industry Fund over the last six years.⁹ Over the same time period, it is estimated that metropolitan councils paid around \$150 million dollars in the SWL.¹⁰

Green Industries SA can apply the funds in the Green Industry Fund in accordance with its business plan or as authorised by the Minister for the purposes of the *Green Industries SA Act 2004* (SA).¹¹ Additionally, the Minister can utilise funds in the Green Industry Fund for climate change initiatives and for managing waste and debris arising from an emergency or disaster.¹²

Financial and Resource Implications

This specific activity is not currently anticipated in the LGA's work program but can be delivered within existing LGA resources.

⁹ Government of South Australia, Auditor General's Department, *Management of Kerbside Waste Services* (Report 5 of 2022) pg 14.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ *Green Industries SA Act 2004* (SA) s 17(5)(a).

¹² Ibid s17(5)(b).

LGA General Meeting – Proposed Item of Business

The purpose of this form is to request consideration by SAROC, GAROC or the Board of Directors of an item of business to be included on the agenda of an LGA General Meeting - refer Clause 16.3.1 of the LGA Constitution. Prior to submitting a proposed Item of Business, please refer to the Considering Proposed Items of Business for LGA General Meetings Guidelines.

Council Name	City of Mount Gambier
The body the item is being referred to <i>Proposals may only be submitted to the ROC of which council is a member, or to the LGA Board of Directors.</i>	SAROC
Subject of the proposed item of business	EPA Solid Waste Levy
Proposed motion for the General Meeting	That the Annual / Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to call for the Deputy Premier the Hon Susan Close, as Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, to provide the LGA with a detailed explanation of how the Solid Waste Levy funds collected by waste depot licence holders are allocated both in terms of general revenue and the Green Industries fund and calls for an equitable distribution of funds between regional and metropolitan Councils.
Supporting information <i>Provide a summary of the issue(s), relevant background information, description of the impact on the sector and evidence that this is an item of strategic importance to local government.</i>	<p>In accordance with Part 3 Green Industry Fund – Section 17 (3)(a) of the Green Industries SA Act 2004:</p> <p><i>‘50 percent, or such greater percentage as may be prescribed, of the amount paid by waste depot licence holders by way of levy under section 13 of the Environment Protection Act 1993 in respect of solid waste received at the depots’</i></p> <p>Part 3 Green Industry Fund - Section 17 (4) states that:</p> <p><i>‘The Minister must, at least annually, review the adequacy of the amount paid into the Fund under subsection (3)(a)’</i></p> <p>A substantial amount of the cost of processing waste and recycling is born by local councils and their ratepayers. This is particularly problematic in regional and rural areas where volume and the tyranny of distance significantly reduces the viability of recycling operations.</p> <p>As a Waste Depot licence holder, the City of Mount Gambier has collected approximately \$8.1 million for the EPA Solid Waste Levy over the past 5 years. Increasing costs associated with waste management and the level of investment required to modernise and progress with contemporary, innovative practice requires significant investment therefore it is the view of this Council that all revenue that is raised from waste should be reinvested in waste initiatives.</p> <p>It is on this basis that Council seek clarity around the application of the EPA Solid Waste Levy distribution.</p>

LGA Policy Manual <i>Does this item require a change to the LGA Policy Manual (new policy or amendment to existing policy)?</i>	Nil changes, however relates to LGA Policy: 4.2.2 Solid Waste Levy 4.2.6 EPA Reform Agenda
LGA Strategic Plan reference	Strategy 3 - Advance 3.2 New partnerships and services help Councils innovate and prepare for the future
Council Contact Officer submitting form	Barbara Cernovskis bcernovskis@mountgambier.sa.gov.au 8721 2587 or 0417 488 064
Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting	21 June 2022 - Item 22.3, Resolution 2022/69 (page 12) https://cdn.mountgambier.sa.gov.au/agendas-minutes/Minutes-Council-Meeting-21-June-2022-Website-PDF.pdf
Date submitted to LGA	1 August 2022

Please return Word version of completed form to lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au.
Refer to [LGA Latest News](#) in respect to deadlines for upcoming General Meetings.

7.3 Energy Positive and Carbon Neutral Development (City of Victor Harbor)

Recommendation Reports from the SAROC Committee

Submitted by:	City of Victor Harbor	
Approved by:	SAROC Committee	
Meeting	Annual General Meeting	28 October 2022
ECM:	781047	Attachment: 780050

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting request the LGA to write to the Expert Panel on Planning and to the Minister for Planning seeking an amendment to the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 which would enable the State Planning Commission and/or Councils to amend the Planning and Design Code to enable more energy efficient and sustainable development.

SAROC Committee's Comments

The matter raised in the Item of Business proposed by the City of Victor Harbor is of importance to the LGA and to the local government sector and is in alignment with the following LGA Policy:

6.2.6 Principles of Good Design

Local government recognises that planning decisions should be made cognisant of good design principles. Local government shall continue to collaborate with state government in the development of quality design principles, along with lobbying against design requirements that are not in the best interests of the local community.

SAROC supported the recommendation from the City of Victor Harbor, noting that the recommendation was not seeking to mandate additional provisions which may result increased development costs but enabled the State Planning Commission and councils to identify and enable alternative forms of development and building materials which would allow for more energy efficient and sustainable building forms.

LGA Officer's Comments

(Officer: Stephen Smith, Policy Advisor)

The City of Victor Harbor has raised a valid concern that the current Planning and Design Code does not have clear policy outcomes that promote more energy efficient and carbon neutral buildings apart from minimal standards of insulation and shading and tree planting.

The current Building Code has standards for energy efficiency which must be met for both dwellings and commercial buildings and upcoming amendments to the National Construction Code will see a requirement for new constructions to increase from a 6 star to 7 star rating. The move to 7-star construction for new buildings in the National Construction Code is being delivered in accordance with a 2019 national agreement 'Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings'.

In addition to new buildings there is currently work underway to address the issue of energy efficiency within existing buildings. The existing building trajectory is part of a broader national plan that aims to achieve zero-energy and carbon-ready commercial and residential buildings in Australia

Land use planning can play an important role in climate change mitigation and adaptation. The *Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* requires the Minister for Planning to prepare a specific state planning policy relating to climate change (see attached). The Policy identifies the specific policies and principles that should be applied with respect to minimising adverse effects of decisions made under the Act on the climate and promoting development that is resilient to climate change. A key action for government is to strengthen these policies for climate smart development through the planning system.

The Department for Environment and Water is undertaking a project to review existing and under development work across jurisdictions on land use planning measures for climate change adaptation, risk mitigation, and managing emissions. The stocktake aims to identify best practice measures that could inform future improvements across planning instruments and their implementation under the South Australian planning system.

The research and analysis will consider policies and programs and options to improve the Act and the Planning and Design Code.

The motion from the City of Victor Harbor provides support from the local government sector for the need for this work to be undertaken and embedded within the Planning and Design Code.

The motion will also enable the issue to be raised with the Expert Panel and to seek that energy positive and carbon neutral development policies are included in the Planning and Design Code therefore allowing new development to be assessed against these provisions.

Financial and Resource Implications

This activity has been anticipated in the LGA's work program and resources are available to progress this work.

LGA General Meeting – Proposed Item of Business

The purpose of this form is to request consideration by SAROC, GAROC or the Board of Directors of an item of business to be included on the agenda of an LGA General Meeting - refer Clause 16.3.1 of the LGA Constitution. Prior to submitting a proposed Item of Business, please refer to the Considering Proposed Items of Business for LGA General Meetings Guidelines.

Council Name	City of Victor Harbor
The body the item is being referred to <i>Proposals may only be submitted to the ROC of which council is a member, or to the LGA Board of Directors.</i>	SAROC
Subject of the proposed item of business	Energy Positive and Carbon Neutral Development
Proposed motion for the General Meeting	That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to submit to the Government of South Australia a proposal to amend the Planning and Development Infrastructure Act 2016 to enable Councils to plan for more energy efficient and sustainable development.
Supporting information <i>Provide a summary of the issue(s), relevant background information, description of the impact on the sector and evidence that this is an item of strategic importance to local government.</i>	<p>Councils are at the forefront of practical action to address climate change.</p> <p>The new Planning and Design Code legislation is silent on the matter of promoting more energy efficient and carbon neutral buildings, save for minimum standards of insulation and shading. There are no specific provisions in the Code that require structures to be energy positive or carbon neutral. Carbon neutral development is not a consideration in the Planning and Design Code at this point in time.</p> <p>The Building Code of Australia, which is called up by the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act</i> to control and manage building work, also does not mandate any new buildings to be energy positive or carbon neutral. The Building Code does, however, have minimum standards for energy efficiency, which must be met for both dwellings and commercial buildings.</p> <p>Once the minimum energy efficiency requirements of Volume 1 Part J of the Building Code have been achieved the developer/owner is under no obligation to achieve any further energy efficiency features.</p> <p>If a Council wanted to require or encourage minimum levels of energy self-sufficiency, from the points of view of practically addressing energy use issues, or minimising disruption due to outages such as that caused by bushfire damage to HV lines, neither the Planning and Design Code nor the Building Code have requirements to address such matters.</p> <p>In short, in Council's capacity as a regulatory development authority, there is not much it can do other than to apply the low bar minimum that currently exists within the planning/building statutory framework.</p>

	<p>The LGA should be able to advocate for changes to building and design codes to enable Councils to understand how they might realistically be achieved, and then providing information to its community on the same.</p> <p>Councils should become a leader in the energy efficiency space by raising the bar for their own developments. To facilitate Councils moving this way, to provide the tools, and minimise frustration along the way, the Design Codes need to be amended.</p> <p>The LGA would also need to assist with discussions with Construction Industry.</p>
LGA Policy Manual <i>Does this item require a change to the LGA Policy Manual (new policy or amendment to existing policy)?</i>	<p>(please click here to view the LGA Policy Manual)</p> <p>No as its captured under</p> <p>Clause 6.1 – The Planning System</p> <p>Clause 6.6.1 – Planning Legislation and Policy</p>
LGA Strategic Plan reference	<p>(please click here to view the 2021-25 LGA Strategic Plan)</p> <p><i>Choose one Strategy and one outcome reference only</i></p> <p><i>Strategy 1 – Advocate</i></p> <p><i>Achieve greater influence for local government</i></p> <p><i>1.2 – Governments rely on our proactive contribution to policy and legislation that impacts councils, leading to better outcomes for communities</i></p>
Council Contact Officer submitting form	<p>Kyla Walker</p> <p>kwalker@victor.sa.gov.au</p> <p>8551 0573</p>
Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting	<p>Monday, 25 July 2022</p> <p>OC3002022</p>
Date submitted to LGA	<p>29 July 2022</p>

Please return Word version of completed form to lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au.
Refer to [LGA Latest News](#) in respect to deadlines for upcoming General Meetings.

8.1 Mental Health and Wellbeing (Town of Gawler)

Recommendation Reports from the GAROC Committee

Submitted by:	Town of Gawler	
Approved by:	GAROC Committee	
Meeting	Annual General Meeting	28 October 2022
ECM:	782527	Attachment: 780359

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting requests that:

1. the LGA support and actively advocate that the State Government addresses the lack of mental health outcomes and suicide prevention through providing information, connecting people with improved support agencies, and undertaking studies and further research to inform advocacy on related service needs in South Australia; and
2. notes that if the item of business is approved by the LGA members at the Annual General meeting the LGA Secretariat will undertake the following actions:
 - a. write to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, and the Shadow Minister for Health and Wellbeing, outlining this advocacy position and requesting increased funding opportunities for local government, noting that improved collaboration is required with Local Health Networks including in regional public health planning;
 - b. write to the CEOs of each Local Health Network, expressing a need for stronger collaboration with local government in the regional public health planning process, particularly around wellbeing as a primary prevention strategy to address mental health and suicide prevention activities/services;
 - c. write to the CEOs of the Country Primary Health Network and the Adelaide Primary Health Network, expressing a need for stronger collaboration with local government in the regional public health planning process, particularly regarding wellbeing as a primary prevention strategy to address mental health and suicide prevention activities/services; and
 - d. liaise with the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to ensure that there is consistent messaging from the sector on this issue.

GAROC Committee's Comments

In recommending this item of business, GAROC Committee members acknowledged the difficulty in accessing mental health services; but recognised that local government's role is not in direct service delivery, but instead as an advocate, leader, and enabler. It was recognised that stronger partnerships with the LHNs was needed to pursue these issues.

LGA Officer's Comments

(Officer: Belinda Tassone, Senior Policy Officer)

In proposing this item of business, the Town of Gawler suggests that three State Government actions are required to support better mental health outcomes and suicide prevention:

- the provision of information;
- connecting people with improved support agencies; and
- undertaking studies and further research.

The Town of Gawler's supporting evidence indicates that better partnerships and collaborations are required with State Government to help address the key challenges identified through their regional public health planning process. In addition, Council asserts that these challenges are not isolated to the Gawler region.

The following discussion provides background to the mental health and wellbeing challenges experienced in South Australia, including the relative roles of the three tiers of government in this complex and multifaceted policy area.

Background

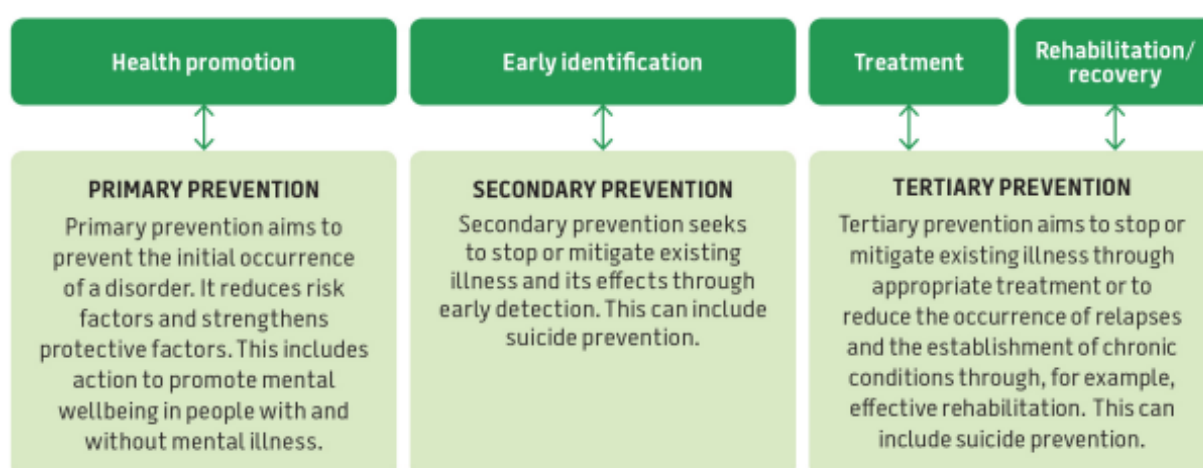
Mental health occurs on a spectrum from mental wellbeing to mental ill health (including mental illnesses). Mental health is a key driver of economic participation and productivity in Australia, and in June 2020, the Productivity Commission identified that improved population mental health can assist in reducing costs to the economy over the long-term.¹

According to Wellbeing SA:

Mental ill health affects almost half of the Australian population at some point in their lifetime, and one in five people in any one year. The most common mental illnesses are depression, anxiety and substance use disorders. Seventy-five per cent of people who develop a mental illness do so before the age of 25 years.

Suicide is also a significant health and social policy issue. It is the leading cause of death for people aged 15 to 44 years and the third leading cause of death for people aged 45 to 55 years.²

Action on mental wellbeing and mental ill health has been described by VicHealth to exist on a continuum³ as depicted below.



¹ Productivity Commission, Mental Health: Productivity Commission Inquiry Report, Volume 1, No. 95, 30 June 2020, p. iv, <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/mental-health/report/mental-health-volume1.pdf>

² Wellbeing SA, Strategic Plan 2020-2025: Supporting your state of wellbeing, p. 16, <https://www.wellbeing.sa.gov.au/assets/images/20090.1-WellbeingSA-StrategicPlan-2020update-WEB.pdf>

³ VicHealth, 'Promoting healthier, happier lives for more Victorians', Submission to the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System, July 2019, p. 5, <https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/-/media/ResearchandEvidence/VicHealth-submission-to-theRCVMHS.pdf?la=en&hash=4624401DAEAA1F046504E1F7F0F8A168B7418DAC>

The work of councils varies but is predominately in the primary prevention space with a focus on maintaining and improving mental wellbeing to prevent illness occurring in the first place.

The opposite end of the continuum is aligned more closely with the actions of the Federal Government through the Medicare system – responsible for expenditures associated with public hospital services, services provided by GPs, medical specialists, some allied health, and Primary Health Networks (PHNs). The latter are funded to coordinate and assess the health services and health needs of a local area and support community health centres, GPs, specialists and other health professionals.

In addition, the State Government, through Local Health Networks (LHNs), are responsible for the planning, funding and delivery of clinical health services – alongside private providers – and the State Government also coordinates the planning and provision of broader health services, in collaboration with other primary health care providers. There are 10 LHNs across South Australia.

Underpinning this work are various federal and state government plans and strategies related to improving mental health and suicide prevention. These are noted in Appendix 1.

The role of local government

As noted in the Town of Gawler's item of business, public health and wellbeing is a shared responsibility within the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* (the Act), the statutory framework that councils use to drive public health and wellbeing outcomes.

Councils play an important role in primary prevention/wellbeing and support action through early intervention activities, which include:

- Building community resilience through creating safe, equitable and respectful public environments, including sporting clubs, libraries and community centres, parks and playgrounds.
- Providing opportunities for participation and social connections through programs and services that support residents (including Culturally and Linguistically Diverse and First Nations) across all life stages (early years, youth and ageing well programs), and supporting community groups, volunteer networks, men's/women's' sheds, sporting clubs and events/festivals.

The systems and actions of local government are effective in reaching and supporting diverse local communities, and with increased resources, can build on the existing expertise and systems to achieve mental health and wellbeing outcomes that are place-based and locally relevant.

However, in the absence of the following criteria, South Australian councils often lack the capacity to effectively carry out this work:

- a significant community health system;
- formal structures that enable local partnerships to support sector integration and provide 'backbone functions'⁴ as is the case in Victoria with Primary Care Partnerships;
- a health promotion workforce in SA – as noted in a report prepared by the Australian Health Promotion Association for Wellbeing SA in April 2022;⁵ and

⁴ Backbone functions refers to an organisation providing critical support and coordination.

⁵ Australian Health Promotion Association, 'An evidence-informed review to support the development of the South Australian Health Promotion Workforce Strategy', a report prepared for Wellbeing SA, https://www.healthpromotion.org.au/images/docs/SA_HP_Workforce_Strategy_Report_web.pdf.

- adequate funding.

Further advocacy in this area is important to support the work of councils.

Regional public health planning

The Act requires councils to develop Regional Public Health Plans (RPHPs), which have regard to issues identified in the State Public Health Plan (SPHP) and which respond to local health and wellbeing needs and priorities using a social determinants of health framework.⁶

The *State Public Health Plan 2019-2024* noted that in the previous planning cycle, councils highlighted mental health and wellbeing as important and that action included building networks, providing opportunities for participation, providing suitable facilities, and ensuring access to services. It noted that suicide prevention is identified as a high priority by many councils, particularly in many regional areas and noted that a lack of access to mental health services and support was a great concern.⁷

The Town of Gawler's supporting evidence reinforces those findings, noting the lack of mental health services, both clinical and non-clinical, in their region. This problem will likely continue to be exacerbated by the wider societal issues associated with housing shortages and the on-going effects of the pandemic, climate change, and cost of living pressures.

Many councils, through their RPHPs, identify actions or strategies relating to the development of mental health promotion and suicide prevention activities.

However, as identified by the Town of Gawler, these plans often note that good governance and collaboration between councils, service providers, non-government organisations and State Government is important to facilitate change and improvements in health and wellbeing outcomes. Such collaboration and good governance arrangements are often lacking.

Of relevance, when a draft RPHP is developed, under subsection 51(11) of the Act: "A council must... give a copy of it to ... any incorporated hospital established under the Health Care Act 2008 that operates a facility within the region".

This mechanism is not currently well managed or understood, and therefore, there is an opportunity to advocate to strengthen existing relationships between LHNs and councils, using this legislative mechanism to enhance collaborative action and provide a formal conduit for councils to provide input into mental health service planning needs in their communities.

Suicide Prevention Networks

In recent years, some councils have taken the leadership role for local suicide prevention networks (SPNs) and local suicide prevention action – including local capacity building and community campaigns.

Many councils are key facilitators, partners, funders and advocates for the development and implementation of local SPNs in their regions, and often work closely together with the State Government and the non-government sector.

There is an opportunity to advocate to the State Government to assist councils to be more formally involved in the development and management of SPNs. At present, a council's involvement in their local SPN varies depending on available resources, ability to provide wraparound services and level of interest in the community. Creating more formalised structures to support councils and their

⁶ A social view of health recognises that health and wellbeing is influenced by the natural, built, social and economic environments in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age, including the health systems.

⁷ SA Health, *State Public Health Plan 2019-2024*, p. 20.

communities in addressing issues relating to mental health promotion and suicide prevention will assist in addressing service gaps and opportunities for collaboration.

There are over 40 operational SPNs in South Australia, with many aligning to local government boundaries. It is acknowledged that there is a state level commitment in the current *SA Suicide Prevention Plan 2017-2021* to establish a SPN in each local government region across the State. In this light, there is an opportunity for the LGA to advocate for more formalised structures to be included in the next iteration of the Suicide Prevention Plan.

ALGA's 2022 National General Assembly Motions

It is worth noting that at the 2022 ALGA National General Assembly, there were four motions aligned to this item of business (refer Appendix 2).

In response to the passage of these motions, ALGA will write to Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care, and Hon Emma McBride MP, Assistant Minister for Mental Health, Rural and Regional Health.

It is recommended that the LGA Secretariat liaise with ALGA to co-ordinate the content of ministerial correspondence, particularly regarding further research into mental health promotion and suicide prevention activities; recognising that local government is an efficient partner in government and provides value for money by contributing significant in-kind resources that extends the benefits of federal and state government funding.

Next steps

Local government has a key role in place-based health and wellbeing planning and initiatives, with a strong focus on primary prevention and health promotion.

However, the local government sector cannot address the range of challenges associated with mental health and suicide prevention alone.

In considering the Town of Gawler's item of business, the GAROC Committee has given regard to the resources and capacity needed to support and advocate to the State Government on this issue. An opportunity therefore exists for the LGA to advocate for improved services and further research, noting the specific actions requested in the proposed item of business.

It is suggested that correspondence to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing and the CEOs of the LHNs and PHNs would be appropriate to initiate a dialogue between these key stakeholders and local government.

This motion also presents an opportunity to work with ALGA to reinforce their messaging at the state level.

Financial and Resource Implications

Any activity beyond preparing correspondence for the State Government, LHNs and PHNs, will require significant staff resources and/or funding that is not currently anticipated in the LGA/GAROC budget.

Appendix 1

- Australia's Long Term National Health Plan
- National Preventative Health Strategy 2021-2030.
- Wellbeing SA Strategic Plan 2020-2025 recognises: "Mental health and wellbeing and suicide prevention" as a key priority focus area and commits to "foster and coordinate the partnerships required to build resilient and connected communities and work to improve South Australian's mental health and wellbeing."
- South Australian Mental Health Strategic Plan 2017-2022 developed by the SA Mental Health Commission, calls for a 'whole of government' and 'whole of community' approach to mental health and policy reform including promotion, prevention and early intervention as well as supports and improved governance arrangements.
- State Public Health Plan 2019-2024 identifies action relating to mental health and suicide prevention under the 'Promote' priority area.
- Wellbeing SA is supporting the development of the next Suicide Prevention Plan, with a Consultation Feedback Report, released in September 2021, observing that there was a strong call for building stronger communities - by addressing the determinants of social, cultural and economic disadvantage and sense of belonging, and strengthening services – through workforce training, better responses and reducing the crisis care model.

Appendix 2

Motion 39 Isaac Regional Council QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ensure federal funding and federal programs for mental health and related services are fit for purpose place-based models in small and medium-sized regional, rural, and remote areas of Australia.

Carried

ALGA Comment

This resolution is generally consistent with ALGA's policy and advocacy approaches seeking improved health services in rural and regional Australia.

Recommendation

Agree to write to Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care, and the Hon Emma McBride MP, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, supporting this proposal from the NGA.

Motion number 39.1 Brimbank City Council VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

1. Substantially increase recurrent mental health expenditure, in average annual real per capita spending, from 1.3 percent to 2.5 percent; and
2. Increase funding, accessibility, and services for the Commonwealth Better Access initiative to extend access to mental health professionals and care to more people.

ALGA Comment

This motion was not debated separately, but is generally consistent with ALGA's policy and advocacy approaches seeking improved health services.

Recommendation

Agree to write to Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care and the Hon Emma McBride MP, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, supporting this proposal from the NGA.

Motion number 40 Maribyrnong City VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

1. Establish a dedicated and ongoing Community Resilience and Fairness Response Package to ensure our most vulnerable community members are protected from the worst of the impacts of a prolonged pandemic, particularly the youth;
2. Increase funding for mental health support services, local learning and job preparation programs, and initiatives designed to reduce unemployment; and
3. Invest in and grow local manufacturing.

Motion is Carried

ALGA Comment

This resolution is generally consistent with ALGA's policy and advocacy approaches seeking improved health services.

Recommendation

Agree to write to the Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care and the Hon Emma McBride MP, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, supporting this proposal from the NGA.

Motion number 86

South Burnett Regional Council QLD This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to support rural and regional communities with increased funding and facilities to meet the growing needs of youth with mental health issues, including early intervention programs and ensuring equity of access to services.

ALGA Comment

This motion was not debated separately. This is consistent with ALGA policy and advocacy approaches to community infrastructure and youth service.

Recommendation

Agree to include it in the ministerial correspondence to the Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care and Hon Emma McBride MP, Assistance Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.

LGA General Meeting – Proposed Item of Business

The purpose of this form is to request consideration by SAROC, GAROC or the Board of Directors of an item of business to be included on the agenda of an LGA General Meeting - refer Clause 16.3.1 of the LGA Constitution. Prior to submitting a proposed Item of Business, please refer to the Considering Proposed Items of Business for LGA General Meetings Guidelines.

Council Name	Town of Gawler
The body the item is being referred to <i>Proposals may only be submitted to the ROC of which council is a member, or to the LGA Board of Directors.</i>	GAROC
Subject of the proposed item of business	To seek State Government support to address the lack of mental health outcomes and suicide prevention through providing information, connecting people with improved support agencies, and undertaking studies and further research to inform advocacy on related service needs in South Australia.
Proposed motion for the General Meeting	<p>That the Annual / Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>To support and actively advocate that the State Government addresses the lack of mental health outcomes and suicide prevention through providing information, connecting people with improved support agencies, and undertaking studies and further research to inform advocacy on related service needs in South Australia.</i>
Supporting information <i>Provide a summary of the issue(s), relevant background information, description of the impact on the sector and evidence that this is an item of strategic importance to local government.</i>	<p>The South Australian Public Health Act 2011 (Public Health Act) and the South Australian State Public Health Plan 2019-2024 acknowledge the important role of local governments in public health and require that each council develop a public health plan. The establishment of regional public health plans that cover multiple council areas are encouraged to support the collaboration of councils and stakeholders to improve regional outcomes.</p> <p>The Town of Gawler along with its regional partners The Barossa, Light Regional and Adelaide Plains Councils have undertaken a review of their Regional Public Health Plan, "<i>Barossa, Light and Lower Northern Region Regional Public Health Plan (DRAFT)</i>".</p> <p>The plan has been prepared by the councils of Adelaide Plains, Barossa, Town of Gawler and Light Regional in consultation with community and stakeholders. It is the second regional plan that the councils have prepared together.</p> <p>Public Health is a shared responsibility. Councils, community, public health services, agencies and governments all contribute to community wellbeing. Councils support public health outcomes through the provision of open space and recreation infrastructure, immunisation programs, environmental health regulation, community programs,</p>

	<p>libraries and community centres, home aged care support, development and planning services that enable inclusive buildings and environments.</p> <p>The extent of what councils can achieve can be increased by partnership support from State and Federal Governments and through the efforts of local services and community groups.</p> <p>Councils also work with public health service providers or agencies to share their education resources with communities and by referring community members to their services. The plan establishes three regional lighthouse projects and governance arrangements to address top regional challenges for public health in the Barossa, Light and Lower Northern Region.</p> <p>One of the key regional public health challenges is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving mental health and reducing psychological stress (and suicide prevention) <p>People in the community need support to manage their high levels of psychological stress and mental health. A partnership with the state would go a long way to address this need.</p> <p>A high rate of people are clients of community mental health services and the rate of suicide in the region is higher than Greater Adelaide.</p> <p>Adult men in particular are reporting mental health problems. Although stress and mental health is a greater issue for adults regionally, Gawler has a high rate of clients to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service. We suspect this is the case across SA, not just our region so having advocacy at the LGA level would really assist all our communities to making a difference in this space.</p> <p>Although the plan acknowledges that each council will continue to deliver its own ongoing services, programs and plans to address its unique situation. A regional collaboration is the cornerstone that will support the success of the regional plan. Good governance and collaboration between the state government, councils and partners will aim to deliver the plan and its regional projects, not only in our region but across SA.</p>
<p>LGA Policy Manual</p> <p><i>Does this item require a change to the LGA Policy Manual (new policy or amendment to existing policy)?</i></p>	<p>The item supports the implementation of existing Policy:</p> <p>Statement Number 1.1.6 'Service provisions' - <i>Local government supports the achievement of cost savings and efficiencies through regionalisation and shared services, and shall continue to work with state government, its regional counterparts and other stakeholders to identify ways to streamline the way services are provided.</i></p> <p>and;</p> <p>Statement Number 1.1.7 'State-Wide Strategies' - <i>Local government recognises its responsibilities to give due weight to the plans and strategies of other spheres of government, while continuing to be a key partner in their development. Local government shall continue to seek full and meaningful engagement with other spheres in the interests of consistency and alignment.</i></p>

LGA Strategic Plan reference	<i>Strategy 4 – Advance - Facilitate continuous improvement in local government.</i> <i>3.2 New partnerships and services help councils innovate and prepare for the future.</i>
Council Contact Officer submitting form	Jack Darzanos Jack.darzanos@gawler.sa.gov.au (08) 8522 9257
Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting	RESOLUTION 2022:07:COU251 26 July 2022
Date submitted to LGA	28 July 2022

Please return Word version of completed form to lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au.
 Refer to [LGA Latest News](#) in respect to deadlines for upcoming General Meetings.

8.2 Responding to the Climate Emergency (Town of Gawler)

Recommendation Reports from the GAROC Committee

Submitted by:	Town of Gawler	
Approved by:	GAROC Committee	
Meeting	Annual General Meeting	28 October 2022
ECM:	782268	Attachments: 780356

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting:

1. requests the LGA to:
 - a) update its Climate Policy Statements to acknowledge the State Government's declaration of a Climate Emergency;
 - b) commit to supporting the State Government in responding to the Climate Emergency; and
 - c) commit to engaging with the State Government on developing a collaborative reform agenda towards:
 - i. Enabling councils and their communities to better access renewable energy, carbon offsets and technologies to reduce emissions (mitigation); and
 - ii. Improving disaster resilience and climate adaptation planning and response to extreme events (adaptation); and
2. notes that if the Item of Business is approved by LGA members at the Annual General Meeting,
 - a. Part a) of the item to recognise the State Government's declaration of a Climate Emergency will be enacted through an amendment to the Climate Change statements in the LGA Policy Manual; and
 - b. Parts b) and c) of the item will see the LGA continuing to support and engage with the State Government on climate change issues, with the current level of resourcing available and directed from the LGA Secretariat.

GAROC Committee's Comments

In recommending this Item of Business, the GAROC Committee acknowledged the importance of reviewing the LGA Policy Manual's climate change statements and supported consideration of this additional Item of Business relating to that review.

LGA Officer's Comments

(Officer: Katherine Russell, Manager Policy Projects)

Policy Manual Review

The LGA Policy Manual is a compendium of policies that are reviewed as required and endorsed at Annual and Ordinary General Meetings.

These policies represent the broad directions for leadership and advocacy for the local government sector as a whole and guide the LGA's responses to policy issues through submissions, position papers, media and stakeholder relations.

The Policy Manual Review which has been undertaken addresses only the climate change statements in the Policy Manual, reflective of the importance of these statements and the fast-moving nature of climate change science and policy.

The current LGA Policy on Climate Change, reviewed as part of LGA Policy Manual in 2018, reflects the science and the political and social views at the time. Since then, Government policies around the nation, and indeed globally, have struggled to keep up with ever-increasing scientific evidence that our climate is changing at a faster rate than previously predicted (IPCC report AR6).

On 31 May 2022 the State Government declared a climate emergency reaffirming the urgent need to decarbonise the South Australian economy and shift to renewable sources of energy.

In mid-June this year, the Federal Labor government submitted its enhanced nationally determined contribution (NDC) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat, formalising a 43% emission reduction target by 2030.

The LGA Policy Manual Review sought feedback from councils, so the LGA now has a snapshot its member councils' likely response on certain issues relating to this topic. The AGM is considering a separate report on this topic at this meeting.

Previous Items of Business seeking declaration of a climate emergency

The Town of Gawler has previously submitted proposed Items of Business seeking an LGA declaration of a climate emergency which were not approved.

In 2020, the LGA Annual General Meeting considered an Item of Business to declare a climate emergency as well as develop a Climate Emergency Action Plan. That motion was lost.

In 2021, the LGA Board of Directors at its meeting on 18 March 2021 considered an Item of Business seeking the LGA declare a climate emergency, as well as develop a Climate Emergency Action Plan and develop a model policy for councils. The Board did not approve the Item to be included in the agenda of the LGA Ordinary General Meeting of 20 April 2021. It was noted that the exact same motion was voted on in the LGA AGM of 29 October 2020 and that the other components of the motion reflected existing LGA policy and actions.

This Item of Business from the Town of Gawler differs from those submitted earlier as it is about recognition of the State Government's declaration of a climate emergency, rather than seeking for the LGA to declare a climate emergency.

Current item of business

The current Item of Business is addressed in three parts below.

1. Seeks acknowledgement in the LGA Policy Manual that the State Government has declared a Climate Emergency.

The proposed changes to the Policy Manual as a result of the Policy Manual Review do not propose declaration by the LGA of a climate emergency, but acknowledge the position of the State Government. This part of the Item of Business seeks acknowledgement by the LGA of the State Government declaration.

While the changes proposed in the Policy Manual Review which were considered by the LGA Board on 22 July 2022 recognise the need for urgent action, support the State Government targets, and call for strong leadership at all levels of government, they do not acknowledge the State Government declaration of a climate emergency.

Specifically, it is proposed to further amend the Policy Manual, including an additional reference to the State Government declaration (**highlighted in yellow**) which was not considered by the LGA Board of Directors to state as follows:

4.4 Managing the Risks of Climate Change

Local government acknowledges that human-induced climate change is occurring and that urgent, ambitious, and immediate action is required at all levels of government to address the climate crisis by reducing emissions, and adapting to the impacts that are now unavoidable.

The LGA acknowledges the State Government declaration of a climate emergency and supports its ambition to achieve a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.

The LGA supports its member councils to take the meaningful and immediate actions required, and calls for strong leadership and coordination at all levels of government for ongoing, effective and adequately funded Commonwealth and State Government climate change policies and programs.

If the Item of Business is approved at this Annual General Meeting, the LGA will further update its Policy Manual to recognise the State Government's declaration of a Climate Emergency.

2. Seeks the LGA to commit to supporting the State Government in responding to the Climate Emergency.

The proposed changes to the Policy Manual as a result of the Policy Manual Review state that the LGA supports the State Government's targets (see above) and supports partnership with all levels of government. Consultation through this process revealed that some councils would like the State Government to set more ambitious targets for emissions reduction and others sought greater clarification of the impacts on local government.

The LGA prioritises its relationship with the State Government and encourages partnerships at every opportunity. This was reflected at the GAROC Climate Change Action Forum in May 2022 which highlighted the important relationship between State and local government and was the focus of the address to the forum by the Deputy Premier, Hon Susan Close. It was recognised by the Deputy Premier that the State Government cannot successfully progress its emissions reduction targets without the support of local government and the LGA.

The Regional Climate Partnerships (RCPs) Grant Agreement between Green Adelaide/Department for Environment and Water (DEW), which funds the role of the RCP Central Coordinator, is an example of the existing successful partnership between State and local government.

The LGA is also working with the state government to align opportunities from the Federal Government, such as the \$200M Disaster Readiness Fund. This year, the LGA also funded the preparation of a grant application to the Federal Government's Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program (no decision has yet been made), with DEW as one of the key partners.

Accordingly, it is appropriate that the second part of the Item of Business is recommended for approval by the AGM as it acknowledges the importance of the relationship with the State Government.

3. Commit to engaging with the State Government on developing a collaborative reform agenda towards:

(a) Enabling councils and their communities to better access renewable energy, carbon offsets and technologies to reduce emissions (mitigation); and

(b) Improving disaster resilience and climate adaptation planning and response to extreme events (adaptation).

The proposed changes to the Policy Manual as a result of the Policy Manual Review support mitigation actions (such as renewable energy, carbon offsets and technologies to reduce emissions) and adaptation actions (such as improving disaster resilience, climate adaptation planning and response to extreme events).

Specifically, the AGM is considering at this meeting a report which proposes to amend the Policy Manual to state:

4.4.6 Energy Reduction and Storage

Local government provides leadership in the community through proactive actions to reduce energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions. Continual improvement in technologies mean that councils should undertake regular audits of facilities and practices that are energy intensive, seek to reduce energy usage as far as practicable through installation of energy reduction and storage technologies, and contribute to associated policy development and reform where appropriate.

4.4.7 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Mechanisms

Local government supports that voluntary carbon markets, including renewable energy, carbon offsets, and other low carbon products and services, be supported through clarified carbon accounting and legislation to ensure zero carbon outcomes are cost effective.

These proposed amendments recognise the importance of mitigation and adaptation activities, which it seeks to progress with support of partners within local government and with the State Government.

The LGA Secretariat is working through a range of measures to respond to climate change and the LGA Policy Manual provides clear mandate for LGA advocacy and policy activities as opportunities arise. For example, there are many advocacy opportunities through the LGA Secretariat's ongoing work on urban greening, stormwater, waste, native vegetation, vegetation management around powerlines, urban planning and procurement.

The LGA Secretariat provides significant financial support to the RCP Central Coordinator who is the only dedicated resource on climate change activities, supporting development of a network of regional, cross-sectoral groups working to strengthen the climate resilience of their communities. This role is not tasked with undertaking advocacy work on behalf of the LGA but is available to provide technical advice as required.

The LGA Secretariat has been working with the Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme to progress a potential project on risk assessments for councils, as well as having made application to the Federal grant program on coastal adaptation, referred to above. The LGA is also working with coastal councils to progress the appointment of a Coastal Coordinator to support the LGA Secretariat.

The LGA Secretariat will continue to explore opportunities to bring together the work of its members and the State government to inform the climate change reform agenda at the local, state and federal levels of government for the benefit of the SA community.

The third part of the Item of Business is recommended for approval by the AGM as it supports work the LGA is already undertaking.

Summary

It is recommended that this Item of Business is approved by the AGM as it is acknowledging actions from the State Government and recognises an existing important partnership with State Government, as well as progressing work which is already underway.

Financial and Resource Implications

This activity has been anticipated in the LGA's work program and resources are available to progress this work.

LGA General Meeting – Proposed Item of Business

The purpose of this form is to request consideration by SAROC, GAROC or the Board of Directors of an item of business to be included on the agenda of an LGA General Meeting - refer Clause 16.3.1 of the LGA Constitution. Prior to submitting a proposed Item of Business, please refer to the Considering Proposed Items of Business for LGA General Meetings Guidelines.

Council Name	Town of Gawler
The body the item is being referred to <i>Proposals may only be submitted to the ROC of which council is a member, or to the LGA Board of Directors.</i>	GAROC
Subject of the proposed item of business	Responding to the Climate Emergency
Proposed motion for the General Meeting	<p>That the Annual / Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update its Climate Policy Statements to acknowledge the State Government's declaration of a Climate Emergency. • Commit to supporting the State Government in responding to the Climate Emergency. • Commit to engaging with the State Government on developing a collaborative reform agenda towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enabling councils and their communities to better access renewable energy, carbon offsets and technologies to reduce emissions (mitigation). ○ Improving disaster resilience and climate adaptation planning and response to extreme events (adaptation).
Supporting information <i>Provide a summary of the issue(s), relevant background information, description of the impact on the sector and evidence that this is an item of strategic importance to local government.</i>	<p>At the 2021 LGA Ordinary General Meeting, the Town of Gawler proposed the following Climate Emergency Motion that was narrowly defeated:</p> <p><i>That Council endorse the following Motion on Notice for the LGA OGM to be held in April 2021:</i></p> <p><i>Declare a Climate Emergency</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>That the SA LGA recognizes the climate crisis and declares that there is a Climate Emergency;</i> 2. <i>That the SA LGA develops an LGA Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) in partnership with its member councils (in relation to its operations and its leadership role);</i> 3. <i>That the SA LGA CEAP primarily focuses on mitigation through the reduction of GHG emissions but it also focuses on adaptation and climate safety for local communities;</i> 4. <i>The SA LGA develop a model CEAP in partnership with interested member councils for use by member councils throughout the state; and</i> 5. <i>Any work to be undertaken by the SA LGA should complement, add</i>

value to, and build upon what is already happening, and not duplicate the work of the Climate Emergency Australia (Local Government) Network.

Since that time, Australia has experienced more unprecedented natural disasters with extensive flooding across large regions of New South Wales and Queensland, and continued extreme dry conditions across South West- Western Australia.

The Scientific community is warning that these events are consistent with climate change and that such risks of extreme heat and dry conditions, as well as more extreme storm and flooding events will continue to increase.

The recently elected State Government has quickly moved to declare a **Climate Emergency** and there is strong bipartisan commitment in South Australia to continue to lead in taking action and to transition to a renewables-based economy.

South Australia already has a Climate Change Action Plan 2021-25, but what is lacking is a reform agenda to address the barriers that councils and their communities face when seeking to take action.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Whilst South Australia is moving towards generating 100% renewable electricity at lower cost compared to fossil fuel generation, ordinary consumers are unable to purchase renewable electricity with legal certainty or at a fair price.
- Whilst carbon offsets are a popular solution to reduce emissions, Australia does not have market-based Greenhouse Gas (GHG) accounting to legally support end user offset claims and double counting remains a concern.
- An article by the RAA published 19 June 2022, advised that a survey of drivers showed 62% would consider an EV as their next car purchase – a significant increase compared to the 42% of RAA members who made the same claim in a survey held in May 2020. This latest survey of more than 1500 RAA members also found 74% were concerned about rising fuel prices and many were seeking alternative transport to cut their fuel bills. South Australian drivers are interested in driving electric vehicles but the higher purchase cost and slow rollout of charging infrastructure are barriers to the Electric Vehicle (EV) transition.

<https://daily.raa.com.au/media-resources/record-petrol-price-drives-surge-in-ev-interest/>

- Continued climate adaptation, resilience and disaster preparedness is required across South Australian communities to better prepare and respond to climate change and extreme events. This will also require a nationally coordinated and funded response to be a step ahead of changing conditions.



	<p>Managing the Risks of Climate Change through the review of the LGA Policy Statements on Climate Change should include acknowledging the State Government's Climate Emergency Declaration and incorporate LGA support for the Government's Climate Emergency Declaration and response in the LGA Climate Policy Statements and new policy proposals.</p> <p>It should be noted that Climate Change Policy is continuously evolving and the LGA and Councils have the opportunity to play a key role for the benefit of councils and their communities.</p>
<p>LGA Policy Manual</p> <p><i>Does this item require a change to the LGA Policy Manual (new policy or amendment to existing policy)?</i></p>	<p>The item supports the implementation of existing Policy:</p> <p>Statement Number 4.4.1 'Partnerships' - <i>Local government accepts that negative impacts from climate change are inevitable, and that building resilience to these impacts is a joint responsibility. Councils shall continue to be key partners in delivering a strategic response to climate risks, recognising obligations of other parties.</i></p> <p>and;</p> <p>Statement Number 4.4.2 'Funding and Strategic Investment' – <i>Building resilience to climate impacts will require significant funding and investment, both now and into the future. Councils shall continue to provide equitable levels of funding and investment, recognising it is incumbent on federal and state governments to subsidise the majority of expenditure required.</i></p> <p>and;</p> <p>Statement Number 4.4.7 'Greenhouse Gas Reduction Mechanisms' - <i>There were significant environmental benefits to the carbon pricing scheme that was in effect from 2012-14 without causing detrimental effects on the economy. Local government supports the reintroduction of carbon pricing as an equitable means of reducing carbon emissions.</i></p> <p>and;</p> <p>Statement Number 4.4.9 'Electric Vehicles' - <i>Local government recognises that electric vehicles provide for potential zero emission transport and reduce negative impacts such as toxic emissions, engine noise and greenhouse gas emissions and that councils, because of their roles and responsibilities as road authorities, infrastructure providers, fleet managers and representatives of their local communities, can support and encourage the use of electric vehicles through their planning, policies, investment and procurement activities.</i></p>
<p>LGA Strategic Plan reference</p>	<p><i>Strategy 1: Advocate - Achieve greater influence for local government</i></p> <p><i>1.2 Governments rely on our proactive contribution to policy and legislation that impacts councils, leading to better outcomes for communities</i></p>

Council Contact Officer submitting form	Tim Kelly Tim.kelly@gawler.sa.gov.au (08) 8522 0143
Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting	RESOLUTION 2022:07:COU251 26 July 2022
Date submitted to LGA	28 July 2022

Please return Word version of completed form to lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au.
Refer to [LGA Latest News](#) in respect to deadlines for upcoming General Meetings.

9.1 LGA Policy Manual on Climate Change Endorsement

Recommendation Report from the LGA Board of Directors

Submitted by:	LGA Secretariat	
Approved by:	LGA Board of Directors	
Meeting	Annual General Meeting	28 October 2022
ECM:	782384	Attachment: 778828

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting:

1. notes the report on a review of the LGA Policy Manual on Climate Change;
2. endorses the revised LGA Policy Manual statements on Climate Change to take effect from 28 October 2022 as follows:

‘4.4 Managing the Risks of Climate Change:

Local government acknowledges that human-induced climate change is occurring and that urgent, ambitious, and immediate action is required at all levels of government to address the climate crisis by reducing emissions, and adapting to the impacts that are now unavoidable.

The LGA supports the State Government’s ambition to achieve a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.

The LGA supports its member councils to take the meaningful and immediate actions required, and calls for strong leadership and coordination at all levels of government for ongoing, effective and adequately funded Commonwealth and State Government climate change policies and programs.’;

‘4.4.1 Partnerships: Local government accepts that negative impacts from climate change are inevitable, and recognises that building resilience to these impacts is a responsibility shared by everyone. Councils shall continue to be key partners in delivering a strategic response to climate risks.’;

‘4.4.2 Funding and Strategic Investment; Building resilience to climate impacts will require significant funding and investment, both now and into the future. Councils shall continue to provide equitable levels of funding and investment, recognising it is incumbent on federal and state governments to subsidise the majority of expenditure required’;

‘4.4.3 Embedding Climate Change Considerations: Climate risk and vulnerability assessments are vital in identifying climate impacts and determining appropriate actions. Councils shall ensure assessments are conducted with full consideration of available relevant information as part of all council strategic and operational planning processes across all functions and services.’;

‘4.4.4 Decision Making: Local government understands that decisions made by councils must take account of all currently available climate data. Local government supports improved availability and regionally relevant data to be

***provided through state government, so that councils can expand their knowledge base (such as sustainable development, tree management, coastal management, bushfire management, flood mitigation and other climate hazards) to ensure they are 'best informed to make well rounded decisions.'* (LGMLS);**

'4.4.5 Consultation and Engagement; Tackling the impacts of climate change will require community involvement and effort, in partnership with government-led policy and services. Councils should not solely rely on expert input, science and data when making decisions relating to climate change, but should also consider the outcomes of stakeholder and public consultation for better informed decision making and to raise awareness within the community.'

'4.4.6 Energy Reduction and Storage; Local government provides leadership in the community through proactive actions to reduce energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions. Continual improvement in technologies mean that councils should undertake regular audits of facilities and practices that are energy intensive, seek to reduce energy usage as far as practicable through installation of energy reduction and storage technologies, and contribute to associated policy development and reform where appropriate.'

'4.4.7 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Mechanisms; Local government supports that voluntary carbon markets, including renewable energy, carbon offsets, and other low carbon products and services, be supported through clarified carbon accounting and legislation to ensure zero carbon outcomes are cost effective.'

'4.4.8 Integrity; Local government supports the Glasgow Climate Pact (2021), the Paris Agreement (2016), and the Kyoto Protocol (2005) for the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions and shall contribute towards the commitments made by the Federal Government to achieve national carbon emission reduction targets, and Net Zero Carbon by 2050.' and

'4.4.9 Zero or Low-emission Vehicles; Local government recognises the need for widespread transition to zero emission transport and the role of emerging technologies to facilitate this and reduce negative impacts such as toxic emissions, engine noise and greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, as road authorities, infrastructure providers, fleet managers and representatives of their local communities, councils should support and encourage the use of zero or low emission vehicles through their planning, policies, investment and procurement activities.'

LGA Board of Directors' Comments

The LGA Board of Directors considered a report on the proposed review of the LGA Policy Manual climate change statements at its meeting on 22 July 2022 and supported the proposed changes being considered at the Annual General Meeting, recognised the importance of updating the Policy Manual and the particular importance of the statements on climate change.

LGA Officer's Comments

(Officer: Katherine Russell, Manager Policy Projects)

Background

The role of the LGA is to promote and advance the interests of local government by advocating to achieve greater influence for local government in matters affecting councils and communities. With

climate change affecting all councils and their communities, clear and unifying policy statements provide the LGA and the sector with a mandate to advocate on behalf of the sector and drive further development of policies, programs and projects aimed at supporting the reduction in emissions and helping to adapt to the impacts of climate change that are now unavoidable.

The LGA Policy Manual is a compendium of policies that are reviewed as required and endorsed at Annual and Ordinary General Meetings (AGMs) and (OGMs). These policies represent the broad directions for leadership and advocacy for the local government sector as a whole. It guides the LGA's responses to policy issues through submissions, position papers, media and stakeholder relations.

This review only addresses the climate change statements in the Policy Manual, reflective of the importance of these statements and the fast-moving nature of climate change science and policy.

Review of the Policy Manual

The last comprehensive review of the Policy Manual was endorsed at the LGA AGM in 2018 although the Manual is updated as required if policies are endorsed at the AGM or OGM on an ad hoc basis.

The LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan 2021-2023 includes an action to 'review and update the 'Managing the Risks of Climate Change' statements in the LGA Policy Manual based on recent science, evidence and practice".

The current LGA Policy on Climate Change, reviewed as part of LGA Policy Manual in 2018, reflects the science and the political and social views at the time. Since then, Government policies around the nation, and indeed globally, have struggled to keep up with ever-increasing scientific evidence that our climate is changing at a faster rate than previously predicted (IPCC report AR6).

On 31 May 2022 the State Government declared a climate emergency reaffirming the urgent need to decarbonise the South Australian economy and shift to renewable sources of energy.

In mid-June this year, the Federal Labor government submitted its enhanced nationally determined contribution (NDC) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat, formalising a 43% emission reduction target by 2030.

The LGA has an opportunity to review its Climate Change policy to bring it in line with current scientific evidence and the current policy context at the Federal and State Government level. This will assist the LGA's advocacy activities on this important issue and meet the LGA's responsibilities of its Climate Commitment Action Plan.

Proposed amendments

The current primary statement at 4.4 Managing the Risks of Climate Change states as follows:

'Local government acknowledges that climate change poses a serious risk to local communities and ecosystems. All levels of government are urged to take action that will help address the effects of climate change in local communities.'

It is proposed to amend the primary statement to:

'Local government acknowledges that human-induced climate change is occurring and that urgent, ambitious, and immediate action is required at all levels of government to address the climate crisis by reducing emissions, and adapting to the impacts that are now unavoidable.'

The LGA supports the State Government's ambition to achieve a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.

The LGA supports its member councils to take the meaningful and immediate actions required, and calls for strong leadership and coordination at all levels of government for ongoing, effective and adequately funded Commonwealth and State Government climate change policies and programs.'

The primary statement is supported by secondary policy statements in the Policy Manual addressing:

- 4.4.1 Partnerships;
- 4.4.2 Funding and Strategic Investment;
- 4.4.3 Embedding Climate Change Considerations;
- 4.4.4 Decision Making;
- 4.4.5 Consultation and Engagement;
- 4.4.6 Energy Reduction and Storage;
- 4.4.7 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Mechanisms;
- 4.4.8 Integrity; and
- 4.4.9 Electric Vehicles.

The proposed changes to the primary statements following consultation are explained in the attached consultation report

Principles to guide the review

In reviewing the LGA Policy Manual, a set of principles has been developed to help guide the revision of policy statements for consultation and endorsement by the LGA. According to these principles, LGA policy statements should:

- **be well-defined** - provide a clear and concise statement that reflects the LGA's leadership position within its sphere of influence;
- **acknowledge** the impacts that the policy issue has on the environment, communities, and the economy;
- **convey urgency** – recognising the need for both immediate action and consideration of long-term impacts;
- **inspire action** – be ambitious and realistic, with a focus on the meaningful and practical measures local, state, and federal government can pursue;
- **prioritise** – demonstrate the level of priority that the LGA and its member councils place on the specific policy issue;
- **be relevant** - appropriately balance the various positions, declarations, and range of activities within the LGA membership; and
- **reflect** – the State government strategies and policies, and articulate the need for an integrated, collaborative approach with local government as a partner in government.

Engagement Process

The Policy Manual forms the position of the LGA on relevant issues. As such, it is important that the LGA's member councils inform any amendment to the Policy Manual. To facilitate this engagement, an Issues Paper was prepared outlining the background, context and rationale for a review of the Policy Manual 's climate change statements.

The Issues Paper was distributed to councils via:

- Latest News dated 29 April 2022;
- CEO Update dated 5 May 2022; and
- Other subject matter newsletters distributed amongst council staff.

Councils were able to submit feedback as an endorsed motion from the council or from council officers. Most submissions were received via a survey which formed part of the Issues Paper. A consultation report has been prepared to explain the proposed changes to the Policy Manual and to summarise the council feedback received. The consultation report is attached.

Submissions received

Although only 12 submissions were received, those received were thoughtful and well-considered, providing useful guidance to the LGA Board of Directors. The responses were wide-ranging and span many perspectives on this complex issue. In that context, amendments proposed seek to address the concerns of the local government sector as a whole. The Policy Manual does not prevent individual councils from taking either or a more progressive or conservative approach to these issues.

Recommended changes to the Policy Manual

As per the principles above, the recommended approach is that policies need to be high-level so as not to become out of date when the State and Federal Governments change their policies, not be too extreme in either direction so as to alienate councils with opposing views, and not too detailed as to be unworkable as a policy to guide activity. Some councils have recommended advocacy activities for the LGA to be involved in, which is reasonable in the context of existing activities, but the LGA is not sufficiently resourced to advocate on all advocacy issues proposed.

Next Steps

If the proposed amendments to the Policy Manual are approved, the changes can be made soon after the Annual General Meeting and will be made available on the LGA website.

Elsewhere on the agenda, the Annual General Meeting will also be considering a separate Recommendation Report from GAROC on 'Responding to the Climate Emergency', an Item of Business proposed by the Town of Gawler which requests:

- a) an additional amendment to the Policy Manual to acknowledge the State Government's declaration of a Climate Emergency;
- b) the LGA commit to supporting the State Government in responding to the Climate Emergency; and
- c) the LGA commit to engaging with the State Government on developing a collaborative reform agenda towards:
 - i. Enabling councils and their communities to better access renewable energy, carbon offsets and technologies to reduce emissions (mitigation); and
 - ii. Improving disaster resilience and climate adaptation planning and response to extreme events (adaptation).

If the 'Responding to the Climate Emergency' item of business is approved by members at the Annual General Meeting the LGA will further update its Policy Manual to recognise the State Government's declaration of a Climate Emergency.

Financial and Resource Implications

The proposed amendments to the Policy Manual can be undertaken within existing resources. LGA advocacy on the issues associated with the Policy Manual will be undertaken as the opportunity arises.

Consultation Report: Review of the LGA Policy Manual on Climate Change

4.4 Managing the Risks of Climate Change		Consultation feedback	LGA response
Current Statement	Local government acknowledges that climate change poses a serious risk to local communities and ecosystems. All levels of government are urged to take action that will help address the effects of climate change in local communities.	A range of responses were received, with some councils arguing the need for more ambitious targets for reaching net zero emissions, such as by 2050, and others not supporting the amendment at all.	The amendment was proposed to reflect recent science, evidence and practice. In light of consultation received, the LGA considers this is a reasonable approach for the local government sector. Individual councils may wish to advocate for more ambitious targets.
Suggested Amendment	Local government acknowledges that human-induced climate change is occurring and that urgent, ambitious, and immediate action is required at all levels of government to address the climate crisis by reducing emissions, and adapting to the impacts that are now unavoidable. The LGA supports the State Government's ambition to achieve a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050. The LGA supports its member councils to take the meaningful and immediate actions required, and calls for strong leadership and coordination at all levels of government for ongoing, effective and adequately funded Commonwealth and State Government climate change policies and programs.		
4.4.1 Partnerships		Consultation feedback	LGA response
Current Statement	Local government accepts that negative impacts from climate change are inevitable, and that building resilience to these impacts is a joint responsibility. Councils shall continue to be key partners in delivering a strategic response to climate risks, recognising obligations of other parties.	Some councils suggested more proactive language is used and sought clarity over 'obligations of other parties'.	While the LGA consultation proposed no change, it recognises in light of feedback that greater clarity is required. These additional changes are shown in yellow.
Suggested Amendment	Local government accepts that negative impacts from climate change are inevitable, and recognises that building resilience to these impacts is a responsibility shared by everyone. Councils shall continue to be key partners in delivering a strategic response to climate risks.		

4.4.2 Funding and Strategic Investment		Consultation feedback	LGA Comments
Current Statement	Building resilience to climate impacts will require significant funding and investment, both now and into the future. Councils shall continue to provide equitable levels of funding and investment, recognising it is incumbent on federal and state governments to subsidise the majority of expenditure required.	Most councils supported the proposed amendment but there was a suggestion to recognise the need for long-term financial planning	Given that most councils supported this statement, it is proposed that the current wording will remain.
Suggested Amendment	No Change		
4.4.3 Embedding Climate Considerations		Consultation feedback	LGA Comments
Current Statement	Climate risk and vulnerability assessments are vital in identifying climate impacts and determining appropriate actions. Councils shall ensure assessments are conducted with full consideration of available relevant information as part of all council strategic and operational planning processes across all functions and services.	There was feedback on the need to be responsive to new data, the responsibility of the State government to lead data collection and the need for the LGA to advocate on development and planning policy.	<p>Given that most councils supported this statement, it is proposed that the current proposed wording will remain.</p> <p>The LGA recognises the role of the State government in data collection and the importance of recognising climate considerations in planning policy but is wary of being overly prescriptive on advocacy issues which may quickly date the policy change.</p>
Suggested Amendment	No Change		

4.4.4 Decision Making		Consultation feedback	LGA Comments
Current Statement	Local government understands that decisions made by councils must take account of all currently available climate data. Councils shall expand their knowledge base (such as development, tree management, coastal management) to ensure they are 'best informed to make well rounded decisions' (LGMLS).	Some councils suggested the need to improve local government capability in this area, the need for explicit reference to flood and fire risk mapping by the State Government and the need for regular updates on state and federal policies.	<p>The proposed amendment responded to the need identified by local government for greater standardization and availability of up-to-date and regionally relevant data related to climate change impacts and predictions. Examples include advocacy submissions to the Coast Protection Board in relation to better information and planning on coastal hazards and risks, as well as a report on "Installation of Sea-level gauge at O'Sullivan Beach (Adelaide Plains)".</p> <p>This statement also touches upon Policy Position 5.2.4 Data: Local government recognises that creating the technological capabilities that are required to support future/ diversified economies is key to sustainable economic development. Councils, through the LGA, will continue to lobby and promote 'smart infrastructure' and 'digital economy' opportunities to ensure investment attractiveness is 'future proofed'.</p> <p>In response to feedback, it is suggested, that the statement be amended to include flood and fire data but that the call for regular updates is not required. These additional changes are shown in yellow.</p>
Suggested Amendment	Local government understands that decisions made by councils must take account of all currently available climate data. Local government supports improved availability and regionally relevant data to be provided through state government, so that councils can expand their knowledge base (such as sustainable development, tree management, coastal management, bushfire management, flood mitigation and other climate hazards) to ensure they are 'best informed to make well rounded decisions.' (LGMLS).		

4.4.5 Consultation and Engagement		Consultation feedback	LGA Comments
Current Statement	Tackling the impacts of climate change will require a societal shift in values. Councils should not solely rely on scientific / expert input, science and data when making decisions relating to climate change, but will also place emphasis on the outcomes of stakeholder and public consultation.	Some feedback expressed concern about the reliance on community input and sought greater leadership from the State Government on education.	<p>The proposed statement recognises the need for community behaviour change being at the core of mitigating climate change, as well as increasing awareness, through engagement, as an important tool in building resilience amongst the community and adapting to a changing climate.</p> <p>It is proposed to amend the suggested statement slightly to better explain community input as a factor when considering climate action. This additional change is shown in yellow.</p>
Suggested Amendment	Tackling the impacts of climate change will require community involvement and effort, in partnership with government-led policy and services. Councils should not solely rely on expert input, science and data when making decisions relating to climate change, but should also consider the outcomes of stakeholder and public consultation for better informed decision making and to raise awareness within the community.		
4.4.6 Energy Reduction and Storage		Consultation feedback	LGA Comments
Current Statement	Reduction and storage technology costs have dramatically decreased resulting in short pay-back periods. Councils should undertake audits of facilities and practices that are energy intensive, and seek to reduce energy usage through installation of energy reduction and storage technologies.	Council feedback sought greater recognition of council role to contribute to associated policy development and reform	<p>The proposed statement addressed the increase in councils pursuing meaningful change in reducing carbon emission across the sector. Recent support for improved advocacy regarding Carbon Neutral definitions and Green Power legislation, as well as many Councils pursuing Net Zero Emission strategies and plans.</p> <p>In recognition of feedback from councils, it is proposed to amend the statement to include reference to the role of the LGA to contribute to associated policy development and reform. Local government has limited capacity to influence energy infrastructure, such as battery storage. This additional change is shown in yellow.</p>
Suggested Amendment	Local government provides leadership in the community through proactive actions to reduce energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions. Continual improvement in technologies mean that councils should undertake regular audits of facilities and practices that are energy intensive, seek to reduce energy usage as far as practicable through installation of energy reduction and storage technologies, and contribute to associated policy development and reform where appropriate.		

4.4.7 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Mechanisms		Consultation feedback	LGA Comments
Current Statement	There were significant environmental benefits to the carbon pricing scheme that was in effect from 2012-14 without causing detrimental effects on the economy. Local government supports the reintroduction of carbon pricing as an equitable means of reducing carbon emissions.	Some councils argued for the retention of this statement.	See comments above. Voluntary Carbon pricing mechanisms in place and it was proposed to remove this statement. In light of consultation feedback, it is proposed to amend this statement to reflect the contemporary and developing carbon market within Australia (highlighted in yellow).
Suggested Amendment	Local government supports that voluntary carbon markets, including renewable energy, carbon offsets, and other low carbon products and services, be supported through clarified carbon accounting and legislation to ensure zero carbon outcomes are cost effective.		
4.4.8 Integrity		Consultation feedback	LGA Comments
Current Statement	Local Government supports the Paris Agreement (2016) and the Kyoto Protocol (2005) for the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions and shall contribute towards the commitments made by the Federal Government to achieve national carbon emission reduction targets.	Council feedback indicated general support for the proposed amendment.	Australia was a signatory to the Glasgow Climate Pact (2021) following the COP26 Climate Change conference in November 2021. The package of decisions consists of a range of agreed items, including strengthened efforts to build resilience to climate change, to curb greenhouse gas emissions and to provide the necessary finance for both. Given that most councils supported this amendment, it is proposed that the suggested wording will remain. The LGA considers this is a reasonable approach for the local government sector. Individual councils may wish to advocate for more ambitious targets.
Suggested Amendment	Local government supports the Glasgow Climate Pact (2021), the Paris Agreement (2016), and the Kyoto Protocol (2005) for the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions and shall contribute towards the commitments made by the Federal Government to achieve national carbon emission reduction targets, and Net Zero Carbon by 2050		

4.4.9 Zero or Low-emission Vehicles		Consultation feedback	LGA Comments
Current Statement	Local government recognizes that electric vehicles provide for potential zero emission transport and reduce negative impacts such as toxic emissions, engine noise and greenhouse gas emissions and that councils, because of their roles and responsibilities as road authorities, infrastructure providers, fleet managers and representatives of their local communities, can support and encourage the use of electric vehicles through their planning, policies, investment and procurement activities.	A range of views were received. The Coorong District Council supported the amended secondary policy statements but requested that references to electric vehicles be changed to 'zero/low emissions vehicles' and include references to other fuel types such as hydrogen vehicles. Other councils also sought greater recognition of the importance of active transport as an alternative.	<p>The proposed amendment was a recently endorsed statement. A minor amendment for improved readability was proposed.</p> <p>In light of consultation feedback, it is proposed to rename this statement and include reference to the importance of all alternative fuels for the provision of low or zero emission transport. It is not proposed to include active transport which is a separate topic and is already included in LGA policy development such as the Guide to Road Safety.</p> <p>The additional proposed changes are shown in yellow.</p>
Suggested Amendment	Local government recognises the need for widespread transition to zero emission transport and the role of emerging technologies to facilitate this and reduce negative impacts such as toxic emissions, engine noise and greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, as road authorities, infrastructure providers, fleet managers and representatives of their local communities, councils should support and encourage the use of zero or low emission vehicles through their planning, policies, investment and procurement activities.		

Consultation summary: Review of the LGA Policy Manual on Climate Change

Summaries of submissions received are provided below:

1. **City of Adelaide** – council support for amended primary statement and the secondary statements.

The Council response addressed:

- the need for increased urgency of actions required;
- endorsement of the State Government's emissions reduction target,
- the call for State and Commonwealth funding appropriately highlights the increasing cost burden of climate action and adaptation for local governments;
- In reference to the secondary statement on **decision-making**, support for increased emphasis on the need for good data;
- In reference to the secondary statement about **consultation**, acknowledging the role of community alongside government;
- In reference to the secondary statement about **energy reduction**, increased recognition of the leadership role of local government in reducing emissions; and
- In reference to the secondary statement about **integrity**, support for inclusion of the Glasgow Climate Pact.

2. **Adelaide Hills Council** – council officer support for amended primary statement and secondary statements.

3. **City of Burnside** – council support for amended primary statement except for the need for a more urgent emissions target, and support for the secondary statements except for the statements on decision-making, energy reduction and electric vehicles.

The Council response addressed:

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report 'Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change' which identifies that stronger policies are required to limit global warming below 3 degrees;
- The need for the LGA to advocate for a national commitment to at least match the State commitment for 2030 and support a call for more ambitious targets for reaching net zero (e.g., by 2040);
- In reference to the secondary statement around **decision-making**, the need for explicit reference to flood and fire risk mapping by the State Government and the need to build capacity in the local government sector;
- In reference to the secondary statement about **energy generation**, the need to broaden the statement to include energy for council facilities and a move towards electrification, as well as amending legislation to address double-counting in carbon accounting;

- In reference to the secondary statement about **integrity**, the need for a more ambitious target for reaching net zero (by 2040); and
- In reference to the secondary statement about **electric vehicles**, the need to reduce the cost of electric vehicles and improve charging infrastructure.

4. Campbelltown City Council – council opposition to amended primary statement, support for secondary statements except the secondary statement on consultation, removal of the statement on greenhouse gas emissions and the statement on electric vehicles.

The Council response addressed:

- The **primary statement** should clarify that any actions taken should be evidence-based, allowing for improvement and adaptation as new information arises, and also considers that as the revision statement is currently worded, it reads as if LGA is only calling for all levels of government to adapt on a corporate level suggesting the following amendment:

‘Local government acknowledges that human-induced climate change is occurring and that urgent, ambitious, and **evidence-based** action is required at all levels of government to address the climate crisis by reducing emissions, and **putting in place the necessary processes and infrastructure to enable Community-wide adaptation of any unavoidable impacts.**’
- The need to call for higher national emissions reduction by 2030 and suggests the following:

‘The LGA supports the State Government’s ambition to achieve a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050, **and calls for similar ambitious emissions reduction targets to be consider at a national level.**’
- In reference to the secondary statement about **partnerships**, the Council supports the statement but queries the meaning of ‘recognising obligation of other parties’ and suggests the following:

‘Local government accepts that negative impacts from climate change are inevitable, and **recognises** that building resilience to these impacts is a responsibility **shared by everyone**. Councils shall continue to be key partners in delivering a strategic response to climate risks.’
- In reference to the secondary statement about **embedding climate considerations**, the Council supports the statement noting that climate science evolves quickly as new information arises, so climate risk needs to be assessed regularly, and suggests the following:

‘Climate risk and vulnerability assessments are vital in identifying climate impacts and determining appropriate actions. Councils shall ensure assessments are conducted **periodically** with full consideration of available relevant information as part of all council strategic and operational planning processes across all functions and services’.

- In reference to the secondary statement about **decision-making**, the Council notes the LGA's acknowledgement of the need for immediate and ambitious action by all levels of government (including state and federal), it is expected that there should be drastic policy and systemic change and suggests the following:

'Local government understands that decisions made by councils must take account of all currently available climate data. Local government supports improved availability and regionally relevant data to be provided through state government, so that councils can expand their knowledge base (such as sustainable development, tree management, coastal management, bush fire management, flood mitigation and other climate hazards) to ensure they are best informed to make well rounded decisions (LGMLS). Local government also calls for regular updates on state and federal policies and issues that may impact councils' climate mitigation and adaptation response.'

- In reference to the secondary statement about **consultation**, the Council supports the first sentence of the proposed change in statement, but strongly disagrees with the second sentence which it says reads as if all decisions are to be made based on stakeholder inputs before informing relevant stakeholders of the relevant topics, as raising awareness within the community is only meant to be a product of the public consultation. It suggests the following:

'Tackling the impacts of climate change will require community involvement and effort, in partnership with government-led policy and services. Councils should strive to partner with the community, aiming to build a climate resiliency by raising awareness and allowing for open communication through stakeholder and public consultations. Where appropriate, decisions relating to climate change should be made in consideration of community and expert input, financial & economical stability, as well as available data to ensure any decisions made would be well-informed and tailored for local conditions.'

- In reference to the secondary statement about **greenhouse gas reductions**, the Council does not support the proposal to remove this statement and noted that removing this section is in direct conflict of part two of the overarching policy statement. It believes that greenhouse gas reduction is a necessary and important part of mitigating climate change and should not be removed. Understanding that the removal of this statement may be due to the 2012-2014 carbon pricing being presently irrelevant, it suggests updating the statement to:

'Local government supports that voluntary carbon markets, including renewable energy, carbon offsets, and other low carbon products and services, be supported through clarified carbon accounting and legislation to ensure zero carbon outcomes are cost effective.'

- In reference to the secondary statement about **electric vehicles**, the Council does not support the proposed amendment, stating that it believes the statement should be broadened to hydrogen-powered vehicles, as well as other forms of sustainable transport such as cycling and walking, suggesting the statement reads:

'Local government recognises the need for widespread transition to zero emission transport and acknowledges the increasingly important role of electric vehicles, active transport, and other emerging technologies to help us do so. Therefore, as road authorities, infrastructure providers, fleet managers and representatives of their local communities, councils should support and encourage the use and uptake of sustainable transport through their planning, policies, infrastructure providence, investment and procurement activities.'

5. City of Charles Sturt – council support for amended primary statement and for some of the secondary statements.

The Council response addressed:

- Need for more urgent language, such as 'encourages' councils rather than 'supports' councils to take action in the primary statement;
- Support for the secondary statement on **partnerships**, but believes the language is dismissive and should be more proactive to encourage councils to work with their communities, adding words, 'we recognise the obligations of other parties to adapt and mitigate climate change impacts in a collaborative manner';
- Support for the secondary statement on **funding**, but noted the need for long-term financial planning;
- Lack of support for the secondary statement on **embedding climate change considerations**, seeking inclusion of the words 'encourage state-led collaboration with all levels of government to achieve climate change targets and better understand climate change risks through hazard data';
- Support for the secondary statement on **decision-making**, as it strengthens the role of State Government to provide overarching data (which it is currently working towards) and will encourage all councils to utilise this data for the purposes of future planning and financial considerations;
- Support for the secondary statement on **consultation** although suggesting increased emphasis on the role of State government in leading education to support behavioural change;
- Support for the secondary statement on **energy reduction**, although seeking for this work to be ongoing;
- Lack of support for removal of the secondary statement about **greenhouse gas emissions** as it is still relevant. Suggests following rewording:

‘Local government continues to support carbon pricing as an equitable means of reducing carbon emissions and recognises the need to prepare for the transition to a low carbon economy. Local government should work with partners to pursue sector-based initiatives that will assist with this transition towards net zero targets’.

- Support for the secondary statement about **integrity**, noting support for more urgent targets to net zero; and
- Support for the secondary statement about **electric vehicles**, noting the need to refer also to active transport and the need to include walking and cycling in planning policies.

6. Coorong District Council – council opposition to amended statement but support for amended secondary statements.

The Council response addressed:

- Lack of clarity on potential implications for regional councils and communities;
- Lack of acknowledgement of regional differences and potential non-alignment with the National Farmers Federation Climate Change Position;
- The declaration of a climate emergency is viewed as less relevant compared to definitive action within individual council capacity and support by State and Commonwealth Governments;
- Support for the draft suggested amendments to the secondary LGA Climate Change policy statements with amendment to the secondary statement about **electric vehicles** to be re-titled ‘Zero / Low emissions vehicles’ and include references to other fuel types such as hydrogen and broad range of vehicle types utilised by the local government sector; and
- The need for LGA policies and actions to address the climate change to be consistent with National Farmers Federation Climate Change Position and are fully examined to ensure that the policy levers of Government work cohesively to achieve national objectives, while minimising the risk of unintended or perverse outcomes.

7. District Council of Grant – council support for amended primary statement.

8. Regional Council of Goyder – council support for amended primary statement with the exception of the first paragraph.

9. City of Marion – council support for amended primary statement and for some of the secondary statements.

The Council response addressed:

- The importance of ambitious targets for emissions reduction, especially with new State and Federal Governments.
- In reference to the secondary statement about **partnerships**, the importance of collaboration across governments and the role of the Regional Climate Partnerships as a key mechanism to address support this.
- In reference to the secondary statement about **funding**, the Council values continued funding from State and Federal government to support local action on climate change.
- In reference to the secondary statement about **embedding climate considerations**, the Council did not support this statement and noted the important role of urban planning and development assessment in embedding climate considerations and suggested the statement be reworded to reflect the role the LGA can play in advocating for stronger climate outcomes in development and planning policy.
- In reference to the secondary statement about **decision-making**, the Council supported the statement and noted the importance of the State government's role in data collection.
- In reference to the secondary statement about **consultation**, the Council supported the statement and noted the need for community education to build resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- In reference to the secondary statement about **energy reduction**, the Council supported the statement and noted the role for the LGA to continue to contribute to policy development and reform in the renewable energy development and storage space.
- In reference to the secondary statement about **greenhouse gas reductions**, the Council does not support the proposed removal of the statement as carbon pricing is an equitable means of reducing carbon emissions.
- In reference to the secondary statement about **integrity**, the Council does not support the proposed change, suggesting that the LGA could have a role in advocating towards greater integrity around the carbon offset market and seeking specific reference to global targets that limit warming to 1.5 degrees and including additional statements related to transparency and fairness in relation to carbon accounting.
- In reference to the secondary statement about **electric vehicles**, the Council did not support this statement, noting that this statement should be broader than just electric vehicles but also applying to all forms of sustainable transport, such as walking, cycling and public transport that will all require significant infrastructure investments and supportive planning contexts at all levels of government. The Council believes the LGA can play a role in coordinating efforts and advocating for sustainable transport outcomes on behalf of the sector. It suggests renaming the statement to 'Sustainable Transport' with some additional wording to reflect the need for a broader conversation and advocacy about mobility that encompasses not just EVs but also other modes of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport.

10. City of Playford - administration support for amendments proposed.

11. Town of Gawler - council support for amended primary statement and for some of the secondary statements.

The Council response addressed:

- The need for a more urgent net zero emissions target, noting that South Australia will play an increasing role as a major renewable electricity supplier to the East Australia Grid;
- A lack of support for the secondary statement about **funding**, including reference to funding for regional climate partnerships;
- In reference to the secondary statement about **decision-making**, noting the needs for the local government sector need to build knowledge of areas such as mitigation policy, carbon accounting, renewables accounting, current risks and pitfalls and prevention of double counting. It is suggested that the statement is edited to include:

‘Local government understands that decisions made by councils must take account of all currently available climate data and policy.

ADAPTATION - Local government supports improved availability and regionally relevant data to be provided through state government, so that Councils can expand their knowledge base (such as development, tree management, coastal management, climate hazards) to ensure they are best informed to make well rounded decisions (LGMLS).

MITIGATION - Local government supports councils to participate in low carbon markets for renewable electricity, carbon offsets and other low carbon products and services. This includes up to date briefings on policy and issues that create risks to cost, certainty and reputation for councils and their communities) to ensure they are best informed to make well rounded decisions (LGMLS).’

A suggested addition to the paragraph on climate adaptation:

‘The State Government must play a key role in in providing data that is to be collected across regions and the state, (such as spatial data and services in heat mapping, canopy cover, LIDAR, accurate bushfire statistics including cause analysis, flooding frequency data to underpin sound decision making.’

- Support for the secondary statement about **consultation**, suggesting inclusion of words ‘to raise awareness within the community’.
- Support for the secondary statement on **energy reduction**, but suggesting an amendment:

'Local government provides leadership in the community through proactive actions to reduce energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions. Continual improvement in technologies mean that councils should undertake regular audits of facilities and practices that are energy intensive, **contribute to associated policy development and reform** and seek to reduce energy usage as far as practicable through installation of energy reduction and storage technologies.'

- No support for the removal of the secondary statement on **greenhouse gas emissions**, suggesting an amendment to:

'As the Australian Government has not progressed carbon pricing or emissions trading, it is important to ensure that voluntary carbon markets including renewable electricity, carbon offsets and other low carbon products and services are supported and clarified in accounting and legislation. This is critical for Local Government and their communities for achieving zero carbon outcomes that are cost effective'.

- Support for the secondary statement on **integrity** suggesting an additional paragraph:

'Domestic and international schemes used by councils and communities, need to be audited and confirmed ensuring a level of integrity. This includes reforms to underpin Australia's voluntary carbon markets with a legislated economy wide market-based greenhouse gas and renewables accounting framework to ensure clarity, equity, fairness and integrity for all participants.'

- Support for the secondary statement on electric vehicles.

12. City of West Torrens - council support for amended primary statement and for all of the secondary statements.

The Council response addressed:

- The need for clarity around what does 'supporting the State Government's ambition' actually mean in terms of commitment and cost and while the LGA's ambition is supported, it should not be at any cost. There needs to be a balanced approach which considers the effects on ratepayers and the wider community to achieve this very ambitious target. The pressure on infrastructure and services provided by local governments needs to be recognised by state and federal governments through appropriate funding mechanisms.
- Support for the no changes proposed to the secondary statements on **partnerships, funding and embedding climate change considerations**.
- Support for the proposed secondary statement on **decision-making**, noting the importance of use of Urban Heat Mapping and tree canopy data, which has recently been updated on a metropolitan-wide scale, as an example of how this model can work successfully at the broader scale and help to leverage greater outcomes for our community at a reduced cost.

- Support for the proposed secondary statement on **energy reduction and storage**, noting the importance of the demonstrated leadership role of councils and the activities the Council already undertakes to reduce emissions.
- Support for the proposed removal of the secondary statement on **greenhouse gas reduction emissions** as no longer relevant.
- Support for the proposed amendment of the secondary statement on **integrity** to reflect recent changes.
- Support for the proposed amendment of the secondary statement on **electric vehicles** but urges support for alternative zero emission energy/fuel initiatives.

9.2 Housing Supply, Affordability and Homelessness

Recommendation Reports from the LGA Board of Directors

Submitted by:	LGA Secretariat	
Approved by:	LGA Board of Directors	
Meeting	Annual General Meeting	28 October 2022
ECM:	782364	

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting requests that the LGA calls on the State Government to:

1. acknowledge the statewide housing crisis in South Australia;
2. establish a Regional Housing Crisis Taskforce, which features suitable representation from State Government agencies and the local government sector, to develop a roadmap for increasing regional housing supply;
3. host a South Australian housing summit to inform the development a whole-of-government response to the statewide housing supply, affordability and homelessness issues, including:
 - a. supply of worker housing in regional South Australia;
 - b. support community driven efforts to identify people experiencing homelessness by name;
 - c. investigate how homelessness support services can be most effectively and sustainably coordinated; and
 - d. increase funding to expand the stock of social and community housing;
4. support local government's calls, made at ALGA's 2022 National General Assembly, that the Australian Government:
 - a. host a national affordable housing summit to identify the regional, state, and national issues to be addressed to deliver housing solutions to communities through local, state, and federal government in a whole-of-government response to be tailored for respective community needs;
 - b. fund further national housing research, specific to understanding housing affordability, housing supply and demand, and housing accessibility across rural and regional Australia;
 - c. develop and implement a collaborative program, involving all levels of government, to address housing concerns in rural and regional Australia; and
 - d. commit to implementing a funding stream, specific to rural and regional local governments, allowing them to undertake LGA-specific housing research; and to prepare and implement LGA-specific housing plans (aligning to the relevant State Housing and Homelessness Strategies prepared under the NHHA); and

5. **delivers its election commitment to hold quarterly cabinet meetings with the local government sector and use this important engagement to discuss these housing challenges and opportunities with the Local Government Association of South Australia.**

LGA Board of Director's Comments

The LGA Board of Directors agreed with a proposal from the LGA Secretariat for an Item of Business to further progress the research and advocacy activities that have been undertaken (with support of the SAROC and GAROC committees) in response to previous Items of Business carried at LGA General Meetings regarding regional housing, affordability and homelessness.

In supporting and recommending this Item of Business, the LGA Board of Directors noted the opportunity to continue to take a proactive approach to advocacy on this issue and partnering with state and federal government wherever possible to ensure that Governments rely on our contribution to policy leading to better outcomes for communities.

The Board has also asked the LGA Secretariat to gather further evidence regarding the housing supply crisis from affected regional and metropolitan communities.

LGA Officer's Comments

(Officer: Lea Bacon, Acting Executive Director Public Affairs)

SAROC Regional Housing Toolkit

For many years, pockets of regional South Australia have experienced housing shortages, limiting opportunities for economic development, employment and population growth.

However, coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic, communities have experienced worker housing shortages spread throughout regional South Australia.

Part of the reason for this is that whereas housing shortages had previously been geographically confined to a small number of locations which featured major private sector investment projects, substantial investments are now forecast for every South Australian region.

To put this into context, in its October 2021 Regional Blueprint, Regional Development South Australia (RDSA) forecasts a five-year \$36.35 billion investment pipeline across regional South Australia.

This significant pipeline of investment may be put at risk if workers cannot be housed.

The SAROC Committee at its meeting held on 29 July 2021 endorsed the use of a Regional Housing Consultancy Brief to tender for a consultant to produce a policy toolkit resource for regional councils encountering housing supply shortages, which features both policy tools designed to assist individual councils and an advocacy agenda for the LGA/SAROC to pursue on behalf of regional councils.

Following a 'Request for Quote' process, Leonie Boothby & Associates Pty Ltd were selected for this project, and SAROC received a 'Report to Inform the Development of a Regional Housing Policy Toolkit' from Leonie Boothby & Associates at its 26 May 2022 meeting (the report is attached to the SAROC agenda on the [LGA's website¹](https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1151631/SAROC-Committee-Agenda-26-May-2022.pdf)).

¹ https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1151631/SAROC-Committee-Agenda-26-May-2022.pdf

Stakeholders included in the report's consultation process were regional council staff (chief executives, planners, and economic development practitioners), representatives of State Government agencies, the Planning Institute of Australia SA (PIA), planning consultants, the Urban Development Institute of Australia SA (UDIA), Master Builders South Australia (MBASA), and the Housing Industry Association SA (HIA).

The Leonie Boothby & Associates report provides much of the evidence base needed to produce the Regional Housing Policy Toolkit's two outputs (still to be finalised):

1. An online framework, which outlines a range of roles and actions that individual councils can take to assist in addressing identified regional housing supply barriers in their locations.
2. An advocacy agenda, outlining a series of recommendations for advocacy to other levels of government and stakeholders for further investigation, discussion, collaborative action, and policy reform.

Regarding the online framework, the Leonie Boothby & Associates report provided the following key insights:

- The value to councils of establishing and updating local and/or regional housing supply and demand audits, and guidance on how to develop these audits through various publicly available and subscription-based data sets, for the purposes of presenting these audits as a prospectus for potential investors, and as evidence of market failure to other levels of government.
- Financial supports (loans, grants and equity finance) potentially available for residential infrastructure projects through the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation's (NHFIC) National Housing Infrastructure Facility.
- Options to encourage housing diversity.
- SA case study examples of rates rebates provided to reduce developer financial risk or encourage employer investment in regional housing (Renmark Paringa Council and Southern Mallee District Council).
- SA case study example of the significantly subsidised sale of council-owned land for residential development (District Council of Karoonda East Murray).
- Innovative SA case study example which combined contributions and inputs from many stakeholders, including various government capital grants, and the provision of council-owned land to build worker housing (Unity Housing Project – Yorke and Mid North).

Regarding the development of an advocacy agenda, the Leonie Boothby & Associates report offered 47 separate recommendations for SAROC consideration.

The most prominent of these recommendations were incorporated into a SAROC Discussion Paper, 'Regional Housing Policy Advocacy', which highlighted the background context and next step recommendations under the following solution themes:

- Increased Investment in Public Housing
- Regional Plans
- Connection between Data and Effective Case Management
- Financing / Incentivising Regional Development
- Funding for Essential Services Infrastructure

Based upon this discussion paper, the SAROC Chair, Mayor Erika Vickery OAM, wrote to several state and federal government ministers requesting consideration of several policy reforms, as well

as further information about policy commitments of the newly elected Albanese Government. These advocacy requests are summarised below.

'Asks' of the State Government

1. Because the challenges associated with regional housing supply cut across the three tiers of government, as well as multiple portfolios, solutions to removing the barriers to regional residential development will require whole-of-government engagement and cross-government responses.

This acknowledgment underpinned the LGA State Election Platform's request that the new State Government:

*"Commit to working in partnership with councils to develop a roadmap for increasing regional housing supply that includes better incentives for private development in regional areas and alternative funding models for affordable housing projects and associated infrastructure, including a process to secure government funds."*²

At this critical juncture, therefore, the SAROC Chair requested of the Premier that a Regional Housing Crisis Taskforce be established, which features suitable representation from State Government agencies and the local government sector, in addition to sufficient staff resourcing to progress associated follow-up work.

2. The SAROC Chair also requested:
 - a. that consideration be given to Renewal SA making available suitably qualified case management staff, based in regional areas, to conduct regional data analysis and regional housing business case development.
 - b. advice on whether there are any resource or policy barriers which explain why Renewal SA is not currently engaging in any regional residential projects, at a time when severe housing shortages are being experienced throughout regional South Australia.
 - c. that the State Government consider establishing grant funding support for the installation or expansion of essential services infrastructure systems through a Regional Development Housing Infrastructure Fund.
 - d. that financial incentives be considered which may incentivise investment in regional South Australian housing, including exempting or reducing stamp duty taxes on regional residential property purchases, including from first home buyers.

'Asks' of the Federal Government

1. SAROC is interested to learn how the National Housing Supply and Affordability Council will operate, and specifically how regional SA councils can most effectively inform its deliberations through providing evidence of the causes of regional SA housing shortages, case study examples of effective localised council housing interventions, and proposed policy solutions.
2. Regarding the construction of social and affordable homes through the Housing Australia Future Fund, SAROC is interested to learn about the criteria which will be used to determine the locations of the proposed 20,000 new social housing dwellings and the 10,000 affordable homes for frontline workers, to be built during the fund's first 5 years.

² LGA, *Local Voices for a resilient South Australia*, p. 10,
https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1084241/LGA_State_Election_Platform_Web.pdf

3. SAROC requests that the Australian Government consider designing a new program that seeks to address the shortage of affordable rental housing in regional SA by offering financial incentives for property developers, not-for-profit organisations, and community housing providers.
4. SAROC requests that the Australian Government consider lowering the development project value threshold for access to the National Housing Infrastructure Facility, given the smaller scale of viable residential developments in regional South Australia.
5. SAROC requests that the Australian Government investigate whether the expansion of the eligibility for the remote area housing benefit Fringe Benefit Tax exemption will increase the supply of regional SA worker housing.

Housing Affordability and Homelessness – LGA / ALGA Resolutions

The following passages list the resolutions carried at LGA and ALGA meetings over the past 12 months regarding both housing affordability and homelessness, and detail the actions taken (where applicable).

LGA Annual General Meeting, October 2021

Homelessness (City of Port Adelaide Enfield)

Moved Port Adelaide Enfield. Seconded Salisbury. That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to:

1. *support the Everybody's Home Campaign which calls on the Australian Government together with States and Territories to commit to a national plan to end homelessness by 2030 which addresses all the drivers of homelessness;*
2. *call on the South Australian Government to support community driven efforts to identify people experiencing homelessness by name; and*
3. *support these efforts through joint advocacy and investigate how homelessness support services can be most effectively and sustainably coordinated.*

LGA Action:

The LGA signed the Everybody's Home Campaign and supported ALGA's advocacy for local government inclusion in a reformed National Housing and Homelessness Agreement, including at an October 2021 local government consultation forum, which formed part of the Productivity Commission's ongoing Housing and Homeless Agreement Review.³

This advocacy contributed to the Albanese Government – prior to its election – committing to the development of a National Housing and Homelessness Plan, which will include the states, territories, local government, and other key stakeholders, and be targeted at addressing the nation's severe housing crisis.

This motion was also the catalyst for collaborative work between the LGA and the South Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (SAAEH), an emerging state-wide collective of homelessness service providers, charitable organisations, government agencies, and business representatives committed to ending rough sleeping homelessness.

The SAAEH are working in partnership with the South Australian Housing Authority (SAHA) to achieve one of the objectives in the SAHA 'Strategic Plan 2020-2025',⁴ to achieve 'Functional Zero' for rough sleepers.⁵

³ See: <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/housing-homelessness/issues>

⁴ SA Housing Authority, *SA Housing Authority Strategic Plan 2020-2025*, p. 14, https://www.housing.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0020/219062/SA-Housing-Authority-Strategic-Plan-2020-to-2025.pdf

⁵ 'Functional Zero' for rough sleepers is achieved when a community's average monthly housing placement rate is more than the number of people sleeping rough.

The role of the SAAEH is envisaged to facilitate the transformation of the homelessness and social housing sectors in South Australia by enabling the integration of the supports and services provided through the Advance to Zero methodology to achieve and sustain Functional Zero for rough sleepers. The City of Adelaide employed the Advance to Zero methodology in the Adelaide Zero Project to address rough sleeping in the Adelaide CBD.

Part of this methodology includes the production and maintenance of a quality, real-time 'By-Name List' used to identify and digitally record the individual service needs of individuals sleeping rough, efficiently connect people with the services they need, and thereby address some of the causes of rough sleeping homelessness.

The SAAEH is working with SAHA to roll out the Advance to Zero methodology, through localised pilot projects, administered through SAHA's homelessness service provider alliance structure.

As part of this collaborative work, LGA representatives attended a Local Government Homelessness Forum at the City of Adelaide on 5 July 2022, featuring council community service staff and representatives of SAHA's homelessness service provider alliance structure.

At this forum council staff reinforced the variance evident in the depth, quality and maturity of social welfare services available to rough sleepers in different communities, including across the metropolitan Adelaide area.

Staff also reinforced the effective working relationships between councils and SAHA's homelessness service provider alliance structure, as well as the investment some councils were making in this space (e.g., the City of Port Adelaide Enfield has recently employed a staff member for a 12-month period to work on homelessness alleviation).

The LGA also co-hosted a Rough Sleeper Homelessness Forum with the SAAEH on 4 August 2022, targeted at elected members and council CEOs, which detailed the international success of the Advance to Zero methodology, and explored how a quality, real-time 'By-Name List' may be expanded beyond the inner-city Adelaide area.

The LGA will continue to collaborate with the SAAEH to explore resourcing options for this initiative and liaise with member councils who are actively partnering with SAHA's homelessness service providers on localised projects. Opportunities to showcase the project successes and/or learnings at future LGA events will also be actively explored.

Regional Homelessness (and Housing Affordability) (City of Mount Gambier)

Moved Mount Gambier. Seconded Wattle Range. That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to write to: the Prime Minister, The Hon Scott Morrison MP; The Hon Michael Sukkar MP, Minister for Homelessness, Social and Community Housing; the Premier of South Australia, The Hon Steven Marshall MP; and The Hon Michelle Lensink MLC, Minister for Human Services advocating for increased funding to expand the stock of social and community housing in regional South Australia, with copies sent to regional Federal and State Members of Parliament.

LGA Action:

Given the anticipation of a Federal Election soon after the LGA's 2022 AGM, and in the interests of maintaining clear advocacy positions, the requested ministerial correspondence was not sent prior to the 2022 state and federal elections.

However, advocacy for increased housing supply featured prominently in both ALGA's 2022 Federal Election Platform, *Don't Leave Local Communities Behind*, as well as the LGA's 2022 State Election Platform, *Local Voices for a resilient South Australia*.

Partly as a result of ALGA's policy advocacy, the Albanese Government brought several policies into office targeted at increasing the supply of social and affordable housing, including:

- The establishment of a National Housing Supply and Affordability Council (including local government representation).
- The establishment of a \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund, expected to finance the construction of 30,000 social and affordable homes over its first 5 years.
- The development of a National Housing and Homelessness Plan, in conjunction with states, territories, local government, and other key stakeholders.
- The introduction of a Help to Buy scheme, assisting 10,000 people per year purchase their home through a shared equity model.
- The introduction of a Regional First Home Buyer Support Scheme, assisting 10,000 people per year purchase their first home in regional Australia.

The Malinauskas Government also announced in its first budget (State Budget 2022-23) a \$177.5 million Public Housing Improvement Program, which features the construction of 400 new public housing dwellings (including 150 in regional SA), major maintenance works on 350 untenanted public housing dwellings, and maintenance work on a further 3,000.

The SAROC Chair, Mayor Erika Vickery OAM, has also written to the Australian Government's Minister for Housing and Homelessness, Hon Julie Collins MP (dated 25 August 2022), requesting information about the criteria which will be used to determine the locations of the Albanese Government's proposed 20,000 new social housing dwellings and 10,000 affordable homes for frontline workers, to be built during the Housing Australia Future Fund's first 5 years.

LGA Ordinary General Meeting, April 2022

Rough Sleeper / Homelessness Initiative (Town of Gawler)

Moved Gawler. Seconded Salisbury. That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to:

- 1. support and actively advocate for the provision of lockers in appropriate locations across all South Australian Local Government areas. Lockers to be made available via participating charity services, issued to people living rough or experiencing homelessness to store their belongings in a safe and dignified way;*
- 2. ensure support for people in these situations is collectively encouraged across the entire local government sector in South Australia on an ongoing basis, and request the LGA be represented within the current governance structure of the SA Alliance to End Homelessness; and*
- 3. support the formation and work of the SA Alliance to End Homelessness, including by committing to the principles contained in the Memorandum of Understanding by signing the MOU between the Institute of Global Homelessness and South Australian stakeholders (including the State Government).*

LGA Action:

LGA Secretariat staff have highlighted the Town of Gawler's locker provision idea at forums featuring council staff and elected members, such as those mentioned above.

The LGA will also liaise with the Town of Gawler to monitor the local development of this model and look for opportunities to showcase the project's success and/or learnings at a future LGA event.

The SAAEH is currently developing a governance framework.

As part of this development, the LGA has participated in two preliminary workshop meetings (held on 12 April and 4 August 2022) which were partly focused on developing the SAAEH's governance

framework. Each included approximately 20-25 participants from SAHA's homelessness service provider alliance structure, as well as other interested stakeholders from the charitable sector.

At these sessions, the LGA emphasised the following points:

- As the closest level of government to South Australian communities, councils are aware of the growing incidence of rough sleeping homelessness.
- South Australian councils want to participate in lessening the incidence of rough sleeping homelessness through collaborative actions involving the State Government and service providers in the charitable sector.
- However, South Australian councils cannot provide services they are not resourced to maintain.
- In this context, a collaborative working group needs to be established which includes representatives from all relevant stakeholders, to discuss viable actions and the resources required for their fulfilment.
- The local government sector's role in this space is likely to be that of a facilitator – connecting service providers/charities and recording/reporting local data.

In this context, the governance framework of the SAAEH is likely to provide an effective vehicle for the local government sector to:

- Share local intelligence regarding the occurrence and service demands of rough sleepers.
- Detail actions taken by councils to alleviate affordable housing shortages.
- Advocate for State Government policy/regulatory change and/or increased funding supports.

The LGA is also working closely with the SAAEH to arrange an opportunity for the LGA President to sign an updated MOU between the Institute of Global Homelessness and South Australian stakeholders, including the newly elected Malinauskas Government.

Stamp Duty on Residential Property in South Australia (Barunga West Council)

Moved Whyalla. Seconded Wattle Range. That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to call on the South Australian Government to investigate options to exempt or reduce stamp duty taxes on regional residential property purchases to incentivise regional migration and increase regional residential demand, including from first home buyers.

LGA Action:

This policy option was included for investigation in correspondence sent from the Chair of SAROC, Mayor Erika Vickery OAM, to the Treasurer, Hon Stephen Mullighan MP (dated 25 August 2022).

ALGA National General Assembly, June 2022

The ALGA 2022 National General Assembly deliberated upon several motions relating to housing affordability and homelessness. These are listed below.

Motion 32 Whitsunday Regional Council QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to host a national affordable housing summit to identify the regional, state, and national issues to be addressed to deliver housing solutions to communities through local, state, and federal government in a whole-of-government response to be tailored for respective community needs.

Carried

Motion 33 City of Mount Gambier SA

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

1. Fund further national housing research, specific to understanding housing affordability, housing supply and demand, and housing accessibility across rural and regional Australia;
2. Develop and implement a collaborative program, involving all levels of government, to address housing concerns in rural and regional Australia; and
3. Commit to implementing a funding stream, specific to rural and regional local governments, allowing them to undertake LGA-specific housing research; and to prepare and implement LGA-specific housing plans (aligning to the relevant State Housing and Homelessness Strategies prepared under the NHHA).

Carried

Motion 34 North Sydney Council NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a Royal Commission into housing affordability.

That the terms of reference include consideration of the impacts of historical low housing affordability on productivity, intergenerational equity, public health including mental health, educational opportunities and equity.

Lost

One other motion, relating to housing affordability was not debated on the floor of the 2022 National General Assembly – due to time constraints – and was instead considered at the ALGA Board meeting, held in July 2022.

Motion 94 Broken Hill City Council NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to create a regional mining city tax incentive to equalise the current remote area Fringe Benefit Tax concessions from 50% to 100% to enable all employees residing in mining cities and remote mining communities across Australia access to the same allowances as their employers.

The tax incentive will assist to drive regional relocation, to smooth out the volatility of housing prices with the aim to address the regional housing affordability crisis across Australia (especially in regional areas affected by the boom-bust cycle of mining industries).

That a trial program be run, with the five mining Cities that make up the Australian Mining Cities Alliance, being Broken Hill City Council (NSW), Isaac Regional Council (QLD), Mount Isa City Council (QLD), City of Karratha (WA) and City of Kalgoorlie Boulder (WA), with the view to prove the theory in practice and value of the tax incentive for broader application.

Carried

ALGA has written to the Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Housing and Homelessness, requesting that she investigate the issues and proposals included in the motions carried above.

Housing summit

The LGA's GAROC committee has noted the importance of housing, homelessness and housing affordability issues in both metropolitan and regional South Australia.

At its meeting on 4 July 2022, GAROC requested the LGA Secretariat outline options and recommendations to the LGA Board of Directors for a housing summit, which would involve input from all three levels of government to consider South Australian housing affordability issues.

In line with LGA/SAROC's current advocacy that the State Government commit to working in partnership with councils to develop a roadmap for increasing regional housing supply, it is recommended that the 'housing summit' in South Australia is led by the State Government.

A state-led summit, with support and co-design from the local government sector and other key stakeholders and industry associations would provide the leadership and legitimacy required to enable whole-of-government engagement and cross-government and stakeholder responses.

It is anticipated that a South Australian housing summit would put South Australia in a proactive position to inform any potential forthcoming national affordable housing summit as requested by delegates at the ALGA 2022 National General Assembly.

Financial and Resource Implications

This activity is now anticipated in the LGA's work program. However, depending on the level of further investigations and advocacy to support local governments position additional resources maybe required.