



Council Agenda

AGENDA

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that an ordinary meeting of Council will be held in the

**Council Chamber – Glenelg Town Hall
Moseley Square, Glenelg**

Tuesday 22 March 2022 at 7.00pm

Roberto Bria
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda

1. OPENING

The Mayor will declare the meeting open at 7:00pm.

2. KAURNA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge Kaurna people as the traditional owners and custodians of this land.

We respect their spiritual relationship with country that has developed over thousands of years, and the cultural heritage and beliefs that remain important to Kaurna People today.

3. SERVICE TO COUNTRY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City of Holdfast Bay would like to acknowledge all personnel who have served in the Australian forces and services, including volunteers, for our country.

4. PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we pray for your presence and guidance at our Council Meeting. Grant us your wisdom and protect our integrity as we carry out the powers and responsibilities entrusted to us on behalf of the community that we serve.

5. APOLOGIES

5.1 Apologies Received

5.2 Absent

6. ITEMS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL

7. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

If a Council Member has an interest (within the terms of the Local Government Act 1999) in a matter before the Council they are asked to disclose the interest to the Council and provide full and accurate details of the relevant interest. Members are reminded to declare their interest before each item.

8. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Motion

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 8 March 2022 be taken as read and confirmed.

Moved Councillor _____, Seconded Councillor _____

Carried

9. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- 9.1 **Petitions** - Nil
- 9.2 **Presentations** - Nil
- 9.3 **Deputations** - Nil

10. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

- 10.1 **Without Notice**
- 10.2 **On Notice** - Nil

11. MEMBER'S ACTIVITY REPORTS

- 11.1 Mayors' Activity Report for October to December 2021 (Report No: 78/22)

12. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

- 12.1 Road Treatments to divert traffic down Wattle Avenue at the Esplanade – Councillor Clancy (Report No: 80/22)

13. ADJOURNED MATTERS

- 13.1 Adjourned Report – Nominations Sought for the Libraries Board of South Australia (Report No: 79/22)

14. REPORTS OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES AND SUBSIDIARIES

- 14.1 Minutes – Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee – 2 March 2022 (Report No: 74/22)
- 14.2 Information Report – Southern Region Waste Authority Board Meetings – 6 December 2021 and 7 March 2022 (Report No: 83/22)

15. REPORTS BY OFFICERS

- 15.1 Items in Brief (Report No: 59/22)
- 15.2 Monthly Financial Report – 28 February 2022 (Report No: 81/22)
- 15.3 Street Trees and the Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021 (Report No: 61/22)
- 15.4 Australian Local Government Association – National General Assembly (Report No: 60/22)
- 15.5 Local Government Association (LGA) Ordinary General Meeting 8 April 2022 (Report No: 67/22)
- 15.6 Appointment to the Executive Committee Vacancy for the Somerton Ward (Report No: 68/22)
- 15.7 Significant/Regulated Tree Removal (Report No: 73/22)
- 15.8 Local Government Grants Best Practice Guide (Report No: 77/22)
- 15.9 Appointment of Independent Member to Audit Committee (Report No: 84/22)

16. RESOLUTIONS SUBJECT TO FORMAL MOTIONS

Presented for the information of Members is a listing of resolutions subject to formal resolutions, for Council and all Standing Committees, to adjourn or lay on the table items of Council business, for the current term of Council.

17. URGENT BUSINESS – Subject to the Leave of the Meeting**18. CONFIDENTIAL****18.1 Kauri Community and Sporting Complex – Extension of Management Agreement (Report No: 82/22)**

Pursuant to Section 83 (5) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Report attached to this agenda and the accompanying documentation is delivered to the Council Members upon the basis that the Council consider the Report and the documents in confidence under Part 3 of the Act, specifically on the basis that Council will receive, discuss or consider:

- b. Information the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting, or proposing to conduct, business, or to prejudice the commercial position of the council; and would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.**
- d. commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or to confer a commercial advantage on a third party; and would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.**

19. CLOSURE

ROBERTO BRIA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Item No: 11.1

Subject: **MAYOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2021**

Date: 22 March 2022

Written By: Executive Officer and Personal Assistant to the Mayor

Chief Executive Officer: Chief Executive Officer

SUMMARY

Presented for the information of Members is the Activity Report for the Mayor for October 2021 to December 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayor's Activity Report for October 2021 to December 2021 be received and noted.

REPORT

Date	Activity	Location
5/10/2021	Opening of Greek Museum of Adelaide	Flambrouro Hall, Fulton Street, Glenelg
6/10/2021	Hindmarsh Lane Site visit	Hindmarsh Lane, Glenelg
6/10/2021	Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee Meeting	Mayor's Parlour, Glenelg Town Hall
7/10/2021	Glenelg District Cricket Club Annual Sponsor's Dinner	Glenelg District Cricket Club
8/10/2021	Seacliff Hockey Club Presentation Night	Kauri Community and Sports Centre
9/10/2021	Seacliff SLSC Open Day	Seacliff SLSC
9/10/2021	Brighton Sailing Yacht Club Opening Season	Brighton & Seacliff Yacht Club
9/10/2021	Brighton Tennis Club Open Day	Brighton Tennis Club
9/10/2021	Somerton Yacht Club Open Day	Somerton Yacht Clubrooms
12/10/2021	CEO and Mayor Council Agenda Catch-up	Brighton Civic Centre, Brighton
12/10/2021	City Activation Monthly Update	Brighton Civic Centre, Brighton
12/10/2021	Pre Council Workshop Chapel Plaza and Hindmarsh Lane Art Installation	Glenelg Town Hall – Council Chambers
12/10/2021	Council Meeting	Glenelg Town Hall – Council Chambers
13/10/2021	Council Meeting Wrap-up Video	Brighton Civic Centre, Brighton
15/10/2021	Opening of Glenelg Oval Unisex Change rooms event	Glenelg Oval, Glenelg East
15/10/2021	Glenelg Community and Toward Home Alliance	Swedish Tart, Nile street, opposite Coles

Date	Activity	Location
17/10/2021	Fork on the Road	Wigley Reserve
18/10/2021	Meeting with Stuart Peavor (David Speirs advisor) in reference to Glenelg North beach being part of the Adelaide Living Beaches project	Minister's Office, Waymouth Street, Adelaide
19/10/2021	Council Workshop Tree Management Policy and Brighton Civic Centre	Brighton Civic Centre, Brighton
20/10/2021	Glenelg North Beach Replenishment	Onsite
21/10/2021	Coast FM Interview	Studio, Glandore
21/10/2021	Meet the Mayor	Murray Mudge Retirement Village, Raymond Grove, Glenelg
21/10/2021	Immanuel College Valedictory Service	Immanuel College
22/10/2021	Coast Protection Board Meeting and Workshop	Seacliff Surf Life Saving Club, Seacliff
26/10/2021	CEO and Mayor Council Meeting Agenda	Brighton Civic Centre, Brighton
26/10/2021	Council Meeting	Glenelg Town Hall – Council Chambers
27/10/2021	Council Meeting Wrap-Up Video	Brighton Civic Centre, Brighton
27/10/2021	Hold-up Committee Meeting	Mayors Parlour, Glenelg Town Hall
29/10/2021	LGA AGM	Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide
29/10/2021	Official opening of Chapel Plaza and Hindmarsh Lane	Chapel Plaza and Hindmarsh Lane, Glenelg
30/10/2021	Glenelg Ice Cream Festival	Glenelg
30/10/2021	St Leonards Primary School 100 Anniversary	St Leonards Primary School, Glenelg North
30/10/2021	Somerton SLSC Open Day	Somerton Surf Lifesaving Club, Repton Road, Somerton Park
31/10/2021	2021 Down Under London to Brighton Run, The Vintage Sports Car Club of SA Inc	Wattle Reserve
3/11/2021	Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee Meeting	Mayor's Parlour, Glenelg Town Hall
5/11/2021	City of Adelaide Award Ceremony to Kurna Elder, Uncle Lewis Yerloburka O'Brien AO	Queen Adelaide Room - Adelaide Town Hall, King William Street, Adelaide
5/11/2021	Launch of the Evolution of Surfing – 1960s Board Design in Australia	Bay Discovery Centre, Glenelg
6/11/2021	GFC Centenary Dinner	Stamford Plaza, Adelaide
8/11/2021	Southern Materials Recovery Facility Opening	Bakewell Drive, Seaford Heights
8/11/2021	CEO and Mayor Council Agenda Catch-up	Brighton Civic Centre, Brighton
8/11/2021	Pre-Council Workshop ICAC, OPI and the Ombudsman - Understanding the reforms to the public integrity system	Glenelg Town Hall – Council Chambers
8/11/2021	Council Meeting	Glenelg Town Hall - Council Chambers
10/11/2021	Coastal Protection Board Field Trip Fleurieu Peninsula Day 1	South-Eastern Fleurieu Peninsula
11/11/2021	Plympton Glenelg RSL Remembrance Day	Moseley Square, Glenelg

Date	Activity	Location
12/11/2021	Coastal Protection Board Field Trip Fleurieu Peninsula Day 2	South-Western Fleurieu/Southern Metro
16/11/2021	Council Workshop Anna Liptak, I'm not a Runner and Waste Contract	Brighton Civic Centre, Brighton
17/11/2021	Holdfast Bay Suicide Prevention Network	Brighton Civic Centre, Brighton
18/11/2021	Coast FM Interview	Studio, Glandore
19/11/2021	Rotary Holdfast Bay Food Drive	Brighton Central
23/11/2021	CEO and Mayor Council Agenda Catch-up	Brighton Civic Centre, Brighton
23/11/2021	Pre Council Workshop Hoarding Fees	Glenelg Town Hall – Council Chambers
23/11/2021	Council Meeting	Glenelg Town Hall – Council Chambers
24/11/2021	Council Meeting Wrap-Up Video	Brighton Civic Centre, Brighton
24/11/2021	Glenelg Jetty Rejuvenation Proposal discussion with Stephen Patterson and Rachel Swift	Glenelg Town Hall
27/11/2021	Christmas at the Bay	Glenelg
28/11/2021	Christmas at the Bay	Glenelg
29/11/2021	Meeting with Her Excellency - Frances Adamson	Government House, Adelaide
1/12/2021	Christmas Tree Festival Opening Night	St. Peter's Anglican Church and Community Centre, Glenelg
3/12/2021	Coast Protection Board Meeting	Waymouth Street, Adelaide
6/12/2021	St Leonards Primary School Year 6 and 7 Graduation	Brighton Secondary School
7/12/2021	Meeting between City of Holdfast Bay and Somerton SLSC	Microsoft Teams
7/12/2021	Meeting between Mayor and General Manager, Strategy and Corporate	Microsoft Teams
7/12/2021	St Peters Woodlands 2021 Awards Night	Michael Murray Auditorium, Westminster School
8/12/2021	Volunteer Christmas Function	GU Cinemas, Glenelg
14/12/2021	CEO and Mayor Council Agenda Catch-up	Brighton Civic Centre, Brighton
14/12/2021	Council Meeting	Glenelg Town Hall – Council Chambers
15/12/2021	Council Meeting Wrap-Up Video	Brighton Civic Centre, Brighton
15/12/2021	Glenelg Community Club Christmas Lunch	Glenelg Lifesaving Club
16/12/2021	Coast FM Interview	Via Phone
17/12/2021	Meeting with Kurna and Governor of South Australia	Glenelg Town Hall, Glenelg
18/12/2021	Kingston House Afternoon Tea	Kingston House, Cameron Avenue, Kingston Park
22/12/2021	Australia Day Awards – Selection Panel	Microsoft Teams
28/12/2021	Proclamation Day Commemoration	Old Gum Tree
28/12/2021	Bay Sheffield Presentation of Award	Glenelg Oval

Item No: 12.1

Subject: **MOTION ON NOTICE – ROAD TREATMENTS TO DIVERT TRAFFIC DOWN
WATTLE AVENUE AT THE ESPLANADE – COUNCILLOR CLANCY**

Date: 22 March 2022

PROPOSED MOTION

Councillor Clancy proposed the following motion:

That administration provide the costs of removing the road treatments and increasing the width of the shared pathway on the western side.

BACKGROUND

Residents believed that with the proposed changes to the Hove Crossing that traffic would reduce on Wattle Avenue. This has not proceeded. Drivers are guided to use Wattle Avenue rather than having a more equal distribution of traffic along nearby streets. Speed humps and other treatments force drivers to use other roads. During the construction of the Gross Pollutant Trap residents appreciated the lack of traffic. Residents have raised their concerns about the present diversion treatment on the Esplanade and drivers their obligations as it is an uncommon situation.

Item No: 13.1

Subject: **ADJOURNED REPORT - NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE LIBRARIES BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Date: 22 March 2022

Written By: Executive Officer and Personal Assistant to the Mayor

Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Bria

SUMMARY

The Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA) is seeking nominations from a suitably qualified Council member, employees of Council, or other Local Government entities to fill up to three (3) positions on the Libraries Board of South Australia for a three-year term. The term commences on 1 August 2022.

Any member who would like to be nominated will need to have their nomination endorsed by Council prior to submission to the LGA. If Council does not have a nominee, it may just note the report.

This report was most recently tabled at the ordinary meeting of Council on 8 March 2022 (Item 15.2 - Nominations Sought for the Libraries Board of South Australia (Report No: 49/22) and was adjourned under Regulation 19, *Local Government (Proceedings at Meetings) Regulations 2013*, for want of a quorum.

Her Worship the Mayor asked for nominations and Councillor Abley was nominated. The was no motion moved therefore a motion needs to be moved.

MOTION

From Council Meeting 8 March 2022:

That Council:

1. **notes the report;**

OR

2. **nominates _____ for consideration by the LGA to be nominated for the Libraries Board of South Australia.**

STRATEGIC PLAN

Statutory compliance

COUNCIL POLICY

Not applicable

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Legislation Interpretation Act 2021
Libraries Act 1982

BACKGROUND

The Libraries Board of South Australia is established by the *Libraries Act 1982* and is responsible for developing policies and guidelines for the provision of public library services, collaborating with administrative units of the Public Services for the provision of library and information services and to make recommendations to the Minister on allocation of funds for public library services.

The three (3) nominated positions are due to expire on 31 July 2022 and all current members are eligible for re-appointment.

A report was tabled at the ordinary meeting of Council on 8 March 2022 (Item 15.2 - Nominations Sought for the Libraries Board of South Australia (Report No: 49/22) and was adjourned under *Regulation 19, Local Government (Proceedings at Meetings) Regulations 2013*, for want of a quorum.

Refer Attachment 1

REPORT

The Nominations Sought for the Libraries Board of South Australia report was adjourned for want of a quorum.

On 14 February 2022, the LGA commenced seeking nominations from suitably qualified council members, or employees of a council, or other local government entity to fill three positions on the Libraries Board of SA for a three-year term, commencing 1 August 2022.

The *Libraries Act 1982* requires the LGA to provide a panel of seven nominees from which the Minister will select three appointees. In accordance with section 42 of the *Legislation Interpretation Act 2021* the panel of nominees must include at least one male and one female.

The Board meets 10 times per year at the State Library of South Australia from 10am – 12noon with sitting fees of \$590 per session and mileage paid for regional based members.

The Call for Nominations Information Sheet (Part A) provides further information regarding the role, as well as the selection criteria to be addressed by the nominee.

Refer Attachment 2

In accordance with the *LGA Appointments and Nominations to Outside Bodies — Policy* (the policy), the Nominations Committee of the LGA Board of Directors may undertake preliminary consideration of nominees and make recommendations to the LGA Board of Directors. In the case of the Libraries Board of SA this may include the Nominations Committee undertaking interviews and/or requesting the details of referees.

LGA nominations on Outside Bodies will, unless determined otherwise by the LGA Board of Directors, be currently serving council members or employees of a council or other local government entity. Only nominations submitted following a resolution of council will be considered.

Any nomination by Council requires the Nomination Form (Part B) to be completed and returned to the LGA by close of business 5 April 2022. An up to date curriculum vitae and response to the selection criteria (of no more than two pages) must be supplied by the nominee. By applying, the nominee accepts that the LGA may request an interview and/or details of referees.

Refer Attachment 3

The Policy also enables the LGA Secretariat to maintain a Nominees Database, which will record the details of nominees who agree to be considered for other vacancies for a period of 12 months based on the nominee's preferences. The Nomination Form (Part B below) asks nominees whether they want to be listed on the database

BUDGET

There are no budget implications for Council.

LIFE CYCLE COSTS

Not applicable

Attachment 1



Item No: 15.2

Subject: **NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE LIBRARIES BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Date: 8 March 2022

Written By: Executive Officer and Personal Assistant to the Mayor

Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Bria

SUMMARY

The Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA) is seeking nominations from a suitably qualified Council member, employees of Council, or other Local Government entities to fill up to three (3) positions on the Libraries Board of South Australia for a three-year term. The term commences on 1 August 2022.

Any member who would like to be nominated will need to have their nomination endorsed by Council prior to submission to the LGA. If Council does not have a nominee, it may just note the report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. notes the report;
- OR
2. nominates _____ for consideration by the LGA to be nominated for the Libraries Board of South Australia.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Statutory compliance

COUNCIL POLICY

Not Applicable.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Legislation Interpretation Act 2021
Libraries Act 1982

BACKGROUND

The Libraries Board of South Australia is established by the *Libraries Act 1982* and is responsible for developing policies and guidelines for the provision of public library services, collaborating with administrative units of the Public Services for the provision of library and information services and to make recommendations to the Minister on allocation of funds for public library services.

The three (3) nominated positions are due to expire on 31 July 2022 and all current members are eligible for re-appointment.

REPORT

On 14 February 2022, the LGA commenced seeking nominations from suitably qualified council members, or employees of a council, or other local government entity to fill three positions on the Libraries Board of SA for a three-year term, commencing 1 August 2022.

The *Libraries Act 1982* requires the LGA to provide a panel of seven nominees from which the Minister will select three appointees. In accordance with section 42 of the *Legislation Interpretation Act 2021* the panel of nominees must include at least one male and one female.

The Board meets 10 times per year at the State Library of South Australia from 10am – 12noon with sitting fees of \$590 per session and mileage paid for regional based members.

The Call for Nominations Information Sheet (Part A) provides further information regarding the role, as well as the selection criteria to be addressed by the nominee.

Refer Attachment 1

In accordance with the *LGA Appointments and Nominations to Outside Bodies — Policy* (the policy), the Nominations Committee of the LGA Board of Directors may undertake preliminary consideration of nominees and make recommendations to the LGA Board of Directors. In the case of the Libraries Board of SA this may include the Nominations Committee undertaking interviews and/or requesting the details of referees.

LGA nominations on Outside Bodies will, unless determined otherwise by the LGA Board of Directors, be currently serving council members or employees of a council or other local government entity. Only nominations submitted following a resolution of council will be considered.

Any nomination by Council requires the Nomination Form (Part B) to be completed and returned to the LGA by close of business 5 April 2022. An up to date curriculum vitae and response to the selection criteria (of no more than two pages) must be supplied by the nominee. By applying, the nominee accepts that the LGA may request an interview and/or details of referees.

Refer Attachment 2

The Policy also enables the LGA Secretariat to maintain a Nominees Database, which will record the details of nominees who agree to be considered for other vacancies for a period of 12 months based on the nominee's preferences. The Nomination Form (Part B below) asks nominees whether they want to be listed on the database

BUDGET

There are no budget implications for Council.

LIFE CYCLE COSTS

Not applicable.

ADJOURNED REPORT

Attachment 1

ADJOURNED REPORT



LGA Appointments and Nominations to Outside Bodies — Call for Nominations

Libraries Board of SA	
Governing Statute (if applicable)	Section 9(1)(a) Libraries Act 1982
Purpose/Objective	<p>The functions of the Board are—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to formulate policies and guidelines for the provision of public library services; and b) to establish, maintain and expand collections of library materials and, in particular, collections of such materials that are of South Australian origin, or have a particular relevance to this State; and c) to administer the State Library; and d) to establish and maintain such other public libraries and public library services as may best conduce to the public interest; and e) to promote, encourage and assist in the establishment, operation and expansion of public libraries and public library services by councils and others; and f) to collaborate with an administrative unit of the Public Service or any other public sector agency (within the meaning of the Public Sector Act 2009) and any other authority or body, in the provision of library and information services; and g) to make recommendations to the Minister on the allocation of funds that are available for the purposes of public libraries and public library services; and h) to initiate and monitor research and experimental projects in relation to public libraries and public library services; and i) to keep library services provided in the State under continuing evaluation and review; and j) (o) to carry out any other functions assigned to the Board under this or any other Act or by the Minister.
Administrative Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 meetings per year held at State Library of South Australia • \$590 per session • Mileage paid for regional based members

PART B

<p>Selection Criteria (to be addressed by applicant)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local government knowledge and experience
<p><i>In accordance with the LGA Appointments and Nominations to Outside Bodies Policy, selection for appointment or nomination to this Outside Body may include the conduct of interviews and checking of referees by the LGA. By applying, the applicant accepts that the LGA may request an interview and/or the details of referees.</i></p>	
<p>Liability and indemnity cover</p> <p><i>The LGA requires that persons appointed to Outside Bodies be appropriately insured throughout the period of their appointment and seeks to collect details of the insurances provided by the Outside Body on an annual basis.</i></p>	
<p>For more information contact: LGA Nominations Coordinator at nominationscoordinator@lga.sa.gov.au or 8224 2000</p>	

ADJOURNED REPORT

Attachment 2

ADJOURNED REPORT



LGA Appointments and Nominations to Outside Bodies — Nomination Form

Instructions

This form:

- *Must be submitted by a council*
- *Must be emailed in PDF format to nominationscoordinator@lga.sa.gov.au*
- *Receipt of nomination will be acknowledged by return email*
- *CV and response to selection criteria (if applicable) may be emailed separately by the nominee and will be treated confidentially*

This nomination form fulfils the requirements of the LGAs Appointments and Nominations to Outside Bodies Policy, [available here](#).

SECTION 1 to be completed by Council, SECTION 2 to be completed by Nominee.

Please refer to the *Call for Nominations* information sheet (PART A) for details of the Outside Body and the selection criteria to be met by the nominee.

SECTION 1: COUNCIL to complete

Libraries Board of SA	
Council Details	
Name of Council submitting the nomination	
Contact details of council officer submitting this form	Name: Position: Email: Phone:
Council meeting minute reference and date	
Nominee Full Name	
elected member <input type="checkbox"/> OR employee of council <input type="checkbox"/> OR employee of local government entity <input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Note: by submitting this nomination council is recommending the nominee is suitable for the role.</i>	

SECTION 2: NOMINEE to complete

Libraries Board of SA			
Nominee Details			
Name in full		Gender	
Home / Postal Address			
Phone		Mobile	
Personal Email			
Why are you interested in this role?			
CV	attached <input type="checkbox"/> OR forwarding separately <input type="checkbox"/>		
Response to selection criteria (if applicable) <i>Please refer to the Call for Nominations information sheet for the selection criteria to be addressed.</i>	<i>Nominee to provide response to selection criteria (of no more than 2 pages) for consideration by the LGA Board of Directors.</i> attached <input type="checkbox"/> OR forwarding separately <input type="checkbox"/>		
Do you agree for your details to be retained on the LGA Nominees Database for a period of 12 months in order to be considered for other vacancies on Outside Bodies? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> OR No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please list any fields of interest or Outside Bodies of interest: • _____			
Undertaking: <i>The LGA Board resolved in January 2015 to ensure that appointees to external Boards and Committees remain current local government members or officers. If you leave local government for any reason during the term of your appointment, are you prepared to resign your appointment if requested to do so by the LGA?</i> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
Signature of Nominee: _____			

Attachment 2



LGA Appointments and Nominations to Outside Bodies — Call for Nominations

Libraries Board of SA	
Governing Statute (if applicable)	Section 9(1)(a) Libraries Act 1982
Purpose/Objective	<p>The functions of the Board are—</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) to formulate policies and guidelines for the provision of public library services; and b) to establish, maintain and expand collections of library materials and, in particular, collections of such materials that are of South Australian origin, or have a particular relevance to this State; and c) to administer the State Library; and d) to establish and maintain such other public libraries and public library services as may best conduce to the public interest; and e) to promote, encourage and assist in the establishment, operation and expansion of public libraries and public library services by councils and others; and f) to collaborate with an administrative unit of the Public Service or any other public sector agency (within the meaning of the Public Sector Act 2009) and any other authority or body, in the provision of library and information services; and g) to make recommendations to the Minister on the allocation of funds that are available for the purposes of public libraries and public library services; and h) to initiate and monitor research and experimental projects in relation to public libraries and public library services; and i) to keep library services provided in the State under continuing evaluation and review; and j) (o) to carry out any other functions assigned to the Board under this or any other Act or by the Minister.
Administrative Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 meetings per year held at State Library of South Australia • \$590 per session • Mileage paid for regional based members

PART B

<p>Selection Criteria (to be addressed by applicant)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local government knowledge and experience
<p><i>In accordance with the LGA Appointments and Nominations to Outside Bodies Policy, selection for appointment or nomination to this Outside Body may include the conduct of interviews and checking of referees by the LGA. By applying, the applicant accepts that the LGA may request an interview and/or the details of referees.</i></p>	
<p>Liability and indemnity cover</p> <p><i>The LGA requires that persons appointed to Outside Bodies be appropriately insured throughout the period of their appointment and seeks to collect details of the insurances provided by the Outside Body on an annual basis.</i></p>	
<p>For more information contact: LGA Nominations Coordinator at nominationscoordinator@lga.sa.gov.au or 8224 2000</p>	

Attachment 3



PART B

LGA Appointments and Nominations to Outside Bodies — Nomination Form

Instructions

This form:

- *Must be submitted by a council*
- *Must be emailed in PDF format to nominationscoordinator@lga.sa.gov.au*
- *Receipt of nomination will be acknowledged by return email*
- *CV and response to selection criteria (if applicable) may be emailed separately by the nominee and will be treated confidentially*

This nomination form fulfils the requirements of the LGAs Appointments and Nominations to Outside Bodies Policy, [available here](#).

SECTION 1 to be completed by Council, SECTION 2 to be completed by Nominee.

Please refer to the **Call for Nominations** information sheet (PART A) for details of the Outside Body and the selection criteria to be met by the nominee.

SECTION 1: COUNCIL to complete

Libraries Board of SA	
Council Details	
Name of Council submitting the nomination	
Contact details of council officer submitting this form	Name: Position: Email: Phone:
Council meeting minute reference and date	
Nominee Full Name	
elected member <input type="checkbox"/> OR employee of council <input type="checkbox"/> OR employee of local government entity <input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Note: by submitting this nomination council is recommending the nominee is suitable for the role.</i>	

SECTION 2: NOMINEE to complete

Libraries Board of SA			
Nominee Details			
Name in full			Gender
Home / Postal Address			
Phone		Mobile	
Personal Email			
Why are you interested in this role?			
CV	attached <input type="checkbox"/> OR forwarding separately <input type="checkbox"/>		
Response to selection criteria (if applicable) <i>Please refer to the Call for Nominations information sheet for the selection criteria to be addressed.</i>	<i>Nominee to provide response to selection criteria (of no more than 2 pages) for consideration by the LGA Board of Directors.</i> attached <input type="checkbox"/> OR forwarding separately <input type="checkbox"/>		
Do you agree for your details to be retained on the LGA Nominees Database for a period of 12 months in order to be considered for other vacancies on Outside Bodies? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> OR No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please list any fields of interest or Outside Bodies of interest: • _____			
Undertaking: <i>The LGA Board resolved in January 2015 to ensure that appointees to external Boards and Committees remain current local government members or officers. If you leave local government for any reason during the term of your appointment, are you prepared to resign your appointment if requested to do so by the LGA?</i> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
Signature of Nominee: _____			

Item No: 14.1

Subject: **MINUTES – JETTY ROAD MAINSTREET COMMITTEE – 2 MARCH 2022**

Date: 22 March 2022

Written By: General Manager, Community and Business

General Manager: Community and Business, Ms M Lock

SUMMARY

The Minutes of the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee meeting held on 2 March 2022 is attached and presented for Council's information.

Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee Agenda, Reports and Minutes are all available on Council's website and the meetings are open to the public.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the minutes of the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee of 2 March 2022.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Building an economy and community that is inclusive, diverse, sustainable and resilient.

COUNCIL POLICY

Not Applicable.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Not Applicable.

BACKGROUND

The Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee (JRMC) has been established to undertake work to benefit the traders on Jetty Road Glenelg, using the separate rate raised for this purpose. Council has endorsed the Committee's Terms of Reference and given the Committee delegated authority to manage the business of the Committee.

Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee Agendas, Reports, and Minutes are all available on Council's website and the meetings are open to the public.

REPORT

Minutes of the meetings of JRMC held on 2 March 2022 is attached for member's information.

BUDGET

Not applicable

LIFE CYCLE COSTS

Not applicable

Attachment 1



CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY

Minutes of the meeting of the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee of the City of Holdfast Bay held via virtual connection on Wednesday 2 March 2022 at 6:00pm

PRESENT

Elected Members:

Mayor A Wilson
Councillor Abley
Councillor W Miller

Community Representatives:

Attitudes Boutique, Ms G Martin
Daisy and Hen, Ms G Britton
Ikos Holdings Trust, Mr A Fotopoulos
Cibo Espresso, Mr T Beatrice
Beach Burrito, Mr A Warren

Staff:

Chief Executive Officer, Mr R Bria
General Manager, Community & Business, Ms M Lock
Manager, City Activation, Ms R Forrest
Jetty Road Development Coordinator, Ms A Klingberg
Jetty Road Development Assistant, Mr W Papatolis

1. OPENING

The Deputy Chair, Ms G Martin, declared the meeting open at 6.01pm.

2. KAURNA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge Kaurna people as the traditional owners and custodians of this land.

We respect their spiritual relationship with country that has developed over thousands of years, and the cultural heritage and beliefs that remain important to Kaurna People today.

3. APOLOGIES

3.1 Apologies Received: Mr T Chai, Mr C Maios, Mr D Elms

3.2 Absent: Mr G Watson

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members were reminded to declare any interest before each item.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**Motion**

That the minutes of the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee held on 2 February 2022 to be taken as read and confirmed.

Moved A Warren, Seconded Councillor Miller

Carried

6. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

6.1 Without Notice: Nil

6.2 With Notice: Nil

7. MOTIONS ON NOTICE: Nil**8. PRESENTATION:****8.1 Jetty Road Cleaning Schedule**

Mr Bill Blyth, Manager Field Services, City of Holdfast Bay provided an update on the Jetty Road cleaning schedule.

8.2 JRMC Governance Training

Ms Tracy Riddle, Lawyer, Kelledy Jones, facilitated a workshop focused on Section 41 Committees, their role, and how this relates to broader Council decision making.

G Britton left the meeting at 6.31pm

A Fotopoulos joined the meeting at 6.30pm

G Britton re-joined the meeting at 6.38pm

8.3 Jetty Road Marketing Workshop - Report

Ms Bec Tape, Account Director, Communicate presented the findings of the January Marketing workshop and opportunities for projects in the new financial year.

9. REPORTS/ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- 9.1 Monthly Finance Report (Report No: 51/22)

The Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee January 2022 variance report is presented for information of the members of the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee.

Motion

That the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee note this report.

Moved T Beatrice, Seconded G Britton

Carried

- 9.2 2022/2023 Budget Recommendations (Report No: 56/22)

Motion – Exclusion of the Public – Section 90(3)(d) Order

1. That pursuant to Section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the JRMC hereby orders that the public be excluded from attendance at this meeting with the exception of the Committee Members and Staff in attendance at the meeting excluding the Jetty Road Development Coordinator and Jetty Road Assistant in order to consider Report No: 56/22 2022/2023 Budget Recommendations in confidence.
2. That in accordance with Section 90(3) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the JRMC is satisfied that it is necessary that the public be excluded to consider the information contained in Report No: 56/22 2022/2023 Budget Recommendations on the following ground:
 - b. pursuant to section 90(3)(b) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda Item is information the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting business; Example: The information would prejudice of the council in that the Council is currently engaged in employment contracts with appointed staff as part of the current annual budget.

In addition, the disclosure of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest. The public interest in public access to the meeting has been balanced against the public interest in the continued non-disclosure of the information. The benefit to the public at large resulting from withholding the information outweighs the benefit to it of disclosure of the information.

- 3. The Council is satisfied, the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public, has been outweighed by the need to keep the information or discussion confidential.**

Moved Councillor Miller, Seconded A Warren

Carried

Meeting moved into confidence at 8.00pm

A Klingberg and W Papatolis left the room

The Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee (JRMC) will consider the draft budget focused on high level expenditure groups, which has been prepared based on a Differential Separate Rate (levy) increase, to determine the change to be applied to the levy for 2022-23. A further workshop with the Committee will be held to further refine project allocation prior to the commencement of the 2022-2023 financial year.

Short Term Suspension of Meeting Procedures

The Chair, with the approval of 5 members present, suspended the meeting procedures pursuant to Regulation 20(1) of the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013* for a period of 30 minutes to allow discussion.

Leave of the meeting was granted.

The meeting procedures were suspended at 8.01pm.

Moved Councillor Miller, Seconded T Beatrice

Carried

Additional time of 15 minutes required at 8.31pm

Moved Councillor Miller, Seconded A Warren

Carried

Motion

That the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee endorse:

- 1. The draft 2022/23 Budget be workshopped with the committee prior to the endorsement.**
- 2. That the increase applied to the Differential Separate Rate for Jetty Road, Glenelg is to be consistent with the increase to be applied to General Rates**

Moved G Britton, Seconded T Beatrice

Carried

The meeting came out of confidence and suspension at 8.34pm and the meeting was re-open to the public.

Moved Councillor Abley, Seconded A Fotopoulos

Carried

The meeting resumed at 8.35pm.

A Klingberg and W Papatolis returned to the room

9.3 Jetty Road Events Update (Report No: 52/22)

JRMC in partnership with the City of Holdfast Bay are responsible for implementing and managing a variety of major events to support economic stimulus in the precinct in accordance with the annual marketing and business plan. This report provides an overview of upcoming events.

Motion

That the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee note this report.

Moved Councillor Miller, Seconded A Fotopoulos

Carried

9.4 Marketing Update

The report provides an update on the marketing initiatives undertaken by the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee 2021 Marketing Plan and initiatives aligned to the delivery of the Jetty Road Glenelg Retail Strategy 2018-2022.

Motion

That the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee note this report.

Moved A Warren, Seconded T Beatrice

Carried

10. URGENT BUSINESS – Subject to the Leave of the Meeting

REPORTS/ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

- Councillor Abley asked a question about committee member attendance.
- A Warren asked a question in regards to the vacant stores and landlords. The CEO provided a response.
- T Beatrice received a complaint from patrons of Moseley Beach Club in relation to the public bathrooms were overflowing on the weekend. Council Administration responded to report this to Customer Service 08 8229 9999, 24/7

11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee will be held on Wednesday 6 April 22 at the Glenelg Town Hall.

12. CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 9.03pm

CONFIRMED: Wednesday 6 April 2022

CHAIRMAN

Item No: 14.2

Subject: **INFORMATION REPORT – SOUTHERN REGION WASTE RESOURCE AUTHORITY BOARD MEETINGS – 6 DECEMBER 2021 AND 7 MARCH 2022**

Date: 22 March 2022

Written By: Chief Executive Officer

Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Bria

SUMMARY

The information reports of the Southern Region Waste Resource Authority (SRWRA) Board meeting held on 6 December 2021 and 7 March 2022 are attached and provided for information.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the Information Reports of the Southern Region Waste Resource Authority Board meeting held on 6 December 2021 and 7 March 2022.

STRATEGIC PLAN

A city, economy and community that is resilient and sustainable

COUNCIL POLICY

Not applicable

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Not applicable

BACKGROUND

Southern Region Waste Resource Authority (SRWRA) is a regional subsidiary established by the Cities of Onkaparinga, Marion and Holdfast Bay (the "Constituent Councils"), pursuant to Section 43 of the *Local Government Act, 1999*. The functions of SRWRA include providing and operating waste management services on behalf of the constituent Councils.

In accordance with Section 2.5.2 of the SRWRA Charter - 2015, there shall be at least six ordinary meetings of the Board held in each financial year. Furthermore, Section 2.5.22 states that prior to

the conclusion of each meeting of the Board, the Board must identify which agenda items considered by the Board at that meeting will be the subject of an information report to the Constituent Councils.

In accordance with the above, identified agenda items from the Board Meetings held on 6 December 2021 and 7 March 2022 are attached for Members information as Attachments 1 and 2.

Refer Attachments 1 and 2

BUDGET

Not applicable

LIFE CYCLE COSTS

Not applicable

Attachment 1



Constituent Council Information Report

- PUBLIC -

Board Meeting Date: 6 December 2021

Report By: Chief Executive Officer

Report

In accordance with Section 2.5.22 of the *Southern Region Waste Resource Authority Regional Subsidiary Charter - 2015*, the SRWRA Board identified the following Agenda Items to be the subject of a Public Information Report to the Constituent Councils:

Agenda Item	Report
2.2	<p>Cash Injection to the SMRF Summary – The SRWRA Board has approved a cash advance facility of \$351k to the SMRF to cover capital payments for the SMRF plant and equipment whilst awaiting the Commonwealth grant payment. The facility is provided to the SMRF by each Joint Venture Partner in equal proportions. The Commonwealth grant funding payment is expected by mid to late December.</p>
2.3	<p>Appointment of Board Member and Proxy to Audit Committee Summary - The SRWRA Board is required to nominate a Board member and a proxy representative for the Audit Committee. The current representatives, Mark Booth and John Smedley, were re-elected as Board representatives on the SRWRA Audit Committee.</p>
3.1	<p>Chief Executive Officers Information Report Summary –</p> <p><u>SMRF</u> - The SMRF was officially opened on Monday 8 November 2021 at 10.00am by Senator Andrew McLachlan. This coincided with the start of National Recycling Week and positive feedback on the event has been received. The Commonwealth funding agreement Milestone 1 claim has been approved and awaiting payment. This claim is 90% of the total \$5.35m grant.</p> <p><u>Main South Road/Victor Harbor Intersection Access</u> - The Department of Infrastructure Major Projects Executive Committee (MPEC) is meeting on Tuesday 7 December to consider a briefing paper that outlines traffic volume and movement information to support a review of the design treatment primarily of the Bakewell Drive / Main South Road intersection. An appropriate traffic treatment is essential for access and egress to SRWRA.</p> <p><u>Main South Road Compulsorily Acquired Land Valuation Update</u> – An independent land valuation commissioned by SRWRA valued the land higher than the</p>

Department of Infrastructure (DIT) valuation. DIT has been contacted and a Valuer's conference is being arranged to review the difference in valuations. Container Deposit Scheme Discussion Paper Submission – SRWRA's submission was forwarded to the EPA on 19 November 2021. The submission is attached.

Staff Movements

SRWRA's Corporate Services Manager has resigned, and recruitment is underway.

3.2 Risk Management System Review Report

Summary – SRWRA has undertaken a review of the Risk Management System with the assistance of the LGAMLS. Training for senior SRWRA staff and a workshop with staff and the SRWRA Audit Committee have been conducted. SRWRA is adopting the LGAMLS Risk Register template with an update to documents scheduled to be completed in early 2022.

3.2 Risk Management Report

Summary –

Identified and Emerging Risks – 4 Emerging Risks have been identified with a description, controls and treatment plan presented to the Board.

Skytrust –

Incidents - SRWRA recorded 7 incidents from 01 July 2021 to 31 October 2021 with no incidents recorded in October and all incidents addressed and closed out. A total of 13 incidents occurred in the same period last year. All figures include contractor and stakeholders on site such as sideliner installers and SMRF construction labour. Hazards - 15 identified hazards were recorded with 14 addressed through a "Fixed in Field" protocol. The hazard that remains open consists of a required item on back order with a supplier.

EPA Licence Related Register shows 6 complaints received between 1 July 2021 and 31 October 2021. One complaint was noise related, 4 were odour related and one was security light related. All have been addressed by Management.

WHS & IM Plan - The 2022 Plan is currently in draft form with areas to be addressed as a result of the Risk Evaluation completed by the LGRS in October. Management is currently assessing the report for either immediate action or inclusion in the WHS IM Plan 2022.

General Management - The easing of COVID 19 restrictions has meant SRWRA is able to transition to some face to face Administration and Operational meetings, where appropriate, whilst still practicing social distancing. Work from Home is available to Administration staff.

Human Resources - SRWRA currently has no Workcover Claims in progress.

Public Interest Disclosure – no disclosures or issues have been reported.

3.4 Operations Report

Summary –

Landfill Works – Litter movement and containment is continuous. Cross skilling of weighbridge operators has enabled better site functionality.

Attachment 2



Constituent Council Information Report

- PUBLIC -

Board Meeting Date: 7 March 2022

Report By: Chief Executive Officer

Report

In accordance with Section 2.5.22 of the *Southern Region Waste Resource Authority Regional Subsidiary Charter - 2015*, the SRWRA Board identified the following Agenda Items to be the subject of a Public Information Report to the Constituent Councils:

Agenda Item	Report
2.1	<p>Finance Report - Budget Review 1</p> <p>Summary – Budget Review 1 was considered and adopted by the Board consistent with requirements under the Local Government Financial Management Regulations. BR1 is based on 31 December results and revised forecasts across the majority of SRWRAs activities, capital program and Joint Ventures. Further areas were identified for review as part of BR2.</p>
2.2	<p>Finance Report - Budget Review 2</p> <p>Summary – Budget Review 2 was considered and adopted by the Board consistent with requirements under the Local Government Financial Management Regulations. BR2 was based on 31 December results and revised forecasts across specific activities including: Joint Venture operating results, asset capitalisation and depreciation, amortisation, EPA Levy Rebate and Grant Funding. Of particular note is the material impact of implementing the accounting treatment for Grant Funding for both SRWRA and the SMRF JV for the plant and equipment stage 1 funding.</p>
2.3	<p>2022 – 2023 Financial Planning Timetable, Parameters & Assumptions</p> <p>Summary - The timetable outlined the key financial planning activities to be undertaken as part of the 2022-23 Annual Business Plan and Budget formation including budget reviews, strategic planning and long-term financial planning. The Parameters and Assumptions provided the Board an opportunity to review and give input on the key considerations for the 2022-23 Budget.</p>
2.5	<p>Plant Asset Management Plan Review</p> <p>Summary - The Plant Asset Management Plan (PAMP) has been reviewed and consolidated. The consolidation shows fundamental operational and financial metrics for SRWRA equipment and the core principles for SRWRA asset management. The equipment risk priority framework introduced in 2021 is</p>

retained and updated, reflecting an overall improvement in equipment condition and capability to provide cost-effective service delivery.

2.6 **SRWRA Audit Committee – Appointment of Independent Members**

Summary - The term for existing Independent Audit Committee Members for City of Onkaparinga and Holdfast Bay expired at the end of February 2022. The City of Onkaparinga has reappointed Emma Hinchey for a term of 24 months commencing February 2022. The City of Holdfast Bay reappointed Sam Spadavecchia for a term of 24 months commencing February 2022. The City of Marion appointed Greg Connor in 2021 until September 2023.

2.7 **Policy Review Report**

Summary - SRWRA Management has undertaken the ongoing annual review of the SRWRA Policies. The Recognition of Service Policy - Draft was presented for adoption following a review of the existing document.

3.1 **Chief Executive Officers Information Report**

Summary –

Southern Materials Recovery Facility (SMRF) - SRWRA has received the first milestone payment from the Commonwealth of \$4.815m for the construction of the SMRF. A final Milestone will be received mid-year.

Main South Road/Victor Harbor Intersection Access – The Department of Infrastructure (DIT) Major Projects Executive Committee has endorsed a traffic light treatment for the Main South Road / Bakewell Drive intersection. A letter has been received from DIT regarding the outcome and next steps. DIT intends to consult further with SRWRA following the completion of the concept design regarding additional land required for the intersection treatment, costs and a potential contribution towards the works from SRWRA.

City of Mitcham Waste Disposal Contract

SRWRA has won the tender for City of Mitcham’s Municipal Solid Waste (Red Bin). This material will be processed in the Southern Recycling Centre to maximise diversion from landfill.

3.2 **Risk Management Report**

Summary –

Identified and Emerging Risks – have been identified and placed in the Draft Risk Register.

Skytrust

Incidents - SRWRA recorded 11 incidents from 01 July 2021 to 31 December 2021 with all incidents addressed and closed out. A total of 26 incidents occurred in the same period last year. Incident figures include contractor and stakeholders on site such as sideliners installers, SMRF construction labour, mechanical issues with plant and 2 fires deemed to involve batteries in waste.

Hazards - 37 identified hazards were recorded with 29 addressed through a “Fixed in Field” protocol and 7 identified as Environmental due to weather conditions (wind, dust and rain). The hazard that remains open consists of a required item on back order with a supplier.

EPA Licence Related Register shows 12 complaints received between 1 July 2021 and 21 February 2022. One complaint was noise related, 10 were odour related and one was security light related. All have been investigated and addressed by Management.

WHS & IM Plan - The Plan has been sent to LGAWCS in draft form for peer review and discussion.

2021 Risk Evaluation - SRWRA participated in the LGAMLS & LGAWCS risk evaluation program on 6, 7 and October 2021 with the report received in December 2021. Whilst there are still some opportunities for improvement, the evaluators were pleased to note the ongoing system development, current initiatives and enthusiasm of staff in respect to risk, safety and injury management

General Management - The easing of COVID 19 restrictions has meant SRWRA is able to transition to some face-to-face Administration and Operational meetings, where appropriate, whilst still practicing social distancing. Work from Home is available to Administration staff.

Human Resources - SRWRA currently has no Workcover Claims in progress.

Public Interest Disclosure – no disclosures or issues have been reported.

3.3 Operations Report

Summary – Landfill gas network is being upgraded to provide improved access to new waste areas and streamline gas extraction.

Three hundred meters of new litter fence has been installed in key locations across the landfill and public drop off area.

New lights on the water cart, compactor and loader have been installed in response to hazards identified through safety shares by operators.

Item No: 15.1
Subject: **ITEMS IN BRIEF**
Date: 22 March 2022
Written By: Executive Officer and Personal Assistant to the Mayor
Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Bria

SUMMARY

These items are presented for the information of Members.

After noting the report any items of interest can be discussed and, if required, further motions proposed.

RECOMMENDATION

That the following items be noted and items of interest discussed:

1. **Glenelg Oval Masterplan Stage 3 and 4 Update**
 2. **Keeping Bees @ Kibby Project**
 3. **Tree Grants Update**
-

REPORT

1. **Glenelg Oval Masterplan Stage 3 and 4 Update**

Stages 3 and 4 of the Glenelg Oval masterplan has commenced with the following undertakings to date:

- Demolition of former away change room building (former St Johns building off Williams Ave) and make good the surface and entrance to school – completed December 2021;
- Construction of Williams Avenue indented parking – completed February 2022;
- Installation of new goal posts to be installed prior to commencement of SANFL Season 2022;
- Design team engaged to complete civil detailed design of Oval Precinct including upgraded Margaret Messenger Reserve and new cricket nets, spectator viewing areas and playspace;
- Landscaping design of Oval precinct currently underway by Council landscape architect;
- Grant fund Milestone 1 acquittal as per LGIPP requirements was submitted December 2021 with approval and payment of State Government funds received February 2022; and

- Council workshop scheduled for May 2022 to present draft design for the Oval Precinct, in line with endorsed masterplan. This will also include options to upgrade Margaret Messenger Reserve including the draft community engagement plan.

The project currently remains on track for time and budget but has the potential to have time and cost delays as a result of supply chain issues impacting availability of materials, cost of civil works and disposal of soil, current high market demand and contractor availability. Once the precinct concept design is finalised, we will obtain a cost estimation by quantity surveyors to further assist in cost management.

2. Keeping Bees @ Kibby Project

As a result of discussions between administration and the management of William Kibby VC Veteran's Shed (The Shed) it highlighted the plight of younger Veterans who were experiencing PTSD resulting from their active service in Afghanistan and Iraq. Administration recognised an opportunity to utilise existing skills to adopt a non-clinical approach to supporting these veterans at The Shed.

Referencing the support of the mental health benefits of communing with nature in a more purposeful manner, administration initiated a twelve-month project, in partnership with The Shed and the Glenelg North Community Garden, to mentor a group of participants to become beekeepers.

The program seeks to address financial and personal wellness of Veterans through training in all aspects of backyard beekeeping. At the end of the twelve months, the participants leave the program with an understanding of the role of the honeybee in agriculture and are able to develop a sustainable source of income through small scale beekeeping.

A complete working beehive was placed at The Shed in October 2021 and a community grant through Council provided the essential equipment the beekeepers in training would need as they progressed through the program. It is envisaged that at the end of the twelve month program, the shed will complete the official registration as beekeepers and the hive will become the property of the shed.

The Shed have indicated a desire to replicate the project in other regions where they have influence and connections with Veterans and have applied for funding through the Department of Veterans' Affairs to ensure that they are able to sustain the project moving forward.

The beekeepers in training have all demonstrated a passionate commitment to the program and all participate eagerly in tending the hive and unanimously agree that their mental health is benefiting from their involvement.

3. Tree Grants Update

The City of Holdfast Bay has recently been the recipient of two grants from Green Adelaide. We applied for a Greener Neighbourhood grant and were successful in winning \$32,002 for the planting of approximately 39 trees and installation of 26

TreeNet inlets, all in Seacliff. The Newland Avenue grant component was not approved by Green Adelaide.

We also received \$100k from Green Adelaide for the planting of trees in Seacliff. This will enable us to plant approximately 104 trees in Seacliff, as well as undertake improvements at the Wheatland Street car park adjacent the rail line to protect the two large Ficus at the centre of the car park, and plant an additional two trees inside the car park. The \$100k Green Adelaide grant includes initial watering and maintenance of the trees.

Item No: 15.2

Subject: **MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – 28 FEBRUARY 2022**

Date: 22 March 2022

Written By: Management Accountant

General Manager: Strategy and Corporate, Ms P Jackson

SUMMARY

Attached are financial reports as at 28 February 2022. They comprise a Funds Statement and a Capital Expenditure Report for Council's municipal activities and Alwyndor Aged Care. The adjusted forecast budget includes the carried forward amount as approved by Council 24 August 2021 and the two quarterly budget updates approved by Council 26 October 2021 and 8 February 2022.

No changes to Alwyndor and Municipal budgets are recommended at this time, but the report highlights items that show a material variance from the YTD budget.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the financial reports and budget update for the 8 months to 28 February 2022 and notes:

- **no change to the Municipal activities 2021/22 revised budget forecast;**
 - **no change to the Alwyndor Aged Care 2021/22 revised budget forecast.**
-

STRATEGIC PLAN

Not applicable.

COUNCIL POLICY

Not applicable.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND

Council receives financial reports each month comprising a Funds Statement and Capital Expenditure Report for each of Council's municipal activities and Alwyndor Aged Care.

The Funds Statements include an income statement and provide a link between the Operating Surplus/Deficit with the overall source and application of funds including the impact on cash and borrowings.

Refer Attachment 1

REPORT

A comprehensive budget update was conducted for the half-year ending 31 December 2021 and approved by Council 8 February 2022. A further budget review and update will be conducted at 31 March 2022 which will again review forecast income and expenditure including any budget variances approved by council.

The majority of the variances to date are due to budget and actuals timing differences over the first eight months of the financial year. Details of the major variances, along with amounts and notes, for both Council Municipal and Alwyndor operations have been prepared and are attached to this report.

Alwyndor Aged Care

There are no changes to the Alwyndor budget forecast as approved by Council, however as with the Municipal budget, a comprehensive budget update will be conducted for the month ending 31 March 2022. Details of the major year to date variances, along with amounts and notes, have been prepared and are attached to this report.

Refer Attachment 1

Attachment 1



City of Holdfast Bay
Municipal Funds Statement as at February 2022

2021 - 2022 Original Budget \$'000	Year to Date				2021 - 2022 Adopted Forecast \$'000	Note
	Adopted Forecast \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000			
84	77	116	(38)	Cemeteries	110	
466	330	314	16	Commercial & Club Leases	473	
(1,143)	(783)	(743)	(40)	Council Administration	(1,143)	
(1,011)	(580)	(512)	(68)	Development Services	(978)	1
1,490	791	789	2	FAG/R2R Grants	2,363	
(1,689)	(1,316)	(1,359)	43	Financial Services	(1,792)	
(9,743)	(4,911)	(4,888)	(23)	Financial Services-Depreciation	(9,743)	
(262)	-	-	-	- Financial Services-Employee Leave Provisions	(262)	
(834)	(268)	(261)	(6)	Financial Services-Interest on Borrowings	(739)	
160	-	-	-	- Financial Services-SRWRA	160	
37,146	37,744	37,775	(31)	General Rates	37,127	
(2,780)	(2,089)	(2,003)	(86)	Innovation & Technology	(2,832)	2
(684)	(346)	(306)	(39)	People & Culture	(604)	
(508)	(323)	(332)	9	Public Realm and Urban Design	(549)	
(913)	(520)	(548)	28	Strategy & Governance	(808)	
(1,506)	(747)	(621)	(126)	City Activation	(1,261)	3
1,134	753	738	14	Commercial - Brighton Caravan Park	1,238	
15	16	36	(20)	Commercial - Partridge House	21	
(367)	(381)	(362)	(20)	Communications and Engagement	(564)	
(349)	(219)	(219)	-	- Community and Business Administration	(349)	
(894)	(513)	(498)	(15)	Community Events	(935)	
661	834	947	(113)	Community Safety	661	4
(540)	(361)	(344)	(17)	Community Wellbeing	(602)	
(617)	(400)	(328)	(72)	Customer Service	(617)	5
-	196	225	(29)	Jetty Road Mainstreet	(165)	
(1,492)	(936)	(898)	(38)	Library Services	(1,496)	
(299)	(198)	(187)	(11)	Assets & Delivery Administration	(299)	
(1,195)	(658)	(587)	(71)	Engineering & Traffic	(1,275)	6
(989)	(482)	(466)	(16)	Environmental Services	(1,013)	
(7,561)	(5,023)	(5,036)	12	Field Services & Depot	(7,581)	
(2,062)	(1,244)	(1,169)	(75)	Property Management	(2,062)	7
(455)	(265)	(227)	(38)	Street Lighting	(455)	
(4,086)	(2,437)	(2,366)	(71)	Waste Management	(4,086)	8
928	-	-	-	- Less full cost attribution - % admin costs capitalised	928	
107	15,741	16,680	(939)	=Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	873	
9,743	4,911	4,888	23	Depreciation	9,743	
102	-	-	-	- Other Non Cash Items	102	
9,845	4,911	4,888	23	Plus Non Cash Items in Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	9,845	
9,953	20,652	21,568	(916)	=Funds Generated from Operating Activities	10,719	
879	2,204	2,349	(145)	Amounts Received for New/Upgraded Assets	2,392	9
528	56	55	1	Proceeds from Disposal of Assets	1,683	
1,407	2,259	2,404	(144)	Plus Funds Sourced from Capital Activities	4,075	
(9,422)	(3,827)	(3,567)	(260)	Capital Expenditure on Renewal and Replacement	(12,031)	
(6,431)	(6,015)	(5,260)	(755)	Capital Expenditure on New and Upgraded Assets	(14,893)	
(15,853)	(9,842)	(8,827)	(1,015)	Less Total Capital Expenditure	(26,924)	10
247	211	211	-	- Plus:Repayments of loan principal by sporting groups	-	
247	211	211	-	Plus/(less) funds provided (used) by Investing Activities	-	
(4,246)	13,280	15,356	(2,075)	= FUNDING SURPLUS/(REQUIREMENT)	(12,130)	
				Funded by		
(5,584)	(303)	(303)	-	- Increase/(Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents	-	
-	13,031	17,363	(4,332)	Non Cash Changes in Net Current Assets	-	
-	-	-	-	- Less: Proceeds from new borrowings	(13,468)	
-	-	(2,256)	2,256	Less: Net Movements from Cash Advance Debentures	-	
1,338	552	552	-	- Plus: Principal repayments of borrowings	1,338	
(4,246)	13,280	15,356	(2,075)	=Funding Application/(Source)	(12,130)	

Note 1 – Development Services - \$68,000 favourable

Year to date planning fee income higher than budgeted (\$11,000) and employment cost savings due to temporary vacancies (\$55,000).

Note 2 – Innovation & Technology - \$86,000 favourable

Employment cost savings due to temporary vacancies (\$76,000) and year to date savings on photocopying costs (\$10,000).

Note 3 – City Activation - \$126,000 favourable

Number of shopfront character grants processed lower than budgeted for (\$63,000) and employment cost savings due to temporary vacancies (\$63,000).

Note 4 – Community Safety - \$113,000 favourable

Car parking related revenue higher than forecast (\$91,000) and employment cost savings due to temporary vacancies (\$24,000).

Note 5 – Customer Service - \$72,000 favourable

Employment cost savings due to temporary vacancies.

Note 6 – Engineering & Traffic - \$71,000 favourable

Employment cost savings due to temporary vacancies (\$39,000) and a year to date positive variance on traffic investigation consulting fees (\$30,000).

Note 7 – Property Management - \$75,000 favourable

Year to date savings on electricity charges (\$55,000) and gas monitoring costs at Kauri Parade Sports Complex (\$20,000).

Note 8 – Waste Management - \$71,000 favourable

Year to date savings on waste disposal costs at Southern Region Waste Resource Authority (SRWRA).

Note 9 – Amounts Received for New/Upgraded Assets - \$145,000 favourable

Grant funding for the construction of a DDA compliant ramp to enable Glenelg Beach to be accessible and inclusive (\$50,000) and reimbursement received for 56% of Mawson Oval tennis court upgrade costs (\$95,000). Budget adjustments will be made as part of the March budget update.

Note 10 – Capital Expenditure on New and Upgraded Assets - \$1,015,000 favourable

There are positive variances on a number of capital projects mainly due to the timing of projects, including the following:

- Gully Masterplan implementation
- Seacliff Plaza upgrade
- Glenelg Oval redevelopment - Stage 3
- Glenelg Town Hall renovations
- Kerbing renewal program
- Traffic safety improvement program

City of Holdfast Bay
Capital Expenditure Summary by Budget Item to February 2022

2021-22 Original Budget \$'000	Year to Date			2021-22 Adopted Forecast \$'000
	Adopted Forecast \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	
(928)	-	-	- Full Cost Attribution	(928)
(1,013)	(732)	(718)	(14) Information Technology	(1,193)
(1,200)	(179)	(153)	(26) Commercial and Economic Enterprises	(2,125)
(85)	(43)	(54)	11 Brighton Library	(85)
-	-	(15)	15 Sport and Recreation	(577)
(13)	(6)	-	(6) Depot and Stores	(13)
(1,512)	(344)	(313)	(32) Machinery Operating	(1,700)
(1,898)	(87)	(78)	(9) Road Construction and Re-seal Program	(2,243)
(100)	-	-	- Car Park Construction	(100)
(127)	(382)	(338)	(44) Footpath Program	(382)
(1,100)	(1,135)	(1,100)	(35) Stormwater Drainage Program	(1,953)
(130)	(65)	(4)	(61) Traffic Control Construction Program	(153)
(1,307)	(492)	(398)	(95) Kerb and Water Table Construction Program	(1,307)
(30)	(30)	(25)	(5) Other Transport - Bus Shelters etc.	(64)
(3,869)	(1,414)	(1,072)	(342) Reserve Improvements Program	(5,892)
(1,434)	(1,855)	(1,759)	(96) Land, Buildings and Infrastructure Program	(3,995)
(580)	(2,991)	(2,728)	(264) Streetscape Program	(3,562)
(526)	(87)	(73)	(14) Foreshore Improvements Program	(652)
(15,853)	(9,842)	(8,827)	(1,015) Total	(26,924)



**Alwyndor Aged Care
Funds Statement as at 28 February 2022**

2021-22 Original Budget \$'000	Year to Date				2021-22 Proposed Forecast \$'000	Note
	Original Budget YTD \$'000	Actual YTD \$'000	Variance \$'000			
5,435	3,591	3,511	80	User Charges	5,292	
12,472	8,303	7,952	351	Operating Grants and Subsidies	12,060	
165	85	156	(70)	Investment Income	344	
3,268	2,116	2,312	(196)	Reimbursements	3,635	
2,722	1,783	2,026	(242)	Other Income	3,020	
24,062	15,878	15,957	(78)	Operating Revenue	24,350	1
(16,551)	(10,920)	(10,907)	(12)	Employee Costs - Salaries & Wages	(16,899)	
(6,512)	(4,327)	(4,645)	319	Materials, Contracts and Other Expenses	(7,120)	2
(60)	(40)	(54)	14	Finance Charges	(81)	
(1,232)	(820)	(817)	(3)	Depreciation	(1,236)	
(24,355)	(16,107)	(16,424)	317	Less Operating Expenditure	(25,336)	
(293)	(228)	(467)	239	=Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(986)	3
1,232	820	817	3	Depreciation	1,236	
168	112	23	89	Provisions	253	
1,401	932	840	93	Plus Non Cash Items in Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	1,489	
1,107	704	373	331	=Funds Generated from Operating Activities	503	
0	0	12	(12)	Amounts Received for New/Upgraded Assets	12	4
0	0	12	(12)	Plus Funds Sourced from Capital Activities	12	
(633)	(422)	(205)	(216)	Capital Expenditure on New and Upgraded Assets	(635)	
(633)	(422)	(205)	(216)	Less Total Capital Expenditure	(635)	
475	282	180	103	= Funding SURPLUS/(REQUIREMENT)	(120)	
				Funded by		
475	282	180	103	Increase/(Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents	(120)	
475	282	180	103	=Funding Application/(Source)	(120)	3

Alwyndor Aged Care – Notes February 2022

1 Operating Revenue

Operating Revenue is favourable by \$78K mainly due to higher than anticipated Support at Home client growth which remains strong with monthly targets being exceeded.

The strength of Support at Home has been offset by lower than forecast federal government funding (ACFI) received for permanent residents. A revised approach to ACFI commenced in December and has begun to realise significant benefits, generating an equivalent of \$300k to date per annum.

Therapy and Wellness classes continue to be impacted by smaller class numbers than assumed in the budget.

Investment income is higher due to the annual bonus interest payment received from the LGFA and the commencement of managing our funds through an external investment consultancy.

2 Materials, Contracts and other expenditure

The YTD increase can be attributed to:

- The increase of expenditure from budget is mainly due to additional brokered services in Support at Home which are recovered as part of Operating Revenue.
- Additional COVID expenses which are mostly offset by a COVID Grant (included within Other Income) which will be submitted in March 2022.

3 Operating Deficit

February 2022 YTD

The \$467K Operating Deficit, after allowing for depreciation and capital expenditure, has led to a funding surplus of \$180K as at February YTD. This funding surplus has been assisted by lower capital expenditure to date.

Alwyndor has not yet revised its Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP). The final outcome of the AN-ACC (Australian National Aged Care Classification) funding model, which replaces the existing ACFI (Aged Care Funding Instrument) commences in October 2022, is still unknown. This means supporting information for some key assumptions to inform the review of the LTFP and FY23 Budget are not yet available. The outcome of the AN-ACC funding model and Alwyndor's

pace of growth are the two main factors that will make an impact on the timing of when Alwyndor will break even however, based on the current LTFP projections, these factors will not impact the overall question of whether Alwyndor is financially sustainable. Alwyndor continues to invest resources to benefit future operations in accordance with its Strategic Plan. With these plans in place the financial sustainability remains strong.

4 Amounts Received for New/Upgraded Assets

\$12K of income received from Local Government Risk Services relating to a WHS reimbursement for noise cancelling headsets.

Item No: 15.3

Subject: **STREET TREES AND THE ELECTRICITY (PRINCIPLES OF VEGETATION CLEARANCE) REGULATIONS 2021**

Date: 22 March 2022

Written By: Team Leader, Environment and Coast

General Manager: Assets and Delivery, Mr M de Heus

SUMMARY

Administrative staff from all four Resilient South councils (Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham and Onkaparinga) have been advocating with SA Power Networks staff regarding tree removals, allowed tree species and unclear interpretation of sections of the *Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021*. This report proposes that we elevate this advocacy to Ministerial level, via a joint letter from the Resilient South councils, to both seek clarity around these regulations and at the same time gain protection for our urban forest.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council support the advocacy letter to Ministers van Holst Pellekaan and Speirs from all Resilient South councils and authorise the Mayor to sign on behalf of the City of Holdfast Bay.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Sustainability Objectives 2030s: We have achieved our key environmental objectives, including becoming a carbon neutral community and increasing our tree canopy to 16.8 per cent.
Sustainability Objectives 2020-2030: Become a carbon neutral council by 2030.

COUNCIL POLICY

Tree Management Policy

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021
Local Government Act 1999

BACKGROUND

Resilient South is a partnership between the Cities of Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham and Onkaparinga, and the South Australian Government. The group is focused on progressing a regional approach to climate adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change. The partnership was established in 2011 and is underpinned by a Sector Agreement, which is currently under renewal. Resilient South has led a number of regional initiatives including heat and tree canopy mapping and the Resilient Asset Management Project (RAMP), which is integrating climate planning into council asset management systems (currently underway). Resilient South has a Regional Coordinator funded by Green Adelaide, and hosted by the City of Marion on behalf of all four councils, who has the capacity to progress regional issues on behalf of the four member Councils, including advocacy regarding issues relevant to climate change adaptation, mitigation and maintaining and increasing tree canopy across the region.

Benefits of Tree Canopy Cover

Urban trees are associated with a myriad of benefits, including reduced temperatures on hot days, improved air quality, increased public health and higher property prices. Urban canopy cover levels of 30% are widely regarded as “healthy”, conveying benefits to the community. In 2018/19, airborne LiDAR mapping revealed the City of Holdfast Bay had tree canopy cover of 15.3%, the City of Marion had 15.01%, the City of Mitcham had 48.81% and the City of Onkaparinga had 25.45% (only 13% in Onkaparinga’s urban areas). Councils are seeking to increase and maintain their urban canopy cover to improve the public and environmental benefits of urban trees, particularly in areas with low tree cover. The City of Holdfast Bay Environment Strategy has a target to increase its canopy cover from 15.3% to 16.8% by 2030. Under the 30-year Plan for Greater Adelaide and the National Park City Charter, the State Government have indicated a clear priority to contribute to increasing urban greening.

Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021 & Resilient South Advocacy to Date

SA Power Networks (SAPN) is responsible for maintaining the state’s electricity infrastructure, including managing vegetation clearance around powerlines. These responsibilities are outlined in the recently amended *Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021*. These Regulations include a provision that has been in place since the 1980s, that only tree species on a list of approved species may be planted underneath powerlines but it has not been strongly enforced by SAPN until now.

The approved species list has now been removed from the Regulations and is published separately by the Office of the Technical Regulator (OTR; part of the Department for Mines and Energy). The approved species list contains 226 species that are considered unlikely to grow to a height where they will interfere with powerlines, but notably exclude larger and extensively planted species such as jacarandas (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), white cedars (*Melia azedarach*), coral gums (*Eucalyptus torquata*) and plane trees (*Platanus* sp.), which have larger canopies providing greater shading, cooling and amenity.

In 2021, SAPN notified councils that in an effort to reduce its operating expenditure, it would be tightly policing the rules and issuing non-compliance notices for any non-compliant species planted under powerlines since 1988. SAPN also indicated it would review the approved species list and pursue the removal of several species it considered likely to interfere with powerlines, including the golden rain tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*), Chinese pistachio (*Pistachia chinensis*) and evergreen ash (*Fraxinus griffithii*). Following evidence presented by council arborists, SAPN are proceeding with a request to remove only the southern cypress pine (*Callitris gracilis*) but are seeking further evidence regarding the suitability of other species.

Since that time, the Cities of Holdfast Bay, Marion and Onkaparinga have received non-compliance notices requesting the removal of more than 1,000 non-compliant street trees (trees not on the approved species list). The City of Holdfast Bay was requested to remove eight small jacarandas.

SAPN's stated position is that councils may retain non-compliant trees through seeking an exemption to the Regulations from the OTR and assuming financial and legal responsibility for both maintaining these trees and ensuring no interference with electricity infrastructure. However, council staff are not currently trained or licensed to prune trees around either low or high voltage powerlines, the City of Holdfast Bay also does not own the correct equipment for doing this, and penalties for outages or fires caused by tree interference with electricity infrastructure could easily reach hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is therefore unclear whether pursuing such an exemption is feasible. The Local Government Association of SA and the Mutual Liability Scheme are seeking legal advice on whether applying for such an exemption is compatible with the *Local Government Act 1999*, and how obtaining such an exemption would impact councils' insurance premiums.

On 18 November 2021 the City of Holdfast Bay Mayor signed an advocacy letter requesting no tree species be removed from the approved vegetation species list, and responsibility for maintaining the approved species list be delegated to Green Adelaide, supported by a suitably qualified, diverse and independent panel of experts. This letter was also signed by the other three Resilient South Councils, showing a united front and an intention to preserve the urban forest on Council land into the future.

Refer Attachment 1

At that time it was unclear which agency would be responsible for maintaining the list of allowed vegetation. It is now clear that the OTR, which oversees SAPN's operations, currently bears this responsibility and it is understood that SAPN intend to heavily influence its management. To that end, SAPN have convened Advisory Groups with representatives from various councils and other stakeholders (including the Resilient South Regional Coordinator) and chaired by a member of the Green Adelaide Board, but the composition and management of this committee is at SAPN's discretion. As a technical agency largely concerned with engineering standards, it is unclear whether the OTR has the expertise or capacity to maintain such important oversight over Adelaide's urban forest. As the state government agency with responsibility over landscape management of the Adelaide region, Green Adelaide is better placed to administer this list and effectively balance the requirement for a safe and stable electricity grid with maintaining a healthy and expansive urban forest in line with the principles of the Adelaide National Park City declaration.

By signing the letter referred to above, the City of Holdfast Bay and other Resilient South Councils asserted their continued responsibility for the management of their urban forest and rejected the disproportionate influence of a private utilities provider in determining which trees can be planted on public land. The Resilient South Coordinator will continue to represent Council interests on this matter, including through participation in the SAPN Local Government Working Group.

The ability of the Resilient South Regional Coordinator to advocate on behalf of the City of Holdfast Bay and other Councils in our region is contingent on the City of Holdfast Bay supporting a regional approach to engagement with the SAPN Advisory Group and electricity line clearance issues. This approach has worked well to date, providing opportunities for councils to confer and negotiate as a group, and reducing pressure on internal staff resourcing and improving the power of our advocacy by adopting a coordinated approach.

State Government Response

A letter of response to the above-mentioned letter was received from Deputy Premier and Minister for Energy and Mining, the Hon Dan Van Holst Pellekann MP on 27 December 2021.

Refer Attachment 2

Prior to this Ministerial response, SAPN had shared with Resilient South administrative staff their proposal to remove several tree species from the allowed tree species list. Due to strong pushback from South Australian councils (including Resilient South councils), and a demonstration that mature plantings that were not interfering with powerlines, these proposals were withdrawn before being formally submitted to the OTR or to the Minister. This demonstrates that Resilient South engagement to date has influenced SAPN and the OTR, and has influenced Green Adelaide, which is actively considering its role in this process.

SAPN Requests to Remove Non-compliant Trees

As of January 2022, SAPN sent formal non-compliance notices to the Cities of Holdfast Bay, Marion and Onkaparinga to remove a cumulative total of more than 1,000 street trees not compliant with the *Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021*. It is the current position of these councils that they will not remove these trees, though they acknowledge that SAPN may exercise its legal right to do so, which could include recovering costs from councils. The City of Holdfast Bay was requested to remove eight small jacarandas. Most of these were unauthorised plantings by residents and only a few were planted by council.

All Resilient South councils are acutely aware of strong community interest in maintaining street trees and are investigating options to retain as many trees as possible, including through the procurement of legal advice.

REPORT

Administration recommends another regional Resilient South letter to be signed by our Mayor, and the Mayors from the other three Resilient South councils. This second letter would cover the following:

Refer Attachment 3

- A strong response to recent requests by SAPN to remove putatively non-compliant trees in the Cities of Holdfast Bay, Marion and Onkaparinga,
- There is no definition of 'avenues' and 'stands' of trees in the Regulations. As both 'avenues' and 'stands' are protected under the Regulations, the letter proposes working definitions to be adopted (or refined) by relevant stakeholders in order to protect these trees.
- Challenges SAPN's interpretation of the Regulations that any 'avenues' or 'stands' must have been extant prior to 1 November 1988 in order to qualify for protection. This is not clear in the Regulations.
- Identifies that should SAPN's claim of a cut off date of 1 November 1988 for the establishment of 'avenues' and 'stands' be correct, it raises an additional concern regarding the socio-economic bias of urban greening. Specifically, LGAs with newer suburbs, those with lower socio-economic demographics, or those that have experienced significant urban infill, have far fewer long-standing avenues and may be prevented from establishing them, entrenching environmental disparity and preventing communities from effectively adapting to climate stress. In effect, this provision would ensure that the historically wealthier parts of Adelaide would remain leafy, with the state government denying the same opportunity to other suburbs.
- Notes that a major driver of increased compliance in vegetation management in non-bushfire areas from SAPN is a desire to reduce its vegetation management costs (currently ca. \$30-40 million per annum). While this is an understandable objective, the letter suggests that the cost to the community from this lost canopy will substantially exceed the savings made by SA Power Networks. Further, any reduction in electricity bills due to reduced network maintenance will likely be eclipsed by increased household power use as a result of increased urban heat.

The letter specifically includes two asks:

- That our proposed interim definitions of 'stand' and 'avenue' be adopted by the OTR until such time as they can be incorporated into a revision of the *Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021*.
- Urgent clarification as to whether 'avenues' or 'stands', as referenced in Schedule 2 of the Regulations, must have been in place by a particular date.

The City of Holdfast Bay will also contribute \$1,250 of operating funds from existing budget to the procurement of legal advice (estimated at \$5,000, with funding to be matched by the Cities of Mitcham, Marion and Onkaparinga) to be led by the City of Marion. This is in order to challenge SAPN's interpretation of the *Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021* regarding whether 'stands' or 'avenues' of trees (including species not listed on the approved species list) must have been in place prior to 1988 to gain protection.

Engagement

The OTR has not undertaken any community engagement about these legislative changes. SAPN has discussed the above changes with Councils through its Local Government Working Group. Urban greening issues attract strong community interest and it is anticipated that this issue could become politically charged, particularly in the potential context of the complete sale of SAPN to overseas buyers and upcoming local, state and federal elections.

Cost Shifting Implications and Impact on Budget

Restriction of the species available for Councils to plant in the vicinity of powerlines are likely to increase maintenance costs because Council will be forced to plant smaller, shorter-lived trees with increased establishment and removal costs, more frequent replacement and reduced public amenity. SAPN's suggestion that councils obtain an exemption from the *Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021* and assume responsibility for maintaining any non-compliant trees it wishes to maintain, would result in a significant additional cost impost for pruning, as well potentially attract an unknown but significant additional liability for any outages, fires or damage to electricity infrastructure caused by such trees.

A detailed cost and budget requirement analysis has not been undertaken with respect to these proposed changes, though it is considered inevitable that the costs to Councils will increase if a tree species list that favours smaller, reduced mature canopy trees is adopted, instead of the current list.

BUDGET

Legal costs are within the existing operational budget.

LIFE CYCLE COSTS

See *Cost Shifting Implications and Impact on Budget* above.

Attachment 1





The Hon Daniel van Holst Pellekaan MP
Minister for Energy and Mining

The Hon David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water

18 November 2021

RE: Responsibility for the approved tree species list under the *Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021*

Amanda Wilson
Mayor, City of Holdfast Bay

Tony Harrison
Chief Executive Officer, City of Marion

Dr Heather Holmes-Ross
Mayor, City of Mitcham

Erin Thompson
Mayor, City of Onkaparinga

Dear Minister van Holst Pellekaan and Minister Speirs,

The Resilient South Region comprises the Cities of Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham, and Onkaparinga, representing approximately 27% of the metropolitan Adelaide area and population. We share the state government's goals of promoting a metropolitan Adelaide that is cool, green and supports strong biodiversity. To that end, we are pleased to support the National Park City Charter, which lists core priorities including:

- thriving urban spaces for nature and people;
- air, land freshwater and marine habitats for plants and animals;
- health and wellbeing, diversity and inclusion; and
- climate resilience.

Maintaining a vibrant urban forest is a key mechanism to achieving these priorities. Maintaining canopy levels above 30% is associated with higher levels of public health, community enjoyment and economic prosperity. These benefits are recognised in the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide, which includes an objective of increasing urban green cover by 20% by 2045. Our region currently enjoys canopy levels of approximately 27% of land area, but this is highly heterogeneous with the Cities of Holdfast Bay and Marion having approximately 15% canopy cover and the City of Onkaparinga's urban areas having approximately 13% canopy cover. We are prioritising planting trees in low-cover areas to reduce urban heat and improve living conditions for residents.

We are in ongoing discussion with SA Power Networks (SAPN), and we understand that there is a strong desire for SAPN to reduce its vegetation management costs (currently ca. \$31 million per annum). We note that under the recently passed *Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021*, Schedule 2 (1) states that a list of *approved vegetation*

(species that local governments may plant underneath powerlines) *will be published on a website determined by the Technical Regulator*. This provision replaces the previous list of permitted species that was included in Schedule 2 of the now-superseded *Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2010*.

Our councils understand the need to review the list of species suitable for planting beneath powerlines in order to maintain a safe electricity grid and minimise the cost of line clearance pruning for SAPN (and thus electricity account holders). However, these priorities must be balanced against the public benefit gained by growing our urban canopy. Research into the public value of urban trees indicates that each tree produces thousands of dollars annual net benefit in stormwater management, urban cooling, carbon capture, mental and physical health, and economic values (including property values). Additionally, a 2020 analysis commissioned by the SA government found planting and maintaining trees returns \$1.70 to \$2.40 to the community for every dollar invested.

The potential removal of tree species from the approved planting list, an outcome being pursued by SAPN, will compromise local government's capacity to deliver far greater community benefits and cost savings, will jeopardise achievement of the objectives of the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide, and be contrary to the National Park City Charter. This direction is not consistent with community expectations and is inequitable to areas with low canopy cover, which are often associated with lower socio-economic conditions.

To eliminate this risk to achieving our shared urban greening targets, we respectfully request that you direct the Office of the Technical Regulator to delegate responsibility for publishing and maintaining the lists of approved vegetation and permitted vegetation as defined in the *Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021* to Green Adelaide.

We further request that you direct that no previously permitted species or cultivars be removed from the lists of approved and permitted vegetation, and that an advisory committee, which is independent of SAPN and comprised of an appropriately qualified and diverse range of experts (e.g. urban planners, landscape architects, engineers, ecologists, public health experts and arborists) be appointed to advise on which species might be added to those lists.

We look forward to continuing to work with you, SA Power Networks, the Office of the Technical Regulator and Green Adelaide to maximise the liveability and performance of our cities.

Warm regards



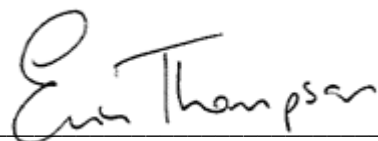
Amanda Wilson
Mayor, City of Holdfast Bay



Tony Harrison
Chief Executive Officer, City of Marion



Dr Heather Holmes-Ross
Mayor, City of Mitcham



Erin Thompson
Mayor, City of Onkaparinga

cc: Robert Faunt, Technical Regulator
Prof Chris Daniels, Presiding Member, Green Adelaide Landscape Board
Brenton Gear, Director, Green Adelaide

Attachment 2



Hon Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP



MEM2021/1157

Ms Amanda Wilson, Mr Tony Harrison, Dr Heather Holmes-Ross and
Ms Erin Thompson
Resilient South
PO Box 21
OAKLANDS PARK SA 5046
stefan.caddy-retalic@marion.sa.gov.au

Dear Ms Wilson and signatories

Thank you for your correspondence dated 18 November 2021 regarding responsibility for the approved tree species list under the Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021.

Further to your concerns, I have sought information from the Office of the Technical Regulator on this matter. As you may be aware, with the recent commencement of these regulations, many species of tree previously unable to be planted in proximity to powerlines were included in the lists of approved and permitted tree species at the suggestion of SA Power Networks.

I am not aware of any evidence that would support your claim of SA Power Networks seeking removal of species from these lists. SA Power Networks may voluntarily provide advice to the Technical Regulator on this topic in future, however this is also true of any organisation. I understand that SA Power Networks has also created a reference group including representatives of a broad range of stakeholders to inform any advice they may provide on this topic in future.

The Technical Regulator is also represented on this committee and has provided advice that the committee intends to recommend the inclusion of several species in the regulations permitted species list. These recommendations are to be based upon several factors including typical maximum height, and performance as a street tree.

Of this group, a single species which was under consideration - *Callitris gracilis* (Southern Cypress Pine) - will likely not be proposed by the committee as a candidate for addition to the permitted species list. This is at the suggestion of several council arborists due to historically poor performance as a street tree. That species appears on SA Power Networks' previously published list of powerline friendly species, but has never appeared in the regulations permitted species list.

Deputy Premier
Minister for Energy and Mining

Level 17, 25 Grenfell Street Adelaide SA 5000 | GPO Box 974 Adelaide SA 5001 | DX 114
Tel +61 8 8226 1300 | Email dem.ministervhp@sa.gov.au | ABN 83 768 6839 34



Given the previous inclusion of *Callitris gracilis* in the SA Power Networks powerlines friendly trees list, the Technical Regulator can consider applications for exemption from councils who have planted *Callitris gracilis* prior to the commencement of the Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021.

At this point in time, I believe the Technical Regulator is the appropriate party to maintain the lists of approved and permitted vegetation, as this duty aligns well with the other duties associated with this role.

To provide transparency in the process of any future removal of species from the list, the Technical Regulator will undertake to not remove any species from the list without consultation of affected stakeholders, and that should this be proposed, it would be backed by evidence. Should Green Adelaide and/or Resilient South wish to provide submissions during the consultation process this would be welcomed by the Technical Regulator.

Likewise, should Resilient South, Green Adelaide or other stakeholders wish to provide suggestions of species as candidates for inclusion on the two lists, this would be welcomed by the Technical Regulator. Ideally a proposal for inclusion should consider factors such as maximum and typical height to provide guidance on how appropriate a new species would be for planting in proximity to powerlines.

Councils or other parties wanting to plant a species in proximity to powerlines, which is not currently included on either list, may apply for exemption from the Technical Regulator. In line with the Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021, exemptions granted may be subject to conditions, including a condition that the applicant is to pay any costs that the electricity entity or council incur in keeping the vegetation clear of powerlines in accordance with these regulations.

If you would like to discuss this matter further or have additional questions, please contact Mr Ian Furness, Principal Electrical Engineer in the Office of the Technical Regulator on (08) 8429 3295 or via email at ian.furness@sa.gov.au.

Thank you for your enquiries and suggestions and I look forward to working with Resilient South on these matters in the future.

Yours sincerely



Hon Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND MINING

27/12/2021

Attachment 3





The Hon Daniel van Holst Pellekaan MP
Minister for Energy and Mining

Amanda Wilson
Mayor, City of Holdfast Bay

The Hon David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water

Kris Hanna
Mayor, City of Marion

X March 2022

Dr Heather Holmes-Ross
Mayor, City of Mitcham

RE: Definition of stands and avenues under the *Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021*

Marion Themeliotis
Acting Mayor, City of Onkaparinga

Dear Minister van Holst Pellekaan and Minister Speirs

Thank you for your letter of 27 February 2022 responding to our concern about the conflict between electricity infrastructure and local government's efforts to build the resilience of our region to the impacts of climate change. The Resilient South partners appreciate the state government's leadership in protecting the biodiversity values of our region on behalf of the residents of Adelaide and look forward to continuing to partner on projects that will achieve the ambitions of the Adelaide National Park City Charter. As you are aware, the Resilient South region, comprising the Cities of Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham, and Onkaparinga, is currently focused on building its urban tree canopy in line with the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide, which targets an increase of urban green cover by 20% by 2045.

The benefits of increasing tree canopy levels are clear, and include improved biodiversity richness, physical and mental health of communities; and reduced urban heat during hot weather. Despite the clear benefits of increasing canopy cover, we face a number of obstacles to growing our urban forest. These obstacles include the ongoing removal of large, established trees as a part of urban infill projects and the limited space for planting in streets due to the clearance requirements of electricity, water, sewage, gas and telecommunications services.

Of particular relevance at this time is conflict with electricity infrastructure, as SA Power Networks (SAPN) has requested that our councils remove up to 903 (8 Holdfast Bay; 598 Marion, 297 Onkaparinga) trees they have assessed as being non-compliant with the *Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021*. It is expected further trees will be identified in SAPN's audit of the City of Mitcham this year.

The establishment of street trees is time consuming and expensive, and the 903 trees identified represent an investment of around \$1.3 million from councils. We are currently working with SA Power Networks to identify





pathways for some of these trees to remain, however, some provisions of the Regulations are unclear. Specifically, Schedule 2 (3) of the *Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021* states:

Vegetation may be planted in proximity to a public powerline in a non-bushfire risk area and any such vegetation may be nurtured, if-

- (a) the vegetation is planted in replacement of vegetation in a stand or avenue of vegetation situated along a road; and*
- (b) The vegetation is of the same species as that being replaced.*

The Regulations do not include a definition of a *stand* or *avenue*, making it unclear whether council plantings are in breach of the Regulations. Specifically, it is unclear how many trees are required to be considered a *stand* or *avenue*, whether a *stand* or *avenue* may be comprised of more than one species, and whether an *avenue* consists of plantings on one side or both sides of a road. It is also not clear whether an *avenue* may be extended in length or infilled (increased in density).

To help resolve this ambiguity, we propose that the following definitions be provisionally adopted by the Office of the Technical Regulator until such time as they can be incorporated into a revision of the *Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021*:

Avenue: a street or thoroughfare lined with trees planted at regular intervals on both sides.

Stand: a contiguous group of trees sharing similar characteristics. The stand may share characteristics such as species, age, size, arrangement, condition, or location – or some combination of these features. A stand may be linear (a row) or of any other shape/size.

Of additional concern is that SA Power Networks has advised that any avenues must have been in place on 1 November 1988 but there is no such provision in the Regulations. The Office of the Technical Regulator indicated that this date was chosen in a decision of Parliament, however the basis of this claim and whether it applies to the current Regulations remains uncertain. We therefore request urgent clarification as to whether avenues or stands, as referenced in Schedule 2 of the Regulations, must have been in place by a particular date.

Should SAPN's claim of a cutoff date of 1 November 1988 for the establishment of avenues and stands be correct, this raises an additional concern regarding the socio-economic bias of urban greening. Some metropolitan suburbs have been fortunate enough to establish avenues and other plantings decades ago, and it is appropriate that these plantings be allowed to remain. However, newer suburbs, those with lower socio-economic demographics, or those that have experienced significant urban infill, have far fewer such avenues and may be prevented from establishing them, should SAPN's claim of 1988 as the cut-off for the establishment of avenues under powerlines be proven correct. In effect, this provision would ensure that the historically wealthier parts of Adelaide are able to remain leafy, with the state government denying the same opportunity to other suburbs.

We understand that a major driver of the increase in compliance in vegetation management in non-bushfire areas from SA Power Networks, is a desire to reduce its vegetation management costs (currently ca. \$30-40 million per annum). While this is an understandable objective, we suggest that the cost to the community from this lost canopy will substantially exceed the savings made by SA Power Networks, and that any reduction in electricity bills due to reduced network maintenance will likely be eclipsed by increased power use as a result of increased urban heat. Shady trees have the capacity to cool houses by up to 8°C on hot days, reducing heat-related health issues and provide a myriad of physical and mental health benefits that are well articulated in the state government's *Healthy Parks Healthy People 2021-2026* initiative. The loss of current and future canopy will remove these benefits, as well as the economic advantage from decreased cooling costs and increased property values.

In summary:

- We recommend that our proposed interim definitions of *stand* and *avenue* be adopted by Office of the Technical Regulator until such time as they can be incorporated into a revision of the *Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021*.
- We request urgent clarification as to whether avenues or stands, as referenced in Schedule 2 of the Regulations, must have been in place by a particular date.

Warm regards

Amanda Wilson
Mayor, City of Holdfast Bay

Kris Hanna
Mayor, City of Marion

Dr Heather Holmes-Ross
Mayor, City of Mitcham

Marion Themeliotis
Acting Mayor, City of Onkaparinga

cc: Robert Faunt, Technical Regulator
Prof Chris Daniels, Presiding Member, Green Adelaide Landscape Board
Brenton Gear, Director, Green Adelaide

Item No: 15.4

Subject: **AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION – NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Date: 22 March 2022

Written By: Manager, Strategy and Governance

General Manager: Strategy and Corporate, Ms P Jackson

SUMMARY

Each year, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) holds a National General Assembly (Assembly) in Canberra where councils from around Australia can discuss current and emerging challenges and opportunities, and advocate to the Federal Government on critical issues facing the sector.

The next Assembly will be held on 19-22 June. The theme for the event is Partners in Progress, focussing on how partnerships can tackle the challenges facing communities and prepare for the future.

The ALGA have called for motions for the Assembly and a possible motion has been prepared for Council's consideration (Attachment 1).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the suggested motion as provided in Attachment 1, to be submitted for consideration by the Australian Local Government Association for inclusion in the National General Assembly agenda.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The proposed motion supports the achievement of the Wellbeing Objective to increase participation rates across the whole community and contributes to Innovation Aspirations to lead the way in open government, using digital tools to create transparency and enable direct participation.

COUNCIL POLICY

Not applicable

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Not applicable

BACKGROUND

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) advocates on behalf of Australia's 537 councils for funding and policy outcomes that support local governments to deliver better results for their communities.

Each year a National General Assembly (the Assembly) is held in Canberra where councils from around Australia discuss current and emerging challenges and opportunities, and advocate to the Federal Government on critical issues facing our sector.

The motions passed at the Assembly inform ALGA's strategic direction and national advocacy objectives. ALGA take the agreed message to Ministers, MPs and decision-makers in Canberra and around the country through Ministerial meetings, forums, budget submissions, and advocacy campaigns.

The Assembly will be held in Canberra from 19-22 June and will be an opportunity to clearly set and articulate the local government sector's agenda to a new or returning Federal Government.

REPORT

The theme for the Assembly is *Partners in Progress*, focusing on how partnerships can tackle the challenges facing communities and prepare for the future.

The ALGA have called for motions for the Assembly, inviting councils to bring strategic issues of national importance to this event.

Motions must be endorsed by Council, submitted by Friday, 25 March 2022 and meet the following criteria:

1. Be relevant to the work of local government nationally;
2. Be consistent with the themes of the Assembly;
3. Complement or build on the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association;
4. Be from a council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association;
5. Propose a clear action and outcome; and
6. Not be advanced on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the Assembly to apply pressure to Board members or to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.

A number of possible topics were explored by Administration including economic investment opportunities, infrastructure investment opportunities, calls for more inclusive manufacturing by

design and workforce conditions. None of these matters met all the criteria for a motion and were therefore not put forward.

One topic which does meet the criteria relates to the future of democracy, particularly at local level. Recent legislative government reforms in South Australia have created challenges for Councils (for example, by changing planning rules) while increasing expectations on the sector (for example, by introducing additional levels of behavioural standards that are not required of other levels of government in the same way). While these issues might be particular to South Australia, there are national indicators that trust in government is being eroded at the same time as community expectations are increasing. To counteract these trends, it is wise to proactively examine governance models to either confirm existing ones are still relevant or to identify potential improvements.

A motion has been developed and is provided as Attachment 1. The online submission form specifies the form of information to be provided and word counts.

Refer Attachment 1

Submitting the motion does not guarantee its inclusion in the Assembly agenda. Even if the motion is included in the agenda, it may not be endorsed at the Assembly.

BUDGET

There are no direct costs associated with this motion.

LIFE CYCLE COSTS

There are no life cycle cost associated with this motion.

Attachment 1



Motion

This National General Assembly calls on all tiers of government, and state Local Government Associations to investigate and, where feasible, work with willing councils to trial innovative public governance models (including liquid democracy) to strengthen the connectivity and relevance of the local government sector into the future.

National Objective - Why is this a national issue and why should this be debated at the NGA? (200 words)

Trust in government has been in decline for decades across the globe. Notwithstanding this, trust increases with localisation. Where there is local trust, this should be used to strengthen the overall health of democracy.

For better or worse, technology has been disrupting every sphere of human endeavour at an increasing rate, leading to greater community expectations across the board. The same things cannot keep being delivered in the same ways.

While the principles of democracy are arguably more important today than they've ever been, the perceived relevance of institutions, including governments, is waning.

With the exception of universal suffrage being introduced, the existing model of democracy has remained largely unchanged for over a century. Public governance has been one of the last segments to explore and implement opportunities that new technologies offer, communities expect and waning trust requires. Exploring such opportunities proactively and courageously can help rebuild trust in government and futureproof the connectivity and relevance of the local government sector into the future, particularly in the face of diminished trust, and ongoing pressures to streamline or minimise government expenditure.

Summary of Key Arguments - Background information and supporting arguments (500 words)

The Edelman Trust Barometer, an annual global survey of more than 36,000 respondents in 28 countries, has tracked trust for over twenty years. The Barometer has tracked an alarming erosion of trust in government, which is now the least trusted sector and widely perceived as being unable to solve societal problems.

While local governments are generally perceived as more trustworthy than their federal counterparts, there is nevertheless a significant trust gap. If left unchecked, a cycle of distrust can negatively affect social stability. On the other hand, there is an opportunity to build on existing local trust to strengthen the social fabric of our nation, from the ground up.

While technology has the potential to create significant gains and benefits, it has also contributed to social, economic and environmental volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity (VUCA) at local, state,

national and global levels. Echo chambers, 'fake news', 'manufactured outrage' and being addictive by design have all contributed to the fraying of social fabrics, and have sown seeds of distrust and discontent.

Technology has also put pressure on all services to be fast/immediate, available anytime, personalised and available via many channels (including digital). Expectations for services of this kind create a stark contrast against public governance models, which are not real-time or digitally accessible, and tend more towards bluntness than nuance or personalisation. Examples include party-line voting and only being able to exercise a vote every several years. With such a substantial contrast, it's not difficult to understand why many people eschew engagement in public governance.

In the face of VUCA conditions and threats to social stability, the health, strength and vitality of democracy are all the more important. While voting is compulsory across all levels of government in many parts of Australia, trust levels indicate an underlying level disengagement. Many people across our communities have forgotten (or are unaware of) Franklin D Roosevelt's words that "government is ourselves and not an alien power over us."

Innovative public government models can reverse the cycle of distrust and negative perceptions of relevance, while improving connectivity. Such models could include liquid democracy (delegative democracy whereby a community engages in collective decision-making through direct and dynamic participation), amongst others.

Choosing to proactively explore and, where feasible, trial new models of public governance can ensure local government builds on its strengths, provides added levels of connectivity to its communities and leads by example, for state and federal counterparts to learn from. It also demonstrates significant courage and foresight, which are in keeping with the values and characteristics often found in local government.

The first steps would be to explore and articulate a range of possible models, followed by small-scale trials to test feasibility. Undertaking this as a sector-wide initiative protects democracy and provides appropriate public governance oversight, while also providing pathways to implementation should new models be worthwhile.

2022 National General Assembly – Call for Motions



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State* Council*

COUNCIL CONTACT

Title*

First Name* Last Name*

Position*

COUNCIL

Address 1* Address 2

Suburb/City* Postcode*

Phone* Email*

MOTION DETAILS

Motion*

National Objective*

Summary of Key Arguments*

Declaration* This motion has been endorsed by Council

Item No: 15.5

Subject: **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA) ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 8 APRIL 2022**

Date: 22 March 2022

Written By: Corporate Planning Officer

General Manager: Strategy and Corporate, Ms P Jackson

SUMMARY

The Local Government Association SA (LGA) Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) will be held on 8 April 2022.

Council's voting delegate to LGA meetings has historically been the Mayor.

Council is required to select a delegate and consider the items on the OGM agenda in order to provide guidance to Council's voting Delegate on how to vote for each item. Suggested positions are provided for consideration by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That for the LGA Ordinary General Meeting, to be held on Friday 8 April 2022, Council:

- 1. endorses the Mayor's attendance as the voting Delegate on behalf of the City of Holdfast Bay, and**
 - 2. agrees to the proposed voting positions as detailed in Attachment 2.**
-

STRATEGIC PLAN

Taking the proposed positions contributes to achieving the Strategic Plan aspiration to lead the way in open government.

COUNCIL POLICY

Not applicable

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Not applicable

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Association SA (LGA) Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) will be held on 8 April 2022 at Adelaide Entertainment Centre, Port Road, Hindmarsh. The Agenda and Reports are detailed in Attachment 1.

Refer Attachment 1 – Electronic Version

Council's voting delegate to LGA meetings has historically been the Mayor.

REPORT

The Agenda includes a number of updates for noting, including:

- LGA Member Services
- LGA Advocacy
- Local Government Reform
- LGA Mutual Services
- LGA Procurement
- LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan

Recommendation Reports from the South Australian Region Organisation of Councils (SAROC) Committee and the Greater Adelaide Region Organisation of Councils (GAROC) Committee and LGA Board of Directors are also included in the Agenda papers.

Council is required to consider the items on the LGA AGM agenda and provide guidance to Council's voting Delegate on how to vote for each of the Recommendation Reports. Suggested positions are provided as to whether Council should support or not support each recommendation with brief commentary.

Refer Attachment 2

The majority of recommendations are supported. An additional point for one recommendation relating to the new planning systems is suggested for inclusion in the Motion.

One recommendation is not supported on the basis that it introduces a barrier to participation.

BUDGET

Attendance at the LGA AGM will be funded from the operating budget. There are no known cost implications for Council associated with any of the recommendations.

LIFE CYCLE COSTS

There are no full life cycle costs that can be itemised or evaluated at this time.

Attachment 1



Notice of Meeting

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

Friday 8 April 2022 at 11:00am

Adelaide Entertainment Centre

98 Port Road, Hindmarsh 5007



Clinton Jury
Chief Executive Officer

7 March 2022

Agenda

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9. Recommendation Reports from the LGA Board of Directors

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(LGA Secretariat) 102

10. Next Meeting

The LGA Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 28 October 2022 at Adelaide Oval.

12. Close

5.1 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29 October 2021

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Meeting:	Ordinary General Meeting	8 April 2022
ECM:	773230	Attachment: 768628

Recommendation

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.

Discussion

The Annual General Meeting of the membership was held on 29 October 2021. The draft minutes are attached for confirmation as to their accuracy.

Draft

Draft Minutes of the LGA Annual General Meeting held on 29 October 2021 at 11am at Adelaide Entertainment Centre, Port Road, Hindmarsh

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
Acting Executive Director Public Affairs	Lea Bacon
Executive Assistant to the CEO & President (minutes)	Ashlea Lyall
Human Resources and Administration Coordinator (E-voting)	Sarah Ryan
Executive Assistant to the Executive Director Public Affairs (E-voting)	Melissa Dahmen

Member Councils (voting delegates):

City of Adelaide	District Council of Ceduna
Adelaide Hills Council	City of Charles Sturt
Adelaide Plains Council	Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council
Alexandrina Council	District Council of Cleve
The Barossa Council	Coorong District Council
Barunga West Council	Copper Coast Council
Berri Barmera Council	District Council of Elliston
City of Burnside	The Flinders Ranges Council
Campbelltown City Council	City of Port Adelaide Enfield
District Council of Franklin Harbour	Port Augusta City Council
Town of Gawler	City of Port Lincoln
Regional Council of Goyder	Port Pirie Regional Council
District Council of Grant (from 12.29pm)	City of Prospect
City of Holdfast Bay	

Draft

District Council of Karoonda East Murray	Renmark Paringa Council
District Council of Kimba	District Council of Robe
Kingston District Council	City of Salisbury
Light Regional Council	Southern Mallee District Council
District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula	District Council of Streaky Bay
District Council of Loxton Waikerie	Tatiara District Council
Mid Murray Council	City of Tea Tree Gully
City of Mitcham	District Council of Tumby Bay
Mount Barker District Council	City of Unley
City of Playford	City of Victor Harbor
City of Mount Gambier	Wakefield Regional Council
District Council of Mount Remarkable	Town of Walkerville
Rural City of Murray Bridge	Wattle Range Council
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	City of West Torrens
Northern Areas Council	City of Whyalla
City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters	Wudinna District Council
City of Onkaparinga	District Council of Yankalilla
District Council of Orroroo/Carrieton	Yorke Peninsula Council
District Council of Peterborough	

2. Apologies

District Council of Coober Pedy
Kangaroo Island Council
City of Marion
Municipal Council of Roxby Downs

Draft

3. Notices & Arrangements

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

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 meeting held 30 April 2021

Moved Mount Barker Seconded Mid Murray that the Annual General Meeting confirms the minutes of the Ordinary General meeting held on 30 April 2021 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings held.

Carried

5.2 Resolutions and Actions from Previous Meetings

Moved Alexandrina Seconded Naracoorte Lucindale that the Annual General Meeting notes progress with resolutions resulting from the Ordinary General Meeting of 30 April 2021 and outstanding resolutions from earlier general meetings.

Carried

6. LGA Business

6.1 LGA Annual Report 2020-2021

Moved Barunga West Seconded Mid Murray that the Annual General Meeting receives and adopts the Local Government Association of South Australia's Annual Report for the year 2020-2021.

Carried

6.2 Financial Statements 2020/2021

Moved Goyder Seconded Wakefield Regional that the Annual General Meeting receives and adopts the LGA of SA and controlled entities Financial Statements for the year 2020/21

Carried

Draft

6.3 Annual Reports for the LGA Committees

Moved Mount Gambier Seconded Kimba that the Annual General Meeting notes the Annual Reports for the year 2020-2021 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

Carried

6.4 LGASA Mutual Annual Report 2020-2021

Moved Tumby Bay Seconded Alexandrina that the Annual General Meeting receives and notes the LGASA Mutual Annual Report for the year 2020-2021.

Carried

6.5 LGA Procurement Annual Report 2020-2021

Moved Yankalilla Seconded Elliston that the Annual General Meeting receives and notes the LGA Procurement Annual Report for the year 2020-2021.

Carried

6.6 Local Government Research and Development Scheme

Moved Kingston Seconded Victor Harbor that the Annual General Meeting notes the report.

Carried

6.7 LGA Advocacy Update

Moved Berri Barmera Seconded Naracoorte Lucindale that the Annual General Meeting notes the report.

Carried

6.8 LGA Member Services Update

Moved Peterborough Seconded Onkaparinga that the Annual General Meeting notes the report.

Carried

Draft

6.9 Local Government Financial Indicators 2021

Moved Barunga West Seconded Mount Barker that the Annual General Meeting notes the report.

Carried

6.10 SAROC and GAROC Terms of Reference

Moved Loxton Waikerie Seconded Mid Murray 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).

Carried

7. Recommendation Reports from the SAROC Committee

7.1 Increasing South Australia's Influence at the National General Assembly (Wakefield)

Moved Wakefield Seconded Barunga West that the Annual General Meeting:

1. recognises of the 139 motions considered at the 2021 National General Assembly, South Australia only had 5; and
2. calls on the Local Government Association to consider strategies that will assist in increasing South Australia's influence at the National General Assembly.

Carried

7.2 Regional Homelessness (and Housing Affordability) (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.

Carried

Draft

8. Recommendation Reports from the GAROC Committee

8.1 Boundary Reform Legislation Change (Adelaide Hills)

Moved Adelaide Hills Seconded Light Regional that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA Secretariat:

1. to advocate for a review of boundary reform laws once a proposal for proposed reform has progressed through all stages of the statutory process (or within 5 years of the commencement of the legislation). This review should be undertaken in consultation with local government and consider, amongst other things:
 - a) the legislation generally;
 - b) the supporting guidelines;
 - c) timelines; and
 - d) cost issues.
2. prior to the above review, to advocate to the Boundaries Commission for a review of Guideline No.3: Submitting a General Proposal to the Commission, to require a timeframe from the acceptance of a Stage 1 proposal be considered for the preparation and lodgement of a Stage 2 submission.

Lost

8.2 Cost and Timeframes for Adjustment to Telecommunication Pits on Road Reserves (Gawler)

Moved Gawler Seconded Murray Bridge that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to explore ways to reduce the cost and timeframes to councils associated with adjustment of telecommunication service pits in road reserves as part of their capital works programs.

Carried

8.3 Clear and Consistent Rules for Purchased Renewable Electricity (Gawler)

Moved Gawler Seconded Campbelltown that the Annual General Meeting requests:

1. the LGA to support advocacy led by the Australian Local Government Association calling on the Federal Government to amend the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) Framework to establish a legal definition of what is required to buy renewable electricity via the electricity grid and claim 100% renewable electricity use and zero emissions. This will establish market-based accounting for renewable

Draft

electricity, create a single nationally consistent method that applies to electricity and renewable electricity consumption and prevent double counting for all customers including for councils, seeking legally assured, clearly defined and priced renewable electricity; and

2. that the LGA President write to the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction to confirm member councils support for the above position.

Carried

8.4 Homelessness (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.

Carried

8.5 Illegal Dumping (Port Adelaide Enfield)

Moved Port Adelaide Enfield Seconded Salisbury that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA advocates to the State Government for a portion of funds collected via the Solid Waste Levy to be allocated for a state-wide campaign on illegal dumping to be developed by the EPA in collaboration with Green Industries SA, local government and other key leading bodies in this space, like KESAB environmental solutions.

Carried



Draft

9. Recommendation Reports from the LGA Board of Directors

9.1 2021 Local Government Legislative Reforms – Likely Cost to Councils (Marion)

Moved Prospect Seconded Gawler that the Annual / Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to investigate and provide a report with an analysis of likely costs to the sector (and individual councils where relevant) of:

1. submissions to the Remuneration Tribunal;
2. submissions to ESCOSA;
3. the Behavioural Panel;
4. HR Consultancy when recruiting a CEO; and
5. any other relevant changes mandated by the 2021 Local Government legislative reforms.

Carried

10. Next Meeting

An Ordinary General meeting will be held on Friday 8 April 2022 at a venue to be confirmed.

11. Close

The meeting was declared closed at 12.44pm.

Minutes confirmed

.....

Chairperson

Date

2021 LGA President's Annual General Meeting Report

I'm pleased to present the President's Report to the 2021 LGA Annual General Meeting.

Before providing a broader update, I would like to first acknowledge the work of former CEO Matt Pinnegar who has moved across to take the helm at the Australian Local Government Association. Matt's contribution to the LGA was significant and I know he will continue to represent our sector in Canberra. We thank Matt and note the considerable achievements and many successes delivered through his leadership and guidance.

Of course, every cloud has a silver lining and this month we have welcomed new LGA CEO Clinton Jury into the role. We are delighted by this appointment and how Clinton has embraced the local government sector. I look forward to working with him in the years ahead.

It would be remiss of me not to also mention long-serving Executive Director Public Affairs Lisa Teburea. Lisa was the driving force behind the LGA's advocacy agenda and instrumental in developing many of our successful campaigns. While we were sorry to see Lisa go, we wish her all the best and look forward to hearing what's next for her.

While we have been busy managing this change of leadership at the LGA, we have not slowed our pace in progressing several significant pieces of work for the benefit of the sector.

A year after being introduced into the House of Assembly, the Local Government Review Bill passed Parliament in June and became the *Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021*.

Our sector has advocated for these reforms for many years, and we have worked closely with the Parliament to ensure they are evidenced-based and support councils to deliver even better results for their communities.

Key changes in the reforms included new member behaviour standards, oversight of councils' financial plans and budgets by the Essential Services Commission of SA, a new Community Engagement Charter, and an independent process to set CEO salary bands through the South Australian Remuneration Tribunal.

The LGA now has a strong focus on delivering the LG Equip program, which will support councils with targeted training and resources to put these reforms into practice.

Flowing from the local government reform program, last month the State Government launched its new Councils in Focus website.

The website was developed to address a key recommendation from the SA Productivity Commission's inquiry into local government efficiency and uses data councils submit to the Local Government Grants Commission to provide an overview of revenue, expenditure and financial performance.

The LGA welcomed the initiative as an opportunity to provide our communities with more accessible and transparent information about their local councils and help them better understand council programs and how their rates are spent.

Since launching, we continue to work with councils to ensure that data provided to the Grants Commission is reported consistently and can be compared, and we will work with councils and the State Government to facilitate continuous improvements. This comes in direct

response to member feedback, and the LGA continues to press for these limitations to be addressed.

Of course, managing the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 has remained a high priority for governments at all levels, and the local government sector is no exception.

The Local Government Functional Support Group (LGFSG) has continued to play an essential role in coordinating the sector's response to changing risk profiles and restrictions.

As a central point of contact, the LGFSG has kept councils informed of changes to restrictions and requirements and supported them in their efforts to keep communities safe, including in response to the July lockdown. The LGA has also worked closely with SA Health to facilitate an agreement for metropolitan councils to support COVID-19 compliance activities.

As we look ahead, local government will continue to play an important role in locally-led recovery – reconnecting communities, supporting businesses, and accelerating local economic growth.

The LGA, like many of you, needed to defer a number of events as a result of COVID-19, including one of our key networking events for the year - the Roads and Works Conference. I would like to acknowledge the significant work undertaken by the conference committee and host council in preparation for this event, and we are hopeful it will be able to go ahead early next year.

Our sector has played a key role in supporting our state's economic recovery, advocating for, and taking advantage of, the additional grant funding available to bring forward infrastructure projects and stimulate economic activity.

We were pleased our earlier recovery campaign and advocacy activities produced results, with a \$1 billion expansion of the Commonwealth's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program bringing the total funding allocated to South Australian councils through this program to \$220 million.

Further, the LGA's main federal advocacy priority over the last 12 months was maintaining ongoing supplementary road funding for South Australia, and we were successful in securing a two-year \$40 million extension. This top-up means our state will continue to receive a fair share of federal road funding, which will contribute to the ongoing safety and prosperity of our communities.

At a state level, our advocacy agenda focused on securing State Government funding for libraries, with the ten-year state/local government libraries agreement expiring in June. The LGA championed the important role libraries play in our communities through a "library dollars make sense" campaign, which resulted in a commitment from the Premier to maintain funding of \$20.7 million in 2021-22 and beyond.

Councils were also assisted through LGA programs to progress several priority issues in their communities.

The Local Government Reconciliation Industry Network Group (LG RING) was established as a joint initiative between the LGA and Reconciliation SA, to recognise the critical role councils play in building respectful relationships between First Nations people and the

broader community. This forum allows council leaders to share ideas and networks and promote reconciliation initiatives.

The LGA also helped councils to fulfil their responsibilities under the *Disability and Inclusion Act 2018*, by facilitating a Community of Practice, advising on Action Plans, and establishing a Local Government Disability and Inclusion Advisory Group. The Advisory Group will assist the LGA to provide best practice tools and resources, and support councils with implementation.

Councils have also been supported to fulfil their obligations as road managers under the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Regulations, with the LGA last year partnering with the State Government and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) to employ a Heavy Vehicle Access Liaison Officer.

This program has helped councils deliver proactive approaches to heavy vehicle access matters through direct advice, workshops and development of a road manager toolkit. This has allowed councils to build closer connections with industry and improve the safety and productivity of the local road freight network.

Our work to expand the broader professional support available to councils and their staff continued this month with an inaugural partnership agreement with LG Professionals SA commencing. This new agreement recognises the two organisations' common goals of bringing members of the sector together to grow their skills and networks and promote excellence in their field.

We are confident the new arrangement will increase the capacity of our organisations and allow us to offer additional development opportunities to the sector, and we look forward to welcoming LG Professionals SA staff to Local Government House from December.

In recent weeks we have started looking ahead toward 2022, and what will be a very important year for the Association and our sector.

The LGA is well progressed in setting our federal and state election strategies and we look forward to working with you throughout the campaign periods to highlight the important opportunities all governments have to support a thriving South Australia and deliver real benefits for local communities.

Council elections in 2022 is a key priority, and the LGA have been working closely with the Electoral Commission of South Australia to prepare for this process. We are committed to preparing councils and communities for these elections, building on the success of our candidate campaign '*Make a Difference*' and the broader community awareness campaign '*Enrol, Vote, Nominate*'.

Next years' awareness campaign will have a strong focus on encouraging increased participation of under-represented groups including women, young people, people with disability and First Nations and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

To this end, please take some time over coming months to think about new and emerging leaders in your communities, and whether they could be encouraged to continue their service through a formal leadership role in your council.



Lastly, thank you for your ongoing support for the LGA and the work we do to provide a strong voice for local government. We have another busy year ahead of us, which will bring opportunities, challenges, and proposals for change to advance the sector.

We are confident that our leadership team and staff are well placed to meet these challenges, and with your help the LGA can continue its great work supporting strong, resilient, and connected communities.

Thank you.

5.2 Resolutions and Actions from Previous Meetings

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Meeting	Ordinary General Meeting	8 April 2022
ECM:	722722	

Recommendation

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.

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.

The LGA is committed to ensuring that members are kept informed of how the items they have submitted are being progressed.


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 to adequately progress the issue, the LGA will also write to this council to provide a progress update prior to each General Meeting until the matter is closed.


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

 = Completed/No further action required


Resolutions from the Annual General Meeting – 29 October 2021	Action Taken / Progress
<p>7.1 Increasing South Australia's Influence at the National General Assembly (Wakefield) (TC 767233)</p> <p>That the Annual General Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> recognises of the 139 motions considered at the 2021 National General Assembly, South Australia only had 5; and calls on the Local Government Association to consider strategies that will assist in increasing South Australia's influence at the National General Assembly. 	<p>The LGA promoted the opportunity for member councils to submit motions to ALGA's National General Assembly 2022, through both the LGA's President's Update (23 February 2022) and a Latest News article (25 February).</p> <p>Details and a link to ALGA's guided 'Call for Motions Discussion Paper' were included.</p> <p>The LGA Secretariat has worked with those councils that expressed an interest in proposing an NGA motion to ensure that they are strategically important to the local government sector in South Australia.</p> <p>Once the NGA 2022 agenda is available the LGA will provide a briefing paper to all SA delegates on the motions proposed.</p>
<p>7.2 Regional Homelessness (and Housing Affordability) (Mount Gambier) (TC 767234)</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The LGA will write to the listed federal and state government ministers and members of parliament subsequent to the completion of the SAROC Regional Housing Policy Toolkit, scheduled in March 2022.</p> <p>The Toolkit will provide valuable evidence and analysis regarding regional housing shortages (including affordable housing shortages) and an advocacy agenda to be taken to other levels of government.</p>
<p>8.2 Cost and Timeframes for Adjustment to Telecommunication Pits on Road Reserves (Gawler) (TC 766465)</p> <p>That the Annual General meeting requests the LGA to explore ways to reduce the cost and timeframes to councils associated with adjustment of telecommunication service pits in road reserves as part of their capital works programs.</p>	<p>This item has been added to the LGA Secretariat's work plan for 2022-23. The LGA Secretariat will liaise with the Town of Gawler to inform broader consultation with member councils.</p> <p>This will enable the LGA to determine sufficient evidence, if available, and identify practical examples that highlight the impacts the monopoly oversight of</p>

 = Completed/No further action required


	<p>adjustments of telecommunications service pits in road reserves has on a broad range of councils.</p> <p>A subsequent report with recommendations would be presented to the LGA Board of Directors, prior to progressing any advocacy actions on behalf of member councils.</p>
<p>8.3 Clear and Consistent Rules for Purchased Renewable Electricity (Gawler) (BM 766469)</p> <p>That the Annual General Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the LGA to support advocacy led by the Australian Local Government Association calling on the Federal Government to amend the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) Framework to establish a legal definition of what is required to buy renewable electricity via the electricity grid and claim 100% renewable electricity use and zero emissions. This will establish market-based accounting for renewable electricity, create a single nationally consistent method that applies to electricity and renewable electricity consumption and prevent double counting for all customers including for councils, seeking legally assured, clearly defined and priced renewable electricity; and that the LGA President write to the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction to confirm member councils support for the above position. 	<p>The LGA President has written to the Honourable Angus Taylor MP, Minister for Industry, Energy and Emissions Reduction confirming the LGA's and member councils position as stated at (1) for calling for clear and consistent rules for purchased renewable energy.</p> <p>The LGA has confirmed this position with ALGA. ALGA has begun conversations about a whole of LG guidance framework for carbon accounting (for Council operations).</p> <p>Finally, the LGA provided feedback to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commissions' (ACCC) Compliance and Enforcement Policy and Priorities for 2022 advocating for the Policy and Priorities to include competition and consumer issues arising from the pricing and selling of essential services as well as including additional priorities that consider and address the emerging needs that support Australia's commitments to reduce emissions – like for example, the need for clear and consistent rules for purchased renewable energy.</p> <p>This matter continues to be a focus for the LGA and is being explored and addressed further through the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers' Electricity Working Group LGA Regional Climate Partnerships
<p>8.4 Homelessness (Port Adelaide Enfield) (TC 766471)</p> <p>That the Annual General Meeting:</p>	<p>In accordance with part 1 of the motion, the LGA formally joined the Everybody's Home Campaign, through its website.</p>

 = Completed/No further action required


<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>As part of actioning parts 2 and 3 of the motion, the LGA has been 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.</p> <p>The role of the SAAEH is envisaged to facilitate the transformation of the homelessness and social housing sectors in South Australia by enabling the state-wide integration of the supports and services provided through the Advance to Zero methodology (including the production and maintenance of a quality, real-time 'By-Name List' included in part 2 of the motion) to achieve and sustain Functional Zero for rough sleepers.</p> <p>In this context, the SAAEH is working with South Australian Housing Authority (SAHA) to roll out the Advance to Zero methodology across the state through SAHA's five new Homelessness Alliances (Metro North, Metro South, Country North, Country South, and State-wide Domestic and Family Violence).</p> <p>However, the SAAEH has emphasised that these alliances will require the collaboration of the State Government, local government, and non-government support services if Functional Zero for rough sleepers is to be achieved.</p> <p>Accordingly, the SAAEH is working closely with SAHA and other SAAEH partners to develop structures to govern the SAAEH. The nature of these structures is emerging but could include the establishment of a state-wide working group, comprised of representatives of relevant State Government agencies, the local government sector, and various not-for-profit and charitable organisations.</p> <p>A state-wide working group of this description would be the appropriate forum to investigate how homelessness support services can be most effectively and sustainably coordinated (in accordance with part 3 of the motion).</p>
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 = Completed/No further action required


	An item of business elsewhere on this Agenda, proposed by the Town of Gawler, requests that the LGA be represented within the current governance structure of the SAAEH.
<p>8.5 Illegal Dumping (Port Adelaide Enfield) (BM 766472)</p> <p>That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA advocates to the State Government for a portion of funds collected via the Solid Waste Levy to be allocated for a state-wide campaign on illegal dumping to be developed by the EPA in collaboration with Green Industries SA, local government and other key leading bodies in this space, like KESAB environmental solutions.</p>	<p>The LGA has continued to advocate to state and federal government, for the benefit of local government, in relation to illegal dumping matters. Some examples of this advocacy is through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • including specific request for a state-wide education campaign on illegal dumping to improve community awareness in the LGA's Local Voices for a Resilient South Australia, state election platform. • consultation with the EPA on the <i>Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016</i> (SA) • the Single-use Plastics Taskforce; and • the LGA response to the Australian Government's Discussion Paper on Stewardship for Consumer and Other Electrical and Electronic Products. <p>Additional collaboration with key leading bodies in relation to a media campaign on illegal dumping remains on the LGA workplan for progression.</p>
<p>9.1 2021 Local Government Legislative Reforms – Likely Cost to Councils (Marion) (AL 767236)</p> <p>that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to investigate and provide a report with an analysis of likely costs to the sector (and individual councils where relevant) of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. submissions to the Remuneration Tribunal; 2. submissions to ESCOSA; 3. the Behavioural Panel; 	<p>The LGA has engaged extensively with the Remuneration Tribunal on their likely costs. An understanding has been reached on the costs per hour of the Tribunal's deliberations, but not the number of hours that will be required to complete their review and therefore the total costs that the sector will be required to reimburse. The LGA continues to seek further commitments from the Tribunal about cost expectations and early advice on additional new costs.</p> <p>ESCOSA intend to shortly release a paper on their approach to council costs oversight. This paper is expected to contain details about the proposed scope of ESCOSA's reviews and their resulting costs. The LGA continues to counsel ESCOSA against unnecessary increases in scope and costs.</p>

 = Completed/No further action required

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. HR Consultancy when recruiting a CEO; and 5. any other relevant changes mandated by the 2021 Local Government legislative reforms. 	<p>The State Government accepted LGA submissions on sitting fees for members of the Behaviour Standards Panel. The general and administrative costs of the Panel will be reimbursed by the LGA, who will then recover these costs from all member councils. Panel Costs incurred in dealing with a matter referred from a council will be reimbursed by that council. The LGA continues to work closely with the Office of Local Government, Local Government Risk Services and (in the near future) the Panel, on policies and procedures that will streamline the Panel's operations to minimise costs.</p> <p>HR Consultancy. Changes to the Local Government Act require a council CEO selection panel to consider independent advice before appointing new CEO. Councils still have considerable flexibility as to how the CEO selection process is conducted and what costs are incurred (if any) as a result.</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"> 1. calls for the State Government to undertake a comprehensive review of statutory rate rebates and exemptions; 2. 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 3. 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>Both GAROC and SAROC have included advocacy seeking a review of mandatory statutory rebates and discounts in their 2021-22 Annual Business Plans.</p> <p>GAROC has allocated \$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.</p> <p>The LGA has commenced preparation of the issues paper and will consult further with member councils to inform the commissioning a report from an economic advisory consultant.</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) (SPS 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>A research project has been developed, which has been supported by GAROC to investigate alternative models to enable the LGA to provide evidence to the Minister to support the LGA's position.</p> <p>The project commenced in February and should conclude mid year.</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>Safeguarding the future of jetties is a key issue in the LGA's Local Voices election platform. Despite the efforts of the LGA Secretariat and the Jetties Steering Group, the Jetties Strategic Plan has not yet been released by the Government.</p> <p>The LGA President wrote to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Hon Corey Wingard MP in February 2022 reiterating the importance of the issue, noting the need to work together to devise a satisfactory outcome and requesting a \$10M investment in the maintenance of jetties. The President has also requested a meeting with the Minister to progress the Jetties Strategic Plan.</p> <p>The State Government's own strategies such as the SA Visitor Economy Sector Plan 2030 note the importance of jetties to the community and economy, but the Jetties Strategic Plan has not yet been released.</p> <p>This issue is included in the LGA's Advocacy Plan and the LGA Secretariat continues to advocate on this issue.</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 Secretariat has developed a Community Engagement Charter and Model Community Engagement Policy for councils which will satisfy their legal obligations. When the new regulatory scheme for community engagement/public consultation commences in November, it will give councils greater flexibility.</p>

6.1 LGA Member Services Update

LGA Updates

From:	Nathan Petrus, Executive Director Member Services	
Strategy:	2: Assist – Build the capacity of member councils	
Outcome:	Councils draw upon our resources, services and advice in order to save time and money and reduce risk.	
Meeting:	Ordinary General Meeting	8 April 2022
ECM:	772104	

Recommendation

That the Ordinary General Meeting notes the report.

Discussion

The following discussion provides an update on the activities of the LGA's Member Services team.

Governance support

The LGA's Governance Team is primarily focused on preparing and delivering information to member councils to support their implementation of the Local Government Reforms. This is discussed in a separate Report to the OGM.

Since the October 2021 AGM, the Governance Team has also delivered the following outcomes to members:

- delivery of an updated template Instrument of airport Authorisations, developed in conjunction with the LGA's legal partner, Norman Waterhouse
- Ongoing maintenance of the Delegations Framework
- support to the LGA's Nominations Committee, particularly in relation to the appointment of:
 - Behavioural Standards Panel members
 - the Presiding Member: Local Government Grants Commission/Boundaries Commission
 - Dog and Cat Management Board: Ordinary Member
 - Sector representatives for the SA Power Networks Community Advisory Board

CWMS subsidy scheme

The LGA is working closely with the Office of Local Government on the State Government's mid-term review of the 2017-2027 CWMS Funding Deed between the Minister for Local Government and the LGA. A key component of the review will be the establishment of priority CWMS schemes to be constructed over the remaining five years of the Agreement. It will also examine possible areas for reform of the subsidy scheme, with the aim of delivering even greater value to communities that rely on the subsidy funding. The mid-term review is scheduled to be completed by 30 June 2022.

The LGA is also well advanced in implementing the actions recommended by the Auditor General in its 2021 review of the governance of the CWMS subsidy scheme. The only major outstanding

action is the review of certain aspects of the CWMS Funding Deed, which will be addressed through the mid-term review.

ICT services

The Web Solutions team has continued to work with councils to ensure that their websites meet their communities' needs. Its recent work has included:

- working with four councils on updates/upgrades to their websites
- improving the minutes and agenda lists on LGA Squiz platform websites with a significant back-end upgrade and implementing a new field that allows councils to control the order of agenda attachments
- developing web training material and holding on-line training with council staff

The team is also working closely with the Australian Cyber Security Centre, the Department of Premier and Cabinet, LGFSG, LGITSA and Local Government Risk Services on improving the sector's ability to effectively manage cyber security risk. Through the LGA's Research and Development Scheme, the LGA is supporting LGITSA's development of a cyber security framework that can be applied by all member councils.

LGA Training and Events

The LGA Training team is now integrated with the LG Professionals SA team and are working as one on the delivery of training, events and networks to support the sector, while maintaining the independence of each organisation's brands.

The initial focus of the partnership is the delivery of the existing LGA and LG Professionals SA work programs. However, discussions on opportunities for new initiatives to add further value to our members will be a priority in the coming months.

Of its many activities, the team is currently developing training resources to support councils to implement the local government reforms and in preparation for council elections.

People and Culture Support

Many councils have expressed an interest in the LGA providing a centralised People and Culture service to the sector and the LGA has been working on two services, which will commence in the coming months.

The LGA's legal partner, Norman Waterhouse Lawyers, is currently developing a library of template HR policies and procedures that can be accessed by councils on a subscription basis. The library will be tailored to the needs of councils and will be expanded over time based on the feedback of users.

The LGA has also been working with Bespoke HR, who was selected through a competitive tender process, on the delivery of People and Culture support services to the sector. Bespoke HR will be available to provide a comprehensive suite of people and culture services to councils, at highly competitive rates. The services will initially be provided to select councils on a pilot basis until 30 June 2022, with a view towards expanding the service to other councils thereafter.

Further information about the LGA's plans for People and Culture support will be provided to all member councils in the coming weeks.

Performance Monitoring and Reporting Framework

Since the launch of the State Government's Councils in Focus website and reporting system, the LGA has been working with the Local Government Financial Management Group and Office of Local Government to address the data concerns that were raised by many councils during consultation on the website.

A working group has been established to clarify the definitions and reporting requirements for major expenditure items (e.g. roads/transport, environment and community service) under the Model Financial Statements. This is intended to improve the comparability of financial data being reported by councils to the Local Government Grants Commission in those major areas.

6.2 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:	Ordinary General Meeting	8 April 2022	
ECM:	772106		

Recommendation

That the Ordinary General Meeting notes the report.

Discussion

This report provides an update on the key activities being undertaken by the LGA to advocate on behalf of our members and strengthen the local government sector.

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.

At the LGA Annual General Meeting held on 29 October 2021 member councils received an update on the status of the LGA's Advocacy Plan 2019-2023, which has been updated to reflect the progress of the local government and planning reforms, as well as state government strategies and action plans relating to circular economy and food waste, regional development, climate change and electric vehicles.

Revisions are also made to include advocacy identified in items of business carried by members at LGA General Meetings, and SAROC and GAROC's Annual Business Plans.

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

2022 South Australian Election

In December 2021, the LGA launched the Local Voices for a Resilient South Australia election campaign platform². The LGA's election strategy sought to influence commitments from the next State Government that progress issues that are important to member councils.

The LGA's campaign 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 is aimed at cultivating beneficial long-term relationships with the Parliament which put us in a strong position to pursue our ongoing advocacy agenda.

Key priority advocacy issues were informed by consultation with member councils, the LGA annual members survey, the Advocacy Plan, as well as the 2021-22 GAROC and SAROC Annual Business Plans.

Throughout the campaign period, the LGA held meetings with key decision makers, political representatives and other peak bodies, and implemented media stories and communications to strengthen engagement. The LGA localised its campaign by working with councils to identify specific examples of projects or programs that can be delivered with State Government support.

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.

2022 Federal Election

The LGA's state election strategy was developed in parallel with the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Federal Election campaign strategy - Don't Leave Local Communities Behind!³

The Local Voices platform focuses on several issues that also align with Federal issues and ALGA's identified priorities, including in relation to housing availability and affordability, gaps in digital connectivity, and the need to establish climate partnerships and transition to a circular economy.

The LGA has highlighted ALGA's federal election priorities in key media and communications engagements. The LGA provided ALGA with case studies from councils that align with the themes of transport and community infrastructure, building resilience and the circular economy.

After the South Australian state election, the LGA will increase activity on federal election priorities through member engagement, case studies, media stories and other communications.

During the campaign ALGA is providing associations campaign collateral, guidance and templates to be shared with their member councils, as well as design/graphic support for members.

In February 2022, the LGA informed and supported ALGA's Pre-Budget Submission 2022-23⁴, which includes a specific commitment sought for a \$20 million per year permanent supplementary road funding for South Australia.

² [Local voices | LGA South Australia](#)

³ https://alga.com.au/app/uploads/alga-election-priorities_web.pdf

⁴ <https://alga.com.au/app/uploads/ALGA-Pre-Budget-Submission-2022-23.pdf>

Recent advocacy 'snapshot'

Flood damage – February 2022

Many councils and communities on the Eyre Peninsula were impacted by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Tiffany. Through a proactive and concerted advocacy effort from these councils and the LGA, the State Treasurer agreed to a claim for extra-ordinary assistance outside the usual parameters of the Local Government Disaster Recovery Assistance Arrangements (LGDRAA).

While this was a good outcome for these councils, it reinforced the need to reform the LGDRAA to make it simpler and more definitive and provide cost reimbursement thresholds and eligibility parameters that are comparable to arrangements experienced by interstate councils.

The LGA will continue to advocate for more certainty for councils experiencing extreme weather events and an urgent review of the LGDRRA as presented in the Item of Business recommended by the LGA Board of Directors elsewhere on this agenda.

Media coverage, including press and radio highlighted the funding required for recovery efforts, welcoming the State Government's decision to accept the claim for extraordinary assistance submitted by the District Councils of Kimba, Franklin Harbour and Cleve.

Review of the Thirty-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide

The LGA's GAROC and SAROC committees have held discussions with Mr Craig Holden, the Chair of the State Planning Commission (the Commission) and senior staff from the Attorney Generals Department regarding the upcoming review of the Thirty-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide (the Plan).

The LGA consulted with council staff to inform an Issues Paper that has been provided to both the Commission and councils as a basis for further discussion between local government and the Commission as to the matters that should be addressed in the review of the Plan.

The Issues Paper highlights that while addressing opportunities for growth, the Plan should focus more on addressing liveability and sustainability pressures arising from development driven outcomes such as tree loss, additional hard surface runoff and stormwater loads, traffic and parking issues, dilution of historic character and adequate employment lands proximal to additional living outcomes.

It is understood that a review of the Thirty-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide will commence following the state election in March 2022.

Cost and Resource Implications and Benefits of the ePlanning System to Local Government in South Australia

The LGA sought feedback from councils on the financial costs and resource implications of the ongoing operation of the planning system the ePlanning portal.

A Discussion Paper was subsequently prepared and provided to the Minister for Planning and Local Government and the Opposition Spokesperson on Urban Development and Housing highlighting that almost all councils reported increased ongoing costs or resourcing burden associated with the new planning system.

In addition, the LGA has provided a report summarising the many submissions prepared by the LGA titled 'Opportunities to Improve the Planning System in South Australia'.

Press coverage reflecting the feedback received on the cost impact and resourcing requirements for councils was reported throughout February 2022.

Productivity Commission inquiries

Business Regulation

Following council member feedback, the LGA made the following recommendations to the business regulation inquiry:

- re-establishment of the State-Local Government Red Tape Taskforce – comprised of representatives of State Government agencies and the local government sector and used to canvass, research and consider business regulatory reform options
- greater transparency and structured stakeholder consultation be made part of the State Government's Regulatory Impact Assessment processes and practice
- more accessible information about business regulations be made available, including the creation of a state-wide business regulatory concierge service.

While these issues were not explicitly recommended by the Commission, both the Commission's final report recommendations and the State Government's official responses reflect a consensus approach to policy development, regulatory review, system usability and direct business assistance.

The LGA will continue to advocate for the re-establishment of the State-Local Government Red Tape Taskforce and a state-wide business regulatory concierge service, to assist small and start-up business operators navigate their regulatory compliance responsibilities.

Tourism Regulation Review

This review focused on regulations relating to nature-based and agritourism sectors and formed part of the broader Modern Regulation project which aims to identify reforms to assist the South Australian Government in improving the performance of the state's regulatory system.

The State Government has agreed to the Commission's recommendation to review the regulatory processes involved in the Nature-based Tourism Co-investment Fund - to be finalised before the end of 2022.

The Commission also called for the establishment of a central and independent process within SA Health to respond to feedback on the application of food safety regulations by local government and provide advice and training on improving consistency in regulatory practice

A comprehensive analysis of both Productivity Commission inquiries is available on the [LGA website](#).

Electric vehicle subsidy

Responding to items of business carried by member councils at previous LGA General Meetings, the LGA advocated for subsidies to increase electric vehicle uptake while reducing the state's greenhouse gas emissions.

The State Government has subsequently introduced a subsidy package to further reduce the cost of electric vehicles. The package includes a \$3,000 purchase subsidy and 3-year exemption for electric vehicles, supported by a \$12.25 million electric vehicle smart charging subsidy to support household installation of smart charging systems. The initiative will provide tangible incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles for the public.

As part of the announcement, the government confirmed a proposed levy on electric vehicles would be delayed until July 2027, or when electric vehicles make up 30 per cent of the new vehicle sales, whichever is earliest.

Submissions

Making written submissions provides a key opportunity for the LGA to influence policy, funding and legislative arrangements being considered by State and Federal government and their agencies.

Over the past 6 months, the LGA has listened to and represented member interests through submissions on topics including:

- National Performance Reporting Framework Indicator Review
- “Improving South Australia’s Recycling Makes Cents” Discussion Paper
- Standards Australia’s prescriptions on minimum garage sizes
- House of Representatives Inquiry into housing affordability and supply in Australia
- Department for environment and Water, Setting our future urban water directions
- The Commonwealth Government’s e-waste discussion paper.

The LGA Secretariat has also provided advice to support advocacy undertaken by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to the Federal Government, particularly on responding to representation on COVID-19 response issues, the Joint Select Committee on Road Safety, and ALGA’s submission to the Inquiry on the Provision of general practitioner and related primary health services to outer metropolitan, rural, and regional Australians.

LGA submissions are available at www.lga.sa.gov.au/submissions

ALGA submissions are available at [Publications & Submissions Archives - Australian Local Government Association \(alga.com.au\)](http://Publications & Submissions Archives - Australian Local Government Association (alga.com.au))

Policy Manual revision

The LGA’s Policy Manual is available online at [LGA Policy Manual | LGA South Australia](#).

The Policy Manual is a compendium of policy positions that have been endorsed by member councils through LGA General Meetings and is used to inform the LGA’s submissions, media responses and engagement with stakeholders.

The LGA Secretariat has commenced a comprehensive review of the Policy Manual, which will be prepared for adoption by member councils at the 2022 LGA Annual General Meeting. As the opportunity for significant revisions has been identified, consultation has commenced with member councils on policy statements regarding ‘Economic Development’ and ‘Environment and Natural Resources’, including Climate Change.

Partnerships

The LGA works collaboratively with the State Government and sits on several State Government committees and working groups.

The LGA continues to partner in the delivery of the following programs:

Wellbeing SA Public Health Partnership Agreement – the LGA has signed a PHPA with Wellbeing SA. The LGA will work closely with Wellbeing SA to actively support and build the capacity and capability of South Australian councils to invest in and strengthen community wellbeing.

This agreement will be supported by a Senior Policy Officer position funded with support from Wellbeing SA and the Local Government Research and Development Scheme.

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.

Disability Access and Inclusion – facilitating the Local Government Disability Inclusion Advisory Group made up of people with disability who will provide the sector with best practice access and inclusion advice based on their lived experience and in this way help councils better support their communities.

Heavy Vehicles Partnership Program – the LGA's Heavy Vehicle Access Liaison Officer continues to work with the State Government and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to support councils and deliver proactive approaches to heavy vehicle access matters.

Regional climate partnerships – continuing our partnership with Green Adelaide and the Department of 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.

Local Government Reconciliation Industry Network Group (LG RING) – a joint initiative between Reconciliation SA and the LGA in recognition of the critical role that councils play in building and enhancing respectful relationships and understanding between First Nations peoples and the broader South Australian community.

Volunteering Strategy for South Australia – the LGA is an active partner along with the State Government, Volunteering SA/NT and Business SA. This partner-driven strategy provides an opportunity for all sectors to focus on a coordinated approach to address the diverse and ongoing needs of the volunteer sector.

The LGA has also commenced discussions to renew its service agreement with Green Industries SA (GISA).

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.

There are many policy issues that the LGA is working on that are not included within this update or the Advocacy Plan. These may be issues where the LGA is providing support to members through training, forums, guideline material, model policies, advice or information exchange. These services fall under the LGA's 'Assist' objectives, as reflected in the LGA's Strategic Plan and Annual Business Plan.

6.3 Local Government Reform Update

LGA Updates

From:	Tami Norman, Program Leader Governance	
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:	Ordinary General Meeting	8 April 2022
ECM:	772142	

Recommendation

That the Ordinary General Meeting notes the report.

Discussion

The *Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021* (the Amendment Act) was assented to by the Governor on 16 June 2021. At that time it was anticipated proclamation and commencement would follow in a staged, and relatively expeditious timeline.

In practice, the proclamation and commencement of provisions has been delayed beyond what was anticipated. Commencement has been occurring in a staged manner, however the timeline for completion of commencement has extended well into 2022.

The first proclamation occurred on 16 September 2021 and provided for two commencement dates: 20 September 2021 and 11 November 2021. The first commencements (20 September 2021) were simple provisions that required little to no action by councils. The 11 November 2021 commencements primarily related to election reforms.

Thirty-eight (38) explanatory items were published to the LG Reform website for materials covered by the first proclamation. Twelve information sheets were published. As part of the LG Equip training offering two Zoom briefings were held in preparation for the Round 1 commencements.

The second proclamation occurred on 23 December 2021 and set six commencement dates ranging from 6 January 2022 to 30 November 2023. Provisions that commenced on 6 January 2022 largely related to strategic management plans (annual business plans and budget and long term financial plans) and changed annual reporting requirements. A number of transitional provisions to support commencements also took effect. The LGA is working with the South Australian Local Government Financial Management Group (SALGFMG) to develop templates for use by councils to ensure compliance with the changed requirements for annual business plan and budget and long term financial plans.

The LG Reform website provides explanatory text for each of the provisions that commenced on 6 January, including the four sets of regulations made on 23 December 2021.

As part of the LG Equip training offering a Zoom briefing was held on 18 January 2022 summarising the changes arising from each of the commencements and highlighting any actions required. There were in excess of 100 registrations for the briefing and the session was recorded and is available for those not able to attend on the day.

Information relating to the remaining commencements from the second proclamation will be provided in advance of the relevant dates.

There are still a number of substantial reforms, e.g. Community Engagement and Conduct Management Framework (incorporating integrity provisions and the Behavioural Management Framework) that have not yet been proclaimed for commencement. Much of the detail for these reforms is still being developed, for example, the State Government is currently consulting on the proposed Behavioural Standards for Council Members and has not yet commenced consultation on the proposed Community Engagement Charter.

To support the commencement of financial management reforms a suite of Asset Management Information Papers are being developed and the LGA is liaising with the Essential Services Commission of SA (ESCOSA) in relation to guidelines associated with rates oversight reforms. The SA Local Government Financial Management Group (SALGFMG) is also providing assistance with the development of model documents/templates to support Long Term Financial Plan, Annual Business Plan and Budget and Annual Reporting requirements arising from the reforms.

The LGA is working closely with the Office of Local Government (OLG) in relation to implementation of reforms. Whilst every effort is made to influence commencement timing, the decisions are subject to Cabinet processes and the State Government Election and associated caretaker period has impacted commencement timeframes.

Regular meetings are held with OLG to monitor commencement timelines and to continue to progress implementation work, including establishment of the Behavioural Standards Panel and identification/development of regulations to support transitional arrangements, e.g. in relation to Community Engagement provisions and the Behavioural Management Framework.

LG Equip, Elections and on-going updates

Based on current advice, the proclamation and commencements for remaining reforms will be finalised prior to November 2022, however, this is subject to change and the outcome of the State Government Election may also have implications for finalisation of implementation of the LG Reforms and supporting resources.

The LGA is reviewing the delivery of LG Equip updates to best meets member needs. This will include the continuation of the virtual LG Equip Update Sessions (via Zoom), providing members an overview of reform commencements prior to the 2022 Council elections. Post the elections, the program will continue, and effort will be made to integrate updates in context of Councils induction processes.

Behavioural Management Framework

Despite the majority of the Conduct Management Provisions not having been proclaimed for commencement a significant amount of work has been progressed to ensure the Behavioural Standards Panel is established and ready to commence operations and that councils have the resources necessary for commencement of the new Behaviour Management Framework.

A panel of proposed nominees for appointment to the Behavioural Standards Panel (BSP) was forwarded by the Board to the Minister for consideration. The BSP comprises a presiding member (joint nomination by the Minister and the LGA) and two ordinary members (one Ministerial nominee, one LGA nominee).

Appointments to the BSP were published in the SA Government Gazette on Thursday 17 February 2022, with all three appointments drawn from the LGA nominees. The following persons have been appointed for the term 28 March 2022 to 9 November 2025:

- Thilan Legierse (Presiding Member)

- Adam Crichton (Ministerial nominee)
- Rosemary Jervis (LGA nominee)

The Secretariat is working closely with the Office of Local Government on the development of a work plan to support the establishment and commencement of the BSP. This includes governance arrangements for the operation of the BSP and an outline of operating procedures and guidelines to support the consideration of matters by the BSP.

Proposed Behavioural Standards for Council Members

The Office of Local Government has undertaken public consultation on the Proposed Behavioural Standards for Council Members, which was designed to seek feedback and views from the community at large, in relation to the proposed standards. It is anticipated that the Behavioural Standards will be finalised and published by the Minister, to take effect for the term of council commencing after the November 2022 periodic elections.

CEO Remuneration Determination (s.99A Local Government Act 1999)

The Remuneration Tribunal SA (RTSA) has commenced the process for its first CEO Remuneration determination, including seeking written submissions from affected parties. The RTSA will also provide an opportunity for parties to make oral submissions at a later date.

The RTSA will recover costs of their investigations and deliberations from councils. The LGA is liaising with the RTSA in relation to the proposed process and costs for the CEO Remuneration Determination, and where possible will provide relevant information to the RTSA to assist with minimization of costs.

Candidate information and LGA's Council Member Mandatory Training Standard

Work has commenced on updating candidate information and resources in relation to legislative provisions commenced and reference to relevant reforms anticipated. LGA's Council Member Mandatory Training Standard will be discussed with the Office of Local Government in revising the Standard consistent with the new legislative requirements. Any revisions of the Standard will be subject to Ministerial endorsement.

Financial and Resource Implications

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

6.4 LGA Mutual Services Update

LGA Updates

From:	Andrew Johnson, Chief Executive Officer - LGASA Mutual	
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:	Ordinary General Meeting	8 April 2022
ECM:	772144	

Recommendation

That the Ordinary General Meeting notes the report.

Discussion

The Board of LGASA Mutual was pleased to partner with the Local Government Functional Support Group (LGFSG) to provide the sector with the first round of Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs). The LGFSG sourced around 40,000 RATs, when others were struggling to access them, while LGASA Mutual were able to provide them free of charge to councils. We were pleased to be able to again help councils look after the safety and wellbeing of their staff.

The half year results from both the LGA Workers Compensation Scheme (LGAWCS) and LGA Mutual Liability Scheme (LGAMLS) were positive, despite a very challenging environment. Regulatory activity has increased with Return to Work SA (RTWSA) engaging the LGAWCS in readiness for the Self-Insurance Licence renewal evaluations which started in March this year, and the LGAMLS continues to manage complex matters related to the environment and planning.

The global insurance market continues to experience significant challenges with catastrophic losses across the globe and new emerging risks. The demands from Insurers are increasing with respect to risk management and profiling which is evident in the renewal questionnaires that were recently sent to Scheme members.

LGAWCS claim numbers are stable with a slight decline experienced in the first half of the financial year with manual handling claims being the predominant cause of injury. Pleasingly, lost time injury days have also dropped recently. While claim numbers have stabilised, the average cost of claims continues to increase due to the emergence of permanent impairment claims for both serious (whole person impairment +30%) and non-seriously injured workers.

The LGA's five-year RTWSA Self-Insurance Licence is due for renewal on 30 June 2022. Part of the renewal process is an in-depth evaluation of member councils and the LGAWCS internal systems which extends to both injury and claims management and WHS systems. RTWSA has notified the LGAWCS of which member councils will receive an on-site evaluation and the members impacted have been notified. LGRS are in contact with these members and will provide support and additional resources in advance of the evaluation.

With the departure of Marie Boland from the position of project lead of the LG Safe project prior to the holiday break we have had an opportunity to consider what has worked thus far with the project and what can be done to ensure that the project is delivered on time and within scope.

The LGASA Mutual Board, CEO and Local Government Risk Services (LGRS) are fully committed to delivering on the original scope and expectation of the LG Safe project, which is to ensure that all options are explored to deliver a modernised, user friendly and simplified WHS system that meets the needs of councils as well as the Performance Standards for Self-Insurers (PSSI). The project's success will also depend on a clear implementation strategy that is tailored to the diversity in local government organisations.

We are pleased that a new project team has been formed which will be led by LGA Director Strategy Michael Arman as project manager. The project remains on track in that the proposed new Peak Policies have mostly been completed (and circulated for consultation), and procedural documents will be the next key area of focus.

The LG Safe Reference Group (made up predominantly of sector CEOs) has remained in place, and we are confident that this group will provide strong input and direction. The Reference Group reconvened in February 2022 to review the current status of the project and align on priorities. We similarly have re-engaged WHS practitioner working groups, which provide an important vehicle to shape project outputs.

The Board received a presentation from the LGRS Strategic Risk team at its December meeting. The work of this team highlights the importance councils place on identifying and managing strategic risk which can impact the delivery of their Strategic Plan. The presentation also highlighted the strong demand from councils for assistance in this area to address their emerging risks. This will be a key item for discussion at the Board's annual planning day ahead of preparing its 2022/23 budget.

The LGAMLS is a discretionary Mutual Fund established in 1990 in response to insurance market failure in local government on the back of significant catastrophes, with the objective of providing members with the broadest civil liability protection available. While council membership to the LGAMLS is voluntary, the Scheme has maintained 100% membership since inception.

The LGAMLS, as it has matured, has provided the State Government with financial certainty through the knowledge that no council will be inadequately protected, which has been further strengthened by the long-standing Treasurer's Indemnity.

In recent times, the LGAMLS has seen an increasing number of notifications from members seeking compensation on matters which are not a civil liability. This activity is being driven by a combination of members breaching regulatory and contractual obligations. Non civil liability matters are not covered by the LGAMLS, nor the reinsurance that protects the fund.

A civil liability is defined as a legal obligation that requires a party to pay for damages or to follow other civil court-enforcements in a lawsuit. A civil liability is usually a tort liability. A civil liability claim is defined as liability for the compensatory damages, costs and expenses that a civil court might order the "insured" to pay on a claim (as opposed to criminal liability or penalties). It includes the legal costs of the person (third party) making the claim, which the "insured" becomes legally liable to pay.

LGASA Mutual continues to encourage members to identify and understand these potential risks and put in place appropriate risk management strategies to mitigate them.

The LGAMLS is assisting members in managing these issues by supporting impacted members where possible, undertaking whole of sector risk management where appropriate, and will commence general communication to the sector to ensure all members understand what cover is available and what risks they should review.

LGASA Mutual, via the LGAMLS, contributed \$1 million over the last three years to the Council Ready program, which concluded in mid-2021. LGASA Mutual recognises the importance of

emergency management in local government and the LGAMLS has a strong history of supporting the sector to improve its understanding, capacity and capabilities in this space.

At the last LGASA Mutual Board meeting, the Board received the final independent evaluation of the program which outlined its many successes. The Board was also pleased to hear that the program received a National Resilience Australia Award, on top of its previous state award. While the program has ended, LGASA Mutual is working with the LGA to ensure that the good work undertaken to build the capacity and capabilities of councils during the Council Ready program is not lost.

In the meantime, LGASA Mutual has continued to enhance the sectors and the LGFSG's capacity and capability by funding several programs in 2021/22 which allow for the provision of an incident management software (key recommendation from 2019/20 fires), free or subsidised training in emergency management/i-Responda to councils and the continual development of the i-Responda app for the sector.

Following the resignation of James Large from the Board of LGASA Mutual to take up a senior role with RTWSA, we are delighted to announce that the LGA Board of Directors has appointed Joanne Denley to the Board of LGASA Mutual. Joanne is an experienced director having served as director and chair of RTWSA and is currently chair of TAFE SA and chair of Minda Inc. Joanne brings to the LGASA Mutual Board a wealth of experience in self-insurance, RTWSA requirements and governance. We look forward to benefiting from the wealth of knowledge that Joanne will bring to our Board.

LGASA Mutual also continue to deliver critical sector risk management programs such as the Ageing Work Health program, Healthy Lifestyle Program, now in its 23rd year, and support with Skytrust implementation. The Schemes have also embarked on or contributed to several risk management projects including Waste Management Risk profiling, Emergency Management, Legislative Compliance Register, Aerodrome Risk Management Program, Behavioural Management Framework, and a Grievance Mitigation Model.

Financial and Resource Implications

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

6.5 LGA Procurement Update

LGA Updates

From:	Andrew Haste, Chief Executive Officer - LGA Procurement		
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:	Ordinary General Meeting	8 April 2022	
ECM:	772145		

Recommendation

That the Ordinary General Meeting notes the report.

Discussion

LGA Procurement continues to provide all SA councils and related entities with high quality, value for money outcomes in the provision of goods and services across many categories.

The sector now has access to 35 pre-qualified panels made up of over 600 locally provisioned suppliers. These panels are increasingly locally and regionally focused and have been constructed through a rigorous procurement process that meets or exceeds council policy requirements.

Councils benefit from aggregated sector wide spend through these panels and measurable reduction in internal costs and probity related risks. Suppliers report that these panels provide orderly market access and reduced internal costs in lieu of responding to repeated and often unclear open tender processes.

New and refreshed panels year to date include:

1. KOFAX Power PDF software agreement
2. DocuSign software agreement
3. Open spaces, parks, play, sport and recreation panel
4. Updated Telstra agreement

The procurement training program is designed to lift the capability and understanding of all staff involved in the expenditure of public money and is key to reducing associated risks. The training program has pivoted to a comprehensive e-learning platform format in response to ongoing concerns about face-to-face meetings. Councils are encouraged to learn more about the e-learning subscription option by contacting LGA Procurement.

Increasingly councils are requesting the direct assistance of LGA Procurement where a procurement task may not be within the realms of a council's capability, capacity or where there may be difficult circumstances that require an unbiased approach. In such cases LGA Procurement enters into a fee-for-service agreement with the council to conduct a procurement on their behalf. This service is highly regarded and delivers outstanding results across the state.

Financial Performance

Income is generated through supplier rebates, direct consultancy and training activities and has been growing at over 30% year on year since 2016. The organisation is fully self-funded and is not reliant on LGA membership fees. Any surplus funds are channelled into growth and sustainment activities and an annual dividend payment to the LGA to assist in delivery of additional services to its members.

LGA Procurement is tracking to budget YTD FY21/22 with a positive outlook for achieving year end targets. The financial position is considered bi-monthly by the LGA Procurement and LGA Board's.

6.6 LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan Update

LGA Updates

From:	Michael Arman, Director Strategy		
Strategy:	4 - Achieve		
Outcome:	4.1 We lead by example in the governance and operations of the LGA		
Meeting:	Ordinary General Meeting	8 April 2022	
ECM:	772150	Attachment: 772363	

Recommendation

That the Ordinary General Meeting notes the report.

Discussion

In March 2021, the LGA Board adopted its Climate Commitment Action Plan 2021-2023 to outline the LGA's corporate commitment to taking action on climate change. This plan was noted by the LGA Ordinary General Meeting in April 2021.

The plan describes LGA's climate commitment as:

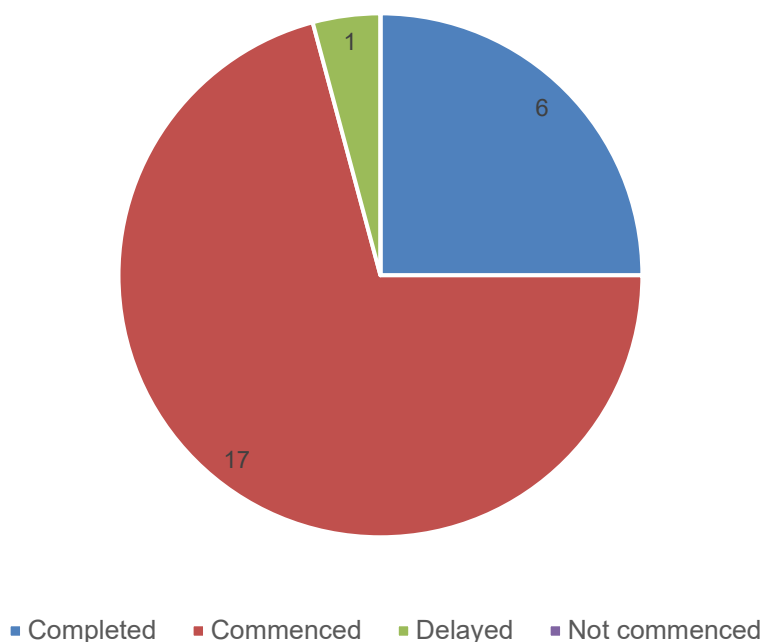
The LGA acknowledges that climate change poses a serious risk to councils, and the communities and ecosystems that they support. The LGA stands ready to:

1. *Advocate for urgent action on climate change.*
2. *Assist member councils in their efforts to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.*
3. *Advance the local government sector's leadership on climate change.*
4. *Achieve emissions reduction and adaptation through the operations of the LGA.*

The plan contains 24 actions for the LGA to implement between 2021-2023 in support of this commitment. These actions are aligned with the LGA's four key strategies of Advocate, Assist, Advance and Achieve.

As part of the plan, the LGA is required to report to an LGA general meeting at least annually on its progress in implementing the actions. A Progress Report is attached, demonstrating that 17 actions have commenced and 6 are complete.

Climate commitment - action status



Highlights from the first six months of implementation include:

- Installing a 99.9KW system of solar panels on LGA House, which will cover the entire building's base power and should be sufficient to support the LGA's tenancy.
- Commissioning a carbon emissions inventory for LGA operations.
- Appointing a Regional Climate Partnerships Coordinator to support the sector's climate change work, and facilitate greater information and resource sharing.
- Reinforcing climate change through a number of recent advocacy submissions.

Financial and Resource Implications

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

Climate Commitment Action Plan - Progress Update March 2022

1. Advocate for urgent action on climate change				
Action	Status	% Complete	Anticipated Completion	Comments
<p>1.1 Policy Statement (LB)</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>	Commenced	15%	Dec 22	<p>The LGA Secretariat has commenced a review of the Policy Manual which will be prepared for adoption by member councils at the 2022 LGA Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>As the opportunity for significant revisions has been identified, consultation will occur with member councils on policy statements regarding ‘Economic Development’ and ‘Environment and Natural Resources’, including Climate Change. An Issues Paper on Review of the Climate Change statements has been prepared ready for consultation.</p> <p>Consultation with member councils will include engagement with the Regional Climate Partnerships.</p>
<p>1.2 Advocacy (LB)</p> <p>Reinforce climate change as a priority in the LGA Advocacy Plan and continue to advocate to the State Government for:</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 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 • Greater support for the Electric Vehicle Strategy. 	Completed	100%	June 22	<p>An updated LGA Advocacy Plan was endorsed by the LGA Board of Directors at its meeting on 29 July 2021 and presented to LGA members at the Annual General Meeting on 29 October 2021.</p> <p>The revised Advocacy Plan specifically identifies a 2021-21 priority on climate change that reinforces the advocacy issues set out in the LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan.</p> <p>Recent LGA submissions that have reinforced advocacy on climate change have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEW Setting future urban water directions • DTF Road User Charge for Zero and Low Emission Vehicles • Inquiry into the Native Vegetation Act 1991 (SA)

Continue to advocate via the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) for greater Commonwealth Government funding and action on climate change, including funded schemes and incentives to support the uptake of electric vehicles.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SA's Draft Water Security Statement 2021 <p>The LGA has undertaken ongoing advocacy regarding electric vehicle subsidies and opposition to levies. This is ongoing work and opportunities will be taken wherever possible, including the forthcoming State and Federal Election campaigns.</p>
<p>1.3 Raise awareness of Local Government efforts (KT)</p> <p>Increase awareness of the role and value of councils in managing climate risks through the LGA's ongoing awareness campaigns and stakeholder engagement actions.</p>	Commenced	25%	June 23	The LGA is implementing its ongoing awareness campaign that will feature the work of the sector and LGA advocacy efforts in this area – aimed at increasing the awareness of the role and value of councils in managing climate risks.
<p>1.4 Representation (LB)</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>	Delayed	5%	June 22	Now that the LGA's new Regional Climate Partnerships Coordinator has commenced, these contacts will be developed.
<p>1.5 Integration (LB)</p> <p>Ensure all relevant LGA Advocacy submissions address climate change impact.</p>	Commenced	Ongoing	June 22	This is ongoing work, and all relevant submissions include reference to the role of climate change (see 1.2).
<p>1.6 Partnerships (LB)</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>	Commenced	Ongoing	June 22	<p>This is ongoing work and opportunities to reinforce climate change objectives are taken wherever possible.</p> <p>The LGA's Regional Climate Partnerships Coordinator has developed a Communications Plan endorsed by the Project Steering Committee which is being implemented. It utilises a multi-pronged approach of e-News to the Adaptation Practitioners Network monthly, a centrally coordinated collaborative platform for practitioners, a centrally located resource hub, direct email and phone calls as appropriate, webinars and workshops on issues.</p>

2. Assist member councils in their efforts to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change				
Action	Status	% Complete	Anticipated Completion	Comments
<p>2.1 Coordination (LB)</p> <p>Host the central climate change coordinator roles that underpin the Regional Climate Partnerships and the state/local government Adaptation Practitioners Network.</p>	Completed	100%	Dec 22	The Regional Climate Partnerships is being hosted at the LGA. The Project is managed by a Steering Group and work is determined by an approved work plan.
<p>2.2 Showcase best practice</p> <p>In collaboration with the Regional Climate Partnerships, facilitate the sharing of climate change initiatives amongst local government elected members, staff and stakeholders through events and forums. (LB/KT)</p> <p>Deliver an annual 'Climate Month' to showcase local government climate change projects, resources and tools via LGA's communication with members. (RM)</p>	Commenced	10%	June 22	<p>The new Regional Climate Partnerships Coordinator has commenced, and opportunities to showcase council practices and the value of the Regional Climate Partnership with the LGA are a priority in the work plan and the Communication Plan for this role.</p> <p>The LGA's OGM and Showcase in April 2022 will include a program stream showcasing councils' climate change initiatives.</p>
<p>2.3 Knowledge hub and resource sharing (LB)</p> <p>Facilitate information, research and resource sharing between councils through a Climate Change Knowledge Hub on the LGA website, and in partnership with the Regional Climate Partnerships and the Adaptation Practitioners Network.</p>	Commenced	25%	June 22	The Steering Committee in February approved the approach for the knowledge hub. It will be a separate webpage linked to the LGA website with broad access and will feature relevant resources for both subject matter experts as well as those new to the area. The materials have already been substantially developed but the Steering Committee will review these prior to uploading onto the webpage.
<p>2.4 Circular economy and waste management (LB)</p> <p>Support councils with the transition to a circular economy, including implementation of Buying it Back pilot program, and key actions from the State Government's Waste and Food Waste strategies.</p>	Commenced	50%	June 22	<p>The LGA continues to support circular procurement through its participation in GISA's sustainable procurement working group.</p> <p>Key actions from the State Government's Waste and Food Waste strategies are identified in the GAROC and SAROC Annual Business Plans. The LGA continues to support councils and State Government with the single-use plastics legislation.</p>

2.5 Procurement (AH) Proactively assist councils with low-carbon procurement, including the procurement of green power, through panel contracts, training and support resources.	Commenced	Ongoing	June 23	LGA Procurement will soon enter the market to secure sector electricity supply options post December 22. This includes 100% renewable supply options. EV/Hybrid vehicle options provided for the sector through VendorPanel continue to grow but are subject to lengthy delivery times.
2.6 Energy efficiency (NP) Promote and expand the LGA's support services that assist councils to improve energy efficiency.	Completed	100%	June 22	The LGA has refined the scope of services provided by its energy efficiency service provider, Peak Services, and has developed an information brochure to market the services. This was promoted through the LGA CEO news in January 2022 and will continue to be promoted through various networks.
2.7 Climate risk management (AJ) Provide advice that assists councils to manage climate risks and potential liabilities via the Mutual Liability Scheme.	Commenced	Ongoing	June 23	Advice is provided through projects including supporting City of Adelaide Climate Risk Assessment, Council Ready, LGFSG, River Murray Slumping and strategic risk management program.

3. Advance the local government sector's leadership on climate change

Action	Status	% Complete	Anticipated Completion	Comments
3.1 Thought Leadership (LB) Showcase the local government sector's leadership on climate change in state and national forums, and through the Premier's Climate Change Council.	Commenced	Ongoing	June 22	This is ongoing work and opportunities to reinforce climate change objectives are taken wherever possible, such as at recent LGA forums held with State Government on water management and greening Adelaide.
3.2 Training (RM) Integrate climate awareness and education as part of the LGA's Elected Member leadership development program.	Commenced	50%	June 22	This is on-going work through collaboration with the Regional Climate Partnership. LGRS have also been engaged in the process, with content focused on governance and risk aspects of council's strategic decision-making responsibilities.
3.3 Research and Development (MA) Ensure climate change is retained as a research priority of the Local Government Research and Development Scheme.	Completed	100%	June 23	Achieved for the LGR&DS Annual Business Plan for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

<p>3.4 Strategic Planning (MA)</p> <p>Embed our climate commitment within the LGA's Strategic and Annual Business Plans.</p>	Completed	100%	June 23	Achieved for the LGA Strategic Plan 2021-2025, and Annual Business Plan 2021/22.
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4. Achieve emissions reduction and adaptation through the operations of the LGA

Action	Status	% Complete	Anticipated Completion	Comments
<p>4.1 Local Government House (AW)</p> <p>Install solar panels to ensure 100% of electricity consumed by the base building of Local Government House is generated on-site.</p> <p>Install display screens that communicate live electricity generation data at Local Government House.</p> <p>Prepare a NABERS (National Australian Built Environment Rating System) rating for Local Government House.</p> <p>Install end of journey facilities to encourage active travel (cycling and walking) to and from Local Government House.</p>	Commenced	90%	June 22	<p>In October 2021 the LGA installed a 99.9KW system which will cover the entire building's base power.</p> <p>The LGA NABERS rating has been finalised with a rating of 4.5 which is considered Good to Excellent. The top category is 6 which is Market Leading. The recent installation of solar power will improve the rating further.</p> <p>The End-of-Journey, toilet and shower facility was completed in October 2021.</p> <p>The LGA is determining the best way to display live data in the LGA foyer.</p>
<p>4.2 LGA emissions (MA)</p> <p>Measure, monitor and report carbon emissions associated with LGA operations in year one to establish a baseline from which the LGA can set a zero emissions target in year two.</p>	Commenced	70%	June 22	<p>The LGA has engaged Pangolin Associates to prepare a baseline Carbon Emissions Profile for the LGA. The data collection is complete and the consultants are now preparing the emissions profile, and an action plan which will include an appropriate zero emissions target for the LGA. This will be completed in April 2022 and reported to the LGA Board in May 2022.</p>
<p>4.3 Travel (AW)</p> <p>Modify the LGA's Travel Policy to encourage video conferencing, active travel and car-pooling wherever practicable.</p>	Completed	100%	Dec 21	<p>The LGA's travel policy encourages video conferencing to reduce the WHS travel risk for staff. This has dual benefit of meeting the LGA's climate change commitment.</p>
<p>4.4 Vehicles (AW)</p>	Commenced	20%	June 23	<p>The LGA will replace its pool/package vehicles with hybrid/electric vehicle. The Asset Management Policy</p>

Modify LGA Vehicle Purchase and Changeover Policy to require low emissions technology as a minimum for all future pool vehicle acquisitions or changeovers, with a transition to zero emissions vehicles being the LGA's long term aspiration.				FP402 will be updated when it is reviewed next in May 2023 to include this requirement.
4.5 Events (RM) Develop and implement a Sustainable Events Procedure for all LGA events.	Commenced	50%	June 22	LGA Training & Events will continue to progress sustainable event outcomes, as part of the new LGA & LG Professionals partnership.
4.6 Corporate climate risk (AW) Ensure climate risks are appropriately considered in the LGA's strategic risk register and Long-Term Financial Plan.	Commenced	20%	June 22	The LGA risk register for each team are being reviewed in March as part of the business planning process. Climate risks will be raised during the risk workshops for the participants consideration.
4.7 Monitor and report (MA) Monitor the implementation of the Climate Commitment Action Plan and report on progress every six months to the LGA Board, and annually to the LGA membership.	Commenced	100%	June 23	Reporting requirements have been met in that a Progress Report was provided to the LGA Board in November 2021, and this report forms the annual update to the General Meeting.

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

Recommendation Reports from the SAROC Committee

Submitted by:	District Council of Loxton Waikerie		
Approved by:	SAROC Committee		
Meeting	Ordinary General Meeting	8 April 2022	
ECM:	773174	Attachments: 768503 & 768698	

Recommendation

That the Ordinary General Meeting requests that the Minister for Emergency 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.

SAROC Committee's Comments

In recommending this item of business, the SAROC committee noted the importance of an efficient online permit system which would provide a range of benefits to the Country Fire Service (CFS) and local government.

LGA Officer's Comments

(Officer: Katherine Russell, Manager Policy Projects)

Subsection 81(13a) of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* (the Act) mandates that each rural council, and councils which feature a designated urban bushfire risk area, appoint at least one person as an authorised officer for the purpose of issuing permits which authorise a person to light or maintain a fire in the open air in circumstances in which the lighting or maintaining of the fire would otherwise be unlawful.

The LGA supports councils in a range of emergency management activities to ensure councils meet their legislative obligations and the expectations of the community. This item of business supports councils in discharging these obligations.

Background

Councils are an authority for the purposes of issuing permits under section 81 of the Act, which upon approval authorises a person to light or maintain a fire during the Fire Danger Season. The *Fire and Emergency Services Regulations 2021* (the Regulations), prescribes the form of permits issued.

As well as councils, other organisations also have authorised officers and can issue permits under the Act. Permits are provided to allow high fire risk activities to occur in controlled situations, during conditions that would not normally permit this activity. This allows for essential work to occur without economic impact on communities.

The Country Fire Service (CFS) advises that burn off-related fires and activities which require permits are the largest cause of responses by CFS brigades every year. This is a concern to the CFS that high risk activities are occurring that the CFS has little control over, or even knowledge of, as these permits are issued by authorised officers from councils or other organisations.

The CFS has its own internal online permit system based on Dynamics 365 called the Emerald System and some councils operate their own online systems. However, these systems do not relate to one another, so the various organisations responsible for issuing permits may not be aware of permits issued by other organisations.

Permit process

The form of a permit is provided in the Regulations and includes such matters as to whom it is issued, the property address and the length of time of the permit.

The current application process involves the completion of an individually numbered, handwritten permit form in triplicate, coloured white, green, and yellow. The white form is issued to the permit holder, the green to the nearest CFS brigade or Fire Control Officer, and the yellow is retained by the relevant council's authorised officer. There are significant variations to the way in which councils administer the permit system, including the manner of application, the way they are recorded, the risk assessment process and the conditions applied.

Most permits are issued by councils, with the exception of permits for fireworks and for activities which cross council boundaries, such as rail grinding and bitumen heating, which are issued by the CFS.

The District Council of Loxton Waikerie ('the Council') observes that this distribution process proves haphazard in practice because it is carried out through varied processes, that is, by hand, post, and/or email. One consequence is that the records management of council's yellow form copy requires a council authorised officer to scan the document, log it into the relevant council's records system, and destroy the source document, in accordance with the requirements of the *State Records Act 1997*.

In this context, the Council argues that an online portal should be established by the South Australian Government through the CFS to secure and streamline the application, assessment and records management processes relevant to the permit process.

Proposal – Online Portal

The Council highlights the Fire Permits Victoria¹ portal, administered by the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and the Victorian Government, as an example of a functioning online, state-wide system of fire permits.

The Council acknowledges that while Victorian legislation differs from that applicable in South Australia, the system provides a central point of information, including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), information on how to apply for a permit, and a method to notify of a planned burn-off (even those proposed outside fire danger season).

The Council argues that the introduction of an online permit system, based on the functionality of the Fire Permits Victoria portal, would provide the following benefits:

- A user-friendly online portal;
- A centralised place where all permits are issued;

¹ See: <https://firepermits.vic.gov.au/>

- An electronic system to simplify processes and speed up the movement of information, saving all users (applicants and regulatory bodies) time and money;
- Simplification of how community members and decision-makers interact;
- Correct identification of the appropriate property, ensuring that the permit issued is correct;
- Issue of a standard permit in an electronic format, with automatic distribution to all relevant parties, being the permit holder and the local CFS brigade or Fire Control Officer;
- If required, referral of an application to a third party for their assessment, prior to issuing advice back to the applicant;
- A built-in mapping system which could graphically display permits issued on a particular day (or period), and allow for easy identification and tracking of properties, particularly in days of high fire danger; and
- Meeting the document records management requirements of the *State Records Act 1997*.

CFS response

The LGA Secretariat holds regular monthly meetings with the CFS at an officer level. During the most recent of those meetings, the LGA discussed the Council's proposal which was well-received. As well as the advantages identified above by the Council, the CFS is also aware that an electronic system would help manage risk, the accreditation of authorised officers and a consistent approach to the issuing, management and monitoring of permits and the conditions imposed.

The CFS has considered similar proposals in the past which have not progressed due to a lack of resources. Now that there are now a number of options which may help the progress of this initiative, the timing may be suitable for a request from the LGA to be well-received.

The options could be:

- Possible use of the new system being utilised by the CFA in Victoria which would have broad application in South Australia and if the system were able to be rolled out in this State, there may be significant cost savings and advantages of using a system already tested interstate;
- Expansion of the existing internal online CFS system; or
- Use of the Bushfire Risk Information Management System (BRIMS), a Local Government Research & Development Scheme (LGR&DS) project undertaken jointly by the CFS and the City of Tea Tree Gully to allow an electronic system to centralise and standardise bushfire mitigation systems.

Implementation

The CFS would need to be encouraged to commit appropriate resources to this project to achieve the desired outcomes. It is understood that some of this scoping work has already been undertaken.

Success of an online permit system would depend upon widespread and statewide adoption of the system. This would require:

- significant consultation with all relevant organisations;
- resources to develop a system which meets the various requirements;
- thorough implementation with IT support, officer training and online resources; and
- ongoing funding to maintain the system.

The LGA may be able to support the CFS in applying to other funding sources such as State or Federal Government resilience funding, or the LGR&DS.

LGA submissions

The request for an online permit system is consistent with the recognition of this problem by the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, the State Government's Independent Review into South Australia's 2019/2020 Bushfire Season ('the Keelty Review') and the LGA submissions responding to these inquiries.

The LGA's submission to the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements dated February 2021 responded to the Commission's 'Recommendation 11.1: Responsibility for local government disaster management capability and capacity' by stating that local government requires a reporting tool to better manage and report on the system of bushfire preparation.

The LGA's submission to the Keelty Review dated August 2020 supported the need for improved IT systems to eliminate manual information, identified the need for greater support for council authorised officers to report fire prevention activities, such as through BRIMS, and the need for a consistent approach to management of fire hazards on private land.

Next steps

If this item of business is carried by member councils, the LGA Secretariat will write to the Minister requesting that he progress this issue through the CFS based on the safety, risk and management reasons discussed above.

The LGA would also seek to progress this issue via its representative on the State Bushfire Coordination Committee.

Financial and Resource Implications

This activity is not currently anticipated in the LGA's work program, but can be delivered within existing LGA resources.

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	District Council of Loxton Waikerie
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	Implementation of an electronic portal for issuing of permits pursuant to the <i>Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005</i>
Proposed motion for the General Meeting	That the Annual / Ordinary General Meeting requests that the Minister for Emergency 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.
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>	Please see attached.
LGA Policy Manual <i>Does this item require a change to the LGA Policy Manual (new policy or amendment to existing policy)?</i>	New policy
LGA Strategic Plan reference	(please click here to view the 2021-25 LGA Strategic Plan) <i>Strategy 2, Outcome 2.2</i>
Council Contact Officer submitting form	Cheryle Pedler Manager Environmental Services DC Loxton Waikerie cpedler@lwdc.sa.gov.au 8584 8019
Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting	ORD2021-245 15 October 2021
Date submitted to LGA	22 October 2021

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.

Our reference: 21/43081

22 October 2021

SA Regional Organisation of Councils
C/O Local Government Association of SA
Clinton Jury, Chief Executive Officer
GPO Box 2693
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Clinton

Implementation of an electronic portal for issuing of permits pursuant to the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*


At the meeting held Friday October 15, the Council considered a report regarding the issuing of permits under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*, a matter of interest to many rural and regional Councils. The Council resolved:

That Council recommends that SA Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) submits a Notice of Motion to the LGA General meeting, to request that the Minister for Emergency 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.

To support that resolution, I attach a proposed Notice of Motion to the LGA General meeting, for the consideration of the SAROC committee at the meeting to be held on 17 November 2021.

If you have any queries, or if I can be of assistance to you, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



David Beaton

Chief Executive Officer

Notice of motion (Originating Council - District Council of Loxton Waikerie)**Subject**

Implementation of an electronic portal for issuing of permits pursuant to the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*.

Motion

That the Local Government Association requests that the Minister for Emergency Services instructs and funds the SA Country Fire Service to implement an online permit system for lodgement, approval and issuing of permits under section 81 of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*, prior to the 2022-23 fire danger period.

Background

Councils are an authority for the purposes of issuing permits under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* (the Act), s81, which on approval authorises a person to light or maintain a fire during the Fire Danger Season. The Act provides:

Division 8—Fire prevention**Subdivision 1—Fire danger season****79—Fires during fire danger season**

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), a person must not light or maintain a fire in the open air during the fire danger season.
- (2) A fire may, subject to any other restrictions imposed under this or any other Act, be lighted or maintained in the open air in the circumstances prescribed by the regulations (and subject to any conditions or requirements that may be prescribed by the regulations).

Division 8—Fire prevention**Subdivision 3—Permits****81—Permit to light and maintain a fire**

- (1) An authorised officer may issue a permit authorising a person to light or maintain a fire in the open air in circumstances in which the lighting or maintaining of the fire would otherwise be unlawful by virtue of this Part.
- (2) An application for a permit—
 - (a) must be made in a form determined by the Chief Officer; and
 - (b) must be accompanied by such information as may be required—
 - (i) under the terms of the form; or
 - (ii) at the direction of an authorised officer.

The *Fire and Emergency Services Regulations 2021* (the Regulations), provides the ability to light a fire under permit conditions, and the conditions of any such permit issued in accordance with guidelines provided SA CFS. Permits are predominantly required in country and rural areas.

The current Permit Issuing Guidelines provide exceptions for the following specific activities in the Murray Mallee Bushfire Management Area:

- Burning of diseased plants or animals, in accordance with the lawful appropriate management of apiaries (bee hives),
- The lawful destruction of cannabis on behalf of SAPOL,

- Seasonal horticultural burning around centre pivots,
- Firing of model rockets, jets and other types of model aircraft,
- Public fire work displays,
- Community Events,
- Charcoal production,
- Burning of sulphur boxes for commercial operations.

Other fires are permitted in accordance with Codes of Practice and in circumstances outlined in the Act and Regulations.

The permit process

The form of a permit is provided in the Regulations and includes such matters as to whom it is issued, the property address and the length of time of the permit. The SACFS provides a paper permit pad. The current application process is the completion of an individually numbered, handwritten permit form in triplicate, coloured white, green, and yellow. The white form is issued to the permit holder, and the green to the nearest CFS brigade or Fire Control Officer. The yellow is retained by the Authorised Officer. The distribution is haphazard – by hand, post, or email. Maintaining the yellow form by the authorised officer requires the officer to scan the document, log it in the Council's records system and deal with the source document destruction in accordance with the requirements of the *State Records Act 1997*.

The recent implementation of the online database, the SA Planning Portal (the Portal), has demonstrated the accuracy and effectiveness of an online system. The Portal allows for an applicant to choose an appropriate allotment or allotments via the online SA Property and Planning Atlas, and lodge a development application. The application proceeds electronically through the system with all records held within the Portal. The applicant is advised via email and the Portal with all approved documentation and communication issued electronically and distributed as required to various referral agencies.

The Fire Permits Victoria portal available at <https://firepermits.vic.gov.au/> provides an excellent example of what can be achieved if the database is managed on a statewide basis. Whilst Victorian legislation differs from this State, the system provides a central point of information including FAQs, how to apply for a permit and a place to notify a burn-off, even if outside the fire danger season.

The introduction of an online permit system in a manner similar to the Portal or the Victorian system would provide:

- A portal that would easy to use and understand
- A centralised place for all permits issued
- An electronic system to simplify processes and speed up the movement of information, saving all users time and money
- Simplify how community members and decision makers interact
- Correctly identify the appropriate property, ensuring that the permit issued is correct
- Allow for the issuing of a standard permit in an electronic format, with automatic distribution to all relevant parties – the permit holder and the local SACFS brigade or Fire Control Officer
- If required, a permit can sent for endorsement of a third party prior to issuing advice of the outcome of the permit application to the applicant
- A built-in mapping system would show what permits have been issued on a particular day or days, and for what period, allowing for easy identification and tracking of properties, particularly in days of high fire danger
- Provide an effective method of communication
- Meet the requirements of the *State Records Act 1997* for record keeping.

The Council commends the motion to the delegates and asks for support to encourage the implementation of a streamlined, online system for permits to burn during the Fire Danger Season.

7.2 Electric Vehicles Taxes (Victor Harbor)

Recommendation Reports from the SAROC Committee

Submitted by:	City of Victor Harbor	
Approved by:	SAROC Committee	
Meeting	Ordinary General Meeting	8 April 2022
ECM:	773175	Attachment: 771758

Recommendation

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.

SAROC Committee’s Comments

In recommending this item of business, the SAROC Committee noted the importance of removing barriers to the uptake of Electric Vehicles (EVs), which reduce toxic and greenhouse gas emissions, and engine noise.

LGA Officer's Comments

(Officer: Katherine Russell, Manager Policy Projects)

The LGA Secretariat will work with the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Secretariat to consider strategies for progressing this advocacy with the Federal Government.

Background

The LGA has been active in its advocacy promoting the uptake of EVs. In May 2020, Campbelltown City Council proposed an Item of Business considered by the LGA Board of Directors requesting that the LGA enter into discussions to develop a trial of a Federally and/or State funded subsidy scheme and/or incentives in South Australia, for cars, light commercial vehicles, trucks and buses fuelled by alternative energy sources including electric, hybrid and hydrogen vehicles.

As a result, the LGA has been involved in the following activities relating to EVs:

- 25 August 2020 the LGA wrote to the Minister for Energy and Mining, Minister Dan van Holst Pellekaan, suggesting that a trial of a subsidy scheme or incentives for alternative energy sourced vehicles could be incorporated into the State Government’s (then) forthcoming ‘Electric Vehicle Action Plan’ (‘the Action Plan’);
- While the Action Plan released in late 2020 does not include either subsidies or incentives for EVs, in December 2021 the Government announced a \$22.7M subsidy package for EVs;
- In March 2021, the LGA made a submission to the Federal Government’s Future Fuels and Vehicles Strategy (‘the Strategy’) opposing the Luxury Car Tax (LCT) on EVs;
- In April 2021, the LGA wrote to the Department of Treasury and Finance arguing against a proposed road user charge to be imposed upon EV owners.

This advocacy was successful, and a levy has now been deferred until July 2027 or until the uptake of EVs reaches 30%, whichever is sooner;

- In October 2021, the LGA invited a representative of DEM to address the LGA Annual General Meeting about its EV Fleet Pledge Program; and
- LGA Procurement has continued to support councils through establishing panels to assist councils in the purchase of EVs.

Federal Government's Future Fuels and Vehicles Strategy

The Strategy was released by the Federal Government in November 2021 and outlines how the government will work with the private sector to increase the uptake of hybrid, hydrogen, electric and biofuelled vehicles.

The LGA submission to the Federal Government's Strategy was made following consideration of a further proposed Item of Business submitted by the City of Campbelltown at the LGA OGM in April 2021, to:

'Lobby the 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.'

The LGA submission addressed the Future Fuels Strategy Discussion Paper released in February 2021 and focussed on the following:

- As the Discussion Paper did not propose a subsidy or incentives scheme, the LGA urged the Australian Government to consider developing a trial of a subsidies or incentives scheme for EVs;
- As the Discussion Paper did not propose removal of the LCT on EVs, the LGA urged the Australian Government to reconsider this position;
- While the Discussion Paper recognised the importance of supporting Australian innovation and manufacturing, the LGA urged the Australian Government to focus on a revitalisation of the South Australian automobile manufacturing industry; and
- While the Discussion Paper recognised the importance of a 'fleets first' approach, it urged the Australian Government to include local government as a key mechanism to achieve this through incentives.

Luxury Car Tax

The item of business submitted by the City of Victor Harbor proposes that the OGM requests the LGA to advocate for the Federal Government to remove the LCT on EVs and 'fuel efficient' vehicles.

Consistent with the previous Item of Business on this issue, removing the LCT on EVs is one step in progressing the uptake of EVs in Australia. According to the Australian Taxation Office, the LCT is set at 33% of the value of the vehicle above the luxury car threshold. For the 2021/22 financial year, the thresholds are \$79,659 for fuel-efficient vehicles and \$69,152 for other vehicles. These changes took effect on 1 July 2021 and are based on a rise in the consumer price index (CPI).

The Federal Government Strategy does not propose removal of the LCT on EVs.

The City of Victor Harbor has stated that:

- the Federal Government introduced the LCT in 2001 to incentivise the purchase of Australian-built cars over imported models. As cars are no longer manufactured in

Australia, with Holden, the last domestic car manufacturer closing in 2017, the tax is a redundant and unnecessary form of government charge; and

- the cost of EVs is above the LCT threshold of \$77,565. If this tax was removed from fuel-efficient vehicles, it would not only encourage consumers to buy them, but it would make these vehicles affordable for councils to purchase EVs as fleet vehicles.

Widespread uptake of EVs has many advantages:

- it is a vital step in achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050;
- it moves Australia into the future, ensuring it does not become a dumping ground for obsolete technology;
- it would reduce Australia's reliance on imported fuels;
- reducing transport costs;
- creating greater efficiencies in the economy;
- benefitting the community in having a cleaner environment; and
- road safety benefits as newer cars are brought into the market which incorporate new safety technology.

As well as advocating for removal of the LCT, an even more proactive position which the LGA could advocate for, is greater support for the local manufacturing industry. This would address the issue at the heart of the LCT, which is to support a local manufacturing industry. 'Support [for] Australian innovation and manufacturing' is one of the key strategies in the Strategy and the local government sector could seek to be involved in achieving this. Local manufacture of EVs would not only address key climate change objectives, but also create jobs and stimulate the economy.

The Australia Institute's February 2022 report by Dr Mark Dean makes a convincing argument about Australia missing out on huge opportunities to manufacture EVs: '[Rebuilding Vehicle Manufacturing in Australia](#)'.

That report states that there are currently over 30,000 people working in car part manufacturing in Australia, more than in the gas industry (yet the Federal Government is committed to 'a gas-fired recovery'), and that the death of the Australian car manufacturing industry was premature. Dr Dean states that Australia is well-placed to become an EV manufacturing powerhouse because it has:

- rich reserves of lithium and rare earths;
- strong industrial infrastructure;
- a highly skilled workforce;
- powerful training capacity;
- abundant renewable energy options; and
- untapped consumer potential.

Dr Dean considers that what is needed now is government commitment to avoid Australia being left behind as other countries take advantage of Australia's rich resources and dominate the car industry in Australia in the future: 'a country that 'makes things' is a country that succeeds economically'.

The Electric Vehicles Council of Australia [argues](#) that there are significant advantages available for local manufacturers to use existing but disused plant from the South Australian automotive industry, such as the former General Motors factory in Elizabeth. It suggests that use of existing

plant and machinery would ensure that Australia was a competitive market for EV manufacture and that it was at the forefront of a transition to EV uptake.

The extensive and high-quality research available on this issue supports a powerful argument which the LGA can develop to convince decision-makers.

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>	Board of Directors
Subject of the proposed item of business	Electric Vehicles Taxes
Proposed motion for the General Meeting	That the Annual / 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.
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>Introduced by the Federal Government on 1 July 2001, the Luxury Car Tax (LCT) was implemented as a means to dissuade, and limit, Australians from buying imported prestige and exotic cars, encouraging them instead to purchase Australian-built cars.</p> <p>With Holden, the last domestic car manufacturer, closing in 2017 the tax is a redundant and unnecessary form of government charge.</p> <p>LCT is charged at the rate of 33 percent on each dollar above the LCT threshold, which for the 2020-2021 financial year was \$77,565 for fuel-efficient vehicles (classified as cars that have a combined fuel-consumption rating not exceeding 7 litres per 100 kilometres and \$68,740 for other vehicles.</p> <p>Several vehicle manufacturers are set to release electric utilities (Utes) onto the market soon. The cost of most of these vehicles will be above the LCT threshold of \$77,565.</p> <p>Although there have been hopes that the Australian Government would cut luxury car tax on EVs to encourage consumers to buy them, this has not happened.</p> <p>If this tax was removed from fuel-efficient vehicles it would not only encourage consumers to buy them but it would make these vehicles affordable for Local Government Authorities, who have committed to Carbon Neutrality by 2030, to purchase a range of these vehicles as Fleet Vehicles.</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>The proposed motion for the General Meeting does not require a new Policy or amendment to existing 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>1.1 – We are close to our members, seek their feedback and represent them with evidence – based advocacy on issues that matter</i></p>
Council Contact Officer submitting form	<p>Kyla Walker</p> <p>Governance and Policy Officer</p> <p>kwalker@victor.sa.gov.au</p> <p>088551 0573</p>
Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting	<p>OC052022</p> <p>Monday, 24 January 2022</p>
Date submitted to LGA	<p>Thursday, 27 January 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.

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

Recommendation Reports from the SAROC Committee

Submitted by:	City of Victor Harbor	
Approved by:	SAROC Committee	
Meeting	Ordinary General Meeting	8 April 2022
ECM:	773176	Attachments: 771757

Recommendation

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.

SAROC Committee's Comments

In recommending this item of business to the LGA OGM, the SAROC Committee noted the importance to South Australian coastal councils of the State Government reviewing its strategies and management plans implemented for the protection and conservation of native species.

SAROC also emphasised the importance of monitoring the impacts over-abundant species may be having on local fisheries.

LGA Officer's Comments

(Officer: Dr Tom Counce, Acting Director Policy)

Background – 2014 LGA AGM Motion

The 2014 LGA AGM carried a motion also moved by the City of Victor Harbor, requesting that the LGA: *“lobby the State Government to initiate a breeding program of little penguins to enhance their survival and introduce a management plan and implement strategies for the control of New Zealand fur seals in SA, to reduce the impact on the marine environment.”*

In advocating this case to the then Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Hon Ian Hunter MLC, then LGA President, Mayor Dave Burgess, emphasised concern for the adverse impact the Long-nosed Fur Seal population was likely having on the prosperity of little penguin colonies, and also emphasised the importance Little Penguins have in the marine ecosystem and as significant tourism attractions for several South Australian coastal towns.

Based upon these concerns, President Burgess requested that the State Government invest in several strategies to better understand and build the sustainability of Little Penguin colonies in South Australia. The suggested strategies are listed below:

1. Further research to better understand the state and condition of Little Penguin colonies across the entire SA Coast, including off shore islands.
2. Further research to understand the trends and key influencing factors that have led to the decline in Little Penguin colonies in key tourism destinations.

3. The development of a state-wide management strategy, including a local breeding program that will enhance the sustainability of Little Penguin colonies along the SA Coast, particularly in and around established tourism centres.
4. The introduction and implementation of a management plan for the growing population of Long-nosed Fur Seals so as to mitigate their impact on the natural environment and fishing industry.

In his response to the LGA, Hon Ian Hunter MLC, made the following points:

- Long-nosed Fur Seals are native to South Australia and are protected species under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 (SA)* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)*.
- There are a range of research projects underway across the state, covering many aspects of Little Penguins' lifecycles, which endeavour to provide a comprehensive understanding of the conditions that affect their wellbeing and survival.

References to ongoing research projects included:

- those joint-funded by the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board and the Kangaroo Island NRM Board, through the South Australian Museum and Flinders University; and
- a range of Little Penguins research projects conducted by the Flinders Research Centre for Climate Adaptation and Animal Behaviour, Flinders University.
- He is advised that a captive breeding programme is not the correct course of action at this time and may be damaging for wild Little Penguin populations due to the risk of introducing serious diseases to wild populations.
- The status of little penguins across the State appears to be stable. There are large breeding colonies of little penguins (including on Troubridge Island, north of Kangaroo Island and on Pearson Island off the west coast of Eyre Peninsula).
- Little penguins are not listed as threatened under State or Federal legislation. Nor is the species listed as vulnerable.

Case for Review of Little Penguin Strategies and Management Plans

The motion moved by the City of Victor Harbor at the 2014 LGA AGM – and the response from then Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Hon Ian Hunter MLC – bolsters the case for a review of Little Penguin strategies and management plans, included in the City of Victor Harbor's item of business.

The supporting evidence provided by the City of Victor Harbor argues that several of the factors included in then Minister Hunter's response no longer apply:

- Little Penguin populations appear to be in crisis. Whereas Granite Island at one point in time supported a population of more than 1000, a Flinders University census study (conducted in October 2021) estimated a population of only 16 penguins – “very close to being below the level required to ensure population growth and well below the level that will sustain a tourist experience”.
- Research projects appear to be under threat. “Over the past three years, the Department of Environment and Water [DEW] have withdrawn all funding to the Flinders University for ongoing research.”

- Little Penguin populations appear not to be adequately protected from predators. “[F]or at least a decade ... [DEW] have not had a full-time ranger on duty at night [on Granite Island] when the penguins return to feed chicks in the July to February breeding season.”
- DEW is yet to develop a short or long-term management plan for the conservation and growth of the Little Penguin colony on Granite Island.

The City of Victor Harbor also argue in their supporting evidence that the significant investment contributions the local government sector makes in reducing stormwater pollution discharge, coastal protection infrastructure, and the significant investments made by councils in supporting nature-based tourism experiences, require a rigorous research program to understand how threatened species, such as Little Penguins, can be best protected.

Therefore, given the evidence provided by the City of Victor Harbor, there would be benefit to South Australian coastal councils in the LGA requesting the State Government review its strategies and management plans for the protection and conservation of Little Penguins.

Financial and Resource Implications

This activity is not currently anticipated in the LGA’s work program but can be delivered within existing LGA resources.

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	Research into the Population Status and Decline of Little Penguins in South Australia
Proposed motion for the General Meeting	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.
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 Local Government Association Ordinary General meeting in 2014, it was resolved that the LGA would lobby the State Government to initiate a breeding program of local little penguins from identified populations to ensure longevity of their unique DNA and to enhance their survival as a sub species (refer to AGM311014/8.15). The LGA further recommended a programme of research into the Penguin population decline.</p> <p>The Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (at the time), advised, in July 2016, the DEW was not going to make any commitment on the following strategies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further research to better understand the state and condition of Little Penguin colonies across the entire SA Coast, including off shore islands; 2. Further research to understand the trends and key influencing factors that have led to the decline in Little Penguin colonies in key tourism destinations; 3. The development of a state-wide management strategy, including a local breeding program that will enhance the sustainability of Little Penguin colonies along the SA Coast particularly in and around established tourism centres; <p>South Australian Coastal Councils are under increasing pressure to better manage their coastal environment, in the face of climate change and rising sea levels, reducing pollutants in stormwater discharge, provide very costly protection infrastructure, reduce plastic debris in the sea, conserve marine native fauna and flora, and present top-quality nature-based experiences to residents and visitors.</p>

	<p>Very large budgetary allocations are expected to be made by Councils on marine environmental management. It is essential that the investment decisions are made on the best possible scientific evidence.</p> <p>While Councils are involved directly in planning and implementing the required environmental management, they are also highly dependent on dedicated teams of local volunteer community groups to carry out the bulk of the monitoring.</p> <p>For the marine environment, the penguin is a key species indicating the health of the sea, as it depends on the sea for food, and burrows on shore for rest and breeding. The Penguin colony on Granite Island had a population of over 1000 birds. The latest Census, by the Flinders University in October 2021, estimated a population of only 16 penguins. This number is very close to being below the level required to ensure population growth and well below the level that will sustain a tourist experience, and is a situation mirrored around the SA coast.</p> <p>Over the past three years, the Department of Environment and Water have withdrawn all funding to the Flinders University for ongoing research and for at least a decade they have not had a full-time ranger on duty at night when the penguins return to feed chicks in the July to February breeding season. In July 2020 about 20 Penguins (half the colony at that time) were slaughtered in a fox attack because there was no gate on the Causeway. The Department of Environment and Water are yet to develop a short or long-term management plan for the conservation and growth of the Penguin colony on Granite Island.</p> <p>The reasons for the population decline need to be researched.</p> <p>There is a need for Coastal Councils to have a rigorous research programme that generates information relevant to the increasing array of duties and tasks in the marine environment. The costs associated with coastal responsibilities are significant and will require Councils to be able to access Federal as well as State funding to manage the research programme. The most important immediate task is a proper census of the Penguins in South Australia. This is because they have been eliminated from the mainland and the penguins are now only found on off-shore islands. The costs of accessing the islands by sea and helicopter are considerable. Apart from estimating the penguin populations, the scientists should also estimate the presence of introduced predators such as rats, cats and foxes on the off-shore islands.</p> <p>Secondly, there needs to be a largely citizen science based, but University managed, programme of research to guide Council decision-making on the key issues affecting Penguin population fluctuation.</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>(please click here to view the LGA Policy Manual)</p> <p>The proposed motion for the General Meeting does not require a new Policy or amendment to existing policy</p>
<p>LGA Strategic Plan reference</p>	<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>1.1 – We are close to our members, seek their feedback and represent them with evidence – based advocacy on issues that matter</i></p>
Council Contact Officer submitting form	<p>Kyla Walker</p> <p>Governance and Policy Officer</p> <p>kwalker@victor.sa.gov.au</p> <p>088551 0573</p>
Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting	<p>OC062022</p> <p>Monday, 24 January 202</p>
Date submitted to LGA	Thursday, 27 January 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.

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

Recommendation Reports from the SAROC Committee

Submitted by:	District Council of Barunga West	
Approved by:	SAROC Committee	
Meeting	Ordinary General Meeting	8 April 2022
ECM:	773183	Attachment: 771919

Recommendation

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.

SAROC Committee's Comments

The SAROC committee carefully considered the following proposed item of business submitted by Barunga West Council:

That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to call for an end to stamp duty on residential property in South Australia.

The supporting evidence provided by Council identifies several adverse economic and social consequences as accompanying the imposition of stamp duty levied on residential property purchases. In assessing the consequences of their advocacy position, Barunga West Council estimates that the State Government would forego approximately \$800 million annually in revenues following the complete state-wide elimination of stamp duty on residential property purchases.

Given the significant State Government revenue impacts associated with the complete state-wide elimination of the tax, SAROC recognised that advocating for an end to stamp duty on all residential property in South Australia would not address all the economic efficiency and social equity issues associated with the imposition of stamp duty taxes on residential property purchases.

However, SAROC did agree that advocacy regarding tax reform options targeted at removing barriers to workforce mobility and lifestyle migration are of strategic importance to the local government sector.

As such, SAROC resolved to recommend an amended item of business calling 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 Officer's Comments

(Officer: Dr Tom Counce, Acting Director Policy)

The following discussion provides a summary of the strategic importance of the item of business to the local government sector, in the context of incentivising regional migration and residential development.

Strategic importance to the local government sector

Based upon the significant State Government revenue impacts associated with the complete elimination of stamp duty on all residential property purchases, other stakeholders have targeted their advocacy for the elimination of stamp duty.

- Master Builders South Australia have limited their advocacy to the elimination of stamp duty levied on the residential purchases of first home buyers on new builds up to the median house price.¹
- In their 2022 State Election Platform, 'grow.reform.build', the Urban Development Institute of Australia (SA) have limited their calls for the immediate elimination of residential stamp duty to all new residential, owner occupier, off the plan housing construction, under the median house price.²

These advocacy positions mirror the stamp duty exemptions currently available for eligible first home buyers in New South Wales³ and Victoria.⁴

Advocacy to incentivise regional migration and residential development

In their supporting evidence, Barunga West Council states that the elimination of stamp duty on residential property purchases would: "help drive the demand for existing and new housing in regional South Australia and in particular tourist destinations that exist in [the] Barunga West Council area."

Building on this statement, an opportunity exists for the amended Barunga West Council motion to build upon the existing advocacy and assistance work of the SAROC Committee regarding regional migration, housing supply and affordability.

On 29 April 2021, SAROC hosted a Regional Development Workshop, 'Attracting Workers to SA's Regions'. Building on the insights provided by the workshop's guest speakers and panellists, the LGA Secretariat subsequently presented a discussion paper to the SAROC Committee meeting of 20 May 2021,⁵ which offered a forward agenda of advocacy and assistance initiatives for the SAROC Committee to consider. This included the action to engage with peak bodies with interests in the residential development and construction industries, to develop viable solutions to the housing shortages evident in many regional towns.

Subsequently, 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.

¹ Master Builders South Australia, 'Make Housing Great Again: Our five point plan to rejuvenate the housing sector and help more first homebuyers get into the market', p. 7, https://mbasa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Make_Housing_Great_Again_Final_for_Website.pdf

² Urban Development Institute of Australia (SA), 'grow. reform. build: 2022 State Election Priorities', p. 20.

³ See: <https://www.revenue.nsw.gov.au/grants-schemes/first-home-buyer>

⁴ See: <https://www.sro.vic.gov.au/fhbduty>

⁵ See: https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0030/895017/SAROC-Committee-Meeting-Agenda-and-Papers-20-May-2021.pdf

The consultancy brief⁶ developed for the Regional Housing Policy Toolkit suggested that tax reform options be investigated which incentivise residential development, such as developer payroll tax exemptions or land tax exemptions, in addition to accelerated tax-deductible depreciation rates for rental investment properties, located a minimum distance from the Adelaide central business district.

While the tax reform options included in the Regional Housing Policy Toolkit consultancy brief target incentives at investors and developers – and are thereby targeted at increasing the supply of regional residential construction – an opportunity exists through the amended Barunga West Council motion to also incentivise the demand for regional residential properties and in so doing place added incentives in the market for investors and developers to provide increased regional residential supply.

The recommend motion can also be used to investigate demand incentives for first home buyers in regional South Australia.

Financial and Resource Implications

The advocacy included in the item of business is related to advocacy work already undertaken by the LGA Secretariat and can be delivered within existing LGA resources.

⁶ See: https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/937264/SAROC-Committee-Meeting-Agenda-and-Papers-29-July-2021.pdf

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	Barunga West Council
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>	Board of Directors
Subject of the proposed item of business	Stamp duty on residential property in South Australia.
Proposed motion for the General Meeting	That the Annual / Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to: Call for an end to stamp duty on residential property in South Australia.
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>Stamp duty on residential housing is an archaic, inefficient, and expensive tax on South Australians.</p> <p>It is a disincentive to relocate for work or other lifestyle reasons, an impediment to first home buyers and a deterrent to more frequent property purchases, particularly for people wishing to downsize or purchase a holiday home.</p> <p>Along with the requirement to save for a deposit, stamp duty is the biggest obstacle for first home buyers.</p> <p>As property prices rise, the insidious tax bracket creep of stamp duty increases the height of the hurdle the home buyer has to jump.</p> <p>In 2011 the median income in SA was \$1044 a week or \$54,288 annually. In 2021 it was \$1284 a week or \$66,800 annually a rise of 23%.</p> <p>Over the same period (2011 to 2021) the average house price in SA has risen from \$387,750 (metro) and \$240,000 (non-metro) to \$540,000 (up 39.3%) and \$280,000 (up 16.6%) respectively.</p> <p>The stamp duty tax creep between 1995 and 2015 on a median SA house moved from \$3,200 to \$17,330 and in 2021 it amounted to \$28,394 – an outrageous upsurge of nearly 64% even in the past 6 years. This does not take into account the very recent spurt in housing prices in SA as a result of the low mortgage housing rates and increased demand driven by rising rental rates.</p> <p>[The monthly mortgage payments on a median house over the past decade has risen from \$1500 to \$1753, but as a percentage of weekly wages has fallen from 35.9 to 25% (reflecting the decline in the average standard variable home loan rate from 7.79% in 2011 to 4.52% in 2020). When compared with median rent of \$1,720 a month,</p>

	<p>owning bricks and mortar becomes a given if one can afford the entry fee.]</p> <p>Today an average home buyer in metro Adelaide requires around a 10% deposit to qualify for a bank home loan and with the addition of the stamp duty to be paid on settlement a total of \$82,000 in savings before they can consider buying a median home. This does not take into account other on-costs.</p> <p>With the median rent at \$430 a week in SA (a three bedroom house in metro Adelaide is around \$552 a week), the average SA food spend a week of \$149, the average electricity bill \$28, the water bill \$27, the gas bill \$18, plus tax of around \$280 it leaves \$352 a week for other expenses and savings. If half was saved it would take around 9 years for a single income family to save the deposit necessary. Eliminating the stamp duty would reduce the wait time by around 3 years.</p> <p>Whilst it is recognised that the State Government raises more than \$800 million a year from this tax, which it would need to replace with one with less immediate impact on the home buyer and one that has greater stability and is less costly to operate, stamp duty apparently costs the economy over 70c for every dollar raised in revenue.</p> <p>However, the elimination of stamp duty would provide a real boost to demand for residential property in general in South Australia and help drive the demand for existing and new housing in regional South Australia and in particular tourist destinations that exist in Barunga West Council area.</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: Achieve greater influence for local government</p> <p>Outcome – We are close to our members seek their feedback and represent them with evidence-based advocacy on issues that matter.</p>
Council Contact Officer submitting form	<p>Maree Wauchope</p> <p>maree@barungawestcouncil.sa.gov.au</p> <p>0434 604 756</p>
Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting	<p>Ordinary Meeting of Barunga West Council held:</p> <p>12th October 2021, Item 14.1 Motion with Notice – Cr Rowlands</p>
Date submitted to LGA	<p>19/1/2022</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 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)

Recommendation Reports from the GAROC Committee

Submitted by:	City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters and the Town of Gawler	
Approved by:	GAROC Committee	
Meeting	Ordinary General Meeting	8 April 2022
ECM:	773046	Attachments: 771281, 771762 & 770637

Recommendation

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.

GAROC Committee's Comments

Items of Business were received by GAROC from both the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters and the Town of Gawler relating to the new planning system. As both relate to similar issues, in particular local participation and local representation in the planning system, GAROC combined the two Items of Business with agreement from both member councils.

GAROC recognised the importance of this matter to all councils and recognised the need to all seek an independent review of the Community Engagement Charter established under the Planning Development and Infrastructure (PDI) Act.

LGA Officer's Comments

(Officer: Stephen Smith, Planning Reform Partner)

In proposing this Item of Business, the City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters has referred to the attached letter, dated 23 December 2021, from the Community Alliance. The LGA received the same correspondence and in a response to the Community Alliance the LGA President on 7 October 2021 advised:

“The LGA is continuing to work with all member councils to identify where improvements and enhancements to the new planning system could occur and regularly provides this advice to the Minister, State Planning Commission and the Attorney Generals Department.

The LGA has also previously adopted three key positions relating to the new planning system:

- 1. 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.*
- 2. Local government recognises the requirement for a State Commission that is independent of the State Government. Councils shall continue to advocate that only impartial representatives should sit on the State Planning Commission and the committees it establishes, and*
- 3. Local government unilaterally agrees that planning decisions should be made locally.*

The LGA has also identified that a review of the PDI Act should be undertaken following twelve months of operation as our councils have identified a number of areas where the PDI Act could be amended to improve clarity and readability. “

The three key positions identified above are from the LGA Policy Manual (The Planning System 6.1.2., 6.1.6, 6.1.7).

In relation to the Town of Gawler Item of Business, the LGA in its submission on the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Bill* provided the following commentary in respect to the proposed make up of Assessment Panels, which initially proposed no elected members on assessment panels:

The removal of elected members from assessment panels is unnecessary, does not meet community expectations and will not achieve any actual difference in decision making.

Key points about Development Assessment Panels are summarised below:

- since 2007, the majority of members on individual Council DAPs have been independent professionals, creating distance between planning decisions and the influence of local politics;*
- no other state in Australia excludes elected members from the assessment process entirely;*
- some of the State’s most prominent planning and development experts currently preside over or are members of Council Development Assessment Panels;*

- *all DAP members, including Council Members must comply with the Minister's Code of Conduct. The LGA would support a review of this Code to ensure that a high degree of individual accountability applies to the conduct of this important role;*
- *the Independent Commission Against Corruption has not reported any systemic issues of misconduct or corruption in the current DAP structure;*
- *on average, approximately 90% of development applications are determined by Council staff, with no role for the Development Assessment Panel;*
- *applications that are presented to the Panel have either drawn community objection or do not comply with the zoning rules that have been approved by the Minister;*
- *removing local elected members would result in a local democratic deficit and elevate local planning disputes to state politics; and*
- *fully independent assessment panels are likely to result in higher costs, which would be passed on to the sector.*

The LGA seeks an amendment to provide an ongoing role for suitably trained elected members on assessment panels at a local and regional level.

The proposed role for the Minister to dismiss and reappoint a local assessment panel is heavy handed and unnecessary. Councils are capable of managing the assessment of the bodies they appoint and if given the necessary authority can dismiss and reappoint a panel if required.

As a result of the LGA advocacy, the legislation was amended to include one elected member on an Assessment Panel.

The LGA Secretariat has also summarised many of the issues identified by the LGA and councils during the planning reform process and current implementation of the new planning system. This summary titled *Opportunities to Improve the Planning System in South Australia* has been provided to the Minister for Planning and Local Government and the Opposition Spokesperson for Urban Development and Housing.

The issues identified in both Items of Business are addressed in this document.

The two particular issues raised by the Town of Gawler:

1. *Request a review of the current limit of one Elected Member on local Council Assessment Panels, with an aim to include equal numbers of Council Members and Independent Members; and*
2. *Requests that the current restrictive provisions as to persons who can be appointed as Independent Assessment Panel members be reviewed to increase flexibility for appointments.*

are also addressed within these recommendations.

Financial and Resource Implications

The LGA has undertaken a significant planning reform program with the role of supporting councils and their communities since the commencement of the reforms initiated by the State Government, this has been supported through the Local Government Research and Development Scheme (LGR&DS), including GAROC and SAROC Annual Business Plans.

The LGA Secretariat will be seeking further support through the LGR&DS in 2022/2023 to support ongoing activities in this area.

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 Norwood Payneham & St Peters
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	Review of the Planning, Development & Infrastructure Act and associated planning system
Proposed motion for the General Meeting	That the Annual / Ordinary General Meeting requests 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. local participation in planning; 2. local government representation in planning; 3. the protection of local heritage places and historic areas; and 4. the preservation of neighbourhood character through consideration of appropriate design principles.
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>	See letter dated 23 December 2021
LGA Policy Manual <i>Does this item require a change to the LGA Policy Manual (new policy or amendment to existing policy)?</i>	No change – the proposed motion and supporting information (contained in the letter dated 23 December 2021) is consistent with Section 6.1 of the LGA Policy Manual (please click here to view the LGA Policy Manual)
LGA Strategic Plan reference	Strategy 1: Advocate – Achieve greater influence for local government Outcome 1.2: Governments rely on our proactive contribution to policy and legislation that impacts councils, leading to better outcomes for communities (please click here to view the 2021-25 LGA Strategic Plan)
Council Contact Officer submitting form	Emily McLuskey emcluskey@npsp.sa.gov.au

	8366 4561
Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting	6 December 2021 – Item 11.2
Date submitted to LGA	23 December 2021

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.

LGA General Meeting – Proposed Item of Business

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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	Lack of local representation in the new Planning System, under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (PDI Act).
Proposed motion for the General Meeting	<p><i>That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Notes that the new planning system has resulted in a loss of community voices and local knowledge in its decision-making process.</i> 2. <i>Authorises the LGA President to write to the Planning Minister and other relevant parties to express concern about the current state of planning in South Australia.</i> 3. <i>Requests a review of the current limit of one Elected Member on local Council Assessment Panels, with an aim to include equal numbers of Council Members and Independent Members.</i> 4. <i>Requests that the current restrictive provisions as to persons who can be appointed as Independent Assessment Panel members be reviewed to increase flexibility for appointments.</i> 5. <i>Reviews its process for appointment of Independent Assessment Panel members to provide that applicants knowledge of development issues are relevant when making applications.</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 proposed recommendation recognises that since the PDI Acts full implementation, two matters which have become of particular concern include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The limitation to one Elected Member per Council Assessment Panel. 2. The loss of community voice/input through the development assessment process <p>It requests that the LGA advocates on behalf of Local Government to seek a review the current legislation to ensure the community has a genuine voice in the planning system. It is important that the community can challenge development decisions, particularly when they believe it</p>

can have a detrimental impact upon the prevailing character of their urban environment.

The PDI Act has significantly reduced capacity for Elected Member representation on Council Assessment Panels (CAP) from its predecessor the Development Act 1993. The former legislative framework sought for a total of seven members on an Assessment Panel, with three Elected Members permitted. The principal role of Elected Members is to represent the interests of the community, however through the reform process, Council believes this ability has been removed in the development process.

Council is requesting the current legislative limit of one Elected Member on a Council Assessment Panel be reviewed to allow equal representation with independent members. Furthermore, with the new system delegating most decisions to the Assessment Manager, there appears to be little justification for not permitting the CAP to have this representation.

There are significant benefits to allowing Councils to choose some panel members who have appropriate knowledge of development matters but are not registered as “Accredited Professionals”, which was allowed previously for Assessment Panels, but not under the new system.

While the new system has streamlined access to information and to lodge and track development applications online, Council has major concerns about the reduced opportunities for the community to challenge decision making. Essentially the new system has stripped away almost all third-party appeal rights, focussing on community engagement at the policy-making stage. It is vital that appeal rights are restored to allow appropriate community participation.

This is causing considerable community concern, especially as policies and criteria for development are increasingly being put aside as merely 'guidelines', in favour of development applications that are not consistent with policies and criteria. Community members are often simply not aware of the issues in policy making.

The first iterations of the code sought to provide a like for like transition from the Development Plan to the Planning and Design Code, however the transition has resulted in a loss of the previous localised planning policy. This position has previously been communicated by Councils during the planning reform consultation, however does not appear to have been considered further before the implementation of the code.

As an example of the loss of localised planning policy, Council undertook a Code Amendment to ensure a number of previous 'Contributory Items' identified within the Development Plan were elevated to 'Local Heritage Places' where appropriate.

Contemporaneously with this investigation and code amendment, 'Representative Buildings' were introduced to provide a level of reflection to previously identified contributory items. This inclusion however, does not appear to have any substantial policy application in the Code (i.e. specific overlay) and as such, does not offer a similar level of protection to such items.

	<p>Whilst there has been changes to the way in which public notification is undertaken during the consideration of a development application, the need to undertake public notification is not necessarily reflective of the complexity or scale of the development. By way of example, land divisions of all scales (creation of one (1) or 600 additional allotments) are generally all excluded from public notification whilst a dwelling featuring a garage wall exceeding 8 metres in length may require notification. As such, developments which provide the potential to result in widespread community and amenity implications are not being subject to public consultation.</p> <p>With the reduction in localised policy, community consultation, removal of residents third party appeal rights on planning merits and the narrowing of the scope of relevant planning considerations, the revised planning system has inherently reduced public confidence in the decision making process. This in turn is creating unnecessary public angst which could otherwise be resolved through a planning merits appeal in the court.</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>The item supports the implementation of existing Policy Statement Number 6.1.7 'Local Decision Making' - <i>Local government unilaterally agrees that planning decisions should be made locally.</i></p>
LGA Strategic Plan reference	<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	<p>Jack Darzanos</p> <p>Jack.darzanos@gawler.sa.gov.au</p> <p>(08) 8522 9257</p>
Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting	<p>RESOLUTION 2022:01:COU011</p> <p>25 January 2021</p>
Date submitted to LGA	<p>28/01/2022</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.

Opportunities to improve the Planning System in South Australia

PDI Act and Regulations

1. Undertake an independent review of the PDI Act and regulations and associated documents (Practice Directions) in the first term of the next government and amend the Act and regulations based on the findings.
2. Remove the deemed consent provisions (s125(2)) from the PDI Act
3. Provide more flexible time frames for complex applications that are not subject to public notification
4. More targeted public notification and expand third party appeal right provisions, remove the requirement to place a sign on the land
5. Remove the ability of Private Certifiers to make minor variations to applications or at the very least provide greater guidance and controls on what are minor variations
6. Remove the requirement for councils to pay the ePlanning levy
7. The lodgment fee to be paid to the relevant authority and consider a verification and development approval fee.
8. Include a person with contemporary local government experience on the State Planning Commission, based on the advice provided by the LGA
9. Undertake an independent review of the regulated and significant tree legislation with the aim to protect regulated and significant trees, this would include expanding the definition
10. Determine a value for trees and include as a fee when a regulated or significant tree is to be removed.
11. Substantially increase the fee for not planting a tree under the Urban Tree Off Set Scheme, to provide an incentive to plant trees on private land
12. Require an established trees to be planted as a condition of approval of Deemed to Satisfy dwelling applications.

Planning and Design Code

13. Include the ODASA Design Guidelines into the P and D Code – resign the bar for good design even higher than the current standard
14. Re introduce Desired Character Statements for zones in the P and D Code to provide for better guidance
15. Enable councils to include more localized policy within the P and D Code to reflect local neighborhoods and local character
16. Undertake a comprehensive independent review of the benefits and impacts of infill development in inner metropolitan Adelaide and amend the P and D Code based on the findings
17. Provide greater consideration for regional South Australia in the P and D Code
18. Engage with local government on the provisions and design guidelines required to preserve heritage and character areas

Regional Plans

19. A commitment to close collaboration and engagement with local government on the review of the Thirty-Year Plan for greater Adelaide and the regional Plans
20. Ensure that climate change is the cornerstone of all regional plans

8.2 Rough Sleeper/Homelessness Initiative (Town of Gawler)

Recommendation Reports from the GAROC Committee

Submitted by:	Town of Gawler		
Approved by:	GAROC Committee		
Meeting	Ordinary General Meeting	8 April 2022	
ECM:	773173	Attachment: 771763 & 772922	

Recommendation

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).**

GAROC Committee's Comments

In recommending this item of business, GAROC recognised that there is a further opportunity for local government to partner with State Government agencies, community and business representatives to end rough sleeping and homelessness.

The GAROC committee made two minor amendments to the motion originally proposed by the Town of Gawler to:

- reflect that that the benefits of a multi-stakeholder working group will best be achieved through the LGA being represented within the governance structure of the SA Alliance to End Homelessness, including a working group comprised of representatives of relevant State Government agencies and various not-for-profit and charitable organisations; and
- to recommend that the LGA sign, rather than simply commit to the principles of, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Institute of Global Homelessness and various South Australian stakeholders.

LGA Officer's Comments

(Officer: Dr Tom Counce, Acting Director Policy)

The following discussion includes background on the local government sector's role in advocacy to alleviate homelessness, and analysis of the three parts of the Town of Gawler's item of business.

Background

The influential Everybody's Home Campaign website¹ details the following drivers of homelessness:

- Barriers to home ownership – including tax incentives for property investors.
- Supply shortages of social and affordable housing.
- Insufficient regulatory protections for renters (e.g., length of tenancy, rent charges).
- Insufficient financial supports for renters.

Recent advocacy work published by both the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and the LGA's SAROC committee has recognised some of these drivers of homelessness, in addition to others.

Actions taken by ALGA and SAROC demonstrate that the local government sector has a key advocacy role in alleviating homelessness, and the issue is of strategic importance to the local government sector.

In its 2019 Federal Election advocacy publication, 'All Politics is Local', ALGA noted that councils respond to the incidence of homelessness "where they can depending on their resources and priorities and using their local knowledge".² Examples provided of the types of actions councils take in this area included: facilitating the development of accommodation (through social housing providers) for key workers, vulnerable people seeking refuge and low income earners; highlighting issues with overcrowded dwellings; undertaking housing surveys; and using excess council land or buildings for housing.

ALGA reinforced this approach in a June 2021 submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs Inquiry into homelessness in Australia.³

In both documents, ALGA calls on the Commonwealth Government to adequately fund innovative housing partnership models (involving the local government sector) and coordinate a national dialogue between the three levels of government, achieved through the inclusion of local government in a reformed National Housing and Homelessness Agreement.

This latter advocacy objective was reinforced by both ALGA and the LGA at an October 2021 local government consultation forum, which formed part of the Productivity Commission's ongoing Housing and Homeless Agreement Review.⁴

Regarding the contribution of regional housing shortages to homelessness, SAROC has in recent months been actively developing a workplan designed to assist regional councils play a constructive role in alleviating the severe shortages of residential accommodation (including affordable housing options) apparent in regional South Australia.

¹ <http://everybodyshome.com.au/>

² ALGA, 'All Politics is Local: 12 ways to deliver for Australian communities', ALGA Federal Election Initiatives, p. 28, https://cdn.alga.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/ALGA_Election_Document.pdf

³ <https://cdn.alga.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/ALGA-Submission-House-of-Reps-Inq-Homelessness-12-June-2020.pdf>

⁴ See: <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/housing-homelessness/issues>

SAROC's workplan has culminated in the development of a Policy Toolkit Consultancy Brief, which informs the production of a policy toolkit which will include both advice on innovative policy options currently available to regional councils and an advocacy agenda for SAROC to take to other levels of government. The toolkit is scheduled to be presented to SAROC at its 17 March 2022 meeting.

Observations about the occurrence and probable causes of regional housing supply shortages were included in the LGA's September 2021 submission⁵ to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Tax and Revenue's Inquiry into housing affordability and supply in Australia.⁶

The LGA's submission also observed that many metropolitan councils report that housing affordability remains a significant challenge for many of their residents, and that a potential contributing factor is that developers are often only required to include a 15 per cent proportion of affordable housing options in developments of at least 20 dwellings or allotments. Metropolitan councils have reported that many development applications include fewer than 20 allotments and therefore often avoid affordable housing requirements.⁷

Solutions put forward by metropolitan councils to increase the supply of affordable housing options include public-private partnerships with community housing providers, in which councils collaborate with the South Australian Government to provide land and essential service infrastructure, and community housing providers develop and manage rental properties on behalf of councils.

Town of Gawler's proposed Item of Business

Provision of lockers in each local government area

In the supporting evidence provided by the Town of Gawler, Council explains that many rough sleepers in their community believe:

"It is necessary for them to carry their property on their person at all times due to fears of having their items stolen or damaged. Often they will use shopping trolleys to transport their items, and seek safe places to leave their property while looking for food, accommodation or work, seeking welfare assistance/counselling, using bathroom facilities, sleeping etc."

As part of a solution to this problem, the Town of Gawler suggests that: "the provision of strategically placed lockers in multiple areas across the state could assist many people who are experiencing homelessness to safely store necessary personal items and identification documents while seeking alternative options and engaging with welfare organisations."

The Town of Gawler envisages that in addition to providing rough sleepers with supports and referrals to other relevant service providers, welfare organisations (not-for-profit and charitable organisations) would also maintain and administer access to the proposed locker storage facilities.

SA Alliance to End Homelessness

The LGA has been 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.

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', to achieve 'Functional Zero' for rough sleepers.⁸

⁵ See: LGASA Submission, 'Inquiry into housing affordability and supply in Australia – House of Representatives Standing Committee on Tax and Revenue', September 2021, https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/1038374/ECM_766677_v8_LGASA-Submission-House-of-Representatives-Standing-Committee-on-Tax-and-Revenue-Inquiry-into-housi.pdf

⁶ See: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Tax_and_Revenue/Housingaffordability

⁷ LGASA Submission, 'Inquiry into housing affordability and supply in Australia', p. 5.

⁸ '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 Parklands, and part of this methodology includes the production and maintenance of a quality, real-time 'By-Name List' – included in the City of Port Adelaide Enfield's motion passed at the 2021 LGA AGM (discussed above) – and used to identify and digitally record the individual service needs of individuals sleeping rough, and thereby more accurately and efficiently address the causes of rough sleeping homelessness.

The SAAEH is working with SAHA to roll out the Advance to Zero methodology across the state through SAHA's five new Homelessness Alliances (Metro North, Metro South, Country North, Country South, and State-wide Domestic and Family Violence).

However, the SAAEH has emphasised that these alliances will require the collaboration of the State Government, local government, and non-government support services if Functional Zero for rough sleepers is to be achieved.

In this context, the SAAEH is working closely with the SA Housing Authority and other SAAEH partners to develop structures to govern the SAAEH. The nature of these structures is emerging but could include the establishment of a state-wide working group, comprised of representatives of relevant State Government agencies, the local government sector, and various not-for-profit and charitable organisations.

An opportunity therefore exists for local government – through the LGA – to work with the SAAEH in developing its governance structures, so that a suitable state-wide working group can be established to assess:

- a) how homelessness services can be most effectively and sustainably coordinated, as called for by the City of Port Adelaide Enfield's motion carried at the 2021 LGA AGM; and
- b) initiatives such as the provision of lockers to rough sleepers, as suggested in the Town of Gawler's item of business.

MOU – Institute for Global Homelessness and SA stakeholders

The SAAEH has co-signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) – alongside the State Government and the City of Adelaide – with the Institute for Global Homelessness (IGH) regarding a Strategic Vanguard Partnership Agreement to reduce homelessness.

The MoU includes the following specific quantitative homelessness goals:

1. Achieve rare, brief and non-recurring rough sleeping state-wide by 2025 through a focus on reducing the length of time people are homeless and the incidence of repeat rough sleeping - per the South Australian Housing Authority Strategic Plan and Future Directions for Homelessness.
2. Achieve rare, brief and non-recurring rough sleeping in the inner city by 2025 - per the goal of the Adelaide Zero Project.

The MoU envisages that these goals will be achieved by:

1. Defining and identifying priority cohorts and reform efforts.
2. Achieving consistent data collection within the Homelessness services sector through the creation of a system-wide outcomes framework that informs system reform priorities.

3. Establishing a State-wide By-Name List operating framework (referred to above).

Furthermore, the MoU includes the following core deliverables:

- Hold regular virtual meetings of IGH and the South Australian homelessness sector from 2022-2025 of at least four times per year.
- Support policies and programs to end homelessness with real-time data and evidence-based approaches including outreach improvement, homeless prevention, housing-led strategies and other areas as relevant.
- Engage stakeholders across sectors in the systems change conversation of ending homelessness and build a coalition of stakeholders supporting plans and programs.
- Develop an action plan to map out the work for the Vanguard partnership.
- Explore ways to increase equity and inclusion in homelessness work including consulting people with the lived experience of homelessness.
- Connect to international stakeholder group through meetings, convenings, and one-on-one exchanges.

The MoU states that it “does not create any financial or funding obligation on any Partner in the Partnership”, and “is not intended to create binding or legal obligations on either party”.

An opportunity exists for the LGA to sign the MOU, as recommended in this item of business.

Financial and Resource Implications

The advocacy work included in this proposed item of business is related to advocacy work already undertaken in the LGA Secretariat and can be delivered within existing LGA resources.

LGA General Meeting – Proposed Item of Business

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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>	Board of Directors
Subject of the proposed item of business	Rough Sleeper/Homelessness Initiative
Proposed motion for the General Meeting	<p><i>That the Annual / Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>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.</i> <i>Ensure support for people in these situations is collectively encouraged across the entire Local Government sector in South Australia on an ongoing basis, with the establishment of a working group including representatives from SA Councils, the LGA, SA Police, charity/welfare groups and other relevant stakeholders.</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>In recent years, Town of Gawler staff have noted a visible increase in the amount of rough sleepers observed within the central business area and local parks/reserves, seeking a safe place to sleep and store their personal items. This issue is not isolated to the Gawler area, and appears to be experienced by many Council's within South Australia.</p> <p>Whilst most Councils are likely to have By Laws that offer a regulatory solution to "illegal camping," the execution of legal authorities in many instances achieves little more than shifting the problem from one Local Government area to another.</p> <p>There are many issues associated with rough sleepers that impact significantly on Local Government resources, including but not limited to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Community complaints relating to a perception of reduced public safety when people are viewed sleeping on footpaths, benches and public areas; Abandoned shopping trolleys within parks and reserves, and/or scattered around quiet areas, containing property belonging to rough sleepers;

3. Trolleys left full of items in populated areas can be misconstrued and reported to Council and/or Police as containing “suspicious items”;
4. Makeshift campsites with tents/tarps, personal property and litter, often strewn around parks/reserves, negatively impacting the local amenity of the areas;
5. Interference with Local Government land and fixtures (i.e. digging holes for defecation, illegally entering locked buildings; clearing bushland for access to river and quiet areas within reserves etc.)
6. Urination/defecation and litter left behind in car park stairwells, parks, reserves and shop front areas;
7. Squatting within abandoned buildings and building sites;
8. The management of animals owned by homeless individuals, who have no fixed address, and reduced capacity to uphold their responsibilities under the Dog and Cat Management Act.

The stated issues impact heavily upon Town Services and Regulatory Services across Local Government, and often present health, safety and welfare concerns when dealing with biohazards left behind by rough sleepers. Anti-social and violent behaviour is a further operational safety risk for staff when attempting to move people on from public locations. Scattered property, abandoned shopping trolleys, human waste and litter impact negatively upon the amenity of public areas, and have a considerable effect upon Council resources.

Homelessness remains a societal and community issue, and the Local Government sector is well placed to contribute toward creating solutions through links to State Government services, charity/welfare groups, service clubs and SAPOL Local Service Areas.

Whilst a shortage in emergency accommodation and low cost housing may be a contributing factor toward homelessness and rough sleepers, the provision of strategically placed lockers in multiple areas across the state could assist many people who are experiencing homelessness to safely store necessary personal items and identification documents while seeking alternative options and engaging with welfare organisations.

Town of Gawler staff have previously engaged with many individuals sleeping rough within the Gawler area, and one similar theme has arisen during conversations. Individuals have identified that it is necessary for them to carry their property on their person at all times due to fears of having their items stolen or damaged. Often they will use shopping trolleys to transport their items, and seek safe places to leave their property while looking for food, accommodation or work, seeking welfare assistance/counselling, using bathroom facilities, sleeping etc.

By providing lockers at numerous locations within the state, individuals could access keys by engaging with local participating charities and welfare organisations who could potentially “sponsor” a block of lockers. The sponsorship could include the issuing of access keys, the monitoring and upkeep of the lockers, whilst providing social engagement, assistance and support service information to the users.

	<p>In addition to providing a safe space for items to be stored, the lockers could also provide an important conduit for engagement and the provision of helpful information between the welfare agency and the individual, similar to a post box.</p> <p>It is envisaged that the locker proposal will assist in reducing the amount of property items stored and/or abandoned on local government land, and provide an opportunity for individuals experiencing unfortunate circumstances to access practical assistance with dignity.</p> <p>Whilst not a comprehensive solution, the above locker proposal will demonstrate the willingness of the Local Government sector to contribute toward the large scale, national problem of homelessness across Australia.</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>Statement Number 3.4.6 Access and Inclusion - <i>Local government recognises the imperative in insuring all individuals can access community services and facilities to tackle issues contributing to social exclusion. Councils shall continue to explore and implement strategies through planning and community functions that promote access and inclusion for all individuals.</i></p>
LGA Strategic Plan reference	<p><i>Strategy 3 –Advance – Facilitate continuous improvement in local government.</i></p> <p><i>3.2 New partnerships and services help councils innovate and prepare for the future.</i></p>
Council Contact Officer submitting form	<p>Louise Hollowell</p> <p>Louise.hollowell@gawler.sa.gov.au</p> <p>(08) 8522 9211</p>
Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting	<p>RESOLUTION 2022:01:COU011</p> <p>25 January 2022</p>
Date submitted to LGA	<p>28/01/2022</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.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Strategic Vanguard Partnership Agreement

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) dated Wednesday 16 confirms the understandings and common interests of the Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH) and **the South Australian community** regarding a strategic partnership for the Vanguard Program.

IGH launched the A Place to Call Home initiative in 2017 with key global strategic partners to begin pioneering work to end homelessness. In the program, IGH works with Vanguard Cities on their strategy, measurement, and program implementation—and in doing so, helps them make quantitative and qualitative steps toward their reduction goals. Through its global network of homeless experts, IGH provides targeted technical assistance to address the challenges of ending street homelessness in each city. IGH is expanding its A Place to Call Home initiative to work with a few select regions and countries who are leading on their homelessness strategies and programs. This Vanguard partnership will further elevate **the South Australian community's** work on homelessness by supporting plans to end homelessness, engaging stakeholders in coalition building, and sharing their work with an international network of stakeholders and researchers.

1. Purpose and Scope of the Strategic Vanguard Partnership

The purpose of this Memorandum is to outline the partnership and commitment under which the Institute of Global Homelessness and **the South Australian community** will work together under the Vanguard Partnership to work towards the ultimate goal of ending homelessness.

2. Length of Memorandum

This Memorandum is effective on the date signed, and shall remain in effect through 31 December 2025. This Memorandum may be terminated by either party for any reason with one month's written notice.

3. Expected Aims and Deliverables of Partners:

Within the scope of the partnership, the Partners hope to achieve the following results and impact:

Aims of the collaboration:

- Reduce homelessness in **South Australia** through enumeration and homelessness reduction policies
- Provide technical support and international evidence of housing-led strategies, prevention, equity/inclusion, change management, stakeholder engagement, and multi-sector collaboration
- Elevate the needs and voices of people who have lived experience of homelessness, and marginalised people at risk of homelessness

- Build connections to an international group of homelessness, experts, practitioners, and researchers to support an exchange of best practices.

4. Areas of Cooperation

Cooperation will be pursued to accomplish specific deliverables, with each partner operating subject to its respective mandates, governing regulations, rules, policies and procedures:

Core deliverables created from partnership:

- Hold regular virtual meetings of IGH and the **South Australian homelessness sector** from 2022-2025 of at least four times per year
- Support policies and programs to end homelessness with real-time data and evidence-based approaches including outreach improvement, homeless prevention, housing-led strategies and other areas as relevant
- Engage stakeholders across sectors in systems change conversation of ending homelessness and build coalition of stakeholders supporting plans and programs
- Develop an action plan to map out the work for the Vanguard partnership
- Explore ways to increase equity and inclusion in homelessness work including consulting people with the lived experience of homelessness
- Connect to international stakeholder group through meetings, convenings, and one-on-one exchanges

5. Responsibilities and Capacities of each Partner

The partners will endeavour to work together, help to determine recommendations on any new policies, programs, strategies for the response to homelessness, and disseminate learnings to global network. However, each party is responsible for specific activities and level of participation with respect to the activities described in this Memorandum.

Responsibilities of South Australian community:

- Commit to quantitative and qualitative goals
- Measure, evaluate, and annually report enumeration of homelessness across the region
- Engage with IGH to accomplish work in action plan (which will be agreed to by both partners)
- Engage with people of lived experience and commit to equity and inclusion practices
- Actively engage in sharing **South Australian** community perspectives and best practices with other communities in the Vanguard Program
- Partner with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to improve the responsiveness of homelessness services to Aboriginal people

Responsibilities of IGH:

- Facilitate conversations on systems change towards the outcome of ending homelessness—including high-level meetings, workshops, briefings, stakeholder engagement, and other forums
- Provide technical assistance from IGH's global network of experts and advisors including outreach, prevention, Housing First, shelter transformation, common assessment tool training, conducting connections weeks, analysis, governance structures, and evaluation
- Support the development of procedures, policies, and tools

- Assist with communications, media, and fundraising as necessary
- Curation of resources, research, and best practices from partners
- Connect **South Australian** leaders to international group of stakeholders

6. Homelessness Goals

Specific quantitative homelessness goals for South Australia:

1. Achieve rare, brief and non-recurring rough sleeping state-wide by 2025 through a focus on reducing the length of time people are homeless and the incidence of repeat rough sleeping - per the South Australian Housing Authority Strategic Plan and Future Directions for Homelessness
2. Achieve rare, brief and non-recurring rough sleeping in the inner city by 2025 - per the goal of the Adelaide Zero Project

Qualitative goals to track the collaboration, capacity building, global exchange, and systems change work:

1. Define and identify priority cohorts and reform efforts.
2. Achieve consistent data collection within the Homelessness services sector through the creation of a system-wide outcomes framework that informs system reform priorities.
3. Establish a Statewide By-Name List operating framework

7. Equity and Inclusion

Structural and racial inequity is a root cause of homelessness. Homelessness disproportionately affects First Nations peoples, people from CALD backgrounds, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+, and other marginalised populations. Partners in the Vanguard Program commit to building equity and inclusion in their work. This commitment includes engaging with IGH on equity training, inclusive data, outcomes, completing equity frameworks, and consulting people with the lived experience of homelessness.

8. Financial arrangements

This MoU does not create any financial or funding obligation on any Partner in the Partnership. Each party is responsible for any expenses incurred in the furtherance of this Memorandum and the activities described herein. If Partners jointly execute a Grant Agreement, it will include a budget and specifically delineate the financial terms. The Grant Agreements will be subject to funding specifically available for the purposes outlined in the agreement executed by Partners.

9. Other

This document is a MoU and is not intended to create binding or legal obligations on either party. Notwithstanding the terms “Partners” and “Partnership”, the Partners agree that they are not entering into a Legal Partnership, joint venture or other such business arrangement, nor is the purpose of the Partners to enter into a commercial undertaking for monetary gain. Neither Partner will refer to or treat the arrangements under this Agreement as a Legal Partnership or take any action inconsistent with such intention.

By signing this MoU on behalf of their respective entities represent and warrant (without personal liability therefore) that upon the signature of each, this MoU shall be duly executed by the entity each represents.

The Hon Steven Marshall MP Premier of South Australia South Australian Government	Date
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The Hon Michelle Lensink, Minister for Human Services South Australian Government	Date
--	------

The Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Sandy Verschoor City of Adelaide	Date
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Ms Lydia Stazen, Executive Director Institute of Global Homelessness	Date
---	------

Ms Livia Carusi, Co-Chair South Australian Alliance to End Homelessness	Date
--	------

Mr Pearson

16/02/2022

Mr David Pearson, CEO South Australian Alliance to End Homelessness	Date
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Cheryl Einsele, Assistant Vice President, Academic Affairs DePaul University	Date
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8.3 Inclusion of Email Addresses in the Voters Roll (Adelaide)

Recommendation Reports from the GAROC Committee

Submitted by:	City of Adelaide	
Approved by:	GAROC Committee	
Meeting	Ordinary General Meeting	8 April 2022
ECM:	773318	Attachment: 764613

Recommendation

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.

GAROC Committee's Comments

GAROC considered that the provision of email addresses by electors on council voter rolls would facilitate the provision of information to those electors in a simple way, that is not currently available.

Whilst recognising that email addresses are not required for inclusion on the House of Assembly electoral roll and that only a proportion of electors would be captured by this requirement if successful, GAROC noted that seeking to progress this initiative could be used as valuable leverage for achieving a desired transition to electronic voting in Local Government.

GAROC felt it was important to convey the desire of the sector to shift local government elections towards online/electronic processes and considered this initiative a positive step towards that goal.

LGA Officer's Comments

(Officer: Tami Norman, Program Leader Governance)

Responsibility for the running of Local Government elections and ensuring they are conducted in accordance with the law rests with the Electoral Commissioner SA.

Part 4 of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* (the Elections Act) provides for the enrolment for participation in Local Government elections. Participation in local government elections is open to a broader range of people than state and federal elections.

Voting entitlements for council elections are established by a person's inclusion on the council voters roll. Eligibility for inclusion arises from two categories:

- Persons enrolled as an elector for the House of Assembly (HA roll) are automatically included on the voters roll.
- On application made to the CEO, a natural person who is a resident, sole owner or occupier of a rateable property is eligible for inclusion on the roll. Groups or bodies corporate who own or occupy property are also entitled to be included on the council voters roll and have a person vote on their behalf.

The council voters roll expires on 1 January in each year in which a periodic election is to be held. The effect of the expiration is that voters other than those who are entitled based on the HA roll must lodge a fresh application for enrolment prior to each periodic election.

Part 2—Enrolment of the *City of Adelaide Act 1998* (COA Act) provides for the enrolment for participation in City of Adelaide elections. Unlike the Elections Act, the COA Act provides automatic enrolment provisions which do not currently require the identification of a designated person entitled to vote on behalf of a group or body corporate, nor is there a requirement for a fresh application for enrolment to be made prior to each periodic election.

Changes to the COA Act arising from the passage of the *Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021* will provide for a 'default person' or identifying details for a nominated person to be included on the voters roll for a body corporate/group or the inclusion. It is understood that these provisions will be in place for the 2026 elections as there is substantial work required to implement the changed requirements.

Section 15(2) of the Elections Act provides that the following details must be set out on the voters roll:

- (a) in the case of a natural person—the full name of the person and the address of the person's place of residence;
- (b) in the case of a body corporate or group—the full name of the body corporate or group and the full name, residential address and date of birth of the designated person for the body corporate or group;
- (c) the address of the place of residence or rateable property (as the case may be) by virtue of which the person, body corporate or group is entitled to be enrolled;
- (d) at the option of the person, body corporate or group—an additional address nominated by the person, body corporate or group (in a manner and form determined by the chief executive officer) for the service of postal voting papers under Part 9; and
- (e) any prescribed particulars.

Section 3(2) of the COA Act provides that the following details must be set out on the voters roll:

- (2) Subject to this clause, the voters roll must set out in relation to each person, body corporate or group enrolled—
 - (a) the full name of the person, body corporate or group;
 - (b) in the case of a natural person—the address of the person's place of residence;
 - (c) the address of the place of residence or rateable property (as the case may be) by virtue of which the person, body corporate or group is entitled to be enrolled;
 - (d) at the option of the person, body corporate or group - an additional address nominated by the person, body corporate or group (in a manner and form determined by the chief executive officer) for the service of postal voting papers under clause 18; and
 - (e) any prescribed particulars.

The City of Adelaide, in its item of business, is seeking changes to the Elections Act to include a requirement for provision of an email address when any application is made by a non-residential elector for inclusion on the voters roll.

Voters roll statistic

The following table sets out the electors in the last four periodic Local Government elections with entitlements separated based on the House of Assembly and Council rolls.

TABLE 4: Electors on the voters roll – 2006 to 2018

Roll	2018		2014		2010		2006-07*	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
HA roll	1,194,947	98.4	1,136,824	98.4	1,101,654	97.9	1,047,484	82.9
Council roll	18,915	1.6	18,871	1.6	23,407	2.1	215,339	17.1
Total	1,213,862		1,155,695		1,125,061		1,262,823	

* Includes City of Adelaide elections deferred to November 2007

Electoral Commission SA, *Local Government Election Report 2018*, page 23

As can be seen in the table above, 1.6% of electors state-wide were eligible based on inclusion on council voters roll in the 2018 periodic election.

The City of Adelaide has a much higher proportion of electors registered via the council voters roll. Table 29, taken from the Electoral Commission SA, *Local Government Election Report 2018* indicates a total of 14,953 electors on the City of Adelaide council voters roll (from a total 26,538 electors). The total electors on council voters roll for all councils in the 2018 election was 18,915, which means voters on the City of Adelaide council voters roll comprised 77% of all electors registered on council voters rolls across the state.

TABLE 29: Electors on the HA roll vs council roll

Council	HA Roll	Council Roll	Total
City of Adelaide	11,585	14,953	26,538
Total	1,194,947	18,915	1,213,862

Electoral Commission SA, *Local Government Election Report 2018*, page 75

Conduct of elections

Local Government elections are currently conducted via postal ballot. Voting materials are distributed by the Electoral Commissioner via Australia Post. Marketing and promotional materials are circulated more broadly, including by the LGA and Councils, using online materials, social media platforms, signage/banners, printed materials and information within existing digital and print publications.

There is not currently a requirement to provide an email address as part of the House of Assembly enrolment process. Figures from the 2018 election process show that 98.4% of electors derived their eligibility from enrolment on the House of Assembly roll.

Issues to consider

There are a range of matters to consider in response to the City of Adelaide item of business:

Privacy matters

The inclusion of an email address on the council voters roll would need to have regard to relevant privacy considerations. The mere fact that an email address is provided, does not mean that a candidate (for example) could use that email address for the purpose of distributing campaign information.

It is likely that further amendments to legislation would be required, to authorise candidates to use the voters roll for electioneering purposes. If electioneering was a permitted purpose, it is likely that a percentage of voters may refuse to provide a valid email address.

Digital provision of voting materials

The transition away from the provision of paper-based information connected to local government elections is a reasonable ambition, however, given local government elections are conducted fully as postal ballots at this time, digital format would not facilitate provision of voting materials.

Value to councils

The proportion of voters on council voters rolls for the majority of councils is very low. Of the 67 councils the subject of the ECSA 2018 Local Government Elections report, 55 councils had less than 100 electors recorded on the council voters roll, with 35 of those having less than 50 electors. While there might be limited direct impact of requiring an email address for council voters rolls, when it is not also a requirement for HoA electors, it may be seen as signalling a positive intent in moving towards electronic voting in council elections.

Consistency in communications

It would not be tenable for ECSA to send (for example) official communications about upcoming elections to one class of voters (eg voters on the council roll who had provided email addresses) but not to other classes (eg HoA electors). If one class of voters received additional or different information, this would likely lead to accusations of bias.

It is important to the reputation of the whole sector that local government elections are conducted fairly and seen objectively to have integrity.

Electoral Commission processes

In advocating to the Electoral Commission for the inclusions of email addresses, consideration should be given to the limited security inherent in any email communications and the need for inclusion, noting that not all voters will have access to email addresses/IT systems. The ability to engage in the election process should not unfairly advantage (or disadvantage) particular classes of voters.

State and Federal electoral systems are seeking to homogenise their systems. Any impetus for change may require a consensus from these organisations. The LGA has been advocating for online voting in Local Government elections for well over a decade. These organisations prioritise voter integrity and as such will require a very high level of system security before they would support an online voting system.

Financial and Resource Implications

The activity in the City of Adelaide's proposed item of business will require significant staff resources, and potential legal advice, that is not currently anticipated in the LGA budget.

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 Adelaide
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	Inclusion of email addresses on the voters roll
Proposed motion for the General Meeting	That the Annual 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.
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>	The decision is about improving the quality of elections, in a formal administrative context this may be an opportunity to improve ease of accessibility to eligible voters for the distribution of information about the election, but also has the potential to introduce a more equitable way for prospective candidates to distribute election material, by reducing cost of preparing and posting election material.
LGA Policy Manual <i>Does this item require a change to the LGA Policy Manual (new policy or amendment to existing policy)?</i>	(please click here to view the LGA Policy Manual) No
LGA Strategic Plan reference	(please click here to view the 2021-25 LGA Strategic Plan) <i>Strategy 3: Advance</i> <i>3.4 – The local government sector maximises the use of emerging technology, while effectively managing cyber risks.</i>
Council Contact Officer submitting form	Jenny McFeat J.McFeat@cityofadelaide.com.au 8203 7447
Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting	13 July 2021 Minutes 17 & 28
Date submitted to LGA	4 August 2021

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

Recommendation Reports from the LGA Board of Directors

Submitted by:	Local Government Association	
Approved by:	LGA Board of Directors	
Meeting	Ordinary General Meeting	8 April 2022
ECM:	772153	Attachments: 770951

Recommendation

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 LGDRAA 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 LGDRAA can be an all-encompassing funding framework.

LGA Board of Directors Comments

The LGA Board of Directors considered this matter at their meeting on 20 January 2022 and recommended that it be brought forward for consideration by the Ordinary General Meeting.

The Board of Directors noted that the LGA secretariat has become aware of this issue through the delivery of the Council Ready program, the operations of the Local Government Functional Support Group (LGFSG) and direct feedback from impacted councils.

LGA Guidelines

The LGA Guidelines for considering proposed Items of Business for LGA General Meetings outlines that all proposals will be assessed in terms of their strategic importance to the sector, alignment with LGA policy, the supporting evidence provided and resourcing requirements.

Strategic importance to the sector

Emergency management is a strategic priority for the local government sector, and its importance is increasing as a changing climate exposes councils and their communities to emergencies with increasing frequency and intensity.

Any action that leads to a reduction in the financial exposure of councils and their ratepayers will be important as emergencies occur more often.

It should be noted that not every council is regularly impacted by a major emergency. However, recent experiences have demonstrated that when they are, the financial impacts can be significant. One large emergency or the cumulative financial impact of multiple smaller emergencies can have a significant financial impact on councils. This can undermine their long term financial sustainability and ability to deliver council services and upon their strategic and business plans.

If disaster costs are not reimbursed by the State, councils need to recover these costs through increased rates revenue and/or a reduction in planned services. This can be challenging for councils when their communities and ratepayers themselves have experienced loss, and expect more from their council in a time of hardship.

Alignment with LGA Policy

This proposal accords with the LGA's Policy Manual, which states that:

Local government supports the concept of shared responsibility and agrees that all spheres of government, business and the community should actively partner to build resilience into communities against emergency events. Councils shall continue to work collaboratively to achieve sustainable community safety.

It also aligns with a number of the principles contained within the Local Government Emergency Management Framework¹:

Holistic	Local government is a holistic contributor to emergency management and considers the wide range of possible consequences of emergencies on communities.
Everyday strengths	Local government's emergency management roles draw on the sector's core strengths in communities and add value to what is usual business for councils.
Local knowledge	Local government holds and shares information about local communities, risks and vulnerabilities to strengthen local emergency management.
Clear governance	Local government participates in emergency management in a coordinated way with clear understanding of roles and responsibilities.
United	Local government collaborates in emergency management as a single sector, sharing knowledge, resources and expertise, thereby mitigating variations in council size, risk exposure and capacity.
Evidence-based	Local government emergency management is risk informed, and draws together data from all sectors, lived experiences, emerging risks and community aspirations.
Learning	Local government is continually improving emergency management practices and adapting to emerging risks, so that efficacy of our

¹ [ECM_672733_v18_Local-Government-Emergency-Management-Framework-2019-update.pdf \(lga.sa.gov.au\)](#)

approaches is improved and the overall cost and impacts of emergencies is reduced.

Consistent with the LGA Policy Manual and the Local Government Emergency Management Framework, the proposed advocacy is seeking a fairer disaster funding model so that councils are able to play their part in emergency management and be positioned to effectively support their communities and maintain regular services following a disaster.

Supporting Evidence

Supporting evidence is provided in the attached Issues Paper, with additional information available in the “Local Government Disaster Funding Benchmarking Report” available on the LGA website².

Resourcing Requirements

The evidence base underpinning this advocacy has already been developed using existing resources. It is anticipated that the proposed advocacy can be incorporated into the LGA’s Advocacy Plan without an unreasonable resourcing impact.

LGA Officer's Comments

(Officer: Michael Arman, Director Strategy)

When an emergency occurs, the impacts on councils and their communities can be far reaching. Typically, councils are required to step up and provide additional support and services to their communities, when at the same time the council itself needs to recover its own infrastructure and services that may have been impacted.

Around Australia, councils have the ability to recover some disaster related costs from their State Government, for example for the reconstruction of damaged roads or clean up of roadside vegetation. Each state has their own guidelines for this process, including eligibility criteria and thresholds for accessing financial assistance. Independent to this and guided by different thresholds and criteria, State Governments have the ability to recover costs from the Commonwealth Government under the national Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

In South Australia, the arrangements, criteria and thresholds for councils to recover costs from the State Government are outlined in the Local Government Disaster Recovery Assistance Arrangements (LGDRAA).

One of the key principles in of the LGDRAA is to ensure council and thus their ratepayers do not incur disaster related costs “in excess of what it would reasonably be expected to manage within its resource capacity”.

This principle is consistent with the Report of the 2020 Royal Commission into the National Natural Disaster Arrangements, which confirms that State and Territory Governments are “ultimately responsible for ensuring that their local governments are able to effectively discharge responsibilities devolved to them”. This means that funding and support should be provided by State Government to councils to enable them to support local response and recovery activities in their communities.

Case studies from the 2019/20 Cudlee Creek Fire and the October 2019 flood event in Quorn demonstrate the unreasonable financial impacts that natural disasters are having on South Australian councils, which are being passed onto their ratepayers. These experiences have demonstrated significant shortcomings with the LGDRAA with regards to the high thresholds at which funding can be accessed. Additionally, councils have raised concerns about the process for applying

² https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/resources/documents/members-only-files/member-services/emergency-management/emergency-management/disaster-funding/ECM_770972_v1_Local-Government-Disaster-Funding-Benchmarking-Report-BRM-Advisory-December-2021.pdf

for LGDRAA funding and eligibility criteria, especially as it relates to what councils consider to be core counter-disaster and recovery activities, and the use of internal council staff.

Furthermore, benchmarking analysis of the LGDRAA against the comparable arrangements in other jurisdictions shows that South Australian councils are the most financially exposed to natural disaster related costs in the country due to significant limitations and gaps in the LGDRAA.

Further information is provided in the attached Issues Paper.

For these reasons, it is proposed that the LGA advocate to the State Government for an urgent review of the LGDRAA focussed on:

1. Making the LGDRAA 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 LGDRAA can be an all-encompassing funding framework.

It is noted that the LGDRAA was last reviewed in 2019. However this review was limited to changes associated with the Commonwealth's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, and did not consider the core structure of the LGDRAA as it relates to thresholds for accessing funding or eligibility criteria.

Finally, the recent experiences of ex Tropical Cyclone Tiffany which impacted a number of councils on the Eyre Peninsula underscore the need for this advocacy. As a result of this event, the District Councils of Kimba, Franklin Harbour and Cleve together sustained more than \$15 million of road damage, with further damage experienced by other councils across the State (see Figure 1 for examples of this damage).

Through a proactive and concerted advocacy effort from these councils and the LGA, the Treasurer agreed to a claim for extra-ordinary assistance outside the usual parameters of the LGDRAA providing:

- An increase in the level of State Government assistance above the usual thresholds;
- The ability for impacted councils to apply a combination of both cash and in-kind contributions to meet their contribution towards eligible expenditure; and
- Approval to commence counter disaster and make safe works immediately using internal works teams to expedite the opening and resurfacing of damaged roads.

While this was a good outcome for these councils, it should not be necessary to undertake a targeted advocacy campaign following each disaster. This reinforces the need to reform the LGDRAA to make it simpler and more definitive and provide cost reimbursement thresholds and eligibility parameters that are comparable to arrangements experienced by interstate councils.



Figure 1: Examples of damages to roads following ex Tropical Cyclone Tiffany.

Financial and Resource Implications

This activity is not currently anticipated in the LGA's work program, but can be delivered within existing LGA resources.



Review of Local Government Disaster Recovery Assistance Arrangements

Issues Paper

January 2022



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Executive Summary

Emergencies and natural disasters are a reality of life in South Australia and have far reaching impacts on councils and their communities. During these events, councils are expected to step up and provide additional support to their communities while they themselves need to recover their impacted infrastructure and services.

One of the key principles of the Local Government Disaster Recovery Assistance Arrangements (LGDRAA), is to ensure a council doesn't incur disaster related costs "in excess of what it would reasonably be expected to manage within its resource capacity"¹.

The Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA) has identified that several recent emergency events have put an unreasonable level of financial strain on South Australian councils and in turn the communities they serve, demonstrating significant shortcomings with the LGDRAA.

Moreover, the 2020 Royal Commission into the National Natural Disaster Arrangements has re-confirmed that State and Territory Governments are "ultimately responsible for ensuring that their local governments are able to effectively discharge responsibilities devolved to them"².

Case studies from the 2019/20 Cudlee Creek bushfire and the October 2019 flood event in Quorn demonstrate the unreasonable financial impacts that natural disasters can have on councils; which results in an additional financial burden on ratepayers or reduced levels of service.

Furthermore, benchmarking undertaken by the LGA shows that South Australian councils are the most exposed to natural disaster related costs in the country due to the high expenditure recovery thresholds and other limitations in the LGDRAA.

To ensure that the LGDRAA is achieving its objective of protecting South Australian councils and their ratepayers from unreasonable levels of financial exposure, the LGA is seeking an urgent review of the LGDRAA, with a focus on:

1. Making the LGDRAA 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 LGDRAA can be an all-encompassing funding framework.

Addressing these points will ensure that ratepayers are being adequately protected from the costs of emergencies and that the South Australian Government is meeting its responsibilities in relation to the Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements and the 2020 Bushfire Royal Commission.

¹ Local Government Disaster Recovery Assistance Arrangements Page 3 - https://www.treasury.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/133926/LGDRAA-Guidelines.pdf

² Chapter 11 Page 261 Royal Commission into the National Natural Disaster Arrangements - <https://naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/royal-commission-national-natural-disaster-arrangements-report>

Introduction

The LGA is the voice of local government in South Australia, representing all councils across the state and the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara. The South Australian Local Government Act 1999 recognises the LGA as a public authority for the purpose of promoting and advancing the interests of local government. The LGA is also recognised in and has prescribed functions in 29 other South Australian Acts of Parliament. The LGA provides leadership, support, representation and advocacy relevant to the needs of councils in South Australia.

Through the delivery of the LGA's Council Ready program, the operations of the Local Government Functional Support Group and the experiences of recent emergencies, the LGA has identified that councils experience a lack of clarity and insufficient support with regard to accessing funding both during and in the aftermath of natural disasters.

In response, the LGA has taken the proactive step of commissioning a number of projects in relation to the current disaster funding arrangements applicable in South Australia including:

1. A Review of the Disaster Funding Arrangements for the Local Government Sector in South Australia;
2. Preparation of a Disaster Funding Guide for South Australian councils³;
3. A Benchmarking Report comparing the financial support available to South Australian councils compared to other jurisdictions; and
4. This submission, requesting an urgent review of the LGDRAA.

Background

Emergencies and natural disasters are a reality of life in South Australia and their impact on councils and their communities can range from relatively minor through to catastrophic. When larger events occur, there can be significant demands placed on one or several councils to support State Government Control Agencies, Support Agencies and the myriad of organisations participating in emergency response and recovery in accordance with the State Emergency Management Plan.

Councils can support response and recovery through in-kind contributions (i.e. committing existing human and other council resources) and/or financial contributions (i.e. overtime and the payment of contractors). This support relates to a wide range of services from assisting control agencies, repairing or rebuilding damaged public assets and supporting impacted communities with recovery programs and activities.

Section 7 (d) of the Local Government Act 1999 (Act) requires a council "to take measures to protect its area from natural and other hazards and to mitigate the effects of such hazards". It is relatively well accepted that councils in South Australia have a responsibility to prepare for and have plans in place to reduce the risk and impact of natural disasters in their area.

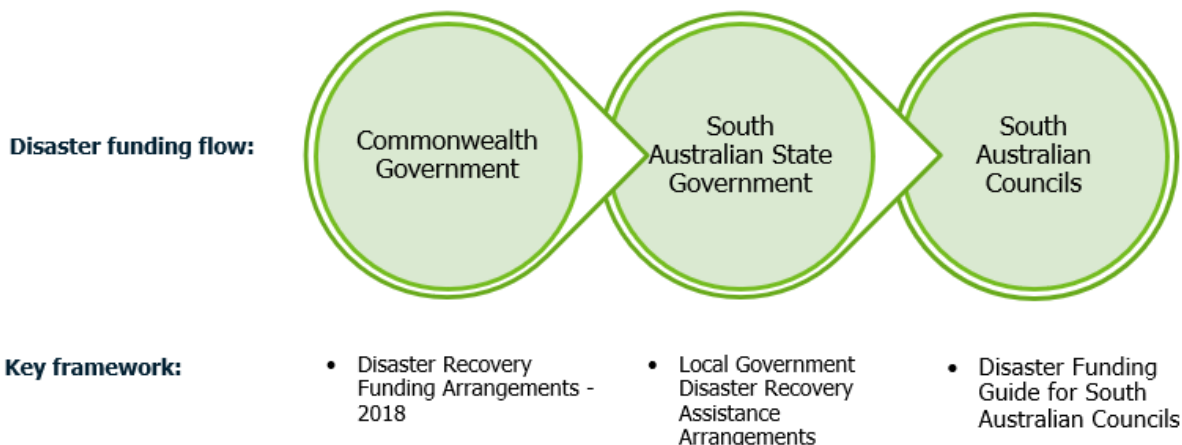
However, when a disaster event occurs and, in the aftermath, the lines of responsibility from both an operational and funding perspective between local and state government become blurred.

³ Available to South Australian councils on the LGA website: <https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/member-services/emergency-management/emergency-management-policies-codes-and-guidelines>

The Act and other materials including the State Emergency Management Plan are relatively nonspecific on the roles and responsibilities of local government in relation to disaster response and recovery.

Commonwealth context

The Commonwealth’s Disaster Recover Funding Arrangements 2018⁴ (DRFA) seek to provide a safety net for State Governments in responding to disaster events by offering partial reimbursement to State Governments of eligible costs across four categories of expenditure. In turn, each State has a funding framework to support State agencies, individuals and councils from the impact of natural disaster events.



South Australian context

In South Australia, the relevant funding framework between councils and the State Government is the Local Government Disaster Recovery Assistance Arrangements (LGDRAA) Guidelines dated December 2019. One of the key principles in LGDRAA is to ensure that a council does not incur disaster related costs which are “in excess of what it would reasonably be expected to manage within its resource capacity”⁵.

What is reasonably expected is a question of judgement, perspective, and circumstance.

⁴ <https://www.disasterassist.gov.au/Documents/Natural-Disaster-Relief-and-Recovery-Arrangements/disaster-recovery-funding-arrangements-2018.pdf>

⁵ Local Government Disaster Recovery Assistance Arrangements Page 3 - https://www.treasury.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/133926/LGDRAA-Guidelines.pdf

2020 Royal Commission into the National Natural Disaster Arrangements

Following the 2019/20 Bushfire Season, a **Royal Commission into the National Natural Disaster Arrangements** (Royal Commission) was established on 20 February 2020. Following the Royal Commission a report was published on 28 October 2020 (Report)⁶.

The Report included over 80 recommendations identifying what needs to be done to improve the national natural disaster arrangements and to ultimately make Australians safer.

Of particular relevance to the Local Government Sector is Chapter 11 of the Report in relation to Emergency Planning and specifically Local Government's Disaster Management Capabilities. This chapter reinforces that "As state and territory governments are ultimately accountable for managing natural disasters in their respective jurisdictions, they should be responsible for ensuring that their local governments are able to effectively discharge the responsibilities devolved to them."⁷

The Report made the following two recommendations in relation to local government's role in emergency and natural disaster response.

Recommendation 11.1 Responsibility for local government disaster management capability and capacity

State and territory governments should take responsibility for the capability and capacity of local governments to which they have delegated their responsibilities in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from natural disasters, to ensure local governments are able to effectively discharge the responsibilities devolved to them.

Recommendation 11.2 Resource sharing arrangements between local governments

State and territory governments should review their arrangements for sharing resources between their local governments during natural disasters, including whether those arrangements:

- (1) provide sufficient surge capacity, and
- (2) take into account all the risks that the state or territory may face during a natural disaster.

It is the LGA's view that the existing disaster funding frameworks in South Australia do not allow for South Australian councils to effectively discharge their responsibilities due to uncertainties in relation to cost recovery and the unreasonable levels of financial exposure placed upon them, and by extension, their ratepayers.

⁶ Royal Commission into the National Natural Disaster Arrangements - <https://naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/royal-commission-national-natural-disaster-arrangements-report>

⁷ Chapter 11 Page 261

Review of the LGDRAA

The LGDRAA is the funding mechanism under which South Australian councils can apply for financial support from the State Government following a natural disaster event. A brief summary, and some of the identified issues with the LGDRAA is provided below.

Eligible Expenditure

Expenditure that can be recovered under LGDRAA must directly relate to undertaking Eligible Measures (defined below), must be in response to a natural disaster and extraordinary to the normal operations of a council. The following are examples of Eligible Expenditure provided for under LGDRAA:

- Hiring additional plant and equipment;
- Staff allowances and overtime;
- Employment of contractors or sub-contractors;
- Costs of backfilling staff; and
- Additional repairs and maintenance.

Ordinary staff time and equipment expenses do not meet the definition of Eligible Expenditure. Based on the LGA's recent consultation with impacted councils, a large percentage of the actual costs of managing a disaster related to these internal costs.

The most prominent example is where a council will use its internal works teams to undertake initial safety inspections and remediation works in relation to council roads i.e. clearing dangerous trees from road verges and undertaking urgent repairs. Often councils feel that their internal works teams are more effective in undertaking such works due to local knowledge, experience and training, as costs and service standards can be better controlled. Moreover, in some situations, it is not possible to engage external contractors at short notice, especially given that contractors may be engaged in supporting private landowners.

However, under the LGDRAA, internal costs are not eligible for recovery while if the council engaged contractors, those costs would be partially recoverable.

Eligible Measures

There are three types of Eligible Measures that may qualify for cost recovery under LGDRAA;

- Counter Disaster Operations
- Repairs and Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets
- Community Recovery Fund Activities

Counter Disaster Operations

These are activities which are performed during and/or within days of a natural disaster event to alleviate immediate community hardship and distress. When these costs are incurred by councils under a direction from a Control Agency, the LGDRAA states that these costs should be reimbursed from that Agency rather than under LGDRAA.

Control Agencies may not have sufficient budget provisions and accordingly may be reluctant to reimburse councils for costs incurred in disaster response. This creates uncertainty from a council's

perspective about where the responsibilities lie for the reimbursement of counter disaster costs; between Control Agencies and LGDRAA.

The LGA is advocating for tighter and clearer accountability for reimbursement of counter disaster operations costs and contend that the current obligations on Control Agencies for cost recovery should be removed unless they are specifically funded by the State Government for such costs. Doing so would likely lead to operational and administrative efficiencies.

Repairs and Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets

This includes expenditure incurred to return some council owned assets to their pre disaster condition and specifically excludes costs relating to improvement or enhancement of the functionality or utility of an asset.

One key issue faced by councils is that the treatment of damage to trees and road verges causing road safety issues is not specifically defined in the LGDRAA as an eligible or ineligible form of expenditure. During recent fire and flood events, councils have been forced to commit significant resources to remediating damaged trees, predominately to ensure the safety of road users. The LGA is requesting that the costs relating to remediating damaged verge trees and verges be specifically included in the definition of Eligible Expenditure under LGDRAA.

Community recovery fund activities

To the best of our knowledge, a council is yet to set up a complying community recovery fund to claim costs under this category of LGDRAA and hence this portion of the LGDRAA is not effective in helping to support councils with costs incurred in relation to community recovery.

Betterment

Under LGDRAA, Councils may apply for additional government assistance to improve disaster resilience of an essential public asset that has been damaged. However, the betterment provisions specifically exclude enhanced asset functionality or utility.

We are not aware of any council making a successful betterment claim under LGDRAA and accordingly question the effectiveness of this part of the LGDRAA arrangements.

Reimbursement thresholds

The LGA considers that the expenditure thresholds within LGDRAA to achieve cost recovery are unreasonably high.

The current thresholds are designed to consider a council's capacity to self-fund eligible measures however they are in practice creating an unreasonable level of financial exposure for councils to disaster costs. To demonstrate the impact of the existing thresholds, the following table shows the cost recovery that a sample of different sized South Australian councils could achieve if they had occurred \$1.0 million of Eligible Expenditure.

Council	Average Rate Revenue ¹	First financial threshold (2% of rates revenue) ²	Second financial threshold (1.75 times the first financial threshold) ³	Calculated reimbursement on \$1.0 million of Eligible Expenditure	% of full cost recovered	Unrecovered costs as % of annual rate revenue
City of Charles Sturt	\$104,964,500	\$2,099,290	\$3,673,758	-	0.0%	0.9%
City of Mitcham	\$53,416,000	\$1,068,320	\$1,869,560	-	0.0%	1.9%
Mount Barker District Council	\$38,259,500	\$765,190	\$1,339,083	\$117,405	11.7%	2.3%
Coorong District Council	\$9,281,500	\$185,630	\$324,853	\$575,972	57.6%	4.5%
Flinders Ranges Council	\$2,276,000	\$45,520	\$79,660	\$707,325	70.7%	12.9%

1 Rate revenue obtained from latest available Local Government Grant Commission Database Reports based on FY2018 and FY2019 average rate revenue

2 Councils are entitled to recover 50% of eligible expenditure above the first financial threshold up to the second financial threshold

3 Councils are entitled to recover 75% of eligible expenditure above the second financial threshold.

Two of the selected five Council's would receive \$nil reimbursement while the other three recover only a percentage of costs.

These results need to be considered in the context that under the current LGDRAA framework, internal costs cannot be recovered and other direct out of pocket costs are also excluded if the definition of Eligible Expenses is not met (i.e. spending on community recovery and verge tree remediation).

While the table presents reimbursement thresholds for Eligible Expenditure only, the percentage of full cost recovered by a council impacted by a disaster is significantly less than the percentages presented in the table.

Acquittal and reporting

There are onerous requirements on councils in terms of obtaining photographic evidence to support damage and claims as well as requirements in relation to acquitting any funding received under LGDRAA. This is adding to the operational and financial impact on councils in the immediate aftermath of a disaster event.

Number of recent claims paid

Despite a spate of recent natural disaster events, many impacting multiple councils, information provided by the Department of Treasury and Finance shows that there have only been three successful claims made by Councils under LGDRAA in the past five years. The LGA asserts that this low number of claims demonstrates the current unreasonably high thresholds, and the general inadequacies of the LGDRAA in adequately protecting councils and their ratepayers from disaster related costs.

Benchmarking LGDRAA against the other States

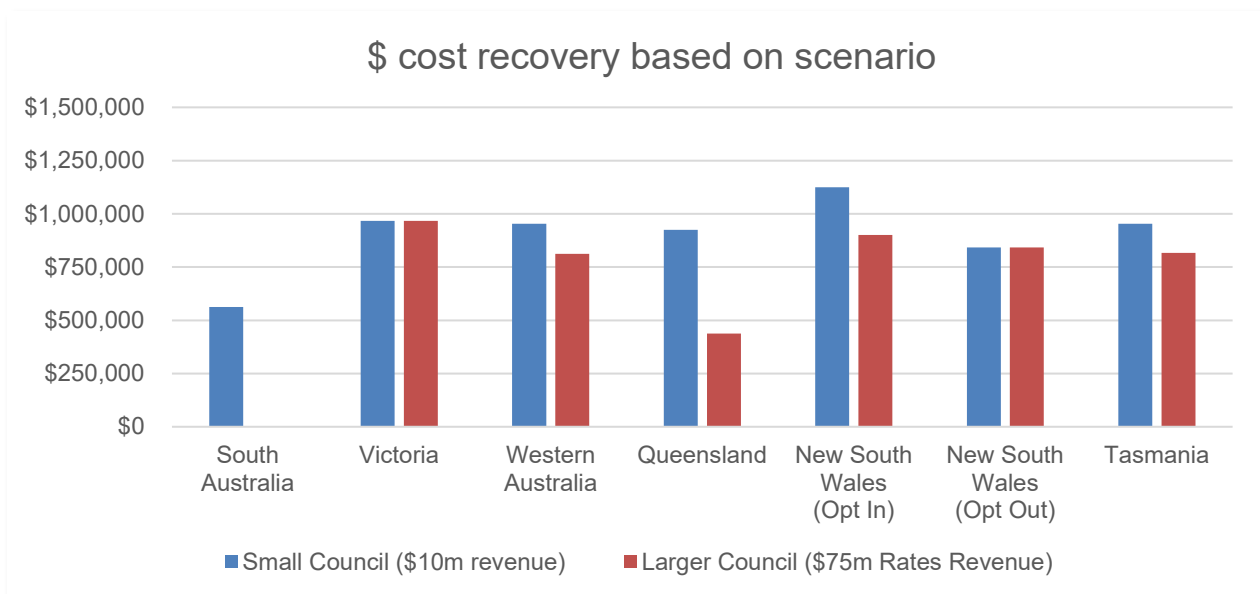
A disaster funding Benchmarking Report commissioned by the LGA shows the levels of disaster support provided to councils in each State jurisdiction based on their current disaster funding frameworks.

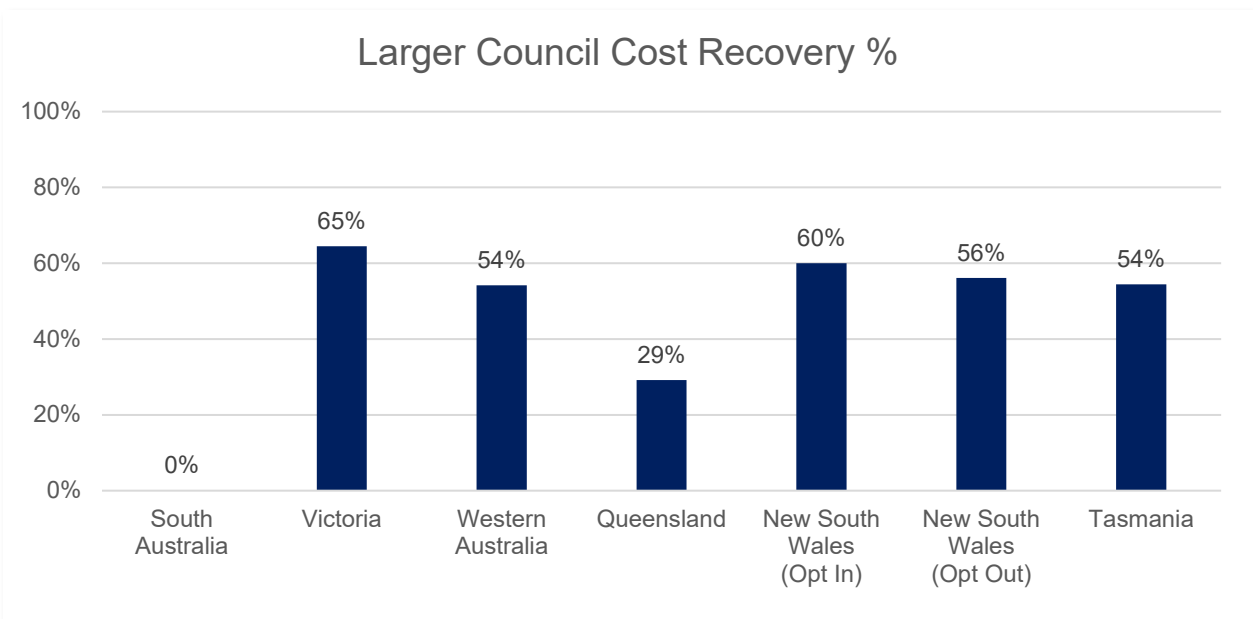
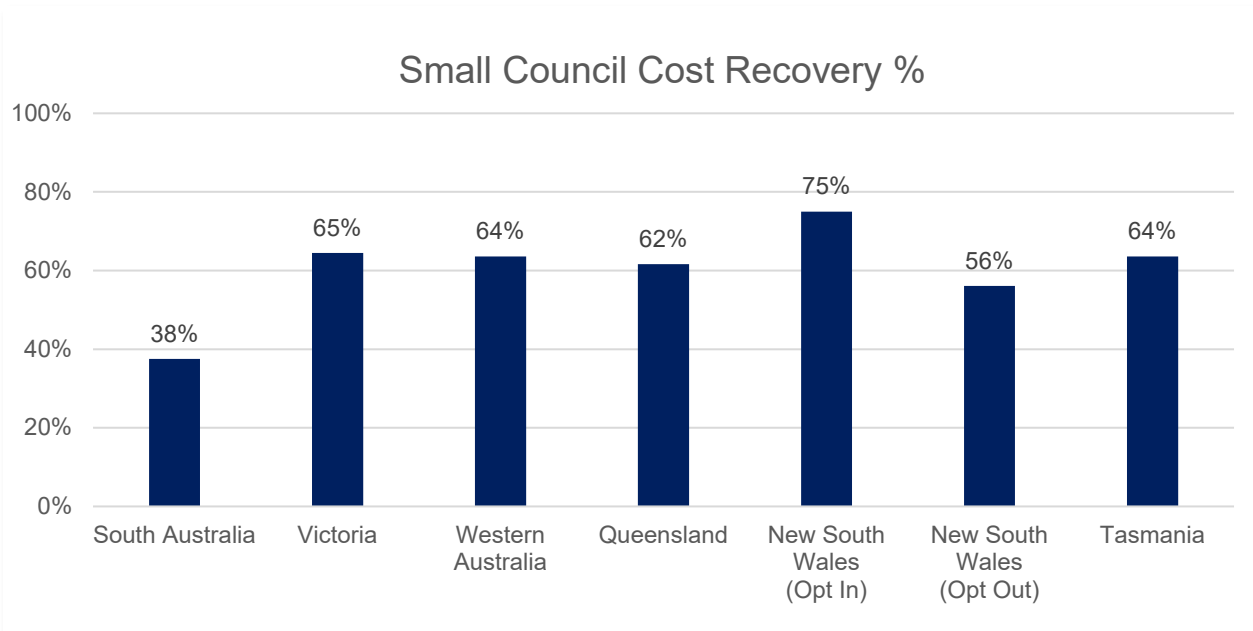
The Benchmarking Report used a theoretical disaster scenario to demonstrate the differences in cost recovery in each state for a smaller council (\$10 million of annual revenue) and a larger council (\$75 million of annual revenue). The hypothetical disaster scenario assumed:

- Counter disaster operations costs:
 - \$200k of internal costs to support immediate disaster relief (i.e. ordinary hours / plant costs)
 - \$200k of external costs or additional costs to support (i.e. contractors / overtime payments to staff)
- Essential public asset damage repair:
 - \$100k of internal costs (i.e. scoping repair works for damaged assets)
 - \$700k of external costs (i.e. contractor costs to execute repair works)
- Cost of community recovery activities:
 - \$200k of internal costs (i.e. holding disaster recovery events or employment of community development workers)
 - \$100k of external costs (i.e. professional fees in establishing fund and casual labour to support activities)

Under the scenario, total disaster related expenditure incurred by the council is \$1.50 million made up of \$0.50 million of internal costs and \$1.00 million in external or additional internal costs.

The following graphs show the amount and percentage of total expenditure that can be recovered in each jurisdiction for a smaller and larger council based on the disaster scenario.





For smaller councils (\$10m annual revenue), five of the six states provide for recovery percentages between 60% and 75% based on our scenario. The outlier being South Australia (38%).

For larger councils (\$75m annual revenue), there is a greater level of variation with Victoria providing the highest reimbursement rate of 65% with South Australia being the only jurisdiction with a 0% reimbursement rate as the high expenditure threshold applicable under the LGDRAA of 2% of rates revenue to start claiming is not exceeded.

Benchmarking summary

Based on the scenario, in South Australia, less than half of the total disaster costs incurred by a smaller council are recoverable under LGDRAA. This means that a smaller council (with \$10m of annual recurring rate revenue) could be forced to cover over \$0.95 million of \$1.50 million incurred relating to a disaster event. This would represent a material portion (9.5%) of its annual operating budget and would likely trigger the need to raise additional rates revenue or adjust service provision and infrastructure renewal.

Based on the same disaster scenario, a larger South Australian council would not be entitled to claim a single dollar under the LGDRAA despite incurring \$1.50 million of disaster relief and recovery costs.

South Australian councils and their ratepayers are not being adequately supported and are comfortably the most exposed in the country to natural disaster related costs. Five of the six interstate funding frameworks provide what the LGA would consider to be a reasonable level of financial support to councils who experience natural disaster related costs. These interstate frameworks have informed the recommendations of this report.

Case studies

The following case studies have been prepared to demonstrate how the current limitations with the LGDRAA arrangements have recently impacted two South Australian councils and their communities.

Cudlee Creek Fire – Mount Barker District Council



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Background

The Cudlee Creek Bushfire started on 20 December 2019 and was declared safe on 3 January 2020. It resulted in the destruction of 81 homes and burnt 23,000 hectares of land mostly across Mount Barker District Council (MBDC) and Adelaide Hills Council (AHC) areas.



Photo credit: Mount Barker District Council Recovery Matters newsletter showing an example of a council works crew clearing verge trees that had been damaged by the fire.

MBDC's contribution to the disaster

MBDC played an important role in responding to the fire and supporting the Country Fire Service (lead Control Agency). Tasks performed by MBDC included:

- road clearing and assessment;
- road furniture assessment and restoration;
- water carting (800,000 litres);
- deceased livestock disposal;
- provision of rubbish removal services (mostly free of charge to fire affected properties);
- supply of resources to the Emergency Operations Centre and Incident Management Team;
- provision of facilities for relief and recovery;
- representation on local and state recovery meetings and committees;
- manning of the State Emergency Centre;
- provision of timely communications to the public;

- extended Customer Services Hours; and
- increased presence in the community during Christmas office closure period.

During the disaster, MBDC donated its Environmental Services Centre to become the base for Emergency Operations for the fire and to coordinate resources from across the local government sector to support the disaster response.

MBDC took the view that their own internal staff resources were often best placed to support disaster response and initial recovery efforts. One such example is that MBDC deployed their own depot teams and qualified arborists to undertake the dangerous task of tree clearing and assessments to reopen local roads. This was a process which took a number of months and resulted in significant impact to routine council service provision.

However, at the end of the initial recovery period, it was discovered by MBDC that no internal costs relating to the disaster would be claimable or could be acquitted against the DRFA or LGDRAA, due to the inability to claim internal costs within the definition of Eligible Expenditure.

Based on the current LGDRAA framework, MBDC noted that they could have recovered additional costs from LGDRAA if MBDC had engaged and paid for resources from Adelaide Hills Council and vice-versa to support tree clean up in the alternative council areas.

Financial impact

Given the significant scale of the Cudlee Creek Fire and the other natural disasters occurring around Australia at the time, the Commonwealth Government established a \$2 billion disaster fund of which \$60 million was allocated directly to support impacted local governments around Australia. MBDC received a total of \$900,000 direct from the Commonwealth Government from this package.

This funding helped to meet some but not all of the costs incurred by MBDC relating to the Cudlee Creek Fire.

MBDC estimate the full costs incurred in relation to the bushfire event is currently in excess of \$1.6 million with further costs still being incurred to this day.

Despite the significant costs incurred, due to the high thresholds under LGDRAA and the tightness of the definition of eligible expenditure, MBDC did not see it as worthwhile to submit a claim under LGDRAA meaning the MBDC ratepayers have been forced to absorb the financial impact of the Cudlee Creek fire.

Issues noted by MBDC in relation to the existing LGDRAA

- The inability to claim internal direct costs as eligible expenditure. MBDC has a view that their own staff were best trained and best positioned to provide some elements of the immediate relief work, in particular tree management and road clearing. Such expenditure is not recoverable under the existing funding arrangements.
- Lack of clarity in terms of the definition of betterment. If an asset is damaged, MBDC queries why the same asset should be reconstructed if the community need has changed either directly or indirectly as a result of the fire. Also, it was noted that some assets cannot be reinstated to the same standard due to them being in a less than new condition at the time of damage.
- Lack of clarity as to whether or not tree clean-up costs or replacing damaged trees meet the definition of an essential public asset under the LGDRAA framework.

- Lack of time to scope community led recovery projects and to manage and assess tree damage within the time requirements provided to issue a Form 1 under LGDRAA.
- The community recovery fund requirements of LGDRAA are too complex and not practical for a council to implement in the immediate aftermath of a natural disaster.
- The LGDRAA did not interact well, or had not considered a situation where Council received direct funding under DRFA arrangements. It was not known whether council contributions towards LGDRAA thresholds could be acquitted against Category C and D DRFA funding received.
- For MBDC, the LGDRAA threshold of 2% of rates is a hurdle of approximately \$0.8 million. The second threshold is therefore \$1.381 million with only 50% and 75% recovery above these thresholds possible. For a growth council with an already stretched balance sheet, this hurdle is high and unreasonable.

Quorn Floods – Flinders Ranges Council



The Flinders Ranges Council

In October 2020, the town of Quorn received over 80mm of rain in two hours. This flood event damaged a number of unsealed roads and one bituminised floodway in the council area, leaving the Flinders Ranges Council (FRC) with a significant asset repair bill.

As a very small council, with a ratepayer base of less than 2000 properties, FRC had very little capacity to manage the scale of the damage that occurred. Council also had little to no previous experience with the LGDRAA process and sought the advice and support of two neighbouring councils and an Adelaide based consultant to support council's cost recovery claim under the LGDRAA.

Examples of damage caused by the Quorn flood event



Picture 1 shows the loss of pavement materials as a result of sheetwash. Picture 2 shows destroyed and delaminated sealed surface and pavement damage and Picture 3 shows an example of shoulder destruction creating an immediate safety hazard for road users.

Impact on Council and ratepayers

Unlike a bushfire event which can last for days or weeks, the Quorn flooding event was over in a matter of hours, meaning that council did not have any exposure in this instance to disaster response costs. The financial exposure came from the restoration and repair of its road network which was badly damaged by the floods.

FRC engaged a consultant to undertake a damage assessment task which identified approximately \$1.7 million of works to repair the damage. Based on the small size of FRC's ratepayer base and the damage incurred, we have calculated that under LGDRAA, FRC would be entitled to claim \$1.23 million of costs back leaving approximately \$0.5 million to be funded by FRC.

FRC has a ratepayer based on \$2.4 million, meaning a \$0.5 million contribution required under LGDRAA to repair damage represents over 20% of one year of rate income. The required contribution also comfortably exceeds the annual unsealed road renewal budget of \$0.3 million, meaning that to accommodate the required council contribution, FRC has had to defer the planned scheduled renewal program for its unsealed road network by over a year.

The assessment of costs also excludes the significant administration and operations time in understanding the disaster funding frameworks, undertaking damage assessments, obtaining photographic evidence and engaging with and informing elected members of the damage and the financial impact.

The Quorn Floods are a good example, both from a financial and an operational perspective of how natural disasters can have a significant and unreasonable impact on smaller councils and ratepayers under the existing LGDRAA framework. Rural councils have very limited ability to finance both the direct and indirect costs of a disaster event nor to manage the requirements of the complex funding frameworks.

Specific issues noted by FRC in relation to the existing LGDRAA:

- FRC commented that the existing LGDRAA arrangements are complicated and required a significant amount of management time to identify what council is and isn't entitled to claim.
- Given that LGDRAA does not bind the State Government to provide support, there was uncertainty for a long period of time as to whether or not FRC would be supported under LGDRAA. This uncertainty prevented FRC from commencing repair works.
- The administrative burden of making a claim is significant, both in terms of education on the existing frameworks but also in terms of gathering evidence and processing the paperwork to make a claim. Given the complexity, FRC required the support from a consultant to facilitate a claim.
- There were opportunities to achieve betterment identified by council to make the roads and culverts more flood resilient, however these were not able to be progressed due to funding limitations and the financial impact on FRC.

Conclusion

Under the current LGDRAA, South Australian councils are the least financially supported councils in Australia when it comes to recovering costs relating to a natural disaster. When natural disasters and emergencies strike, councils are left with little choice but to pass on the costs to their ratepayers or reduce servicing levels. This also means that the South Australian State Government is not currently meeting its requirement of enabling local government to effectively discharge its responsibilities in relation to natural disasters as defined under the State Emergency Management Plan.

To remedy the current deficiencies in the LGDRAA, the LGA is seeking an urgent review of the existing disaster funding arrangements with a specific focus on addressing the following points:

LGA Recommendation	Rationale
1. Making the LGDRAA simpler and more definitive in terms of the support that will be provided to councils in the event of a natural disaster.	The LGDRAA are written as guidelines that do not bind the State Government to a level of financial support. This means councils cannot confidently plan and respond to a disaster event knowing that their costs will be recovered.
2. Significantly reducing the current thresholds for cost reimbursement to levels consistent with other State jurisdictions.	The expenditure thresholds and reimbursement percentages in all other State jurisdictions are higher than what is available to South Australian councils. For South Australian councils, the ability to claim is significantly reduced with only three successful claims made in the last five years. The inability to recover costs from the State Government places pressure on rates in communities who themselves are recovering from the impact of a disaster.
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.	Based on the consultation undertaken by the LGA, a large percentage of costs incurred by councils in response to a disaster do not meet the current definition of Eligible Expenditure within the LGDRAA. This coupled with the unreasonably high thresholds ensure that South Australian councils are not being appropriately protected from the financial impacts of a natural disaster.
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.	Recent fire events have caused significant damage to verge trees that have caused road safety and amenity issues for councils. The short and long term costs of managing fire damaged verge trees can be significant and the current LGDRAA arrangements are silent on whether or not these costs can be treated as Eligible Expenditure.
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 LGDRAA can become a more all-encompassing funding framework.	The LGDRAA contains a statement that direct costs incurred at the direction of a Control Agency should be recovered from that Control Agency. There are recent examples of councils being unable to recover such costs. The funding frameworks could be simplified if this statement was removed and the LGDRAA became an all-encompassing disaster funding framework for South Australian councils. This would lead to operational efficiencies in how councils provide support to control agencies.



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Attachment 2



Recommendation	Proposed Position
SAROC	
<p>7.1 Implementation of an electronic portal for issuing of permits pursuant to the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 (Loxton Waikerie)</p> <p>That the Ordinary General Meeting requests that the Minister for Emergency 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><u>Support</u></p> <p>Minimal impact on Holdfast Bay, but centralisation of permit applications is sensible.</p>
<p>7.2 Electric Vehicles Taxes (Victor Harbor)</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><u>Support</u></p> <p>This action is in line with Council's Environment Strategy.</p>
<p>7.3 Research into the Population Status and Decline of Little Penguins in South Australia (Victor Harbor)</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><u>Support</u></p> <p>This action is in line with Council's Environment Strategy – protecting native flora and fauna on our coast.</p>
<p>7.4 Stamp Duty on Residential Property in South Australia (Barunga West)</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><u>Support</u></p> <p>Note: Barunga West's original submission requested removal of all residential stamp duty, SAROC provided the amended recommendation as an incentive for increasing regional housing stock and attracting workers and industry to regional areas.</p>
GAROC	
<p>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)</p> <p>That the Ordinary General Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> note that the new planning system has resulted in a loss of community voices and local knowledge in its decision-making process; 	<p><u>Support with amendment (additional point)</u></p> <p>It is recommended that an additional point be added to the motion, namely:</p> <p>3. That in supporting the above mentioned points, Councils that have formed positive and collaborative relationship with the State Government are not prevented from accessing these established pathways to promote their city's specific reform agenda with respect to land use planning matters.</p>

<p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>3. request the LGA to write to other relevant parties to express concern about the current state of planning in South Australia.</p>	<p>There are greater benefits in working constructively and collaboratively with the State Government to influence change on specific issues affecting the City of Holdfast Bay rather seeking a general review, which still delivers generic policies.</p> <p>The City of Holdfast Bay has seen benefits in an evidence-based approach that advocates its position directly with the State Government for enhancements to both the PDI Act and Planning and Design Code. Specifically, the City of Holdfast Bay successfully petitioned the Minister for Planning to allow a Local Heritage Places Development Plan Amendment to compensate for the shortcomings of the new legislation with respect to heritage protection.</p> <p>Furthermore, the City of Holdfast Bay was afforded recognition of its flood prone areas through the addition of a mapping layer to the Planning and Design Code.</p> <p>Most recently, the State Government and local councils have worked together to change the community consultation platform to make it easier for the public to be engaged on contentious development applications.</p> <p>A wholesale request to review the entire PDI Act is not seen as a practical way to address any identified shortcomings with the current legislation, which is better managed by directly advocating for change through the State Government.</p>
<p>8.2 Rough Sleeper/Homelessness Initiative (Town of Gawler)</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 	<p><u>Support in principle</u></p> <p>Provision of lockers will need further development and consultation to determine the ideal response, the intention of the motion is supported.</p>

<p>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</p> <p>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>	
<p>8.3 Mandatory inclusion of email addresses on the voters roll</p> <p>That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to lobby the Minister for Local Government to propose an amendment to the <i>Local Government Elections Act 1999</i> 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.</p>	<p><u>Not Supported</u></p> <p>While exploring the adoption of online voting is supported, this is an unnecessary step to enabling electronic voting systems.</p> <p>The stated purpose of this motion is to make it easier for prospective candidates to distribute election materials (via the email addresses of voters) and improve ease of access for distribution.</p> <p>While it may be easier for distribution, it represents a barrier to enrolment for voters.</p> <p>As it only applies to voters who aren't eligible to vote in the House of Assembly (which includes, but is not limited to property owners and businesses), it unfairly limits participation from a group who already face administrative burdens to participate in elections.</p>
<p>8.4 Review of Local Government Disaster Recovery Assistance Arrangements (LGA Secretariat)</p> <p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 	<p><u>Support</u></p> <p>These reforms would offer clarity and certainty to Councils in terms of financial sustainability in the event of a natural disaster.</p>

<p>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;</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 LGDRAA can be an all-encompassing funding framework.</p>	
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Item No: 15.6

Subject: **APPOINTMENT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VACANCY FOR THE SOMERTON WARD**

Date: 22 March 2022

Written By: General Manager, Corporate and Strategy

General Manager: Strategy and Corporate, Ms P Jackson

SUMMARY

The Executive Committee is a Council Committee established under Section 41 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (The Act) to undertake the annual performance appraisal of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Council adopted the Committee's Terms of Reference (C290119/1355) at its meeting on 29 January 2019, and made the following appointments to the Executive Committee for the remaining term of Council:

- The Mayor
- Deputy Mayor
- Councillor Lonie - Seacliff Ward
- Councillor Snewin - Brighton Ward
- Councillor Smedley - Somerton Ward
- Councillor Abley - Glenelg Ward

As Councillor Smedley is currently the Deputy Mayor there is a vacancy on the Executive Committee for the Somerton Ward. Councillor Fletcher or Councillor Miller may be appointed to the Executive Committee for the Somerton Ward, for the duration of the current Council term.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council appoint Councillor Fletcher or Councillor Miller to the Executive Committee to be the Elected Member for the Somerton Ward for the duration of the current Council term.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Statutory obligation.

COUNCIL POLICY

Executive Committee Terms of Reference (adopted 29 January 2019).

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Section 41 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

BACKGROUND

The Executive Committee performs functions relating to the annual performance appraisal of the Chief Executive Officer. This includes:

- to recommend to Council the form and process of the Chief Executive Officer's annual performance appraisal;
- to undertake the annual performance appraisal; and
- to provide a report and to make recommendations to Council on any matters arising from the annual performance appraisal.

The Executive Committee's authority extends to making recommendations to Council and it does not have any authority to make decisions in relation to the CEOs employment arrangements.

REPORT

The Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee states:

"5. Membership of the Executive Committee comprises:

- a. The Mayor;*
- b. The Deputy Mayor; and*
- c. Four other Elected Members being one from each Council ward, appointed by Council."*

Membership of the Executive Committee currently consists of the following:

- The Mayor
- Deputy Mayor
- Councillor Lonie - Seacliff Ward
- Councillor Snewin - Brighton Ward
- Councillor Smedley - Somerton Ward
- Councillor Abley - Glenelg Ward

Due to the annual rotation of the Deputy Mayor position, the membership of the Executive Committee needs to be confirmed each year.

As Councillor Smedley is currently the Deputy Mayor there is a vacancy on the Executive Committee for the Somerton Ward. Councillor Fletcher or Councillor Miller may be appointed to the Executive Committee for the Somerton Ward.

At the Council meeting held 9 March 2021, a motion was agreed that Councillor Abley would revert back to the Glenelg Ward Executive Committee member when her term as Deputy Mayor ends.

No additional allowance is paid to the elected member representatives on the Committee.

BUDGET

There are no budget implications.

LIFE CYCLE COSTS

There are no life cycle costs associated with this report.

Item No: 15.7

Subject: **SIGNIFICANT/REGULATED TREE REMOVAL**

Date: 22 March 2022

Written By: Team Leader, Environment and Coast

General Manager: Assets and Delivery, Mr M de Heus

SUMMARY

A tree that is classified as significant (3.7 m girth) under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* requires removal. The tree is a willow myrtle (*Agonis flexuosa*) located between the Brighton Tennis Club and the back of the Brighton Civic Centre. The tree requires removal because it has a fault that presents an unacceptable risk to community safety. The *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* requires a development application for the removal and Council's Tree Management Policy requires Council to provide landowner's consent for the application.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council provide landowner's consent for a development application for the removal of a willow myrtle (*Agonis flexuosa*) located between the Brighton Tennis Club and the back of the Brighton Civic Centre.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Support the creation of safer places by improving the public realm

COUNCIL POLICY

Tree Management Policy

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016

BACKGROUND

The tree has developed a structurally unsound form, with a split in the main trunk, and is located in a place of frequent occupancy (see location below). These two factors combine to create a significant risk, with removal being our only option.

The location is shown here:



The fault in the tree is shown here:



REPORT

Administration recommends the removal of this tree because it is structurally unsound and poses a risk to public safety.

Administration are discussing a removal date with the Brighton Tennis Club.

Three replacement trees in addition to the existing street tree planting program will be planted in the local area.

BUDGET

Operational budget

LIFE CYCLE COSTS

Not applicable

Item No:	15.8
Subject:	LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS BEST PRACTICE GUIDE
Date:	22 March 2022
Written By:	Community Development Coordinator
General Manager:	Community and Business, Ms M Lock

SUMMARY

The City of Holdfast Bay coordinated as lead Council for the SA Local Government Grants Network to develop a Local Government Grants Best Practice Guide through the Local Government Association Research and Development Grant Scheme.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes:

- 1. the report;**
 - 2. our adoption of the Local Government Grants Best Practice Guide into practice; and**
 - 3. the nomination as a finalist in the Local Government Professionals Australia Leadership Excellence Award in the category of Excellence in Cross Council Collaboration.**
-

STRATEGIC PLAN

The SA Local Government Grants Best Practice Guide crosses over all the objectives and aspirations from Our Holdfast 2050+ Strategic Plan:

Wellbeing:

Good health and economic success in an environment and a community that supports wellbeing.

Sustainability:

A city, economy and community that is resilient and sustainable.

Innovation:

A thriving economy and community that values life-long education, research, creativity and entrepreneurialism.

COUNCIL POLICY

Local Heritage Grants Policy
Social Development Policy

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Local Government Act 1999
Public Finance and Audit Act 1987
Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 2012

BACKGROUND

Whilst Local Governments across South Australia generally offer grant options, many processes are administratively heavy, disjointed and time-consuming, and differ from council to council. Well-designed community grant processes offer communities accessibility to funding to produce events, activities and programs that educate, inform and celebrate.

Sixteen (16) South Australian councils collaborated to form the Local Government SA Grants Network (the Network) and successfully secured a Local Government Research and Development Grant to address the disparity and streamline the community grants process across the state. The Network secured the services of consultant (BDO) through a tender process, and with the City of Holdfast Bay as lead Council, worked strategically to develop the Local Government Best Practice Guide in South Australia (The Guide).

The project's success is reflected in the nomination as a finalist in the *Local Government Professionals Australia, SA Leadership Excellence Award for Best Practice Guide for Grant Management for Local Government in South Australia in the category of Excellence in Cross Council Collaboration*.

REPORT

Grant management in Local Government is underpinned by legislation (*Local Government Act 1999, Public Finance and Audit Act 1987, Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 2012*) and all those working with public funds are publicly accountable to ensure that value for money is achieved through grants.

It is recognised that the work of grant managers across Local Government is often only one aspect of a larger role, yet the workload attached to the management of grants can be administratively cumbersome and time consuming.

The Local Government SA Grants Network identified a significant need for an all-encompassing guide to support new as well as seasoned grant management staff across Local Government, and to be in a position to successfully attract as well as deliver grant funding that would be flexible and adaptable to changes within local governments and their communities.

Additionally, a simple, accessible and easy to use community grant application process to empower communities to take advantage of opportunities to secure small grants to activate their local neighbourhoods; meet gaps in service delivery and create solutions to local problems.

It was unanimously agreed that broad engagement with metropolitan as well as regional stakeholders was essential to the success of the project. Not only would the Network engage with Local Government professionals, but also with community groups and authorities that operate in the grants space.

It was also essential to ensure that the needs identified through engagement were mapped against the individual and diverse range of strategic plans and policies of the participating councils. This would ensure that relevant but simple to use systems, tools and resources were developed that would be sustainable into the future. Mapping the key themes across all strategic plans made it possible to narrow the scope of the project to the following categories:

- Arts and Culture;
- Community Development;
- Economic Development;
- Information and Communications; and
- Sport and Recreation

The first step in the project was to undertake research to ensure The Guide will build upon previous work carried out locally, nationally and internationally where relevant. At the same time, a register of current grant management practices across local, state and federal government was collated and analysed, and finally recommendations and suggested improvements identified through the broad consultation process informed the development of The Guide.

At all times, the underlying reason for grant funding was kept at the forefront and driving the project. The experience of grant attraction and delivery can be long-winded and over-burdened with administration. Yet the outcomes can be community events and programs that change people's lives. Grant funding offers opportunities to deliver sport, support volunteers, alleviate loneliness, educate and develop skills, create art and music and engage with diverse cultures, just to highlight some of the outcomes that create stronger communities.

The Guide offers a comprehensive 22 page production with information, guidelines, templates and further references for more in-depth examples and instructions. The Guide will assist councils with performance assessment and continuous improvement. It supports good practice tailored to individual council's circumstances and resources. The Guide is a dynamic resource that is owned by the Local Government Grants Network and will be updated periodically to ensure it remains current and relevant. A copy of the Local Government Grants Best Practice Guide is attached.

Refer Attachment 1

The Network was diligent in ensuring that the following deliverables were met:

- Deliver real benefits to SA communities through improved service delivery;
- Be of strategic benefit to local governments;

- Develop a resource that is relevant and considers the legislation for grant administration under which councils operate;
- Assists councils to promote understanding of the role that grants play, the functions of local government in the grants space and how to manage community expectation;
- Standardised contract templates;
- Promotion of benefits of participating in the LG Grants Network across the local Government sector;
- Strengthen local government's ability to provide services and engage with their communities;
- Assist Council's access to electronic information and other strategic development of Local Government Information services;
- Inform potential commercial opportunities for an integrated local government grants management software program; and
- ensure sustainability beyond the project's timeline.

An unexpected but significant outcome of this project was the increased awareness of the Local Government Grants Network both within SA and nationally. A direct result of the engagement associated with this project led to 19 expressions of interest to join the SA Local Government Grants Network and contact from interstate councils to replicate the network, or join in with SA.

The project was nominated and selected as a finalist in the Local Government Professionals Australia Leadership Excellence Award in the category of Excellence in Cross Council Collaboration. This is testament to the recognition of this project and the value it brings to Local Government in the grants management space.

BUDGET

The project was fully funded through a Local Government Research and Development Grant to the value of \$35,171.

LIFE CYCLE COSTS

The Local Government Grants Network will seek contributions from participating councils to fund the costs associated with updating resources from time to time.

Attachment 1





Best Practice Guide for Grants

The Guide is intended to assist South Australian councils to build capacity and increase sustainability through integrating best practice in the grant making administration cycle.

Developed by the SA Local Government Grants Network

Version 1.0, December 2021

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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Local government is both a funder and applicant for grant funding. Good grant attraction and grant making practices contribute in a meaningful way to the creation of fair, just, democratic and prosperous communities.

The SA Local Government Grants Network (the LG Grants Network), a community of practice supporting local government grant officers, commissioned this Best Practice Guide for Grants for Local Government in SA.

The Guide is intended to assist South Australian councils to build capacity and increase sustainability through integrating best practice in the grant making administration cycle. It is hoped the Guide will assist councils with performance assessment and continuous improvement. It is not mandatory policy but rather guidance to support best practice tailored to individual council's needs and resources. The Guide was informed by desktop research, the dedication of LG Grants Network members, a widely-distributed survey responded to by 80 local government officers in September 2021 and three online consultation sessions in October 2021.

Nothing in this Guide is legal advice. This Guide cannot be relied upon as legal advice.

This Guide is accompanied by two grant contract templates, Template 1: *Council Low Risk/Low Value Funding Agreement letter* and Template 2: *Council Grant Agreement*, which were drafted by a legal practitioner. Those two templates have been drafted as generic templates based on instructions received during the course of this project. Those templates contain a number of fields that must be completed by the relevant Council as well as a number of variables for different clauses which must be selected for the grant.

As such, while the templates are in our view legally appropriate for use, no legal representation is made that a particular grant agreement based on the templates is suitable for the purposes of protecting the legal position of the relevant council in that particular application. In cases where the council has any concerns about the legal risk of a particular grant, it should consider seeking specific legal advice on that grant.



This project has been funded by the Local Government Research & Development Scheme administered by the Local Government Association of South Australia. Views and findings associated with this project are expressed independently and do not necessarily represent the views of the funding bodies.

Credit: Images used on front and back cover supplied courtesy of SA councils.

1. GRANT DISTRIBUTION

Local Government is an important source of grants for the South Australian community. Grant administrators and approvers oversee the allocation of public funds and therefore are publicly accountable to ensure that value for money is achieved through grants. This accountability is underpinned by legislation, including the:

- *Local Government Act 1999*
- *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*
- *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 2012.*

Appropriate consideration and planning of a grant scheme can support achievement of value for money and a council's desired outcomes. A well planned scheme also reduces preventable risks to councils while avoiding disproportionate red tape for applicants.

This section of the Guide is designed to support local government entities to design grant schemes and grant rounds. It also includes information about designing grant schemes and individual grant rounds for evaluation of their impact and value for money.

1.1. Policy and Governance

Before initiating a new grant scheme or implementing a new round of a scheme, consider if the appropriate policies are in place. Suggested policies and procedures to be in place include:

- Conflict of interest policy which takes into account the *Local Government Act 1999* and/or procedures
- Financial and contract delegations
- Privacy policy
- Dispute resolution procedures
- Complaints management policy or procedures.

Your organisation may wish to have a grants policy outlining the overarching objectives it seeks to achieve through grants and the principles it will implement to do so.

The term 'grant' can be used to mean a variety of funding arrangements. Consider whether your grants policy will cover:

- unsolicited requests, being requests for funding outside of a formal process
- discretionary grants, such as grants provided outside of a formal grant round at the discretion of a decision-maker
- donations, such as funding provided without a specific expectation of anything in return.

If a grants policy or other specific policy does not cover these issues, consider how processes for unsolicited requests, discretionary grants and donations will address risks to transparency and ensure they align to council's strategy.

Examples of other organisations' grants policies or principles can be found at:

- [City of Onkaparinga Grants Policy](#)
- [City of Playford Community Development Grants Policy](#)
- [Premier and Cabinet Circular 44: South Australian Funding Policy for the Not for Profit Sector \(covers grants and services\)](#)
- [Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines](#)

1.2. Grant Scheme Planning

1.2.1. Record Keeping

Maintaining records about grant scheme planning processes and decision making will support transparency and accountability. Good record keeping can also reduce rework when planning future grant schemes and reduce risks with staff turnover. It will also support transparency to help meet audit requirements should an audit be conducted under the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*. When planning a grant scheme, the first step is to create a file to document the establishment of the scheme. The rest of section 1.2 provides useful indications of what should be included in the planning records.

1.2.2. Purpose of the Grant Scheme

Determine and document the purpose of the grant scheme. Questions to consider include:

- Why is this grant scheme needed by the community? What is the evidence for your conclusions? Is there competing evidence?
- What are the outcomes to be achieved by the grant scheme?
- What would success look like? How will success be measured?
- Are those outcomes and impacts appropriate for council intervention?
- Is a grant scheme the best way to seek those outcomes and impacts? Might another mechanism, such as funding specific services, be better suited?
- Are there any issues of inequity in the community or across regions that should be considered in the design of the scheme? If so, consider options to design the scheme to address any inequity. For example, would the scheme:
 - Set maximum amounts of funding that any one organisation can apply for during the life of the scheme
 - Set a limit on the number of applications that an organisation can make during the life of the scheme
 - Align eligibility criteria to organisations supporting specific demographics/ regions/target groups or give preference to such groups through assessment criteria?

Consider how the purpose would be achieved through the grant scheme. Document how the purpose would be monitored and reported on.

An example of a grant scheme's purpose articulated can be found at:

- [Local Government Research and Development Scheme Logic](#)

A further explanation of Program Logic can be found in:

- [This NSW Health YouTube clip.](#)

1.2.3. Internal and External Requirements

Consider the impact of any external requirements which must be met on the design of the scheme, such as:

- Requirements from external funders or partners, like the Local Government Association, the Government of South Australia or the Australian Government
- Any applicable legislation.

Design the scheme to meet any internal requirements, such as financial and contractual delegations, any applicable policies and existing approval processes.

1.2.4. Strategic Context

Consider and ensure alignment with existing commitments or strategic objectives, such as council commitments or strategic plans. Are there objectives in those commitments or plans that the grant scheme would contribute to? If so, how?

What other funding or resourcing opportunities meet the identified needs that the grant scheme would address? Document how the grant scheme would complement existing funding and resource supports, for example from:

- The Local Government Association
- Other councils if relevant
- Government of South Australia agencies, such as those listed on [GRANTassist](#)
- The Australian Government, as listed on the [Community Grants](#)
- Philanthropic organisations
- Available fee for service arrangements
- In-kind or volunteer support.

If the proposed grant scheme would partially duplicate an existing funding source, explain what the duplication is and why it is necessary.

1.2.5. Funding Context and Parameters

Consider the funding context of the scheme, including:

- What would be the council's funding source for the grant scheme?
- What is the term of that funding?
- How frequently would funding be available to council, for example annually or only once?
- How frequently would council make funding available for applicants?

- What is the transition plan out of grant scheme when the funding term ends? Would the outcomes sought be sustainable without ongoing council intervention?
- How much funding would be available in total for each grant round?
- What happens if a round's funding is not fully expended? Could a grant scheme go over budget? If so, what would happen?
- Should there be an upper and/or lower limit for individual applications across the life of the grant program?
- Would multi-year grant funding agreements be an option?
- Would there be a limit on applications or total funding available to an applicant, either within a grant round or over the life of the program? For example, might there be a compelling reason for an applicant to receive funding only once?
- Would applicants be expected to co-contribute to the funded activity, either financially or through in-kind activity?
- Is there a compelling reason for the scheme to consider geographic distribution of funding? If so, document those reasons and what actions would support meeting the desired geographic distribution, such as apportioning grants to particular regions.
- How would value be achieved with the public funds?

1.2.6. Engagement

Consider if engagement is necessary or appropriate. If so, consider who from council, for example an executive member, staff member or elected member, should lead that engagement.

Engagement is a broad term and should be designed to suit the specific situation. For example, you might propose consultation with leaders from community groups to better understand their current strengths and challenges to determine how to target future funding.

Consider probity principles before engagement. Particularly consider fairness and equity to potential respondents by documenting engagement and any information provided by council so it can be provided to potential grant respondents should a scheme be created. Ensure any approvals are in place before conducting engagement and ensure commitments are not made that cannot be met.

1.2.7. Governance

Consider appropriate governance and administration of the scheme based on existing policies and the scheme's strategic context. Consider:

- What positions would be most appropriate to evaluate applications?
- What position(s) would have authority to recommend applications?
- What position(s) would have delegation or other authority to approve applications as successful?
- What position(s) would have financial delegation to authorise grant giving? To enter into contracts with successful organisations?
- What position(s) would be responsible for overseeing that grants have been expended in line with any requirements?
- What would the complaint and appeal processes be?

Ensure there are no conflicts of interest created in the roles of the individuals responsible for governing and delivering the program--functions should be performed by different people to ensure appropriate segregation of duties. For example, one person should not both recommend and approve an application as successful. As another example, one person should not both manage a complaint and be involved in any appeal on how the complaint was managed.

1.2.8. Type of Grant

Depending on the purpose of the grant program, determine the category of grants to be made available. For example, is the purpose of the scheme best met by grants designed for:

- specific projects
- general operating expenditure
- building sector capacity
- capital works.

Determine the structure of the grants the program would distribute. Would the program be:

- Competitive, with applicants receiving funding based on their applications' relative merits?
- 'First come, first serve', with all eligible applications receiving requested funding until the funding has run out?
- Proportional (formula), with eligible applications receiving a portion of funding determined by their relative merit, the number of applications, or other factors?

1.2.9. Risk Assessment

Consider the risks of establishing the grant scheme in line with any of your council's current policies or risk assessment tools. Some questions to consider include:

- Does your council have staff capacity and capability to manage the grant scheme from initiation to closure? In particular, will systems allow successful completion of a grant round from publication through to documenting acquittals if one or more key staff are not available?
- What additional resources could you access to support you, such as collaborating with other councils?
- What are the risks to council if successful applicants do not meet their obligations?
- Are there financial risks associated with the grant scheme, such as not receiving the funding required to facilitate grants?
- Are there sustainability issues associated with the scheme, for example from community expectations which may not be met?

Consider and document:

- the likelihood of the risks occurring
- the consequences should the risks occur
- any plans to treat (reduce the likelihood and impact) the risks.

Consider as well what may make the risks intolerable for council and therefore make the grant scheme unviable.

An example of a risk assessment process can be found in:

- [City of Marion's Risk Assessment for Events Held on Council Land](#), which includes a risk assessment matrix, hierarchy of risk control strategies and consequence criteria.

1.2.10. Approvals

Seek approvals for the grant scheme. Examples of approvals for establishing a new grant scheme that your council's policies or practices may require include:

- managerial or executive approval
- financial approvals
- approvals from elected members.

If approvals are provided, ensure they're documented and filed.

If any key approvals are not provided, the rationales for not proceeding should be documented to support continuous improvement.

1.2.11. Involvement of Elected Members

Consider any relevant delegations or policies regarding involvement of elected members. Document how elected members will be involved for the proposed grant scheme, for example, will they consider, note or approve:

- Establishing a new grant scheme
- Commencing a grant round from an existing scheme
- Providing offers of grants, either for all grant contracts or for grants exceeding defined financial or risk thresholds beyond which council involvement is appropriate
- Disbursing funds for grants, either for all grant funds or for grants exceeding defined financial or risk thresholds beyond which council involvement is appropriate
- Acquitted grants or grant reports.

Some councils also involve elected members in other ways. Some current practice includes:

- One or more elected members being involved in the grant round planning
- One or more elected members participating on the evaluation panel
- Grant officers offering briefings to elected members
- A committee of elected members supporting the development of grant processes.

1.3. Grant Round Planning

Once approvals are in place for establishing a grant program, planning for a specific grant round can occur. In your planning, consider any feedback from previous grant processes, including complaints and compliments. Are there actions that should be taken in this grant scheme to address that feedback?

1.3.1. Eligibility Criteria

Mandatory requirements or eligibility criteria may not be necessary. If there are mandatory requirements, it is recommended to keep them to a minimum.

Mandatory criteria might include:

- Any legislated or policy requirements
- Requirements for organisations, such as having a particular purpose or being incorporated
- Co-funding for the project from the applicant
- Having met previous acquittal or reporting requirements to council
- If appropriate for the type of grant, information about meeting any relevant COVID restrictions or obtaining any staff and volunteer clearances required by the relevant authority.

If eligibility for a grant scheme or a grant round will be limited or closed, document the reasons for doing so.

Once a round has been announced as having mandatory requirements, in fairness to applicants and potential applicants they should not be changed. Individual applications not meeting mandatory requirements should not be considered.

Consider whether the process may include the option for requesting additional information from applicants and when this would be appropriate. For example, will you seek information from applicants if it is missing from otherwise compliant applications?

An example of eligibility criteria can be found at:

- City of Pt Adelaide Enfield's [Community Grants](#).

1.3.2. Round-Specific Objectives

If a specific need has been identified and the grant program design and any higher-order legislation or policy requirements allow, determine any round-specific objectives. Consider if there are priorities targeted for this round, for example specific:

- types of projects
- types of organisations
- regions
- demographic groups.

Consider how applications which address the desired focus area will be treated. Will only applications meeting round-specific objectives be considered or will they be given preference, for example, through higher weighting in assessment criteria if an application meets the objectives?

1.3.3. Document Round Process

Design an assessment process which aligns to the type of grant to be distributed. Consider how items 1.2.7. Governance and 1.2.8. Type of Grant above will apply for this round.

Document the process to be undertaken before it commences. Consider timeframes for each of the steps and how requirements of applicants will be proportionate to the risk and value of the grant.

The process is likely to include the following steps:

- Grant round opens: Applications will be accepted from this date.
- Grant round closes: Applications will no longer be accepted after this date.
- Application screening: Council officers will check applications meet eligibility criteria.
- Application assessment: Assessment Panel will consider eligible applications.
- Applications recommended: Assessment Panel, with administrative support from council officers as appropriate, will provide recommendations to approving delegate or council
- Applications considered for approval: Delegate with authority for approval, such as council, the executive team or an executive, considers recommendations and approves or does not approve recommendations for successful applications.
- Applicants notified: Notify all applicants of the outcome of their applications.

An example of requirements tiered to be proportionate by grant value can be found in:

- The [City of Adelaide Community Impact Grants](#), which have four levels of complexity in eligibility, application requirements and reporting depending on the type and value of the grant.

1.3.4. Assessment Criteria

If the grant round is competitive, determine what criteria will be used to determine the relative merit between applications. The qualitative criteria should align to the desired purpose and outcomes of the grant scheme. If some areas are more important than others, use weighting so scoring emphasises those areas' importance through a proportionally larger available score.

If a grant scheme or round is *not* competitive (see section 1.2.8. Type of Grant above for examples of other options), ensure there is clarity on how funds will be distributed.

1.3.5. Approvals

Seek approvals for proceeding with the grant round in line with the design of the grant scheme, for example from an executive or elected members. Should approvals not be given, the rationale for not proceeding should be documented to support continuous improvement.

1.4. Promotion

1.4.1. Applicant Support

Consider if your council has the resources to offer support to potential applicants, like promoting that potential applicants can ring council or having a dedicated grants email address. You may also wish to publish answers to any Frequently Asked Questions from previous grants and any arriving as the current grant round is promoted. For significant grant programs, you may consider providing community information sessions or grant writing workshops.

Some grant writing supports for community members include:

- The City of Playford's [Grant Writing Workshop](#)
- The Victorian Government's [grant writing guide](#)
- The [Multicultural Communities Council of SA](#) often hosts grant writing workshops

In fairness to potential applicants, be clear what sort of support your council is able to provide. Supports could include explaining the grant process, directing potential applicants to publicly available information about grants or grant writing, answering specific questions from potential applicants or accepting applications in alternative formats (for example hardcopy instead of a completed online form).

1.4.2. Design the Grant Application Form

Consider what information you will require of applicants. Be clear in the application form which requested information forms mandatory criteria and which elements will be assessed by the Assessment Panel.

As much as possible, the grant application form should align with the criteria to be assessed. If the grant scheme is competitive and weightings will be used in the assessment, consider including the weightings on the application. You may wish to specifically request applicants design measures of their projects' impact or project milestones which align with the purpose of the grant scheme.

Information not relevant to the mandatory criteria, assessment criteria or general administration of the process should generally not be requested. Requests for surplus information adds additional effort by applicants and may confuse the assessment process.

You may also wish to be clear which sorts of information are not required through the grant application process and, if provided, would not form part of assessment, for example letters of support.

1.4.3. Develop Grant Round Promotion Materials

To support transparency, it is recommended that at a minimum the grant round be made public, for example on a webpage or through accessible grant guidelines. Ensure public information aligns with decisions made to date, including the information requested on the grant application form.

Use plain English to describe the grant. Be transparent about what will happen through the grant process, what you expect from applicants and what will be expected from successful recipients.

Guidance on using plain English can be found in:

- The Centre for Inclusive Design [Easy English versus Plain English Guide](#)
- The Australian Government [Style Manual](#)
- Government of South Australia [Plain Language guidance](#)

For publication materials, consider including:

- The grant scheme name
- The purpose of the grant scheme and any specific objectives of this grant round
- Open and closing dates of the grant round
- Applicant eligibility criteria from item 1.3.1. Eligibility Criteria above. If eligibility for a grant scheme or a grant round is limited or closed, explain why
- How much funding is available this round and any upper and/or lower limit for individual applications
- What funding can be used for and what it cannot be used for
- Any limitations on how many times an applicant can apply (across a scheme or within a round)
- How applications can be submitted
- What documentation will be required in the application
- The application and assessment process
- Governance of the grant program, including who will make recommendations about applications and who will approve them
- Assessment criteria and any weightings
- Any contact officer or applicant support options
- Any appeals or complaints process
- Potential reporting and/or acquittal processes.

1.4.4. Communicate and Promote

Develop a communications plan for the grant round. Consider how to reach your target audiences and what actions will be taken by whom to promote the grant round. Ensure all communications have a clear call for action and direct interested parties to the collated information you prepared in section 1.4.3. Develop Grant Round Promotion Materials.

Once approvals for the grant round have been received, the round can be promoted to its target audiences. Promote the grant round, for example through council newsletters, email lists, social media, your council's website and at council events.

If promoting the grant round on your council's website, you may also wish to provide links to other potential funding options, for example any relevant to your target audience that you identified during the grant scheme planning phase, general Government of South Australia grants at [GRANTassist](#), or Commonwealth grants listed on the [Community Grants portal](#).

For examples of councils supporting the community by collating other relevant funding sources, see:

- Alexandrina Council's [Alternative Funding Opportunities](#)
- The [Onkaparinga Funding Finder](#)

1.5. Assessment and Disbursement

1.5.1. Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality

Ensure there is a clear process for decision-makers, including the Assessment Panel and advisors providing advice or recommendations on applications, to declare any associations with grant applicants or conflicts of interest. As outlined in section 1.2.7 Governance above, also ensure there are no conflicts of interest created by the roles assigned in the grant scheme's governance structures.

Any staff, elected members or others (such as subject matter experts providing advice) who have access to confidential information should be made aware of their obligations to maintain confidentiality. Confidential information includes information about the grants which is not publicly available (or not yet publicly available) or grant applications themselves.

Some current practice to remind those involved in a process to declare associations and conflicts and maintain confidentiality include:

- Requiring written declarations of associations or interests before providing access to confidential information. Note it is good practice that declarations be updated if needed throughout the process when additional information is available, for example when applicants are known.
- Including a declaration of no association or conflict at the top of each assessment form.
- Providing briefings to those involved in the process of confidentiality and conflict of interest requirements.
- An annual reminder to staff and elected members about declaring associations and maintaining confidentiality.

The [Local Government Act 1999](#) includes key obligations:

- Chapter 5, Part 4--Conduct and Disclosure of Interests includes elected members' obligations to act honestly, with reasonable care and with diligence in performing official duties. It includes requirements for confidentiality, declaring interests on council's Register of Interests, and declaring and dealing with material, actual and perceived conflicts of interest.
- Chapter 7, Part 4--Conduct of Employees includes employees' and former employees' obligations to maintain confidentiality. It contains requirements for chief executive officers and prescribed officers to declare interests on a Register of Interests. It also includes employees' obligations to disclose and manage their interests and those of people closely associated with them.

1.5.2. Establish Assessment Panel and Process

In line with the record keeping protocols established during Grant Scheme Planning, ensure records are maintained of the assessment process, particularly decisions and rationales for decisions.

For competitive grants, consider what sorts of perspectives are needed for the grant process and who could provide them in line with previous decisions. Establish an Assessment Panel. The use of assessment evaluation sheets which outline criteria to be assessed and provide qualitative options (numbers) for assessing each criteria may support record keeping.

Grant management software (see Grant Management Tools below for some examples) may provide templates for collecting assessment information from the Assessment Panel. If you use cloud-based grant management software, consider if it meets your record keeping requirements. For example, consider if your council will be able to access information in the system if key staff leave or council cancels the software subscription. If the software does not meet your record keeping requirements, consider if you may need to store assessment information locally, such as by downloading any input information about the grant round.

1.5.3. Screen Applications

If there are mandatory criteria for the grant round, have a process to screen applications to ensure mandatory criteria are met before progressing applications. You may consider whether it is appropriate to seek additional information from applicants to assess whether eligibility requirements are met. Non-compliant applications should not progress to evaluation.

1.5.4. Evaluate Applications

For competitive grants, provide applications to the Assessment Panel (if applicable). If a decision was made to use standard assessment sheets, provide those sheets; if an online tool is being used, provide access to the tool. A good process for assessing competitive rounds is individual scoring of applications then group discussion of individual's rationales for those scores to seek a consensus score and make decisions. Another option is to average the scores of all assessors prior to discussion and seek to discuss if there are outlying scores for some criteria.

Ensure new criteria are not introduced during evaluation. Records of decisions, such as minutes, should be taken and assessors should sign off that those minutes are accurate of decisions and rationales of the decision-maker or Assessment Panel.

1.5.5. Document Recommendations

Document the Assessment Panel or assessment officer's recommendations on applications through existing internal processes, such as written briefings to the approving delegate.

1.5.6. Approvals

Seek approvals of recommendations from the people or groups, such as elected members, with delegations to:

- approve successful applications
- enter into contracts, and
- incur expenses.

Document all approvals.

1.5.7. Inform Applicants and Provide Contracts

After receiving approvals of successful grants, inform all grant recipients in writing of the outcome of their applications. Seek to provide notifications to all applicants on the same day. For unsuccessful applicants, inform them in writing via email or letter. Consider providing an opportunity for feedback.

For successful applicants, provide the offer of funding via email or letter with a draft contract. Your council may call the draft contract 'conditions of funding', 'funding agreements', 'grant contracts' or

another term. Templates have been created to supplement this Guide if your council does not already have grant contract templates or would like to consider updating its templates.

Consider the value and risk of the grant based on your council's context. See section 1.2.9. Risk Assessment above for some considerations for risk. The Government of South Australia typically considers grant contracts low value if valued at \$10,000 or less. During consultation for the creation of this Guide, council officers suggested low-value grants to be valued at between \$2,500 and \$15,000.

Choose the appropriate documentation based on your assessment of value and risk:

- For low value/low risk grants, use your council's existing contract template or complete Template 1: *Council Low Risk/Low Value Funding Agreement letter*. Provide recipients the opportunity to clarify terms so recipients understand what they will be required to do.
- For higher value grants or those with grant-specific special conditions:
 - a cover letter may be appropriate along with your council's existing contract template, or
 - a completed Template 2: *Council Grant Agreement*. Include reporting and acquittal requirements proportionate to the level of risk and value of the grant.Provide recipients the opportunity to clarify terms so recipients understand what they will be required to do.
- For high risk, complex or atypical grants, or where the Council is otherwise unsure, seek legal advice on the appropriateness of the template proposed to be used.

Once contracts are signed by both the recipient and the council delegate, ensure the signed, final versions are filed in a central place with appropriate security. This will support audit requirements, including should an audit be conducted under the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*, reduce rework and support continuity should there be staff changes.

1.5.8. Transparency

Consider how your council will be transparent about the grant round's results, for example publishing the names and projects of grant winners on a website.

1.5.9. Reporting and Acquittal

Design internal systems to support receipt of reporting from grant recipients. Consider if recipients will receive reminders to complete their acquittal or reporting, for example through an online grant system or a reminder email.

Review reporting and ensure acquittals are complete and align with what was expected. Where there may be discrepancies, seek additional information from recipients. Consider recourse where appropriate in line with the signed grant contract, such as requiring unspent funds to be returned.

1.6. Evaluation

1.6.1. Continuous Improvement Systems

To support improvements in customer experience and internal systems, consider seeking feedback from grant applicants and those involved in the grant process. Options for seeking feedback include:

- surveys sent to applicants
- requesting feedback from applicants as part of the acquittal process
- formal and informal complaints and feedback
- requesting feedback from grant Assessment Panels and staff involved in the process.

Any learnings should be recorded to support continuous improvement.

Consider keeping a database of any non-compliance from applicants, such as whether they did not complete the project as expected or did not acquit or report on expenditure. Your database might include an assessment of whether the non-compliance is major and should impact an organisation's eligibility to apply for future grants.

1.6.2. Monitor Impact and Assess Performance

Consider the measures of impact developed in the Grant Scheme Planning phase (section 1.2 above). Has the grant round achieved its desired outcomes? How do you know?

What evidence is there that there has been an impact in the community? Can it be quantified?

What has not been achieved during the grant round? What could be improved upon for next time? Document learnings for future rounds.

2. GRANT ATTRACTION

Grants can be an important source of funding for local government much-needed projects. Well-designed grant attraction programs and good project management methodologies will support successful delivery of projects. Conversely, delivering on obligations associated with grant funding can be burdensome if the project to be delivered is not well planned, particularly if the full requirements of its delivery were not fully identified or its delivery is under-resourced.

2.1. Policy and Governance

Before designing a grant attraction strategy or applying for grants, ensure governance of grant delivery is clear, particularly who would be responsible for what elements of grant attraction and delivery.

Consider having in place policies and procedures to allow delivery of a grant-funded project, such as delegations or procedures for:

- approving the development of grant applications. This will help avoid wasting effort on grant applications which may not align with council's strategy
- approving grant applications to ensure quality and accountability
- entering into contracts
- monitoring project delivery
- escalating any issues, such as risks to project delivery or funder relationships
- approving projects as complete
- developing grant reports and acquittals
- approving grant reports and acquittals
- ensuring allocated funding can be traced to delivery of a project, particularly for any staffing costs.

2.2. Attraction Planning

2.2.1. Funding Landscape

Be aware of the funding landscape relevant to your council and your community. Consider subscribing to funders' newsletters and using grant search databases, such as those listed in Grant Attraction Tools below, to map out opportunities that may be relevant to your community.

Consider joining professional networks, like those in Networks below, to share information with colleagues working in similar areas. These relationships may also support your council to build collaborative relationships to deliver on future projects in partnership with other organisations.

2.2.2. Grant Attraction Program or Funding Strategy

Consider designing a program of the types of projects required by your community which would be well-suited for grant funding.

Consider your council's strategic plan and existing projects. What are your council's goals and where is additional funding most needed to achieve them? How will grant attraction fit within the existing

context of the programs your council provides? How would any proposed projects fit within the existing context of those provided by state and Commonwealth government as well as not-for-profit organisations?

Part of any grant attraction program will include developing ways to describe your council, its vision and strategy, your community and your council's track record delivering on projects with positive impact. For projects that are determined to fit within your grant attraction program, consider drafting project plans for how they would be delivered. Pre-preparing statements with frequently used information and project plan drafts early, before grant rounds open, will expedite application preparation as you can tailor the pre-prepared information as well as develop consistent messaging with funders.

If there have been previous challenges with delivering on projects or on grant obligations, consider if and how those challenges will be avoided or addressed in the future, for example by re-building relationships with funders. Document those actions and how they will be applied in your grant attraction program.

2.2.3. Evidence Gathering

Consider what evidence will be compelling to potential funders in regards to your community's needs and your council's ability to deliver on them. Gathering and maintaining evidence of why additional funding is required will be critical to being able to develop grant applications within grant rounds' opening periods.

Consider how you know there is a community need. Do you have data you can reference either from council or others, examples of success from other councils or jurisdictions, or ways to reflect stakeholder feedback? See 3.1.3 Evidence Gathering Tools below for some sources with data available by council area.

Guidance on quantifying community impact can be found in:

- The SA Community Managers' Network [Valuing Social Outcomes Tool](#), which was designed to support councils in measuring the social value of community development and community services programs they deliver in their communities.

2.3. Preparing an Application

2.3.1. Record Keeping

Maintaining records about your grant application planning and decision making will reduce rework in the future and reduce risks should there be staff turnover. It will also support transparency to help meet audit requirements, should an audit be conducted under the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*. When planning to prepare a grant application, the first step is to create a file to document work on the application as it progresses, any communication with the funder and decision-making.

Consider maintaining a record of the time associated in preparing the application to support decision-making about whether to apply for future grants.

2.3.2. Assessing Grant Opportunities

Read carefully any information you can find about the grant, particularly eligibility criteria, the purpose or objective of the grant, and any guidelines. If the funder provides a list of previous recipients or projects, consider if your organisation and project appear similar to previous successful recipients. Seek to understand the funder, its purpose and its high-level strategy. Particularly note any areas of alignment with your council's strategy.

Consider what the grant provides for and what it excludes. For example, if the grant could not be applied for internal staffing for a project that will require council employees to manage it, would internal resources be available to manage the project?

If your council requires an approvals process for applying for grants, ensure approvals are in place before developing the application.

2.3.3. Project Planning

Develop a plan for the project in line with your council's project management procedures. At a minimum, define and document the:

- goals of your project
- schedule for your project, including any external or immovable deadlines
- costs and other resources required for the project
- project milestones and key approval points
- the council's ability to deliver the project as described
- the closing point of the project and project evaluation.

When considering costs and resourcing, ensure all resourcing to deliver the project is documented, including:

- Expenditure associated with the project, including potential price rises between the application development and project delivery
- Non-direct or delayed costs, such as the Construction Industry Training Board levy or any increases to insurance premiums due to the project
- Internal resources required to administer the grant, including its reporting and acquittal
- Internal resources required to deliver the project
- Any external resources required to deliver on the project, such as contractors.

A quick guide to project management and links to resources can be found in:

- The Australian Public Service Commission's [effective project management resources](#).

2.3.4. Grant Writing and Submission

Good grant writing is important to ensure the effort associated with grant applications is not wasted. If your area does not have a lot of experience with successful grant writing, consider consulting with

other areas of council, such as grant management or marketing staff, for support. You may also choose to tap into existing networks, including those listed in section 3 below, for tips and additional information.

Supports for grant writing include:

- The Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies commissioned the [FundAssist Toolkit](#). Although designed for alcohol and other drug organisations, it has comprehensive information relevant to many grant applications
- The Victorian Government's [grant writing guide](#)
- Pro Bono Australia's [Top 10 Tips for Grant Writing](#)
- The Funding Centre's [guidance on writing a grant application](#)
- Our Community's [Grant Writing Seminar](#) (paid)

For significant grants, you may wish to engage a professional grant writer. Consider the need for the potential grant funding, how well the project meets the grant criteria and the availability of both budget and staff resources to support a grant writer.

Ensure any appropriate approvals are sought with enough time to submit the application before its due date. Keep a copy in council records of the final submission and any acknowledgement from the funder confirming receipt of the submission.

2.4. Successful Applications

If you are notified a grant application has been successful, ensure someone familiar with the proposed project carefully reviews the grant terms and conditions. If the full amount of requested funding has not been offered or there have been changes to council's staffing or capacity since the application, consider if the project can be delivered. If there are terms and conditions you or your team do not understand, seek internal advice, then seek clarification from the funder. Seek legal advice if necessary to ensure the obligations are fully understood before the grant is accepted. If there are terms that would be unacceptable or create an undue burden on your council, discuss with the funder if they may be negotiated.

Ensure the grant contract (which may be referred to by other terms, such as 'grant conditions' or a 'grant agreement') is endorsed according to your council's delegations and policies then returned to the funder before commencing the project.

2.5. Project Delivery

2.5.1. Project Delivery and Monitoring

Review the project planning documentation, considering if any changes are required in line with the grant contract or changes since the project plan was created. Now that funding is secured, consider if the project plan requires additional detail to successfully deliver the project. Particularly note any reporting or approval points.

If internal or external stakeholders will be involved in the project, inform them of the grant's success. Commence delivering the project in line with your project plan and grant conditions.

Ensure the project is monitored, particularly in line with any risk management plan.

2.5.2. Managing At-Risk Projects

If a grant-funded project is at risk of not being delivered to requirements, consider if actions could achieve those requirements. For example, consider if additional funding or resourcing, such as council revenue or partnering with another organisation, could support delivery of the project in line with obligations.

If changes may be required at any stage to approved plans, it is good practice to flag these possibilities as early as possible, first internally and then with the funder.

If a project may be at risk, consider any relevant agreement or contractual obligations with the funder. There may be scope to negotiate modifications to the obligations, for example by extending deadlines, particularly if there are strong reasons why the original obligations have not been met. Seek legal advice if needed.

2.6. Continuous Improvement

2.6.1. Accepted Grants

For successful grants that are accepted by council, consider and document what made the grant application successful. Even though the application was successful, you may wish to seek feedback from the funder to understand why your application was successful. Consider and document the positives of the process, as well as if there may be options for continuous improvement to internal processes.

Ensure records are kept of any feedback. Review your grant attraction program or strategy and revise if needed.

Ensure you evaluate the grant process and project execution and document any learnings to refer to when considering grant opportunities in the future.

2.6.2. Unsuccessful Applications

For unsuccessful applications, ask the funder for feedback on why the application was not successful. Seek to understand if there are potential learnings, for example, did the funder have concerns about:

- the grant writing or application
- the project budget
- the project's alignment with their objectives
- your council's track record or ability to deliver the project.

Ask the funder if they may consider the project or a similar project in the future.

Ensure records are kept of the feedback. Review your grant attraction program or strategy and revise if needed.

2.6.3. Unaccepted Grants

If council makes a decision to not accept a grant, document why. Evaluate the grant preparation and negotiation process to document any learnings to refer to when considering grant opportunities in the future.

3. OTHER RESOURCES

Free and paid tools and resources exist across Australia to support your council with grant distribution and attraction.

3.1. Grant Attraction Tools

3.1.1 Government Databases

- [GrantConnect](#): The free centralised publication of forecast and current Australian Government grant opportunities and grants awarded.
- [Grants & Programs Finder](#): A free Australian Government grant and funding search to support businesses.
- [GRANTassist](#): Free information on Government of South Australia grants and assistance for business and industry and for communities, clubs and individuals.

3.1.2 Subscription-based grant search databases

- [Funding Centre](#): Focus on not-for-profits.
- [Grant Guru](#): One limited no-cost option; registration required.
- [The Grants Hub](#): For local government, not-for-profit and business; free 14 day trial.

3.1.3 Evidence Gathering Tools

- [.id \(Informed Decisions\)](#): Demographic information tools, population forecasting, locational analysis. Registration required
- [REMPPLAN](#): Economic and demographic data, some available without a subscription or registration.
- [Community Wellbeing Indicators](#): A tool for small to medium sized and regional council to monitor community wellbeing.

3.2. Grant Management Tools

There are a number of subscription-based grant management tools, including:

- [Good Grants](#)
- [OmniStar](#)
- [SmartyGrants](#)
- [Tactiv](#)

3.3. Other Organisations' Grant Rules and Policies

- [Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines](#): The Australian Government grants policy framework. The Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines contain the key legislative and policy requirements, and explain the Commonwealth's better practice principles of grants administration.

- [Premier and Cabinet Circulars](#): Government of South Australia requirements for Best Practice Community and Stakeholder Engagement (Circular 36), Unsolicited Proposals (Circular 38), Complaint Management in the SA Public Sector (39), SA Funding Policy for the Not for Profit Sector (includes grants--Circular 44)
- [Treasurer's Instruction on Grant Funding](#): Requirements for Government of South Australia administrative units issued by the Treasurer of South Australia to establish accountability for grant recipients.
- [City of Onkaparinga](#) Grants Policy, Auspice Form and Auspice Declaration. City of Onkaparinga also has an interactive tool, [Grant Selector](#), an example of how to support community to find grants.

3.4. Networks

- SA Local Government Grants Network
- LG Professionals Australia SA [Community Managers Network](#)
- LG Professionals Australia SA [Continuous Improvement Network](#)
- For regional councils, connecting with colleagues in your region through the relevant [Regional LGA](#), [Regional Development Australia](#) or [Landscape Board](#).

3.5. Government Contacts

- [SA Councils list and map](#)
- [Australian Government departments and agencies](#)
- [Government of South Australia departments and agencies](#)



Local Government Association
of South Australia

For further information please email:
lgrds@lga.sa.gov.au

Item No: 15.9

Subject: **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Date: 22 March 2022

Written By: General Manager, Strategy and Corporate

General Manager: Strategy and Corporate, Ms P Jackson

SUMMARY

The term of Ms Paula Davies on Council's Audit Committee expires on 26 March 2022 and it is recommended that she be re-appointed for a further 3-year term.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council re-appoint Ms Paula Davies as an independent member of its Audit Committee for a further term of three (3) years.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Statutory obligation

COUNCIL POLICY

Audit Committee Terms of Reference

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Sec 126 Local Government Act 1999

REPORT

The terms of reference for Council's Audit Committee provides for a membership of five (5) comprising not less than two (2) elected members and not less than two (2) independent members.

At its meeting on 11 December 2018, Council appointed two (2) elected members, Councillors Smedley and Snewin to the Audit Committee. Councillor Smedley was appointed presiding member by the committee.

There are three independent members on the Audit Committee:

- Ms Paula Davies
- Mr Sean Tu
- Mr David Powell

Ms Paula Davies was appointed to the Audit Committee in 2019 for a 3-year term which expires on the 26 March 2022. Paula Davies is qualified in law, economics and accounting. She has a strong background in governance and risk management and has worked in the SA public sectors for 15 years including the Attorney General's Department. Her professional roles have had a regulatory and governance focus. Paula is currently the Director Professional Standards at the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide and is currently an independent member of the Audit Committee at the Cities of Burnside, Salisbury, Adelaide and Mitcham. Her broad experience and qualifications continue to add value and complement the skill set of Council's Audit Committee.

As this is Paula's first Audit Committee term and has added value to the Committee's deliberations due to her extensive experience in governance and risk, it is recommended to re-appoint Paula for a further three (3) years.

Council's elected members on the Audit Committee, Councillors Smedley and Snewin, have expressed their support to re-appoint Ms Davies for a further 3-year term.

BUDGET

This report does not have any budget implications.

LIFE CYCLE COSTS

This report does not have any full life-cycle cost implications.