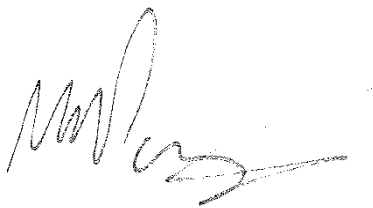


# Notice of Meeting

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

**Friday 30 April 2021 at 11.00am**

**In Hickinbotham Hall, National Wine Centre of Australia  
Corner of Botanic and Hackney Roads, Adelaide**



**Matt Pinnegar**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

30 March 2021

# Agenda

Item	Page
<b>1. Open &amp; Welcome</b>	
<b>2. Apologies</b>	
<b>3. Notice &amp; Arrangements</b>	
<b>4. President's Address</b>	
<b>5. Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	
5.1 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29 October 2020	3
5.2 Resolutions and Actions from Previous Meetings	19
<b>6. LGA Business</b>	
6.1 LGA Member Services Update	33
6.2 LGA Advocacy Update	36
6.3 LGA Strategic Plan 2021-2025	44
6.4 LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan	60
<b>7. Recommendation Reports from the SAROC Committee</b>	
Nil.	
<b>8. Recommendation Reports from the GAROC Committee</b>	
8.1 COVID-19 Response (Salisbury)	72
8.2 Damage to Infrastructure by Developers and Builders (Tea Tree Gully)	78
8.3 Electric Vehicles Fleet Incentives (Campbelltown)	88
8.4 Seeking a review of mandatory statutory rebates and exemptions from payment of local government rates (Adelaide)	95
<b>9. Recommendation Reports from the LGA Board of Directors</b>	
Nil.	
<b>10. Next Meeting</b>	
The 2021 LGA Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 29 October at a venue to be confirmed.	
<b>11. Close</b>	

## 5.1 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29 October 2020

### Minutes of Previous Meeting

Meeting	Ordinary General Meeting	30 April 2021
ECM:	719815	Attachment: 698093

---

### Recommendation

**That the Ordinary General Meeting confirms the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29 October 2020 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings held.**

### Discussion

An Annual General Meeting of the membership was held on 29 October 2020. The draft minutes are attached for confirmation as to their accuracy.

Draft

## Draft Minutes of the LGA Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 29 October 2020 at 11.00am at Woodville Town Hall, 76 Woodville Road, Woodville South

### 1. Open & Welcome

The President opened the meeting at 11:00am and welcomed members and staff.

#### Present:

President	Mayor Sam Telfer
Chief Executive Officer	Matt Pinnegar
Executive Director Public Affairs	Lisa Teburea
Records Management & Projects Coordinator (Minutes)	Astrid Crago
Executive Assistant to the CEO & President (E-voting)	Ashlea Lyall
Human Resources and Administration Coordinator (E-voting)	Sarah Ryan

#### *Member Councils (voting delegates):*

City of Adelaide	Coorong District Council
Adelaide Hills Council	Copper Coast Council
Adelaide Plains Council	District Council of Elliston
Alexandrina Council	The Flinders Ranges Council
The Barossa Council	District Council of Franklin Harbour
Barunga West Council	Town of Gawler
Berri Barmera Council	Regional Council of Goyder
City of Burnside	District Council of Grant
Campbelltown City Council	City of Holdfast Bay
City of Charles Sturt	District Council of Karoonda East Murray
Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council	District Council of Kimba
District Council of Cleve	Kingston District Council
District Council of Coober Pedy	Light Regional Council

# Draft

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

## 2. Apologies

District Council of Ceduna	Port Pirie Regional Council
Kangaroo Island Council	Municipal Council of Roxby Downs
District Council of Peterborough	Yorke Peninsula Council

## 3. Notices & Arrangements

The Executive Director Public Affairs 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.

# Draft

## 5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

### 5.1 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 31 October 2019

Moved Light Seconded Tatiara that the Annual General Meeting confirms the minutes of the Annual General meeting held on 31 October 2019 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings held.

**Carried**

### 5.2 Resolutions and Actions from Previous Meetings

Moved Victor Harbor Seconded Campbelltown that the Annual General Meeting notes progress with resolutions resulting from the Annual General Meeting of 31 October 2019 and outstanding resolutions from earlier general meetings.

**Carried**

## 6. LGA Business

### 6.1 LGA Annual Report 2019-2020

Moved Unley Seconded Kimba that the Annual General Meeting receives and adopts the Local Government Association of South Australia's Annual Report for the year 2019-2020.

**Carried**

### 6.2 Financial Statements 2019/20

Director Corporate Services Andrew Wroniak provided an overview of the Financial Statements.

Moved Northern Areas Seconded Gawler that the Annual General Meeting receives and adopts the LGA of SA and controlled entities Financial Statements for the year 2019/20.

**Carried**

### 6.3 Annual Reports of LGA Committees

Chair of the GAROC Committee, Mayor Karen Redman presented the GAROC Annual Report to members.

Chair of the SAROC Committee, Mayor Erika Vickery presented the SAROC Annual Report to members.

Moved Mid Murray Seconded Grant that the Annual General Meeting notes the Annual Reports for the year 2019-2020 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)

# Draft

- c) CEO Advisory Group
- d) Audit and Risk Committee

**Carried**

#### **6.4 LGASA Mutual Annual Report 2019/20**

On behalf of the chair, Ms Dascia Bennett, Independent Member of LGASA Mutual, presented the Annual Report to members.

Moved Naracoorte Lucindale Seconded Campbelltown that the Annual General Meeting receives and notes the LGASA Mutual Annual Report for the year 2019-2020.

**Carried**

#### **6.5 LGA Procurement Annual Report**

The Chair of LGA Procurement, Mayor David O'Loughlin, presented the Annual Report to members.

Moved Light Seconded Whyalla that the Annual General Meeting receives and notes the LGA Procurement Annual Report for the year 2019-2020.

**Carried**

#### **6.6 Local Government Research and Development Scheme**

Moved Northern Areas Seconded Yankalilla that the Annual General Meeting notes the report.

**Carried**

#### **6.7 LGA Advocacy Update**

Moved Goyder Seconded Salisbury that the Annual General Meeting notes the report.

**Carried**

#### **6.8 LGA Member Services Update**

Moved Barunga West Seconded Wattle Range that the Annual General Meeting notes the report.

**Carried**

#### **6.9 Local Government Functional Support Group (LGFSG)**

The President thanked the Secretariat for their work in supporting the LGFSG over the last 12 months.

Moved Alexandrina Seconded Franklin Harbour that the Annual General Meeting notes the report on the Local Government Functional Support Group.

**Carried**

Draft

**6.10 Pricing Methodology and Pricing Schedule**

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

**Carried****6.11 Local Government Financial Indicators 2020**

Moved Northern Areas Seconded Wakefield Regional that the Annual General Meeting notes the report.

**Carried****6.12 LGA Board and Committee Member Allowances and Expenses Policy**

Charles Sturt Mayor Angela Evans declared a perceived conflict of interest and left the meeting.

Moved Mid Murray Seconded Light that the Annual General Meeting adopts the attached revised Board and Committee Member Allowances and Expenses Policy.

**Lost**

*12.19pm Mayor Evans returned to the meeting.*

**6.13 SAROC and GAROC Terms of Reference**

Moved Gawler Seconded Naracoorte Lucindale 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 Attendance at Meetings by electronic means (Victor Harbor)**

Moved Victor Harbor Seconded Campbelltown that the Annual General Meeting requests the Local Government Association to lobby to the State Government or the Minister for Planning and Local Government to review the *Local Government Act 1999* and *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013* to include provisions for Council Members to attend Meetings and Informal Gatherings by electronic means.

**Carried****7.2 Solid Waste Levy (Berri Barmera)**

Moved Berri Barmera Seconded Charles Sturt that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to:

1. continue to advocate for 50% of the monies accumulated in the Green Industry Fund (collected from council contributions to the Solid Waste Levy) be committed back to local government for worthwhile waste,



Draft

- recycling and resource recovery endeavours that support the transition towards a more circular economy;
2. advocate that State Government commit to a guaranteed minimum level of reinvestment of the Solid Waste Levy in the waste, recycling and resource recovery sector;
  3. advocate for State Government to conduct ongoing research and development in collaboration with local government and other stakeholders into;
    - a. alternative waste technologies that support the upper end of the waste hierarchy and strategies such as organics composting for food waste;
    - b. kerbside collection technologies/strategies to incentivise households to maximise recycling rates and minimise the amount of general waste going to landfill; and
    - c. Green Industries SA to expand its Waste Education/Awareness campaign to provide clear messaging on recycling and organic waste strategies to help the South Australian community.

**Carried**

### **7.3 Recycling Services and better support for regional communities in the disposal and management of recycling (Wattle Range)**

Moved Wattle Range Seconded Robe that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to:

1. advocate on behalf of all councils with State Government on the challenges of managing recycling and resource recovery in South Australia;
2. ask State Government to direct Green Industries SA to work more closely with local government and businesses in the development of sustainable long-term options and 'on the ground solutions' to support the transition towards a circular economy, including making a lot more funding available; and
3. advocate for a substantial increase in the level of State Government funding in the waste and resource recovery infrastructure program.

**Carried**

## **8. Recommendation Reports from the GAROC Committee**

### **8.1 Family and Domestic Violence training, education and development (Adelaide)**

Moved Adelaide Seconded Burnside that the Annual General Meeting requests that the LGA:

Draft

1. consults with member councils to determine what resources and programs currently exist to support employees and/or members of their communities impacted by Family and Domestic Violence, and identify any further resources which should be developed;
2. liaises with the State and Federal Government to explore partnership opportunities to support the local government sector in providing consistent, best practice support and education to employees on matters relating to Family and Domestic Violence; and
3. based on the outcomes of those investigations, develops a training and education package:
  - that can be implemented by leaders in the sector, to assist them in identifying when an employee may be in a Family and Domestic Violence situation and how they can assist in connecting them to supporting mechanisms; and
  - that could be provided to employees (possibly delivered by leaders) on Family and Domestic Violence.

**Carried**

*12.43pm leave of the meeting was granted to the President to adjourn the meeting to hear an address from the Deputy Premier, the Hon. Vickie Chapman MP.*

*1.12pm the meeting resumed.*

### **8.2 Native Vegetation Act and Policy for SEB Guidelines (Playford)**

Moved Playford Seconded Salisbury that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to:

1. investigate the Native Vegetation Act 1991 (SA), the Native Vegetation Regulations 2017 (SA) and relevant guidelines to consider, in particular, the effect that it has on:
  - a) road safety and function; and
  - b) cost implications to councils across the state; and
2. prepare a report for the LGA Board of Directors on the outcomes of the investigation (in part 1) to inform future advocacy to the State Government on matters relating to the management of Native Vegetation.

**Carried**

### **8.3 Collaborative development of a trial local government sector framework and approach fostering greater cross council collaboration and co-funding of shared social and other facilities and infrastructure (Adelaide)**

Moved Adelaide Seconded Marion that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to work with interested councils to:

Draft

1. develop a framework and approach fostering greater cross council collaboration and co-funding of social and other facilities and infrastructure which support communities across multiple council areas; and
2. provide materials and resources to support councils seeking partnership and cofunding arrangements with State and Federal Governments as well as private and non-government sector organisations to support such facilities and infrastructure.

**Lost**

#### **8.4 Aluminium Composite Panel Cladding (Salisbury)**

Moved Salisbury Seconded Gawler that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA on behalf of the whole local government sector to make representations to the State Government in relation to the proposed measure to increase purchaser protection for Aluminium Composite Cladding, and to:

1. support the use of an advisory notice on the Property Interest Report for landowners and potential purchasers to take reasonable steps to determine if ACP has been identified on buildings;
2. support that an obligation is placed on the owner of land to make ACP cladding a formal disclosure on the Form 1 Statement; and
3. request that consideration be given for a campaign to increase the general awareness of purchasers on the appropriate use of materials in a building.

**Carried**

#### **8.5 Regulation 119 of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017 (Salisbury)**

Moved Salisbury Seconded Gawler that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA on behalf of the whole local government sector:

1. make the strongest possible representations to state government opposing their variation to Regulation 119 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017*; and
2. write to and meet with all parties in the state parliament to urge them to disallow the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) (Planning and Development Fund) Variation Regulations 2020*.

**Carried**

Draft

## 9. Recommendation Reports from the LGA Board of Directors

### 9.1 State of Climate Emergency (Gawler)

Moved Gawler Seconded Salisbury that the Annual General Meeting requests:

1. that the LGA recognise the climate crisis and declare a Climate Emergency;
2. that the LGA develop an LGA Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) in partnership with its member councils (in relation to its operations and its leadership role);
3. that the LGA CEAP primarily focuses on mitigation through reduction of GHG emissions but it also focuses on adaptation and climate safety for local communities;
4. the LGA develop a model CEAP in partnership with interested member councils for use by member councils throughout the state; and
5. any work to be undertaken by the LGA should complement, add value, build upon what is already happening, and not duplicate the work of the Climate Emergency Australia (Local Government) Network.

**Amendment** Moved Port Lincoln Seconded Franklin Harbour that the Annual General Meeting requests:

1. that the LGA recognise the climate crisis and declare a Climate Emergency for at risk communities;
2. that the LGA develop an LGA Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) in partnership with its member councils (in relation to its operations and its leadership role);
3. that the LGA CEAP primarily focuses on mitigation through reduction of GHG emissions but it also focuses on adaptation and climate safety for local communities; and
4. the LGA develop a model CEAP in partnership with interested member councils for use by member councils throughout the state.

The Amendment was **lost**

The original Motion was put and **lost**

### 9.2 Voter Roll Process (MRLGA)

Moved Berri Barmera Seconded Alexandrina that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to continue to advocate for a simplified process for non-resident property owners to enrol on Council's voters roll either through an online and/or automatic process and removing the requirement to purge the voters roll in the year of the ordinary election.

**Carried**

Draft

### 9.3 Catastrophic Fire Days Community Relief Centres (Cool Refuge Centre) (Port Lincoln)

Moved Port Lincoln Seconded Tumbly Bay that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA continue to work with appropriate agencies in developing a Joint Operating Guideline to clarify local government roles and responsibilities in supporting a relief centre (cool refuge centre) for communities during times of extreme heat and catastrophic fire danger, particularly when mains power may not be available.

Carried

### 9.4 Installation of Sea-Level Gauge at O'Sullivan Beach (Adelaide Plains)

2.20pm Salisbury left the meeting.

Moved Adelaide Plains Seconded Port Lincoln that the Annual General Meeting requests that the LGA continue to lobby for and contribute to an improved national approach to sea level rise management and consider moving to a 'monitor and respond' model of adaptation that incorporates local sea level science.

Carried

### 9.5 'Buying it Back' Circular Procurement Pilot Project – recommendations for local government

Moved Alexandrina Seconded Holdfast Bay that the Annual General Meeting:

1. acknowledges the outcomes, learnings and support materials from the 'Buying it Back' Circular Procurement Pilot Project that has supported participating councils to increase and track their purchase of recycled content;
2. endorses the following recommendations of the 'Buying it Back' Circular Procurement Pilot Project, that LGA member councils:
  - 2.1 acknowledge that local government action is imperative for addressing the current challenges in waste and recycling (as detailed in the National Waste Policy Action Plan and including the implications of the impending national waste export ban);
  - 2.2 commit to increasing purchasing of recycled-content material as a high priority and as a necessary method of mitigating councils' rising waste management costs;
  - 2.3 amend their existing Procurement Policies to:
    - a) Temporarily (say, for 5 years) prioritise recycled-content through the procurement process and include a method of ensuring accountability;
    - b) Mandate consideration of recycled-content through design and planning processes (including where panel contracts are already in place);

Draft

- c) Specifically permit consideration of the “opportunity cost” associated with a purchase (ie. instead of only asking “which product is most sustainable?”, also ask “what will happen to the materials if I don’t purchase the recycled-content option?”);
  - d) Encourage councils to track the purchase of recycled-content by weight and report publicly on purchases;
- 2.4 in addition to amending existing Procurement Policies, consider implementing an administrative approach outside of the policy, for example, by limiting stationery items available for purchase by council staff to those with recycled-content (noting that this approach can make data collection easier as all purchases will have recycled-content and simply need to be collated);
- 2.5 continue working through communities of practice to share knowledge and experiences of buying recycled and to explore and/or support development of a certification scheme for recycled-content products and materials;
3. endorses the LGA writing to the Commissioner for Roads as provided for in sections 23 and 24 of the Highways Act 1926 to request that work be undertaken with engineering bodies and/or Austroads to develop a generic (ie non-industry owned) specification that allows for the use of recycled-content in road construction materials (in particular, materials sourced from yellow bins including plastic and glass fines).

**Carried**

2.28pm Unley left the meeting.

## 10. Late Reports

Nil.

## 11. Next Meeting

An Ordinary General meeting will be held on Friday 30 April 2021 at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre, 98 Port Road, Hindmarsh.

## 12. Close

The President gave a closing address and welcomed the incoming President Mayor Angela Evans.

Mayor Evans addressed members.

The meeting was declared closed at 2.36pm.

## **President's Address to the 2020 LGA Annual General Meeting**

It is my pleasure to provide the LGA President's report to the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

This will be the final report of my Presidency, and looking back on the past two years, I believe we can be proud of what we have achieved as an Association and a sector.

By working together, and with our partners in government, we have continued to build on the value we provide to our communities, in good times and bad.

The past twelve months have been a challenging period, not just for our State but also for our country and beyond.

This included our worst bushfire season in recent memory, with Kangaroo Island and the Adelaide Hills regions the hardest hit, but other SA regions and councils also affected.

Right across the State, councils stepped up providing staff and equipment to support their neighbours, through the Local Government Functional Support Group.

In total, the Functional Support Group coordinated assistance from 220 crew members across 40 councils, who worked alongside state agencies and their fellow councils to respond to the fires.

These staff worked tirelessly to create fire breaks, cart water, assess trees for safety, and support road closures.

They were the quiet achievers, working collaboratively to support a coordinated and effective response.

Facing a very different threat just months later, councils again took a collaborative approach as they responded to COVID-19.

Supported again by the Local Government Functional Support Group, local government worked with SA Health and SAPOL to monitor social distancing requirements in their communities.

The Functional Support Group also provided support and assistance to councils through operational updates, the provision of resources, representation to State agencies, and coordinating the supply of equipment.

The Local Government Functional Support Group has been a shining example of what we can achieve when we work together, and I would like to thank and acknowledge the councils that have provided staff and resources that have supported its success.

I would also like to thank the Local Government Finance Authority, who generously committed a once-off \$350,000 grant to support the operations of the Functional Support Group, which will benefit all councils.

The LGFA have long been a valued member of our local government family in South Australia, and this support demonstrates their outstanding commitment to our sector.

The coronavirus pandemic had a big impact on council operations, and the LGA worked closely with the State Government to quickly develop amendments to the Local Government Act that gave councils the flexibility they needed.



It was vital that the LGA and its members were working closely with both State and Federal government, ensuring that the local on-the-ground perspectives of communities was understood.

To facilitate this, the LGA hosted a number of online forums with decision-makers at all levels, including with Premier Marshall, various State and Federal Ministers, representatives from SA Health, and legal experts to help councils work through the myriad of challenges they were facing.

LGA advocacy resulted in \$860,000 in State Government funding for eight SA councils that run childcare centres that were impacted, as well as direct involvement in the negotiations to help ensure regional airlines servicing our major centres continued to do so.

We also partnered with the Department of Human Services to provide councils with the opportunity to apply for a share of \$500,000 for projects, led by young people, that respond to COVID-19.

The LGA has continued to work with members to develop emergency management plans through the Council Ready Program, which now has agreed action plans in place with all 68 councils.

One hundred per cent participation is an excellent achievement and indicative of the growing awareness of the important role our sector plays in emergency management.

Now that the focus has shifted from response to recovery, councils have stepped up to support households, community groups and businesses impacted by COVID-19 restrictions.

Earlier this year the LGA commissioned a report from the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies which looked at how councils could best drive economic development post COVID-19.

This report told us that bringing forward strategic infrastructure projects was the best course of action, and that's what many councils have done.

However, we can't do it alone. Councils collect just 4% of taxation, and often rely on funding partnerships to deliver large projects.

Advocacy from ALGA as well as State LGAs resulted in the announcement of a \$500 million Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program back in May, which provided councils with funding support to bring forward these big projects that will create jobs and support businesses.

We welcomed this announcement back in May, and we were thrilled to see it expanded with an additional \$1 billion in funding announced in this month's Federal Budget.

We've made submissions to the State Government for next month's budget to provide additional funds to councils for local projects that will help us to leverage this federal funding and create even more South Australian jobs and opportunities.

Throughout the year the LGA has focused on delivering value for members, through providing targeted services that meet the needs of councils and deliver cost savings.



Our new Legal Connect Partnership with Norman Waterhouse Lawyers provides us with access to legal advice and training, and the support and resources they provided during COVID helped ensure a coordinated response.

This year the LGA worked with more than 50 councils to transition more than one hundred websites to a new Squiz platform, delivering better accessibility and functionality.

We also worked with councils, the AER and SAPN on a Public Lighting Working Group to determine new public lighting tariffs, which will save councils \$14.8 million over the next five years.

This has been a busy period for many councils – especially smaller regional councils – as they transition to a new state-wide planning system.

As a sector we are supportive of planning reforms that will deliver a better system for councils, developers and our communities, and we have worked closely with the Government, Planning Commission and members on the roll-out.

The LGA has consistently said that the errors and inconsistencies identified by councils in the Planning and Design Code need to be addressed before the roll-out is finalised.

These are once in a generation changes, and they need to be done well to give South Australia the world class planning system it deserves.

Over the past twelve months the LGA has successfully advocated for more time for consultation, training and testing, and we welcome the announcement that an additional six-week consultation period will run from next month, before the Planning and Design Code is implemented for Phase Three councils early next year.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the Attorney-General and Minister for Planning and Local Government, the Hon Vickie Chapman MP, for listening to and responding our concerns.

Finally, local government reform has been a priority for the LGA and its members for years, and over the past twelve months we have worked closely with the Government and Opposition parties to develop a legislative framework that will support increased efficiencies across our sector.

The Local Government Review Bill that is currently before the Legislative Council is the result of this work.

Many of the proposals that are in this Bill were suggested by councils, while others have been improved based on the feedback we have provided to the Government.

In its current form, the Bill has been shaped by the ideas and contributions of all parties, and I would like to acknowledge these contributions today.

I would also like to specifically thank Labor, SA Best and the Greens for standing with local government, and repeatedly voting against unnecessary and unworkable rate capping legislation that would have hurt our communities.

While we don't support every clause in this Bill, we now believe it strikes a reasonable balance between the needs of the Parliament.

We are continuing to advocate strongly to allow councils to have more than 12 elected members if that's what their community wants.

And subject to that being achieved, we are urging all parties to support the swift passage of the Bill through the Upper House so we can start to benefit from the new processes and structures it will create.

The past two years have been a challenging but ultimately productive time for our sector, and I would like to thank all of you for the support you have provided to me.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge my fellow LGA board directors, as well as LGA CEO Matt Pinnegar and his hardworking staff.

I strongly believe local government is in a better place today than it was two years ago, but we're not done yet.

I look forward to working with our incoming President Mayor Evans and the new LGA Board on opportunities for further improvement, so that we can deliver even better value and services for the communities we represent.

Thank you.

## 5.2 Resolutions and Actions from Previous Meetings

### Minutes of Previous Meeting

Meeting	Ordinary General Meeting	30 April 2021
ECM:	726109	

---

### Recommendation

**That the Ordinary General Meeting notes progress with resolutions resulting from the Annual General Meeting of 29 October 2020 and outstanding resolutions from earlier general meetings.**

### Discussion


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

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


Following each General Meeting the LGA Secretariat will provide 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 will then be incorporated into the LGA's work plan and communicated to the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer of the council that submitted the original item of business. In addition to any engagement with the submitting council administration in order to adequately progress the issue, the LGA will also write to this council to provide a regular progress update 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.


Where actions from the resolution as carried by the General Meeting have been completed, this noted in the report below. Where advocacy efforts are ongoing, those issues are subsequently reflected and carried forward in the LGA Advocacy Plan.

 = Completed/No further action required


Resolutions from the Annual General Meeting – 29 October 2020	Action Taken / Progress
<p><b>6.1 LGA Annual Report 2019-2020</b> (LT 720182)</p> <p>that the Annual General Meeting receives and adopts the Local Government Association of South Australia's Annual Report for the year 2019-2020.</p>	<p>The LGA Annual Report 2019-2020 was adopted at the Annual General Meeting and is published on the <a href="#">LGA website</a>.</p>
<p><b>6.2 Financial Statements 2019/20</b> (AW 720016)</p> <p>that the Annual General Meeting receives and adopts the LGA of SA and controlled entities Financial Statements for the year 2019/20.</p>	<p>The 2019/20 financial statements have been adopted and the final version is on the <a href="#">LGA website</a>.</p>
<p><b>6.13 SAROC and GAROC Terms of Reference</b> (AS 720181)</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>The SAROC and GAROC Terms of Reference were both ratified at the Annual General Meeting on 29 October 2020 under item 6.13 of the AGM Agenda. The SAROC Terms of Reference were effective from 8 January 2020 and the GAROC Terms of Reference were effective from 23 July 2020.</p>
<p><b>7.1 Attendance at Meetings by electronic means (Victor Harbor)</b> (AS 719812)</p> <p>that the Annual General Meeting requests the Local Government Association to lobby to the State Government or the Minister for Planning and Local Government to review the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i> and <i>Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013</i> to include provisions for Council Members to attend Meetings and Informal Gatherings by electronic means.</p>	<p>LGA has commenced consultation with the sector on the desired scope of the provisions to allow electronic attendance at meetings and any additional issues that need to be considered before it commences its advocacy efforts. The LGA recognises that the lived experiences of councils during the COVID-19 pandemic have made council members and council administration best equipped to identify governance implications that accompany electronic meetings, and what measures are best appropriate to solve those issues.</p>

 = Completed/No further action required

	<p>After considering input from members, the LGA will write to the Attorney-General advocating for the appropriate amendments to the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i> and <i>Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013</i> to allow council members to attend meetings and informal gatherings by electronic means.</p>
<p><b>7.2 Solid Waste Levy (Berri Barmera)</b> (BM 719810)</p> <p>that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. continue to advocate for 50% of the monies accumulated in the Green Industry Fund (collected from council contributions to the Solid Waste Levy) be committed back to local government for worthwhile waste, recycling and resource recovery endeavours that support the transition towards a more circular economy;</li> <li>2. advocate that State Government commit to a guaranteed minimum level of reinvestment of the Solid Waste Levy in the waste, recycling and resource recovery sector;</li> <li>3. advocate for State Government to conduct ongoing research and development in collaboration with local government and other stakeholders into; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. alternative waste technologies that support the upper end of the waste hierarchy and strategies such as organics composting for food waste;</li> <li>b. kerbside collection technologies/strategies to incentivise households to maximise recycling rates and minimise the amount of general waste going to landfill; and</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>The LGA uses every opportunity to strongly pursue advocacy on this issue, in line with LGA policy positions and this item of business. This matter is raised in all meetings with the Minister for Environment and Resources as well as all waste, recycling and resource recovery submissions and where relevant in other submissions (eg. climate change, planning).</p> <p>This matter was included in feedback to ALGA to inform its brief in preparation for the first meeting of the Environment Ministers in 2021.</p> <p>Advocacy on the Solid Waste Levy will feature in the LGA submissions on the forthcoming state and federal elections.</p> <p>The LGA's pre-budget correspondence to the Treasurer sought commitments aligned to the above policy positions and items of business.</p> <p>The LGA President wrote to the Minister for Environment and Water highlighting the opportunities the Recycling Modernisation Fund, present for South Australia and local government as key investors in recycling infrastructure, in relation to the national waste export ban and for COVID-19 recovery. This advocacy encouraged the state government to enter into national partnership agreement with the</p>


 = Completed/No further action required

<p>c. Green Industries SA to expand its Waste Education/Awareness campaign to provide clear messaging on recycling and organic waste strategies to help the South Australian community.</p>	<p>federal government to access the funds made available through the Recycling Modernisation Fund.</p> <p>The LGA Secretariat as a member of the Single-use plastics taskforce, consulted with local government and advised the development of the <i>Single-use and Other Plastics Product (Waste Avoidance) Act 2020 (SA)</i>. Supporting the change in availability to certain single-use plastics products reduces the use and disposal of single-use plastics and promotes reusable items.</p> <p>The LGA Secretariat through its role in GISA working groups and taskforces advocates for GISA to expand its waste education/awareness campaign to provide clear messaging on recycling and organic waste strategies to help the SA community.</p> <p>The LGA has a public advocacy campaign on this issue. Details of the Bin Tax advocacy campaign are on the <a href="#">LGA website</a>.</p> <p>The LGA through its SAROC and GAROC committees are exploring opportunities to maximise recycling rates and minimise the amount of general waste going to landfill through innovative projects and the development of useful resources for councils.</p>
<p><b>7.3 Recycling Services and better support for regional communities in the disposal and management of recycling (Wattle Range)</b> <i>(BM 719808)</i></p> <p>that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to:</p>	<p>The LGA highlights the challenges of managing recycling and resource recovery in SA and advocates for making 50% of the monies accumulated in the Green Industry Fund (collected from council contributions to the Solid Waste Levy) be committed back to local government for worthwhile waste, recycling and resource recovery endeavours that support the transition towards a more circular economy every opportunity it gets.</p>

 = Completed/No further action required


<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. advocate on behalf of all councils with State Government on the challenges of managing recycling and resource recovery in South Australia;</li> <li>2. ask State Government to direct Green Industries SA to work more closely with local government and businesses in the development of sustainable long-term options and 'on the ground solutions' to support the transition towards a circular economy, including making a lot more funding available; and</li> <li>3. advocate for a substantial increase in the level of State Government funding in the waste and resource recovery infrastructure program.</li> </ol>	<p>The LGA's pre-budget correspondence to the Treasurer sought commitments aligned to the items of business. As mentioned above, the LGA President wrote to the Minister for Environment and Water highlighting the opportunities the Recycling Modernisation Fund, present for South Australia and local government as key investors in recycling infrastructure, in relation to the national waste export ban and for COVID-19 recovery.</p> <p>A project is progressing through SAROC to develop a regional waste strategy, which is investigating the challenges faced by regional councils in the delivery of recycling services and options for future change.</p>
<p><b>8.1 Family and Domestic Violence training, education and development (Adelaide) (BC 719558)</b></p> <p>that the Annual General Meeting requests that the LGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. consults with member councils to determine what resources and programs currently exist to support employees and/or members of their communities impacted by Family and Domestic Violence, and identify any further resources which should be developed;</li> <li>2. liaises with the State and Federal Government to explore partnership opportunities to support the local government sector in providing consistent, best practice support and education to employees on matters relating to Family and Domestic Violence; and</li> <li>3. based on the outcomes of those investigations, develops a training and education package:</li> </ol>	<p>In July 2020, the LGA consulted with member councils to determine existing programs and the need for further resources. This informed the <u>LGA's submission</u> to the House of Representative's Standing Committee Inquiry into Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence, which made a series of recommendations on the role of local government and its contribution to primary prevention strategies and actions.</p> <p>The LGA secretariat is regularly meeting with ALGA, interstate counterparts and Our Watch, a national leader in the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia, to keep up to date with new initiatives and developments in this area and share information and knowledge.</p> <p>Based on these activities, the LGA Secretariat is currently exploring the scope and resourcing opportunities for an education and training</p>




 = Completed/No further action required

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>that can be implemented by leaders in the sector, to assist them in identifying when an employee may be in a Family and Domestic Violence situation and how they can assist in connecting them to supporting mechanisms; and</li> <li>that could be provided to employees (possibly delivered by leaders) on Family and Domestic Violence.</li> </ul>	<p>package (part 3 of the resolution) that will be implemented over the coming months.</p>
<p><b>8.2 Native Vegetation Act and Policy for SEB Guidelines (Playford)</b> <i>(BM 718978)</i></p> <p>that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>investigate the Native Vegetation Act 1991 (SA), the Native Vegetation Regulations 2017 (SA) and relevant guidelines to consider, in particular, the effect that it has on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>road safety and function; and</li> <li>cost implications to councils across the state; and</li> </ol> </li> <li>prepare a report for the LGA Board of Directors on the outcomes of the investigation (in part 1) to inform future advocacy to the State Government on matters relating to the management of Native Vegetation.</li> </ol>	<p>Although this matter is scheduled on the LGA Secretariat workplan for the second half of 2021, key matters arising relating to the management of trees along roadsides (both council and DIT roads) were brought to the LGA's attention and initial investigations and actions have begun to inform an issues paper aligning with part (1) of the motion.</p> <p>Other LGA advocacy actions relevant to this item of business relating to trees that impact road safety and function have been undertaken. The LGA CEO wrote to Hon Mr Frank Pangallo MLC outlining the regulatory and policy framework councils operate within and key actions councils undertake in relation to the management of trees.</p> <p>The LGA in collaboration with Norman Waterhouse and the LGMLS held a sector briefing on tree management for LGA membership. Finally, the LGA held a roundtable with members of parliament, as well as representatives from SA councils and Green Adelaide. The roundtable;</p>




 = Completed/No further action required


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• agreed that trees are highly valued by the community for their social, environmental and economic benefits, and recognised the need to increase community awareness of tree safety;</li> <li>• acknowledged that SA councils have comprehensive policies and procedures in place to reduce tree safety risks on land within their care; and</li> <li>• agreed that Green Adelaide will work in collaboration with local government and other stakeholders to develop and implement community education campaigns to build awareness of tree safety.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8.4 Aluminium Composite Panel Cladding (Salisbury)</b> (SS 718980)</p> <p>that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA on behalf of the whole local government sector to make representations to the State Government in relation to the proposed measure to increase purchaser protection for Aluminium Composite Cladding, and to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. support the use of an advisory notice on the Property Interest Report for landowners and potential purchasers to take reasonable steps to determine if ACP has been identified on buildings;</li> <li>2. support that an obligation is placed on the owner of land to make ACP cladding a formal disclosure on the Form 1 Statement; and</li> <li>3. request that consideration be given for a campaign to increase the general awareness of purchasers on the appropriate use of materials in a building.</li> </ol>	<p>The <i>Land and Business (Sale and Conveyancing) (Planning, Development and Infrastructure) Variation Regulations 2021</i> were introduced on 18 March 2021.</p> <p>The regulations introduced an amendment to Schedule 1, Form 1 requiring the owner to provide particulars relating to aluminium composite panels.</p> <p>This outcome satisfies parts 1 and 2 of the resolution.</p> <p>The LGA does not have the resources available and is not best placed to initiate a public campaign on the use of appropriate building materials, but this has been recommended to the State Government and information is publicly available on the <a href="#">Plan SA portal</a>.</p>

 = Completed/No further action required


<p><b>8.5 Regulation 119 of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017 (Salisbury)</b> (SSW 718981)</p> <p>that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA on behalf of the whole local government sector:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. make the strongest possible representations to state government opposing their variation to Regulation 119 of the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017</i>; and</li> <li>2. write to and meet with all parties in the state parliament to urge them to disallow the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) (Planning and Development Fund) Variation Regulations 2020</i>.</li> </ol>	<p>On 18 June 2020, the State Government introduced various regulation amendments through the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) (Miscellaneous) Variation Regulations 2020</i> to make amendments to the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017</i>, in particular there were changes to the use of the Planning and Development Fund.</p> <p>The changes enabled the contributions that have been made to the fund be used for the new e-planning system.</p> <p>Multiple representations have been made to the Minister, Opposition and Cross Bench parties.</p> <p>As a result of these representations the Regulations were disallowed on multiple occasions by the Legislative Council and as a result of the disallowance motions put forward, the Government excised out of the omnibus regulation package the regulations relating to the Planning and Development Fund, and introduced the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) (Planning and Development Fund) Variation Regulations 2020</i> which includes a sunset clause for these regulations being 1 July 2021. These regulations have also been disallowed on multiple occasions and were last gazetted on 18 February 2021.</p>
<p><b>9.2 Voter Roll Process (MRLGA)</b> (AL 719560)</p> <p>that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to continue to advocate for a simplified process for non-resident property owners to enrol on Council's voters roll either through an online and/or automatic process and</p>	<p>LGA advocacy has called upon the State Government to review online voting in the local government sector. An online system for enrolment and voting could address the current database issues relating to non-resident property owners.</p>

 = Completed/No further action required


<p>removing the requirement to purge the voters roll in the year of the ordinary election</p>	<p>During Parliamentary debate on the Local Government Review Bill, Deputy Premier Vickie Chapman stated that she would seek advice on online voting from the Electoral Commission of SA (ECSA).</p> <p>The Deputy Premier also moved amendments to legislation to facilitate voting by visually impaired people. This could occur through an online system and, if so, could serve as a model for wider online voting in the sector.</p> <p>The LGA will continue to engage constructively about online voting with the Deputy Premier and ECSA. It should be noted however, that it is unlikely that these changes will be introduced prior to the 2022 council elections, and that resourcing priority will be given to implementing the changes to the elections act introduced in the <i>Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Bill 2020</i>.</p>
<p><b>9.3 Catastrophic Fire Days Community Relief Centres (Cool Refuge Centre) (Port Lincoln)</b> <i>(KR 719563)</i></p> <p>that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA continue to work with appropriate agencies in developing a Joint Operating Guideline to clarify local government roles and responsibilities in supporting a relief centre (cool refuge centre) for communities during times of extreme heat and catastrophic fire danger, particularly when mains power may not be available.</p>	<p>The LGA Secretariat has been working with the Emergency Relief Functional Support Group to develop a Joint Operating Guideline for relief centres which are run by State Government in an emergency. In addition, the LGA Secretariat is working on guidelines for community support centres which may be operated by council or community on days of extreme heat.</p>
<p><b>9.4 Installation of Sea-Level Gauge at O'Sullivan Beach (Adelaide Plains)</b> <i>(BM 719807)</i></p>	<p>The LGA President has written to the Minister for the Department for Environment and Water advocating for an improved national approach to sea level rise management and to consider moving to a</p>

 = Completed/No further action required


<p>that the Annual General Meeting requests that the LGA continue to lobby for and contribute to an improved national approach to sea level rise management and consider moving to a ‘monitor and respond’ model of adaptation that incorporates local sea level science.</p>	<p>“monitor and respond” model of adaptation that incorporates local sea level science. This letter reinforced the local government sectors support of the installation of a sea-level gauge at O’Sullivan beach.</p> <p>The LGA submission to the Environment, Resources and Development Committee inquiry into the Coast Protection Board and legislation included recommendations supporting the development of transparent state-wide sea level rise estimations that are based on up-to-date localised scientific observations and models, for the Coast Protection Board to adopt a “monitor and respond” model of adaptation based on the aforementioned data sort.</p> <p>The LGA is represented on a Coast Protection Board Advisory Group and will continue to advocate for this outcome through this channel.</p>
<p><b>9.5 ‘Buying it Back’ Circular Procurement Pilot Project – recommendations for local government</b> <i>(BM 719816)</i></p> <p>that the Annual General Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. acknowledges the outcomes, learnings and support materials from the ‘Buying it Back’ Circular Procurement Pilot Project that has supported participating councils to increase and track their purchase of recycled content;</li> <li>2. endorses the following recommendations of the ‘Buying it Back’ Circular Procurement Pilot Project, that LGA member councils: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 acknowledge that local government action is imperative for addressing the current challenges in waste and recycling (as detailed in the</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>All resources and some advice on circular procurement is available to member councils on the LGA members website.</p> <p>The LGA has fulfilled responsibilities as per the grant agreement with GISA for the ‘Buying it Back’ Circular Procurement Pilot Project (“pilot project”).</p> <p>However, the pilot project continues to progress with the steering committee committing to continue meeting quarterly, reporting on purchases as provided for under the MoU and is exploring options to expand this project to “phase 2” councils through a council buddy system to other councils wanting to participate. The LGA Secretariat continues to be part of the steering committee.</p>

 = Completed/No further action required

<p>National Waste Policy Action Plan and including the implications of the impending national waste export ban);</p> <p>2.2 commit to increasing purchasing of recycled-content material as a high priority and as a necessary method of mitigating councils' rising waste management costs;</p> <p>2.3 amend their existing Procurement Policies to:</p> <p>a) Temporarily (say, for 5 years) prioritise recycled-content through the procurement process and include a method of ensuring accountability;</p> <p>b) Mandate consideration of recycled-content through design and planning processes (including where panel contracts are already in place);</p> <p>c) Specifically permit consideration of the “opportunity cost” associated with a purchase (ie. instead of only asking “which product is most sustainable?”, also ask “what will happen to the materials if I don’t purchase the recycled-content option?”);</p> <p>d) Encourage councils to track the purchase of recycled-content by weight and report publicly on purchases;</p> <p>2.4 in addition to amending existing Procurement Policies, consider implementing an administrative approach outside of the policy, for example, by limiting stationery items available for purchase by council staff to those with recycled-content (noting that this approach can make data collection easier as all purchases will have recycled-content and simply need to be collated);</p> <p>2.5 continue working through communities of practice to share knowledge and experiences of buying recycled and to explore and/or support</p>	<p>Advocacy and resources developed as part of this project assisted in the delivery and development of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WMRR and GISA Buy Recycled Expo SA</li> <li>• The Office of Industry Advocate (OIA) incorporation or a “Recycled Products” category</li> </ul> <p>A revised model procurement policy for councils is currently in development, which will pick up the recommended actions for councils.</p> <p>The LGA CEO wrote to the Commissioner of Highways (Roads) for the commissioner in his capacity, to facilitate state government action to develop a generic specification that allows for the use of recycled content in roads.</p>
--	---


 = Completed/No further action required

<p>development of a certification scheme for recycled-content products and materials;</p> <p>3. endorses the LGA writing to the Commissioner for Roads as provided for in sections 23 and 24 of the Highways Act 1926 to request that work be undertaken with engineering bodies and/or Austroads to develop a generic (ie non-industry owned) specification that allows for the use of recycled-content in road construction materials (in particular, materials sourced from yellow bins including plastic and glass fines).</p>	
<b>Resolutions from the Annual General Meeting – 31 October 2019</b>	
<p><b>8.4 Fairer Allocation of Open Space Funding (Campbelltown)</b> (SS 688279)</p> <p>that the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA advocate to the Minister for Planning requesting that the Minister, in conjunction with local government, undertake a review of the Planning and Development Fund to investigate a financial model that is more equitable and appropriate for councils that are experiencing higher volumes of infill development, including multi storey development especially in relation to the subdivision of land under 20 allotments.</p>	<p>In September 2020, the LGA Chief Executive Officer wrote to the Chair of the State Planning Commission requesting that the Commission conduct an inquiry into the operation and use of the Planning and Development Fund in two parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An inquiry into the purpose and use of the Planning and Development Fund; and</li> <li>2. An inquiry to investigate a financial model for payments to the Planning and Development Fund.</li> </ol> <p>The Chair of the State Planning Commission provided a response on 16 March and advised that the management of the Fund is the 'remit of the Minister of Planning and Local Government'. The Commission has also advised that it intends to initiate an Open Space and Tree Project which will seek amongst other Objectives to identify and quantify the impact of infill development on urban greening.</p> <p>Input from local government to this review will be sought.</p>

 = Completed/No further action required

Resolutions from the Ordinary General Meeting – 12 April 2019	Action Taken / Progress
<p><b>7.3 Jetties (Tumby Bay)</b> <i>(KR 670924)</i></p> <p>that the Ordinary General Meeting requests that the LGA immediately begin negotiations with the current State Government to draft a lease or other agreement with local government collectively (for those councils that currently hold an existing lease agreement) to safeguard the future of jetties in South Australia without creating a financial burden on ratepayers, especially in rural and regional areas.</p>	<p>Negotiation with the State Government is ongoing, and this issue is included in the LGA's Advocacy Plan.</p> <p>Through its Jetties Steering Group, the LGA has met several times with the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and their department regarding the governance, funding and consistency of lease agreements.</p> <p>The LGA also provided a comprehensive response to the government's draft Jetties Strategic Plan in May 2020. The State Government's Jetties Strategic Plan has not yet been released for public consultation and no agreement has been reached.</p> <p>Following a change of portfolios, the LGA CEO and President met with new Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Corey Wingard MP to stress the importance of funding for jetties.</p> <p>In February 2021, the LGA's Jetties Steering Group wrote again to the Minister requesting an urgent meeting.</p>
Resolutions from the Ordinary General Meeting – 13 April 2018	Action Taken / Progress
<p><b>8.5 Local Heritage Listing Policy and Procedure (Adelaide)</b> <i>(SS 659576)</i></p> <p>That the Ordinary General Meeting requests that the LGA calls upon and works with all South Australian councils to develop a consistent policy and procedure to identify and protect their historic building stock dating from the 19th and 20th century, to achieve more consistent local heritage and</p>	<p>To implement the ERDC 2018-19 Inquiry into Heritage Reform, the Minister for Planning and Minister for Environment advised that a panel would be established including representation from local government to prepare a 'roadmap' for a staged approach to heritage reform.</p>



 = Completed/No further action required

<p>comprehensive historic character protection across all council areas in the State, in order to better meet community expectations.</p>	<p>It was considered that this panel could also provide advice and recommendations in respect to local heritage listing policy and procedure.</p> <p>This panel has yet to be formed. The LGA Secretariat has raised with this matter with the Minister for Planning and Local Government and is waiting on a response.</p> <p>Given the planning reforms are at an advanced stage, and the Government has indicated a willingness to progress this work with local government involvement, the LGA is not taking further action on this item at this stage.</p>
Resolutions from the Annual General Meeting -- 16 November 2017	Action Taken / Progress
<p><b>8.1 Community Land Management Plans (Charles Sturt) (KR 655308)</b></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>This issue relates closely to the State Government’s Local Government Reform Bill and will be considered as part of the information made available to councils on both the preparation of Community Land Management Plans and the consultation polices associated with them.</p>



## 6.1 LGA Member Services Update

### LGA Business

From:	Nathan Petrus, Executive Director Member Services	
Key Initiative:	K.I 1 Leadership and advocacy	
Strategy:	3D Develop, review and improve LGA commercial enterprises	
Meeting:	Ordinary General Meeting	30 April 2021
ECM:	735561	

---

### Recommendation

**That the Ordinary General Meeting notes the report.**

### Discussion

#### LGA Training

Since the October AGM, LGA Training has delivered more than 55 courses with over 830 participants. This has included attendance from 65 Councils (46 regional and 19 greater Adelaide). In addition, LGA Training facilitated three '*Are you Shovel Ready*' courses at no cost to councils in December 2020. A total of 53 councils took up this free training opportunity (17 metropolitan and 36 regional councils).

LGA Training also worked with SA's Australian Apprenticeship Support Network in providing a webinar session on 2 December 2020 on the wage subsidy opportunities (up to 50%) for Councils through the Boosting Apprenticeship Traineeships program.

LGA Training is continuing to invest and develop on-line learning systems capability as part of the LGA Training Strategic Plan 2019-2024 and commenced program planning in the context of the Local Government Reform Program and the 2022 Election.

The team is also facilitating the development of disability inclusion training materials for the local government sector. This has been made possible through Information Linkages & Capacity Building program funding and aims to be extended if an additional funding application is successful.

LGA member survey rating for LGA Training achieved '8/10' for value and performance compared to a rating of '7/10' the previous year.

#### Local Government Reform Implementation

Having led the sector through the development of proposed local government reform legislation, the LGA is now preparing to assist councils to implement those reforms, through the provision of policies, guidelines and templates covering all aspects of the reforms, with supporting training and information sessions.

The LGA will continue to partner with Norman Waterhouse Lawyers (NWL) to develop the resources and training that all councils will need to meet the proposed legislative requirements. The package is aimed at delivering a collaborative, cohesive and coordinated approach to implementation across the sector, reducing the amount of long-term legal spend required by councils.

## **LGA Web Solutions**

The Web Solutions team focused on consolidating the LGA Squiz platform for member councils, finalising key functionality of the platform including point of interest information and the integration of council burial records with the website.

Throughout 2020/21, many councils were provided with targeted training on the LGA Squiz platform and My Local Services App. In parallel, the help documentation (Content Management Guide) was enhanced to cover more aspects of the system.

In February 2021, the Web Solutions team, in collaboration with the LGA's Marketing and Communications team, held a major consultation workshop with over 20 council representatives in person and another 60 attendees on-line. The session sought to understand how the LGA Squiz platform and the My Local Services App could provide greater value to member councils. A strong message from the workshop was the need for the Web Solutions team to improve communication to councils on the many ways these platforms can be used to deliver information to the community. In response, the team has developed an e-News that will deliver more targeted information to councils on how to maximise the use of these LGA web services.

The team has also implemented state of the art technology within the LGA's new office fit-out at LG House, including new videoconferencing facilities that have enhanced LGA's member engagement and are available for use by member councils.

The team continues to focus on cyber security as a high priority, enhancing the LGA's backup infrastructure and improving the support for several internal applications that underpin the LGA's service to members. It is also collaborating with its partners, including Local Government Information Technology South Australia Incorporated (LGITSA) and Local Government Risk Services (LGRS), to assist councils in the development and application of their own cyber security strategies.

## **Public lighting**

The LGA continues to facilitate the Public Lighting Working Group as a forum to discuss public lighting priorities with councils, SA Power Networks and the Department of Infrastructure and Transport.

The group has identified its priorities for 2021 - 2022 and has commenced work on them. It has established a working group to review main road lighting, including ownership and technology choice issues. Other key areas of focus for the working group include further improving communications, decision making and asset management of public lights.

In November 2020, the group farewelled and thanked Howard Lacy from the City of Holdfast Bay and Sebastian Carr from the City of Port Lincoln for their contributions to the working group. It welcomed Karina Ewer from the District Council of Streaky Bay and Michael Pavlovich from the City of Salisbury as new members of the working group.

## **LGA partnership with Norman Waterhouse**

The LGA partnership with Norman Waterhouse has delivered significant benefits to councils, through the provision of affordable and high-quality legal advice and legal training. During the period 1 July 2020 to 28 February 2021, nearly 1,900 people participated in legal training through the partnership, with over 1,000 participants coming from regional councils. This included COVID-19 public health forums, workshops on the Shovel Ready program, planning and other legal training.

All SA councils have benefited from the LGA/Norman Waterhouse Legal Connect Service partnership since it commenced in March 2020, including through attending briefing sessions and using the COVID-19 advice line and online resources.

## **Human Resources Library and Advisory Service**

The LGA/Norman Waterhouse partnership will be delivering further support to councils through a Human Resources library and supporting advisory service, commencing from 1 July 2021. Councils will be able to subscribe to a comprehensive library of HR policies and procedures, developed by Norman Waterhouse, complemented by access to an HR hotline and email service for quick HR advice and guidance. More detailed HR advice and support will be available to councils, outside the subscription service, to address matters such as investigations of employee grievances or guidance on underperformance.

The LGA is currently seeking expressions of interest for these services.

### **Other services**

LGASA Member Services continue to provide a wide range of other services to councils, including energy audits, travel bookings and social media archiving. Further information is available on the LGA website [here](#).

## 6.2 LGA Advocacy Update

### LGA Business

From:	Lea Bacon, Director Policy	
Key Initiative:	K.I 1 Leadership and advocacy	
Strategy:	1A Listen to, and represent members	
Meeting:	Ordinary General Meeting	30 April 2021
ECM:	735066	

---

### Recommendation

**That the Annual General Meeting notes the report.**

### Discussion

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

#### LGA Advocacy Plan 2019-2023

The LGA Advocacy Plan 2019-2023<sup>1</sup> outlines the agenda the LGA is pursuing on behalf of member councils. It seeks to increase certainty and transparency for members about the outcomes being sought, as well as ensuring that sufficient resources are available to progress and monitor these important issues.

Along with the LGA Policy Manual<sup>2</sup>, the Advocacy Plan guides and informs LGA advocacy activities, such as campaigns, submissions, meetings and correspondence with State and Federal ministers, and media engagement.

As noted by member councils at the LGA Annual General Meeting (October 2020), the Advocacy Plan is monitored quarterly and updated annually to allow for reprioritisation of the LGA's work plan as new issues emerge, issues evolve, or as member priorities change. In 2020, the Advocacy Plan was updated to reflect the status of the local government reform program, planning and waste reforms, as well as emerging advocacy to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the sector and member councils' actions to support economic and community recovery.

The 2021 edition of the Advocacy Plan will be presented to members at the LGA Annual General Meeting in October 2021 and will take into consideration updates to the LGA Strategic Plan, GAROC and SAROC Annual Business Plans, and more recent items of business carried by members at the general meetings.

#### Policy Manual revision

The LGA's Policy Manual is available on the [LGA website](#). It was comprehensively reviewed and updated in 2018 to reflect the policy positions that have been endorsed by member councils through LGA General Meetings, and is used to inform the LGA's advocacy, submissions, media responses and engagement with stakeholders.

---

<sup>1</sup> ECM\_713038\_v11\_LGA-Advocacy-Plan-2019-23-revised-July-2020.pdf

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/about-lga/overview-of-the-lga/corporate-documents/lga-policy-manual>

Since 2018, further updates to the Policy Manual have occurred to reflect individual policy decisions carried at General Meetings, including 'Managing the Risks of Climate Change', 'Electric Vehicles' and 'Family and Domestic Violence'.

A more comprehensive review and update of the Policy Manual will be undertaken in 2021 to ensure it reflects further items of business carried at the LGA General Meetings, emerging issues for the sector and the release of several Federal and State Government strategies and action plans. The LGA Secretariat will prepare an updated series of policy statements and consult with member councils before providing an update to the LGA Annual General Meeting in October 2021.

### **Update on advocacy priorities**

1. *Working with the South Australian Parliament on sensible, evidence-based local government reform.*
  - LGA consultation and advocacy continues as the *2020 Local Government Review Bill* proceeds through the Legislative Council and on consequential matters such as Regulations, commencement dates, a range of statutory instruments and implementation.
  - Extensive consultation with the sector on the 2019 Local Government Reform proposals and the 2020 Local Government Review Bill resulted in a comprehensive, evidence-based advocacy position.
  - The Government introduced approximately 120 amendments to the Bill in the House of Assembly, the majority of which responded to LGA submissions and resolved significant issues raised by members.
  - The LGA Secretariat continues to meet with Members of Parliament to discuss and build support for the sector's positions. In particular, the LGA has continued strong advocacy to address the proposed cap on elected member numbers.
  - A funding request to successfully implement meaningful local government reform was put to the Minister for Planning and Local Government and will be repeated in the State Budget submission.
2. *Influencing a stronger role for councils and communities as planning reforms are implemented.*
  - Following the LGA providing a submission to the Legislative Review Committee on the planning reforms in September 2020, the LGA appeared before the Committee in March and provided a presentation and responded to questions.
  - In December, the LGA provided a submission on the revised Planning and Design Code and the Minister subsequently advised that the Code would be implemented in Phase 3 Council areas on 19 March. The President raised with the Minister the ability for council administrations to be provided with the Code prior to 19 March.
  - The LGA has maintained regular weekly briefing with council staff and the department and organised a briefing session for Assessment Managers and Assessment Panel members and a briefing for Mayors with the State Planning Commission.
  - The Minister for Planning in December announced that the majority of Contributory Items would be translated across to the new Code as Representative Buildings. This is an outcome which was sought by the LGA. The Minister also recognised the concerns of local government regarding demolition of Local and State Heritage Places and has advised that the Code will be amended to make demolition a form of development requiring notification. This inclusion is supported.

- The LGA wrote to the Commission to highlight inadequacies with current open space funding. The Commission has announced that a review will be undertaken of the Planning and Development Fund, and the LGA will be a strong contributor to this review once it is commenced.
  - The LGA has continued to lobby the Parliament to disallow Regulations that enable open space funding to be used to pay for planning system reforms. The Regulations have been disallowed in the Legislative Council a total of seven times but continue to be re-made by the Government.
  - Other key issues that the LGA continues to influence include the tree-offset scheme, design standards within the Code, the Code amendment process, and operational matters such as updates to the Form 1.
3. *Seeking state and federal funding, policy and legislation that supports economic and community recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- The LGA advocated for the State Government to partner with local government on stimulus in many forums, committees and meetings set up in response to COVID, and confirmed our request for this program through our 2020/21 State Budget Submission.
  - LGA advocacy resulted in a new \$100 million Local Government Infrastructure Partnership Program, which was included in the 2020-21 State Budget. The LGIPP provides councils with dollar-for-dollar funding for a wide range of infrastructure projects that will support businesses and create local jobs.
  - The LGA initiated the *Shovel Ready* program to provide direct assistance to councils to prepare, plan and deliver stimulus projects and to provide representation to the Government on how to maximise the effectiveness of the program.
  - The LGA also supported ALGA and state-wide advocacy for federal support packages, resulting in the bringing forward of \$1.3 billion of 2020-21 Financial Assistance Grants and the new \$500 million Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund (LRCI). Through the 2020–21 Budget, the Australian Government announced a \$1 billion extension of the LRCI Program, following strong community and local government support. SA councils share is approximately around \$76 million in funding through the LRCI program in 2020-21, and a further \$44.6 million next financial year.
  - Childcare – SA supplementary funding. The LGA successfully advocated for \$860,163 in State Government funding for eight SA councils that run childcare centres that were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and were ineligible for the Commonwealth funding provided to non-council owned childcare centres.
4. *Securing the future funding of South Australian libraries.*
- The LGA is actively seeking a renewal of the State/Local Government libraries funding agreement with no reduction in the level of State Government funding provided.
  - The LGA Libraries Negotiation Team continues to meet with the Libraries Board team to progress a review of the Memorandum of Agreement. The terms of the new agreement are near finalisation. The LGA continues to engage with the Premier and the SA councils libraries network to keep them informed.



5. *Responding to waste and recycling issues including maximising the value that can be returned to communities from the escalating State Government funds collected through the Solid Waste Levy.*

- The LGA's "Bin Tax" webpage remains active and the community is directed to this page via social media. The LGA regularly provides public statements through the media to highlight the impact that the State Government's Solid Waste Levy has on council rates.
- The LGA's submission to Green Industries SA advocated for the waste strategy to articulate the solid waste levy through each year of its five-year term by freezing it and that the strategy commits to making at least half of the levy available to councils for worthwhile waste and recycling initiatives.
- LGA budget submissions have highlighted the economic and sustainability benefits of unlocking Green Industry funds to support innovative waste management practices locally.
- The LGA President wrote to Minister Speirs highlighting the opportunities the Commonwealth's waste and recycling infrastructure grants, through the Recycling Modernisation Fund present to South Australia. At that time, the state government had yet to enter into a National Partnership Agreement with the Commonwealth so South Australia could access this opportunity. Funding for this endeavour is 1:1:1 national, state and industry. State government funding is from the monies raised through the levy. The state government has entered into an agreement and South Australia has access to this commonwealth funding.
- The LGA continues to advocate for this through state and industry working groups for which it is a member.

6. *Supporting advocacy via the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to increase federal Financial Assistance Grants and secure long-term certainty of supplementary road funding for South Australia.*

- The LGA provided input to inform the Australian Local Government Association's pre-budget submission to the 2021-22 Federal Budget, which is scheduled to be handed down on 11 May 2021. ALGA's submission highlights this issue as the top priority for local jobs and community wellbeing, which would create 16,242 jobs annually and add \$2,370m to GDP.
- The LGASA also made a pre-budget submission, reinforcing South Australian councils' support for ALGA's budget priorities, in particular:
  - restoring the quantum of Financial Assistance Grants to at least 1% of Commonwealth Taxation Revenue; and
  - addressing the South Australian road funding anomaly by making the additional \$20m per annum funding to South Australia permanent.
- SA Supplementary Road Funding was included as a priority issue in both the LGA's and ALGA's submissions to the Federal Budget 2021-22.
- Ahead of the 2021-22 Federal Budget, the LGA supported all South Australian councils to highlight in Canberra how they are using supplementary road funding, as well as promoting this Commonwealth assistance within their community. The LGA prepared a campaign tool kit to provide tools and information to enable councils to speak with a strong and united voice, while personalising and making it relevant to your own council and community.

- As a delegation to Canberra is not currently feasible due to COVID-19, the LGA worked with members to prepare a 'virtual delegation' video<sup>3</sup> explaining how much supplementary funding their council receives, what it is used for, and why it is important that this funding program is extended. This has been provided to members and the Federal Government.

## Climate change

Recognising its important role to advocate for urgent and sustained action to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change, the LGA has continued to advocate to the Federal and State Government for greater resources for councils to manage climate risks. Recent examples of LGA submissions that advocate for greater action on climate change include:

- LGA's State Budget Submission
- ALGA's Federal Budget Submission
- Response to the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements
- Inquiry into the Stormwater Management Authority
- Inquiry into the Coast Protection Board and Legislation
- State Government Electric Vehicle Strategy
- SA draft Waste Strategy 2020-2025 and draft Food Waste Strategy
- Natural Resources Committee Inquiry into Urban Green Spaces
- South Australia's Planning and Design Code

The 'LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan 2021-2023', presented to member councils at this Ordinary General Meeting, sets out direction for the LGA to reinforce climate change as a priority in the LGA Advocacy Plan and continue to advocate to the State Government for:

- Implementation of their Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025
- 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.
- 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.

---

<sup>3</sup> [2021 Supplementary Road Funding - YouTube](#)



## 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 such as local government reform, Local Government (Elections) Act, Federal and State Government Budgets, heavy vehicle national law reform, National and South Australian road safety strategies, Natural Disaster Royal Commission, the Federal Government's 'Future Fuels Strategy', and SA Parliamentary Inquiries into the Coast Protection Board and the Stormwater Management Authority.

The LGA Secretariat has also continued to provide advice to support advocacy undertaken by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to the Federal Government, most recently in responding to the Senate inquiries into the Aviation Sector and into Bushfires, the House of Representatives Inquiry into Domestic Violence, and ALGA's Pre-Budget Submission for 2021-22 Federal Budget.

LGA submissions are available at [www.lga.sa.gov.au/submissions](http://www.lga.sa.gov.au/submissions)

## Partnerships

The LGA continues to work collaboratively with the State Government.

In partnership with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, the LGA Heavy Vehicle Access Liaison Officer position is assisting SA councils to perform their 'road manager' function under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL)<sup>4</sup>.

In partnership with the Department of Human Services (DHS), the LGA has successfully implemented grant funding to councils to:

- address gaps in the national disability Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) sector in South Australia<sup>5</sup>; and
- enable councils to undertake activities and initiatives, led by young people aged 12-24 years, that respond to the impact of the Covid-19 public health emergency<sup>6</sup>.

The LGA has recently partnered with Green Adelaide and the Department for Environment and Water to provide central coordination for the Regional Climate Partnerships program. Regional Climate Partnerships are a network of eleven regional, cross-sectoral groups delivering practical and proactive action to strengthen the climate resilience of their communities. The LGA has appointed two coordinators, and they will work with these Regional Climate Partnerships to support the delivery of effective on-ground climate adaptation and mitigation actions.

In the waste and recycling space, the LGA has a service agreement with Green Industries SA (GISA) and sits on several State Government committees and working groups. We also have an agreement with the EPA that guides how they work with councils and the LGA.

The LGA is a partner in the Volunteering Strategy for South Australia, 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.

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/member-services/infrastructure-and-assets/heavy-vehicles>

<sup>5</sup> [LGILC How to apply | LGA South Australia](#)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/member-services/financial-sustainability/grants/youth-led-local-government-covid-recovery-grants>

## **Member Forums and Workshops**

Forums and workshops with members have been held a wide range of topics including local government reform, Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act, economic development (COVID-19 recovery), waste and recycling reform, disability access, reconciliation and tree safety and dog and cat management.

## **Media Summary**

A summary of LGA's media activities between November 2020 and March 2021 is attached for members' information.

Key issues the LGA has commented on publicly include planning reform, local government's role supporting COVID-19 recovery, tree management, stormwater management, extending supplementary road funding for South Australia, council amalgamations, Australia Day, and performance measurement and reporting for local government.

## ***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.

# LGA Advocacy Initiatives

The LGA advocates for councils on a wide range of issues, and in the past six months this has included planning reform, local government's role supporting COVID-19 recovery, tree management, stormwater management, extending supplementary road funding for South Australia, council amalgamations, Australia Day, and performance measurement and reporting for local government.

## Press/online coverage

Below are links to online press articles the LGA has initiated or contributed to on behalf of the sector.

<a href="https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/charles-sturt-council-mayor-angela-evans-becomes-new-local-government-association-president/news-story/e651462de7915aa65b1d5c449a717d36">https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/charles-sturt-council-mayor-angela-evans-becomes-new-local-government-association-president/news-story/e651462de7915aa65b1d5c449a717d36</a>
<a href="https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/sa-government-to-allocate-100m-in-state-budget-for-community-infrastructure-projects-with-councils-to-match-spending-dollar-for-dollar/news-story/b2efa100a3996b4b7ff8d76556d5e9fa">https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/sa-government-to-allocate-100m-in-state-budget-for-community-infrastructure-projects-with-councils-to-match-spending-dollar-for-dollar/news-story/b2efa100a3996b4b7ff8d76556d5e9fa</a>
<a href="https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/messenger/east-hills/state-budget-2020-new-website-will-compare-performance-of-sa-councils/news-story/5e833282abc336ff3c1410c24ca2578e">https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/messenger/east-hills/state-budget-2020-new-website-will-compare-performance-of-sa-councils/news-story/5e833282abc336ff3c1410c24ca2578e</a>
<a href="https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/mp-calls-for-all-south-australian-councils-to-audit-potentially-dangerous-trees-following-death-of-judy-ditter/news-story/ed0f4fe3d42574747fa4babc14cae270">https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/mp-calls-for-all-south-australian-councils-to-audit-potentially-dangerous-trees-following-death-of-judy-ditter/news-story/ed0f4fe3d42574747fa4babc14cae270</a>
<a href="https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/councils-to-discuss-dangerous-trees-at-meeting-called-by-the-lga/news-story/825aed4d44c8bfa9d8c6b8a0ad73d9a">https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/councils-to-discuss-dangerous-trees-at-meeting-called-by-the-lga/news-story/825aed4d44c8bfa9d8c6b8a0ad73d9a</a>
<a href="https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/news-and-events/news/latest-news/2021/february/merging-councils-may-cost-ratepayers-lga-president-angela-evans">https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/news-and-events/news/latest-news/2021/february/merging-councils-may-cost-ratepayers-lga-president-angela-evans</a>
<a href="https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/statewide-super-conducts-review-of-salarylink-superannuation-fund-for-local-government-employees/news-story/779ea853c59d3fbc28ebdf8a17298d3">https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/statewide-super-conducts-review-of-salarylink-superannuation-fund-for-local-government-employees/news-story/779ea853c59d3fbc28ebdf8a17298d3</a>
<a href="https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/calls-for-little-corella-cull-after-drone-laser-fail-to-stop-damage/news-story/aa083904c2e365949dedfb017c0f29c9">https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/calls-for-little-corella-cull-after-drone-laser-fail-to-stop-damage/news-story/aa083904c2e365949dedfb017c0f29c9</a>

## Radio/TV coverage

Since November 2020 LGA representatives have participated in 18 radio and television interviews.

The breakdown of these appearances is outlined below.

Media outlet	Number of appearances
ABC Radio Adelaide	7
ABC Regional Radio	6
5AA	4
Channel 10	1

## 6.3 LGA Strategic Plan 2021-2025

### LGA Business

From:	Michael Arman, Director Strategy	
Key Initiative:	K.I 3 Best practice and continuous improvement	
Strategy:	3C Improve LGA governance and operations with a focus on people, finances and our members	
Meeting:	Ordinary General Meeting	30 April 2021
ECM:	734832	Attachment: 733096

---

### Recommendation

**That the Ordinary General Meeting notes the LGA Strategic Plan 2021-2025 adopted by the LGA Board of Directors on 18 March 2021 following consultation with member councils.**

### Discussion

In March 2021, the LGA Board of Directors adopted a new four-year Strategic Plan for the Association. This report provides a background to the LGA Strategic Plan 2021-2025, including an overview of its scope and how it was developed.

The new plan is attached and [available on the LGA website](#).

#### Scope of the LGA Strategic Plan 2021-2025

The Strategic Plan outlines how the LGA will prioritise its resources in meeting the needs of its member councils. The plan does not detail everything that the LGA is involved in, rather it identifies the strategic outcomes that the LGA will focus on over the next four years.

The Strategic Plan will inform the LGA's work plans and budgets, as well as the Strategic and Annual Business Plans of subsidiaries and Board committees.

The new Strategic Plan is not radically different to the current Strategic Plan, but rather, refines, clarifies and improves the LGA's strategy through:

- A new vision that more meaningfully outlines how the LGA can serve and support its members, while retaining the existing mission as is;
- Retaining the 'VOICE' values and behaviours which have strong resonance with staff, board and members;
- Retaining the three A's of Advocate, Assist and Advance, which are enshrined as the objects of the LGA in the LGA Constitution, as the LGA's key strategies to provide member value;
- Introducing a new strategy of 'Achieve' to capture corporate governance priorities and embed best practice across all LGA operations;
- Establishing definitions that clearly distinguish the strategies of 'Assist' from 'Advance';
- Introducing a series of strategic measures that complement existing quarterly and annual reporting mechanisms; and
- Introducing a planning and reporting framework to communicate the linkages between the LGA's strategic and operational plans, and reporting systems.

## How the Strategic Plan was developed

The Strategic Plan was developed with engagement of the LGA Board and Committees, LGA staff and member councils at key points. The following table summarises this work:

Stage	Key activities
<b>Research and early consultation</b> September-October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of successes and learning from 2016-2020 Strategic Plan</li> <li>• 1-on-1 conversations with Board Directors</li> <li>• Input from CEO Advisory Group</li> <li>• Environmental scan</li> <li>• All-staff strategy day</li> <li>• Preparation of Strategic Planning Discussion Paper</li> </ul>
<b>Development of draft Strategic Plan</b> November-December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback from GAROC and SAROC Committee members on Strategic Planning Discussion Paper</li> <li>• 1-on-1 conversations with new Board Directors</li> <li>• 2020 Member Survey results received</li> <li>• Development of draft Strategic Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Feedback on draft Strategic Plan</b> January-February 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Release of draft to local government sector via LGA Latest News and CEO's Update</li> <li>• Feedback received from councils</li> <li>• Feedback sessions with LGA staff</li> <li>• Feedback from GAROC, SAROC and the Audit and Risk Committee at their regular meetings</li> </ul>
<b>Finalise Strategic Plan</b> March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amend Strategic Plan based on feedback</li> <li>• Final draft adopted by the LGA Board</li> </ul>

## Next Steps

The LGA Board adopted the new Strategic Plan at its meeting on 18 March 2021. The new Strategic Plan is being used to inform the LGA's annual business planning for 2021/22.

A copy of the LGA Strategic Plan 2021-2025 is available here: <https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/about-lga/overview-of-the-lga/corporate-documents>.

## Financial and Resource Implications

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

# **LGA25**

## **Strategic Plan 2021- 2025**

**Adopted by the LGA Board of  
Directors on 18 March 2021**

**This document is being graphically  
designed.**

## Table of contents

<b>Message from the President .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>LGA's Governance Framework.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Context .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Vision, Mission and Values .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Our Strategic Plan.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Strategy 1 - Advocate .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Strategy 2 - Assist.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Strategy 3 - Advance.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Strategy 4 – Achieve .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Monitoring and Review .....</b>	<b>14</b>



## Message from the President

It is often said that councils are the level of government closest to the community, and work best when they genuinely engage with the communities they serve.

The same can be said of the LGA. The LGA exists for its member councils - and works best when it is close to its members, and listens to and represents their interests.

As the voice of local government, the LGA provides leadership, support, representation and advocacy on behalf of South Australian councils, for the benefit of the community.

Just as councils are about more than roads, rates and rubbish, so too the LGA is about more than just advocacy. In addition to achieving greater influence for local government, the LGA plays a critical role in strengthening the capacity of councils and driving innovation that prepares our sector for the future.

With the implementation of once-in-a-generation local government reforms just around the corner, the role of the LGA in practically assisting its members, avoiding unnecessary duplication and finding smarter ways to operate is more important than ever.

As we do this, the LGA needs to continually ensure its own house is in order, lead by example in its operations and governance, and demonstrate social and environmental responsibility.

This Strategic Plan has been developed with strong input from our members – from those who sit on our Board and committees, to council members, CEOs and frontline staff from around South Australia.

Thank you to those who continue to take the time to let us know how we can work together to do great things for our communities.

Mayor Angela Evans

LGA President

March 2021

# Introduction

## About the LGA

The Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA) is the peak body for local government in South Australia. The LGA provides leadership and services to councils, and represents the sector to State and Federal governments and other key stakeholders. Membership of the LGA is voluntary, but all 68 of South Australia's councils are members.

The Association also provides competitive procurement and indemnity (insurance) services to councils through two separate commercial entities, LGA Procurement and LGASA Mutual.

The LGA is governed by a Board of Directors and supported by a secretariat based in Local Government House in Adelaide. The LGA is federated with interstate bodies through the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), which represents local government's national interests.

More information about the LGA is available on our website at [www.lga.sa.gov.au](http://www.lga.sa.gov.au).

## About the Strategic Plan

The LGA's Strategic Plan outlines how the LGA will prioritise its resources in meeting the needs of its member councils. The plan does not detail everything that the LGA is involved in, rather it identifies the strategic outcomes that the LGA will focus on over the next four years.

The Strategic Plan is a plan for the Association and not a plan for councils. It contains strategies that will advance the interests of local government in South Australia and progress the objects outlined in the LGA Constitution.

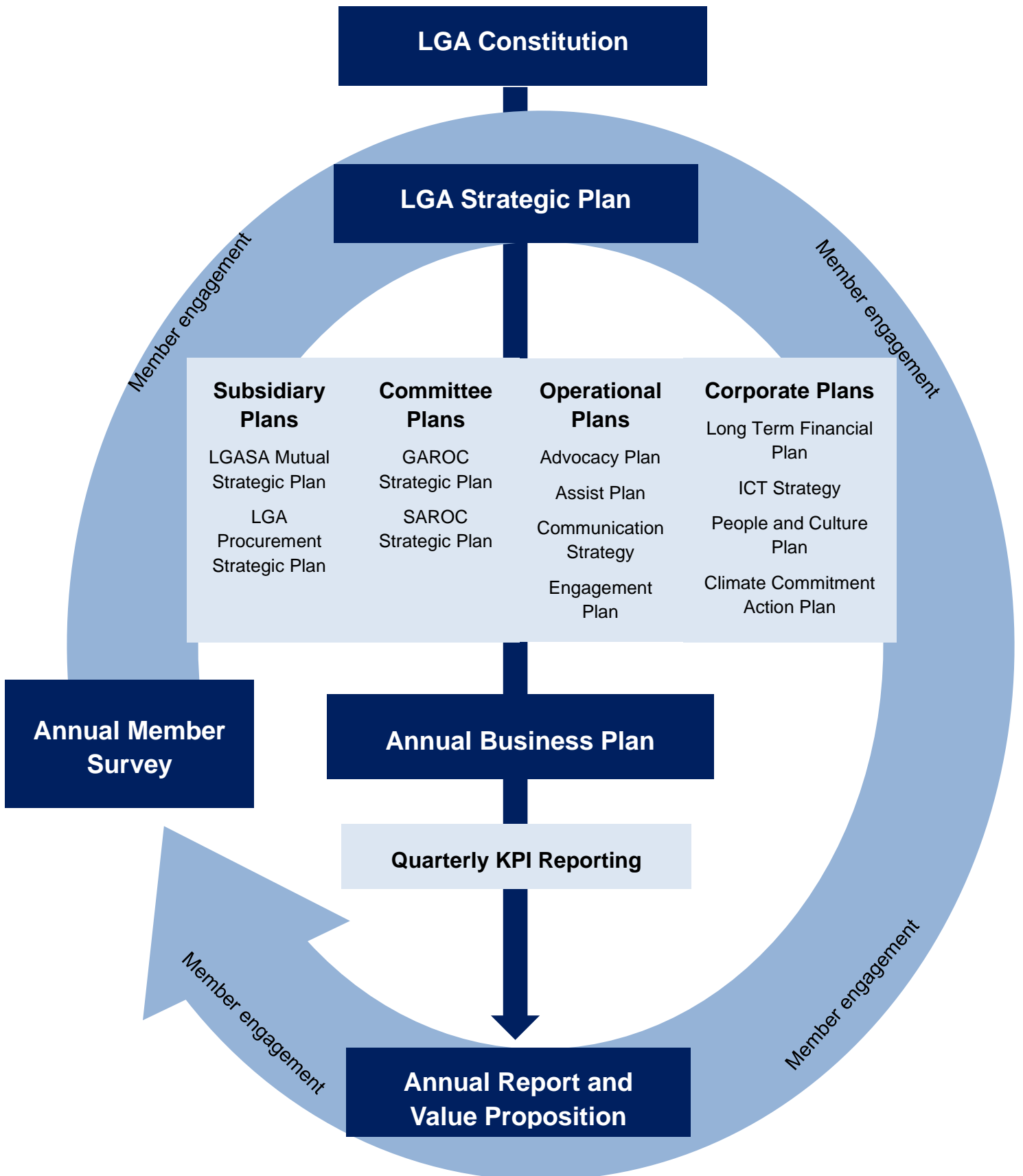
The Strategic Plan informs the LGA's work plans and budgets, as well as the Strategic and Annual Business Plans of subsidiaries and Board committees. The LGA's progress in achieving the outcomes sought by this plan is monitored through quarterly and annual reporting (see Figure 1).

The Strategic Plan was developed with input from member councils, the LGA Board, GAROC and SAROC Committees<sup>1</sup>, the LGA's Audit and Risk Committee and LGA staff. This happened through workshops and formal consultation processes, as well as through the regular feedback the LGA receives from members through its annual member's survey.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Greater Adelaide Region of Councils (GAROC) and South Australian Region of Councils (SAROC) are committees of the LGA Board that provide regional advocacy, policy initiation and review, leadership, engagement and capacity building in the regions.

**Figure 1: LGA’s Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework**



## LGA's Governance Framework

The LGA is governed by a Board of Directors, which receives input on policy issues from the Greater Adelaide Region of Councils (GAROC) and South Australian Region of Councils (SAROC). GAROC and SAROC are committees of the LGA Board that provide regional advocacy, policy initiation and review, leadership, engagement and capacity building in the regions. The LGA Board also receives advice from its Audit and Risk Committee, CEO Advisory Group and the LGA secretariat.

Each year, the LGA holds an Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) and an Annual General Meeting (AGM). The purpose of those meetings is for member councils to determine the policy direction of the LGA via items of business that are of strategic importance to local government.

The LGA secretariat, led by the CEO, has responsibility for implementing the direction established by the LGA Board and by members through General Meetings.

The LGA's commercial entities – LGA Procurement and LGASA Mutual – are both governed by their own Board of Directors that report to the LGA Board.

Those roles and responsibilities are summarised below.

<b>Role</b>	<b>Leading body</b>
Strategy and Governance <i>Where we are going</i> <i>Decisions and rules</i>	LGA Board LGASA Mutual Board LGA Procurement Board
Policy <i>What we stand for</i>	Member councils via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GAROC and SAROC Committees</li> <li>• AGM and OGM</li> </ul>
Advice <i>Informing how we operate</i>	CEO Advisory Group Audit and Risk Committee LGA secretariat
Operations <i>Delivery of advocacy and services</i>	LGA secretariat
Measurement <i>Determining success</i>	Member councils

## Context

The key considerations that form the context for this Strategic Plan include:

- Social and economic impacts of COVID-19, heightening the role of councils in driving local economic development and community wellbeing.
- Implementation of the Local Government Review Bill, and changes that will enhance council governance and operations.
- Financial sustainability for councils, including their critical roles in providing and maintaining infrastructure and community assets.
- Federal, State and Local Government elections scheduled for 2022, including proactively influencing national and state policy agendas and partnering with government in the implementation of new directions.
- Technological change, presenting new opportunities and increasing risks.
- The ongoing impacts of climate change and evolving responsibilities for local government in emergency management.
- Implementation of planning reforms and achieving positive planning and design outcomes in communities.

# Vision, Mission and Values

## Vision

*For South Australian councils to work together as willing and trusted partners in government, for the benefit of our communities.*

## Mission

*To provide leadership, support, representation and advocacy on behalf of South Australian councils.*

## Values and Behaviours



## Our Strategic Plan

### **Advocate**

Achieve greater influence for local government.

### **Assist**

Build the capacity of member councils.

### **Advance**

Facilitate continuous improvement in local government.

### **Achieve**

Embed best practice governance and operations to enable the LGA to provide value to members.



## Strategy 1 - Advocate

### S1. Achieve greater influence for local government.

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 will help councils to provide high quality services, facilities and operations that meet the needs of communities, while driving downward pressure on rates. As the voice of local government, the LGA's advocacy will inform awareness campaigns that shine light on the role and value of local government to communities.

The LGA's success in advocacy is built upon being close to members and understanding what is important to them.

### Outcomes

- 1.1 We are close to our members, seek their feedback and represent them with evidence-based advocacy on issues that matter.
- 1.2 Governments rely on our proactive contribution to policy and legislation that impacts councils, leading to better outcomes for communities.
- 1.3 Communities understand and value the services provided by local government, and are encouraged to participate in council processes.

### Prioritise and measure

Key priorities, along with targets and measures to monitor and report on the LGA's performance against these outcomes will be set each year in our suite of operational and committee plans, including:

- Annual Business Plan
- Advocacy Plan
- SAROC and GAROC Annual Business Plans
- Communications Strategy
- Engagement Plan.

## Strategy 2 - Assist

### S2. Build the capacity of member councils.

The LGA will continue to provide resources, services and advice that assist councils. Through these services and by working together as a united local government sector, councils will be able to achieve more with less, leading to better outcomes for their communities.

The LGA will continue to assist council staff and elected members in core areas including policy and governance, training, web services, emergency management, communications, procurement, and mutual indemnity (insurance). Recent changes within our sector, including the implementation of local government reforms and strengthening financial sustainability in the context of growing cost pressures present opportunities for the LGA to further assist its members.

The LGA's Assist services, which enable the sharing of knowledge and experience between councils, will help drive an effective and efficient local government sector.

### Outcomes

- 2.1 We are close to our members and understand their capacity and capability needs.
- 2.2 Councils draw upon our resources, services and advice in order to save time and money, and reduce risk.
- 2.3 Councils are engaged in addressing sector-wide priorities, including local government reforms and achieving greater financial sustainability.
- 2.4 We leverage grant funding for the benefit of councils, and their communities.

### Prioritise and measure

Key priorities, along with targets and measures to monitor and report on the LGA's performance against these outcomes will be set each year in our suite of operational, committee and subsidiary plans, including:

- Annual Business Plan
- Assist Plan
- SAROC and GAROC Annual Business Plans
- LGASA Mutual Strategic Plan
- LGA Procurement Strategic Plan

## Strategy 3 - Advance

### S3. Facilitate continuous improvement in local government.

The local government sector is continually innovating to prepare for the future and place downward pressure on rates.

The LGA will facilitate continuous improvement for the sector through thought leadership and research about the future of local government, and by developing new partnerships and services that respond to emerging needs, and help drive innovation.

The LGA will assist councils understand their relative strengths through performance measurement and reporting. Technology presents an opportunity for the sector to innovate and better connect with communities, and take action to manage evolving cyber risks.

## Outcomes

- 3.1 We research and communicate on emerging issues for councils and their communities.
- 3.2 New partnerships and services help councils innovate and prepare for the future.
- 3.3 We provide access to systems that provide councils with the evidence base for continuous improvement.
- 3.4 The local government sector maximises the use of emerging technology, while effectively managing cyber risks.

## Prioritise and measure

Key priorities, along with targets and measures to monitor and report on the LGA's performance against these outcomes will be set each year in our suite of operational, subsidiary and corporate plans, including:

- Annual Business Plan
- Advocacy Plan
- Communications Strategy
- Engagement Plan
- LGASA Mutual Strategic Plan
- LGA Procurement Strategic Plan

## Strategy 4 – Achieve

### **S4. Embed best practice governance and operations to enable the LGA to provide value to members.**

The LGA's ability to serve its members relies upon strong organisational foundations in areas such as financial management and people and culture, and the agility that comes from our size and structure as a member based association.

Improvements in corporate systems will be important to better monitor and communicate how the LGA provides value to members.

As a leader in the local government sector, it is important for LGA to lead by example and demonstrate social and environmental responsibility in its operations.

### **Outcomes**

- 4.1 We lead by example in the governance and operations of the LGA.
- 4.2 The LGA's financial sustainability is supported by a growth in revenue from value-adding member services and LGA Procurement.
- 4.3 We provide a safe, healthy and rewarding work environment.
- 4.4 Systems and technology improve LGA operations and allow us to better serve our members.

### **Prioritise and measure**

Key priorities, along with targets and measures to monitor and report on the LGA's performance will be set each year in our suite of operational and corporate plans:

- Annual Business Plan
- People and Culture Plan
- ICT Strategy
- Long-Term Financial Plan

## Monitoring and Review

Implementation of this Strategic Plan will occur through the LGA's Annual Business Plan and other operational and corporate plans, as well as via the Strategic and Annual Business Plans of subsidiaries and Board committees.

The LGA's Annual Business Plan is monitored through Key Performance Indicators, which are reported upon quarterly to the LGA Board, and annually via the Annual Report. In addition to the annual Key Performance Indicators, the following strategic measures will be used to determine the LGA's success in achieving the strategies and outcomes of this plan:

Strategic Measures	Target
Membership	<p>All South Australian councils remain members of the LGA.</p> <p>All South Australian councils remain members of the Mutual Liability and Worker's Compensation Schemes.</p>
Members perception of value	<p>Retain member perception of LGA value for money for services to the sector of at least 7/10 over a rolling three year average.</p> <p>Retain an overall value of LGA membership of an average of at least \$2Million per council over a rolling three years.</p> <p>Advocate – achieve an average value for money for advocacy services of at least 7/10 on an annual basis.</p> <p>Assist – achieve an average value for money for assist services of least 7/10 on an annual basis.</p> <p>Advance – achieve an average value for money for advance services of at least 7/10 on an annual basis.</p>
Utilisation of LGA services	<p>All South Australian councils draw upon the resources provided on the LGA members only website.</p> <p>All South Australian councils use one or more of the LGA's value-adding member services.</p> <p>All South Australian councils use one or more services provided by LGA Procurement.</p>
Community awareness	<p>Maintain or increase the reach of the LGA's community awareness campaigns.</p> <p>Maintain or increase the community's understanding of the role of local government, as measured through the LGA's annual community survey.</p>
Financial management	<p>Income from member subscriptions to not exceed 25% of overall revenue.</p> <p>Retain operating surplus, liquidity and net financial liability ratios within the targets established by the Long Term Financial Plan.</p>

This Strategic Plan will be reviewed in 2025.

## 6.4 LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan

### LGA Business

From:	Michael Arman, Director Strategy		
Key Initiative:	K.I 3 Best practice and continuous improvement		
Strategy:	3A Lead by example		
Meeting:	Ordinary General Meeting	30 April 2021	
ECM:	734833	Attachment: 729016	

---

### Recommendation

**That the Ordinary General Meeting:**

- 1. notes the LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan adopted by the Board of Directors on 18 March 2021, which outlines 24 actions for the LGA to implement in its own operations; and**
- 2. notes that the LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan will be reviewed annually and that members will receive an annual progress report at an LGA General Meeting.**

### Discussion

The LGA Board of Directors adopted the LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan at its meeting on 18 March 2021. This report provides background about this plan for members.

A copy of the Climate Commitment Action Plan is attached and [available on the LGA website](#).

### Background

There has been a sustained focus within the local government sector for greater leadership and action on climate change.

In October 2019, the LGA AGM passed a motion to note the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, strengthen the LGA's 'Managing the Risks of Climate Change' Policy Statement and continue to lobby the State and Federal Government to prioritise climate change action.

In October 2020, the AGM considered a motion to declare a climate emergency, develop an LGA Climate Emergency Action Plan focussed on mitigation, adaptation, and community safety, and develop a model Climate Emergency Action Plan for member councils. Following significant debate relating to the climate emergency declaration aspect, the motion was narrowly defeated.

Throughout the debate, members highlighted their continuing commitment to taking action on climate change, and this was reinforced in the 2020 LGA Member Survey with climate change being identified as a priority issue for the LGA to focus on.

## An Action Plan for the LGA

There is a clear desire from councils for the LGA to take meaningful action on climate change that will deliver tangible outcomes. At its meeting in December 2020, the LGA Board resolved to develop a Climate Commitment Action Plan for the LGA, which aims to:

- Demonstrate leadership and communicate the LGA's commitment to tangible action on climate change.
- Outline the actions that the LGA has taken in climate change mitigation and adaptation in its leadership role to the sector and in its operations.
- Identify priority actions for 2021-2023.

It is important to highlight that the Action Plan is a plan for the LGA to guide its own actions and priorities as a peak body organisation, as distinct from a plan for the local government sector. This recognises the important role of councils to work with their communities to set their own local priorities and actions through the regional climate partnerships<sup>1</sup>.

The LGA developed the Action Plan based upon feedback from members through annual LGA member surveys, Council Ready program, previous GAROC and SAROC workshops and LGA General Meetings. In addition, GAROC and SAROC provided feedback on an early draft of the plan.

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 over the next three years in support of this commitment. These actions are aligned with the four key strategies within the LGA's Strategic Plan 2021-2025 of Advocate, Assist, Advance and Achieve.

### Next Steps

The LGA Board of Directors adopted the LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan on 18 March 2021. The LGA will report to members on progress in implementing this plan once a year at an LGA General Meeting.

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

In developing this plan, the LGA has carefully identified actions that are achievable, maximise existing services and programs, and will make a tangible difference within the LGA's scope of influence.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Regional Climate Partnerships are a network of eleven regional, cross-sectoral groups delivering practical action to strengthen the climate resilience of their communities, economies and natural and built environments. Partners vary from region to region, but include councils, regional organisations of councils, Regional Development Australia organisations, landscape boards (formerly Natural Resource Management Boards), and the South Australian government. For more information see <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/climate-change/programs-and-initiatives/adapting-to-climate-change/regional-climate-partnerships>



# **LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan 2021-2023**

**Adopted by the LGA Board of  
Directors on 18 March 2021**

**This document is being graphically  
designed.**

## Table of contents

<b>Message from the President .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
About the LGA.....	4
About the Climate Commitment Action Plan .....	4
<b>Action taken so far.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>LGA's Climate Commitment.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Action Plan for 2021-2023.....</b>	<b>7</b>
1. Advocate for urgent action on climate change.....	7
2. Assist member councils in their efforts to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.....	8
3. Advance the local government sector's leadership on climate change .....	9
4. Achieve emissions reduction and adaption through the operations of the LGA. ....	10

## Message from the President

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing Australian communities. It requires a collective response, and action needs to be taken across all spheres of society. Addressing the impacts of climate change requires a sustained response over time, and the ability to adjust the course as the climate risks change.

Local government has been on the front foot for many years, leading the charge with the procurement of green energy, preparing for sea level rise, retrofitting community facilities, transitioning to a circular economy, driving the regional climate partnerships, building emergency management capabilities and more.

Climate risks vary across the state, and local government's success to date is closely tied with how councils have responded to the local risks faced by local communities in partnership with other levels of government.

As the peak body for local government in South Australia, the LGA recognises its important role to support councils with their own efforts, while also walking the talk by taking action in its own operations.

This plan formalises the LGA's commitment to tangible action on climate change. It contains a suite of actions that continue and extend LGA efforts to work with and on behalf of our member councils through our core roles to advocate, assist and advance. The plan also contains actions that address how the LGA can achieve tangible outcomes through its own operations.

By working together as a united local government sector, we can do more to prepare our communities for the unfolding impacts of climate change.

Mayor Angela Evans

LGA President

March 2021

# Introduction

## About the LGA

The Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA) is the peak body for local government in South Australia. The LGA provides leadership and services to councils, and represents the sector to State and Federal governments and other key stakeholders. Membership of the LGA is voluntary, but all 68 of South Australia's councils are members.

The LGA also provides competitive procurement and indemnity (insurance) services to councils through two separate commercial entities, LGA Procurement and LGASA Mutual.

The LGA is governed by a Board of Directors and supported by a secretariat based in Local Government House in Adelaide. The LGA is federated with interstate bodies through the Australian Local Government Association which represents local government's national interests.

More information about the LGA is available on our website at [www.lga.sa.gov.au](http://www.lga.sa.gov.au).

## About the Climate Commitment Action Plan

The LGA acknowledges that climate change poses a serious risk to councils, and the communities and ecosystems they support. Climate change has the potential to damage council assets, cause disruption to the delivery of council services, generate unbudgeted financial impacts and affect the health and wellbeing of communities.

These risks require us to take immediate and ongoing action.

Over many years, South Australian councils have provided strong leadership, advocacy and action to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Councils continue to plan and implement actions at local and regional levels to address changing climate risks.

The LGA has a dual role to both support councils with their own climate change efforts as the peak body for local government, and to lead by example by taking action in its own operations.

The LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan outlines the LGA's commitment to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and contains:

- An overview of recent action on climate change
- The LGA's Climate Commitment
- An Action Plan for 2021-2023.

The Action Plan will be updated every three years, with an annual review of outcomes achieved presented to a General Meeting of the LGA membership.

## Action taken so far

This Action Plan builds upon many years of effort supporting councils to help mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts. Many of these actions will be continued or built upon as part of the Action Plan for the next three years. A snapshot of the actions already undertaken by the LGA includes:

- **Advocacy**

Advocated for greater resources for councils to manage climate risks including coastal protection, stormwater management and emergency management.

- **Coordination**

Secured State Government funding for the LGA to host the central coordinator roles that underpin the Regional Climate Partnerships<sup>1</sup>.

- **Resources**

Developed guides and templates for councils on topics including climate risk management, adaptation planning, energy efficiency, coastal adaptation, and heatwaves.

- **Procurement**

Supported councils to procure recycled road materials, solar panels, batteries, electric vehicles and charging stations, and electricity sourced from a local renewable source through LGA Procurement.

- **Circular economy**

Supported councils to transition to a circular economy in their procurement activities, including the *Buying it Back* pilot program which the LGA coordinates and participates in.

- **Energy efficiency**

Provided advice and services to councils to drive improved energy efficiency, including through LED street lighting.

- **Research and Development**

Funded important climate change research, development and actions through the Local Government Research and Development Scheme and the Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme.

- **Emergency management**

Assisted councils with emergency management planning through the Council Ready program, and significantly strengthened our sector's emergency response capability through the Local Government Functional Support Group.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Regional Climate Partnerships are a network of eleven regional, cross-sectoral groups delivering practical action to strengthen the climate resilience of their communities, economies and natural and built environments. Partners vary from region to region, but include councils, regional organisations of councils, Regional Development Australia organisations, landscape boards (formerly Natural Resource Management Boards), and the South Australian government. For more information see <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/climate-change/programs-and-initiatives/adapting-to-climate-change/regional-climate-partnerships>

- **Local Government House**

Reduced emissions associated with the operations of Local Government House through the installation of sensor activated energy LED lighting, waste management and recycled office supplies<sup>2</sup>.

- **Corporate policies**

Adopted a Procurement Policy that seeks to conserve natural resources and integrate principles of circular economy, waste minimisation and energy minimisation.

## LGA's Climate Commitment

The LGA's commitment to climate change is contained in our policy statements on "*Managing the Risks of Climate Change*". These policy statements have been developed with input from the local government sector, and adopted by our members at LGA general meetings<sup>3</sup>.

Our overarching policy statement is that:

**Local government acknowledges that climate change poses a serious risk to local communities and ecosystems. All levels of government are urged to take action that will help address the effects of climate change in local communities<sup>4</sup>.**

This is supported by additional statements addressing Partnerships; Funding and Strategic Investment; Embedding Climate Change Considerations; Decision Making; Consultation and Engagement; Energy Reduction and Storage; Greenhouse Gas Reduction Mechanisms; Integrity; and Electric Vehicles.

Many other statements in the LGA Policy Manual, such as those relating to waste management, circular economy, emergency management and planning and development also address climate change. This reflects the way in which climate change is a central consideration across the wide range of local government functions and services.

This LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan seeks to bring our climate change policies to life by outlining the LGA's commitment to taking action to support its members and through its own operations.

The LGA's Climate Commitment to our members and to the community is:

**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.**

It should be noted that this a commitment made by the LGA Board to lead action within its scope of influence across the LGA's four core strategy areas.

<sup>2</sup> As of 30 June 2020, 95% of the total office supplies and stationary purchased by the LGA contained recycled content.

<sup>3</sup> The LGA Policy Manual is available at <https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/about-lga/overview-of-the-lga/corporate-documents/lga-policy-manual>.

<sup>4</sup> LGA Policy Manual, Section 4.4, Managing the Risks of Climate Change, <https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/about-lga/overview-of-the-lga/corporate-documents/lga-policy-manual/environment-and-natural-resources/4.4-managing-the-risks-of-climate-change>.

# Action Plan for 2021-2023

## 1. Advocate for urgent action on climate change

Responding to climate change is a shared responsibility across all levels of government and society.

As the peak representative body for South Australia's councils, the LGA has an important role to advocate for urgent and sustained action to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. This will occur through direct advocacy to governments, partnerships, representation on influential decision making bodies, and by raising awareness of the role and value of councils in managing climate risks.

Action	Responsibility
<b>1.1 Policy Statement</b> Review and update the "Managing the Risks of Climate Change" statements in the LGA Policy Manual based on recent science, evidence and practice.	Director Policy
<b>1.2 Advocacy</b> Reinforce climate change as a priority in the LGA Advocacy Plan and continue to advocate to the State Government for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation of their Climate Change Action Plan 2021 -25</li> <li>- State-Local Government Climate Change Partnership Proposal</li> <li>- Renewal of the Regional Climate Partnerships – Sector Agreements</li> <li>- Greater funding for councils for climate risk management, waste management, coastal management and stormwater management</li> <li>- Better recognition of and response to climate change in the Planning and Design Code</li> <li>- Greater support for the Electric Vehicle Strategy.</li> </ul> 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.	Director Policy
<b>1.3 Raise awareness of Local Government efforts</b> Increase awareness of the role and value of councils in managing climate risks through the LGA's ongoing awareness campaigns and stakeholder engagement actions.	Director Media and Communications
<b>1.4 Representation</b> Advocate for greater support for councils to address climate change via the local government members on the Premier's Climate Change Council.	Executive Director Public Affairs
<b>1.5 Integration</b> Ensure all relevant LGA Advocacy submissions address climate change impact.	Director Policy
<b>1.6 Partnerships</b> 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.  Maintain a high level of engagement with and participation in the Adaptation Practitioners Network.	Executive Director Public Affairs  Director Policy



## 2. Assist member councils in their efforts to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change

Councils have and are taking important action to respond to climate change.

The LGA can assist by ensuring that these efforts are well coordinated to avoid unnecessary duplication, informed by a contemporary evidence base, and by showcasing best practice and the support resources that already exist. LGA services in areas such as procurement and energy efficiency present opportunities to drive tangible and substantive emissions reduction across the entire local government sector.

Action	Responsibility
<b>2.1 Coordination</b> Host the central climate change coordinator roles that underpin the Regional Climate Partnerships and the state/local government Adaptation Practitioners Network.	Director Policy
<b>2.2 Showcase best practice</b> 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.  Deliver an annual 'Climate Month' to showcase local government climate change projects, resources and tools via LGA's communication with members.	Director Policy  Director Media and Communications  Director Sector Development
<b>2.3 Knowledge hub and resource sharing</b> 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.	Director Policy
<b>2.4 Circular economy and waste management</b> Support councils with the transition to a circular economy, including implementation of <i>Buying it Back</i> pilot program, and key actions from the State Government's Waste and Food Waste strategies	Director Policy
<b>2.5 Procurement</b> Proactively assist councils with low-carbon procurement, including the procurement of green power, through panel contracts, training and support resources.	CEO LGA Procurement
<b>2.6 Energy efficiency</b> Promote and expand the LGA's support services that assist councils to improve energy efficiency.	Executive Director Member Services
<b>2.7 Climate risk management</b> Provide advice that assists councils to manage climate risks and potential liabilities via the Mutual Liability Scheme.	CEO LGASA Mutual

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

The local government sector has demonstrated leadership on climate change for many years.

The LGA can strengthen this leadership and support the sector to prepare for new and evolving climate risks through thought leadership, research and development, training and embedding the climate commitment across the LGA's strategic and business planning.

Action	Responsibility
<b>3.1 Thought Leadership</b> Showcase the local government sector's leadership on climate change in state and national forums, and through the Premier's Climate Change Council.	Executive Director Public Affairs
<b>3.2 Training</b> Integrate climate awareness and education as part of the LGA's Elected Member leadership development program.	Director Sector Development
<b>3.3 Research and Development</b> Ensure climate change is retained as a research priority of the Local Government Research and Development Scheme.	Director Strategy
<b>3.4 Strategic Planning</b> Embed our climate commitment within the LGA's Strategic and Annual Business Plans.	Director Strategy

## 4. Achieve emissions reduction and adaptation through the operations of the LGA.

The LGA can lead by example by taking action with its own operations.

Understanding emissions associated with LGA operations is a necessary first step. There are also opportunities to take action through the management of Local Government House, corporate travel and events.

Action	Responsibility
<p><b>4.1 Local Government House</b></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>	Director Corporate Services
<p><b>4.2 LGA emissions</b></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>	Director Strategy
<p><b>4.3 Travel</b></p> <p>Modify the LGA's Travel Policy to encourage video conferencing, active travel and car pooling wherever practicable.</p>	Director Corporate Services
<p><b>4.4 Vehicles</b></p> <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.</p>	Director Corporate Services
<p><b>4.5 Events</b></p> <p>Develop and implement a Sustainable Events Procedure for all LGA events.</p>	Director Sector Development
<p><b>4.6 Corporate climate risk</b></p> <p>Ensure climate risks are appropriately considered in the LGA's strategic risk register and Long Term Financial Plan.</p>	Director Corporate Services
<p><b>4.7 Monitor and report</b></p> <p>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.</p>	Director Strategy

## 8.1 COVID-19 Response (Salisbury)

### Recommendation Reports from the GAROC Committee

Submitted by:	City of Salisbury		
Approved by:	GAROC Committee		
Meeting	Ordinary General Meeting	30 April 2021	
ECM:	732712	Attachment: 732683	

---

### Recommendation

**That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to seek direct local government input to any review that is undertaken into the State's response to the COVID-19 emergency with a view to playing a stronger partnership role in any future state-wide emergency.**

### GAROC Committee's Comments

The GAROC Committee considered this issue at its meeting on 15 March 2021 and acknowledged the importance of a coordinated local government response to the COVID-19 emergency. As such, the GAROC Committee has recommended the Item of Business to the Ordinary General Meeting.

### LGA Officer's Comments

**(Officer: Katherine Russell, Senior Policy Officer)**

#### Background

The *State Emergency Management Act 2004* establishes the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC), on which the LGA CEO, Mr Matt Pinnegar, represents the sector. SEMC is responsible for the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP), which manages all emergencies.

The SEMP articulates the roles and responsibilities that local government plays in emergency management planning, preparedness, response and recovery. The SEMP establishes the LGFSG which is responsible for "coordinating the Response from Local Government during an emergency".

The '[Local Government Emergency Management Framework 2019](https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/45702/Emergency-Management-Lessons-Management-Framework.pdf)' reflects the roles of the LGFSG and local government in emergency management around the three key areas of disaster risk reduction, incident operations and recovery.

#### Lessons Management

The SEMP includes a process for review of response to an emergency in the South Australian Lessons Management Framework<sup>1</sup>. The Framework provides a process that encourages agencies to support continuous improvement following emergencies. The process requires SEMC to provide advice to the Minister on management of emergencies and includes roles and responsibilities for each agency, which includes local government.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/45702/Emergency-Management-Lessons-Management-Framework.pdf](https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/45702/Emergency-Management-Lessons-Management-Framework.pdf)

A review of the State Government response to COVID-19 has not yet been initiated. Through the LGA's role on the SEMC, the LGA is well-placed to ensure that local government is involved in such a review, when it occurs, and that it can advocate for local government to be seen as a partner, rather than just a support agency to the State Government.

### **Role of the Local Government Functional Support Group (LGFSG)**

The recommended Item of Business as proposed by the City of Salisbury refers to confusion caused by rules being designed for local government but without having the benefit of input from local government about how they should be applied.

The LGA leads the LGFSG which provided well-recognised and significant value to the sector during the COVID-19 crisis through its ability to mobilise and coordinate local government resources.

Importantly through the COVID-19 crisis, the LGFSG provided a single point of contact for all State Government emergency management agencies interacting with local government, and assurance that local government activities in emergencies were well-coordinated through a clear command and communication structure.

The LGFSG played an important role through the challenging times at the height of the COVID-19 crisis in:

- Activation of the LGFSG State Coordination Centre to coordinate the response from local government, which included 96 days of operation;
- LGFSG representation at the SA Health State Coordination Centre 7 days a week during the height of the crisis;
- Providing input into changing restrictions per the Emergency Declarations as they were issued through the LGFSG;
- Undertook more than 100,00 compliance checks in partnership with SAPOL and SA Health;
- Delivering regular Operational Briefings for councils about the implications of Emergency Declarations, frequently attended by over 200 local government staff at a time, including over 52 briefings which were attended by 4,100 staff in total;
- Providing regular Operational Updates informing councils about changes to Emergency Declarations and their implications, including over 100 updates and other resources which have been downloaded 6,471 times; and
- Activating several Incident Project Teams including local government experts to support councils on important topics during the COVID-19 crisis, including Environmental Health, Libraries and Waste, with each of these teams preparing guidance notes and direct support to councils.

### **Cost of the LGFSG**

The direct cost to the LGA for this coordination service has been \$150,000 to date, in addition to operational expenditure of more than \$75,000. Councils have absorbed more than \$90,000 in staffing the LGFSG State Coordination Centre during COVID-19 activations.

The LGFSG is the only Functional Support Group under the SEMP that does not receive a single dollar of State Government funding. The operations of the LGFSG are entirely funded through the LGA's own revenue sources, with no State or Commonwealth contributions.

LGA funding for the LGFSG now approximates 20% of the subscriptions collected from its member councils. This is financially unsustainable for the LGA and its members. The need for the LGFSG to be adequately resourced to meet its emergency management responsibilities has been raised by the LGA in successive State Budget submissions and is also in the LGA Advocacy Plan.

### **The LGFSG and the COVID-19 Response**

Despite this expenditure and the enormous energy spent by the LGFSG to keep the local government sector well-informed and engaged through the COVID-19 crisis, there were still occasions when SA Health did not engage with the LGFSG or events were moving at such a fast pace that SA Health was unable to involve the LGFSG. Emergency Declarations were often made on a Friday with no advance notice to the LGFSG which made implementation over a weekend challenging for councils, causing confusion and angst. Some examples include directions for environmental health officers, use of playgrounds and access to libraries.

As a Functional Support Group under the SEMP, the LGFSG should be engaged as a partner for these changing directions, reflecting its role as well as the ability and willingness of councils to implement the Emergency Declarations.

### **Opportunities for stronger partnerships with the State Government**

While the LGFSG has taken the lead in advocating for and representing the sector, there is still an opportunity to develop a stronger partnership between local government and the State Government and improve the understanding within the State Government of the role of local government in emergencies.

While the State Government may not fully appreciate the local government sector's strengths and capabilities, at times it may also overestimate local government's abilities to respond. A stronger partnership approach would improve this understanding.

SA Health remains immersed in response to the ongoing issues around the COVID-19 crisis. However, outside the incident itself, the LGA can continue to use its existing contacts and representations to advocate for a broader role for local government in all emergencies.

Existing opportunities to provide greater advocacy include:

- SEMC and its subcommittees;
- the State Bushfire Coordination Committee;
- the State Recovery Operations Group; and
- the Fire Prevention Strategic Alliance.

These relationships are also supplemented by several responses to reviews and inquiries which the LGA has undertaken, including its submissions in June 2020 and February 2021 to the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements and responses in May and August 2020 to the Independent Review of the South Australian 2019-2020 Bushfire Season. While these responses are about bushfires, they all demonstrate the important role of local government in emergency management.

### **Summary**

The LGA will continue to build on the reputation it has established through its response to the COVID-19 crisis to advocate for a greater role for local government as partners, not just operational support. Having cemented its representation on numerous emergency management

committees, the LGA can continue to use its existing opportunities to advocate for the role of the LGFSG and local government in any review that is undertaken into the State Government's response to COVID-19 with a view to playing a stronger partnership role in any future statewide emergency. The LGA could also consider preparing a report to SEMC to highlight these issues to the State Government.

### ***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](#).

<b>Council Name</b>	City of Salisbury
<b>The body the item is being referred to</b>  <i>Proposals may only be submitted to the ROC of which council is a member, or to the LGA Board of Directors.</i>	GAROC
<b>Subject of the proposed item of business</b>	<b>COVID-19 Response</b>
<b>Proposed motion for the General Meeting</b>	That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to seek direct local government input to any review that is undertaken into the State's response with a view to playing a stronger partnership role in any future state-wide emergency.
<b>Supporting information</b>  <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>During the height of the COVID-19 outbreak (early to mid 2020) the State Government made critical decisions in leading the response to how South Australia could manage and minimise the risk to the community of the worldwide pandemic.</p> <p>Many of those decisions related directly to the Local Government (LG) sector and, while Councils were very supportive of playing our role to the best of our capability, there were many discussions among Councils (Mayors / CEOs) and within Councils about what each new directive or legislative change meant so as to ensure a consistent interpretation and deployment of resources.</p> <p>The LG sector's input to any review of the State's response to the pandemic should at least address the delay and potential confusion caused by "rules" designed for local government, but without the sector's input to make them immediately understood and practical for quick implementation.</p> <p>Further, the State Government does not fully appreciate the LG sector's strengths and abilities to deploy resources and implement practical programs at the community level often, in much quicker timeframes than State Departments.</p> <p>A wide ranging review of how South Australia managed (and continues to manage) the impending risks presented by COVID-19 must have significant input from Local Government so as to ensure that the sector is part of the "conversation" as events occur and appropriate responses are being developed.</p>



<b>LGA Policy Manual</b> <i>Does this item require a change to the LGA Policy Manual (new policy or amendment to existing policy)?</i>	( <a href="#">please click here to view the LGA Policy Manual</a> ) No
<b>LGA Strategic Plan reference</b>	( <a href="#">please click here to view the plan and identify the Key Initiative and Strategy reference</a> ) <i>Key Initiative 1 – Leadership and Advocacy</i> <i>Strategy E – Build and maintain effective partnerships and stakeholder relations</i>
<b>Council Contact Officer submitting form</b>	Mick Petrovski Manager Governance mpetrovski@salisbury.sa.gov.au 8406 8331
<b>Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting</b>	Resolution 0765/2020; 23 November 2020
<b>Date submitted to LGA</b>	24 February 2021

Please return Word version of completed form to [lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au](mailto:lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au).  
Refer to LGA Circulars in respect to deadlines for upcoming General Meetings.

## 8.2 Damage to Infrastructure caused by Developers and Builders (Tea Tree Gully)

### Recommendation Reports from the GAROC Committee

Submitted by:	City of Tea Tree Gully		
Approved by:	GAROC Committee		
Meeting	Ordinary General Meeting	30 April 2021	
ECM:	732711	Attachments: 732682, 593669	

### Recommendation

That the Ordinary General Meeting:

- a. **calls on the Attorney General, Hon Vickie Chapman MP to work with the local government sector to investigate and implement an effective solution to the long-standing problem of councils and their ratepayers being left out of pocket when public infrastructure is damaged during private construction projects; and**
- b. **calls on the Local Government Association to seek to undertake further collaborative discussions with the various public utilities and/or their agents to improve the quality and timeliness of reinstatement works to any damaged local government infrastructure in the course of carrying out their works.**

### GAROC Committee's Comments

In recommending this item of business, the GAROC committee noted the importance of ensuring that public infrastructure is reinstated to a high standard following works by developers and utilities so as not to leave councils burdened with additional works. The committee noted that when reinstatements are done well, it is beneficial for both the community and the developer or utility.

### LGA Officer's Comments

This report provides discussion on each part of the proposed item of business, in turn.

#### *Damage caused by private construction projects*

**(Officer: Stephen Smith, Planning Reform Partner)**

- a) ***That the Ordinary General Meeting calls on the Attorney General, Hon Vickie Chapman MP to work with the local government sector to investigate and implement an effective solution to the long-standing problem of councils and their ratepayers being left out of pocket when public infrastructure is damaged during private construction projects.***

This item aligns with the LGA Policy Manual

*6.1.8 Developer Contributions: Local government recognises developer contributions as a fair and viable means of raising revenue to improve local infrastructure and assets. Councils, through the LGA, shall continue to lobby state government to look further into mechanisms by which developer contributions can be regulated.*

It also aligns with the current Theme 2 in the GAROC Annual Business Plan:

*Theme 2: Design, Planning and Placemaking*

*GAROC recognises the importance of good decision making that enhances the built environment and supports well-considered planning processes that achieve quality design outcomes and the preservation of character and local heritage.*

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

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

and Theme 3 in the SAROC Annual Business Plan:

*Theme 3: Natural and Built Environment*

*The SAROC recognises the importance of local government's role in the future planning and maintenance of South Australia's natural and built environment.*

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

Damage to public infrastructure as a result of private construction projects has been a long-standing issue within local government as a result of both the financial cost to councils where they are required to repair the damaged infrastructure and also address the public risk. A Discussion Paper 'Section 245A Development Bonds - Further Directions Paper' prepared in 2014 is provided for information.

There have been numerous approaches made to the State Government over time requesting that Regulations to be made to give effect to Section 245A of the Local Government Act:

*245A—Council may require bond or other security in certain circumstances*

*(1) Subject to this section, if—*

- a) a person has approval to carry out development under the Development Act 1993; and*
- b) the council has reason to believe that the performance of work in connection with the development could cause damage to any local government land (including a road) within the vicinity of the site of the development, the council may, by notice in writing served on the person who has the benefit of the approval, require the person to enter into an agreement that complies with any requirements prescribed by the regulations so as to ensure that money is available to address the cost of any damage that may be caused.*

This has included the presentation of detailed submissions outlining the significant costs to councils to repair the damage to local infrastructure caused during construction of developments. Efforts have also been made to reach agreement on a way forward with the development sector through a series of roundtables. Unfortunately, these efforts have not achieved a satisfactory outcome, with strong resistance from the State Government and the development sector on the basis that requiring a bond or other form of security will impact on the purchase price, and affordability, of new homes.

Most recently the LGA has included this issue in our submissions on the Local Government Review Bill currently before the Parliament. Our position is that the costs of repairing the damage

to public infrastructure during private construction, which are very significant in many councils, creates an unreasonable and unfair cost burden for all ratepayers.

At present it would appear that the Government does not intend to introduce Regulations that would give effect to Section 254A.

The wording of the motion, however, does allow for other avenues besides Section 245A to be investigated and the LGA would write to the Minister for Planning and Local Government to highlight the impact of this issue on councils and ratepayers, and seek a commitment to finding an appropriate solution.

### *Quality and timeliness of reinstatement by public utilities*

**(Officer: Lea Bacon, Director Policy)**

- b) That the Ordinary General Meeting calls on the Local Government Association to seek to undertake further collaborative discussions with the various public utilities and/or their agents to improve the quality and timeliness of reinstatement works to any damaged local government infrastructure in the course of carrying out their works.***

At the 2017 LGA Annual General Meeting, member councils passed a Notice of Motion introduced by the City of Prospect asking the LGA to “*liaise with essential service providers to establish an agreed policy on reinstating public infrastructure to the satisfaction of councils after completion of works and remediation improvements.*”

In May 2018, the former Metropolitan Local Government Group (MLGG) allocated a budget of \$28,000 to investigate and develop options for legislative or practical solutions to this issue.

The LGA Secretariat subsequently:

- undertook a desktop review of existing council reinstatement specifications;
- reviewed relevant legislation and State Government processes;
- undertook consultation with councils and essential service providers via surveys;
- hosted a working group meeting with member councils<sup>1</sup> to discuss responses to earlier members’ survey and feedback from SA Water / NBN co;
- met with SA Water to discuss their perspective as an ‘essential service provider’; and
- met with the Small Business Commissioner to discuss feedback received from businesses to their office regarding inconsistency in road reinstatement by essential service providers across South Australia.

Section 217 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (‘the Act’) gives councils the power to order the owner of infrastructure on roads to carry out specified maintenance or repair work. This includes pipes, wires, cables and fittings installed in, on, under or over a road. Several South Australian councils have adopted their own reinstatement specifications to provide companies that are undertaking reinstatement work with clear expectations.

However, the Act also states that councils do not have the power to order the owners of electricity, public lighting or gas infrastructure to carry out maintenance or repair work if the Commission has determined, on application by the owner of the infrastructure, that there are reasonable grounds for

---

<sup>1</sup> This meeting was attended by officers from the cities of Adelaide, Salisbury, Tea Tree Gully, Charles Sturt, Mitcham, and West Torrens, the Barossa Council, Campbelltown City Council and Whyalla City Council.

not requiring the owner to take the action specified in the order. Consequently, any policy in relation to the reinstatement of electricity, public lighting and gas infrastructure would need the support of essential service providers to ensure its principles are upheld.

Despite the best endeavours of the LGA Secretariat during 2017 to 2019, there was a lack of engagement on this issue from essential services providers (except for SA Water).

In setting its current, 2020-21 Annual Business Plan, GAROC noted the advice and efforts of the LGA Secretariat to complete the intention of the LGA Annual General Meeting motion. At that time, given the difficulty engaging both South Australian councils and essential service providers on a sector-wide project, GAROC concluded that further work on this issue would not be an efficient use of its resources in 2020-21.

Subsequently, the LGA Board of Directors approved removing actions to engage with councils and providers to establish consistent/model specifications and to establish a framework for engaging with essential service providers from the LGA Advocacy Plan 2019-23 in its annual revision in July 2020.

The request from the City of Tea Tree Gully is for the LGA to undertake collaborative discussions with public utilities. Notwithstanding that previous attempts to engage with essential service providers have not resulted in solutions, the LGA could use this opportunity to highlight that this remains an outstanding issue for local government. However, if this re-engagement with essential service providers indicates that their position has not changed since 2019, it is not recommended that the LGA expend further resources attempting to develop consistent policies or specifications.

### ***Financial and Resource Implications***

Advocacy on these issues is not currently anticipated in the LGA Advocacy Plan or the LGA's current work plan.

The LGA will have the capacity within existing resources to seek support from the Minister and essential service providers to work collaboratively towards solutions but undertaking detailed investigations or extensive engagement will require a decision of the LGA Board to reprioritise the LGA's work program.

## 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.

<b>Council Name</b>	City of Tea Tree Gully
<b>The body the item is being referred to</b>  <i>Proposals may only be submitted to the ROC of which council is a member, or to the LGA Board of Directors.</i>	GAROC
<b>Subject of the proposed item of business</b>	Damage to Infrastructure cause by Developers and Builders
<b>Proposed motion for the General Meeting</b>	<p>a) That the Ordinary General Meeting calls on the Attorney General, Hon Vickie Chapman MP to work with the local government sector to investigate and implement an effective solution to the long-standing problem of councils and their ratepayers being left out of pocket when public infrastructure is damaged during private construction projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>b) That the Ordinary General Meeting calls on the Local Government Association to seek to undertake further collaborative discussions with the various public utilities and/or their agents to improve the quality and timeliness of reinstatement works to any damaged local government infrastructure in the course of carrying out their works.</p>
<b>Supporting information</b>  <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>Significant costs are incurred by councils associated with third party damage to council owned infrastructure. This damage often arises from the actions of property owners, developers, builders, contractors, delivery service providers and utilities' services works. They have the potential to cause damage to footpaths, kerb &amp; water tables, stormwater drains, side entry pits, trees, verges, roads, etc.</p> <p>Councils across South Australia struggle with addressing and following up such damage for a variety of reasons and this issue is arguably worsening due to the amount of residential infill development occurring across the suburbs of Adelaide.</p> <p>Various sections of the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i> are available to Council for the enforcement of rectification works, however these have been used with minimal success resulting in councils repairing the damage and incurring the costs themselves.</p>



A key outcome of discussions to note is that while the relevant legislation provides a framework intended to allow councils to pursue responsible persons for damage to council infrastructure and/or administer a bonding or 'retention of funds' arrangement for certain types of development, that the requisite supporting Regulations and processes have never been progressed.

This is a very limiting factor for councils across South Australia and further development of these intended arrangements are well overdue and should be pursued.

The Local Government Association is well placed to pursue the required changes on behalf of councils.

There are various sections of the *Local Government Act 1999* which allow council officers the ability to manage damage to council infrastructure.

These sections require specific evidence to enable follow up and potential enforcement of these matters with the 'person(s)' who caused the damage.

Section 245(A) of the *Local Government Act 1999* provides the framework for retention of funds (by council from the applicant) to repair damages, however does not have any prescribed Regulations and therefore is unable to be utilised at this time. Currently there are no other available opportunities for councils to seek a bond / retention funds from property owners, developers, builders, etc.

The ability to manage infrastructure damage, is mainly restricted to council's ability to provide proof beyond reasonable doubt for the cause of damage and to identify those responsible. This is by way of evidence gathering, having a resource to undertake pre & post construction site assessments as well as continual monitoring of approved development and permit sites.

It is to be noted that for all instances where the 'person' who caused the damage cannot be proven, the processes above are undertaken via communications and requests for rectification that if challenged legally, may not be enforceable without sufficient proof of who caused the alleged damage to infrastructure.

Based on feedback from some council's, the effectiveness of this approach ranges between 50% - 90% for those matters that councils pursue.

Implementing a framework to enforce repair would educate and possibly deter developers and builders from causing damage to Council infrastructure. This change would also

	<p>support the perception that Council are proactively trying to hold the right people accountable.</p> <p>Consideration needs to be given to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Costs to the community in councils rate shaving to cover the cost of these repairs caused by others</li> </ol>
<p><b>LGA Policy Manual</b></p> <p><i>Does this item require a change to the LGA Policy Manual (new policy or amendment to existing policy)?</i></p>	<p>(<a href="#">please click here to view the LGA Policy Manual</a>)</p> <p>No</p>
<p><b>LGA Strategic Plan reference</b></p>	<p>(<a href="#">please click here to view the plan and identify the Key Initiative and Strategy reference</a>)</p> <p><i>Key Initiative: Leadership and Advocacy</i></p> <p><i>Strategy: Listen to, and represent members.</i></p>
<p><b>Council Contact Officer submitting form</b></p>	<p>Deana Taglierini</p> <p>Governance Advisor</p> <p>8397 7263</p>
<p><b>Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting</b></p>	<p>Council Meeting – Resolution Number 732</p> <p>9 February 2021</p>
<p><b>Date submitted to LGA</b></p>	<p>24 February 2021</p>

Please return Word version of completed form to [lqasa@lga.sa.gov.au](mailto:lqasa@lga.sa.gov.au).  
Refer to LGA Circulars in respect to deadlines for upcoming General Meetings.



## Section 245A Development Bonds - Further Directions Paper

20 October 2014

### Background

Section 245A of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) came into operation on 5 April 2009. This section enables a Council to require a developer to enter into an agreement to cover the cost of potential damage to Council infrastructure. This agreement may take the form of a bond or an indemnity (which would be called upon only if damage occurred during development works).

The stated intention of the amendment was to:

"...enable Councils to recover costs for damages but ensure that the form of security used and the nature of the cover is such that it does not result in unreasonable costs to the building industry and home purchasers" (Hansard 23 November 2006 p.1168)

In December 2009, the Local Government Association (LGA) circulated guidelines to its members on how to utilise s245A which included how to determine the amount of a bond. It was suggested that the value of the bond be based on the length of the private property adjoining or fronting the Council land (e.g. the length times estimated cost per metre to repair road or kerbing plus any infrastructure). Additionally, this bond should only be applied where the Council has reason to believe building works will cause damage to the community infrastructure and the building works are valued at more than \$15,000.

On release of these guidelines there was immediate opposition from the Urban Development Institute of Australia, the Housing Industry Association and the Master Builder Association. Shortly afterwards it became apparent that without the development of regulations to determine the prescribed period by which to comply, s245A could not be enforced.

Since this time the LGA has been seeking to have relevant regulations made but this has been met with opposition by both industry and the State Government. The LGA has clearly indicated to the State Government that Councils would not be favourable toward any mechanism that diluted the strength of the existing statutory authority within this section.

In an attempt to get a resolution to this issue, the LGA began the development of guidelines to assist Councils and industry in reaching an agreed outcome. However, industry remains opposed to the development of guidelines as well. Largely concern from industry surrounds proving who is responsible for damage caused to Council property during development.

Main areas of infrastructure damage include:

- footpaths;
- kerbing;
- street surfaces;
- catch pit repairs or relocation;
- drains repairs or relocation;
- driveway access;
- irrigation;

- service pit – adjustment;
- signs;
- Stormwater Infrastructure;
- traffic control devices;
- trees – replacement; and
- Water Table (kerbing).

In 2011 the LGA surveyed Councils to get an understanding of the cost to Councils for repairing damaged infrastructure. Eleven metropolitan Councils responded to the Survey and in 2009-10 the repair costs varied from \$3,683 to \$594,612 and in 2010-11 repair costs varied from \$1,457 to \$776,777. These costs only reflect the infrastructure repairs and do not include other costs such as staff administration or recoveries (equating to 1361 staff hours at Adelaide City Council and one full time staff member at Mitcham).

Recovering cost repairs related to development damage is costly and time consuming. However, Adelaide City Council indicated that they recover between 60-100% of damage costs while Charles Sturt recovered approximately 85% and West Torrens recovered 90%.

In 2012, the LGA worked with the Minister for State/Local Government Relations to identify suitable policy options to make Section 245A workable for Local Government, the public and the development industry. The Minister also requested advice as to the most appropriate type of security for Councils to seek:

- cash bond;
- indemnity;
- guarantee; or
- other type of agreement.

Having noted that requirement for a cash bond would not be favourable to the housing and development industries, the LGA sought advice on alternative mechanisms to use Section 245A.

Legal advice provided to the LGA indicates that an Indemnity or Guarantee would be appropriate:

- Indemnity - formal promise by one party to keep another party harmless against loss; and
- Guarantee - formal promise by one person to take responsibility for the debts or obligations of another person if they fail to meet them.

Councils were surveyed on the preference between an indemnity versus a guarantee. The LGA received five responses of which only one supported the use of an indemnity; however, none of the responding Councils indicated their support for a guarantee. Four of the five Councils sought the introduction of a cash bond while one indicated that they sought to maintain status quo.

Despite this work, industry, State Government and Local Government have been unable to determine an agreed resolution to this matter.

## Options

The following options are proposed to seek resolution to this issue:

### 1) *Status Quo*

This is an option that would leave Section 245A intact but with no functioning regulations. Councils would continue to seek cost recovery through other mechanisms.

### 2) *Develop 'Good Practice' Guidelines with Industry*

This non-legislative option would look at the development of guidelines to help reduce damage to public infrastructure in the first place. However, should damage occur, these guidelines would provide no security to Councils to oblige developers to pay for damage caused to infrastructure unless proven beyond a reasonable doubt in court. It is important to note that Industry has already indicated that they are not supportive of this option.

*3) Develop 'Good Practice' Guidelines for Council*

As above, this non-legislative option would look at the development of guidelines to help reduce damage. This may include the option of using photographs before and after work and invoicing the developer for any damage. Currently used by the City of West Torrens this approach has proved reasonably effective. Prior to the commencement of any development it is made clear to developers that they will be held responsible for any infrastructure damage.

*4) Amend the Local Government Act 1999*

It is understood that the Act will be reviewed in 2015. At this time it may be appropriate to seek:

- a) The development of suitable regulations for Section 245A; or
- b) Seek the repeal of Section 245A and propose instead an amendment to section 213(2) to create a statutory presumption that a person with the benefit of a development approval is the person from whom the costs of repairing road and footpath damage may be obtained. The practical difference between the above option and this one is that this option would not cap the land owner's liability.

**Recommendation**

The development of regulations and guidelines with industry remains unlikely.

It is recommended that option 3 be pursued in the first instance with option 4 to be undertaken in conjunction with the review of the Act in 2015.

## 8.3 Electric Vehicles Fleet Incentives (Campbelltown)

### Recommendation Reports from the GAROC Committee

Submitted by:	Campbelltown City Council		
Approved by:	GAROC Committee		
Meeting	Ordinary General Meeting	30 April 2021	
ECM:	734284	Attachments: 732691a, 732691b	

### Recommendations:

1. **That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA 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; and**
2. **That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to lobby the State Government to assist councils convert to an electric vehicle fleet by providing incentives.**

### GAROC Committee's Comments

The GAROC Committee considered this issue at its meeting on 15 March 2021 and acknowledged the importance of local government's role in the transition to electric vehicles, particularly the opportunities to support local manufacturing and fleet purchasing. As such, the GAROC Committee has recommended the Item of Business to the Ordinary General Meeting.

### LGA Officer's Comments

**(Officer: Katherine Russell, Senior Policy Officer)**

#### Recent advocacy

In May 2020, LGA Board of Directors approved an Item of Business proposed by the Campbelltown City Council 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.

The LGA subsequently wrote to the Minister for Energy and Mining, Mr 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 (then) forthcoming Action Plan.

The LGA highlighted the importance of providing subsidies and/or incentives to encourage fleet purchasers to further uptake emerging technology. It also noted that as fleet purchasers, both State and local government can influence the purchasing choices of private vehicle buyers, thereby setting an example of the use of emerging technology for the community, as well as encouraging the uptake of EVs in the community as many fleet vehicles are sold on to the community.

The LGA also took the opportunity in that letter to welcome the State Government's commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 50 per cent of 2005 levels by 2030 and for South Australia to be a net-zero carbon emitter by 2050 and noted that innovations to reduce emissions from transport will play a critical role in achieving these targets in a financially and economically sustainable way.

The LGA noted that the State Government's 'Directions for a Climate Smart South Australia', stated that the State Government will support the development of low emissions and climate smart industries and services in South Australia, and will recognise that the South Australian economy and workforce benefits from investment in renewable energy and attraction of EV and battery production businesses to Adelaide.

While the Minister replied favourably to say that his department was working closely with the Department for Environment and Water to ensure strong alignment with the (then) forthcoming across-government climate change strategy for South Australia, the Action Plan released in late 2020 does not include either subsidies or incentives.

The LGA has continued to work with the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) supporting its work around EVs. In January 2021, the LGA released a [Latest News](#) item making councils aware of the Action Plan and promoting the opportunities on offer from DEM to support councils in either hosting a charging site or participating in smart charging trials.

The LGA has also promoted the [Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia \(IPWEA\) Seminar on EVs](#) to be hosted at the City of Campbelltown in April 2021 and LGA staff will attend.

In addition, LGA Procurement has continued to support councils through establishing panels to assist councils in the purchase of EVs.

### **Federal Government's Discussion Paper**

The Senate Select Committee on Electric Vehicles released its [Report](#) in January 2019 ('the Senate Report') with key recommendations that the Australian Government:

- develop a national strategy to facilitate EV uptake and establish targets for their uptake;
- coordinate a national public charging network, including enabling new dwellings;
- develop an EV manufacturing roadmap; and
- coordinate federal, state and local government EV fleet, truck and electric bus procurement.

While the Federal Government has not responded to the Senate Report, in February 2021 it released its [Future Fuels Strategy: Discussion Paper](#) ('the Discussion Paper') with the following key initiatives:

1. Electric vehicle charging and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure;
2. An early focus on commercial fleets;
3. Improving information for motorists and fleet purchasers;
4. Integrating battery electric vehicles into the electricity grid; and
5. Supporting Australian innovation and manufacture.

While the Discussion Paper does not support EV subsidies and does not mention removing the luxury car tax on EVs, its focus on a 'fleets first' approach, recognising the value of fleet purchases,

and its support for the manufacturing sector, both align with the direction of the recommended Items of Business as proposed by the Campbelltown City Council.

Consultation on the Discussion Paper closed on Friday 2 April 2021 and the LGA made a submission based on existing LGA policy and the issues raised by Campbelltown City Council.

### **State Government's Action Plan**

The State Government's Action Plan released in January 2021 is based around four main actions:

- Statewide public charging network (developing a charging network across the State);
- Leading by example (mandating State Government vehicles be plug-in electric models and investigating electric buses);
- Catalyse fleet and private uptake (supporting EV fleets); and
- Framework to speed up transition (establishing a framework to support EV uptake).

The Action Plan does not include subsidies or incentives and the State Government announced through the 2020-21 Budget that it intends to introduce a new tax on EVs.

The proposed tax is contrary to the objectives of the Action Plan. EVs are already more expensive than regular vehicles and South Australia already has extremely low uptake of EVs at around 0.1% of all vehicles on the road. Evidence shows that EVs contribute a \$8,763 net benefit to the economy over ten years. The Treasurer Rob Lucas's argument that EVs do not contribute to road infrastructure costs has been dispelled by a report from Ernst and Young which found that each EV has a greater net benefit (due to environmental factors), than petrol or diesel-based vehicles. EVs are a significant contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as transport makes up 18% of emissions and light vehicles 10%.

This proposal has been subject to criticism and it has been reported that the State Government intends to delay the introduction of the tax for one year in order to monitor similar measures interstate.

### **Recommended Items of Business:**

*1. 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 Australian Government currently imposes a luxury car tax amounting to 33% of the vehicle purchase price in excess of \$68,740, which captures many EVs. The Discussion Paper does not propose removal of that tax on EVs.

Campbelltown City Council argues that the greatest barrier to uptake of EVs is the cost, and that there are numerous environmental advantages. It argues that widespread EV uptake would also reduce Australia's reliance on imported fuels, reduce transport costs and create greater efficiencies in the economy. Other advantages include benefits to the community in having a cleaner environment, as well as road safety benefits as newer cars are brought into the market which incorporate new safety technology.

The Recommended Item of Business also addresses the issue of incentives for local vehicle manufacturing. The Electric Vehicles Council of Australia argues that significant advantages are on offer 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 argues 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.

There are already examples of local manufacturers producing EVs, with the BusTech Group preparing to produce around 60 electric buses for the NSW Government over the next 18 months, employing 110 South Australians. Examples such as this will support the LGA's advocacy that revival of the local manufacturing industry to produce EVs is viable and worthy of investment, as well as supporting the strategic direction of both the Federal Government and the State Government.

Removing the luxury car tax on EVs and support for local manufacturing will be raised in the LGA submission to the Discussion Paper. The LGA will also liaise with the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to progress these issues in the forthcoming Federal Election.

## *2. Lobby the State Government to assist councils convert to an electric vehicle fleet by providing incentives.*

Both the Australian Government's Discussion Paper and the State Government's Action Plan support a 'fleets first' approach. Neither proposes incentives for local government to achieve EV fleet conversion.

Transition to EVs is one of the main ways in which local government can support the transition to EVs and this is recognised in the LGA's policy position. Research indicates that only by offering incentives can Australia reach a 100% EV total road fleet by 2050 and that the proposed tax on EVs could lead to at least 25% fewer sales. This will severely jeopardise achievement of that EV target.

If Australia is to meet its net-zero emissions target by 2050, given the important role in the net-zero emissions target played by transport, incentives to increase the uptake of EVs are essential.

Internationally, incentives play a significant role in the uptake of EVs. For example, in the UK, subsidies of around £6000 per EV are offered, with similar incentives in the US, Germany and Italy. Where sales of EVs in Europe rose from 3.3% of all new cars in 2019 to 10.2% last year, in Australia sales increased only from 0.6% to 0.75% over the same period.

At a State Government level, the LGA has already written to the Minister about supporting incentives, which was rejected in the Action Plan and the State Budget. While the State Government is offering other incentives, such as \$18M to build around 200 new vehicle charging stations, and will be converting the State Government fleet to electric, it is not clear how it will be supporting councils to convert their vehicle fleets to EVs, despite this being a key action in the Action Plan.

Given the importance of fleet purchasing in encouraging widespread uptake in EVs, the LGA proposes ongoing advocacy with the State Government in offering incentives for council fleets, as well as for the general purchase of EVs. The LGA also supported the 'fleets first' approach in its submission to the Federal Government's Discussion Paper.



## **Summary**

While the 'fleets first' approach of both the Federal Government and the State Government is important, the State Government's zero-net emissions targets, nor the fleet targets, are likely to be achieved without incentives. Removal of the luxury vehicle tax on EVs and support for the local manufacturing industry would serve to support achievement of the emissions targets and position South Australia at the forefront of EV manufacture and uptake.

Further to its recent advocacy, if the recommended items of business are carried by the membership at the LGA Ordinary General Meeting, the LGA will continue to:

- liaise with ALGA to align advocacy at the forthcoming Federal Election; and
- advocate the State Government on the need for incentives to support an EV 'fleets first' approach.

## ***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.

<b>Council Name</b>	
<b>The body the item is being referred to</b>	GAROC
<b>Subject of the proposed item of business</b>	<b>Removal of Federal Government luxury vehicle tax on electric vehicles</b>
<b>Proposed motion for the General Meeting</b>	That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA 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.
<b>Supporting information</b>	The biggest block to the uptake of EVs (electric vehicles) with their reduction of air pollution, noise pollution and reduction of carbon emissions is cost. The change to EVs would reduce the need for imported fuels which in a crisis would cripple the nation. A move to EV travel would also reduce transport costs and create greater efficiencies in the economy including the cost to supply goods. The sooner the changeover to an EV fleet occurs the better it will be for the economy, carbon emissions and the nation's self sufficiency in fuel. City life would be better for citizens as well with cleaner air and reduced traffic noise.
<b>LGA Policy Manual</b>	No
<b>LGA Strategic Plan reference</b>	Key Initiative: 3 Best Practice & continuous improvement Strategy B: Benchmark, innovate and research
<b>Council Contact Officer submitting form</b>	Ms Lyn Barton <a href="mailto:lbarton@campbelltown.sa.gov.au">lbarton@campbelltown.sa.gov.au</a> 8366 9234
<b>Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting</b>	2 March 2021, Item 9.4
<b>Date submitted to LGA</b>	24 February 2021

Please return Word version of completed form to [lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au](mailto:lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au).  
Refer to LGA Circulars in respect to deadlines for upcoming General Meetings.

## 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.

<b>Council Name</b>	
<b>The body the item is being referred to</b>	GAROC
<b>Subject of the proposed item of business</b>	<b>Electric Vehicles Fleet Incentives</b>
<b>Proposed motion for the General Meeting</b>	That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to lobby the State Government to assist councils convert to an electric vehicle fleet by providing incentives.
<b>Supporting information</b>	<p>Overseas car manufacturers are increasingly producing EV (electric vehicles) and phasing out production of internal combustion engines.</p> <p>Jaguar will only produce electric cars by 2025. Ford and GM are looking at 2030 as a changeover date. Other car manufacturers will also transition to EVs and have stopped their research and development for internal combustion engines. A lack of action now will severely restrict the types of vehicles available as other countries move rapidly to EVs and Australia is left behind. Furthermore, the recent release of the State Government EV Action Plan stated that by 2035, EV will be the default choice for all new passenger vehicles.</p> <p>Councils can assist with the transition as envisioned by the Federal Government, by electrifying their fleets and helping develop the second hand market as upgrades occur, trialling technologies and showing leadership to the community. This action needs to be cost neutral for Councils and incentives are necessary.</p> <p>For information, SA Power Networks has forward plans to provide sufficient electricity to power EVs by 2025.</p>
<b>LGA Policy Manual</b>	No
<b>LGA Strategic Plan reference</b>	Key Initiative: 3 Best Practice & continuous improvement Strategy B: Benchmark, innovate and research
<b>Council Contact Officer submitting form</b>	Ms Lyn Barton <a href="mailto:lbarton@campbelltown.sa.gov.au">lbarton@campbelltown.sa.gov.au</a> 8366 9234
<b>Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting</b>	2 March 2021, Item 9.2
<b>Date submitted to LGA</b>	24 February 2021

Please return Word version of completed form to [lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au](mailto:lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au).  
Refer to LGA Circulars in respect to deadlines for upcoming General Meetings.

## 8.4 Seeking a comprehensive State Government review of mandatory statutory rebates and exemptions from payment of local government rates (Adelaide)

### Recommendation Reports from the GAROC Committee

Submitted by:	City of Adelaide	
Approved by:	GAROC Committee	
Meeting	Ordinary General Meeting	30 April 2021
ECM:	734189	Attachment: 732007

### Recommendation

That the Ordinary General Meeting:

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.

### GAROC Committee's Comments

In recommending this item of business, the GAROC committee acknowledged that a review of council mandatory rate rebates is of strategic importance to the local government sector and that there is strong alignment with endorsed LGA Policy and advocacy positions.

GAROC noted that advocacy on this issue would support the objective outlined in the LGA Advocacy Plan 2019-23, to: "Maximise contributions, investment and the appropriate policy settings from other spheres of government to contribute toward local government financial sustainability."

GAROC's Strategic Plan includes a "Reform and Innovation" strategic theme that recognises the opportunity for GAROC to "lead reform and innovations that enhance decision making, build community trust and drive downward pressure on council rates."

### LGA Officer's Comments

**(Officer: Rebecca Muller, Senior Policy Officer)**

#### Recent advocacy

The LGA uses every opportunity to strongly pursue advocacy on this issue, in line with the endorsed policy position and LGA Advocacy Plan 2019-2023.

The LGA's public campaign during the 2018 State Election highlighted the inequitable burden that mandatory rebates place on all other ratepayers, and it is anticipated that this issue will feature in its campaign for the South Australian state election in March 2022.

The LGA's submissions to the SA Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Local Government Costs and Efficiency during 2019 included information on cost shifting with a particular focus on community housing mandatory rebates and noted that:

"Where a State Government role or function is to be undertaken by Local Government on the State's behalf (mandated or by agreement) then those roles and functions must come with an appropriate level of funding and/or fees structures which actually recover the cost of service arrangements."

The LGA submission to the State Government's Reforming Local Government in South Australia Discussion Paper in November 2019 recommended the *Local Government Act* be amended to:

"Remove or recompense councils for state-government mandated discounts on rates for:

Community housing / Electricity providers / Religious services / Public cemeteries / Educational purposes."

The August 2020 LGA Submission on the Local Government Review Bill (the Bill) reiterated this recommendation and noted:

"State legislation requires councils to give discounts on council rates to electricity generators, community housing providers and other organisations. Legislation should clarify that councils set council rates. If the State Government wishes to offer a discount to particular bodies, it should fully fund this discount."

While these recommendations were unfortunately not incorporated into the Bill, the LGA will continue to advocate and explore further opportunities to progress these issues with the State Government. In doing so the LGA Secretariat will continue to consult extensively with member councils and undertake research to prepare LGA submissions and position papers, as foreshadowed in the LGA Advocacy Plan 2019-2023 and the item of business proposed by the City of Adelaide.

### **Previous consultation and research**

The LGA takes a strategic and evidence-based approach to advocacy, that is informed by consultation with its member councils and contemporary research.

The LGA undertook significant consultation with member councils, including via issues/discussion papers, to inform the submissions to the SA Productivity Commission Inquiry, the State Government's Reforming Local Government in South Australia Discussion Paper and on the Local Government Review Bill.

Recent submissions that included advocacy on statutory rate rebates and exemptions have been informed by the following Local Government Research and Development Scheme (LGR&DS) projects:

- 'Quantifying the Impact of Rating Exemptions and Rebates (2013.20)' completed in 2016 and informed the evidence base to LGA advocacy;
- 'Local Government Led Community Housing (2014.35)' completed in 2016 and detailed the involvement of local government in social housing in Australia and internationally and the depth of the financial imposition of the transfer by the State Government of public housing stock;
- 'Rating equity for commercial and or industrial land uses outside towns (2017.53)' commissioned by the Legatus Group to consider how commercial or industrial land uses

within predominantly rural areas should be treated in a council's rating policy, and whether any legislative reform is required, to balance the principles of taxation, including equity between ratepayers; and

- 'Rating Equity Councils ability for Growth (2019.55)' commissioned by the Legatus Group to further consider the impacts associated with the inability to effectively rate electricity generation and storage developments.

Further, Norman Waterhouse Lawyers recently released advice aimed at assisting councils to ensure that 'mandatory' rebates are only applied with respect to land which actually meets the relevant legal conditions for the rebate (in particular with respect to land used by community service providers)<sup>1</sup>.

### ***Financial and Resource Implications***

The LGA Advocacy Plan 2019-2023 identifies an action 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."

The recommended item of business additionally requests that the LGA commission advice from an appropriate economic advisory consultancy to prepare a report for government advocating for changes to statutory rate rebates and exemptions in SA.

Good public policy positions and convincing advocacy need to be supported by contemporary evidence and data. There would be value in engaging an economic advisory consultancy to produce additional evidence in support of the sector's endorsed policy position. Based on previous external research reports, it is estimated that this would require a budget allocation of \$35,000.

Subject to this item being carried by the LGA membership, GAROC has agreed to include 'statutory rate rebates and exemptions' as an action in the forthcoming GAROC 2021-2022 Annual Business Plan, and to provide an appropriate budget allocation.

---

<sup>1</sup> [Rate Rebates for Community Housing Providers • Norman Waterhouse \(normans.com.au\)](#)

## 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](#).

<b>Date submitted to LGA</b>	16 February 2021
<b>Council Name</b>	City of Adelaide
<b>The body the item is being referred to</b>	GAROC
<b>Subject of the proposed item of business</b>	<i>Seeking a comprehensive State Government review of mandatory statutory rebates and exemptions from payment of local government rates</i>
<b>Proposed motion for the General Meeting</b>	<p>That the Annual General Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls for the State Government to undertake a comprehensive review of statutory rate rebates and exemptions.</li> <li>• Requests that the LGA urgently progresses the key action in the LGA Advocacy Plan for 2019-2023<sup>1</sup> (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.</li> <li>• Requests that following preparation of the issues paper and consultation with interested councils, the LGA seeks to engage an appropriate economic advisory consultancy to prepare a report for government advocating for changes to statutory rate rebates and exemptions in SA.</li> </ul>
<b>Supporting information</b> <b>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.</b>	<p>Councils provide services and facilities that are vital for our communities, including roads, local parks, libraries, community centres, and sports facilities as well as emergency and waste management. Funding for such services and facilities is increasingly compromised while councils provide additional community support during recovery from the impacts of recent bushfires and the Covid-19 health emergency, at the same time as policy changes shift costs from other spheres of Government to local councils.</p> <p>As a result, today's rate base is not always sufficient to provide vital services and facilities for ratepayers. Poor financial sustainability for councils could result in either cuts to our services and facilities, or creation of an inequitable rate burden whereby current as well as future non-exempt ratepayers</p>

<sup>1</sup> [LGA-Annual-General-Meeting-Agenda-and-Papers-29-October-2020-V3.pdf](#) (p. 7, Advocacy Plan endorsed September 2019, revised July 2020 and approved by October 2020 LGA AGM)



subsidise exempt uses of land some of which afford private organisations benefit from the use of public rates.

The Local Government Association (LGA), City of Adelaide (CoA), and other councils have during recent years called for a number of measures to drive downward pressure on council rates, including through our responses to the State Government's proposed local government reforms. However such measures have not to date been included in the State Government's Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Bill 2020, before the Parliament in early 2021.

The City of Adelaide therefore requests the support of other Councils and the LGA to escalate the sector's ongoing advocacy for a comprehensive review of statutory rate rebates and exemptions to ensure that the communities councils support are able to benefit from a fair, equitable and sustainable commitment of resources towards the services and facilities provided by local government. Securing the ongoing capacity of local government to deliver for communities is in everyone's best interests and is the responsibility of all spheres of Government.

This proposal supports the LGA Strategic Plan Key Initiative 2: Capacity Building and Sustainability (*Working with member councils to build capacity and increase sustainability. An integrated and coordinated local government.*)

**Discussion:**

The Victorian Government has recently held an inquiry into the local government rating system in that State, to identify changes that could improve its fairness and equity. A Ministerial Panel was established, and consulted widely on its report which was released by the Minister on 21 December 2020 along with the Victorian Government's response.

The Local Government Rating System Review: Report of the Ministerial Panel (March 2020)<sup>2</sup> provides an in-depth analysis of Victoria's rates system, assessing the fairness and equity of the current system, and recommends 56 improvements. The recommendations cover a range of reforms for which the Victorian Government response indicates support including:

- providing flexibility and autonomy for councils to continue to make rating decisions that reflect community needs
- ensuring ratepayers facing financial hardship are treated fairly, consistently and compassionately and provided with appropriate support
- reforming payment and billing arrangements to improve convenience for ratepayers and efficiency for councils, and
- expanding means for councils to offer rate rebates and concessions where there is a public benefit.

<sup>2</sup> [https://s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/hdp.au.prod.app.vic-engage.files/3916/0850/1374/Local\\_Government\\_Rating\\_System\\_Review\\_Final\\_Report\\_March\\_2020.pdf](https://s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/hdp.au.prod.app.vic-engage.files/3916/0850/1374/Local_Government_Rating_System_Review_Final_Report_March_2020.pdf)

The Review:

- 'reaffirmed the importance of the local government rating system to fund essential infrastructure and local services'<sup>3</sup>, and
- found the rating system is not broken and is in line with many of the principles underpinning a good taxation system.'

Notwithstanding this, the Panel also 'recommended 'repeal of long-standing rate exemptions' e.g. for not-for-profit enterprises, and introduction of a 'new 'public benefit use' test for future rate exemptions'. Disappointingly, the Victorian Government response does not engage with the Review's comprehensive rationale and findings in relation to rate exemptions and alternative rating arrangements. Rather it indicates that the Government does not support the majority of the related recommendations due to the potential negative impact and perceived risks to business and investment certainty during Covid-19 recovery. This is a missed opportunity to correct some of the inequities the Review has identified in the Victorian rating system and bring rating back in line with broader community expectations that a cross-subsidy paid by non-exempt ratepayers should only be paid to bodies and organisations that provide public benefit of some sort.

Further, a 2013 Local Government New South Wales commissioned Deloitte Access Economics Review into local government rating exemption provisions<sup>4</sup> found that '[T]here would appear scope for improvement in relation to partial relief instruments, clearer qualification criteria, linking funds to specific purposes and council discretionary powers.' It also recognised that policy makers must weigh the following principles criteria, and that there will be trade-offs, in building local government rating systems:

- Efficiency
- Simplicity
- Equity (capacity to pay and benefit principle)
- Sustainability
- Cross-border competitiveness
- Competitive neutrality.

A 2008 Productivity Commission research report into the revenue raising capacity of local governments found that rate exemptions differentially reduce local government's rates bases in varying proportions across individual councils comprised of different proportions of exempt land.

<sup>3</sup> [https://s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/hdp.au.prod.app.vic-engage.files/5116/0869/4544/Information\\_Sheet\\_-\\_What\\_It\\_Means\\_for\\_Ratepayers.pdf](https://s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/hdp.au.prod.app.vic-engage.files/5116/0869/4544/Information_Sheet_-_What_It_Means_for_Ratepayers.pdf) (p. 1)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.lgns.w.gov.au/common/Uploaded%20files/Submissions/deloitte-access-economics-review-of-local-government-rating-exemption-provisions-2013.pdf>, p. 29, Deloitte Access Economics *Review of local government rating exemption provisions*, Local Government NSW, May 2013, accessed 27 November 2020



	<p>The need to revise the current system was also reinforced by Comrie in a working paper published for the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government, in which he argued that:</p> <p>“Given that council rates are a tax, it is appropriate that some concessions be available for disadvantaged ratepayers. However, it needs to be borne in mind that local government rates represent only 3.5% of total tax revenue by all Australian governments. Other spheres of government are far better placed to achieve effective income redistribution because they have both more income and a broader base of taxpayers across which to equalise than do individual councils” (2013, p. 37).</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p> <p>Arguably the raising of rates revenue for community services, facilities and infrastructure from only those ratepayers on non-exempt land can result in inequity, by reallocating to those non-exempt ratepayers the burden of revenue-raising to cover services and infrastructure which benefit those who are exempt as well. The application of exemptions and rebates notwithstanding the increasing creep of activities of exempt institutions into the commercial realm further contributes to this inequity. The granting of an exemption should rather be justified on balance against the considerations of the local communities affected, and some form of council discretion should be allowed to determine whether grounds for exemption are met, in order to prevent or reduce inequitable outcomes.</p> <p>Solutions may include reduction, removal or repeal of rate rebates or exemptions, or pursuit of alternative funding arrangements for local councils where this would result in greater public benefit. For example, State Government could provide compensation to impacted councils for the cost shifting associated with the transfer of public housing properties from the State Government to Community Housing Providers (CHPs). The transfer has resulted in a revenue loss across those impacted councils of \$4.4 million per year for every 5,000 properties due to the mandatory 75% rebate on council rates for the CHPs. While CoA supports provision of rebates to CHPs, this represents significant unfunded cost shifting from the State to ratepayers.</p> <p>The City of Adelaide has also recently considered the impact of rebates and exemptions for land occupied by schools and universities for educational purposes upon the rate base.</p> <p>Without a sustainable and equitable revenue base councils will face increasing challenges in providing services and facilities to support ratepayers and users of exempt organisations alike.</p>
<b>LGA Policy Manual</b>	Key actions in the LGA Advocacy Plan for 2019-2023 <sup>5</sup> (Financial Sustainability theme) that the LGA:

<sup>5</sup> [LGA-Annual-General-Meeting-Agenda-and-Papers-29-October-2020-V3.pdf](#) (p. 7)

<b>Does this item require a change to the LGA Policy Manual (new policy or amendment to existing policy)?</b>	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
<b>LGA Strategic Plan reference</b>	Key Initiative 2: Capacity Building and Sustainability Strategy B: Lead, initiate and promote working together Strategy C: Equip councils for the future
<b>Council Contact Officer submitting form</b>	Anita Inglis a.inglis@cityofadelaide.com.au 8203 7215
<b>Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting</b>	9 February 2021
<b>Date submitted to LGA</b>	16 February 2021

Please return Word version of completed form to [lqasa@lga.sa.gov.au](mailto:lqasa@lga.sa.gov.au).