



NOTICE

of

STRATEGY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 88(1) of the Local Government Act 1999

TO BE HELD IN

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
PLAYFORD CIVIC CENTRE
10 PLAYFORD BOULEVARD, ELIZABETH**

MEMBERS MAY PARTICIPATE BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

ON

TUESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7:00 PM

THIS MEETING WILL ALSO BE VIEWABLE AT
<https://www.youtube.com/user/CityOfPlayford>

**SAM GREEN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Issue Date: Thursday, 6 November 2025

MEMBERSHIP

CR DAVID KERRISON – PRESIDING MEMBER

Cr Akram Arifi	Cr Marilyn Baker	Cr Zahra Bayani
Cr Andrew Craig	Mayor Glenn Docherty	Cr Shirley Halls
Cr Chantelle Karlsen	Cr Clint Marsh	Cr Misty Norris
Cr Jane Onuzans	Cr Peter Rentoulis	Cr Gay Smallwood-Smith
Cr Tanya Smiljanic	Cr Katrina Tarr (nee Stroet)	Cr Rebecca Vandeppear

City of Playford
Strategy and Services Committee Meeting

AGENDA

TUESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7:00 PM

1 ATTENDANCE RECORD

1.1 Present

1.2 Apologies

1.3 Not Present

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

The Minutes of the Strategy and Services Committee Meeting held 14 October 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4 DEPUTATION / REPRESENTATIONS

Nil

5 STAFF REPORTS

Matters to be considered by the Committee and referred to Council

Matters which cannot be delegated to a Committee or Staff

5.1 Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 (Attachments)6

Matters which can be delegated to a Committee or Staff but the Council has decided not to delegate them

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Matters to be considered by the Committee Only

Matters delegated to the Committee

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7 INFORMAL ACTIONS

8 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil

9 CLOSURE

STAFF REPORTS

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE AND REFERRED TO COUNCIL

***Matters which cannot be
delegated to a Committee or Staff***

5.1 DISABILITY ACCESS & INCLUSION PLAN 2025-2029

Responsible Executive Manager : Tina Hudson

Report Author : Amy Godfrey

Delegated Authority : Matters which cannot be delegated to a Committee or Staff

Attachments :

- 1. Disability Access & Inclusion Plan What We Heard Report July 2025
- 2. Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025–2029

PURPOSE

To seek Council's endorsement for the City of Playford's Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025–2029 (Attachment 2) to be released for public consultation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. Council receives the City of Playford Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 (Attachment 2) and endorse its release for public consultation for a period of 28 days from 12 January 2026 to 8 February 2026.
2. Council authorises the CEO to make further minor amendments to the Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 (Attachment 2) that does not alter the intent.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Playford Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025–2029 (Attachment 2) (the DAIP) has been prepared in line with the *Disability Inclusion Act 2018* (the Act), which requires all councils in South Australia to develop a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan. The Disability Inclusion Plan sets out the actions Council will take over the next four (4) years to remove barriers, improve access, and ensure people with disability can participate fully in community life.

The DAIP aligns with the State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025–2029. The Act requires all State authorities to publish their Disability Access and Inclusion Plan within six (6) months of the State Disability Inclusion Plan release date (14 August 2025). Council has progressed the DAIP within a condensed timeframe.

Given the tight timeframe, the Department of Human Services has informed State authorities that if they cannot meet the publishing deadline, they can request an alternative date, as long as it is no later than 30 June 2026.

The DAIP has been shaped by consultation with people with disability, families, carers, service providers, and staff. Feedback collated in the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan What We Heard Report July 2025 (Attachment 1) identified priorities such as safe and accessible infrastructure, inclusive programs and events, greater disability awareness, and services that reflect community diversity.

Council endorsement is now requested to release the DAIP for public consultation, ahead of finalising the plan in early 2026. Alternate accessible formats of the DAIP will also be made available during consultation including Easy English and screen-reader friendly versions.

1. BACKGROUND

The DAIP provides Councils roadmap for action over the next four (4) years, outlining practical steps to improve access, remove barriers, and ensure people with disability can participate fully in Council services, programs, employment and decision-making.

The DAIP aligns with the State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025–2029, which focuses on five (5) domains; inclusive environments and communities, education and employment, personal and community support, health and wellbeing, and safety, rights and justice.

Engagement activities in Mid-2025 invited feedback from people with disability, carers, families, service providers and staff on priorities for the next Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

The top five (5) themes identified were:

1. Universal design and improving physical access.
2. Supporting active participation in community life.
3. Disability awareness and education.
4. Strengthening cultural inclusion and safety.
5. Creating more inclusive events and activities for all ages.

Consultation materials were provided in multiple accessible formats, ensuring the DAIP reflects lived experience, local priorities, and State directions.

2. RELEVANCE TO STRATEGIC PLAN

The DAIP directly supports the City of Playford's Strategic Plan 2025–2028, ensuring that disability access and inclusion are embedded across Council priorities.

Community Theme 1: Improving safety, accessibility and ease of movement around our city.

Council's Strategic Plan highlights the importance of safety, accessibility and ease of movement, which aligns with the DAIP's focus on safe footpaths, accessible parking and public spaces. The DAIP also strengthens the City of Playford's Strategic Plan 2025-2028 (the Strategic Plan) emphasising city appearance and inclusive environments by ensuring that parks, facilities and built structures are not only attractive but are usable by everyone.

Community Theme 3: Fostering collaboration and connection to each other.

Through its priorities on inclusive events, programs and public education, the DAIP builds community connection and supports the Strategic Plan's goal of creating a welcoming and connected city.

Community Theme 4: Activating and facilitating welcoming community spaces and events.

The DAIP supports the activation of Council spaces and welcomes all of the community into Council spaces and events.

Finally, the DAIP reflects Council's commitment to responsibility and good governance by meeting legislative obligations, aligning with the State Plan, and embedding accountability, inclusiveness, and transparency in how Council plans and delivers services.

3. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Council utilises its Community Engagement Policy and Procedure and the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum to guide how we involve the community in engagement opportunities. The community engagement level for the DAIP was determined to be involved.

The Community Engagement Procedure states that:

“Where public consultation and community engagement is not mandated by the Local Government Act 1999 and is undertaken at the discretion of Council, the minimum period for Consult, Involve or Collaborate Level will be 21 days from the date of notice.”

Public consultation requirements for State authorities preparing a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan are stipulated by the Act and further outlined in the *Disability Inclusion Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) which states:

For the purposes of Section 16(4)(b) of the Act, a State authority must consult with people with disability, their families and carers, and persons or bodies representing the interests of people with disability, in accordance with the following provisions:

- The State authority must prepare a draft disability access and inclusion plan.
- The State authority must publish the draft disability access and inclusion plan on a website determined by the State authority and cause public notice of that fact to be circulated in a form that is accessible to people with disability.
- The State authority must, in accordance with any guidelines published under Section 12(1)(a) of the Act, undertake public consultation in relation to the draft plan.
- The State authority must have regard to any submissions made during such consultation and within the period specified by the State authority.
- For the purposes of Section 16(4)(c) of the Act, a State authority must (while acting under sub regulation one (1) or otherwise) call for public submissions in relation to its draft disability access and inclusion plan to be made in a manner and form determined, and within the period specified, by the State authority.
- A State authority's disability access and inclusion plan has effect from the day on which it is published on a website in accordance with Section 16(7) of the Act.
- A State authority must, on publishing its disability access and inclusion plan, prepare and provide to the Chief Executive a report setting out such information as may be required by the Chief Executive in relation to the preparation of the plan (including information relating to the number of submissions made, and any recommendations that were adopted by the State authority, in the course of preparing the plan).

For the purposes of Section 16(4)(d) of the Act, a draft disability access and inclusion plan must be prepared and published in a form that is accessible to people with disability. It is important to note that there is no reference to a required period of time that consultation must be open for in the Act or Regulations.

4. DISCUSSION

- 4.1 There are 8,734 (8.4%) people living in the City of Playford with a disability, which is a higher proportion compared to Greater Adelaide (6.6%).
- Twice as many children with disability live in the City of Playford (1.7%) compared to Greater Adelaide (0.8%). 8% of Council's workforce identify as living with disability.
- 4.2 The State Disability Inclusion Plan sets the overall vision and priority areas for disability inclusion for South Australia. The DAIP details how we will work towards these goals within the City of Playford.
- 4.3 Phase one (1) of engagement activities to help shape the DAIP ran from 16 June to 13 July 2025. Residents, service providers, Council staff, elected members, and other stakeholders were asked to share their big and small ideas to improve disability access and inclusion across Playford. The engagement approach was designed to be flexible, respectful and accessible, recognising that people with disability have diverse preferences, communication styles, and varying levels of time and energy to participate.
- 4.4 During engagement activities, different methods were used to reach a broad mix of voices: surveys, workshops, an Idea Wall, and activities in accessible formats. More than 2,600 people visited the project page, over 4,500 saw social media posts, and nearly 1,700 opened project emails. In total, 240 people gave feedback through surveys, dotmocracy activities, face-to-face sessions, and other channels.
- 4.5 The top five (5) priorities identified by the community included:
1. Universal design and improving physical access.
 2. Supporting active participation in community life.
 3. Disability awareness and education.
 4. Strengthening cultural inclusion and safety.
 5. Creating more inclusive events and activities for all ages.
- 4.6 The DAIP prepared by Council staff, ensures alignment with the State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025–2029. Proposed actions include mandated measures for local government as outlined by the State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 and address the unique challenges faced by the priority groups outlined in the Act who may experience multiple forms of disadvantage. These priority groups include:
- Aboriginal people with disability.
 - Culturally and linguistically diverse people with disability.
 - Women with disability.
 - Children with disability.
 - LGBTQIA+ people with disability.
 - People with significant intellectual disability.
 - People with disability who live in regional communities.
- 4.7 Alternate accessible formats of the DAIP will also be made available during consultation including Easy English and screen-reader friendly versions.

- 4.8 The Act requires all State authorities to publish their Disability Access and Inclusion Plan within six (6) months of the State Disability Inclusion Plan release (14 August 2025). Given the tight timeframes, the Department of Human Services has informed State authorities that if they cannot meet the publishing deadline, they can request an alternative date, as long as it is no later than 30 June 2026.

5. OPTIONS

Recommendation

1. Council receives the City of Playford Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 (Attachment 2) and endorse its release for public consultation for a period of 28 days from 12 January 2026 to 8 February 2026.
2. Council authorises the CEO to make further minor amendments to the Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 (Attachment 2) that does not alter the intent.

Option 2

1. Council receives the City of Playford Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 (Attachment 2) and endorse its release for public consultation for a period of 21 days from 5 January 2026 to 25 January 2026.
2. Council authorises the CEO to make further minor amendments to the Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 (Attachment 2) that does not alter the intent.

Option 3

1. Council receives the City of Playford Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 (Attachment 2) and endorse its release for public consultation for a period of 40 days from 1 December 2025 to 9 January 2026.
2. Council authorises the CEO to make further minor amendments to the Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 (Attachment 2) that does not alter the intent.

6. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

6.1 Recommendation Analysis

6.1.1 Analysis & Implications of the Recommendation

The Act requires all State authorities to develop and publish their Disability Access and Inclusion Plan's within six (6) months of the State Disability Inclusion Plan's release. The State Disability Inclusion Plan was released on 14 August 2025; therefore, State authorities are required to publish their plan by 14 February 2026.

Six (6) months is considered a short timeframe to meaningfully consult, analyse community needs, consider actions that align with the State Disability Inclusion Plan, develop a draft, conduct public consultation and seek final endorsement from Council. Staff have progressed the DAIP within this condensed timeframe to try to meet these requirements, while still ensuring a quality outcome for Council and community.

The recommended consultation dates have been suggested to avoid the Council shut-down, Christmas and New Year period, which is generally not conducive to effective community engagement.

The staff recommendation will result in the City of Playford not meeting the requirement under the Act for publishing our final Disability Access and Inclusion Plan by 14 February 2026. Required deadlines for Council reports would result in the final Disability Access and Inclusion Plan endorsement being presented to Strategy and Services Committee and Council in March 2026.

Under this option, the CEO would write to the Minister for Human Services to advise of City of Playford's planned publishing date of our final Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

Risk Appetite

Reputation

Council has a low appetite for negative perceptions that compromise its credibility and reputation, achievement of its long term vision (Playford Community Vision 2043) and strategic objectives, or ability to maintain its status as a progressive and major growth Council.

This decision will ensure that the community have a genuine opportunity to review the DAIP and provide meaningful feedback, reducing the potential for negative perceptions from the community.

6.1.2 Financial Implications

There are no financial or resource implications associated with endorsing this DAIP for public consultation. Some actions documented in the DAIP are currently not resourced; however they will go through appropriate resourcing request pathways where required.

6.2 Option 2 Analysis

6.2.1 Analysis & Implications of Option 2

The condensed consultation period in Option 2 could provide sufficient time for staff to make any required amendments to the DAIP post-consultation and meet Council report timeframes to present the final Disability Access and Inclusion Plan for endorsement to Strategy and Services Committee and Council in February 2026.

As mentioned earlier in this report, there is no minimum requirement for a consultation period under the Act and Council's Community Engagement Procedure allows for a 21-day consultation for this level of engagement as engagement is not mandated under the *Local Government Act 1999*.

This would still result in the City of Playford not meeting the requirement under the Act for publishing our final Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 by 14 February 2026, as staff would not be able to publish the DAIP on our website until after the Ordinary Council meeting on 24 February 2026.

Under this option, the CEO would write to the Minister for Human Services to advise of City of Playford's planned publishing date of our final Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029.

6.2.2 Financial Implications

As with the recommended option, there are no financial or resource implications associated with endorsing this DAIP for public consultation. Some actions documented in the DAIP are

currently not resourced, however they will go through appropriate resourcing request pathways where required.

6.3 Option 3 Analysis

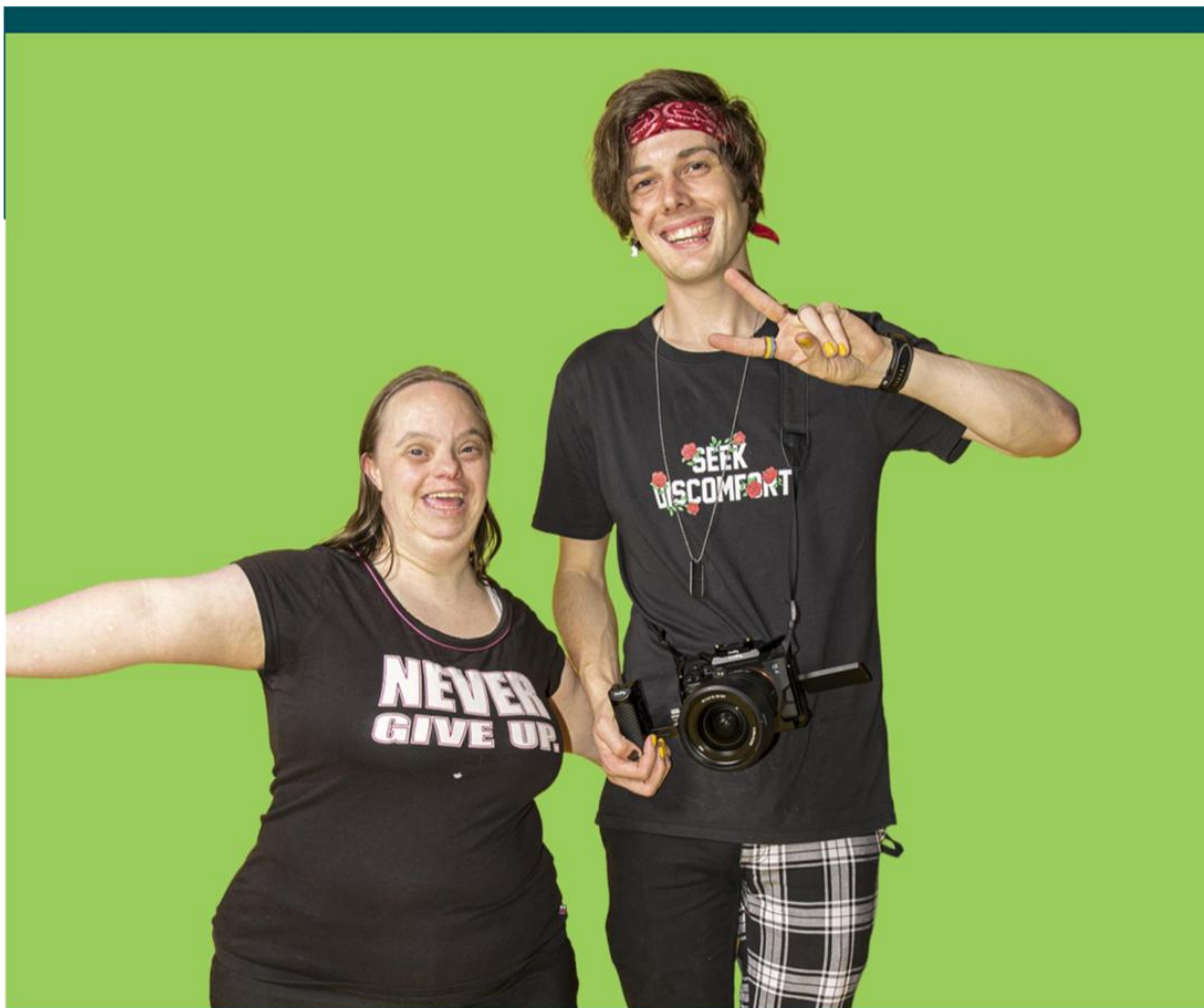
6.3.1 Analysis & Implications of Option 3

The consultation period in Option 3 provides a longer consultation period as it incorporates Council's 2025-26 Annual Shutdown. It is important to note that Council staff will not be available to the community during the closure period within this consultation timeframe.

Option 3 may allow the City of Playford to meet the publishing date requirements under the Act. However, it is important for Council to note that as there is no Strategy and Services Committee meeting scheduled for January 2026 which will result in the report with the final Disability Access and Inclusion Plan for endorsement being presented straight to the Ordinary Council meeting for review and endorsement.

6.3.2 Financial Implications

As with the recommended option, there are no financial or resource implications associated with endorsing the DAIP for public consultation. Some actions documented in the DAIP are currently not resourced, however they will go through appropriate resourcing request pathways where required.



Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report July 2025



Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report

Purpose of report

This report outlines the findings from phase 1 community engagement on the Disability Access Inclusion Plan (DAIP) – shaping the plan with our community. It provides a summary of community sentiment and feedback to support Council in delivering the next steps of Council's next draft plan.

The insights gathered through the engagement will ensure the new DAIP reflects lived experiences, aligns with community needs, meets requirements in the Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA) and guides Council's decision-making to enhance accessibility and inclusion across the city.



Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report

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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report

Executive summary

The City of Playford is updating its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP). This new plan will build on the current DAIP (2020–2024), which helped raise awareness and improve inclusion across our city.

Our city is home to people whose families have lived here for generations, people moving into new growth areas, and newly arrived communities from overseas. City of Playford has South Australia's largest Aboriginal population (4.2%), around 15% of residents who speak a language other than English at home, and 8.4% of people who need help with daily activities because of disability.

Guided by Council's Community Engagement Policy and Procedure, we aimed to make engagement on our next DAIP as accessible and inclusive as possible. This meant using clear language, choosing accessible venues and formats, and offering different ways for people to get involved so everyone had the chance to share their views.

What we heard about our current DAIP (2020-2024):

People told us the current DAIP helped start important conversations and raise awareness about disability inclusion. But they also said more needs to be done to remove physical barriers, build cultural safety, and make sure people feel genuinely listened to, not just consulted.

Top 5 priorities for our next DAIP identified by the community:

1. Universal design and improving physical access
2. Supporting active participation in community life
3. Disability awareness and education
4. Strengthening cultural inclusion and safety
5. Creating more inclusive events and activities for all ages

We received the most detailed ideas and "big ideas" under the themes of **urban design** and **active participation**, confirming these remain top priorities for our disability community in Playford.

About the engagement approach:

We used different methods to reach a broad mix of voices: surveys, workshops, an Idea Wall, and activities in accessible formats. More than 2,600 people visited the project page, over 4,500 saw social media posts, and nearly 1,700 opened project emails. In total, 240 people gave feedback through surveys, dotmocracy activities, face-to-face sessions, and other channels.

What next?

All of this feedback will help shape the draft DAIP. Later this year, we'll check back with the community to make sure the draft reflects what people told us. By doing this together, we aim to create a plan that not only meets legal requirements, but also makes a real difference, so everyone in Playford feels welcome, supported, and included.

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report

1. Engagement background and objectives

Council is reviewing and updating its Disability Access & Inclusion Plan (DAIP) for 2025–2028, as required by the Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA). This new plan will build on our previous DAIP (2020–2024), which was shaped by input from our community, Council's Access and Social Inclusion Advisory Group, and Council staff.

The State Government helps guide this process through the State Disability Inclusion Plan. This means:

- The State Plan sets the overall vision and priority areas for South Australia.
- Our DAIP explains how we'll work towards these goals here in Playford.

By working together in this way, we help create a consistent, statewide effort to improve access and inclusion for people living with disability.

For City of Playford, one of South Australia's fastest-growing areas and with higher rates of disability and caring needs than the metro average, it's especially important to align with these state priorities so we can plan well for both today and the future. We also use local data and state-level resources like the *Inclusive SA* discussion paper, so the DAIP reflects what matters to our community as well as broader state goals.

As part of this update, we're running a two-stage engagement process with our community:

- **Phase 1: 'Shaping the Plan with our Community'** — where we've asked residents, service providers and stakeholders to share their big and small ideas to improve disability access and inclusion across Playford. This input will help shape the first draft of our new DAIP.
- **Phase 2: 'Check In'** — when we'll come back to the community to share the draft plan and make sure it reflects what you told us before finalising and formally adopting it.

The updated DAIP will act as a roadmap for the next four years, closely linked to Council's new Strategic Plan 2025–2028. It will include measurable goals to help track progress, identify gaps and make sure resources are directed where they're needed most. This also keeps us aligned with national and state strategies and recommendations, like Australia's Disability Strategy, the upcoming State Disability Inclusion Plan, the Disability Royal Commission findings, the SA Autism Strategy, the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and updates to the NDIS Act.

Most importantly, through this process and ongoing conversations, Council is committed to creating a DAIP that not only meets legal requirements but also makes a real difference — helping everyone in our growing community feel welcome, supported and included.

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report

1.1 Community engagement objectives

- Inform and educate by raising awareness of Council's DAIP, Council's role and how the community can be involved in shaping it.
- Inform the community about Council's direction and work to date regarding the DAIP, what has been achieved and what we are still working on.
- Involve the community by seeking feedback on the previous DAIP's successes and areas for improvement, while collaborating with priority groups to understand their priorities, barriers, and risks. This will inform the development of localised actionable strategies aligned with the State Disability Inclusion Plan.

As a Council, we also wanted to

- Be accessible and inclusive in our engagement and communication approach i.e., we proactively reached out to those who usually would not come into contact with Council such as those who are Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD), Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people, people with disability, children and older people.
- Demonstrate Council's aspirations to genuinely involve the community in meaningful and high-quality community engagement, that goes above the minimum approach required by legislation.
- Continue to build ongoing and strong relationships with the people who live, work and visit the City of Playford.

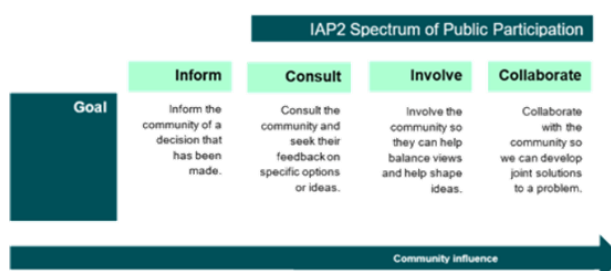
1.2 Community engagement level

Community engagement level: **Involve**

Council uses its Community Engagement Policy & Procedure and the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum to guide how we involve the community. These tools help clarify the community's role and how much influence they have in decisions.

In Phase 1 of our DAIP community engagement, we used a mix of *Inform* and *Involve* levels. At the *Involve* level, we worked directly with the community so their ideas and feedback would meaningfully shape the draft DAIP. This means the community's input isn't just collected, it's actively considered and directly influences the draft plan's content and priorities.

By engaging this way, we make sure the DAIP reflects the real experiences, needs and ideas of the people who live, work and access services in Playford.



Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report

2. Being accessible and inclusive in our engagement

City of Playford is home to people whose families have lived here for generations, new residents moving into growth areas, and newly arrived communities from overseas. We also have South Australia's largest Aboriginal population (4.2%), 15% of residents who speak a language other than English at home, and 8.4% of people need assistance with daily activities due to disability.

Guided by Council's Community Engagement Policy and Procedure, we **strive to be accessible and inclusive**. This means using clear language, making it as easy as possible for people to get involved, choosing accessible venues and formats, and considering other barriers so everyone can take part meaningfully.

With this in mind, we planned engagement activities that were relevant and inclusive, using different methods to reach a broad mix of voices from across Playford.

2.1 Our approach

To make participation as easy and accessible as possible, we offered information in accessible formats, provided helpful tools, and created multiple ways for people to share their feedback.

Accessible information	We offered consultation materials in multiple formats to support participation for people with different needs. This included Easy English and screen-reader-compatible versions of the survey, as well as information provided in clear, plain language. 
Digital accessibility	The Playford Engagement Hub featured the UserWay accessibility widget and a built-in language translator to support people with diverse abilities and language needs. A short video tutorial explained how to use these tools.
Enabling choice	People could provide feedback in a way that suited them best, including: • Online surveys • Face to face sessions • Social media interactions • Audio/video recordings or drawings • Ideas wall on Engagement Hub • Email submissions • "Your Big Idea" proposals • Dotmocracy voting activities • Phone conversations

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report

Reaching a diverse audience	Importantly, the survey and activities were designed so that participants could share their ideas without needing to disclose personal or demographic details. This low-barrier approach helped ensure that everyone felt safe and comfortable to take part.
	We identified and reached out to key stakeholders and service providers to encourage participation across a broad cross-section of the community. This included targeted outreach to our Access and Social Inclusion Advisory Group (ASIAG) and local disability service providers.

2.2 Targeting Priority Groups

We specifically targeted key priority groups to ensure that voices often underrepresented in broader engagement were heard, especially on issues that uniquely affect them.

During the draft State Disability & Inclusion Plan 2025-29 consultation, community feedback emphasised the importance of better understanding and addressing the unique challenges faced by priority groups, particularly those experiencing multiple forms of disadvantage. In response, Council's next Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) focuses on engaging meaningfully with people with disability from these priority groups/communities with a disability. These groups are:

- People with significant intellectual disability
- Women with a disability
- Children with a disability
- Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD) with a disability
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples with a disability
- LGBTQIA+ people with disability
- People with disability who live in regional communities

3. What we asked

Community engagement sought feedback on:

- What worked well in the DAIP (2020–2024) and what could be improved
- Their top priorities for disability, access and inclusion in City of Playford
- Their big ideas on what they would like to see in Council's next DAIP

To make this conversation feel approachable and relevant, we launched a marketing campaign inviting the community to share their **BIG IDEA** on accessibility and inclusion, asking: *"What would make Playford more inclusive for you, your family, or your community?"*

Our engagement approach was designed to be flexible, respectful and accessible, recognising that people with disability have different preferences, communication styles, and levels of time and energy to participate.

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report



Your BIG (and small) Ideas!

We encouraged people to share what mattered most to them, whether that was a thought, a story or a single idea, through both face to face and online engagement methods. This open, low-pressure approach meant everyone could have their say without needing to complete a detailed survey.

Dotmocracy

We also ran a dotmocracy activity. A simple, visual way for community members to vote on their top priorities for Council over the next four years.

This was tailored to different audiences and delivered at events like the Club Unity Disco and BBop's Dance Party, both attended mainly by people with intellectual disability.

We also ran the activity with our Friends Group (adults with intellectual disability) and the Kawanta Pirkuitya Group (Aboriginal people with disability and their families/carers) to ensure Aboriginal voices and perspectives were included.

Dotmocracy Activity Board



Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report

Survey – online and hard copy

For those wanting to provide more detailed feedback, we offered a survey with questions about:

- Awareness of the DAIP (2020–2024) and its progress
- Top priorities for Council over the next four years
- Preferred ways to receive updates, stay involved, and feel confident Council will act
- Opportunities to share personal stories and lived experiences

To better understand who we heard from, we also asked about age, gender, household type, disability status and cultural background.

This approach respected people's choices and made it easier to participate, whether through a quick comment or a deeper conversation. It also helped us gather meaningful insights in an authentic and accessible way.

Everyone who gave feedback (whether it be face to face or online) had the option to leave their contact details and enter a draw to win a gift voucher. This incentive helped encourage participation by recognising and valuing people's time and contributions.

4. How we asked it

The community were invited to get involved through a broad marketing campaign and targeted outreach, including:

- The City of Playford Engagement Hub project page
- A promotional video shared on City of Playford social media
- Posters distributed in the community (both hard copy and online)
- Council promotion at community events and programs
- Direct engagement with key stakeholders such as ASIAG and disability service providers

These activities ran from **16 June to 13 July 2025** and community members could share their feedback in several ways:

Feedback Options	Description
Engagement Hub	Dedicated online platform with surveys, resources, and an Ideas Wall. Engagement Hub will be updated with outcomes to show the community how their feedback shaped the plan.
Survey	Available online, in hard copy, Easy English, and by phone
Face to Face	Community discussions and drop-in sessions for staff and advisory group members.

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Other channels	Email, phone, social media, Dotmocracy activity board, and creative submissions – audio/video/drawing
Email to Connected Community Database	A targeted email invitation was sent to community members listed in Council's Connected Community database, inviting them to participate in the engagement activities.

5. How did we go?

5.1 Overview of community engagement and performance

To measure community engagement performance over the engagement period, Council tracked the number of aware, informed and engaged community members. These are defined in the table below with their performance measures.

Community engagement generated moderate awareness, with 866 unique views of the Engagement Hub and over 4,532 views of the related social media posts. However, interaction on social media was low, with 92 engaged visitors over two posts.

Active participation was strongest through direct face to face engagement, with 125 participants engaging in the dotmocracy activity at targeted events and providing feedback via surveys. Overall, while awareness reached a broad audience, deeper engagement occurred primarily through face-to-face and survey-based channels, highlighting the value of direct outreach in this community.

Description	Channels	Performance
Aware visitors Number of those who visited the Engagement Hub page, saw the social media posts or opened direct email	Engagement Hub page views Engagement Hub unique views Social media reach Connected Community emails sent Connected Community emails opened	2,643 866 4,532 3,459 1,673
Informed visitors Number of those who downloaded DAIP documents, read FAQ's or engaged with social media posts	Engagement Hub document downloads Social media – engaged visitors (i.e. reacted, clicked, posted a comment or shared information)	113 92
Engaged Visitors Number of those who provided feedback in some way	Dotmocracy activity Full Survey responses Easy English survey version Screen Reader survey version Idea submissions Engagement Hub Idea Wall Video submission (via Positive Futures/BBops dance party) Face to Face Email Phone Total	125 60 18 2 19 4 9 1 1 1 240

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6. Who we heard from

To understand who we heard from, we invited community members to voluntarily share details like age, cultural background, gender, disability status, and caring roles. This helps us see whether we reached a diverse cross-section of the community and where we might need to gather further insights. Sharing this information was completely optional, so people could participate in a way that felt safe and respectful.

In total, we received 80 survey responses and their demographic information is summarised below (noting, only 36 disclosed their age and gender with us).

6.1 Location of participants

Suburb	No. of participants
Andrews Farm	4
Angle Vale	1
Blakeview	7
Buckland Park	1
Craigmore	3
Davoren Park	5
Elizabeth	2
Elizabeth Downs	5
Elizabeth East	1
Elizabeth Grove	1
Elizabeth North	1
Elizabeth Park	4
Elizabeth South	4
Elizabeth Vale	5
Eyre	1
Hillbank	6
Munno Para	5
Munno Para West	4
One Tree Hill	1
Penfield	1
Sampson Flat	1
Smithfield	1
Smithfield Plains	3
Outside of Playford	8
Total	76

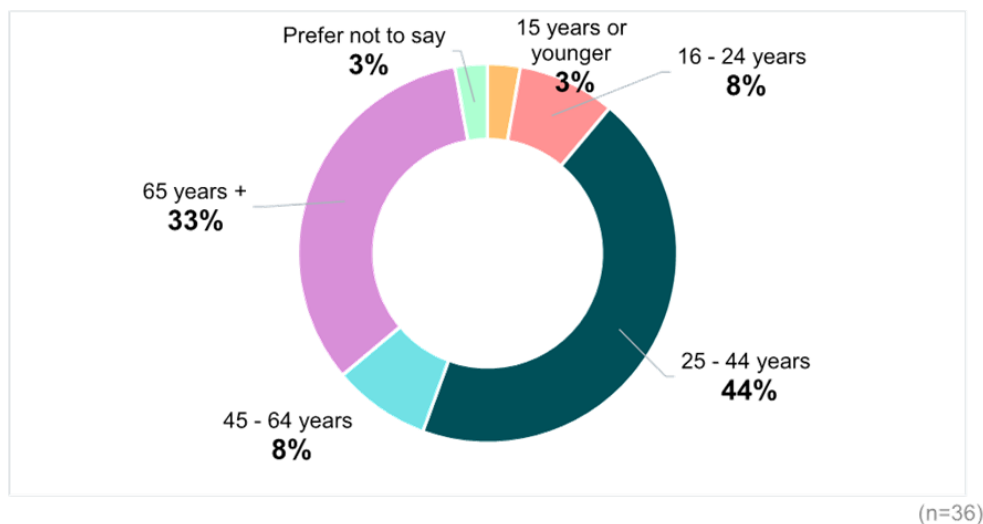
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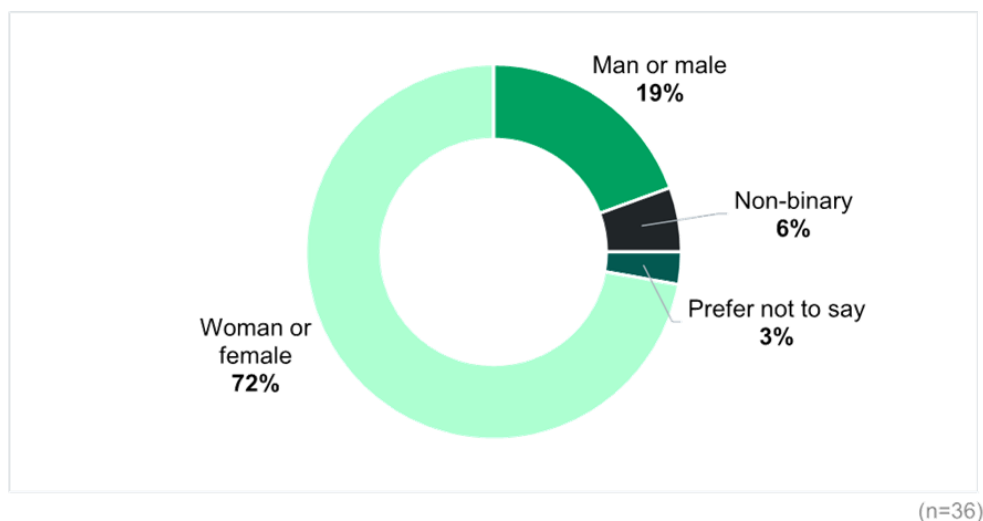
6.2 Age of participants

Age groups were well represented, with the majority being 25-44 years and 65 years and older.



6.3 Identified gender of participants

Females comprised nearly three quarters of all participants.



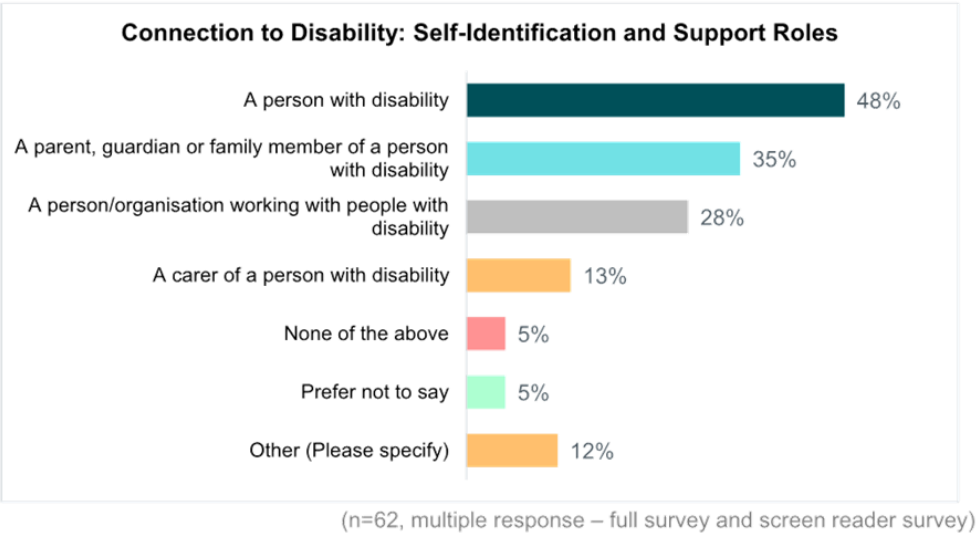
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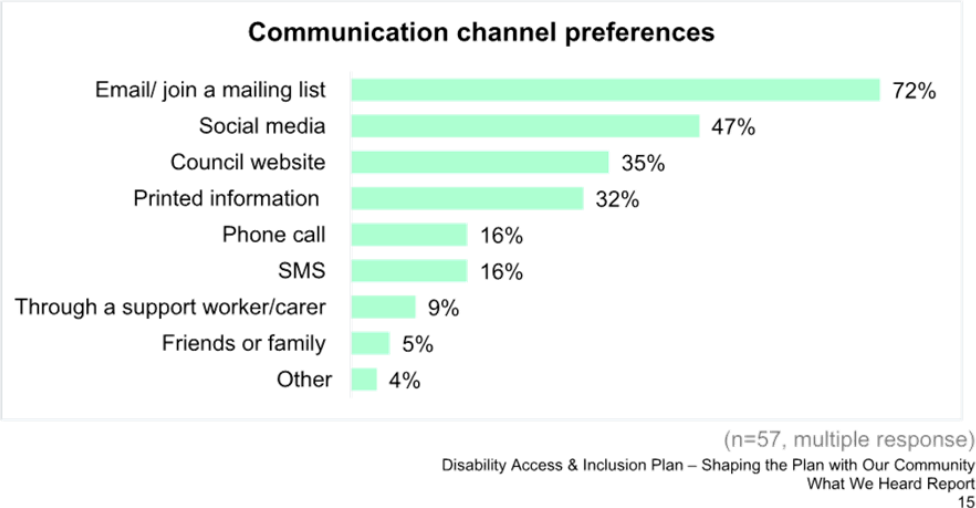
6.4 Participants with a connection to disability

Nearly half of survey participants identified as having a disability, while 35% reported being a parent, guardian or family member of a person with a disability. The Easy Read survey question was asked differently and identified an additional 11 of the 18 respondents with disability.



6.5 Communication preferences

Direct communication by email is the most preferred way to receive information from Council, followed by social media.



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6.6 Priority groups

The table below shows the priority groups we reached through this engagement, including people who shared their own experiences and those who spoke on behalf of others as carers, advocates, or community representatives. Both perspectives help us better understand community needs. We have identified people we have engaged with the following ways:

- **Direct participants:** those who self-identified as belonging to a priority group and shared their own experiences.
- **Indirect participants:** those who spoke on behalf of or represented these groups, offering insights from their roles as advocates, carers, or community representatives.

Priority Group	Result
People with significant intellectual disability	120 direct participants
Women	21 direct participants
Children	While we didn't engage directly with children, we did receive feedback from parents and caregivers.
Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities	30 indirect participants
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples	5 direct participants, plus contributions through Dotmocracy activities and Kawanta Pirkuitya (Aboriginal people with disability and their families/carers) co-design advisory group.
LGBTQIA+ Community	8 direct participants

7. What we heard

Results have been grouped into three sections:

- **The last 5 years:** What our community told us about how Council has performed under the current DAIP over the past 4–5 years.
- **The next 5 years:** The key priorities the community identified for Council to focus on over the next 4-5 years.
- **Your BIG (and small) ideas:** The big ideas the community shared both big and small, which have been grouped under the State Government's new priority areas. By organising the feedback this way, we can more easily shape our next DAIP to reflect what really matters to our community.

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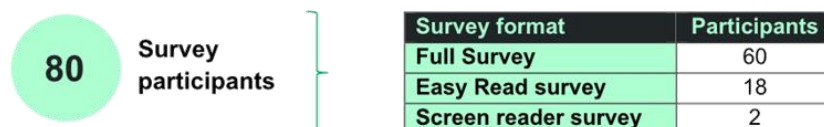
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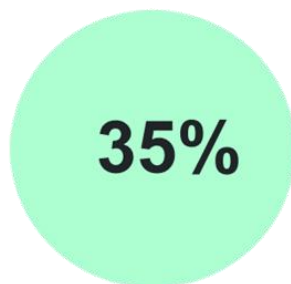
7.1 The last 5 years: What we've heard about where we are now

In this section we explore what our community told us about how Council has performed under the current DAIP over the past 4–5 years. We asked their level of awareness of Council having a DAIP, levels of agreement when it came to Council's performance on goals and priorities listed in the current plan.

Most of the results in this section are combined results of all three survey formats.



7.1.1 Awareness of Council's Disability, Access & Inclusion Plan



35% of participants were aware of Council's Disability Action and Inclusion Plan, while 52% were not aware and 13% were unsure. Those aware were more likely to be parents and guardians, and people who worked with a person with disability or organisation.

(n=62, full survey and screen reader survey)



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7.1.2 Top areas of agreement and disagreement

Participants were asked to rate their agreement levels on a series of statements under each goal in Council's current DAIP. The statements with the strongest agreement and the strongest disagreement are in the table below.

Overall, participants recognised Council's efforts to make facilities and events more inclusive, with around half noticing improvements and finding information accessible.

However, many still find it hard to get around their neighbourhood (46% disagreed), don't know how to get involved in Council decisions (39%), and aren't aware of programs supporting skills or employment for people with disability (36%).

This points to a need for better promotion of opportunities, clearer pathways to participation, and ongoing work to improve everyday physical accessibility.

Top areas of agreement and disagreement	
Highest agreement	
I can easily access Council facilities, such as libraries, parks and community centres	61%
I believe Council is making an effort to include people with disability in community life, for example through accessible events, services or public spaces	56%
Council information is provided in formats that suit my needs (e.g. clear language, easy-read, Auslan or translations available)	54%
I've noticed positive changes in how Council includes people with disability over the past four years	54%
Highest disagreement	
It is easy to get around my neighbourhood including using footpaths, crossings, or parking	46%
I know how to get involved in Council decisions or consultations	39%
I am aware of Council programs that support people with disability to build skills or gain employment experience	36%

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This next section looks at our participants perception of how well Council has performed under each goal area in Council's current DAIP (2020-2024).

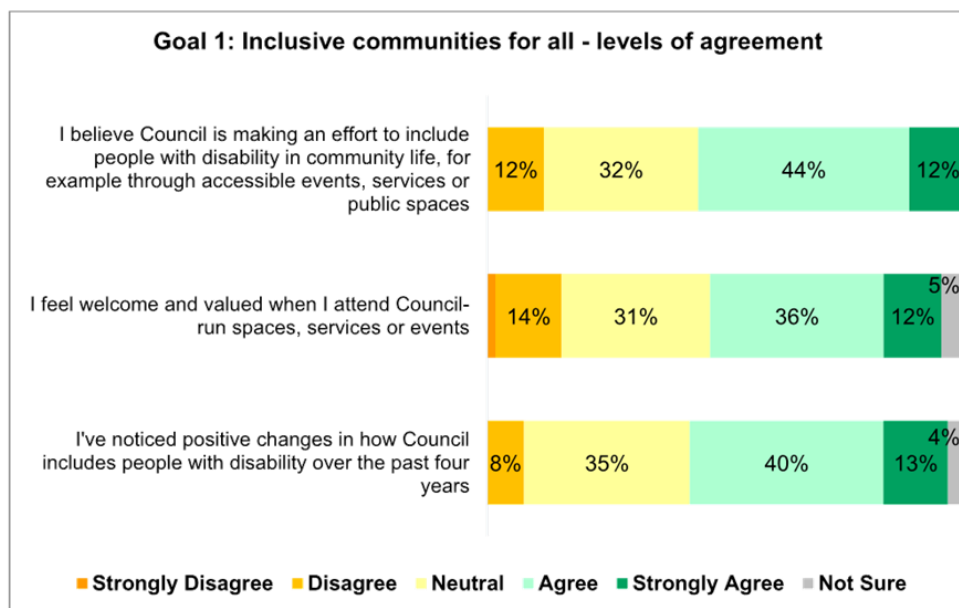
7.1.3 Goal 1: Inclusive communities for all



Inclusive communities for all

Social inclusion is about improving opportunities for people with disability to participate fully in society through removing barriers and enhancing access to opportunities and resources. It also is about ensuring people with disability are supported to advocate for their own rights.

Agreement with Goal 1 was moderate, with approximately half of participants (between 48% and 56%) expressing agreement across the statements. On average, one third of respondents remained neutral.



(n=52-59)

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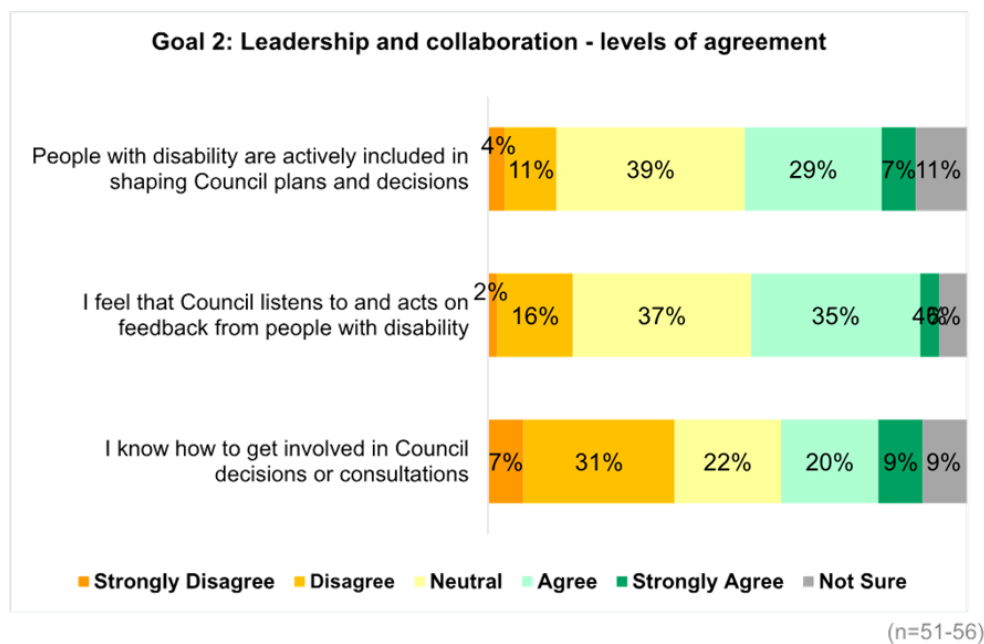
7.1.4 Goal 2: Leadership and collaboration



Leadership and Collaboration

People with disability want to have a greater role in leading and contributing to government and community decision-making. It is important that the perspectives of people living with disability are actively sought and they are supported to participate meaningfully in community engagement activities.

Goal 2 received relatively lower levels of agreement, particularly regarding awareness of how to participate in Council decision-making. The proportion of neutral responses was nearly equal to those who agreed.



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What We Heard Report

7.1.5 Goal 3: Accessible communities

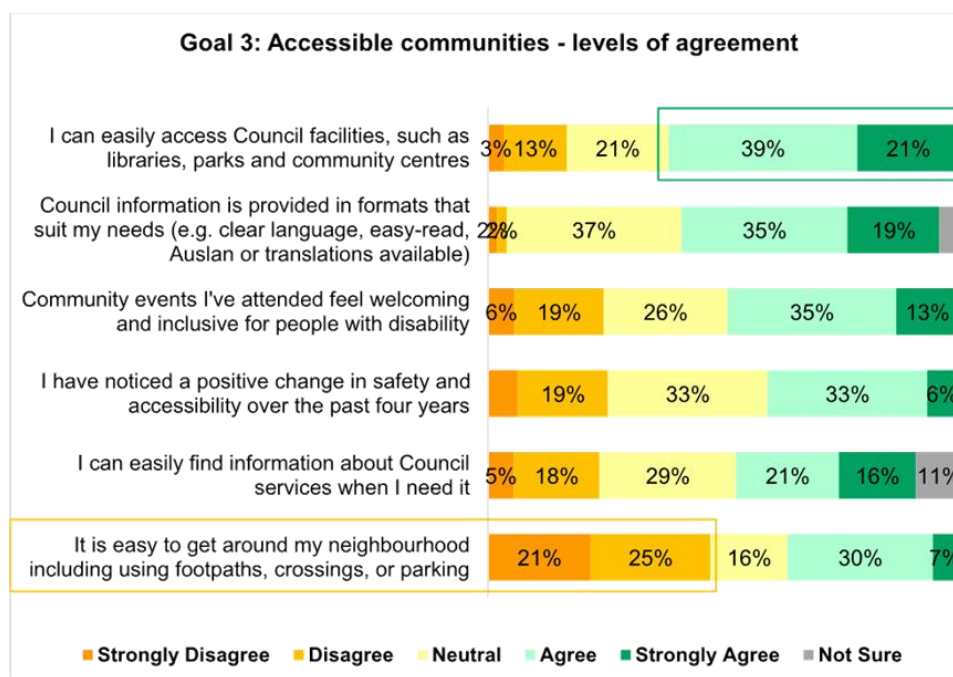


Accessible Communities

The accessibility of the built environment, sport and recreation facilities, Council services and community information allows people with disability to have the opportunity to equally participate in all aspects of community life.

While most people feel they can easily access Council facilities (60% agreement), navigating neighbourhoods using footpaths, crossings, and parking is perceived as more challenging, with only 37% agreeing and 46% disagreeing. This statement recorded the highest level of disagreement across all 15 survey items.

Information is generally seen as being provided in accessible formats for most people; however, there is less confidence in the ability to locate that information when needed.



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What We Heard Report

(n=48-61)

7.1.6 Goal 4: Learning and employment

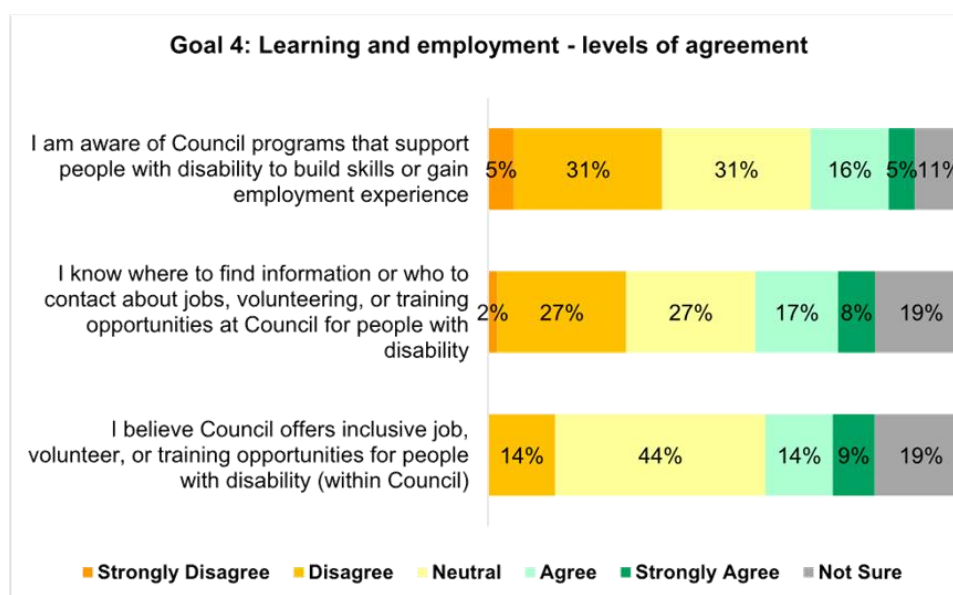


Learning and employment

Workforce participation is fundamental to social inclusion. It provides economic independence and choice, social connections and friendships, value, identity and belonging. People with disability require equitable access to work, traineeship and volunteering opportunities within the City of Playford.

Goal 4 had the highest proportion of respondents who were unsure about the statements, particularly in relation to whether the Council offers inclusive employment, volunteering, or training opportunities for people with disability.

Awareness of Council programs was also relatively low, highlighting an opportunity to enhance information sharing and promote these initiatives more effectively.



(n=52-57)

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What We Heard Report

7.2 The next 5 years: Your top 5 priorities

In this section, we explored what our community's top 5 priorities should be for Council over the next five years. These were our participants collective top 5 priorities:

- 1 Safe accessible footpaths, parking and crossings**
- 2 Accessible public buildings and spaces**
- 3 Public education on disability awareness***
- 4 Inclusive events and programs**
- 5 Programs and services for diverse community groups**

**This was the top priority identified by the 125 people we engaged who have an intellectual disability.*

Overall, the feedback shows that true inclusion means fixing physical barriers and changing attitudes, so everyone can take part and feel like they belong.

Results show that our disability community want more than just better footpaths and buildings - although making public spaces safer and easier to use is still very important. They also want the wider community to better understand disability, so everyone feels respected and included. Many people said it's important to have events and programs where everyone can join in, and to support young people and those who want to work or volunteer.

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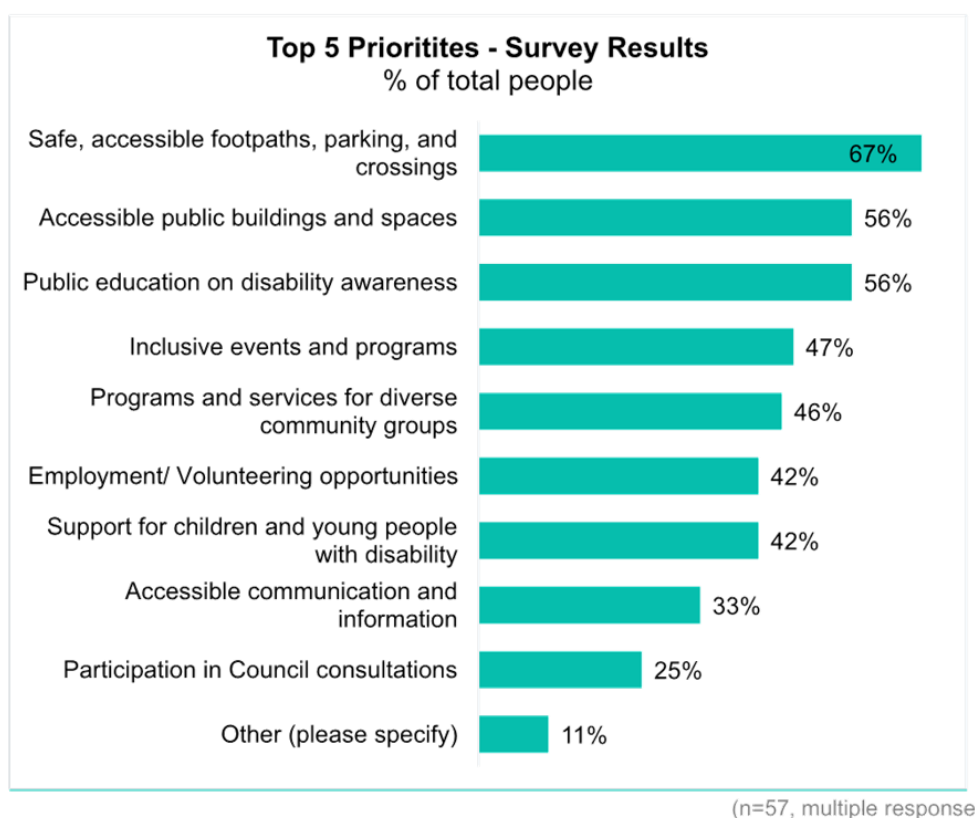
What We Heard Report

Priorities

The graphs below show the top five priorities identified through both our survey and the 'Dotmocracy' activity. Survey participants were asked to select their top 5, with results shown in the first graph below.

The Dotmocracy activity received 125 responses, mostly from people with an intellectual disability. In this activity, participants were asked to select just their single top priority to make it simpler and more accessible for the group and the setting in which the engagement took place.

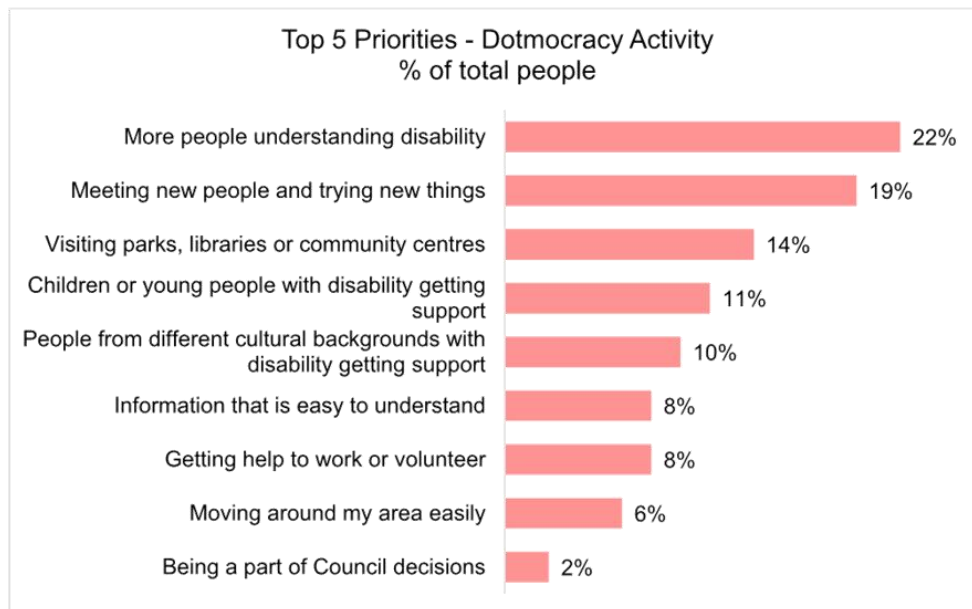
This insight is especially important, as people with an intellectual disability are recognised as a priority group under the State Government's framework. It's vital that we listen to their feedback and ensure it informs our next DAIP.



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(n=125)



Club Unity participant Pete engaging in the dotmocracy activity to contribute feedback.
Thanks Pete!

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7.3 Looking to the future – your BIG (and small) Ideas!

People with disability, families, carers, and community members shared what inclusion means to the – in the way you live, work, and connect every day.

Everyone's ideas were practical, personal, and grounded in what makes a real difference locally: Feeling welcome, being able to get around safely, accessing services that work for you, and having meaningful opportunities to take part in community life.

"Community gardens. I love growing fruit and vegetables as do many others. People can participate to their own abilities." - Elizabeth Park

"I would love more community groups for socialising doing things like playing chess scrabble monopoly and cards we don't have anything like that!" – Elizabeth Vale

"I would like to see more and wider pathways to just enjoy the surroundings." – Davoren Park

To keep the focus on action, we've organised your ideas under the State Government's Disability Access and Inclusion priorities for local government. Each priority is listed below, along with the number of ideas you shared for each.

- Universal design (49 ideas)
- Active participation (43 ideas)
- Collaboration, consultation and innovation (30 ideas)
- Targeted transitional supports (30 ideas)
- Accessibility (11 ideas)
- Inclusive community and attitudes (8 ideas)
- Communication and information (5 ideas)
- Accessible facilities (2 ideas)
- Inclusive working environment (2 ideas)
- Access to employment opportunities (5 ideas)
- Programs (0 ideas)

Some ideas fit across multiple priorities; where this happened, we've placed them where they fit best while noting their broader relevance.

We also saw more detailed feedback on some priorities, like universal design and active participation, and fewer comments on others. This shows where your focus is strongest now and where we could spark more conversation in future. Even with less feedback, these areas remain important, and we see them as chances to keep listening.

To give a fuller picture, we've also included insights from all engagement activities.

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

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What We Heard Report

7.3.1 Universal design

What this priority is about: Universal design means creating public spaces that work for everyone, people of all ages, abilities, and life circumstances. We want everyone in our community to access and enjoy inclusive and accessible natural and built environments.

What you told us:

- You want places that are easy to navigate, safe, welcoming, and thoughtfully designed to support independence and everyday participation.
- Practical accessibility improvements matter a lot, from wider accessible carparks and smooth, continuous paths to safer pedestrian crossings, and well-maintained footpaths connecting homes, shops, and transport.
- Parks and playgrounds need to be inclusive and safe, with fenced areas, sensory-friendly spaces, accessible play equipment, and plenty of shaded seating that supports families, children with disabilities, and older adults.
- You told us safety is a big concern, especially at busy crossings near schools and community hubs. You called for more accessible crossings with audible signals, pedestrian refuges, slower traffic, and better lighting to make everyone feel secure.
- Beyond physical access, you want public spaces that invite social and cultural connection - places like community kitchens, green streets, upgraded venues, and inclusive events that help people engage with one another and feel a sense of belonging.

Together, these ideas reflect a shared vision for public spaces that are not only accessible but also welcoming and empowering for the whole community.

49

of your ideas were
about this priority!

***We need smoother,
wider paths and safer
ramps—places where
people using mobility
aids can move
confidently and feel
welcome.” — Elizabeth
Grove***

Your BIG Ideas!

- Wider accessible parking and smooth, sheltered paths
- Accessible seating and inclusive cafés/social spaces
- Charging stations for mobility devices and more drop-off zones
- Fully fenced, sensory-friendly playgrounds with accessible equipment
- Regular maintenance of footpaths and removal of obstacles
- Better links between housing, services, and public transport
- Safer pedestrian crossings with audible signals and traffic calming
- Green, welcoming streets with seating, art, and community spaces
- Accessible ramps and upgraded venues for full participation

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What We Heard Report

7.3.2 Active participation

What this priority is about: People with disability being active, included, and connected in their communities.

What you told us:

- More variety and family-friendly options: such as creative workshops, craft sessions, expos, gentle movement classes, discos, community gardens, games groups, and youth-focused activities like dirt bike parks and maintenance workshops.
- Stronger cultural inclusion: More programs and spaces for Aboriginal people with disabilities, better representation, culturally inclusive events, partnerships with multicultural organisations, and shared spaces like a community kitchen to learn from each other.
- Better sensory accessibility: Activities and venues that cater to both sensory avoidant and sensory seeking needs, quiet spaces to take breaks, sensory-friendly planning at large events, and hands-on, nature-focused programs.
- Addressing barriers: Uneven ground and lack of accessible spaces at large events, limited promotion, cost, gaps in event locations across northern suburbs, and mobility challenges. Calls for Council to audit programs to help close these gaps.

Together, you shared ideas for inclusive programs, highlighted the need for cultural inclusion and sensory-friendly spaces, and identified barriers that need to be removed.

43

of your ideas were
about this priority!

***"More multicultural
events and community
activities supported by
the council to assist the
CALD living with
disability."** - Elizabeth
Vale*

Your BIG Ideas!

- Creative maker workshops
- A giant community 'crafting' session
- Expos
- Gentle movement classes for coordination and fun
- Daytime discos and dance classes
- Community gardens
- Game groups
- Coffee/chat meetups
- Inclusive sport and recreation activities
- Skating, table tennis and special inclusion event days
- Youth focused opportunities for safe dirt bike parks and learning about motorbike maintenance

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7.3.3 Collaboration, consultation and innovation

Outcome: People with disability are actively involved in government decisions that affect their lives.

What you told us:

- Some community members are new to consultations and want to stay involved.
- Closing the loop matters. You told us you want to hear how your feedback is used, with clearer communication and visible changes reflecting your input.
- Feelings of being unsafe or unwelcome, especially among LGBTQIA+ and gender-diverse participants, remain barriers to participation.
- Offering multiple participation options (online and in-person), using plain language, and having Council staff engage directly in community spaces, are needed to improve access.
- There were calls for greater involvement of people with disabilities and those with lived experience in decision-making roles.
- Experiences with Council consultations were mixed: some praised openness and honesty, while others felt dismissed or frustrated.

30

of your ideas were
about this priority!

"I would love to see more simple, welcoming opportunities to participate — for example, outreach in plain language, visits to local community centres, or personal invitations to share feedback." — Elizabeth South

Your BIG Ideas!

- Make it easier to know when and how to participate in Council decisions.
- Provide clear, accessible information using plain language.
- Personally invite people to consultations and engage in community spaces (e.g., Facebook groups, local centres).
- Offer multiple ways to participate, including online and in-person options.
- Provide regular updates on consultation outcomes and progress.
- Show progress on visible changes that reflect community feedback (e.g., improved paths, seating at bus stops).
- Involve more people with disabilities and lived experience in decision-making.
- Collaborate with inclusive service providers and local organisations.

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What We Heard Report

7.3.4 Targeted transitional supports

What this priority is about: People with disability have supportive environments to learn, grow, and transition throughout their life.

What you told us:

- You told us that volunteering provides a pathway to build skills, confidence, and connection but opportunities often feel hard to find or hard to access. You want clearer information about what's available, more flexible options for people with fluctuating health, and practical support to help you get involved.
- Volunteering should feel welcoming and achievable for everyone, and you said that creating low-pressure "drop-in" opportunities could make a big difference for people who can't commit to regular schedules.

16

of your ideas were
about this priority!

*"Create opportunities
(employment/volunteering)
for people with disability to
contribute and utilise their
abilities." – Elizabeth East*

Your BIG Ideas!

- Clearer advertising and outreach about volunteering opportunities.
- Drop-in volunteering options for people with changing health needs.
- One-on-one support
- Celebrating success stories of people with disability volunteering through Council programs

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What We Heard Report

7.3.5 Accessibility

What this priority is about: People with disability can easily access community supports and services.

What you told us:

- While no formal initiatives were named, many of you shared ideas and experiences that highlight opportunities to make this easier.
- This feedback often crossed over with other priority areas, including Communications & Information (better promotion of services), Universal Design (improved footpaths, crossings, and parking), and Active Participation (inclusive community programs and events).

11

of your ideas were
about this priority!

***"The best thing is to make
sure these services are
always available."*** –
Davoren Park

Your BIG Ideas!

- Maps or guides to help people using mobility aids navigate shopping precincts, public spaces, and public transport.
- Dedicated online spaces, such as Facebook groups, to share disability-related services, promote events, and connect people with providers.
- Inclusive workshops through NDIS providers to build skills, confidence, and connections.
- Improved physical access including safer footpaths, more accessible crossings, and better-designed parking to make community services easier to reach.
- Community kitchens, communication boards, and special inclusion event days that foster connection, cultural exchange, and belonging.
- Community bus for people without access to transport to go to libraries, op shops, community events etc to help combat social isolation.

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What We Heard Report

7.3.6 Inclusive community and attitudes

What this priority is about: People with disability are respected and included in their communities, where inclusive attitudes and behaviours are widely demonstrated.

What you told us:

- You want to live in a community where inclusion is the norm, where people understand different experiences, and where actions not just words, show that everyone belongs.
- Ideas included awareness tools like the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyard, promoting service dog rights, lived experience storytelling, and celebrating inclusion champions.
- You also suggested increasing visibility in schools and events and using interactive education to build empathy and independence.

8

of your ideas were
about this priority!

"I want to live in a community where inclusion is the norm, where people understand different experiences, and where actions not just words show that everyone belongs."
- Elizabeth Park.

Your BIG Ideas!

- Adopting programs like the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyard
- Promoting service dog access rights
- Using lived experience storytelling to build understanding and reduce stigma
- Increasing visibility of people with disability in schools, events, and local initiatives
- Celebrating inclusion advocates through awards or public acknowledgment
- Using interactive education tools to build empathy and support independence

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7.3.7 Communication and information

What this priority is about: People with disability can find the information they need in the format(s) they need it in.

What you told us:

- You told us that staying informed is essential for feeling included. You want communication that is accessible, inclusive, and truly connected — helping people with disability navigate services, know what's happening, and take part in community life.
- Staying well informed is vital for inclusion, with communication needing to be accessible, inclusive, and connected.
- People want both digital and physical tools that are easy to use and shaped by the community to ensure no one is left out.
- You said this means having both digital and physical tools that are easy to use, relevant, and shaped by the community, so no one is left out of the loop.
- Suggested ideas include mobility-friendly maps, dedicated online groups for sharing and connecting, communication boards for non-verbal community members, and wider promotion through social media and newsletters.

5

of your ideas were
about this priority!

*"More information
through the newsletter.
As a relatively newcomer
to this area, from
interstate, it has been
difficult to learn about
the services available." –
Munno Para West*

Your BIG Ideas!

- A mobility-friendly map or guide to help people using wheelchairs or other mobility aids plan the safest and most direct routes to key destinations like shopping precincts and public transport
- A dedicated Facebook group or similar online space for individuals with disability to share information, ask questions, recommend services, and connect with providers or local faith/community groups
- Communication boards placed in public areas to support non-verbal or neurodivergent community members
- More promotion of accessible services and community opportunities via social media and television
- A monthly email newsletter or forum that shares ideas, updates, and opinions from people with disability

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7.3.8 Accessible facilities

What this priority is about: People with disability can access public toilet facilities that meet their needs when they are out in the community.

What you told us:

- There was one mention of the need for more public toilets in key areas such as bus stops, especially for people with health conditions.
- One respondent raised concerns about the condition of Master Locksmiths Access Key (MLAK) - accessible toilets at Fremont Park, noting they were often not fit for use.
- This highlights the importance of not only providing accessible facilities, but ensuring they are well-maintained and reliably available.

2

of your ideas were
about this priority!

Your BIG Ideas!

- More public toilets in high traffic areas like bus stops
- Fit for purpose MLAK for accessible toilets.

"If you build facilities for people with disability, please maintain them! The MLAK accessible and disabled toilets at Fremont Park, for example, are often not in a state that is fit for use." - Elizabeth North

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What We Heard Report

7.3.9 Inclusive working environments

What this priority is about: People with disability have opportunities to achieve, develop and succeed in their chosen fields.

What you told us:

- A truly inclusive workplace doesn't just provide jobs it provides opportunities for belonging, growth, and purpose.
- You said that sharing real life success stories of people with disability thriving in Council roles could inspire others and normalise inclusive employment.
- You also want practices that support people to stay in work, including outcome-based approaches that focus on what people can achieve, not just hours worked.

2

of your ideas were
about this priority!

Your BIG Ideas!

- Celebrating and sharing success stories of people with disability in Council roles or programs
- Workplace practices that help people stay in employment (e.g., outcome-based employment models)

"I believe the council can improve in this area by making opportunities for jobs, volunteering, and training more visible, accessible, and easier to understand, especially for people with disability or serious illness." – Elizabeth South

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report

7.3.10 Access to employment opportunities

What this priority is about: People with disability have opportunities to achieve, develop and succeed in their chosen fields.

What you told us:

- You told us that pathways into work need to be more inclusive, tailored, and flexible.
- You called for part-time or trade-focused roles, tailored recruitment approaches that recognise individual strengths, and collaboration with local businesses and disability service providers to create more meaningful opportunities



Your BIG Ideas!

- Tailored roles and inclusive recruitment practices to match people's strengths
- Part-time and trade-focused pathways for those unable to access traditional employment options
- Council collaboration with local businesses and disability service providers to create job opportunities

7.3.11 Programs

What this priority is about: Government-funded programs and services include disability-specific provisions to enable full and equal participation.

What you told us:

- While engagement did not capture specific information on this priority, several participants highlighted financial barriers and the need for targeted support.
- One respondent requested assistance with housing repairs, underscoring the importance of financial aid for low-income people with disability.
- Another described the cost of relocating during loud public events due to sensory sensitivities, pointing to the need for inclusive event planning. Suggestions also included subsidised programs, such as driving simulators and inclusive community hubs, to reduce financial barriers and support participation.
- These insights present clear opportunities for Council to consider grants, subsidies, and financial initiatives that promote access and inclusion.

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report

7.3.12 Aboriginal voices

Through our co-designed Kawanta Pirkuitya program, Aboriginal people with disability and their families/carers shared their experiences:

- **Navigating complex systems:** Many carers (often grandparents) face cultural safety gaps, inaccessible language, tech barriers, and limited decision-making power when dealing with the NDIS and other services.
- **Gaps in culturally safe, family-friendly services:** Transport barriers, changing equipment needs, and a lack of Aboriginal staff make access harder. Programs rarely foster cultural connection or cater for all ages in families, leaving some members excluded.
- **The emotional toll:** Having to retell personal stories to multiple providers without seeing change creates fatigue and frustration.
- **Language and cultural framing:** Many prefer the term "impairment" rather than disability, showing a need to bridge clinical and cultural views.
- **Co-design fatigue:** Repeated consultation without visible outcomes leaves people feeling unheard.
- **What culturally safe systems look like:** Aboriginal-led, culturally safe services that shift power, enable truth-telling, and embed cultural values in design and delivery.

8. Next steps

In the coming months, Council will use your feedback to help develop our next Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP). Once we feel the draft reflects what we've heard, we'll invite the community to review it again as part of phase 2 engagement to make sure we've captured your ideas correctly. We plan to share this draft later this year.

After phase 2, we'll consider all feedback and make any necessary changes to the draft plan. The final draft will then go to Council for approval. Once endorsed, our new DAIP will be officially in place.

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report

9. Appendix

9.1 Survey



City of Playford's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025 Community Survey

City of Playford - Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025 Community Survey
How can we make Playford more accessible and inclusive?

We're reviewing our Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP). Your feedback will help us understand what's working, what could be better, and how we can align with the State Disability Inclusion Plan while focusing on what matters most to our community.

Who do we want to hear from?

- People with disability
- Carers, support workers, and families
- Disability service providers, advocates, and interested community members.
- Anyone who cares about making Playford more inclusive and accessible.

Share your feedback for a chance to win 1 of 5 gift vouchers!

1. Complete the first part of the survey (your 1 big idea) = 1 entry
2. Complete the full survey = 2 entries!

Ask City of Playford staff for competition terms and conditions.

 Let's start with something simple:

 **Your Big Idea for Inclusion** 

Everyone deserves to feel welcome, supported, and able to join in. That's what inclusion is all about and your ideas can help shape a better Playford for everyone.

What's one idea that could make a difference? What would make life in Playford more inclusive for you, your family, or your community?

 **My big idea for inclusion is...** (Not sure what to write? You could talk about a place, a feeling, something you wish existed, or a change you'd love to see.)

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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report



City of Playford's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025 Community Survey

Thanks for your big idea!



If you're finished – please go to the last page to enter the prize draw.
Then hand this survey to a City of Playford staff member.



If you'd like to complete the full survey – please continue below.

Completing this survey

- The survey takes around 10 - 15 minutes to complete.
- You can skip questions you don't want to answer.
- All responses are anonymous, unless you choose to share your contact information for follow-up.
- You can complete it for yourself or you can complete it on behalf of someone else, like a family member, friend, or person you support
- You can send audio/video responses by visiting playford.engagementhub.com.au
- If you're answering for someone else, please try to reflect their thoughts and experiences.
- We will use all feedback in our analysis—even if you don't finish the survey. Every bit counts!
- Your input can help shape a more inclusive, accessible, and welcoming city for everyone.

For any questions or assistance completing the survey contact Roxanne Withers via email connected@playford.sa.gov.au or call 8256 0333.

What suburb do you live in? _____

Are you... (Tick ✓ all which apply to you):

- ☐ A person with disability
- ☐ A parent, guardian or family member of a person with disability
- ☐ A carer of a person with disability
- ☐ A person/organisation working with people with disability
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other (Please specify) _____

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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report



City of Playford's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025 Community Survey

If you are a person with a disability, please share your disability below:

What is your age? _____

What is your gender? _____

Do you identify as... (Tick ✓ all which apply to you):

☐ an Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander person

☐ Culturally and linguistically diverse

☐ LGBTQIA+

☐ Other (please specify) _____

☐ None of these

Are you aware that Council has a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP)?
(Even if you haven't, we'd still love to hear your thoughts and experiences.)

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not sure

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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report



City of Playford's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025 Community Survey

From 2020–2024, our DAIP set out goals based on what the community told us was important. Now we're checking in on how we're going.

1. Our goal: For people with disability to feel welcome and engaged in community life.
Please tell us how much you agree with the following statements:

	 Strongly Disagree	 Disagree	 Neutral	 Agree	 Strongly Agree	 Not Sure
I believe Council is making an effort to include people with disability in community life, for example through accessible events, services or public spaces	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel welcome and valued when I attend Council-run spaces, services or events	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I've noticed positive changes in how Council includes people with disability over the past four years	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Is there something Council could do to help you feel more included?

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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report



City of Playford's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025 Community Survey

2. Our goal: For people with disability to have opportunities to participate in Council decision making.

Please tell us how much you agree with the following statements:

	 Strongly Disagree	 Disagree	 Neutral	 Agree	 Strongly Agree	 Not Sure
People with disability are actively included in shaping Council plans and decisions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel that Council listens to and acts on feedback from people with disability	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I know how to get involved in Council decisions or consultations	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Is there anything you'd like to share about how included you feel in Council decisions or consultations?
We're keen to know what helps you feel heard—or what's getting in the way.

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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report



City of Playford's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025 Community Survey

3. Our goal: People with disability have equitable access to community services, facilities, events and information.

Please tell us how much you agree with the following statements:

	 Strongly Disagree	 Disagree	 Neutral	 Agree	 Strongly Agree	 Not Sure
I can easily access Council facilities, such as libraries, parks and community centres	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community events I've attended feel welcoming and inclusive for people with disability	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can easily find information about Council services when I need it	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Council information is provided in formats that suit my needs (e.g. clear language, easy-read, Auslan or translations available)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is easy to get around my neighbourhood including using footpaths, crossings, or parking	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have noticed a positive change in safety and accessibility over the past four years	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Do you have feedback about local access, safety, or how Council information is shared?

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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report



City of Playford's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025 Community Survey

4. Our goal: People with disability have access to employment, traineeships and volunteering opportunities to build capacity and pathways to employment.

Please tell us how much you agree with the following statements:

						
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Not Sure
I believe Council offers inclusive job, volunteer, or training opportunities for people with disability (within Council)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I know where to find information or who to contact about jobs, volunteering, or training opportunities at Council for people with disability	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am aware of Council programs that support people with disability to build skills or gain employment experience	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Is there anything Council could improve in this area?

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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report



City of Playford's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025 Community Survey

Looking back over the last four years, was there anything council implemented that made a positive difference for you or someone you know living with disability?

What are your top 5 priorities for Council to focus on over the next four years?
(Tick ✓ up to 5 choices below):

- ☐ Accessible public buildings and spaces
- ☐ Inclusive events and programs
- ☐ Safe, accessible footpaths, parking, and crossings
- ☐ Accessible communication and information
- ☐ Employment/ Volunteering opportunities
- ☐ Participation in Council consultations
- ☐ Support for children and young people with disability
- ☐ Programs and services for diverse community groups
- ☐ Public education on disability awareness
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Thinking about your top five, what actions would you like to see Council take?

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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report



City of Playford's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025 Community Survey

What's the best way for Council to connect with you or hear your views?

What are your top three preferred ways to receive information?
(Tick ✓ up to 3 choices below):

☐ Council website

☐ Social media

☐ Email/ join a mailing list

☐ Printed information

☐ Through a support worker/carer

☐ Friends or family

☐ SMS

☐ Phone call

☐ Other (please specify) _____

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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report



City of Playford's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025 Community Survey

What would make you feel confident that Council will follow through on this plan? E.g. regular updates on progress, opportunities to continue giving feedback, summary of how feedback has been used to shape the plan.

Is there anything else you would like us to know about your experiences or ideas to help make Playford more accessible and inclusive?

Would you like to stay updated about the DAIP or be involved in future discussions?
(Tick ✓ all that apply)

☐ Yes, I'd like to receive updates about Council's DAIP

☐ Yes, I'd like to be involved in future discussions (e.g. interview, focus groups, co-design)

☐ No, I don't wish to be contacted about the DAIP

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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

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City of Playford's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025 Community Survey

If you would like to take part in a consultation, do you need any of the following?

☐ Auslan interpreter

☐ Easy Read or Plain English materials

☐ Hearing loop

☐ Wheelchair access

☐ Other (please specify) _____

Would you like to enter the prize draw?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If you have elected to enter the prize draw or stay updated about the DAIP, please provide your contact details:

☐ Name _____

☐ Email _____

☐ Phone _____

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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report

9.2 Easy-Read Survey

Playford Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

Easy Read Survey



Want some help to do the survey?

Talk to Roxanne:



Phone: 8256 0333



Email: connected@playford.sa.gov.au



Web: playford.engagementhub.com.au

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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

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What We Heard Report

About this survey



The City of Playford wrote this survey.

When you see the word "we" it means the City of Playford.

When you see the word "Council" it means the City of Playford.



This survey is written in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Word

Hard word



The first time we write a hard word, the word is in **bold**.

We will explain what the word means.

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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report



You can ask for help to fill in the survey.

A friend, family member or Council worker may be able to help you.



We are writing a new **Disability Access and Inclusion plan**.

This plan tells Council how to help people with disability feel welcome and happy.

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report



To write the plan we talk to lots of people who live and work in **Playford**.

Playford is a group of suburbs that the Council looks after.



We want to know how to make Playford better for people with disability.



We will listen to what you say.

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report



We will think about all the ideas.



We will then write a new plan.

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

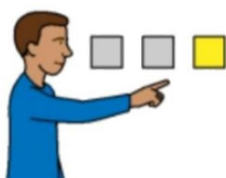
Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report



You can help us to write the plan by doing this **survey**.

A survey is set of questions.



You can tell us what you think.



You must finish the survey before Sunday the 13th of July 2025.

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What We Heard Report

Next we will ask some questions

When you see a  draw a tick in a circle to choose your answer

When you see a  write your answer on the lines



What one thing would make you feel welcome and happy in Playford? 

It can be a place, event, feeling, or a something new you want

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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

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What We Heard Report



What suburb do you live in?



Do you have a disability?



☐ Yes

☐ No

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

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What We Heard Report



How old are you?





What is your gender?



☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Non-binary

☐ Other _____

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What We Heard Report



Are you an Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander Person? ✓

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No



What language do you speak at home? ✓

- ☐ English
- ☐ Different language

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What We Heard Report



Do you belong to the **LGBTQIA+** community? 

This means you are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, or something else.

☐ Yes

☐ No

The Council does different things to help people with a disability.

We want to know what things we do well, and what things we could do better.

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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report



Do you feel welcome at Council events, buildings, or services? 

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ No



What can Council do to help you feel more welcome? 

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What We Heard Report



Do you know how to tell Council what you think? 

☐ Yes

☐ No



How could Council listen to you better? 

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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report



Is it easy to visit Council places like libraries, parks, and events? ✓

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ No



Is it easy to use the footpaths or roads near your house? ✓

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ No

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report



Do you know where to find information about Council services, programs and buildings? 

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ No



How could Council share information in a better way? 

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report



Do you know Council can help you learn new things and find jobs? ✓

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No



Do you think there are enough places in Playford for people with a disability to work or get the training they need? ✓

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ No

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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report

Thinking about the things Council does to help people with disability...



What is important to you?

- ☐ Visiting parks, libraries or other places
- ☐ Going to events and programs
- ☐ Moving around easily (walking, using a wheelchair, driving, riding a bike)
- ☐ Information that is easy to understand
- ☐ Being able to work or volunteer
- ☐ Being a part of Council decisions
- ☐ Children or young people getting disability support
- ☐ People from different cultures getting disability support
- ☐ More people understanding disability

Is there anything else you want to tell us that could help us write our next plan?



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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report

Do you want to talk to Council about how they can help people with disability?



☐ Yes

☐ No

Thank you for doing the survey.

When everyone has finished, five people who did the survey will win a gift voucher.

Do you want the chance to win a voucher?



☐ Yes

☐ No

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What We Heard Report

What is your name and phone number or email address? 

You can ask someone to help you if you aren't sure.



Name _____



Phone Number _____



Email Address _____

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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report

9.3 Playford Engagement Hub Project Site

Playford's New Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP)

Project Overview



Inclusion doesn't just happen, it's built together.

We're updating our Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) to help make Playford a place where everyone feels welcome and can enjoy everything our growing community has to offer!

We want this plan to be shaped by you and your ideas - because your voice matters.

Engagement is open Monday 16 June to Sunday 13 July 2025 for you to share your ideas.



Need a hand?
Click the **UserWay** icon (top left corner of the page) to make this page easier to view. [CLICK HERE](#) - To watch a short video on how to use UserWay.

Your Language

To translate this page into another language, use the 'Select Language' dropdown below. Please note, automatic translations are provided as a guide only and may not be accurate.

Select Language

Project Document Library

- Share your BIG Idea Survey Printable
- Easy English Survey Printable
- Competition Terms and Conditions
- Frequently Asked Questions Printable

FAQ

General Information - DAIP

View all

Project Timeline

- Phase 1 - Community Engagement
16 June to 13 July 2025
- Phase 1 - What We Heard Report
August 2025
- Developing the draft DAIP
August to September 2025
- Phase 2 - Community Engagement
October 2025 (TBC)

Share Your BIG Idea!
Why Your Ideas Matter
Get Involved, Your Way!

What's your BIG (or small!) Idea for Inclusion?

What would make Playford more inclusive for you, your family, or your community?

Share your BIG idea here

Easy English Version

Screen Reader Version

You don't need to have the perfect answer — we just want to know what's important to you. Your idea could be:

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report

You don't need to have the perfect answer — we just want to know what's important to you. Your idea could be:

- 🏡 A place that feels welcoming to everyone
- 🔄 A change you'd love to see
- 📍 Something that doesn't exist yet
- ❤️ A feeling you wish everyone could experience

Who do we want to hear from?

- People with disability
- Carers and families
- Support workers
- Service providers
- Anyone passionate about inclusion.

Whether you've given feedback before or it's your first time your input will help us see the bigger picture!

How to get involved

👉 **Quick survey**

- Share your big idea via our short survey (it takes 1-2 minutes)
- Do the full survey if you have time (around 10 minutes)
- Everyone who shares an idea will go in the draw to win 1 of 5 gift vouchers - complete the full survey for **2 chances to win!**
- View competition terms in the document library on this page.

👉 **Ideas Wall**

- Post your idea below and see it live right away!
- But first, you need to sign up. (You'll also have a chance to win a prize.)
- To sign up, go to the Playford Engagement Hub and click 'Join Our Connected Community.'

👉 **Other ways to share**

- Head to **Get involved - Your Way!** section on this page for options.

Where do the ideas go?

Your ideas will help us decide what actions to take over the next four years—like how we design public spaces, provide services, share information, and make sure everyone can enjoy the opportunities in Playford.

... Phase 2 - Community Engagement
October 2025 (TBC)

... Phase 2 - What We Heard Report
November 2025

... DAIP endorsed by Council, published on website and notification to Department of Human Services (DHS)
December 2025 to January 2026 (TBC)

Who's Listening



Roxanne Withers
Community Engagement
City of Playford

Contact our friendly staff member **Roxanne** if you have any questions.
Phone: 8256 0333
Email: connected@playford.sa.gov.au



Cyndi Neuzerling
Quality Coordinator Disability Inclusion
City of Playford

Contact our friendly staff member **Cyndi** if you have any questions.
Phone: 8256 0333
Email: connected@playford.sa.gov.au

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report

Share Your BIG Idea!

Why Your Ideas Matter

Get Involved, Your Way!

Inclusion looks different for everyone, and every voice shapes the full picture

Here's what inclusion means to some people:

- "Inclusion is ramps, yes - but also attitudes"
- "Inclusion is having a place to chill out at events when things get overwhelming"
- "Inclusion is being able to get the information I need"

From your feedback on our last Disability Access & Inclusion Plan (DAIP), as well as other community input like our Strategic Plan, you've told us that inclusion means feeling welcome, being able to get into places and find information easily, and knowing that your opinions help what Council delivers and shape the future of Playford

Inclusion isn't a one-off project-- it's something we're building together, every day

How will your ideas be used?

Your ideas and feedback will help us take real, practical steps to keep improving:

- Access to buildings, services, and events
- Clear and accessible information and communication
- Jobs and volunteering for everyone
- Programs that meet different people's needs

Your feedback also helps us focus on what matters most, so we put our resources where it will make the biggest difference.

HERE'S WHAT I THINK! DREAM BIG! THAT'S AWESOME! LET'S DO IT!

What you have helped us do so far...

We've been listening to you through our last Disability Access & Inclusion Plan, community chats, and other ways of hearing from you. Your feedback has helped us make real changes. Here are some examples:

Inclusive events: Sensory zones now feature at major events. Playford Libraries offer sensory kits and accessibility tools.

Safer movement around Playford: A city-wide footpath and road audit to make sure we are compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and identify improvements. We want to make sure public spaces are accessible and usable by everyone!

Facility upgrades: We're auditing Council buildings, toilets, and carparks for easy open doors, lifts, signage, and quiet spaces.

Building independence: Our Everyday Money Skills platform supports financial literacy for people with intellectual disability.

Accessible communication: We make sure our branding and communication follow WCAG 2.1 (AA) guidelines, so information is easy for everyone to access. Our Engagement Hub also includes a UserWay tool to help make community engagement more accessible and user-friendly.

Accessible and inclusive community engagement: Our Community Engagement Policy says we must make it easy for everyone to take part. We use simple language, choose accessible places and formats, and work to remove barriers so everyone can join in meaningfully.

Inclusive project design: All new Council projects must consult with our Disability Access and Inclusion Coordinator.

Staff awareness: Disability awareness training is now part of Council staff and Elected Member development.

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan

Shaping the Plan with Our Community

What We Heard Report

Share Your BIG Idea!

Why Your Ideas Matter

Get Involved, Your Way!

Share your BIG idea here

Easy English Version

Screen Reader Version

Inclusion starts with flexibility

We've made it easy and flexible to share your feedback. You can:

Complete the survey
Available online, including **Easy Read** and **Screen Reader friendly** versions. You can also download a hard copy from the Document Library section on this page.

Share your BIG idea on our Engagement Wall
Just register with Engagement Hub and join our connected community first [using this link!](#)

Upload your BIG idea video, photos or drawing by clicking here!

Join a small discussion group
Share your lived experience in a safe, inclusive space.

Online
Thursday 3 July, 6pm - 7pm. A teams link will be sent to you when you register.

In-person
Wednesday 9 July, 4pm - 5pm
Playford Civic Centre, Playford Boulevard, Elizabeth
Register your interest to attend online or in person by contacting us using the details below.

Get in touch your way
Chat to us or send an email (we love hearing from our community!)

- **Phone:** 8256 0333 - just ask to speak to a staff member about this project and we will get back to you.
- **Email:** connected@playford.sa.gov.au

☐ You can even contribute anonymously or through an advocate.

Need a hand or want to chat? Details of our friendly staff are listed under the Who's Listening section on this page.

FILL OUT THE SURVEY

CHAT TO US

REACH OUT

ADD TO THE IDEAS WALL

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan Shaping the Plan with Our Community What We Heard Report

9.4 Poster

**What's your BIG
(or small!)
Idea for inclusion?**

We're starting with one simple but powerful question:
**What would make Playford more inclusive
for you, your family, or your community?**

We're updating our Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) to help make Playford more accessible, inclusive and welcoming for everyone.

Your experiences, challenges, and ideas will help shape this plan – because your voice matters.

You don't need to have the perfect answer – just tell us what's important to you. It could be:

- A place that feels inclusive
- A change you'd love to see
- Something that doesn't exist (yet!)
- A feeling you wish everyone could experience

How to get involved:

- Scan the QR code
- Call us on **8256 0333**
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Disability Access & Inclusion Plan Shaping the Plan with Our Community What We Heard Report

9.5 Social Media Post/s

23 June 2025



9 July 2025





City of Playford

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029



Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Playford acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional land of the Kurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country.

The City of Playford would also like to pay respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



Recognition of Forebears

The City of Playford also acknowledges the people, our forebears, that have contributed to building and defending our great nation and way of life.



Message from the Mayor and CEO

The City of Playford is committed to being welcoming, inclusive and accessible for everyone. Our Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025–2029 outlines how we will break down barriers, create opportunities, and strengthen connections so that people with disability can fully participate in all aspects of community life.

Playford is home to a diverse and growing population, and with growth comes both challenges and opportunities. We recognise that all people with disability, including those from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, culturally and linguistically diverse, LGBTQIA+, and regional communities, bring unique strengths and perspectives to our city. This plan is about ensuring those voices are heard and reflected in how we design our places, programs, and services.

In developing this plan, we listened carefully to people with disability, their families, carers, and support networks, as well as service providers and advocates. Their insights and experiences have guided our priorities and actions. The result is a plan that aligns with the South Australian Disability Inclusion Plan and provides a local roadmap for building an accessible, inclusive city.

Our commitment is both practical and aspirational: from improving physical access to facilities and infrastructure, to shaping attitudes, policies, and programs that remove barriers and support participation. This plan represents a partnership between Council and our community — a shared effort to create a city where every person feels valued, connected, and able to thrive.

We thank all who contributed their time, ideas, and lived experience to the development of this plan. Together, we will continue to shape a Playford that is inclusive by design and welcoming for all.

Mayor Glenn Docherty



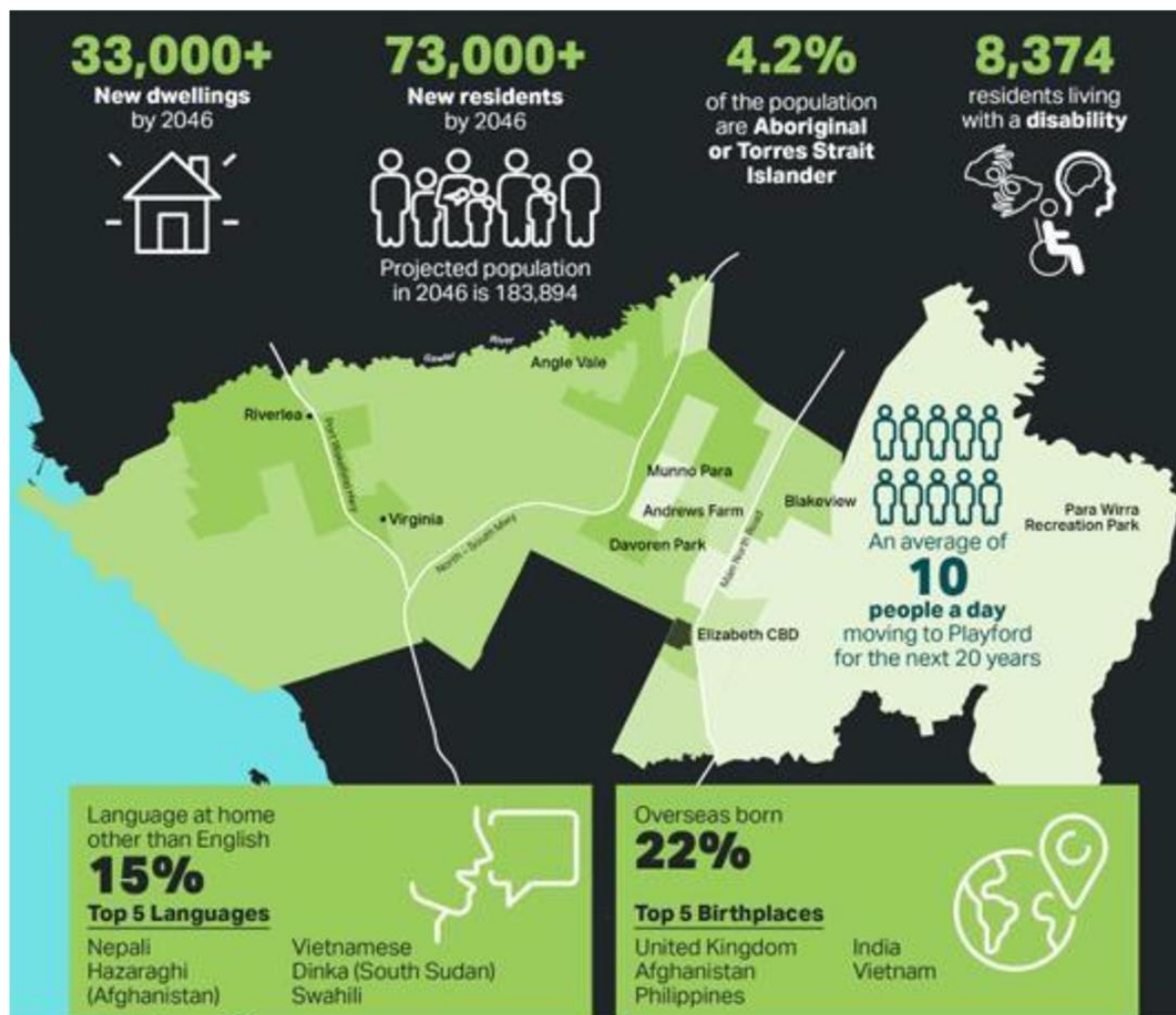
CEO Sam Green





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City of Playford





About the City of Playford

The City of Playford is a local government area in the north of Greater Adelaide.

It covers an area of 345 km² and includes the suburbs of: Andrews Farm, Angle Vale, Bibaringa, Blakeview, Riverlea, Craigmore, Davoren Park, Elizabeth, Elizabeth Downs, Elizabeth East, Elizabeth Grove, Elizabeth North, Elizabeth Park, Elizabeth South, Elizabeth Vale (part), Elizabeth West, Evanston Park (part), Gould Creek (part), Hillbank, Hillier (part), Humbug Scrub (part), MacDonald Park, Munno Para, Munno Para Downs, Munno Para West, One Tree Hill, Penfield, Penfield Gardens, Port Gawler (part), Sampson Flat, Smithfield, Smithfield Plains, St Kilda (part), Uleybury (part), Virginia, Waterloo Corner (part) and Yattalunga.

Local government role in disability access and inclusion

Local governments (councils) provide a diverse range of services and facilities to their communities. Councils work to improve disability access and inclusion relating to:

- Council buildings, parks and facilities (e.g. libraries, community centres, sports facilities, playgrounds)
- Public footpaths, roads, and on street parking
- Information (e.g. website, signage) and services (e.g. customer service)
- Proposed developments (e.g. new buildings)
- Community events, training and activities
- Employment and volunteer work at the Council
- Consultation (e.g. providing input to a Council plans or projects) and community representation opportunities (e.g. being elected to Council or a Committee).

Across Australia, commitment to improving disability access and inclusion has grown over time. There were long periods when standards and expectations around accessibility were not adequately met. As a result, many councils still manage older infrastructure that is not fully accessible, and continue to review and improve their programs, systems, and organisational practices to better support inclusion.

Councils are working within their budgets to progressively make improvements in relation to disability access and inclusion. They are providing awareness training to staff and elected members, and are engaging with people with disability, carers and the disability sector to identify how to best remove barriers.



Inclusion Through Understanding





Let's talk about disability

Language matters

Every person with disability is different, with unique qualities, strengths, weaknesses and support needs.

Every disability is different, and some may not be visible.

We all play an important role in changing the way we think and talk about disability. From the conversations we have, to the documents we write, it is our collective responsibility to make important choices that support long lasting change.

There are many misconceptions and misunderstandings in the community about what it means to have a disability. This is why the use of accurate and respectful language is so important.

We acknowledge that language is a personal preference, and that different language and terminology preferences exist within the disability and neurodivergent community.

Based on feedback during statewide consultations, we have adopted 'person-first language (i.e. person with disability) for this Strategy, rather than identity-first language (i.e. disabled person).

Creating a more inclusive community begins with listening, learning and reflecting on assumptions we may hold about disability. While many people with disability generously share their experiences, fostering broader understanding is a responsibility we must all share.

The most important thing is to ask the person with disability how they would like to be referred to and represented, and to respect their wishes.

(Source: South Australian Disability Inclusion Plan 2025-2029)



Let's talk about disability

Defining disability

Disability is diverse and experienced by people of all ages, backgrounds and cultures. It can include physical, sensory, cognitive, intellectual, psychosocial and invisible disabilities.

This Strategy is underpinned by both the social and human rights models of disability, which recognise that disability is not caused by an individual's impairment, but by the physical, attitudinal and systemic barriers created by society.

These models emphasise the importance of removing those barriers to create a more inclusive and equitable community - one where people with disability have the same opportunity to participate, contribute and thrive as everyone else.

The human rights model further reinforces this by affirming the inherent dignity, autonomy and equal rights of people with disability, as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). It places responsibility on society to uphold and protect these rights across all areas of life.

The Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA) defines disability as:

In relation to a person, includes long-term physical, psycho-social, intellectual, cognitive, neurological or sensory impairment, or a combination of any of these impairments, which in interaction with various barriers may hinder the person's full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

(Source: South Australian Disability Inclusion Plan 2025-2029)



Let's talk about disability

Facts at a glance

- In 2022, 5.5 million Australians (21.4%) had a disability.
- Indigenous Australians are 1.9 times more likely to have a disability than non-Indigenous Australians.
- Each year, the Australian Human Rights Commission receives more complaints about disability discrimination than about any other form of discrimination.
- In 2022-23, 46% of all complaints received were about disability discrimination.
- In 2022, 12.1% of children and young people aged 0-24 years (946,300 people) had disability, up from 8.3% in 2018.
- In 2022, 37.5% of children aged 0-14 years with disability had a parent with disability.
- In 2022, 52.3% of people aged 65 years and over had a disability, compared with just 15% of people aged 0-64.
- In 2022, the proportion of South Australian people aged 20-64 with disability who had completed year 12 or equivalent was 46%, compared with 58% of people with disability nationally.
- In 2022, 6.3% of South Australian people with disability were unemployed in comparison to 3.8% of people without disability.
- The Disability Royal Commission reported that 43% of women with disability have experienced physical violence after age 15, compared with 25% of women without disability.
- Women with disability are also twice as likely to experience sexual violence as women without disabilities.
- People with disability have higher health risk factors than those without disability. In 2022, 64% of adults with disability in South Australia said their health was excellent or very good, compared with 94% of adults without disability in South Australia.
- In 2025, there are an estimated 35,000 South Australians living with dementia, including 2,100 people under the age of 65 living with younger onset dementia.
- Almost two in five carers (38.6%) have a disability themselves.

(Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, AIHW & National Indigenous Australians Agency and Dementia Australia in South Australian Disability Inclusion Plan 2025-2029)



Let's talk about disability

Intersectionality

Intersectionality is about recognising that people with disability are diverse. A person with a disability may also be subject to discrimination or disadvantage relating to their race, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, social or financial capacity. For instance, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person with disability may experience discrimination relating to their race and disability. This compounds the impacts experienced by people with disability.

Groups of people with disability who may face additional or compounded barriers include:

1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability
2. Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people with disability
3. Women with disability
4. Children with disability
5. LGBTIQ+ people with disability
6. People with significant intellectual disability or who have high levels of vulnerability due to disability.
7. People with disability who live in regional communities
8. Older people with disability
9. Carers of people with disability
10. People experiencing socio-economic disadvantage

The *Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA)* lists the groups numbered 1-7 and requires councils to tailor actions to address the diverse and intersecting needs of these groups. In addition, the South Australian Disability Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 also acknowledges the intersectionality of older people with disability and carers. This DAIP also acknowledges the compounding barriers of socio-economic disadvantage.



Council's Commitment to Inclusion





Council's role in access and inclusion

Council's plans

Community Vision

The Playford Community Vision 2043 is built around three core themes:

1. Prosperity
2. Liveability
3. Happiness

Strategic Plan 2025-28

The City of Playford's Strategic Plan 2025–2028 sets out a clear direction for building a stronger, more connected, and inclusive community. Through four key themes, the plan reflects the voices of local residents and aims to create a city where everyone regardless of age, ability, or background can thrive.

Strategic Plan Theme	Outcome
Theme 1 Our Foundations Improving safety, accessibility and ease of movement around our city.	- Ensures footpaths, crossings, and public buildings are accessible for people with mobility aids or vision impairments. - Reduces barriers to participation by addressing safety concerns like poor lighting or uneven surfaces. - Supports inclusive design in all new infrastructure.
Theme 2 Our Foundations Lifting city appearance	- Encourages co-design with people with disability to ensure places are welcoming for all. - Supports wayfinding and signage that is easy to understand and navigate.
Theme 3 Building Connections Fostering collaboration and connection to each other	- Encourages accessible communication formats (e.g., Easy Read, Auslan, captions). - Builds stronger support networks for people with disability and their carers.
Theme 4 Building connections Activating and facilitating welcoming community spaces and events	- Promotes social inclusion by ensuring events and programs are accessible to people with disabilities. - Ensures events and programs are planned and designed with an inclusion and accessible lens.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2025-2029

This 2025-2029 DAIP will be Council's second DAIP. It sets out the actions Council will deliver to contribute to the domains, priority areas, and mandatory measures identified for Council's in the South Australian Disability Inclusion Plan 2025-2029.



Council's role in access and inclusion

Inclusion in Action

At the City of Playford, we're working alongside people with disability to build a more inclusive, accessible and connected community. Here are some of the milestones we're most proud of:

Positive Futures Expo

Opening doors to opportunity

Every year, hundreds of people with disability, families, carers and services come together at our Positive Futures Expo. The event showcases opportunities in education, employment, health, housing, sport, the arts and more. It's about connections, inspiration and building brighter futures together.

Changing Places at Fremont Park

Access that changes lives

The Changing Places facility at Fremont Park means people with complex support needs can fully enjoy one of Playford's most popular parks. With features like a height-adjustable adult change table and hoist, it provides dignity, safety and true inclusion for the whole community.

Projects that Build Everyday Skills

Confidence in the kitchen, at the shops, and in life

Our community projects focus on the everyday skills that build independence, inclusion and joy. Highlights include:

- Look 'n Cookbook – a step-by-step accessible recipe book designed by and for people with disability
- Everyday Money Skills – practical workshops supporting budgeting, banking and financial confidence
- Right Track Toolkit – co-designed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culturally and linguistically diverse communities, these resources support people to build confidence in understanding disability and navigating the NDIS.





Disability Snapshot





Disability Snapshot

Our community

Disability in our Community

Our community is vibrant and diverse, made up of people of all ages, genders, background and abilities.

There is no single statistic that perfectly measures the number of people living with disability in a council area. The Australian Census only records the number of people who need assistance with core activities such as self-care, mobility or communication.

However, we know disability is very diverse and not always visible. While many people need supports, not all people living with disability do, and some may not identify as having a disability. For instance, older people may see changes in their physical or cognitive changes as part of ageing, rather than as a disability.

Similarly, some autistic people may view their neurodivergence as a difference rather than a disability.

The statistics below provide some insight into the impact of disability in the City of Playford:

8,373 people or 8.4% of our community need assistance with core activities.

Of these people,



- 43 % are women
- 20 % are children
- 35 % are aged over 65
- 6 % are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- 12 % do not speak English at home



10% of our community provide unpaid care to people with a disability, health condition or due to old age

Source: ABS Census 2021



Disability Snapshot

Our workforce

The City of Playford values and celebrates the diversity within its workforce, which reflects the vibrant community we serve. According to the 2024 Workforce Diversity Survey, our staff represent a wide range of backgrounds, cultures, and lived experiences.

• **Cultural and Linguistic Diversity:**

17% of our workforce identify as being from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds. Staff speak a variety of languages other than English, including Serbian, Italian, Cambodian, Marathi, Kannada, Hindi, Mandarin, German, Filipino, Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, Russian, Ateso, Luganda, Dinka, Auslan, Greek, Punjabi, Japanese, South Sudanese, Afrikaans, Sinhala, and Khmer.

17%

• **Disability Inclusion:**

8% of respondents identify as a person living with disability or as disabled, highlighting the importance of ensuring our workplace is accessible and supportive for all.

8%

• **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Representation:**

3% of staff identify as Aboriginal, contributing valuable cultural knowledge and perspectives to our organisation.

3%

• **LGBTQIA+ Inclusion:**

7% of respondents identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community, reflecting our commitment to a safe and welcoming environment for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

7%

• These results demonstrate the City of Playford’s ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. A diverse workforce strengthens our organisation and enhances our ability to deliver accessible, responsive services to the community.

• **Gender Diversity:**

Our workforce is 51% female, with representation across a spectrum of gender identities, including non- binary and agender staff.

Female	91	51%
Female: She/Her	2	1.5%
Female & Assigned female at birth	1	0.5%
Cisgender Female	3	2%
Male	58	32%
Male: He/Him	1	0.5%
Agender	1	0.5%
Non-Binary	1	0.5%
XY	1	0.5%
Not Stated	20	11%



Policy and Legislative Framework





Policy and Legislation

The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) is shaped by a range of international, national, state, and local commitments. These frameworks guide how Council supports people with disability, ensuring our actions are aligned with broader efforts to promote inclusion, uphold human rights, and respond to emerging reforms.

International

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Acknowledges that people living with disability have the same human rights as other members of the community and that the State and the community have a responsibility to facilitate the exercise of those rights.

National

These national laws and strategies establish the legal and policy framework that Councils must operate within. They also set expectations for inclusive practices and continuous improvement in access and participation.

Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Australian)

Makes it unlawful to discriminate against a person, in many areas of public life, because of their disability.

Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031

Sets out a plan for all levels of government to continue to improve the lives of people with disability in Australia.

Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability

The report made 222 recommendations on how to improve laws, policies, structures and practices to ensure a more inclusive and just society that supports the independence of people with disability.

National Reform Agenda

Extensive reforms to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and the Australian Disability Strategy are reshaping how disability services are delivered across Australia. These changes will influence how Councils plan for access and inclusion, requiring greater flexibility and responsiveness and alignment with evolving priorities.



Policy and Legislation

South Australian

Disability Inclusion Act 2018

Acknowledges the equal human rights and promotes the independence and social and economic inclusion of people with disability.

Requires all State authorities (including Councils) to prepare and report on Disability Access and Inclusion Plans.

South Australian Disability Inclusion Plan 2025-2029

Identifies 5 domains of action for the state and local governments to achieve the vision of a South Australia where no one is left behind. Council DAIPs must align to the State Plan and include the measures assigned to local government.

South Australian Autism Strategy 2024-2029

NDIS data indicates that autism remains the largest disability group in South Australia, followed by intellectual disability. This Strategy sets out a five-year roadmap for the government to help improve the lives of Autistic people of all ages and their families



Shaping the DAIP





Shaping the DAIP

What is the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan?

This Disability Access and Inclusion Plan has been prepared by the City of Playford (Council). All councils in South Australia are required by legislation (law) to prepare a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP).

A DAIP says what a council will do to enable people with disability to access and be included in council places, services, events, employment and government representation. The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2025–2029 sets out the City of Playford's commitment to creating a community where people with disability have equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of life.

This DAIP is Council's roadmap for action over the next four years. It outlines the practical steps we will take to remove barriers, improve access, and ensure people with disability are included in the design and delivery of Council places, services, programs, employment opportunities, and decision-making.

The DAIP reflects the aspirations of our community and is shaped by the voices of people with disability, their families, carers, and support networks. It is not just a plan on paper - it is a statement of shared responsibility and a call to action across Council to embed access and inclusion into everything we do.

By delivering on this DAIP, the City of Playford will:

- Build on the progress achieved through our first DAIP (2020–2024).
- Contribute to the statewide vision of "a South Australia where no one is left behind."
- Support our local community vision of prosperity, liveability, and happiness for all.

This DAIP represents Council's ongoing commitment to creating an inclusive city where every person can contribute, belong, and thrive.



Shaping the DAIP

How to use this Plan

This Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) is designed to be a practical tool for Council, our partners, and the community. It outlines clear actions that will guide the City of Playford in removing barriers, creating opportunities, and embedding access and inclusion in all aspects of Council business.

The DAIP can be used in the following ways:

- **Council staff and Elected Members** to inform decision-making, service delivery, infrastructure planning, and community engagement. The DAIP acts as a whole-of-organisation commitment that ensures access and inclusion are considered across all programs, policies, and projects.
- **People with disability, families, and carers** to understand Council's priorities and hold us accountable to delivering meaningful improvements. The DAIP also highlights opportunities for people with disability to be involved in shaping our city.
- **Partners, service providers, and community organisations** to support collaboration and alignment with Council's work. The DAIP provides a shared framework for building an inclusive community together.
- **The wider community** to promote awareness, celebrate diversity, and encourage collective responsibility in making Playford accessible, welcoming, and inclusive for all.

The DAIP is not a static document. Council will report annually on progress and review actions regularly to ensure they remain relevant, achievable, and responsive to community needs.



Shaping the DAIP

DAIP Implementation

The City of Playford is committed to ensuring that the actions and strategies outlined in this plan are effectively delivered, monitored, and continuously improved. Implementation is a shared responsibility, involving Council, community leaders, stakeholders, and people with disability.

Group	Role	Membership
SA Department for Human Services	Oversees the implementation of the Disability Inclusion Act 2018 and the State Disability Inclusion Plan. Ensures Councils develop, implement, report on, and review DAIPs in accordance with the Act.	Chief Executive of the Department for Health
City of Playford Council (Elected Body)	Endorses the DAIP and approves budget allocations for its delivery. Tracks progress through the Council's Annual Report.	City of Playford Elected Members
Council Staff – Disability Access and Inclusion Responsibilities	Deliver, report, and review Council actions that support access and inclusion. Collaborate across departments and consult with the community to ensure initiatives meet needs. Coordinate and track progress through the Quality Coordinator, Disability Inclusion.	Nominated staff from all Council departments responsible for delivering actions. Staff contribute to planning, implementation, and reporting of inclusion initiatives.
Access & Inclusion Community Leaders (e.g., Access & Social Inclusion Advisory Group)	Provides guidance and advice on Council plans, projects, programs, services, and events from an access and inclusion perspective. Meets regularly to review initiatives and provide feedback during development phases.	People with disability, carers, family members, and service providers. Includes State Plan priority groups such as women, children, and people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds
Stakeholders	Collaborates with Council to support delivery of DAIP actions, including promotion of opportunities, consultation, and awareness.	Service providers and organisations representing women, children, and people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds



Shaping the DAIP

How we will plan, deliver and report on progress

Each year Council will identify and plan for actions to be delivered. Actions requiring new resources will be subject to approval as part of Council's Annual Business Plan and Budget process.

Progress will be reported annually to Elected Members and the Department for Human Services.

An interim review will be conducted to ensure consistency with any changes to the State Plan, legislation or law. Every 4 years the DAIP will be reviewed and updated in consultation with people with disability, the community and stakeholders.

Council will consistently monitor and adjust DAIP actions through:

- Consultation and feedback from Council staff, Elected Members, Access & Inclusion Community Leaders and stakeholders.
- Continuous improvement based on community feedback and emerging best practices.

This approach ensures accountability, transparency, and ongoing engagement with the people and communities the DAIP is designed to support.





Shaping the DAIP

Developing this DAIP

Steps undertaken to prepare the DAIP:

1. Background Paper (May 2025)

We prepared a background paper that outlined key information about our community, disability and how other levels of governments are planning for access and inclusion.

2. Community Engagement -Phase 1–Shaping the Plan (June - July 2025)

We invited community members, service providers, and stakeholders to help shape the Plan by sharing what worked well in the previous DAIP, what could be improved, and what priorities should guide the next one. Their feedback directly informed the draft DAIP.

3. Drafting the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (August – September 2025)

Following the release of the South Australian Disability Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 (August 2025) we began drafting our draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

Our strategy aligns with the guidelines, template, goals and measures for Councils in the South Australian Disability Inclusion Plan 2025-2029.

4. Community Engagement -Phase 2- Checking In (October – November 25)

We will return to the community to share the draft DAIP and check that it reflects what we heard. Feedback from this phase will help finalise the Plan.

5. Finalise Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (Early 2026)

We will revise the DAIP based on community feedback and present to Council for formal adoption. Once endorsed, both the full Strategy and an Easy Read version will be published on Council's website.

6. Close the Loop'

We will share the endorsed DAIP with the community and outline the next steps for implementation and reporting.



Shaping the DAIP

Listening to People with Disability

How we engaged

In June and July 2025 we reached out to people with disability their carers, families, service providers and other key stakeholders for feedback on:

- What worked well and what could be improved in the DAIP (2020–2024)
- Their top priorities for disability, access and inclusion in City of Playford
- Their big ideas on what they would like to see in the next DAIP (2025-2029)

To support participation for people with different needs, consultation materials were available in multiple formats. The Playford Engagement Hub also featured accessibility tools, including the UserWay accessibility widget, a built-in language translator, and a short video tutorial.

People provided feedback in a way that suited them best, including:

- Online surveys
- Face to face sessions
- Social media interactions
- Audio/video recordings or drawings
- Ideas wall on Engagement Hub
- Email submissions
- “Your Big Idea” proposals
- Dotmocracy voting activities
- Phone conversations

This mix of methods, offered in accessible formats, helped ensure a broad range of voices were heard.

- More than 2,600 people visited the project page
- Over 4,500 people saw social media posts
- Nearly 1,700 people opened project emails
- In total, 240 people provided direct feedback through these channels



Shaping the DAIP

What we heard

The feedback received shaped the following Top 5 priorities for our next DAIP:

1. Safe accessible footpaths, parking and crossings
2. Accessible public buildings and spaces
3. Public education on disability awareness
4. Inclusive events and programs
5. Programs and services for diverse community groups

A detailed summary of community feedback is available in the What We Heard report, which can be accessed on Playford Engagement Hub [City of Playford | Playford's New Disability Access and Inclusion Plan \(DAIP\)](#)





Shaping the DAIP

Action Plan: Domains, Priorities and Measures

Our DAIP is aligned to the State Plan, representing our local community needs and contributing to creating an accessible and inclusive South Australia

The State Plan domains and outcomes we will work towards are:



Inclusive environments and communities

All people with disability can participate as equal citizens and feel connected to their communities



Education and employment

All people with disability benefit from inclusive educational experiences, equitable employment opportunities and financial security



Personal and community support

All people with disability can access quality, tailored personal and community supports addressing their individual needs



Health and wellbeing

All people with disability can attain the highest possible health and wellbeing outcomes throughout their lives



Safety, rights and justice

All people with disability feel safe, have their rights upheld and have full and equal protection before the law

The following section follows the State Plan template required for Councils to use for their DAIP.

For each domain it lists the actions Council will deliver, when and how each action will be measured.

The State Plan includes compulsory measures that Councils must collect data for, to enable reporting on certain measures at a statewide level. These compulsory measures are shown with a State Plan reference number (e.g. State Plan 1.1.2).



DAIP actions table

Domain 1: Inclusive environments and communities



DAIP Actions table

Domain 1: Inclusive environments and communities

Outcome Statement: A South Australia where all people with disability can participate as equal citizens and feel connected to their communities

Objective: To influence community attitudes to remove discrimination and build a South Australian community that values difference and respects the contributions people with disability make to our communities. This includes ensuring the community itself is fully accessible.

Priority Areas for Domain 1

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | Active participation | 5 | Communications and information |
| 2 | Inclusive communities and attitudes | 6 | Transportation |
| 3 | Universal Design | 7 | Collaboration, consultation and innovation |
| 4 | Accessible facilities | 8 | Housing |

Priority Area 1: Active participation

Outcome: People with disability are active participants in accessible and inclusive communities.

No	Action	Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility
1	Provide social and recreation programs, events and activities that are accessible and inclusive of people with disability including children, young people and adults of diverse cultural, social, and community backgrounds.	The number of inclusive and accessible events, both internal and external, with 50+ people following best practice event management principles (State Plan 1.1.2)	Ongoing	Connection & Inclusion
2	Develop and follow accessible event guidelines to enable the inclusion of people with disability in all City of Playford events.		Year 1	Connection & Inclusion Events
3	Identify the factors that enable people with disability, from diverse ages, cultures, and gender identities, including LGBTQIA+ communities, to participate in community programs and events, and apply these learnings in practice.		Year 1	Connection & Inclusion
4	Provide information about the accessibility features of all City of Playford events and programs and ask questions about access and cultural needs in registrations.		Ongoing	Connection & Inclusion Events



DAIP actions table

Domain 1: Inclusive environments and communities



Priority Area 2: Inclusive communities and attitudes

Outcome: People with disability are respected and included in their communities, where inclusive attitudes and behaviours are widely demonstrated.

No.	Action	Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility
5	Provide disability access and inclusion training to Council members, staff, and volunteers.	The number of initiatives undertaken to promote disability inclusion and improve community attitudes towards people with disability in the community, including:	Ongoing	Organisational Development
6	Support local businesses and community groups and organisations to become more accessible and inclusive for people with disability.	- The number of staff and volunteers participating in disability awareness training, including Universal Design. - The number of workplace initiatives promoting disability inclusion.	Ongoing	Economic Development Connection & Inclusion
7	Collaborate with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations to identify and implement ways Council can support Aboriginal people with disability and their families, ensuring inclusion is part of everyday community life. Respect, empathy, advocacy, and the promotion of independence are prioritised so that everyone feels valued, engaged, and able to participate and contribute.	The number of actions embedded in our DAIP working towards Closing the Gap targets. (State Plan 1.2.3)	Ongoing	Connection & Inclusion
8	Facilitate opportunities for the community to connect, learn about, and celebrate disability through inclusive events and educational workshops, fostering awareness, understanding, and participation for all.	Feedback and reflections from participants on increased awareness, understanding, and sense of inclusion following events/workshops. Documented examples of how events or workshops contributed to community awareness and positive attitudes toward people with disability.	Ongoing	Connection & Inclusion Events & Activation



DAIP actions table

Domain 1: Inclusive environments and communities



Priority Area 3: Universal Design

Outcome: Everyone in South Australia can access and enjoy inclusive and accessible natural and built environments.

No.	Action	Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility
9	Follow universal design principles in the upgrade, construction and maintenance of buildings, facilities, public realm and open space in-line with community needs and Council budgets.	The number of public-facing council buildings, spaces, play spaces and infrastructure that are modified to improve accessibility. For example, by adding signage or widening doors.	Ongoing	Assets & Delivery Operations
10	Build, upgrade and maintain Council footpaths, paths, trails and crossings to be accessible and safe in-line with community needs and Council budgets.	The number of upgrades to parks, reserves, beaches and playgrounds (within these areas) that are built or modified to improve accessibility.	Ongoing	Assets & Delivery
11	Provide or make improvements to Council on- street and facility accessible parking spaces and drop-off zones.	The number of new council developments that incorporate Universal Design.	Ongoing	Assets & Delivery
12	Prioritise accessibility upgrades at Council owned community venues to enable participation.	(State Plan 1.3.2)	Ongoing	Assets & Delivery
13	Educate developers about the benefits and opportunities of incorporating universal design into commercial or housing developments	Description of outcomes delivered	Ongoing	Assets & Delivery



DAIP actions table

Domain 1: Inclusive environments and communities



Priority Area 4: Accessible facilities

Outcome: People with disability can access public toilet facilities that meet their needs when out in the community.

No.	Action	Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility
14	Upgrade or install new accessible toilets or changing places facilities in-line with community needs and Council budgets.	The number of public council owned toilet facilities across the council area that meet accessibility standards and/or a designated Changing Places facility. (State Plan 1.4.1)	Ongoing	Assets & Delivery

Priority Area 5: Communications and information

Outcome: People with disability can find the information they need in the format(s) they need it in.

No	Action	Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility
15	Ensure Council venue information, including access features and visual stories, is available in accessible formats online and in hard copy to support inclusion.	The number of resources or materials that have been developed in accessible formats. For example, websites that meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2 level AA accessibility standard or above, Auslan translations and Easy Read documents. (State Plan 1.5.1)	Year 1	Marketing & Communications Connection and Inclusion
16	Continue to provide accessible communication through plain language, different formats and assistive tools		Ongoing	Marketing & Communications
17	Introduce visual communication supports at Council service points, including libraries, community centres, and customer service desks, to facilitate inclusive engagement for people with diverse communication needs.		Year 1	Connection & Inclusion



DAIP actions table

Domain 1: Inclusive environments and communities



Priority Area 6: Transportation

Outcome: People with disability can get to where they need to go safely.

No.	Action	Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility
18	Advocate for improved and inclusive transport options that meet the needs of people with disability, ensuring they can travel safely, affordably, and independently to access employment, education, services, and community activities.	The number and quality of Council advocacy actions undertaken to improve inclusive transport options for people with disability.	Ongoing	Assets & Delivery + Advocacy Executive

Priority Area 7: Collaboration, consultation and innovation

Outcome: People with disability are actively involved in government decisions that affect their lives.

No.	Action	Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility
19	Undertake community engagement activities using accessible information and tools, promote it to disability networks and share outcomes	The number of public consultations that included and sought input from people with disability. (State Plan 1.7.1)	Ongoing	Community Insights
20	Sustain and enhance the Access and Social Inclusion Advisory Group, providing meaningful engagement for members and leveraging their input in the planning and design of major Council projects and programs.	The number of people with disability, including parents and carers, serving on committees and working groups. (State Plan 1.7.2)	Ongoing	Connection & Inclusion
21	Ensure questions about disability access and inclusion are in Council's annual community survey.	Community perceptions of Council's progress on disability access and inclusion, are reflected in survey responses and themes. Qualitative feedback from survey respondents on barriers and opportunities for improving inclusion.	Ongoing	Community Insights



DAIP actions table

Domain 2: Education and employment



Domain 2: Education and employment

Outcome Statement: A South Australia where all people with disability benefit from inclusive educational experiences, equitable employment opportunities and financial security

Objective: To ensure equal opportunity to learning and earning is achieved by addressing the barriers and obstacles people with disability of all ages continue to face at all levels of the education and employment experience.

Priority Areas for Domain 2

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Targeted knowledge, understanding and support | 4 | Access to employment opportunities |
| 2 | Supports and resources for children and young people | 5 | Inclusive working environments |
| 3 | Targeted transitional supports | 6 | Data and reporting |

Priority Area 3: Targeted transitional supports

People with disability have supportive environments to learn, grow, and transition throughout their life

No.	Action	Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility
22	Develop diverse and meaningful volunteering opportunities through accessible and inclusive promotion, administration, support.	The number of initiatives taken to encourage people with disability to volunteer. (State Plan 2.3.5)	Ongoing	Connection & Inclusion
23	Strengthen lifelong learning opportunities by ensuring Council's spaces and programs are accessible and inclusive of people with disability including children, young people and adults of diverse cultural, social, and community backgrounds	Examples of participation outcomes showing people with disability are supported to engage, learn, and transition throughout life.	Ongoing	Library Services



DAIP actions table

Domain 2: Education and employment



Priority Area 4: Access to employment opportunities

People with disability have opportunities to achieve, develop and succeed in their chosen fields

No.	Action	Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility
24	Adopt accessible and inclusive recruitment guidelines and build the capacity of human resources staff and hiring managers to implement them effectively.	The number of organisational changes adopted to improve inclusive recruitment for people with disability. For example, tailoring roles to fit individuals and employer incentives. (State Plan 2.4.3)	Year 1 and Ongoing	Organisational Development
25	Deliver community "expo" events that promote opportunities for participation, leadership and employment for people with disability.	Highlighting improvements or adjustments made to the events based on participant feedback or sector collaboration.	Ongoing	Connection & Inclusion Economic Development



DAIP actions table

Domain 2: Education and employment



Priority Area 5: Inclusive working environments

Outcome: People with disability have access to supportive places to earn.

No.	Action	Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility
26	Adopt universal design principles in the upgrade or construction of new workplace environments.	The number of workplace practices implemented to support people with disability to have equal opportunities for growth and success, including support to remain in employment. For example, outcome-based employment, flexible work arrangements, workplace adjustments and mentoring programs. (State Plan 2.5.1)	Ongoing	Assets & Delivery, Asset Operations
27	Explore and put in place practices that promote inclusive employment for staff with disability through assistive technologies, flexible or outcome-based work arrangements, and appropriate workplace supports.		Year 1 and Ongoing	Organisational Development
28	Support staff in leading inclusive teams by providing targeted guidance, mentoring, and development opportunities focused on disability inclusion.		Year 1 and Ongoing	Organisational Development



DAIP actions table

Domain 3: Personal and community support



Domain 3: Personal and community support.

Outcome statement: A South Australia where people with disability can access quality, tailored personal and community supports addressing their individual needs.

Objective: To build a service system in South Australia that takes a person-centred approach that recognises the contributions and potential of all people with disability.

Priority Areas for Domain 3

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Accessibility | 4. Family and carer support |
| 2. Advocacy and supports | 5. Programs |
| 3. Information sharing | |

Priority Area 1: Accessibility

Outcome: People with disability can easily access community supports and services.

No.	Action	Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility
29	Connect people with disability to Council and local services by maintaining accessible information across digital and print channels.	The number of council initiatives and improvements made to connect people with disability to community supports and services wherever they present. For example, referral hubs, mobile outreach, online information platforms, frontline worker training, and partnerships with community organisations. (State Plan 3.1.1)	Ongoing	Marketing & Communications
30	Engage with community and sector experts to inform, design, and deliver targeted programs and services that are inclusive and responsive to the needs of people with disability.		Ongoing	Connection & Inclusion



DAIP actions table

Domain 3: Personal and community support



Priority Area 2: Advocacy and supports

People with disability are supported to make their own choices and use advocacy when needed to protect and promote their rights

No.	Action	Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility
31	Maintain dedicated staff resources to advocate for disability inclusion and provide clear contact points for the community.	Description of outcomes delivered through Council advocacy and accessible contact points for people with disability.	Ongoing	Connection & Inclusion

Priority Area 3: Information sharing

People with disability receive more coordinated and effective support when services work together and share information

No.	Action	Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility
32	Participate in the Local Government Access and Inclusion Network.	The number of inter-agency meetings and initiatives to support the implementation of the State Plan and our DAIP. (State Plan 3.3.1)	Ongoing	Connection & Inclusion
33	Partner with the Sunflower Project to acknowledge and support people with hidden or invisible disabilities.		Year 1 and ongoing	Connection & Inclusion
34	Be responsive to new partnerships to improve disability access and inclusion.		Ongoing	Connection & Inclusion



DAIP actions table

Domain 3: Personal and community support



Priority Area 5: Programs

Outcome: Government-funded programs and services include disability-specific provisions to enable full and equal participation.

No.	Action	Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility
35	Review Council grant programs to make them more inclusive, enabling people with disability to participate fully and equally in opportunities that deliver positive outcomes.	The number of council grants and funding amount distributed to enhance disability inclusion. (State Plan 3.5.1)	Year 1 and ongoing	Connection & Inclusion



DAIP actions table

Domain 4: Health and wellbeing



Domain 4: Health and wellbeing

Outcome Statement: A South Australia where all people with disability can attain the highest possible health and wellbeing outcomes throughout their lives

Objective: To have a well-connected health and mental health sector that is easy to access, navigate and interact with for all people with disability.

Priority Areas for Domain 4

1. Inclusive infrastructure
2. Targeted knowledge, understanding and support
3. Supports and interventions

Priority Area 2: Targeted knowledge, understanding and support

People with disability can access healthcare that is inclusive and responsive to the intersectionality and diversity of disability, recognising the important role of carers.

No.	Action	Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility
36	Engage with government agencies, health providers, and disability sector experts to advocate for accessible and inclusive health and wellbeing services that respond to the diverse needs of people with disability.	Description of outcomes delivered through Council advocacy, including improvements in accessibility, inclusiveness, and responsiveness of health and wellbeing services for people with disability, and increased sector awareness of diverse needs and carer perspectives.	Ongoing	Advocacy Executive Connection & Inclusion



DAIP actions table

Domain 4: Health and wellbeing



Priority Area 3: Supports and interventions

Outcome: People with disability receive coordinated health supports that meet their needs, with stronger connections between mental health and disability services.

No.	Action	Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility
37	Collaborate with community organisations and health providers to design and deliver inclusive, accessible health and wellbeing programs and supports for people with disability.	Description of outcomes delivered through Council-led collaborations, including increased accessibility, inclusiveness, and responsiveness of health and wellbeing programs and supports, and enhanced participation and engagement of people with disability.	Ongoing	Connection & Inclusion
38	Partner with dental institutions, practitioners, and disability stakeholders to strengthen access to oral health care and promote improved dental hygiene for people with intellectual disability.	Description of outcomes delivered highlighting examples of resources, pathways, or programs developed to address barriers and improve oral health outcomes.	Year 1 and ongoing	Connection & Inclusion



DAIP actions table

Domain 5: Safety, rights and justice



Domain 5: Safety, rights and justice

Outcome Statement: A South Australia where all people with disability feel safe, have their rights upheld and have full and equal protection before the law

Objective: To improve the safety and overall experience of people with disability coming into contact with our emergency services, criminal justice and civil law systems.

Priority Areas for Domain 5

1. Targeted knowledge, understanding and support
2. Responding to emergencies
3. Support and navigating the justice system
4. Consultation and collaboration
5. Safeguarding

Priority Area 2: Responding to emergencies

Outcome: People with disability are kept safe during emergencies, with their needs planned for and prioritised.

No.	Action	Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility
39	Embed Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) into council emergency planning, and train staff to support people with disability	The number of emergency response resources and systems developed for people with disability, including the Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) approach. (State Plan 5.2.1)	Year 1 and ongoing	Work Health & Safety



DAIP actions table

Domain 5: Safety, rights and justice



Priority Area 5: Safeguarding

Outcome: People with disability can access effective, inclusive and responsive safeguarding supports and services.

No.	Action	Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility
40	Apply appropriate safeguards, checks and accreditation for staff or volunteers working with vulnerable people with disability.	Ongoing use, maintenance, and improvement of safeguarding policies, procedures, and compliance measures for staff and volunteers supporting people with disability.	Ongoing	Organisational Development



Glossary and Definitions

Include definitions of key terms, abbreviations and explanation of terminology that may be unfamiliar.

Access and Inclusion – Ensuring that people with disability can participate fully, equally, and independently in community life by removing physical, social, cultural, and systemic barriers.

Accessible Formats – Information provided in ways that suit different needs, such as Easy Read, Auslan, captions, large print, Braille, or screen-reader compatible digital documents.

Carer – A person who provides unpaid support to a family member or friend who has a disability, health condition, mental illness, or who is ageing.

Changing Places – Fully accessible public toilet facilities with specialised equipment such as hoists and adult change tables for people with high support needs.

Co-design – A collaborative process where people with lived experience, including people with disability, work alongside organisations to design, plan, and deliver projects, programs, or services.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) – Refers to people who identify as having a cultural heritage and/or language background other than English.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) – A legislated plan prepared by South Australian councils and other State authorities under the Disability Inclusion Act 2018, setting out actions to improve access and inclusion for people with disability.

Intersectionality – Recognising that people may experience overlapping forms of disadvantage or discrimination based on disability, race, gender, sexuality, culture, socio-economic status, or other identities.

Neurodivergent – A term used to describe people whose brain functions differ from what is considered typical, such as autistic people or people with ADHD, dyslexia, or Tourette's syndrome.

Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) – An approach that ensures the needs and capabilities of people with disability are included in emergency management planning.

Person-first language – Language that places the person before their disability (e.g. "person with disability"), emphasising individuality and humanity.

Priority Cohorts – Groups of people with disability who may experience additional barriers, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, women, children, older people, LGBTQIA+ people, or carers.

Universal Design – A design approach that creates buildings, environments, products, and services usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation.

UNCRPD – The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, an international treaty affirming the rights and dignity of people with disability.



Acknowledgments

Acknowledge the individuals, groups and organisations who contributed to the development and implementation of your DAIP.

The City of Playford gratefully acknowledges the invaluable contributions of individuals, groups, and organisations who supported the development of this Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025–2029. Their insights, lived experiences, and dedication have been essential in shaping a plan that reflects the needs, aspirations, and diversity of our community.

We extend our sincere thanks to:

- Members of Council's Access & Social Inclusion Advisory Group, for their ongoing guidance, advice, and commitment to ensuring community voices are central to Council decision-making.
- People with disability, their families, carers, and loved ones, whose lived experiences provided critical insights into the barriers, opportunities, and priorities for inclusion in our community.
- Disability service providers, who contributed their expertise, shared sector perspectives, and supported engagement with people with disability across the City.
- Community members and volunteers, who provided feedback, participated in consultations, and helped to shape initiatives that make the City of Playford more welcoming and accessible for everyone.

We also acknowledge Urban & Regional Planning Solutions, whose professional facilitation of consultation activities, research, and support throughout the DAIP development process ensured a robust, inclusive, and evidence-informed plan.

The City of Playford thanks all contributors for their generosity, expertise, and dedication. This plan reflects a shared commitment to building a more accessible, inclusive, and thriving community.



Contact Details

City of Playford

08 08256 0333

playford@playford.sa.gov.au

12 Bishopstone Road Davoren Park SA 5113

This Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) is available on the City of Playford website www.playford.sa.gov.au . Including versions in alternative formats, (such as Easy Read and screen reader word files).

For any further accessibility requests please contact Playford@playford.sa.gov.au or 08 8256 0333

STAFF REPORTS

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE AND REFERRED TO COUNCIL

***Matters which can be delegated
to a Committee or Staff but the
Council has decided not to
delegate them***

5.2 COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND GRANT PROGRAM - 2025/26 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT (ROUND 1)

Responsible Executive Manager : Tina Hudson

Report Author : Amy Godfrey

Delegated Authority : Matters which can be delegated to a Committee or Staff but the Council has decided not to delegate them

Attachments :

1. Community Support and Grant Program Policy
2. Community Support and Grant Program Procedure - Community Development Grant
3. Community Support and Grant Program - Community Development Grant Guidelines
4. Grant Applications Recommended for Funding
5. Grant Applications Not Recommended for Funding

PURPOSE

This report seeks approval for the allocation of funding to the successful applicants for Round One (1) of the 2025/26 Community Development Grant.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Council approves the provision of funding for Round One of the 2025/26 Community Development Grant applications as follows:

Applicant	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Recommended for funding:		
Andrews Farm Soccer and Community Club	\$4,000	\$4,000
Burundian Community of SA Inc	\$5,000	\$4,800
Geocaching SA Inc	\$3,500	\$3,500
Hands of Hope Foundation Inc	\$5,000	\$5,000
The Village Co SA Ltd	\$5,000	\$4,350
Threads of Many Lands Sewing Group	\$5,000	\$5,000
Not recommended for funding:		
International Humanitarian Provision Care	\$5,000	NIL
Little Mumin Inc	\$5,000	NIL
Lyell Indian Malayalees Cultural Association (LIMCA) Inc	\$5,000	
Midway Road Community House	\$2690.53	NIL
Smithfield Sports and Social Club	\$5,000	NIL
SA Bhutanese Disability Association Inc	\$5,000	NIL
	\$55,190.53	\$26,650

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Development Grant category within the Community Support and Grant Program - Community Development Grant Guidelines (Attachment 3) aims to encourage and

develop local community projects and assists a range of community groups to make a positive contribution to community and cultural life in the City of Playford. The Community Development Grant offers financial support to non-profit community organisations, local groups, and incorporated associations, and are assessed by a cross-functional staff panel.

There are two (2) rounds of the Community Development Grant available in each financial year, with \$32,226 available in each round, for a maximum of \$5,000 available per application. There are specific eligibility and priority criteria against which applications are assessed by the Grant Assessment Panel as outlined in the Community Support and Grant Program Policy (Attachment 1), Community Support and Grant Program Procedure - Community Development Grant (Attachment 2) and Community Support and Grant Program - Community Development Grant Guidelines (Attachment 3).

Round One of the 2025/26 Community Development Grant opened on Monday 11 August 2025 and closed on Friday 19 September 2025. A total of 12 grant applications were received, two (2) applications were submitted by SA Bhutanese Disability Association Inc for the same project and were considered as one application.

The Grant Assessment Panel have recommended six (6) successful grant applications, with a reduction on some of the requested funding. This recommendation has been made with the aim to support as many applications as possible that meet eligibility and priority criteria within the available budget.

This report outlines the Grant Assessment Panel's recommendation for successful applicants for Round One of the 2025/26 Community Development Grant, for Council's endorsement.

1. BACKGROUND

There are two (2) rounds of the Community Development Grant program available in each financial year and there are specific eligibility and priority criteria against which applications are assessed as contained in attachments 1,2 and 3.

Where groups communicate with us about their application, the Grants Officer also offers one-on-one sessions to discuss their project or event proposal, to assist in the application process. The Grants Officer took a proactive approach to supporting the groups in preparing their application by offering support at every stage of the application writing process. There were several applicants in this round who didn't utilise this resource and will be followed up accordingly to provide clear feedback to strengthen future grant applications.

2. RELEVANCE TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Theme 3: Fostering collaboration and connection to each other.

The Community Development Grant offers financial support to community organisations, groups or associations to deliver activities, programs and events across the Playford region that increase social inclusion, build community capacity and strengthen connections.

Community Theme 4: Activating and facilitating welcoming community spaces and events.

Through the Community Development Grant, community organisations, groups or associations are supported in activating venues and spaces in Playford.

3. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

There is no requirement to consult the community on this matter.

4. DISCUSSION

- 4.1 The Connection and Inclusion team works in partnership with the Sport and Property and Marketing, Communications and Events teams to promote the availability of the Community Development Grants throughout the course of each year.

A targeted marketing approach included the following:

- An email to over 200 Playford community groups and sporting clubs;
- Facebook social media posts; and
- Information available on Council's website

- 4.2 The Grants Officer is available to answer questions and provide guidance during the application process. It is an organisation's responsibility to determine whether the Grants Officer's advice is taken into consideration when applying.

- 4.3 In accordance with the current Procedures and Guidelines, all the applications were assessed by a Panel of staff consisting of:

- Senior Manager - Ageing and Inclusion
- Manager -Connection and Inclusion
- Manager - Youth
- Senior Financial Analyst

- 4.4 12 Applications totalling \$55,190.53 were received by Council.

- 4.5 The Panel's recommendation for allocation of funding to six (6) applicants is detailed in the Grant Applications Recommended for Funding (Attachment 4), including justification for recommending a reduction in awarded funding where relevant.

- 4.6 The remaining six (6) applications have been documented in the Grant Applications Not Recommended for Funding (Attachment 5), including the Panel's comments as to why they have not been recommended and what alternate options are available for funding these applications.

- 4.7 The total Community Development Grant funding available in the 2025/26 financial year is \$64,452. The staff recommendation would see \$26,650 allocated to successful grant recipients in this round, leaving \$37,802 to be allocated to the final Community Development Grant round for the 2025/26 financial year.

- 4.8 From the applications received that were not recommended to be funded, there were a number that have the potential to deliver strong community development outcomes. However, these applications did not provide evidence to demonstrate key eligibility requirements and therefore could not be recommended for funding this round. The Grant Assessment Panel suggest the Grants Officer to provide clear feedback on missing information and recommend these community groups reapply in the next available funding round.

5. OPTIONS

Recommendation

Council approves the provision of funding for Round One of the 2025/26 Community Development Grant applications as follows:

Applicant	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Recommended for funding:		
Andrews Farm Soccer and Community Club	\$4,000	\$4,000
Burundian Community of SA Inc	\$5,000	\$4,800
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Not recommended for funding:		
International Humanitarian Provision Care	\$5,000	NIL
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Midway Road Community House	\$2690.53	NIL
Smithfield Sports and Social Club	\$5,000	NIL
SA Bhutanese Disability Association Inc	\$5,000	NIL
	\$55,190.53	\$26,650

Option 2

Council approves the provision of funding for Round One of the 2025/26 Community Development Grant applications as per (Attachment 4), with the following amendments:

- _____
- _____
- _____

6. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

6.1 Recommendation Analysis

6.1.1 Analysis & Implications of the Recommendation

Applications have been individually assessed by a panel of staff, with recommendations made after thorough assessment and analysis against current criteria and guidelines. Where relevant, the knowledge and expertise of other staff has also been sought.

The recommended applications align with the endorsed 2024 Community Support and Grant Program Policy, Community Support and Grant Program Procedure, and Community Support and Grant Program - Community Development Grant Guidelines (Attachments 1, 2 and 3).

Risk Appetite

Financial Sustainability

Council has a low appetite for short-term financial risk that adversely impacts on the delivery of the long term financial plan and the Council's overall stability and sustainability.

This decision alleviates financial risk associated with the funding decisions as the recommendation aligns with the associated Policy, Procedures and Guidelines (Attachments 1, 2 and 3).

6.1.2 Financial Implications

There are no financial or resource implications as the total amount of funding recommended will be resourced within the current budget.

There is a total of \$64,452 allocated to this grant category for the 2025/26 financial year and a maximum amount of \$32,226 to this round.

The total amount of funding sought and recommended in the Community Development Grant round is detailed below.

Total Budget (current round)	Total Funding Recommended	Budget Deficit / Surplus
\$32,226	\$26,650	\$5,576 surplus

Endorsement of the recommendation will leave a total of \$37,802 available in this category in the second round of Community Development Grants (opening in February 2026).

6.2 Option 2 Analysis

6.2.1 Analysis & Implications of Option 2

This option provides Council the opportunity to make amendments to the staff recommendation. However, it should be noted that the staff recommended applications align with the associated Policy, Procedure and Guidelines (Attachments 1, 2 and 3).

Any changes to the recommendation would potentially be inconsistent with the Policy, Procedure and Guidelines as applied in this instance.

6.2.2 Financial Implications

Increasing an applicant's funding or including additional recipients could create a deficit in the 2025/26 budget which could leave less funding available in the next round.

Community Support and Grant Program Policy



Policy Author	General Manager City Services
Date of next review	April 2027

1. Statement of Intent

The Council is committed to delivering a Community Support and Grant Program that ensures fairness, transparency and consistency when assessing, recommending, and approving applications using defined criteria as set out in the guidelines.

The Community Support and Grant Program offers financial and in-kind support, partnership opportunities and subsidized or no cost accommodation in an identified Council community facility to community organisations, groups and associations which contribute to creating a vibrant and stimulating place for people to live, work or visit. Grants are also offered to individuals who are residents and who have made an outstanding achievement in their chosen field of endeavour, and young people who find cost a barrier to participating in club or organised sport to encourage sport and social recreation.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to eligible incorporated community groups and individuals who are residents.

3. Legislation and References

This Policy is to be read in conjunction with the Community Development Support Grant Procedure.

Related documents include:

- *Local Government Act 1999* – Section 137, 7(c) and 7(h)
- Community Support Grant Program Procedure – Community Development Grant
- Community Support Grant Program Procedure – Individual and Equipment Grant
- Community Support Grant Program Procedure – Building Spaces Support
- Community Support Grant Program Procedure – Financial Support
- Community Support Grant Program Procedure – Program and Event Support
- Building Spaces Support Program Guidelines
- Club Participation Sponsorship Grant Guidelines
- Community Development and Event Grant Guidelines
- Equipment Grant Guidelines
- Outstanding Achievement Grant Guidelines
- Program and Event Sponsorship Guidelines
- Program and Event Sponsorship Tracking Tool
- City of Playford Strategic Plan

- City of Playford Global Glossary

This Policy should not be considered as the only document that may relate to community development grants, other tiers of government, agencies or organisations may have legislation or policies that also apply.

4. Application

Council Members	Ensure the Policy and Procedure are adhered to when endorsing Community Development and Event Grants and Building Spaces and Financial Support applications.
Chief Executive Officer	Delegate to appropriate staff to ensure compliance with this Policy.
General Manager City Services	Approve requests from Grants Officers to reallocate budgeted funds from an undersubscribed grant category into an oversubscribed grant category to provide flexibility across categories based on community need.
Senior Manager Ageing and Inclusion	Ensure the Policy and Procedure are adhered to across the application of the Community Support Grant Program.
Manager Connection and Inclusion	Ensure the Policy and Procedure are adhered to in the assessment of Council's Community Development and Event Grant, Equipment Grant, Outstanding Achievement Grant and Club Participation Sponsorship applications.
Grants Officer	Implement the Policy and ensure it is adhered to when supporting applicants in the assessment of Community Development and Event Grant, Equipment Grant, Outstanding Achievement Grant and Club Participation Sponsorship applications. Council Members be invited to attend a celebration to recognise successful Community Development and Event Grant recipients.
Grant Assessment Panel Members	Ensure the Policy and Procedure are adhered to in the assessment of the Community Development and Event Grant, Financial Support Program, Building Spaces Support Program and relevant Programs and Events Support applications.
Employees	May be requested to assist the assessment panel on an as-needs basis and offer specialised knowledge in relation to a particular topic or applicant.

5. Relevance to Risk Appetite Statement

Financial Sustainability

The City of Playford has a **LOW** appetite for short-term financial risk that adversely impacts on the delivery of the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and the City of Playford's overall financial stability and sustainability, as such, this Policy will try to enforce consistency on funding allocations and predetermining the maximum amount of funding an organisation can receive per grant application.

Reputation

The City of Playford has a **LOW** appetite for negative perceptions that compromise its credibility and reputation, and as such, this Policy outlines the parameters for administering the Community Development Grant Program to ensure it is fair, transparent and consistent.

6. Feedback

Your feedback on this Policy is invited and can be directed to the Manager Governance via email to governance@playford.sa.gov.au or by calling the Customer Contact Team on 8256 0333.

Administration use only

ECM document set no.	3948694
Version no.	4
Procedure link	Community Support Grant Program Procedure
Policy author	General Manager City Services
Endorsed by	Council
Resolution no.	5868
Legal requirement	N/A
Review schedule	3 Years - per Grant Review Cycle
Date of current version	May 2024
Date of next review	May 2027

Version history

Version no.	Approval date	Approval by	Change
1	17 April 2018	Ordinary Council Resolution No. 3132	New Policy
2	28 May 2019	Ordinary Council Resolution No. 3575	Amended Policy
3	27 April 2021	Ordinary Council Resolution No 4535	Procedural content removed and added to separate procedure.



New policy statement outlines
City of Playford commitment to
a Community Development
Grants Program.

4

28 May 2024

Ordinary Council
Resolution No 5868Amended Policy

Community Support and Grant Program Procedure – Community Development Grant



Procedure Author	General Manager – City Services
Date of next review	May 2027

1. Purpose

Council recognises that community funding and partnerships can provide a significant opportunity to work collaboratively with community groups, organisations and individuals to deliver activities that increase social inclusion, build community capacity and strengthen connections within the community.

This Procedure details the Community Development Grant category of the Community Support and Grant Program offered by the City of Playford and references the tools used to assess and approve applications for this category.

2. References and Supporting Documentation

This Procedure is to be read in conjunction with the Community Support and Grant Program Policy and relevant documents referenced.

3. Application

Council Members	Adoption of the Procedure. Endorse successful applicants in adherence with the Procedure and associated documents.
Mayor	Acknowledge and recognise successful grant recipients by attending a celebration and providing a certificate of achievement.
Chief Executive Officer	Ensure the Procedure is implemented and subject to periodic evaluation and review. Approval of changes to the associated Guidelines.
General Manager City Services	Approve requests from the Grants Officer to reallocate budgeted funds from an undersubscribed grant category into an oversubscribed grant category to provide flexibility across categories based on community need.
Manager Connection and Inclusion	Prepare a Council Decision Report with recommendation from Grant Assessment Panel on successful applicants for Council Member consideration and endorsement.

Grants Officer	Provide guidance to applicants to support their understanding in meeting eligibility criteria in the Procedure and associated documents. Ensure Council Members are invited to attend a celebration to recognise successful grant recipients.
Grant Assessment Panel Members	Assess applications in accordance with the Procedure and associated documents and make a recommendation on successful applicants to Council Members.
Employees	Other employees may be requested to assist the assessment panel on an as needs basis and offer specialised knowledge in relation to a particular topic or applicant.

4. Procedure

4.1 Category Description

The Community Development Grant offers financial support to community organisations, local groups and associations for proposals which:

- Deliver innovative, creative or new opportunities for the Playford community to become involved in their local community.
- Encourage and support arts, cultural development, physical activity, health and wellbeing.
- Demonstrate collaboration between organisations and the local community to maximise community benefit.
- Develop and initiate locally based events, exhibitions and/or performances which make a positive contribution to community and cultural life in Playford.

4.2 Assessment and Endorsement

Applications can be submitted throughout the year but will be assessed twice a year during the assessment round process.

- Round One will formally open in August and is assessed by Council at the November Strategy and Services Committee and Ordinary Council meetings, or a meeting prior to caretaker period (in Council election years).
- Round Two will formally open in February and is assessed by Council at the May Services Committee and Ordinary Council meetings.

Groups can consist of as little as two people to larger, community organisations and must involve the local community (e.g. residents, community groups and organisations, shops, businesses, etc.).

Applications must be submitted using the application form published by the Council on its website or by such other means as detailed in the associated Guidelines.

Applications will be assessed against detailed criteria outlined in the associated Guideline by a Grant Assessment Panel of employees within the Ageing and Inclusion, Child and Family Wellbeing, Sport and Property and Finance Departments. and other relevant Departments as required. Other employees may be requested to assist on the Grant Assessment Panel on an as needs basis and offer specialised knowledge.

Final endorsement of successful applicants will occur via a Council Decision Report which will include the Grant Assessment Panel members and justification for recommendation to Council.

Successful applicants in this category will be ineligible if they have also received support within the Program and Event Support category for the same event in the same year.

To meet eligibility criteria, applicants must contact Council before submitting an application in the subsequent year. This is to support applicants in reducing their risk of not meeting eligibility criteria prior to submitting their application.

Council will endeavour to support as many eligible proposals as possible within available budget.

4.3 Auspicing

Community Development Grant applicants must be a community group or organisation and legally constituted or can demonstrate that they are auspiced by a legally constituted organisation, such as an incorporated organisation, who will agree to take legal and financial responsibility for any grant monies received from the Council.

4.4 Acknowledgements

City of Playford is to be formally recognised as a sponsor/partner on all publicity and promotional material. Successfully funded organisations will be provided with a copy of the logo and Brand Guidelines to ensure appropriate application.

4.5 Reporting and Acquittals

Projects or initiatives funded under the Community Development Grant category must be completed and funding acquitted within twelve months of completion.

4.6 Debt Collection Process

Any funding that has not been successfully acquitted within the allocated timeframe (either outstanding or incomplete acquittals) will be invoiced for the return of funds.

If the funds are not returned within 90 days, Council will begin debt recovery proceedings.

Entities that have been through the debt recovery process in any Community Support and Grant category will be ineligible until funds are returned.

4.7 Caretaker Period

Council will not endorse any Decision Reports requiring Council assessment during a caretaker period.

Any assessments for the Community Development Grant category will be assessed by Council at a meeting prior to a caretaker period (in Council election years).

5. Feedback

Your feedback on this Procedure is invited and can be directed to the Manager Governance via email to governance@playford.sa.gov.au or by calling the Customer Contact Team on 8256 0333.

Administration use only

ECM document set no.	4449306
Version no.	2
Policy link	Community Support and Grant Program Policy

Procedure author	General Manager – City Services
Endorsed by	Council
Resolution no.	5868
Legal requirement	N/A
Review schedule	3 Years – per Grant Review Cycle
Date of current version	May 2024
Date of next review	May 2027

Version history

Version no.	Approval date	Approval by	Change
1	27 May 2021	Ordinary Council (Resolution 4535)	New Procedure
2	28 May 2024	Ordinary Council (Resolution 5868)	Amended Procedure



Community Support and Grant Program

Community Development Grant Guidelines

Purpose

The Community Development Grant offers financial support to community organisations, local groups and associations for proposals which:

- deliver innovative, creative or new opportunities for the Playford community to become involved in their local community.
- encourage and support arts, cultural development, physical activity, health and wellbeing.
- demonstrate collaboration between organisations and the local community to maximise community benefit.
- develop and initiate locally based events, exhibitions and/or performances which make a positive contribution to community and cultural life in Playford.

Timeline

Round 1 2024/25

For projects, programs, activities and community events scheduled after 30 November 2024:

Action	Dates
Grant Round Opens	Monday, 12 August 2024 at 9am
Grant Round Closes	Friday, 20 September 2024 at 5pm
Acknowledgement of Outcome	Friday, 29 November 2024

Endorsement will usually occur at the November 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Round 2 2024/25

For projects, programs, activities and community events scheduled after 31 May 2025:

Action	Dates
Grant Round Opens	Monday, 10 February 2025 at 9am
Grant Round Closes	Friday, 21 March 2025 at 5pm
Acknowledgement of Outcome	Friday, 30 May 2025

Endorsement will usually occur at the May 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting.

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Application Process

Two funding rounds are offered each financial year.

Applications can be submitted at any time throughout the year but will be assessed twice a year.

Grants are available to an organisation every second year within this category, i.e., if an organisation received funding in Round 1 of 2024, they will be eligible for funding again in Round 1 of 2026.

Applications will initially be assessed by a Grant Assessment Panel of Council staff against weighted criteria in conjunction with current Policy, Procedure and Guidelines. The Grant Assessment Panel will make a recommendation, and the final decision on the successful applications will be determined by Council at the Ordinary Council meetings outlined above.

To apply, complete and submit the application form with required attachments available on Council's [website](#). Other options for submitting applications may be available upon discussion with Council's Grants Officer. All applicants should contact Council's Grants Officer to discuss their application prior to submission to support applicants in reducing their risk of not meeting eligibility criteria. The Grants Officer can provide support and advice on applications received prior to grant round closing.

Your application will be viewed as incomplete, and will be ineligible for funding, if you fail to submit all information as requested within the application form.

One application per organisation will be accepted.

All correspondence from Council, including confirmation of outcome, will be emailed in the first instance.

Funding

Applications for funding up to the value of \$5,000 (excluding GST) can be submitted. Council will endeavour to support as many eligible proposals as possible within available budget.

This funding program is very popular, and meeting the eligibility and priority criteria does not necessarily guarantee success due to funding limits. The grant amount awarded to a successful applicant may also vary from the amount requested on the application form during the grant assessment process.

Grant offers by Council in no way implies any ongoing funding commitment or obligation by Council.

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Criteria

Priorities

If proposals meet the eligibility criteria they will then be assessed against the following priorities:

- will be initiated by, or rely on, considerable involvement of stakeholders (i.e., residents, businesses, key visitors, community groups and organisations);
- will be innovative and have the capacity to engage the Playford community;
- activate and increase participation in the use of community spaces and open space;
- support and strengthen community groups and organisations and encourage volunteering;
- encourage partnerships that build a safe community;
- deliver significant community benefit and create vitality within the City of Playford.
- generate a positive image of Playford to residents of the City and South Australia, interstate and overseas visitors;
- attract new projects, activities and/or events to be staged in the City of Playford;
- ensure equity of access to projects, activities and events by residents and visitors.
- facilitate and encourage community involvement and participation in free or low-cost community projects, activities and events;
- projects, activities or events held in publicly accessible spaces; and
- entities who have received limited or no support through Councils Community Support and Grant Program.

Eligibility

Proponents must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- be a not-for-profit, non-government community group or organisation, or a newly-formed group consisting of a minimum of two people;
- be legally constituted, or can demonstrate that they are auspiced by an incorporated organisation who will take legal and financial responsibility for any grant monies received from the City of Playford;
- based within the City of Playford, or proposing an activity that will take place within the City of Playford boundary (priority will be given to organisations and community groups located within the City of Playford boundary);
- have the appropriate management structure to effectively manage financial and accounting requirements;
- have limited capacity to raise funds;

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- have a relatively high volunteer-to-paid-staff ratio;
- attracts new projects, activities and/or events to the City of Playford;
- does not duplicate an existing project, activity, event or service. Grants can be used to increase or enhance a current project, activity or event (priority will be given to applications which are new, one-off projects, activities or events);
- can demonstrate that the project, activity or event has clear aims and objectives, is achievable and will benefit the community;
- complies with key principles of access and equality, diversity, participation and innovation;
- can demonstrate own contribution and match the amount of the grant with cash, material, volunteer hours or other in-kind support; and
- can demonstrate capability, ability and expertise in delivering the project, activity or event.

Ineligibility

Funding will **not** be provided for:

- proposals which have already commenced or have been completed, or for costs that have already been incurred.
- organisational operational costs such as utility bills, rent or ongoing salary costs. Grants are not intended to supplement the day to day operations of a group or facility such as consumables or facility maintenance.
- application for funds to upgrade the interior of a privately-owned building, or minor capital works such as installing fences, air conditioning, fixed pergolas, fixed shade structures, etc.
- application for funds to purchase a vehicle.
- applications from public or private educational institutions.
- applications from organisations which receive significant funding from a State or Federal Government source.
- applications to fund regular maintenance or repairs to property where the responsibility is with a private entity or local Council, State or Commonwealth Department.
- applications for interstate or overseas travel.
- applications for academic research or conference costs.
- applications for gift vouchers or the purchase of items which are then donated to a third party.
- applications for funding to be used for sponsorship or fundraising.

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- events such as an organisation's birthday or anniversary celebrations, or other events that are exclusive to group members and are not open to the general public.
- proposals that limit or restrict accessibility or use of public spaces.
- applicants who are yet to acquit a grant, complete and submit an outcomes report or who have been through the debt recovery process in any City of Playford Community Support and Grant category.
- applications from organisations that have received a grant in the previous 12 months. Grants are available every second calendar year within this category (if an organisation received funding in Round 1 of 2024, they will be eligible for funding in Round 1 of 2026).
- applicants in this category will be ineligible if they have also received support within the Program and Event Support category for the same event in the same year.
- applications from groups or organisations that receive poker machine revenue.
- applications to purchase tobacco or alcohol as part of their project, program or community event.

Auspicing Arrangements

If you are not incorporated, you have not been audited, or you are unable to submit a copy of your most recent audit, certified financial statement, or a copy of the minutes of your last AGM together with a copy of your treasurer's report, you will need to be auspiced by an incorporated body who will take legal and financial responsibility for any grant monies received from the City of Playford.

An auspice organisation will agree to take on the responsibility to acquit the grant on behalf of your group. This means that the other organisation would agree to act as a 'banker' for the grant. The organisation will need to complete part of the application form and sign an agreement confirming that the grant will be used for the purposes that you have stated in the application. This needs to be completed before you lodge your application.

Please note that Council is not able to find an auspice organisation on your behalf.

Acknowledgement of Outcome

All proponents will be informed of the outcome within one week of Council's resolution.

Once an application has been approved, your organisation (or your auspice organisation) will be required to submit the following:

- declaration by Auspice Organisation (if applicable);
- tax invoice;
- copy of public liability insurance or certificate of currency;

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- copy of completed Australian Taxation Office 'Statement by a Supplier' form (only if you do not have an ABN); and
- letter of support from auspicing body (only if you are not incorporated or you have not been audited due to being a new group formed for less than a 12 month period).

Failure to submit this information in a timely manner will cause Council to withdraw approval.

City of Playford is to be formally acknowledged as a sponsor on all publicity and promotional material for the project, activity or event. Successfully funded organisations will be provided with a copy of the logo and Brand Guidelines to ensure appropriate application.

Acquittal and Evaluation of Grants

The program, project or community event must commence after successful notification has been received and be completed and funding acquitted within 12 months of Council endorsement of funding.

Applicants will be asked to return funds if the program/activity does not eventuate or meet the conditions of funding.

On completion of the project, activity or event recipients will be required to:

- expend the grant monies on the approved project, activity or event as outlined in the successful proposal. The organisation must seek prior authorisation from Council for any modification to the original grant purposes. Any unspent funds must be returned to Council at the end of the grant period unless prior approval has been sought to redirect funds related to the funded project, activity or event.
- complete and submit a grant acquittal and outcomes report. Please note, you will need to provide approved documentation (i.e., receipts) specifying that the grant was spent for the purpose for which it was received.

Failure to successfully complete the grant acquittal and outcomes report or return unspent funds in accordance with agreed terms and conditions may jeopardise future funding applications.

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Grant Applications Recommended for Funding



Total Funding Available	\$32,226	
	Amount requested	Amount recommended
Andrews Farm Soccer & Community Club	\$4,000	\$4,000
Burundian Community of SA Inc	\$5,000	\$4,800
Geocaching SA Inc	\$3,500	\$3,500
Hands of Hope Foundation Inc	\$5,000	\$5,000
The Village Co SA Ltd	\$5,000	\$4,350
Threads of Many Lands Sewing Group	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total	\$27,500	\$26,650
Difference	-\$4,726	-\$5,576

Applicant	Andrews Farm Soccer and Community Club		
Amount requested	\$4000	Amount recommended	\$4000
Project and expected outcomes	All Abilities Soccer Program. The Club has been invited by the South Australian Amateur Soccer League (SAASL) to submit an expression of interest to join the new All-Abilities League in 2026. This represents a significant step forward in creating inclusive pathways for all participants and players across the northern suburbs. Furthermore, this will culminate in potentially extending the program to local primary schools, such as Swallowcliffe Primary School. The project aims to provide a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where participants of all abilities can enjoy soccer, develop skills, build friendships, and strengthen community connections. It also aims to create a template to enhance community and volunteer involvement in playing a part to support increased participation of people with disability in soccer at Kalara Reserve. Expected outcomes: - ensure participants of all abilities feel welcome, valued, and supported. - adapt soccer drills to individual needs, focusing on movement, coordination and teamwork. - encourage friendships, teamwork, and family/community involvement. - promote physical activity, confidence, and enjoyment. - provide opportunities for continued involvement in sport (social, competitive, or volunteer roles).		
% of current membership in Playford (approx)	90%	% of current services delivered in Playford (approx)	100%
No of Playford residents who will benefit (approx)	90		
Additional panel comments			

Applicant		Burundian Community of SA Inc	
Amount requested	\$5000	Amount recommended	\$4800
Project and expected outcomes	Drums of Unity Workshops The group seeks support to facilitate 12 x youth focussed drumming workshops in Elizabeth South, for people from all backgrounds. The group aim to utilise traditional drumming to empower youth, celebrate heritage and build community connection in Playford. Each session will include cultural education, practical drumming skills, group discussions, team building opportunities and skills/confidence for preparing for public performances. Expected outcomes: • strengthen cultural pride. • engage and empower Burundian youth. • promote social connection in Playford. • encourage intercultural understanding. • support mental wellbeing. • build skills through music, performance, and community involvement.		
% of current membership in Playford (approx)	85%	% of current services delivered in Playford (approx)	96%
No of Playford residents who will benefit (approx)	300		
Additional panel comments	Applicant requested \$5,000 to fund hall hire, the drummer and training materials but the quotes provided total \$4,800. Therefore the amount of funding recommended was reduced accordingly.		

Applicant		Geocaching SA Inc	
Amount requested	\$3500	Amount recommended	\$3500
Project and expected outcomes	The Silver Magpie Social Block Party Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity where participants use a GPS receiver or mobile device to find containers (called geocaches), at specific locations made by coordinates. The Silver Magpie Social Block Party is a special and rare Geocaching event that provides members of the South Australian Geocaching community the chance to gather in the City of Playford to undertake mental and physical activities. The event is planned to be celebrated over 5 days across planned locations including a Holdens Museum at Lionsgate, Mofflin Reserve and many others they can't give away yet! A Block Party event requires special permission from Geocaching headquarters in America and is available for the first time in the calendar year of 2025. The event will feature a range of geocaching-related activities such as finding new and existing physical geocaches, attending group workshops, socializing and		

	more with a view to stimulate physical and mental well-being. It generates enthusiasm for locals and others to pursue this positive outdoor activity. The event will bring focus for individuals and groups to experience new activities and adventures, and to create lifelong friendships. Expected outcomes: • provide a free, inclusive, and highly accessible community event for Playford residents. • stimulate physical and mental wellbeing. • explore history in the Playford region. • activate local venues.		
% of current membership in Playford (approx)	10%	% of current services delivered in Playford (approx)	100%
No of Playford residents who will benefit (approx)	300		
Additional panel comments	While Playford membership appears low, their program outcome is to reach a wide cross-section of Playford's population as evidenced in their chosen event locations (Playford Baptist Church, Lionsgate, Mofflin Reserve and Fremont Park) with the hope to increase Playford membership.		

Applicant	Hands of Hope Foundation Inc		
Amount requested	\$5000	Amount recommended	\$5000
Project and expected outcomes	Community Lunch and Lifeskills Program Community Lunch and Lifeskills Program involves the following: • A weekly lunch held at Northern Communities of Hope (NCOH) in Davoren Park. The lunch will be prepared and served initially by volunteers from the Foundation. As the project develops, opportunities will be available to attendees to be involved in lunch preparation (including 'learning to cook' classes), in addition to the setting up, packing up, and serving components to the lunch. The aim will be to utilise the lunch process to 'upskill' attendees in skills that would be helpful in obtaining work in the hospitality industry. • After lunch each week, there will be 'life skills' seminars/talks/discussion groups held on varying topics (e.g., budgeting/managing finances, managing mental health challenges and other life skills courses, including nutrition 101, parenting 101, caring for your physical health, and living with a person with a disability). The aim of the project is to build a safe space for vulnerable people to gather and be connected. The Foundation has an existing relationship with Northern Communities of Hope, with some of the Foundation's trauma and recovery groups currently being run at the NCOH base in Davoren Park. The Foundation has engaged extensively with the local Playford community since the Foundation's inception in 2019. The idea for		

	this project has come directly from the work that the Foundation has been undertaking in the local Playford community since 2019, working with vulnerable and marginalised people. The proposed topics for the 26 x life skills seminars have been determined by a survey that the Foundation has been recently distributing in the local community, including through its partner organisations such as Northern Communities of Hope. Expected outcomes: • create a safe space for individuals/families in the local community to gather each week over a shared meal. • discussion groups/seminars that will be held after lunch also creates a safe space for difficult issues to be discussed, while encouraging the sharing of an individual's story (if comfortable). • a place to belong, a place to be included, a place to be welcomed, a place to be valued, a place to be connected, and a place where resilience and well-being can be built.		
% of current membership in Playford (approx)	90%	% of current services delivered in Playford (approx)	90%
No of Playford residents who will benefit (approx)	260		
Additional panel comments	This group has been approved for three years of support under the Financial Support category to deliver domestic and family violence workshops for the Playford community. While the panel initially noted that the Guidelines prioritise "entities who have received limited or no support through Council's Community Support and Grant Program," this application was particularly strong. It met all eligibility criteria and aligned well with all the other the program's priorities. Given the limited number of other applications that met the requirements in the Guidelines, the panel recommends funding this project.		

Applicant	The Village Co SA Ltd		
Amount requested	\$5000	Amount recommended	\$4350
Project and expected outcomes	The Village Co Mobile Lounge - Playford Pilot The Village Co. supports mothers from pregnancy to 12 months post-birth who are experiencing vulnerability (e.g., family violence, homelessness, mental health challenges and financial stress). The North of Adelaide has been identified as an area with high levels of vulnerability among new mothers, including financial hardship, food insecurity, and a higher prevalence of domestic violence and homelessness. The Village Co Mobile Lounge - Playford Pilot is a free, 12 month pop-up maternal wellbeing program delivered in publicly accessible		

	Playford locations. Each session offers a welcoming space for peer connection, short health/parenting education, and on-the-spot one-to-one guidance from a registered midwife/lactation consultant. A small dignity "pop-up shop" provides limited essentials so mums can care for themselves and their babies. Trained volunteers support delivery. They partner with local venues and services to run fortnightly sessions, meeting mothers where they are and linking them into local supports. The Village Co Mobile Lounge is a mobile service designed to bring essential support directly to vulnerable mothers in their communities, removing barriers that often prevent them from accessing vital resources. Many vulnerable mothers face significant challenges that make attending fixed-location services difficult. Expected Outcomes: • optimise the well-being of expecting and new vulnerable mothers by providing these women with a safe and supportive space to connect with each other, learn from highly skilled health professionals, and be nurtured. • increased social inclusion and participation: regular, welcoming pop-ups where Playford mums connect, share experiences, and form ongoing friendships, reducing isolation and building a supportive peer network. • improved health and wellbeing: access to brief education and one-to-one guidance with health professionals lowers risk of prenatal/postnatal anxiety and depression, supports safer infant care, and improves maternal health literacy. • barrier-free local access: a free, mobile format in publicly accessible Playford spaces removes transport, cost, and confidence barriers so more residents can participate. A Shebah driver will be available to transport women and babies to and from each session (with car seats), removing transport, cost and confidence barriers. • cultural inclusion and reduced stigma: space for culturally sensitive parenting conversations and sharing traditions fosters belonging and a more inclusive community.		
% of current membership in Playford (approx)	30%	% of current services delivered in Playford (approx)	30%
No of Playford residents who will benefit (approx)	260		
Additional panel comments	While Playford membership appears low, their program outcome is to extend services into Playford, therefore increasing membership over time. Applicant requested \$5,000 to fund both first aid and mental health first aid training for volunteers and staff but the quotes provided in the application total \$4,350. Therefore the amount of funding recommended was reduced accordingly. Staff will also connect the group with the Families and Young People team to link them with other additional opportunities for support and promotion.		

Applicant	Threads of Many Lands Sewing Group		
Amount requested	\$5000	Amount recommended	\$5000
Project and expected outcomes	Threads of Many Lands Sewing Group This multicultural sewing group brings together people from diverse cultural backgrounds to learn, share, and connect through weekly sewing at St Mary Magdelene's School in Elizabeth South. The program provides a welcoming and inclusive space where members can build friendships, celebrate cultural traditions, and gain practical sewing and craft skills. By encouraging members to share their own cultural techniques and stories, the group fosters cross-cultural understanding and mutual respect. Funding would be used to upgrade sewing machines and provide supplies to the group. Funding would also be used to hire a skilled tutor to increase the skill levels of the group and to hire a facilitator to provide child-minding in a separate room, so that parents with small children can attend. The group are hoping these improvements help to bring new members to the group. Once the funding period is complete, the group should be upskilled and can become the volunteer tutors to new members or other community groups. The group have a goal of developing a large patchwork blanket that could be displayed at the Civic Centre or library to showcase their group and how the funding has supported them to achieve their goals. Expected outcomes: • encourage and support members to be creative, build connections, reduce social isolation, and celebrate diversity. • empower members with new skills, fosters cross-cultural friendships, and strengthens community inclusion and resilience. • increase membership. • access to quality skill building and materials.		
% of current membership in Playford (approx)	100%	% of current services delivered in Playford (approx)	100%
No of Playford residents who will benefit (approx)	20		
Additional panel comments	While current group membership is low, the panel felt the group have the foundations of a strong community-led development outcome and felt this funding would support the further growth and opportunities for new members to the group.		

Grant Applications Not Recommended for Funding



Total Funding Available	\$32,226
	Amount requested
International Humanitarian Provision Care	\$5,000
Little Mumin Inc	\$5,000
Lyell Indian Malayalees Cultural Association (LIMCA) Inc	\$5,000
Midway Road Community House	\$2,690.53
Smithfield Sports and Social Club	\$5,000
SA Bhutanese Disability Association	\$5,000
Total	\$27,690.53

Applicant	International Humanitarian Provision Care
Amount requested	\$5,000
Project and expected outcomes	Community Social Inclusion Event The group seek support to hold a community gathering in Elizabeth South in January 2026 that includes cultural performances, music, food, workshops, information stalls, storytelling, and interactive activities. Workshops and information stalls will connect residents with local services and resources and create opportunities for local artists, youth, and community leaders to showcase talents and share experiences. Expected outcomes: • strengthen social inclusion, belonging and community connections. • create opportunities for residents from diverse backgrounds to meet. • promote intercultural respect, understanding and appreciation. • encourage positive interactions that reduce prejudice and build harmony. • encourage residents to participate in local activities, services and volunteer opportunities beyond the event. • improve health and wellbeing. • empower youth and community. • increase awareness and access to services. • lay the foundation for future events, partnerships, and community initiatives. • contribute to a more inclusive, vibrant, and resilient Playford community. • create a safe, family-friendly space. • involve residents in the planning, volunteering, performing and delivery of event.

	• awareness and engagement with local services, grassroots organisations and service providers.		
% of current membership in Playford (approx)	95%	% of current services delivered in Playford (approx)	100%
No of Playford residents who will benefit (approx)	95		
Panel comments	The submitted application requires further detail to have met eligibility criteria to be considered achievable or a benefit to the community. In particular, the applicant needs to provide the following: • further details on what the event looks like, how the event will be structured and when the event will be held. • audited financial statement or a copy of AGM minutes with a Treasurer's Report attached. • quotes for all expenditure costs.		
Feedback	Feedback will be provided and the group will be encouraged to re-apply in a future funding round, with support available from Council's Grants Officer.		

Applicant	Little Mumin Inc		
Amount requested	\$5,000		
Project and expected outcomes	The Little Mumin Playgroup The group seeks support to facilitate a 10 week playgroup for new parents from a migrant background , supporting up to 20 families across the program. provide a welcoming, supportive space where young children aged 0-5 years can learn and play while parents and caregivers access practical wellbeing workshops. Each session will combine fun, developmentally appropriate play activities for children with short workshops for adults on topics such as adjusting to life in Australia, healthy family routines, stress management and accessing local services. Sessions will be held at a local community venue in Playford, ensuring accessibility, safety, and familiarity for families. This project is for families in the City of Playford with children aged 0–5 years, particularly those experiencing social isolation, financial stress, or barriers to accessing community services. Expected outcomes: • children develop confidence, play skills, and early socialisation. • parents gain practical wellbeing strategies and settlement knowledge. • families form friendships, reducing isolation. • greater engagement with Playford's community spaces and services. • stronger sense of belonging and inclusion in Playford.		
% of current membership in Playford (approx)	50%	% of current services delivered in Playford (approx)	20%
No of Playford residents who will benefit (approx)	50		

Panel comments	Eligibility criteria in the guidelines has not been met in this instance. The project start date is listed as 1 September 2025 and the guidelines state funding will not be provided to proposals which have already commenced or have been completed, or for costs that have already been incurred. Further to this, the submitted application requires further detail to be considered achievable or a benefit to the community. In particular, the applicant needs to provide the following: • quotes for all expenditure costs as costs included were unclear as the expenses listed match are also listed as in-kind contribution. • venue confirmation
Feedback	Feedback will be provided and the group will be encouraged to re-apply in a future funding round once their application has addressed the issues noted, with support available from the Grants Officer. Staff will also connect the group with the Families and Young People team to potentially link them with other opportunities for support.

Applicant	Lyell Indian Malayalees Cultural Association (LIMCA) Inc
Amount requested	\$5000
Project and expected outcomes	New Year Cultural Celebration 2026 The group seek support to deliver a New Year Cultural Celebration at Spruance Hall in January 2026 that aims to showcase cultural performances, music and storytelling to enhance cultural awareness and appreciation among residents, fostering a deeper understanding of the diverse traditions that form the community's social fabric. The group aims to engaging youth in these activities to help preserve cultural knowledge and encourage younger generations to take pride in their heritage. The event also aims to create opportunities for families, local artists, and community members to interact and connect through the offering of a shared free meal. Furthermore, the event will support personal growth and skill development among participants, particularly young people. Through performances, speeches, and collaborative activities, they will gain confidence, public speaking skills, and teamwork experience. Collectively, these outcomes contribute to a more engaged, culturally aware, and empowered Playford community, enhancing both social wellbeing and community pride. Expected outcomes: • promote and preserve cultural heritage across generations. • foster strong community engagement and inclusivity. • support youth development and skill building.

% of current membership in Playford (approx)	90%	% of current services delivered in Playford (approx)	100%
No of Playford residents who will benefit (approx)	120		
Panel comments	The submitted application requires further detail to have met eligibility criteria to be considered achievable or a benefit to the community. In particular, the applicant needs to provide the following: - audited financial statement or a copy of AGM minutes with a Treasurer's Report attached - quotes for all expenditure costs - demonstrate own contribution towards the project that matches the amount of the grant with cash, material, volunteer hours or other in-kind support.		
Feedback	Council may also consider offering free or supported venue hire through the Program and Event Support program for the day of the event, subject to availability and standard Council processes. This support would further enable the organisation to maximize community participation and engagement while ensuring responsible use of grant funds.		

Applicant	Midway Road Community House
Amount requested	\$2,690.53
Project and expected outcomes	Program Resources Funding is requested to purchase equipment and resources for programs delivered at the Community House. These initiatives will enable inclusive participation for local families. Children and families will experience positive outcomes, with opportunities to enhance social skills, language development, and confidence. Parents and adults will also benefit through reduced isolation, expanded social networks, access to peer support, and stronger connections to essential community resources and services. These outcomes will be achieved in an environment that provides both practical information and personal support, stimulating engagement and strengthening community relationships. The initiative will provide innovative and creative opportunities for the Playford community to engage within a welcoming and secure setting. This approach fosters cultural development, encourages physical activity, and supports the health and wellbeing of families, while creating pathways for connection with the wider community, services, and other families. Expected outcomes: enhance social skills, language development, and confidence in young people, while benefiting parents and adults by reducing isolation, providing social networks, offering support, and connecting families to essential community resources and services.

% of current membership in Playford (approx)	100%	% of current services delivered in Playford (approx)	100%
No of Playford residents who will benefit (approx)	50		
Panel comments	Eligibility criteria in the guidelines has not been met in this instance. Midway Road Community House received Community Development funding in April 2024 to undertake a mural at their community centre. The guidelines state that grants are available every second calendar year within this category. Therefore they are eligible to apply for further funding in the 2026 rounds.		
Feedback	This criteria does not affect other categories within the Community Support and Grant Program and they will be encouraged to apply for an Equipment Grant of up to \$1,000 for the purchase of equipment as detailed in their Community Development Grant Application.		

Applicant	Smithfield Sports and Social Club		
Amount requested	\$5000		
Project and expected outcomes	Cultural Awareness & Inclusive Events Funding is requested to run a range of programs and events in 2026 to encourage multicultural engagement within the Playford community, directed at all ages and ethnic backgrounds. Expected outcomes: • local engagement • positive relationships built within the local community • encourage cohesion and minimising diversity		
% of current membership in Playford (approx)	80%	% of current services delivered in Playford (approx)	100%
No of Playford residents who will benefit (approx)	300		
Panel comments	Eligibility criteria in the guidelines has not been met in this instance. The submitted application requires further detail to be considered achievable or a benefit to the community. In particular, the applicant needs to provide the following: • a budget (showing expenditure costs, expected income and relevant quotes). • demonstrate own contribution towards the project that matches the amount of the grant with cash, material, volunteer hours or other in-kind support. • further details on what the events look like, how the events will be structured and when the events will be held.		
Feedback	The group will be encouraged to re-apply once their application has addressed the issues noted, with support available from Council's Grants Officer.		

Applicant	SA Bhutanese Disability Association Inc		
Amount requested	\$5000		
Project and expected outcomes	International Day of Persons with Disability Event The seeks support to hold an event at Spruance Hall on 3 December to promote understanding of disability issues and mobilise support for the dignity, rights, and wellbeing of people with disabilities among the Bhutanese and wider community. The event will bring together people with disability, their families, caregivers, service providers and the broader community and will include a skills showcase of people with disability, cultural performances, story-sharing, information stalls, recreation activities and networking opportunities. Expected outcomes: - increased awareness of disability issues and the importance of inclusive communities. - greater visibility of the talents and contributions of people with disability. - Bhutanese people with disabilities will have the opportunity to integrate into society, benefit from - opportunities to showcase their skills through cultural activities, art and music. - stronger peer and family networks within the Bhutanese disability community. - improved collaboration between community organisations, service providers, and stakeholders.		
% of current membership in Playford (approx)	80%	% of current services delivered in Playford (approx)	80%
No of Playford residents who will benefit (approx)	80		
Panel comments	Eligibility criteria in the guidelines has not been met in this instance. The submitted application requires further detail to be considered achievable or a benefit to the community. In particular, the applicant needs to provide the following: - quotes for all expenditure costs. - demonstrate own contribution towards the project that matches the amount of the grant with cash, material, volunteer hours or other in-kind support.		
Feedback	The group will be encouraged to re-apply in a future funding round for the 2026 event, with support available from Council's Grants Officer.		

STAFF REPORTS

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE ONLY

***Matters delegated to the
Committee***

5.3 APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDING MEMBER

Responsible Executive Manager : Luke Culhane

Report Author : Sarah Schutz

Delegated Authority : Matters delegated to the Committee

Attachments : 1¹. [Strategy and Services Committee Charter](#)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for the Strategy and Services Committee to appoint a Presiding Member in accordance with the Strategy and Services Committee Charter (Attachment 1).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. The Committee appoint _____ as Presiding Member of the Strategy and Services Committee for a term commencing 4 December 2025 until the Local Government General election in November 2026.
2. If required, the private ballot process outlined in Section 6.16 of the Code of Practice for Council and Committee Meetings be utilised to elect a Presiding Member, with the results of the ballot becoming the outcome.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the Strategy and Services Committee Charter (Attachment 1), the Presiding Member is determined by the Committee for a period of one (1) year, for a period not exceeding the next General Election, after which the appointed member may stand for re-election.

At the Strategy and Services Committee meeting held on 12 November 2024, the Committee resolved (Resolution 6046) to appoint Councillor David Kerrison as Presiding Member for a period of one year from 3 December 2024 until 3 December 2025.

The term of the current Presiding Member, Councillor David Kerrison, is due to expire on 3 December 2025 at which time the position will be vacant.

1. BACKGROUND

The Strategy and Services Committee exists as a Section 41 Committee in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999* and the membership comprises of the Mayor and all Council Members.

The Strategy and Services Committee was established at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 29 November 2022 (Resolution 5208).

At the Strategy and Services Committee meeting held on 12 November 2024, the Committee appointed Councillor David Kerrison as Presiding Member for a period of one (1) year, concluding on 3 December 2025.

The Committee is required to appoint a Presiding Member to oversee the conduct of meetings for a period of up to one year, not exceeding the next General Election, in accordance with the Strategy and Services Committee Charter.

2. RELEVANCE TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Theme 3: Fostering collaboration and connection with each other

Determining the Presiding Member of the Committee provides for effective and efficient decision-making and engagement with each other and the community.

3. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

There is no requirement to consult with the community on the appointment of the Strategy and Services Committee Presiding Member.

4. DISCUSSION

- 4.1 In accordance with the Strategy and Services Committee Charter, the presiding Member will be determined by the Committee for a period of one (1) year, but not exceeding the next General Election. The appointed Presiding Member may stand for re-election.
- 4.2 The role of the Presiding Member is outlined in the Strategy and Services Committee Charter:
 - 4.2.1 Oversee the conduct of meetings in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999* and Code of Practice for Council and Committee Meetings.
 - 4.2.2 Ensure all Committee Members have the opportunity to participate in debate and discussions in an open and encouraging manner.
 - 4.2.3 Where a matter has been debated significantly and no new information is being discussed, the Presiding Member may call the meeting to order and ask for the debate to be finalised and proceed to voting.

5. OPTIONS

Recommendation

- 1. The Committee appoint _____ as Presiding Member of the Strategy and Services Committee for a term commencing 4 December 2025 until the Local Government General election in November 2026.
- 2. If required, the private ballot process outlined in Section 6.16 of the Code of Practice for Council and Committee Meetings be utilised to elect a Presiding Member, with the results of the ballot becoming the outcome.

6. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

6.1 Recommendation Analysis

6.1.1 Analysis & Implications of the Recommendation

The recommendation ensures the Strategy and Services Committee appoints a Presiding Member in accordance with the Committee Charter and ensures the Committee continues to function as required.

If only one nomination is received for the position, the Committee will not need to conduct a private ballot process

Risk Appetite

Regulatory Compliance

Council has a zero tolerance for non-compliance with applicable legislation including but not limited to: Local Government Act (LGA) 1999; Independent Commissioner Against Corruption (ICAC) Act 2012; Work Health & Safety (WHS) Act 2012; Environment Protection Act (EPA) 1993; Development Act 1993; Equal Employment Opportunity legislation; and Public Consultation legislation.

This decision fulfils Council's obligations under the Strategy and Services Committee Charter which states *the Presiding Member will be appointed by the Committee from within the Committee and the term of the Presiding Member will be one (1) year, for a period not exceeding the next General Election, after which they may stand for re-election.*

6.1.2 Financial Implications

There are no financial or resource implications applicable to this decision.

STRATEGY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE CHARTER



1. Role

The role of the Committee is to:

- 1.1 Act in an advisory capacity to the Council regarding all high level operations.
- 1.2 Monitor the operational performance of the Council as it relates to the delivery of services to standards.
- 1.3 Hear community deputations and representations on matters important to the community.

2. Terms of Reference

The Committee will provide advice on matters relating to:

- 2.1 Development of the Annual Business Plan and Budget, Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plans for Council consideration.
- 2.2 Review and develop strategic and operational aspects of Council business.

3. Definitions

As specified in the City of Playford Global Glossary.

4. Functions

- 4.1 Subject to paragraph 4.2 below, the Committee may:
 - 4.1.1 Approve Committee Minutes as a true and accurate record of proceedings.
 - 4.1.2 Consider and provide a response to Local Government Association (LGA) Circulars or other business of a strategic nature, in line with the Committee's role.
 - 4.1.3 Determine the Playford Position on Notices of Motion for Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and LGA Meetings, in the case that timing of the release of the ALGA or LGA Agenda falls outside a Council Meeting.
 - 4.1.4 Allow community deputations and representations on matters that are important to the community.
- 4.2 Any other business referred to the Committee in accordance with its Role and Terms of Reference that is not listed as a function of the Committee, may be debated with a recommendation referred to the next Ordinary Council Meeting for consideration.

5. Meetings

- 5.1 The Committee will meet on the second Tuesday of each month, excluding January, starting at 7:00pm. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in consultation with the Presiding Member may determine on reasonable grounds that a meeting is not required to take place where there:
- a. are insufficient items for consideration by the Committee to warrant a meeting being held;
 - b. there are unforeseeable, unusual or emergency circumstances for the meeting not being held.
- 5.2 The Committee will meet in the Council Chambers at the Playford Civic Centre, 10 Playford Boulevard, Elizabeth.
- a. Meetings may be conducted via electronic means. A member of the Council participating in a Committee meeting by electronic means is taken to be present at the meeting provided that the member:
 - i. can hear all other members present at the meeting;
 - ii. can be seen and heard by all other members present at the meeting; and
 - iii. can be heard by the person recording the minutes of the meeting.
- 5.3 Special Meetings of the Committee may be necessary from time to time and may be called in accordance with Section 87 of the *Local Government Act 1999*. Notice of a Special Committee Meeting may be at a minimum of four hours notice, due to the urgency of the matters on the agenda.

6. Membership

- 6.1 The Committee is comprised of the Mayor and Councillors.
- 6.2 The Presiding Member will be appointed by the Committee from within the Committee.
- 6.3 The term of the Presiding Member will be one (1) year, after which they may stand for re-election.
- 6.4 The term of the Presiding Members appointment will be for a period not exceeding the next General Election.
- 6.5 If the Presiding Member is absent from a meeting or has a conflict of interest in a particular item, then the Mayor will preside at the meeting until the Presiding Member is present and able to chair.

- 6.6 Membership of the Strategy and Services Committee is for the current term of the Council.

7. Role of the Presiding Member

- 7.1 Oversee the conduct of meetings in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999* and Code of Practice for Council and Committee Meetings.
- 7.2 Ensure all Committee Members have the opportunity to participate in debate and discussions in an open and encouraging manner.
- 7.3 Where a matter has been debated significantly and no new information is being discussed the Presiding Member may call the meeting to order and ask for the debate to be finalised and proceed to voting.

8. Role of Committee Members

- 8.1 Actively participate in debate and discussion in a professional manner at all times.
- 8.2 Be prepared and informed of Committee Meeting matters prior to the meeting.
- 8.3 Utilise the skills and experience of the Committee Members to effectively carry out the Committee's role.

9. Role of the Executive Officer and Administrative Support

- 9.1 The Executive Officer is appointed by the CEO to support the administration and operation of the Committee.
- 9.2 The Executive Officer and relevant staff may provide advice during the meeting in order to aid informed decision making.
- 9.3 A minute taker will be provided to the Committee.

10. Reporting and Review

- 10.1 Council will assess the on-going role and effectiveness of the Committee as part of the Committee Review following a General Election or as required by Council.

11. Supporting Documents

- *Local Government Act 1999*
- *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013*
- Code of Practice for Council and Committee Meetings
- Code of Practice for Public Access to Meetings and Meeting Documents
- City of Playford Global Glossary

12. Document Control

12.1 Approved by Ordinary Council Resolution 6066 on 26 November 2024.

12.2 Before using a printed copy, please verify it is the current document.

5.4 2025 LGA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - PLAYFORD POSITION PAPER

Responsible Executive Manager : Sam Green

Report Author : Sarah Schutz

Delegated Authority : Matters delegated to the Committee

Attachments :

1. LGA Annual General Meeting 2024 - Agenda Items - Playford Position Paper
2. LGA Annual General Meeting Agenda
3. Notification of Appointment of Substitute Council Delegate for one meeting only form

PURPOSE

For the Committee to consider a position regarding agenda items to be considered at the 2025 Local Government Association (LGA) South Australia Annual General Meeting, scheduled to be held on 21 November 2025.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. The Committee endorse the LGA Annual General Meeting 2025 – Agenda Items – Playford Position Paper (Attachment 1).
2. The Committee *support / do not support* Item 6.7 (Attachment 1) regarding Preferential Voting Review Outcomes and Recommendations (LGA Business).
3. If the Mayor is unable to attend and appoints an attending Council Member as the proxy Council Delegate for voting rights, the Committee authorises the CEO to complete the *Notification of Appointment of Substitute Council Delegate for one meeting only* form (Attachment 3).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the Strategy and Services Committee Charter, in the case that timing of the release of the LGA agenda falls outside a Council Meeting, the Committee can determine the Playford Position on Notices of Motion.

As the Local Government Association (LGA) South Australia Annual General Meeting is scheduled to be held on 21 November 2025 (outside of the Council meeting), the Playford Position Paper (Attachment 1) has been prepared for the Committee's consideration for all items listed on the agenda.

Consideration has been given to each agenda item based on its relevance and potential impact to the City of Playford. The Playford Position paper contains 11 agenda items (noting item 6.7 has three (3) decisions to be considered separately).

Staff have determined not to provide a recommendation for one item on the agenda. It is proposed that the Committee determine whether to support or not support these items.

1. BACKGROUND

The LGA Annual General Meeting is one of the ultimate decision-making and policy setting forums for the LG and provides an opportunity for the City of Playford voting delegate to discuss issues of common interest to Local Government and assist with making recommendations to State and Federal policy makers.

The LGA Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 21 November 2025 at the Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide. The Playford Position Paper (Attachment 1) provides a recommendation for each agenda item for the Committee's consideration.

The LGA Annual General Meeting agenda is provided for your information (Attachment 2).

At the Ordinary Council meeting on 25 February 2025 (Resolution 6148), Council appointed the Mayor as Council's attendee for the LGA Annual General Meeting. The Mayor was appointed as the Council Delegate with voting rights. In the event the Mayor is unable to attend the LGA Annual General Meeting, he will nominate a proxy Council Delegate.

The resolution is outlined below:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION		6148
Moved:	Cr Onuzans	Seconded: Cr Smallwood-Smith
Local Government Association Annual General Meeting, 20 – 21 November 2025.		
1. Council appoints the Mayor, Cr Halls and Cr _____ as Council's attendees at the LGA Annual General Meeting to be held in Adelaide from 20 – 21 November 2025.		
2. If required, the private ballot process outlined in the Code of Practice for Council and Committee Meetings – Section 16 be utilised to elect the Council attendees, with the results of the ballot becoming the outcome.		
3. The Mayor is appointed as the Council Delegate for voting rights with an attending Council Member appointed by the Mayor as proxy Council Delegate in the event that the Mayor is unable to attend		
		<u>CARRIED</u>

2. RELEVANCE TO STRATEGIC PLAN

The LGA Annual General Meeting provides an opportunity for member councils to discuss important issues for the sector and pass motions that set the Local Government Association's strategic direction.

3. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

There is no requirement to consult with the community on the Playford Position Paper prepared for the LGA Annual General Meeting agenda.

4. DISCUSSION

- 4.1 The LGA's ultimate decision-making and policy setting occurs at the Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) and the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The OGM is held annually in April or May, and the AGM is held annually in October or November. At

these meetings, member councils have votes with a value that reflects the population of that council.

- 4.2 This year's LGA AGM will be held on 21 November 2025 at the Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace, Adelaide.
- 4.3 At the Ordinary Council meeting on 25 February 2025, Council appointed the Mayor as Council's attendee. The Mayor was appointed as the Council Delegate for voting rights (Resolution 6148).
- 4.4 If the Mayor is unable to attend, he will appoint a proxy Council Delegate for voting rights. If this occurs, the CEO will be required to complete the *Notification of Appointment of Substitute Council Delegate for one meeting only* form (Attachment 3). Authorisation for the CEO to complete this form is included in the Staff Recommendation.
- 4.5 The LGA AGM is comprised of 11 agenda items for consideration (with item 6.7 containing three (3) decisions to be considered separately). These items have been provided by the LGA Board of Directors, South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) and Greater Adelaide Regional Organisation of Councils (GAROC) Committees.
- 4.6 Consideration has been given to each agenda item on its relevance to the City of Playford and what impact the recommendation may have on the community.
- 4.7 The Playford Position Paper (Attachment 1) recommends support for 10 of the 11 positions to be considered. The explanation for Council's position is provided in the Position Paper.
- 4.8 Staff have determined not to provide a recommendation for item 6.7 Preferential Voting Review Outcomes and Recommendations. It is proposed that the Committee determine whether to support or not support this item.

5. OPTIONS

Recommendation

1. The Committee endorse the LGA Annual General Meeting 2025 – Agenda Items – Playford Position Paper (Attachment 1).
2. The Committee *support / do not support* Item 6.7 (Attachment 1) regarding Preferential Voting Review Outcomes and Recommendations (LGA Business).
3. If the Mayor is unable to attend and appoints an attending Council Member as the proxy Council Delegate for voting rights, the Committee authorises the CEO to complete the *Notification of Appointment of Substitute Council Delegate for one meeting only* form (Attachment 3).

Option 2

1. The Committee endorse the LGA Annual General Meeting 2025 – Agenda Items – Playford Position Paper (Attachment 1) with the following amendments:
 - _____
 - _____

- _____
- 2. The Committee *support / do not support* Item 6.7 (Attachment 1) regarding Preferential Voting Review Outcomes and Recommendations (LGA Business).
- 3. If the Mayor is unable to attend and appoints an attending Council Member as the proxy Council Delegate for voting rights, the Committee authorises the CEO to complete the *Notification of Appointment of Substitute Council Delegate for one meeting only* form (Attachment 3).

6. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

6.1 Recommendation Analysis

6.1.1 Analysis & Implications of the Recommendation

The agenda items have been reviewed and consideration given to whether they are applicable to the City of Playford and how each item recommendation could impact the community.

If the Committee agrees with the proposed positions outlined for each agenda item, the recommendation is that these are endorsed.

Risk Appetite

Service Delivery

Council has a moderate appetite for supporting and enhancing existing services and programs to improve the social, recreation and health and wellbeing outcomes for residents; and driving social and economic transformation through a number of major projects and Council initiatives, which will create jobs and act as a catalyst for private investment into Northern Adelaide to support the growing population.

This decision will provide an opportunity for member councils to discuss important issues for the sector, and pass motions that set the LGA's strategic direction, which in turn, will open potential service delivery improvements and opportunities for Council.

6.1.2 Financial Implications

There are no financial or resource implications associated with the recommendation.

6.2 Option 2 Analysis

6.2.1 Analysis & Implications of Option 2

Council may have a differing opinion on whether to provide support to a particular agenda item. This option allows Council to make amendments to the positions outlined in the Position Paper.

6.2.2 Financial Implications

There are no financial or resource implications associated with this option.

LGA Annual General Meeting 21 November 2025 – Agenda Items – Playford Position Paper

Agenda Item #	Recommendation	Playford Position	Responsible Staff Member
Minutes of Previous Meeting			
5.1	Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 23 May 2025 <u>Recommendation</u> That the Annual General Meeting confirms the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 23 May 2025 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings held.	Support Explanation: Adoption of minutes.	Skye Nitschke
5.2	Resolutions and Actions from Previous Meetings <u>Recommendation</u> That the Annual General Meeting notes progress with resolutions resulting from the Ordinary General Meeting of 23 May 2025 and outstanding resolutions from earlier General Meetings.	Support Explanation: Information Report – report on progress to be noted.	Skye Nitschke
LGA Business			
6.1	LGA Annual Report 2024-25 <u>Recommendation</u> That the Annual General Meeting receives and Notes the LGA South Australia's Annual Report for the year 2024/25.	Support Explanation: Information report to be noted.	Skye Nitschke
6.2	LGA Consolidated Group Financial Statements 2024-2025 <u>Recommendation</u> That the Annual General Meeting receives and adopts the LGA South Australia and controlled entities Financial Statements for the year 2024-25.	Support Explanation: The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting standards and independently audited by Price Waterhouse Cooper with no material misstatement noted.	Luke Culhane

LGA Annual General Meeting 21 November 2025 – Agenda Items – Playford Position Paper

Agenda Item #	Recommendation	Playford Position	Responsible Staff Member
6.3	Annual Reports from the LGA Committees <u>Recommendation</u> That the Annual General Meeting notes the Annual Reports for the year 2024-25 of the following Committees established under the LGA Constitution: a) Greater Adelaide Regional Organisation of Councils (GAROC) b) South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) c) CEO Advisory Group d) Local Government Research and Development Scheme	Support Explanation: Information report to be noted.	Skye Nitschke
6.4	LGA Mutual 2024-2025 Annual Update <u>Recommendation</u> That the Annual General Meeting receives and notes the LGA Mutual Annual Update for the year 2024-2025.	Support Explanation: Information report, no concerns noted.	Emily Byrne
6.5	LGA Procurement Annual Report 2023-2024 [sic] <u>Recommendation</u> That the Annual General Meeting receives and notes the LGA Procurement Annual Report for the year 2024-2025.	Support Explanation: Information report, no concerns noted.	Luke Culhane
6.6	Local Government Financial Indicators 2025 <u>Recommendation</u> That the Annual General Meeting notes the report.	Support Explanation: Information report, no concerns noted.	Luke Culhane
6.7	Preferential Voting Review Outcomes and Recommendations <u>Recommendation</u> <i>(must be carried by >50% of votes)</i> That the Annual General Meeting: 1. Notes that any alterations to the LGA Constitution, and alterations to clauses 4.2-4.4 of the SAROC Terms of	No staff recommendation	Skye Nitschke

LGA Annual General Meeting 21 November 2025 – Agenda Items – Playford Position Paper

Agenda Item #	Recommendation	Playford Position	Responsible Staff Member
	Reference and GAROC Terms of Reference, require approval from the Minister for Local Government; 2. Will consider and vote upon the proposed alterations to the LGA Constitution, GAROC Terms of Reference, and SAROC Terms of Reference as separate 'groups' of amendments (grouped together in the manner described in the following two subparagraphs), to be considered separately and voted on in the order specified below: a. DECISION A – Preferential Voting for LGA President b. DECISION B – Voting Submission Method for LGA President, GAROC Committee and SAROC Committee Elections 3. Determines that DECISION B, which includes some amendments that require a 75% majority of votes and some that require only a 50% majority of votes, will be considered to have been carried unless a 75% majority is achieved; and 4. Authorises the Chief Executive to make any typographical, numbering and formatting corrections which the Chief Executive sees fit prior to submission of the alterations to the Minister for approval under Schedule 1 of the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i>. Decisions for Voting Separately <u>DECISION A – Preferential Voting for LGA President</u> (<i>must be carried by >75% of votes</i>) That the Annual General Meeting approves the proposed changes to the LGA Constitution, as marked up in Attachment 1 of this report (item 6.7 'Preferential Voting Review Outcomes and Recommendations', LGA AGM – 21 November 2025), that would implement a Preferential Voting method for the election of LGA President. <u>DECISION B – Voting Submission Method for LGA President, GAROC Committee and SAROC Committee Elections</u> (<i>must be carried by >75% of votes</i>)		

LGA Annual General Meeting 21 November 2025 – Agenda Items – Playford Position Paper

Agenda Item #	Recommendation	Playford Position	Responsible Staff Member
	That the Annual General Meeting approves the proposed changes to the LGA Constitution, SAROC Terms of Reference, and GAROC Terms of Reference, as marked up in Attachments 1-3 of this report (item 6.7 'Preferential Voting Review Outcomes and Recommendations', LGA AGM – 21 November 2025), that would remove physical sealed ballot papers from the process for LGA President, SAROC Committee, and GAROC Committee elections, and instead accept the provision of council resolutions as a Member Council's vote in those elections.		
Recommendation Reports from the SAROC Committee			
Nil			

LGA Annual General Meeting 21 November 2025 – Agenda Items – Playford Position Paper

Agenda Item #	Recommendation	Playford Position	Responsible Staff Member
Recommendation Reports from the GAROC Committee			
8.1	Long-Term Parking on Council Road (City of Charles Sturt) <u>Recommendation</u> That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to: 1. Advocate to the Minister for Transport to consider the inclusion of legislation to enable the Council to enforce long term parking controls of vehicles on Council roads. 2. Advocate to the Minister for Transport to consider the inclusion of legislation to enable Council to enforce long term parking controls of vehicles on State roads.	Support Explanation: Council supports the recommendation for the LGA to advocate for legislative changes enabling councils to enforce long-term parking controls on both Council and State roads to improve parking management.	Sean Teelow
Recommendation Reports from the LGA Board of Directors			
9.1	Continued State Government advocacy to remove facilitation and collection of the State Government Landscape Levy as a responsibility for Local Government Council in South Australia (Kangaroo Island Council and The Rural City of Murray Bridge) <u>Recommendation</u> That the Annual General Meeting requests: 1. LGA to engage with State Government, renewing advocacy to oppose council collection of the landscape levy, seek a commitment to remove this responsibility from the remit of councils and have this function transferred to RevenueSA or another appropriate state agency for collection; and 2. LGA to consider, as part of its annual review of the model rates notice, more clearly defining the separation of council rates charges from the state-imposed landscape levy.	Support Explanation: The Landscape Levy is a state government-imposed tax collected on behalf of the state government by councils.	Luke Culhane

LGA Annual General Meeting 21 November 2025 – Agenda Items – Playford Position Paper

Agenda Item #	Recommendation	Playford Position	Responsible Staff Member
9.2	Support for a Coordinated Sector-Wide Approach to Sustainable Procurement (City of Marion) <u>Recommendation</u> That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to: 1. Recognise the critical role of sustainable procurement in supporting councils to reduce emissions, stimulate the circular economy and meet net zero targets; and 2. Investigate the development of a coordinated sector-wide approach to sustainable procurement, including: a. Development of standardised sustainable procurement guidance and tools for councils; b. Integration of strong sustainability and emissions reduction criteria into LGA Procurement contracts and supplier arrangements; c. Capacity building and training for council staff on sustainable procurement practices; d. A shared platform to access case studies, supplier information, and procurement templates; and e. Alignment with the LGA Climate Commitment Actions Plan 2024-2030, LGA Net Zero Accelerate Program recommendations and State Government circular economy objectives.	Support Explanation: A suite of tools and guidance materials will assist council with sustainable procurement practices.	Luke Culhane
9.3	Equitable Community Service Obligation funding for CWMS networks (City of Onkaparinga) <u>Recommendation</u> That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA advocate to the South Australian Government to progress the recommendations of its 2020 review of the <i>Water Industry Act</i> to extend community service obligation payments to water industry entities other than SA Water, notably local government CWMS networks.	Support Explanation: Support the recommendation for CWMS payments for local governments	Jon Roberts



LGA Annual General Meeting - Agenda and Papers - 21 November 2025

LGA South Australia

Hall F, Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000

2025-11-21 14:30 - 15:30 ACDT

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10. Next Meeting

The next LGA Ordinary General Meeting will be held on Friday 29 May 2026 at location to be advised.

11. Close

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LGA Annual General Meeting

Notice of meeting

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the LGA Annual General Meeting will be held on:

Friday 21 November 2025 at 2.30pm

Hall F, Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000



Karen Teaha

Interim Chief Executive Officer

21 October 2025

lga. South
Australia

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Acknowledgement of Country

The LGA South Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout South Australia, and pays its respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge the unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and the rich contribution that First Nations People continue to make to our society.

The LGA operates on Kurna land, and our work extends across many First Nations communities within South Australia.

We acknowledge that local government can learn from the deep feelings of attachment that First Nations People have to country and respect this relationship in the delivery of services to communities.

The LGA is committed to strengthening connections between First Nations People, councils and the broader community as the peak body for local government in South Australia.

5.1 Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 23 May 2025

Minutes of Previous Meeting

From: Kianna Al Jaber, Executive Assistant
Meeting: Annual General Meeting 21 November 2025
ECM: 854073
Attachment: 1. 838773 – LGA Ordinary General Meeting – Draft Minutes – 23 May 2025

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting confirms the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 23 May 2025 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings held.

Discussion

The Ordinary General Meeting of the membership was held on 23 May 2025. The draft minutes are attached for confirmation as to their accuracy.

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Draft Minutes of the LGA Ordinary General Meeting held on Friday 23 May 2025 at 1:45pm in the Ian McLachlan Room, Adelaide Oval, War Memorial Drive, North Adelaide, SA 5000

1. Welcome, Present & Apologies

The President opened the meeting at 1:53pm and welcomed Members and staff.

1.2 Present

President	Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross
Chief Executive Officer	Clinton Jury
A/Executive Director Member Services	Karen Teaha
Executive Assistant to the CEO & President (Minutes)	Lucy Mickan
Executive Assistant Member Services (E-Voting)	Samantha Brooks
Executive Assistant Corporate Services and LGA Mutual (Manual Minutes)	Emily Rufus

Member Councils (Voting Delegates)

Adelaide Hills Council	District Council of Grant
Adelaide Plains Council	District Council of Kimba
Barunga West Council	District Council of Loxton Waikerie
Berri Barmera Council	District Council of Mount Remarkable
Campbelltown City Council	District Council of Orroroo Carrieton
City of Adelaide	District Council of Karoonda East Murray
City of Burnside	District Council of Tumby Bay
City of Charles Sturt	District Council of Yankalilla
City of Holdfast Bay	Kingston District Council
City of Marion	Light Regional Council

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City of Mitcham	Lower Eyre Council
City of Mount Gambier	Mid Murray Council
City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters	Mount Barker District Council
City of Onkaparinga	Northern Areas Council
City of Playford	Port Augusta City Council
City of Port Adelaide Enfield	Port Pirie Regional Council
City of Port Lincoln	Regional Council of Goyder
City of Prospect	Renmark Paringa Council
City of Salisbury	Rural City of Murray Bridge
City of Tea Tree Gully	Southern Mallee District Council
City of Unley	Tatiara District Council
City of Victor Harbor	The Flinders Ranges Council
City of West Torrens	Town of Gawler
Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council	Town of Walkerville
Coorong District Council	Wakefield Regional Council
Copper Coast Council	Wattle Range Council
District Council of Cleve	Whyalla City Council
District Council of Coober Pedy	Wudinna District Council
District Council of Franklin Harbour	

2. Apologies

Alexandrina Council
 The Barossa Council
 District Council of Ceduna
 District Council of Elliston
 District Council of Peterborough
 District Council of Robe
 District Council of Streaky Bay
 Kangaroo Island Council
 Municipal Council of Roxby Downs
 Naracoorte Lucindale Council
 Yorke Peninsula Council

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3 Notices & Arrangements

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

4. President's Address

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

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

5.1 Minutes of meeting held 22 November 2024

MOVED District Council of Kimba

SECONDED Northern Areas Council

That the Ordinary General Meeting:

1. Confirms the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22 November 2024 subject to the following changes:
 - a. City of Whyalla to be added to the attendance list
 - b. the word '**CARRIED**' be removed from under agenda item 9.4 – from between the amendment of the original motion and 'amendment to the amended motion'.

Carried

5.2 Resolutions and Actions from Previous Meetings

MOVED Port Augusta City Council

SECONDED Wakefield Regional Council

That the Ordinary General Meeting notes progress with resolutions resulting from the Annual General Meeting of 22 November 2024 and outstanding resolutions from earlier general meetings.

Carried

6. LGA Business

6.1 LGA Update Report

MOVED Copper Coast Council

SECONDED Clare & Gilbert Valley Council

That the Ordinary General Meeting notes the LGA's Update report.

Carried

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6.2 LGA Mutual Update

MOVED Lower Eyre Council

SECONDED District Council of Tumby Bay

That the Ordinary General Meeting notes the LGA Mutual Update report

Carried

6.3 LGA Procurement Update

MOVED City of Victor Harbor

SECONDED Mid-Murray Council

That the Ordinary General Meeting notes the LGA Procurement Update report.

Carried

7. Recommendation Reports from the SAROC Committee

7.1 Advocacy to State Government to Extend First Home Buyers Stamp Duty Exemption to Existing Purchases (City of Victor Harbor)

MOVED City of Victor Harbor

SECONDED District Council of Yankalilla

That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to advocate to the State Government for an extension of the First Home Buyers Stamp Duty Exemption. This extension should include:

- a. The purchase of existing homes in South Australia; or
- b. The purchase of existing homes in regional and rural communities of South Australia.

The mover sought approval from the seconder to vary the motion by removing the following words:

"a. The purchase of existing homes in South Australia; or"

The seconder approved the variation and the motion became:

That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to advocate to the State Government for an extension of the First Home Buyers Stamp Duty Exemption. This extension should include:

- a. The purchase of existing homes in regional and rural communities of South Australia.

The varied motion was put.

Carried

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7.2 Amendment to section 78(2) of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* (Adelaide Plains Council)

MOVED Adelaide Plains Council

SECONDED City of Marion

That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to lobby the State Government for an amendment to the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* with respect to section 78(2), to remove reference to costs being awarded against the council in situations where the Electoral Commission's actions, acts or omissions are at fault.

Carried

8. Recommendation Reports from the GAROC Committee

8.1 Improvement of Managing the Delivery of Approved Development (City of Charles Sturt)

MOVED City of Charles Sturt

SECONDED City of Unley

That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to advocate to the State Government for the amendment of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 and or the Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017 to facilitate the need for a vendor to confirm, at the time of property sale for a new dwelling, that the development has been delivered consistent with the relevant approval and ensuring that the approved plans are provided to the purchaser of the dwelling, thus reducing the risk of incorrect development occurring and the impact of correcting a breach passing to the new owner of the land without their awareness.

Carried

9. Recommendation Reports from the LGA Board of Directors

9.1 State Owned, Council leased, Jetties (District Council of Tumby Bay)

MOVED District Council of Tumby Bay

SECONDED City of Holdfast Bay

That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to:

1. Advocate strongly for the State Government to adopt a pragmatic and equitable approach to funding regional jetty repairs and maintenance, recognising the unsustainable financial burden on regional Councils;

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2. Highlight that State-owned jetties remain the responsibility of the State, and without ongoing financial assistance, regional communities will be forced to impose unrealistic rate increases to fund these assets; and
3. Call for fair and consistent funding by ensuring that regional jetties receive the same level of financial support as metropolitan jetties for repair and maintenance.

Carried

A division was called and the previous vote was set aside.

The motion was put to Members again.

Those for the motion:

Adelaide Hills Council, Adelaide Plains Council, Barunga West Council, Berri Barmora Council, Campbelltown City Council, City of Adelaide, City of Burnside, City of Charles Sturt, City of Holdfast Bay, City of Marion, City of Mitcham, City of Mount Gambier, City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, City of Onkaparinga, City of Playford, City of Port Adelaide Enfield, City of Port Lincoln, City of Prospect, City of Salisbury, City of Tea Tree Gully, City of Unley, City of Victor Harbor, City of West Torrens, Clare & Gilbert Valley Council, Coorong District Council, Copper Coast Council, District Council of Cleve, District Council of Coorber Pedy, District Council of Franklin Harbour, District Council of Grant, District Council of Karoonda East Murray, District Council of Kimba, District Council of Loxton Waikerie, District Council of Mount Remarkable, District Council of Orroroo Carrieton, District Council of Tumby Bay, District Council of Yankalilla, Kingston District Council, Light Regional Council, Lower Eyre Council, Mid-Murray Council, Mount Barker District Council, Northern Areas Council, Port Augusta City Council, Port Pirie Regional Council, Regional Council of Goyder, Renmark Paranga Council, Southern Mallee District Council, Tatiara District Council, The Flinders Ranges Council, Town of Gawler, Town of Walkerville, Wakefield Regional Council, Wattle Range Council, Whyalla City Council, Wudinna District Council

Those against: Rural City of Murray Bridge

The motion was declared Carried

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9.1 State Owned, Council leased, Jetties (District Council of Tumby Bay)

MOVED District Council of Tumby Bay

SECONDED City of Holdfast Bay

That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to:

1. Advocate strongly for the State Government to adopt a pragmatic and equitable approach to funding regional jetty repairs and maintenance, recognising the unsustainable financial burden on regional Councils;
2. Highlight that State-owned jetties remain the responsibility of the State, and without ongoing financial assistance, regional communities will be forced to impose unrealistic rate increases to fund these assets; and
3. Call for fair and consistent funding by ensuring that regional jetties receive the same level of financial support as metropolitan jetties for repair and maintenance.

Carried

9.2 Advocacy – Community Centre Funding (City of Onkaparinga)

MOVED City of Onkaparinga

SECONDED Lower Eyre Council

That the Ordinary General Meeting:

1. Requests the LGA to undertake research on community centres to inform an evidence-base, like the approach used for libraries funding advocacy, and develop a strategy that can be used for advocacy by the LGA and member councils;
2. Direct that the research should seek to provide data on the impact of community centres and provide evidence of their economic and social impact resulting from their activities. Their role in the community, operating models, sources of funding and activities they provide should also be considered; and
3. Based on the research conducted, requests the LGA to advocate to the State Government regarding better funding outcomes for community centers across South Australia and, if supported by the research conducted, specifically advocates for the State Government to commit to providing baseline funding to community centres across the state.

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Proposed Amendment

MOVED Wattle Range Council

To remove the third dot point from the motion.

The Chair did not accept the proposed amendment.

The original motion was put to the vote.

Carried

10. Next Meeting

An Annual General meeting will be held on Friday 21 November 2025 at a time to be advised at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

11. Close

The meeting was declared closed at 2:53pm.

Minutes confirmed

.....

Chairperson signature

Date

5.2 Resolutions and Actions from Previous Meetings

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Meeting	Annual General Meeting	21 November 2025
ECM:	842379	

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting notes progress with resolutions resulting from the Ordinary General Meeting of 23 May 2025 and outstanding resolutions from earlier general meetings.

Discussion

The attached report outlines progress of resolutions from previous general meetings of 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. LGA uses best endeavours to achieve the outcomes sought by member councils, noting these need to be prioritised with our existing work program.

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

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

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Resolutions from the Annual General Meeting – 23 May 2025	Action Taken / Progress
7.1 Advocacy to State Government to Extend First Home Buyers Stamp Duty Exemption to Existing Purchases (City of Victor Harbor) (ECM: 835768, JH) That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to advocate to the State Government for an extension of the First Home Buyers Stamp Duty Exemption. This extension should include: a. The purchase of existing homes in regional and rural communities of South Australia.	Complete Letter written to the Treasurer and response received. The Treasurer is not supportive of a change to extend the First Home Buyers Stamp Duty Exemption. This is mainly due to the likely adverse impact on house prices.
7.2 Amendment to section 78(2) of the Local Government (Elections) Act 1999 (Adelaide Plains Council) (ECM: 835770, MM) That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to lobby the State Government for an amendment to the Local Government (Elections) Act 1999 with respect to section 78(2), to remove reference to costs being awarded against the council in situations where the Electoral Commission's actions, acts or omissions are at fault.	In Progress This matter has been raised in discussions with the Office of Local Government and Minister Szakacs. The Statutes Amendment (Local Government Election Review) Bill 2025, as introduced, did not propose any change to election related costs orders.
8.1 Improvement of Managing the Delivery of Approved Development (City of Charles Sturt) (ECM: 834996, SE) That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to advocate to the State Government for the amendment of the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i> and or the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017</i> to facilitate the need for a vendor to confirm, at the time of property sale for a new dwelling, that the development has been delivered consistent with the relevant approval and ensuring that the approved plans are provided to the purchaser of the dwelling, thus	In progress LGA will be advocating to the Department for Housing and Urban Development and the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs to update the <i>Land and Business (Sale and Conveyancing) Regulations 2025</i> Schedule 1 to explicitly identify if there are any outstanding conditions and if the new dwelling has been developed consistent with Development Approval.

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reducing the risk of incorrect development occurring and the impact of correcting a breach passing to the new owner of the land without their awareness.	* Note there was an update in September 2025 to include reference to <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i> , but did not include additional requirements in Schedule 1.
9.1 State Owned, Council leased, Jetties (District Council of Tumby Bay) (ECM: 835776, SW) That the Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to: 1. Advocate strongly for the State Government to adopt a pragmatic and equitable approach to funding regional jetty repairs and maintenance, recognising the unsustainable financial burden on regional Councils; 2. Highlight that State-owned jetties remain the responsibility of the State, and without ongoing financial assistance, regional communities will be forced to impose unrealistic rate increases to fund these assets; and 3. Call for fair and consistent funding by ensuring that regional jetties receive the same level of financial support as metropolitan jetties for repair and maintenance.	In progress LGA is organising a jetty summit for members in early November 2025 to share experiences and highlight current needs and priorities relating to jetties. This will inform a long-term explore opportunities for collective advocacy and the development of long-term solutions for jetties in South Australia.
9.2 Advocacy – Community Centre Funding (City of Onkaparinga) (ECM: 835777, BT) That the Ordinary General Meeting: 1. Requests the LGA to undertake research on community centres to inform an evidence-base, like the approach used for libraries funding advocacy, and develop a strategy that can be used for advocacy by the LGA and member councils; 2. Direct that the research should seek to provide data on the impact of community centres and provide evidence of their economic and social	In Progress LGA has engaged BDO Services Pty Ltd to undertake the work. A small advisory group has been established with key council stakeholders and the CEO from Community Centres SA. A draft final report is expected by early December 2025. The results of this research will help to inform LGA's advocacy approach in the lead up to the State Election.

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impact resulting from their activities. Their role in the community, operating models, sources of funding and activities they provide should also be considered; and 3. Based on the research conducted, requests the LGA to advocate to the State Government regarding better funding outcomes for community centers across South Australia and, if supported by the research conducted, specifically advocates for the State Government to commit to providing baseline funding to community centres across the state.	
Resolutions from the Annual General Meeting – 22 November 2024	Action Taken / Progress
6.7 - DECISION B - Casual Vacancies for LGA President and GAROC/SAROC - (ECM: 823371, AW) That the Annual General Meeting approves the proposed changes to achieve Proposal 2, as outlined in the attachments to this report (item 6.7 'Review of LGA Constitution and Ancillary Documents', LGA AGM - 22 November 2024).	Complete The Minister for Local Government approved the updates to the LGA Constitution, GAROC Terms of Reference, and SAROC Terms of Reference in May 2025.
6.7 - DECISION D - Clarifying the General Meeting agenda and Items of Business processes - (ECM: 823371, AW) That the Annual General Meeting approves the proposed changes to achieve Proposal 4, as outlined in the attachments to this report (item 6.7 'Review of LGA Constitution and Ancillary Documents', LGA AGM - 22 November 2024).	
6.7 - DECISION E - Recognition of Regional Subsidiary/Association methods of election to GAROC or SAROC. - (ECM: 823371, AW)	

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That the Annual General Meeting approves the proposed changes to achieve Proposal 5, as outlined in the attachments to this report (item 6.7 'Review of LGA Constitution and Ancillary Documents', LGA AGM - 22 November 2024).	
6.7 - DECISION G - GAROC and SAROC regional groupings name changes - (ECM: 823371, AW) That the Annual General Meeting approves the proposed changes to achieve Proposals 9 and 10, as outlined in the attachments to this report (item 6.7 'Review of LGA Constitution and Ancillary Documents', LGA AGM - 22 November 2024).	
6.7 - DECISION H - Strategic Planning for GAROC and SAROC - (ECM: 823371, AW) That the Annual General Meeting approves the proposed changes to achieve Proposal 14, as outlined in the attachments to this report (item 6.7 'Review of LGA Constitution and Ancillary Documents', LGA AGM - 22 November 2024).	
6.7 - DECISION I - Transitional Provisions - (ECM: 823371, AW) That the Annual General Meeting approves the proposed changes to achieve Proposal 7, as outlined in the attachments to this report (item 6.7 'Review of LGA Constitution and Ancillary Documents', LGA AGM - 22 November 2024).	
6.7 - DECISION J - Other Amendments and Miscellaneous - (ECM: 823371, AW)	

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That the Annual General Meeting approves the proposed changes to achieve Proposals 8, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 16, as outlined in the attachments to this report (item 6.7 'Review of LGA Constitution and Ancillary Documents', LGA AGM - 22 November 2024).	
8.1 Advocacy for taxation reform, investment and incentives to support development of affordable and accessible housing - (City of Adelaide) - (ECM:823673, JH) That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to advocate to the Commonwealth Government to reform taxation policies which impact housing, and for investment and incentives which assist in the development of more affordable and accessible housing.	In Progress Letter to the Federal Minister for Housing, Federal Treasurer and the Shadow Minister advocating for tax reform.
8.2 Council Elections - (City of Port Adelaide Enfield) - (ECM: 823675, MM) That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to formally note that South Australian Councils endorse legislative changes that shift Council elections to a year different from the year in which State Elections are held.	In Progress This resolution has been advocated for through LGA's submission to the State Government Participation and Election Review. LGA's response to ECSA's 2022 Council Elections Report emphasised the need for a change in the timing of the election, as well as in media responses and interviews. This matter has also been raised repeatedly in discussions with Office of Local Government and Minister for Local Government. The Statutes Amendment (Local Government Election Review) Bill 2025, as introduced to the Parliament affirms dates for the next local government elections, being November 2026 and November 2030.

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9.1 Voting Method – LGA President & LGA Board Positions (City of Marion) – (ECM: 823730, AW) That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to consider the adoption of preferential voting for the LGA President (subsequent to the 2024 AGM); the voting methods used in South Australian elections for the House of Assembly and Legislative Council to be followed respectively.	Complete A consultant was engaged to assist the LGA Secretariat to investigate the merits of preferential voting for future LGA President elections. A report is included in this General Meeting as agenda item 6.7
9.3 Financial Sustainability in Local Government – (ECM: 823733, JH) That the Annual General Meeting: 1. Notes the work being undertaken by the LGA to support the financial sustainability of member councils, including research and modelling of equitable and efficient alternative approaches to setting Financial Assistance grants, which will provide an evidence base to support future related LGA advocacy on behalf of local government; and 2. Supports the LGA facilitating ongoing engagement within local government to identify further opportunities to support councils experiencing financial sustainability challenges, including through ongoing advocacy to the State and Commonwealth Governments for greater support.	In Progress LGA engaged SGS Economics and Planning to complete research into grant funding in South Australia. This piece of work will underpin continued advocacy on financial sustainability. An outline of a financial sustainability program is being designed to provide further support in this critical area.
9.4 Improvements to the Planning and Design Code – Garage / Carport and Open Space Provisions, and Ancillary Accommodation – (Campbelltown City Council) – (ECM: 823689, SE) That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to advocate to the State Planning Commissioner and Plan SA for the following changes to be made to the current Design Code:	Complete LGA provided a submission in support of this matter to the state government's Vehicle Parking Amendment Bill and Car Parking Scheme. In relation to the exclusion of waste storage areas from the dimensions of the minimum requirements for a garage, LGA recommended inclusion of a definition of 'garage' to be included in the Car Parking Scheme.

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1. To further increase the dimensions required for single garages and carports in residential developments to be a minimum of 6 metres in length and 3.5 metres in width. 2. That the provisions for waste storage areas (i.e. rubbish bins) and laundry/kitchen spaces be excluded from the minimum garage size dimensions within garage spaces. 3. Provisions of Open Space associated with residential development should be based on the percentage of the site area (i.e. 20% site area for an allotment should be open space). 4. Ancillary accommodation to be capped at one ancillary accommodation per allotment, to avoid an overcrowding on an allotment.	In Progress LGA continues to advocate for consideration of open space requirements outlined in the PDI Act and Regs and the PD Code. Further consideration of what percentage of area should be allocated. Complete LGA notes that the recently finalised Ancillary Accommodation and Student Accommodation Definitions Review Code Amendment included additional requirements relating to siting, design, facilities and private open space for ancillary accommodation. These new policies strengthen the intent of ancillary accommodation, including the notion of one per allotment.
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Resolutions from the Annual General Meeting – 26 October 2023	Action Taken / Progress
8.2 Animal Impounding/Rehoming (City of Port Adelaide Enfield) (797222, SW) That the Annual General Meeting requests that the LGA: 1. Investigate the current capacity/rehoming issues for dogs and cats currently faced by South Australian Councils; and 2. Undertake a scoping study into all potential animal pound and rehoming models, including the feasibility of a state-wide impounding and rehoming facility and associated services, considering the costs and risks with each model and how this could	Complete The Animal impounding and rehoming issues and options paper is now available on the LGA website for councils to use.

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be practically implemented to meet the needs of regional and metropolitan Councils.	
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Resolutions from the Ordinary General Meeting – 30 April 2021	Action Taken / Progress
8.4 Seeking a comprehensive State Government review of mandatory statutory rebates and exemptions from payment of local government rates (Adelaide) (LB 734189) 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.	In Progress Following preparation of a Report advocating for a review of Mandatory Statutory Rebates and Exemptions from Payment of Council Rates, LGA engaged an economic advisory consultant to peer review the Report. We have received the peer reviewed Report and will be using it to progress advocacy to the State Government on the need for a comprehensive review of mandatory rebates and exemptions from payment of local government rates.

6.1 LGA Annual Report 2024-25

LGA Updates

From:	Wade Reynolds, Executive Director Corporate Services	
Strategy:	4 - Achieve	
Outcome:	4.1 We lead by example in the governance and operations of the LGA	
Meeting:	Annual General Meeting	21 November 2025
ECM:	852331	
Attachment:	Nil	

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting receives and notes LGA South Australia's Annual Report for the year 2024-25.

Discussion

LGA's 2024-25 Annual Report, including financial statements, was approved by the LGA Board of Directors on 2 October 2025 and is presented to the Annual General Meeting for adoption by member councils.

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

The consolidated audited financial statements of the LGA and controlled entities for the year ending 30 June 2025 are presented as a separate report to the Annual General Meeting.

Financial and Resource Implications

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

6.2 LGA Consolidated Group Financial Statements 2024-2025

LGA Updates

From:	Wade Reynolds, Executive Director Corporate Services	
Strategy:	4 - Achieve	
Outcome:	4.1 We lead by example in the governance and operations of the LGA	
Meeting:	Annual General Meeting	21 November 2025
ECM:	852332	
Attachment:	1. 851401 – Consolidated Financial Statements	

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting receives and adopts the LGA South Australia and controlled entities Financial Statements for the year 2024-25.

Discussion

LGA Group operations were favourable to budget for the 2024-25 financial year, posting a Net Surplus of \$2.404 million. Cash and investments total \$86 million, comprising sufficient reserves to fund future claims from the Workers Compensation Scheme and Mutual Liability Scheme and funding for LGA's grant programs.

The underlying operating surplus for the Group was \$2.456 million for the year ended 30 June 2025. The underlying operating surplus comprises operating revenues and expenses for the year before accounting for gains on disposal of assets, the book revaluation (increase) of LG House and special distribution to members from LGA Mutual's Workers Compensation Scheme.

The attached consolidated financial statements for 2024-25 (Attachment 1) include the financial results for the following entities, noting that transactions between individual entities within the Group are eliminated in the consolidated accounts, resulting in individual entity results differing from the group total:

- LGA Parent Entity - Operations \$287,800 surplus and Project activity \$1.072 million surplus primarily due to the receipt of Local Government Research & Development Scheme grant income.
- LGA Procurement - \$292,139 surplus
- LGA Mutual - \$10,879 surplus

- LGA Workers Compensation Scheme - \$729,616 surplus (before a \$1 million special distribution to members)
- LGA Mutual Liability Scheme - \$175,869 surplus

LGA Parent Entity Operations and Projects - \$1.360 million surplus (\$2.307 million surplus after asset revaluation)

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

LGA Parent Operations recorded an operating surplus of \$287,800. The surplus is primarily due to staff vacancies and additional income from LGA Mutual.

LGA Parent - Project Activity

The surplus in project activity of \$1.072 million was primarily due to the receipt of income from the Local Government Finance Authority (LGFA) for the LGA's Local Government Research and Development Scheme (LGR&DS) ahead of those grant funds being allocated to projects.

LGA Parent Overall

The net surplus of \$2.307 million is due to the operating result described above in addition to the revaluation increment of \$935,555 for the commercially leased floors at LG House, a non-cash adjustment. The increase in the valuation has been driven by building improvements made to the bathrooms and lifts along with an increase in the commercial property sector, and comes after a valuation decrease in the prior financial year.

LGA Procurement - \$292,139 surplus

LGA Procurement is reporting a surplus of \$292,139 with revenue and income of \$1.944 million and expenses of \$1.652 million. A \$50,000 profit distribution out of the surplus was made to the LGA Parent as at 30 June 2025.

The majority of the growth occurred in the contracts for IT, corporate supplies and equipment, outdoor supplies and equipment, and professional services. There continues to be a strong demand by regional councils for LGA Procurement's project consultancy services.

Local government in South Australia spent more than \$66 million through 31 managed contracts accessing over 700 suppliers, saving an estimated \$5.2 million.

LGA Procurement completed 102 procurement consultancy projects for 21 councils across the state with a combined value of over \$27 million.

Over recent years, LGA Procurement has retained modest profits, and at the close of the 2024-25 financial year, the LGA Procurement Board resolved to make a one-off additional distribution to LGA of \$150,000 in addition to the budgeted distribution of \$50,000, making a total of \$200,000. This payment will be made in the 2025-26 financial year.

LGA Mutual - \$10,879 surplus

LGA Mutual is the governing entity of the Workers Compensation Scheme and the Mutual Liability Scheme, with operating expenditure of \$917,668 in 2024-25.

Overall, LGA Mutual is reporting a small operating surplus of \$10,879 for the year ended 30 June 2025.

LGA Workers Compensation Scheme - \$729,616 surplus

The operating result for the Workers Compensation Scheme was a surplus of \$729,616 for the year ended 30 June 2025, including \$869,059 of expensed payments from the risk incentive program. A special distribution was made to members of \$1 million, resulting in a net deficit position of (\$270,384)

The special distribution to members was agreed by the LGA Mutual Board, as the closing balance of funds held by the Workers Compensation Scheme was above the target range determined by the Board in conjunction with the Scheme's independent actuary.

At the end of the year, the Workers Compensation Scheme held an accumulated surplus of \$19.714 million, above the target range for the Scheme.

LGA Mutual Liability Scheme - \$175,869 surplus

The operating result for the Mutual Liability Scheme in 2024-25 was a surplus of \$175,869.

At the end of the year, the Mutual Liability Scheme held an accumulated surplus of \$19.193 million, which is within the target range for the Scheme.

Conclusion

The Financial Statements for 2024-25 have been reviewed by the LGA's auditor PwC and have been certified by the LGA Board. The report presents fairly the LGA Group's performance and cash flows for the financial year and complies with Australian Accounting Standards and relevant legislative requirements.

Financial and Resource Implications

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

Local Government Association of South Australia

Consolidated Financial Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Local Government Association of South Australia**Contents****For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

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Local Government Association of South Australia**Board Members' Report****30 June 2025**

The Board members present the financial report of the Local Government Association of South Australia and its controlled entities ("the Group") for the financial year ended 30 June 2025 and the auditor's report thereon.

Board members

The names of the Directors currently in office are:

Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross
Mayor Dean Johnson
Mayor Gillian Aldridge
Mayor Moira Jenkins
Mayor Leon Stephens
Mayor Jo-Anne Quigley
Mayor Anne Monceaux (appointed 22nd November 2024)
Mayor Lynette Martin (appointed 22nd November 2024)
Mayor Moira Were (appointed 22nd November 2024)
Lord Mayor Jane Lomax-Smith (appointed 22nd November 2024)

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

Mayor Claire Boan (resigned 22nd November 2024)
Mayor Caroline Phillips (resigned 22nd November 2024)
Mayor Angela Evans (resigned 22nd November 2024)
Mayor Michael Coxon (resigned 22nd November 2024)

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

Principal activities

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

LGA

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

LGASA Mutual

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

LGAMLS

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

LGAWCS

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

Local Government Association of South Australia

Board Members' Report

30 June 2025

Principal activities (cont'd)

management, worker rehabilitation and occupational health and safety management services, to minimise the occurrence of workers compensation liabilities.

LGA Procurement

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

Results and review of operations for the year

The operating surplus for the Group for the financial year before special distributions and other items was \$2,455,859 (2024FY surplus: \$5,466,144). After the special distributions to scheme members and a revaluation of the investment in Local Government House the total comprehensive surplus was \$2,468,235 (2024FY surplus: \$701,217). The results for each of the entities before inter-entity eliminations are as follows:

LGA

The LGA is reporting an operating surplus of \$1,359,976 in the 2025FY (2024FY surplus: \$1,984,168). This comprises of an operating surplus from ordinary operations of \$287,800 (2024FY surplus: \$167,281) and a surplus in project activity of \$1,072,177 (2024FY deficit: \$1,816,887). After the gain on investment property of \$935,555 (2024FY loss: \$1,942,500) and net gain on disposal of assets of \$11,033 (2024FY loss: \$13,258) the net surplus is \$2,306,564 (2024FY surplus: \$28,410).

LGASA Mutual

In the 2025FY, LGASA Mutual is reporting an operating surplus of \$10,879 compared with a \$75,032 deficit in the 2024FY.

LGAMLS

The operating surplus for the 2025FY amounted to \$175,869 (2024FY surplus: \$1,050,839) inclusive of payments to the risk incentive program of \$499,371 (2024FY: \$226,339). The total comprehensive deficit for the year is \$323,502 (2024FY surplus: \$824,500).

LGAWCS

The operating surplus for the 2025FY amounted to \$729,616 (2024FY surplus: \$2,402,903) inclusive of payments to the risk incentive program of \$392,733 (2024FY: \$277,445) and before the special distribution to members of \$1,000,000 (2024FY: \$1,000,000). The total comprehensive deficit for the year was \$663,117 (2024FY surplus: \$1,125,457).

LGA Procurement

The operating surplus for the 2025FY was \$292,139 compared to a surplus of \$210,131 in the 2024FY.

Significant changes in the state of affairs

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

Likely developments

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

Environmental issues

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

Local Government Association of South Australia**Board Members' Report****30 June 2025****Indemnification and insurance of officers and auditors**

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

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

President:


Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross

Interim Chief Executive Officer:


Karen Teaha

Dated this second day of October 2025

Local Government Association of South Australia

Statement of Surplus/(Deficit) and Other Comprehensive Income
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	Consolidated		Parent	
		2025	2024	2025	2024
Revenue and other income		\$	\$	\$	\$
Member contributions	7	42,452,510	40,415,691	-	-
Grant revenue		684,663	862,157	684,664	862,157
Grant income		4,106,013	4,468,095	4,106,013	4,435,187
Subscriptions		2,820,209	2,665,603	2,820,209	2,665,603
Other revenue	7	8,660,529	8,914,167	7,770,026	7,886,560
Finance income		3,722,008	3,602,350	490,020	455,005
Total revenue and income from continuing operations		62,445,932	60,928,063	15,870,932	16,304,512
Expenses					
Employee benefits expense		(8,683,441)	(7,928,728)	(6,750,974)	(6,299,900)
Risk management, levies and other scheme expenses		(14,250,434)	(12,510,925)	-	-
Depreciation and amortisation		(569,728)	(599,296)	(552,547)	(587,864)
Grant expenditure	8	(1,251,784)	(1,258,508)	(1,251,784)	(1,328,508)
Net claims expense	9	(16,587,295)	(14,617,140)	-	-
Catastrophe insurance expense		(9,714,119)	(9,777,382)	-	-
Other expenses		(8,584,782)	(8,217,882)	(5,647,667)	(5,707,393)
Finance expenses		(348,490)	(552,058)	(307,984)	(396,679)
Total Expenses		(59,990,073)	(55,461,919)	(14,510,956)	(14,320,344)
Operating surplus/(deficit)		2,455,859	5,466,144	1,359,976	1,984,168
Net gain/(loss) on sale of assets		12,983	(5,893)	11,033	(13,258)
Gain/(loss) revaluation of investment property		935,555	(1,942,500)	935,555	(1,942,500)
Special distribution to members		(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	-	-
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		2,404,397	2,517,751	2,306,564	28,410
Other Comprehensive Income					
Risk incentive distribution to members		(892,104)	(503,784)	-	-
Revaluation of operating land and buildings		955,942	(1,312,750)	955,942	(1,312,750)
Total Other Comprehensive Income		63,838	(1,816,534)	955,942	(1,312,750)
Total comprehensive surplus/(deficit) for the year		2,468,235	701,217	3,262,506	(1,284,340)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2025

	Note	Consolidated		Parent	
		2025	2024	2025	2024
		\$	\$	\$	\$
ASSETS					
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	10	43,012,165	25,672,042	23,812,505	16,435,291
Trade and other receivables	11	21,446,084	20,725,241	5,621,212	6,129,910
Financial assets	12	43,429,903	50,616,300	-	-
Prepayments		700,436	971,074	370,058	501,381
Reinsurance and other recoveries receivables	13	4,419,370	6,464,227	-	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		113,007,958	104,448,884	29,803,775	23,066,582
NON-CURRENT ASSETS					
Trade and other receivables	11	5,490,056	8,098,378	5,490,056	8,098,378
Financial assets	12	-	-	1	1
Property, plant and equipment	14	13,975,291	12,817,233	13,927,904	12,726,488
Investment properties	15	15,817,500	14,152,500	15,817,500	14,152,500
Intangible assets	16	296,311	397,571	296,311	397,571
Reinsurance and other recoveries receivables	13	9,472,453	8,367,319	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		45,051,611	43,833,001	35,531,772	35,374,938
TOTAL ASSETS		158,059,569	148,281,885	65,335,547	58,441,520
LIABILITIES					
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Trade and other payables	17	26,030,032	19,871,799	23,881,656	17,846,112
Borrowings	19	2,608,322	2,521,230	2,608,322	2,521,230
Employee benefits	18	1,070,845	832,691	842,777	704,705
Unearned member contributions	20	12,461,517	12,049,465	-	-
Outstanding claims liability	21	13,609,715	11,954,763	-	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		55,780,431	47,229,948	27,332,755	21,072,047
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Trade and other payables		47,387	182,632	-	-
Borrowings	19	5,490,056	8,098,378	5,490,056	8,098,378
Catastrophe margin		85,000	85,000	-	-
Employee benefits	18	200,522	201,997	132,888	153,753
Outstanding claims liability	21	23,019,447	21,515,439	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		28,842,412	30,083,446	5,622,944	8,252,131
TOTAL LIABILITIES		84,622,843	77,313,394	32,955,699	29,324,178
NET ASSETS		73,436,726	70,968,491	32,379,848	29,117,342
EQUITY					
Reserves	22	39,608,281	33,142,860	38,489,447	31,131,922
Retained earnings		33,828,445	37,825,631	(6,109,599)	(2,014,580)
		73,436,726	70,968,491	32,379,848	29,117,342
TOTAL EQUITY		73,436,726	70,968,491	32,379,848	29,117,342

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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Local Government Association of South Australia

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

2024 Consolidated

	Consolidated					
	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Project Reserve	Risk Incentive Reserve	Total Reserves	Total Equity
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2023	41,671,029	12,536,129	13,545,393	2,514,723	28,596,245	70,267,274
Risk Incentive distribution	-	-	-	(503,784)	(503,784)	(503,784)
Surplus/deficit for the year from ordinary activities	3,517,751	-	-	-	-	3,517,751
Special distribution to members	(1,000,000)	-	-	-	-	(1,000,000)
Revaluation increment (decrement)	-	(1,312,750)	-	-	(1,312,750)	(1,312,750)
Total comprehensive surplus/(deficit) for the year	2,517,751	(1,312,750)	-	(503,784)	(1,816,534)	701,217
Transfer (to)/from project reserve	(6,363,149)	-	6,363,149	-	6,363,149	-
Balance at 30 June 2024	37,825,631	11,223,379	19,908,542	2,010,939	33,142,860	70,968,491

2025 Consolidated

	Consolidated					
	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Project Reserve	Risk Incentive Reserve	Total Reserves	Total Equity
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2024	37,825,631	11,223,379	19,908,542	2,010,939	33,142,860	70,968,491
Risk Incentive distribution	-	-	-	(892,104)	(892,104)	(892,104)
Surplus/deficit for the year from ordinary activities	3,404,397	-	-	-	-	3,404,397
Special distribution to members	(1,000,000)	-	-	-	-	(1,000,000)
Revaluation increment (decrement)	-	955,942	-	-	955,942	955,942
Total comprehensive surplus/(deficit) for the year	2,404,397	955,942	-	(892,104)	63,838	2,468,235
Transfer (to)/from project reserve	(6,401,583)	-	6,401,583	-	6,401,583	-
Balance at 30 June 2025	33,828,445	12,179,321	26,310,125	1,118,835	39,608,281	73,436,726

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

2024 Parent

	Parent				
	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Project Reserve	Risk Incentive Reserve	Total Reserves
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2023	4,320,159	12,536,129	13,545,394	-	26,081,523
Total surplus/(deficit) for the year	28,410	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increment (decrement)	-	(1,312,750)	-	-	(1,312,750)
Transfer (to)/from project reserve	(6,363,149)	-	6,363,149	-	6,363,149
Balance at 30 June 2024	(2,014,580)	11,223,379	19,908,543	-	31,131,922

2025 Parent

	Parent				
	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Project Reserve	Risk Incentive Reserve	Total Reserves
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2024	(2,014,580)	11,223,379	19,908,543	-	31,131,922
Total surplus/(deficit) for the year	2,306,564	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increment (decrement)	-	955,942	-	-	955,942
Transfer (to)/from project reserve	(6,401,583)	-	6,401,583	-	6,401,583
Balance at 30 June 2025	(6,109,599)	12,179,321	26,310,126	-	38,489,447

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note	Consolidated		Parent	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:				
Receipts from customers/members (inclusive of GST)	60,770,571	59,305,077	13,707,254	12,700,275
Receipts from grants	10,683,831	9,690,595	10,683,831	14,349,193
Interest received	3,580,551	3,602,350	490,020	455,005
Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of GST)	(43,727,610)	(43,820,254)	(11,541,638)	(17,324,949)
Claims paid	(13,428,337)	(16,531,691)	-	-
Borrowing costs	(348,490)	(552,058)	(307,984)	(396,679)
Distribution back to members	(1,892,104)	(1,503,784)	-	-
Grant payments	1.b (1,717,867)	(2,675,624)	(1,717,867)	(2,870,182)
Other expenses	-	(1,312,750)	-	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	10 13,920,545	6,201,861	11,313,616	6,912,663
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:				
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment	19,707	21,496	19,707	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(1,406,751)	1,716,880	(1,434,881)	(40,228)
Payments for investments	(43,225,741)	(51,193,065)	-	-
Proceeds on disposal of investments	50,553,593	29,053,236	-	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	5,940,808	(20,401,453)	(1,415,174)	(40,228)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:				
Repayment of borrowings	(2,521,230)	(2,437,046)	(2,521,230)	(2,437,047)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	(2,521,230)	(2,437,046)	(2,521,230)	(2,437,047)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	17,340,123	(16,636,638)	7,377,212	4,435,388
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	25,672,042	42,308,680	16,435,291	11,999,903
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	10 43,012,165	25,672,042	23,812,503	16,435,291

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

1. Parent reporting

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

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

Statement of Surplus/(Deficit) and Other Comprehensive Income

1.a. Detailed Table

	Secretariat 2025	Secretariat 2024	Project 2025	Project 2024	Total 2025	Total 2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue and Income from continuing operations						
Subscriptions	2,820,209	2,665,603	-	-	2,820,209	2,665,603
Grant income	20,247	20,247	4,770,430	5,273,443	4,790,677	5,293,690
Other revenue	6,369,159	7,817,288	1,400,868	73,654	7,770,027	7,890,942
Finance income	488,579	455,005	1,441	-	490,020	455,005
Total revenue and income from continuing operations	9,698,194	10,958,143	6,172,739	5,347,097	15,870,933	16,305,240
Expenses						
Employee benefits - operating	(5,627,828)	(5,386,787)	(1,123,146)	(913,113)	(6,750,974)	(6,299,900)
Grant expenditure	-	-	(1,251,784)	(1,328,508)	(1,251,784)	(1,328,508)
Depreciation	(552,547)	(587,864)	-	-	(552,547)	(587,864)
Other expenses	(2,922,395)	(4,419,654)	(2,725,272)	(1,288,467)	(5,647,667)	(5,708,121)
Finance expenses	(307,624)	(396,557)	(360)	(122)	(307,984)	(396,679)
Total Expenses	(9,410,394)	(10,790,862)	(5,100,562)	(3,530,210)	(14,510,956)	(14,321,072)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	287,800	167,281	1,072,177	1,816,887	1,359,977	1,984,168

1.b. Parent entity grant payments

The following table shows the grant payments made by the LGASA Parent in accordance with the accounting policies of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058 Income for Not-For-Profit Entities.

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Community wastewater management scheme	495,533	1,560,675
LG research and development scheme	792,196	827,547
Other grants	430,138	481,960
	1,717,867	2,870,182

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

1. Parent reporting (cont'd)

Contingent liabilities

The parent entity did not have any contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2025 or 30 June 2024.

2. Summary of Material Accounting Policies

2.a. Basis of preparation

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

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

Accounting policies

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

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Group in the preparation of the financial statements. Policies related specifically to the LGAWCS and LGAMLS ('the Schemes') have been separately disclosed in Note 2(h) - (n). The accounting policies have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

Historical cost convention

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

Consolidation

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

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

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

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

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

2.b. New Accounting Standards and Interpretations

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

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

2. Summary of Material Accounting Policies (cont'd)

2.b. New Accounting Standards and Interpretations (cont'd)

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

Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) 17 Insurance Contracts

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

As the Group is a public sector entity the standard is not effective until the financial year commencing 1 July 2026 for the Group. The Group is in the early stages of assessing the impact of AASB 17 on the Group's insurance contracts. The impacts will be disclosed in the financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2026.

2.c. Income Tax

The Group, and its related entities, is exempt from income tax under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

2.d. Financial instruments

Recognition and derecognition

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

Classification

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

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

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

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

Measurement

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

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

2. Summary of Material Accounting Policies (cont'd)

2.d. Financial Instruments (cont'd)

whether their cash flows are solely payment of principal and interest.

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

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

Impairment

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

2.e. Impairment of non-financial assets

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

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

2.f. Capital Management Policy

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

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

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

2.g. Goods and services tax (GST)

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

Local Government Association of South Australia**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025****2. Summary of Material Accounting Policies (cont'd)****2.g. Goods and services tax (GST) (cont'd)**

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

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

2.h. Classification of Mutual Risk Products

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

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

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

2.i. Unexpired Risk Liability

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

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

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

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

2.j. Outwards Reinsurance

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

2.k. Claims

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

Claims expense and a liability for outstanding claims are recognised as losses occur. The liability for outstanding

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

2. Summary of Material Accounting Policies (cont'd)

2.k. Claims (cont'd)

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

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

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

Outstanding claim provisions were determined taking into account an actuarial review of the Schemes for 30 June 2025 completed on 20th July 2025 by Cumpston Sarjeant Pty Ltd. This review was based on initial claims data to 31 March 2025 and claims data to 30 June 2025 and included in their report dated 20th July 2025.

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

2.l. Catastrophe Margin

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

2.m. Special Distribution to Members

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

2.n. Assets Backing General Insurance Liabilities

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

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

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

Financial Assets

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

- Cash assets and bank overdrafts are carried at face value of the amounts deposited or drawn. The carrying amounts of cash assets and bank overdrafts approximate to their fair value. For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand, call deposits and deposits where maturity is less than 3 months, net of bank

Local Government Association of South Australia**Notes to the Financial Statements****For the Year Ended 30 June 2025****2. Summary of Material Accounting Policies (cont'd)****2.n. Assets Backing General Insurance Liabilities (cont'd)**
overdrafts.

- Fixed interest securities are recorded at amounts based on valuation using rates of interest equivalent to the yields obtainable on comparable investments at balance date.

Receivables

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

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

2.o. Right of Use Assets

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

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

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

2.p. Lease Liabilities

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

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

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

3. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

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

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

The significant estimates and judgements made have been described below.

Valuation of land and buildings

Land and buildings are recognised at fair value based on periodic, but at least triennial valuations by external independent valuers, less subsequent depreciation for buildings. A revaluation surplus is credited to reserves in equity. Detailed information about this estimate and judgement is included in Note 14.

Investment Property

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

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

Actuarial Assumptions and Methods - LGAMLS and LGAWCS

Actuarial Assumptions

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

	LGAMLS		LGAWCS	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Case estimate development	25%	25%	0	0
Wage inflation	3.50%	4.00%	3.50%	4.00%
Superimposed inflation	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
Discount rate	3.50%	4.25%	3.25%	4.25%

The process used to determine actuarial assumptions

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

In the independent actuary review for 30 June 2025 for the LGMLS and LGWCS, which was completed on 31 July 2025, the actuary was provided with claims data on claims incurred net of excesses and anticipated recoveries to reduce the liability of members. The actuary allow for:

- Developments in case estimates on reported claims based on an explicit case development parameter or Project Case Estimates method;
- Claims incurred but not reported and potential recoveries were all estimated by an inflation adjusted Payment per

Local Government Association of South Australia**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025****3. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments (cont'd)**

Claim Incurred method based on ultimate non-zero claim numbers projected by a Chain Ladder method and 5-year averages of late reported claims;

- Cost of claims likely to be reopened were estimated by an inflation adjusted Payment per Claim Incurred method based on ultimate non-zero claim numbers projected by a Chain Ladder method and 5 year average of reported claims;
- Expected investment earnings by applying a fitted payment pattern to the undiscounted sum of the above components and then discounts at the assumed discount rate;
- There were no recoveries either due or expected from reinsurance contracts.

Case estimate development

Development in net case estimates applied to open claims was -25.00% (2024 -25.00%) for all accident years.

Claim administration expense

The independent actuary has not made an allowance for claim administration expenses on open claims as the amount of fees already represent approximately 3% of payments. A fixed fee of \$201,967 is charged by the Scheme Manager for this expense. The amounts allowed are comparable to those normally made by the public liability and professional indemnity insurers.

Superimposed inflation

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

Discount rate

The estimates of the outstanding claims liabilities were discounted to allow for future investment income gains attributable to the liabilities. The estimates of reinsurance recovery assets were discounted to allow for future income losses attributable to the assets. The independent actuary assumed a discount rate based on current medium-term bond yields.

Sensitivity Analysis

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

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

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

3. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments (cont'd)

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

(i) LGAMLS

Variable	Surplus/(Deficit)		Total Accumulated Funds	
	Movement in variable (%)	Movement by applying variable gross of reinsurance (\$)	Net of reinsurance (\$)	Total Accumulated Funds (\$)
Wage inflation	3	321,093	21,379	(21,379)
	(3)	(309,021)	(20,652)	20,651
Superimposed inflation	3	325,907	21,699	(21,699)
	(3)	(313,476)	(20,948)	20,950
Discount rate	3	(372,151)	(25,279)	25,280
	(3)	394,497	26,704	(26,702)
Case - estimate development	5	293,565	1,241	(1,240)
	(5)	(283,564)	(1,146)	1,147

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

3. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments (cont'd)

(ii) LGAWCS

Variable	Surplus/(Deficit)		Total Accumulated Funds	
	Movement in variable (%)	Gross of reinsurance (\$)	Net of reinsurance (\$)	Total Accumulated Funds (\$)
Wage inflation	3	408,314	-	(408,314)
	(3)	(339,396)	-	339,396
Superimposed inflation	3	641,151	-	(641,151)
	(3)	(520,134)	-	520,134
Discount rate	3	(1,297,771)	-	1,297,771
	(3)	1,570,481	-	(1,570,481)

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

Risk management objectives and policies for mitigating risk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reinsurance strategy

LGAMLS and LGAWCS adopt a conservative approach towards the management of risk and did this by utilising various risk transfer options. The Board of the Schemes determine the level of risk, which is appropriate for the LGAMLS and LGAWCS having regards to ordinary concepts of prudence and regulatory constraints. The risk transfer arrangements adopted by the Schemes include the utilisation of commercial reinsurance arrangements and the negotiation of an indemnity agreement with the South Australian State Government Treasurer. These risk transfer arrangements assist the Schemes to limit its liability on single large claims and catastrophic events. These programs are regularly reviewed each year to ensure that

Local Government Association of South Australia**Notes to the Financial Statements****For the Year Ended 30 June 2025****4. Mutual Risk Products - Risk Management (LGAMLS and LGAWCS) (cont'd)**

they continue to meet the risk needs of LGAMLS and LGAWCS.

In the past ten years, LGAMLS and LGAWCS have managed their reinsurance program and risk transfer arrangements so that the exposure to each claim has been markedly reduced. LGASA Mutual has maintained its Treasurer's Indemnity on a long-term basis with an expiry in 2028.

Terms and conditions of membership

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

Product features (Mutual Liability Scheme)

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

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

Product features (Workers Compensation Scheme)

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

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

Management of risks

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

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

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

Concentration of risks

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

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

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

Interest rate risk

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

Credit risk

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

In relation to the reinsurance and other receivables disclosed in note 13 in relation to the LGAMLS, the credit risk exposure is equal to the undiscounted aggregate value of claims. As at 30 June 2025 this amounted to \$16.52 million (2024: \$15.38 million).

5. Financial Risk Management

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

Financial instruments used

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

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	43,012,165	25,672,042	23,812,505	16,435,291
Trade and other receivables	26,936,140	28,823,619	11,111,268	14,228,288
Term deposits	43,429,903	50,616,300	-	-
Total financial assets	113,378,208	105,111,961	34,923,773	30,663,579
Financial liabilities				
Trade and other payables	26,077,419	20,051,356	23,881,656	17,846,112
Borrowings	8,098,378	10,619,608	8,098,378	10,619,608
Total financial liabilities	34,175,797	30,670,964	31,980,034	28,465,720

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

The Group does not have any derivative financial instruments as at 30 June 2025 (2024: nil).

Liquidity risk

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

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

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

5. Financial Risk Management (cont'd)

Financial liability maturity analysis

Consolidated	Within 1 Year		1 to 5 Years		Over 5 Years		Total	
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial liabilities								
Trade and other payables	(20,450,853)	(15,618,291)	-	-	-	-	(20,450,853)	(15,618,291)
Borrowings	(2,608,322)	(2,521,230)	(5,490,056)	(8,098,378)	-	-	(8,098,378)	(10,619,608)
Total financial liabilities	(23,059,175)	(18,139,521)	(5,490,056)	(8,098,378)	-	-	(28,549,231)	(26,237,899)

Parent	Within 1 Year		1 to 5 Years		Over 5 Years		Total	
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial liabilities								
Trade and other payables	(20,450,853)	(15,618,291)	-	-	-	-	(20,450,853)	(15,618,291)
Borrowings	(2,608,322)	(2,521,230)	(5,490,056)	(8,098,378)	-	-	(8,098,378)	(10,619,608)
Total financial liabilities	(23,059,175)	(18,139,521)	(5,490,056)	(8,098,378)	-	-	(28,549,231)	(26,237,899)

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

Credit risk

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

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

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

Market risk

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

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

5. Financial Risk Management (cont'd)

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

Consolidated	2025		2024	
	+1.00%	-1.00%	+1.00%	-1.00%
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents	9,987	(9,987)	6,556	(6,556)
Investment in Term Deposits	596,320	(596,320)	583,136	(583,136)
Current Investments	279,360	(279,360)	279,426	(279,426)

6. Fair value hierarchy

Fair value hierarchy

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

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

Consolidated	Level 2	Level 3
30 June 2025	\$	\$
Financial Assets	43,429,903	-
Land and freehold buildings	-	12,682,500
Investment property	-	15,187,500
Parent	Level 2	Level 3
30 June 2024	\$	\$
Land and freehold buildings	-	12,682,500
Investment property	-	15,187,500

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

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

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

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

Valuation techniques used to determine fair value

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

6. Fair value hierarchy (cont'd)

Specific valuation techniques used to value financial instruments include:

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

Land, Freehold Buildings and Investment Property - The Group's land and buildings were revalued at 30 June 2025 by independent valuers Knight Frank Valuation & Advisory South Australia. Valuations were made on the basis of open market value. Movement during the year relates to depreciation on the building.

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

7. Revenue

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Member contributions				
- Gross earned contributions	64,438,407	61,557,729	-	-
- Rebate to members	(21,985,897)	(21,142,038)	-	-
Total member contributions	42,452,510	40,415,691	-	-
Other revenue				
- Administrative charges	1,760,520	1,595,457	2,994,232	2,800,607
- Other Revenue	2,903,985	3,715,195	2,665,609	3,061,901
- Rent	1,418,812	1,384,274	1,418,812	1,384,274
- Outgoings	679,285	629,551	679,285	629,551
- Member Service Rebates	1,608,344	1,350,918	12,088	10,227
- Consultancies	289,583	238,772	-	-
Total other revenue	8,660,529	8,914,167	7,770,026	7,886,560

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

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

7. Revenue (cont'd)

Member contributions

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

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

Grants

Grant income is recognised in accordance with AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profit Entities (AASB 1058) or AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers (AASB 15) when appropriate. In cases where there is an enforceable contract with sufficiently specific performance obligations, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15 where income is recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied. In all other cases grant income is recognised in accordance with AASB 1058.

Subscriptions

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

Other revenue

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

Finance income

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

8. Grant expenditure

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

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$
LG Research and Development Scheme	792,196	853,307	761,079	923,307
SA Climate Ready Coasts Program	426,000	350,000	426,000	350,000
Other grants	33,588	55,201	64,705	55,201
	<u>1,251,784</u>	<u>1,258,508</u>	<u>1,251,784</u>	<u>1,328,508</u>

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

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

8. Grant expenditure (cont'd)

grant or subsidy agreement have been met.

9. Net claims expense

Direct Business

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

Consolidated	2025		
	Current year	Prior years	Net
	\$	\$	\$
Claims expense			
Claims and related expenses - undiscounted	18,041,780	2,145,798	20,187,578
Claims and related expenses - discounted	(937,856)	1,516,402	578,546
Claims and related expenses - net	17,103,924	3,662,200	20,766,124
Reinsurance and other recoveries revenue			
Reinsurance and other recoveries revenue - undiscounted	(5,382,153)	1,437,039	(3,945,114)
Reinsurance and other recoveries revenue - discounted	519,145	(752,860)	(233,715)
Reinsurance and other recoveries - net	(4,863,008)	684,179	(4,178,829)
Claims incurred net of recoveries	12,240,916	4,346,379	16,587,295

Consolidated	2024		
	Current year	Prior years	Net
	\$	\$	\$
Claims expense			
Claims and related expenses - undiscounted	16,732,984	1,046,727	17,779,711
Claims and related expenses - discounted	(1,056,390)	1,091,484	35,094
Claims and related expenses - net	15,676,594	2,138,211	17,814,805
Reinsurance and other recoveries revenue			
Reinsurance and other recoveries revenue - undiscounted	(3,974,830)	1,082,846	(2,891,984)
Reinsurance and other recoveries revenue - discounted	513,295	(818,976)	(305,681)
Reinsurance and other recoveries - net	(3,461,535)	263,870	(3,197,665)
Claims incurred net of recoveries	12,215,059	2,402,081	14,617,140

Reinsurance and other recoveries revenue

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

9. Net claims expense (cont'd)

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

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

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

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

Workers compensation claims

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

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

Note 3 details the average inflation (normal and superimposed) rates and discount rates used in measuring the liability for outstanding claims.

10. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash at bank and in hand	43,012,165	25,672,042	23,812,506	16,435,291
Short Term Deposits	-	-	-	-
	43,012,165	25,672,042	23,812,506	16,435,291

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

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Net Surplus	2,404,397	2,517,751	2,306,564	28,410
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities				
adjustments for:				
- depreciation	569,728	599,296	552,547	587,869
- net gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(12,983)	(15,603)	(11,033)	13,256
- net (gain)/loss on disposal of investments	-	1,942,500	(935,555)	1,942,500
- special distributions to members	(892,104)	(503,784)	-	-
- (gain)/loss on revaluation of investment property	(1,077,012)	(1,312,750)	-	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:				
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	2,827,204	1,253,939	3,117,020	811,684
- (increase)/decrease in prepayments	270,638	(117,535)	131,323	(171,872)
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	6,022,988	3,177,339	6,035,543	3,683,940
- increase/(decrease) in outstanding claims and unearned contributions	3,571,010	(1,352,154)	-	-
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	236,679	12,861	117,207	16,876
Cashflows from operations	13,920,545	6,201,860	11,313,616	6,912,663

11. Trade and other receivables

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$
CURRENT				
Trade receivables	1,368,764	1,096,770	856,607	551,540
Accrued revenue	2,097,231	1,917,319	572,235	1,255,050
Accrued income related to grants	1,545,648	1,802,090	1,584,048	1,802,090
State Local Govt Infra Partnership Receivable	2,608,322	2,521,230	2,608,322	2,521,230
Member contribution receivable	13,826,119	13,387,832	-	-
	21,446,084	20,725,241	5,621,212	6,129,910
NON-CURRENT				
State Local Govt Infra Partnership Receivable	5,490,056	8,098,378	5,490,056	8,098,378
	5,490,056	8,098,378	5,490,056	8,098,378

Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are amounts due from members for services performed in the ordinary course of business. They are

Local Government Association of South Australia**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025****11. Trade and other receivables (cont'd)**

generally due for settlement within 30 days and therefore are all classified as current. Trade receivables are recognised initially at the amount of consideration that is unconditional unless they contain significant financing components, then they are recognised at fair value.

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

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

Accrued income

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

Impairment

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

The expected loss rates are based on the payment profiles of sales over a period of 36 months before 30 June 2024 respectively and the corresponding historical credit losses experienced within this period. The historical loss rates are adjusted to reflect current and forward looking information on macroeconomic factors affecting the ability of the customers to settle the receivables. The Group expected net loss is nil (2024: nil).

Loss allowance

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

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

State Local Government Infrastructure Partnership (SLGIP) receivable

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

Member contribution receivable

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

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

12. Financial Assets

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$
CURRENT				
Term deposits	43,429,903	50,616,300	-	-
	43,429,903	50,616,300	-	-

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$
NON-CURRENT				
Shares in controlled entities (at amortised cost)	-	-	1	1
	-	-	1	1

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

13. Reinsurance and other recoveries receivables

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$
CURRENT				
Reinsurance recoveries on paid claims	515,257	3,233,813	-	-
Reinsurance recoveries receivable	3,928,865	3,250,895	-	-
Reinsurer default provision	(24,752)	(20,481)	-	-
	4,419,370	6,464,227	-	-

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$
NON CURRENT				
Reinsurance recoveries on paid claims	11,007,281	10,128,857	-	-
Discount to present value	(1,474,773)	(1,708,488)	-	-
Reinsurer default provision	(60,055)	(53,050)	-	-
	9,472,453	8,367,319	-	-

Assets arising from reinsurance contracts were estimated for each accident year, from the payments to date and estimated outstanding claims history at 30 June 2025, taking into account the reinsurance terms applying to that accident year. In calculating the present value of reinsurance recoveries on the outstanding claims liability, allowance was made for an average recovery delay of three months, as assumed by the independent actuary. Although all relevant insurers are solvent, a provision for the failure of an insurer to pay has been raised. The reinsurer default provision is \$84,807 (2024

Local Government Association of South Australia**Notes to the Financial Statements****For the Year Ended 30 June 2025****13. Reinsurance and other recoveries receivables (cont'd)**

\$73,531) calculated at a rate of 0.63% (2024 0.63%) on the discounted value of the total reinsurance recoveries.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

14. Property, plant and equipment

	Freehold land & buildings	Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Right of Use Vehicles	Total
Parent	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Year ended 30 June 2025					
Opening net carrying amount	11,347,500	1,325,233	53,754	-	12,726,487
Additions	584,871	10,000	110,564	-	705,435
Transfers/Disposals	-	(1,674)	(7,000)	-	(8,674)
Depreciation expense	(205,813)	(211,698)	(33,776)	-	(451,287)
Revaluation gain / (loss)	955,943	-	-	-	955,943
Closing net carrying amount	12,682,501	1,121,861	123,542	-	13,927,904

	Freehold land & buildings	Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Right of Use Vehicles	Total
Parent	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Year ended 30 June 2024					
Opening net carrying amount	12,905,000	1,538,746	36,884	18,241	14,498,871
Additions	-	-	47,173	-	47,173
Transfers/(Disposals)	-	-	(9,778)	(10,424)	(20,202)
Depreciation expense	(244,750)	(213,513)	(20,524)	(7,817)	(486,604)
Revaluation gain / (loss)	(1,312,750)	-	-	-	(1,312,750)
Closing net carrying amount	11,347,500	1,325,233	53,755	-	12,726,488

	Freehold land & buildings	Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Right of Use Vehicles	Total
Consolidated	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Year ended 30 June 2025					
Opening net carrying amount	11,347,500	1,325,688	144,046	-	12,817,234
Additions	584,870	-	110,564	-	695,434
Transfers/Disposals	-	8,326	(33,177)	-	(24,851)
Depreciation expense	(205,813)	(211,789)	(50,866)	-	(468,468)
Revaluation gain / (loss)	955,942	-	-	-	955,942
Closing net carrying amount	12,682,499	1,122,225	170,567	-	13,975,291

	Freehold land & buildings	Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Right of Use Vehicles	Total
Consolidated	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Year ended 30 June 2024					
Opening net carrying amount	12,905,000	1,539,292	81,954	18,241	14,544,487
Additions	-	-	110,917	-	110,917
Transfers/Disposals	-	-	(16,961)	(10,424)	(27,385)
Depreciation expense	(244,750)	(213,604)	(31,865)	(7,817)	(498,036)

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

14. Property, plant and equipment (cont'd)

	Freehold land & buildings	Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Right of Use Vehicles	Total
Consolidated	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revaluation gain / (loss)	(1,312,750)	-	-	-	(1,312,750)
Closing net carrying amount	11,347,500	1,325,688	144,045	-	12,817,233

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

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

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

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

Buildings	2.50 %
Building improvements	10.00 %
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	7.5 - 33%
Motor vehicles	25.00 %
Right-of-use assets	over the lease term

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

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

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

(a) Transfer to/from investment property

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

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

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

15. Investment Properties

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening Balances	14,152,500	16,095,000	14,152,500	16,095,000
Additions or/(transfers)	729,445	-	729,445	-
Gain / (loss) on revaluation of investment property	935,555	(1,942,500)	935,555	(1,942,500)
Balance at end of year	15,817,500	14,152,500	15,817,500	14,152,500

(a) Nature

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

(b) Recognition and measurement

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

At each balance date, an external independent Full Scope valuation of the building is undertaken to determine the fair value of the Investment Property. The Full Scope valuation process incorporates a site inspection with building price indices, inflation, interest rates and other factors which may impact market values. The independent valuation was conducted by Knight Frank in June 2025 for 30 June 2025.

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

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

(c) Leasing arrangements

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

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

16. Intangible Assets

	Computer software \$	Total \$
Parent		
Year ended 30 June 2025		
Balance at the beginning of the year	397,571	397,571
Amortisation	(101,260)	(101,260)
Closing value at 30 June 2025	296,311	296,311

	Computer software \$	Total \$
Parent		
Year ended 30 June 2024		
Balance at the beginning of the year	498,831	498,831
Amortisation	(101,260)	(101,260)
Closing value at 30 June 2024	397,571	397,571

	Computer software \$	Total \$
Consolidated		
Year ended 30 June 2025		
Balance at the beginning of the year	397,571	397,571
Amortisation	(101,260)	(101,260)
Closing value at 30 June 2025	296,311	296,311

	Computer software \$	Total \$
Consolidated		
Year ended 30 June 2024		
Balance at the beginning of the year	498,831	498,831
Amortisation	(101,260)	(101,260)
Closing value at 30 June 2024	397,571	397,571

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

IT development and software	8 years
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Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

16. Intangible Assets (cont'd)

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

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

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

17. Trade and other payables

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$
CURRENT				
GST payable	1,268,148	1,207,857	-	-
Accrued expenses and other payables	4,311,031	3,045,651	3,430,803	2,227,821
Revenue and grants received in advance	20,450,853	15,618,291	20,450,853	15,618,291
	<u>26,030,032</u>	<u>19,871,799</u>	<u>23,881,656</u>	<u>17,846,112</u>

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

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

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

18. Employee benefits

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$
CURRENT				
Long service leave	562,771	346,115	463,513	312,719
Annual leave	508,074	486,576	379,264	391,986
	<u>1,070,845</u>	<u>832,691</u>	<u>842,777</u>	<u>704,705</u>

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

18. Employee benefits (cont'd)

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$
NON-CURRENT				
Long service leave	200,522	201,997	132,888	153,753
	<u>200,522</u>	<u>201,997</u>	<u>132,888</u>	<u>153,753</u>

Short term obligations

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

Based on past experience, the Group does not expect all employees to take the full amount of accrued leave or require payment within the next 12 months. The following amounts reflect leave that is not expected to be taken or paid within the next 12 months for the Group \$501,131 (2024: \$407,840) and the parent, LGA \$395,569 (2024: \$348,085).

Long term obligations

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

19. Borrowings

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$
CURRENT				
Other loans	2,608,322	2,521,230	2,608,322	2,521,230
	<u>2,608,322</u>	<u>2,521,230</u>	<u>2,608,322</u>	<u>2,521,230</u>
NON-CURRENT				
Other loans	5,490,056	8,098,378	5,490,056	8,098,378
	<u>5,490,056</u>	<u>8,098,378</u>	<u>5,490,056</u>	<u>8,098,378</u>

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

20. Unearned Member Contribution

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

A liability of \$12,461,517 (2024: \$12,049,465) for contributions billed in advance has been recognised. These amounts offset equivalent amounts in contributions owing.

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

21. Outstanding Claims Liability

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Central Estimate	35,959,722	33,596,824	-	-
Discount to present value	(3,242,217)	(3,820,763)	-	-
	<u>32,717,505</u>	<u>29,776,061</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	32,717,505	29,776,061	-	-
Risk margin	<u>3,911,657</u>	<u>3,694,141</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Gross outstanding claims liability	36,629,162	33,470,202	-	-
Gross claims incurred	39,871,379	37,290,965	-	-
Current	13,609,715	11,954,763	-	-
Non-Current	<u>23,019,447</u>	<u>21,515,441</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>36,629,162</u>	<u>33,470,204</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Outstanding claims

A provision of \$36,629,162 (2024: \$33,470,204) has been made for the estimated cost of claims notified but not settled at year end and for the cost of claims incurred by year end but not reported until after that date. This amount has been based on a methodology by consulting actuaries which incorporates the claims history of the scheme's prior year of operation.

Risk Margin

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

To determine the margin adopted, the Actuary concluded that a risk margin of 25% and 20% of net outstanding claims as outlined below would be reasonable if the Scheme was to have approximately 75% probability of its claim provisions proving reliable.

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

Risk margin applied

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

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
LGAMLS	25.00 %	25.00 %
LGAWCS	20.00 %	20.00 %

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

21. Outstanding Claims Liability (cont'd)

Reconciliation of movement in discounted outstanding claims liability

	Gross	Recoveries	Net
	2025	2025	2025
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2024	33,470,205	(14,831,547)	18,638,658
Current year claims incurred	17,103,924	(4,863,008)	12,240,916
Previous years claims incurred	3,662,200	684,179	4,346,379
Incurred claims in income statement	20,766,124	(4,178,829)	16,587,295
All claims paid during the year	(17,607,167)	5,118,553	(12,488,614)
Balance at 30 June 2025	36,629,162	(13,891,823)	22,737,339

22. Reserves

Asset revaluation reserve

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

Project reserves

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

Risk incentive reserve

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

23. Liability Adequacy Test

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

LGAMLS

The liability adequacy test identified the central estimate of the present value of future cash flows for future claims to be \$5,309,000 (2024: \$4,861,000) with an additional component of present value of expected future cash flows in relation to risk margin, net of reinsurance, to be \$33,000 (2024: \$31,000).

In performing this test a risk margin of 25% (2024 25%) was used to secure a 75% (2024 75%) probability of adequacy.

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

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

23. Liability Adequacy Test (cont'd)

LGAWCS

The liability adequacy test identified the central estimate of the present value of future cash flows for future claims to be \$12,772,000 (2024: \$12,859,000) with an additional component of present value of expected future cash flows in relation to risk margin to be \$2,129,000 (2024: \$2,143,000).

In performing this test a risk margin of 20% (2024 20%) was used to secure a 75% (2024 75%) probability of adequacy.

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

24. Contingencies

In the opinion of Board, the Association did not have any contingencies at 30 June 2025 (30 June 2024:None).

25. Interests in Subsidiaries

	Principal place of business / Country of Incorporation	Percentage Controlled (%)* 2025	Percentage Controlled (%)* 2024
Subsidiaries:			
Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme (1)	Australia	-	-
Local Government Workers Compensation Scheme (1)	Australia	-	-
LGCS Pty Ltd (Trustee for LGCS Trust No.1) trading as LGA Procurement	Australia	100	100
LGASA Mutual Pty Ltd	Australia	100	100

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

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

26. Key Management Personnel Remuneration

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

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Short-term employee benefits	1,237,957	1,031,971
Long-term benefits	27,133	102,255
Post-employment benefits	140,507	129,779
	<u>1,405,597</u>	<u>1,264,005</u>

Local Government Association of South Australia

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

26. Key Management Personnel Remuneration (cont'd)

Transactions with key management personnel

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

There are no transactions to disclose for key management personnel.

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

27. Related Parties

Key management personnel - refer to Note 26.

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

The following entities are considered related parties:

- Local Government Finance Authority

Loans to/from related parties

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

	Opening balance \$	Closing balance \$	Interest income/ (expense) \$	Interest receivable/ (payable) \$
Loans from related parties				
2025	(10,619,608)	(8,098,378)	(302,538)	(127,958)
2024	(13,056,655)	(10,619,608)	(391,467)	(357,604)
Loans to related parties				
2025	72,963,382	80,998,901	3,782,056	1,218,171
2024	64,069,531	72,963,382	3,302,933	545,657

28. Events after the end of the Reporting Period

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

Local Government Association of South Australia**Notes to the Financial Statements****For the Year Ended 30 June 2025****29. Statutory Information**

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

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

Local Government Association of South Australia**Statement by Members of the Board**

In the opinion of the Board the financial report as set out on pages 6 to 44:

1. Present fairly the results of the operations of Local Government Association of South Australia as at 30 June 2025 and its state of affairs for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Local Government Association of South Australia will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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

President


Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross

Interim Chief Executive
Officer.....


Karen Teaha

Dated this Second day of October 2025

Local Government Association of South Australia**Independent Audit Report to the members of Local Government Association of South Australia****Report on the Audit of the Financial Report****Opinion**

We have audited the financial report of Local Government Association of South Australia (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of surplus/(deficit) and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by members of the board.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Group's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year ended; and
- (ii) complying with the Associations Incorporation Act 1985.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1985, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Group's financial reporting process.

Local Government Association of South Australia**Independent Audit Report to the members of Local Government
Association of South Australia****Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

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

Location
Dated this second day of october 2025



Independent auditor's report

To the members of Local Government Association of South Australia

Our opinion

In our opinion the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Local Government Association of South Australia (the Association) and its controlled entities (together the Group) as at 30 June 2025 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

What we have audited

The financial report comprises:

- the parent and consolidated statements of financial position as at 30 June 2025
- the parent and consolidated statements of changes in equity for the year then ended
- the parent and consolidated statements of cash flows for the year then ended
- the parent and consolidated statements of surplus/(deficit) and other comprehensive income for the year then ended
- the notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information and other explanatory information
- the statement by members of the board.

Basis for opinion

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

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

Independence

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

Emphasis of matter - basis of accounting and restriction on use

We draw attention to Note 2 in the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Group in complying with the financial reporting provisions of Local Government Act 1999. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for Local Government Association of South Australia and its members and should not be used by parties other than Local Government Association of South Australia and its members. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

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

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

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



Responsibilities of the directors for the financial report

The directors of the Association are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: https://auasb.gov.au/media/apzlwnoy/ar3_2024.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'PricewaterhouseCoopers'.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Bianca DeGennaro'.

Bianca DeGennaro
Partner

Adelaide
2 October 2025

6.3 Annual Reports from the LGA Committees

LGA Updates

From:	Andrew Lamb, Director Advocacy Wade Reynolds, Executive Director Corporate Services	
Strategy:	4 - Achieve	
Outcome:	4.1 We lead by example in the governance and operations of the LGA	
Meeting:	Annual General Meeting	21 November 2025
ECM:	852333	
Attachments:	1. 848658 – GAROC Annual Report on Activities 2024-25 2. 848659 – SAROC Annual Report on Activities 2024-25 3. 848660 – CEO Advisory Group Annual Report on Activities 2024-25 4. 851717 – 2024-25 Annual Report Local Government Research and Development Scheme	

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting notes the Annual Reports for the year 2024-25 of the following Committees established under the LGA Constitution:

- a) **Greater Adelaide Regional Organisation of Councils (GAROC)**
- b) **South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC)**
- c) **CEO Advisory Group**
- d) **Local Government Research and Development Scheme**

Discussion

GAROC, SAROC and CEO Advisory Group

Two Regional Organisations of Councils are established under Clause 19 of the LGA Constitution, namely GAROC and SAROC. The role of GAROC and SAROC is regional advocacy, policy initiation and review, leadership, engagement and capacity building in the regions.

The 2024-25 Annual Reports of GAROC and SAROC have been received and approved by the LGA Board of Directors and are provided as an attachment for noting by LGA member councils.

The LGA Board of Directors also has a CEO Advisory Group in accordance with the requirements of the LGA Constitution. A summary report for 2024-25 is attached to this report.

Local Government Research and Development Scheme

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the LGA and the Treasurer, LGA is required to provide an annual report on the activities and finances of the Local Government Research and Development Scheme at the LGA Annual General Meeting. The attached 2024-25 Annual Report for the Local Government Research and Development Scheme was endorsed by the LGA Board of Directors on 2 October 2025 and includes:

- An overview of the Scheme, its operations and outcomes in 2024-25
- Financial allocations for the year ending 30 June 2024, and budget for 2025-26
- Details of projects approved in 2024-25
- Details of projects completed in 2024-25
- Details of current projects as at 30 June 2025
- A list of projects proposed for 2025-26
- An overview of the LGR&DS priorities for 2025-26.

Financial and Resource Implications

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

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GAROC Annual Report on Activities

14 July 2025

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Discharge of responsibilities and functions

The Greater Adelaide Regional Organisation of Councils (GAROC) is established as a committee of the LGA and is responsible to the LGA for the discharge of its functions.

The minutes of each GAROC meeting are presented to the Board following each GAROC meeting and the GAROC members on the Board talk to matters raised as needed.

Clause 6.1.2 of the GAROC Terms of Reference (ToR) states GAROC is to assist the LGA's object by:

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

In recognition of operating within the LGA Strategic Management Framework, and consistent with clause 21.3 of the LGA Constitution, the separate Strategic Plan of GAROC ceased on 30 June 2024.

Membership and meetings

2024 saw the most recent election of members for GAROC. All councils were invited to submit nominees based on their regional groupings. An election process was conducted, with the successful nominees announced at the AGM in November 2024. It is noted the Lord Mayor of the City of Adelaide is a standing member of GAROC.

A special meeting was convened directly following the formalities of the AGM on 23 November 2024, where Mayor Moira Were was elected to GAROC Chair. Prior to that Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross had been Chair.

Below is a summary of GAROC membership and meeting attendance:

	Meeting date							
Member	1 July 2024	23 Sept 2024	11 Oct 2024 (Adn'l)	22 Nov 2024 (Special)	2 Dec 2024	20 Jan 2025	17 Mar 2025	5 May 2025
Mayor Gillian Aldridge OAM								

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Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross								
Lord Mayor Jane Lomax-Smith AM								
Cr Lucas Jones								
Mayor Michael Coxon								
Cr Don Palmer								
Mayor Claire Boan								
Cr Anna Leombruno								
Mayor Kris Hanna								
Mayor Moira Were								
Mayor Angela Evans								
Mayor Michael Hewitson								
Mayor Anne Monceaux								
Mayor Amanda Wilson								

Key	Attended	Apology	NA (not a member)
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General activities

Activities undertaken by GAROC during the year included the following:

- Climate Change Support Plan
- LGA Training Standards Review
- Strengthening council capability in response to local government reforms
- Interim report from Commonwealth on Local Government sustainability
- Cost Shifting Interim Report
- Climate Partnerships Project

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- Libraries Funding Campaign
- LGA Submission to DHS Disability Outcomes Framework
- Received updates on:
 - Strategic Plan
 - State Coordinator General Bill
 - Remuneration Tribunal
 - Federal Election Advocacy
- An additional meeting was held to clarify GAROC's structure and the Metro Mayors Forums

Standing items at each meeting were:

- confirmation of minutes of previous meetings
- noting the progress of previous resolutions and actions
- noting the activities of SAROC from previous meetings
- Metro Mayors Forum Update.

GAROC also heard from the following Guest Speakers:

- Jen St Jack, Alluvium Consulting, LGA Climate Change Support Plan
- James Carroll, Business Manager Integrity Governance

Among other matters, the ToR's require this Annual Report to summarise '*items being considered by GAROC which have not been reported to the Board of Directors and the intended actions in respect of those matters*', as the Board receives the minutes of each meeting of GAROC, there are no matters that have not been reported to the Board.

Items of Business referred to the Board or a General Meeting

The following proposed Items of Business (IoB) were referred to the LGA Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 22 November 2024:

- *City of Prospect - Consistent Policy Position on Use of AI in Local Government*
- *City of Adelaide - Advocacy for taxation reform, investment and incentives to support development of affordable and accessible housing*
- *City of Port Adelaide Enfield - Council Elections*
- *Campbelltown City Councils - Improvements to the Planning & Design Code - Garage / Carport and Open Space provisions, and Ancillary Accommodation*

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- *City of Marion - Voting Method - LGA President & LGA Board Positions*
- *Burnside City Council - Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass*

The following proposed Items of Business (IoB) were referred to the LGA Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) on 22 May 2025:

- *City of Charles Sturt - Improvement of Managing the Delivery of Approved Development*
- *City of Onkaparinga - Community Centre Funding*

Items of Business not referred to the Board or a General Meeting

The following proposed IoB were not referred through to the 23 May 2024 OGM for the reasons provided:

- *City of Unley – Limitations of power of Local Government to implement some policies* – in discussion of this item, GAROC did not approve on the basis that
- *City of Mitcham - Superannuation for Council Members* – GAROC at its meeting on 27 March referred the IoB through to the Board of Directors. A subsequent resolution was made by the Board of Directors requesting the LGA to investigate the potential, alternatives to, and implications, of amending the Local Government Act 1999 and/or Local Government (Members Allowances and Benefits) Regulations 2010 to allow councils the option to make superannuation contributions for council members.

Metro Mayors Forums

On 16 May 2024, GAROC facilitated a forum for all Metropolitan Mayors, to consider how best LGA can support councils. There was unanimous support for regular forums that enabled Metropolitan Mayors to meet, network and discuss topical issues. LGA is preparing a workplan to facilitate this. The attendees placed a low value on the formal aspects of GAROC meetings, and the resources required to support existing constitutional requirements.

A brief summary of each of the Metro Mayors Forums is outlined below.

- **19 September 2024 - Behaviour Standards Panel**
Alex Hart, Director Office of Local Government, presented on behaviour standards as outlined in the *Local Government Act 1999* (Act) and the role of the Behaviour Standards Panel.

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- 29 November 2024 - **Section 75G of the Local Government Act 1999**
Alex Hart, Director Office for Local Government, discussed the clauses within 75G of the Act, and how it should be used to assist in maintaining decorum within council chambers.
- 6 March 2025 - **LGA Strategic Plan**
Clinton Jury, CEO LGA, led the Metro Mayors through the LGA Strategic Plan to explore the pillars, activities and metrics.
- 17 April 2025 - **Planning for your Communities**
Sarah Elding, Planning Lead and James Holyman, Manager Policy led a session on Implementing the Greater Adelaide Region Plan (GARP), with guest speakers Lisa Teburea, Member of the State Planning Commission (SPC) and from pointData. George Giannakodakis, Executive Director & Founder, and Ben Russ, Manager Planning & Delivery.
- 3 July 2025 – **AI adoption, COP31 and Operating Guidelines for the Metro Mayors Forum**
The Operating Guidelines for the Metro Mayor Forum were endorsed with one change. Topics for future forums were tabled for consideration. A discussion on AI delivered through BitDot was held which sparked further ideas on future training/learning from LGA. An update was provided by the Lord Mayor on COP31.

Review of LGA Constitution and Ancillary Documents

A review of the LGA Constitution and Ancillary Documents commenced in 2023.

The LGA Constitution and Ancillary Documents review (the Review) of the LGA Constitution incorporated a range of issues raised by GAROC. The draft Terms of Reference as endorsed by the AGM in November 2024, was endorsed by the Minister for Local Government on 20 May 2025.

The changes endorsed include:

- The removal of individual Committee Strategic and Business Plans, the removal of regional representation in quorum calculations, and missing 3 meetings in succession regarded a breach of conduct in alignment with the Board of Directors.
- Specific to GAROC is the clause as requested by the Committee at their meeting on 4 March 2024 that attendance is required in person, except in exceptional circumstances (clause 9.6).

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SAROC Annual Report on Activities

24 July 2025

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Discharge of responsibilities and functions

The South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) is established as a committee of LGA and is responsible to LGA for the discharge of its functions.

The minutes of each SAROC meeting are presented to the Board following each SAROC meeting and the SAROC members on the Board talk to matters raised as needed.

Clause 6.1.2 of the SAROC Terms of Reference (ToR) states SAROC is to assist the LGA's object by:

- (a) supporting the activities of the LGA at a regional level;*
- (b) promoting communication between Members and between Members and the LGA;*
- (c) advocating in respect of matters which affect the SAROC Regional Grouping;*
- (d) encouraging engagement of Members within the SAROC Regional Grouping with SAROC and the LGA; and*
- (e) participating in policy development and implementation.*

In recognition of operating within the LGA Strategic Management Framework, and consistent with clause 21.3 of the LGA Constitution, the separate Strategic Plan of SAROC ceased on 30 June 2024.

Membership and Meetings

2024 saw the most recent election of members for SAROC. All councils were invited to submit nominees based on their regional groupings. An election process was then conducted, with the successful nominees announced at the AGM in November 2024.

A special meeting was convened directly following the formalities of the AGM on 23 November 2024, where Mayor Jo-Anne Quigley was elected to SAROC Chair. Prior to that Mayor Leon Stephens had been Chair.

Below is a summary of SAROC membership and meeting attendance:

Member	18 July 2024	3 Oct 2024	23 Nov 2024 (Special)	5 Dec 2024	23 Jan 2025	27 Mar 2025	15 May 2025
Mayor Darryl Houston							
Mayor Moira Jenkins							

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Mayor Dean Johnson							
Mayor Lynette Martin							
Mayor Caroline Phillips							
Mayor Jo-Anne Quigley							
Mayor Rodney Reid							
Mayor Linley Shine							
Mayor Leon Stephens							
Mayor Des Noll							
Mayor Bill O'Brien							
Mayor Paul Simmons							
Mayor Simone Bailey							
Mayor Liz Goosens							
Mayor Roslyn Talbot							

Key	Attended	Apology	NA (not a member)
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General activities

Activities undertaken by SAROC during the year included the following:

- Climate Change Support Plan
- LGA Training Standards Review
- Strengthening council capability in response to local government reforms
- Interim report from Commonwealth on Local Government sustainability
- Biodiversity Bill
- Cost Shifting Interim Report
- Automated External Defibrillators
- Climate Partnerships Project

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- Libraries Funding Campaign
- LGA Submission to DHS Disability Outcomes Framework

The Committee received updates on:

- Strategic Plan
- Federal Election Advocacy
- ESCOSA
- Little Corellas
- Regional Childcare Desert Advocacy Project (Mayor Jo-Anne Quigley)

Standing items at each meeting were:

- confirmation of minutes of previous meetings
- noting the progress of previous resolutions and actions
- noting the activities of GAROC from previous meetings
- drought - SAROC members asked for Drought to be a standing item at their meeting on 23 January 2025.

SAROC also heard from the following Guest Speakers:

- Jen St Jack, Alluvium Consulting, LGA Climate Change Support Plan
- Michelle Tjondro and Jo Noesgaard, SGS Economics and Planning update on Financial Assistance Grant model review project
- Mayor Paul Simmons, Coorong District Council and LGA SA Drought Advisory Group representative providing the Committee with updates on the drought.

Other Activities

- In conjunction with the AGM in November 2024 a drought round table was held with the Hon Clare Scriven MLC, Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.
- A follow up drought round table was held with the Hon Andrea Michaels MP, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs and Minister for Small and Family Business. It is noted the Minister for Local Government was invited, but unable to attend.

Among other matters, the ToR requires this Annual Report to summarise items being considered by SAROC which have not been reported to the Board of Directors and the intended actions in respect of those matters. As the Board receives the minutes of each meeting of SAROC, there are no matters that have not been reported to the Board.

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Items of Business referred to the Board or a General Meeting

There were no proposed Items of Business (IoB) referred to the LGA Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 22 November 2025.

The following Items of Business (IoB) were referred to the LGA Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) on 23 May 2025:

- *Amendment to section 78(2) of the Local Government (Elections) Act 1999 (Adelaide Plains Council)*
- *Advocacy to State Government to Extend First Home Buyers Stamp Duty Exemption to Existing Purchases (City of Victor Harbor)*

Items of Business not referred to the Board or a General Meeting

The following proposed IoB were not referred through to the 22 November 2024 AGM for the reasons provided:

- *A Call to Review Elected Member Disclosure Requirements (Barunga West Council) - SAROC* considered this proposed IoB at its meeting on 3 October 2024 and resolved not to support inclusion of the item on the AGM agenda. They did, however, resolved to explore the issues raised within the Item of Business with the Office of Local Government and report back to a subsequent SAROC meeting. It was noted by the Secretariat, and in the SAROC meeting that the provision of real examples (provided under confidence) would enable the full extent of the issue, and impact on members to be understood and advocated for accordingly. These examples would allow the Secretariat to be able to ask the right questions of the Office of Local Government, providing opportunity to advocate on the sector's behalf. SAROC noted a significant public perception risk if the sector were seen to be actively pursuing lesser disclosure requirements, such that this is not considered to be a matter to promote through inclusion on an AGM or OGM agenda.

Review of LGA Constitution and Ancillary Documents

A review of the LGA Constitution and Ancillary Documents commenced in 2023.

The LGA Constitution and Ancillary Documents review (the Review) of the LGA Constitution incorporated a range of issues raised by SAROC. The draft Terms of Reference as endorsed by the AGM in November 2024, was endorsed by the Minister for Local Government on 20 May 2025.

The changes endorsed include:

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The removal of individual Committee Strategic and Business Plans, the removal of regional representation in quorum calculations, and missing 3 meetings in succession regarded a breach of conduct in alignment with the Board of Directors.

Drought Advocacy

At its meeting on 23 January 2025, the SAROC committee requested that Drought Advocacy be a standing item on the agenda, with Mayor Caroline Phillips providing an update.

Mayor Paul Simmons, Coorong District Council and LGA representative on the SA Drought Advisory Group presented at the March and May committee meetings.

At the May meeting the Committee carried a motion to:

3. *The LGA through the leadership of Mayor Simmons negotiate with Primary Producers SA to develop a joint submission on a state funded rates deferral scheme. That this scheme be open to at least primary producers and business in regional / drought affected areas.*

LGA, in conjunction with Mayor Simmons, are in ongoing talks with Primary Producers SA to advocate on behalf of regional communities.

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CEO Advisory Group Annual Report on Activities 2024-25

8 August 2025

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CEO Advisory Group - Annual Review of Activities

Discharge of responsibilities and functions

The CEOAG is established as a committee of the LGA and is responsible to the LGA for the discharge of its functions.

The value of the CEOAG warrants enhanced ToR commensurate with their role as a required committee of the LGA as per clause 24.3 of the LGA Constitution. It has been identified that the review of the LGA Constitution (the Review) should include an update of the CEOAG ToR and consistency with the ToR for GAROC and SAROC (depending on any significant changes to their role as part of the Review).

The CEOAG meeting minutes are presented to the Board following each CEOAG meeting. While the minutes capture the required proceedings and resolutions, the report presenting the minutes to the Board provided a summary of discussion points and the LGA Chief Executive Officer, or Executive Leadership Team member was present at the Board meetings to talk to matters raised.

The function of the CEOAG is to provide advice to the LGA Board on the design and delivery of policy and services to members. This has been particularly effective in providing member council administration perspective and insight to inform the LGA Secretariat on various matters, in addition to further consultation with the sector and/or consideration by the LGA Board.

Key considerations for the CEOAG are:

- (a) Assessing the value and validity of the services offered by the LGA to its Members.

Considering proposals for the further development of existing or new services by the LGA.

- (b) The effectiveness of operational policies adopted by the LGA in connection with Member services.

In accordance with clause 5.2.2 of the ToR, the CEOAG operated in a timely, objective and professional manner, consistent with their role and function.

Membership and Meetings

The CEO Advisory Group members are appointed by the Board and comprise 4 Chief Executive Officers from the SAROC and GAROC regional groupings, with no more than one CEO from the same regional grouping.

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Nominations were called and the Board resolved membership – January 2025 meeting. One of the nominees left Local Government. At the end of the nomination period, one nominee short. The Secretariat, in conjunction with the current Chair approached suitable candidates and Heather Barclay agreed. In between the close of nominations and the board meeting, one nominee resigned from local government. The Secretariat once again approached a suitable candidate and Bridget Mather agreed.

Member	Meeting Date			
	8 Aug 2024	7 Nov 2024	6 Feb 2025	1 May 2025
Mario Barone				
Ben Gower				
Tony Harrison				
Chris White				
Mark Withers				
Delfina Lanzilli				
Andrew Cameron				
Maree Wauchope				
Bridget Mather				
Heather Barclay				
Darren Starr				

Key	Attended	Apology	NA (not a member)
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At the first meeting in 2025, Tony Harrison remained in the role of Chair of the CEOAG.

General activities

The CEOAG noted reports presented for discussion on the following matters:

- Financial Sustainability in Local Government
- Staff Recognition and Rewards
- Cost Shifting in Local Government
- Remuneration Tribunal
- Climate Ready Regions project

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In addition, out of session meetings were held with members of the CEOAG on the following topics:

Grant Research – a project to review grant funding in South Australia, including any improvements to the Financial Assistance Grant model. The project is directly connected with financial sustainability work currently being undertaken, and an Item of Business from 2024.

Biodiversity – a discussion testing advocacy direction on the Biodiversity Bill and its possible impact on public land and the challenges it could bring.

The Secretariat has valued the advice and guidance provided by the CEOAG Members.

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2024-25 Annual Report

Local Government Research and Development
Scheme

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Background

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between LGA and the Treasurer,¹ LGA is required to provide a report to both the LGA Annual General Meeting and the Treasurer on the Local Government Research and Development Scheme (LGR&DS).

This report provides an overview of the LGR&DS operation and outcomes in 2024-25 and how LGA is meeting its responsibilities under the MOU.

The appendices contain:

1. Financial allocations 2024-25 ending 30 June 2025, and budget for 2025-26
2. Approved projects for 2024-25
3. Current projects as of 30 June 2025
4. Completed projects during 2025-26
5. Proposed projects in 2025-26

In keeping with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between LGA and the Treasurer,² LGA is required to provide a report to the LGA Annual General Meeting and the Treasurer on the Local Government Research and Development Scheme (LGR&DS).

This Annual Report 2024-25 was adopted by the LGA Board of Directors on 2 October 2025.

LGR&DS Advisory Committee

As outlined in the MOU, the LGR&DS Advisory Committee assists LGA in managing the Scheme. It provides independent and objective advice to the LGA Board of Directors regarding the LGR&DS governance and operations, including oversight of funded projects and recommendations to the LGA Board regarding applications.

In 2024-25, four Advisory Committee meetings were held.

As of 30 June 2025, membership of the Advisory Committee comprised:

- Lord Mayor Jane Lomax-Smith, City of Adelaide (Chair) (LGA Board)
- Mayor Lynette Martin, Mount Gambier (LGA Board)

¹ The MOU was last updated in August 2023 and is available through LGA website
https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0034/1284676/MOU-signed-by-the-Treasurer-14-August-2023.pdf

² The MOU was last updated in August 2023 and is available through LGA website
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- Mayor Moira Jenkins, City of Victor Harbor (LGA Board)
- Chris Cowley, City of Gawler (Metropolitan CEO)
- Andrew Cameron, Yorke Peninsula Council (Country/Regional CEO)
- Alex Hart, Manager Office of Local Government (Minister nominee)
- Professor Ian Goodwin-Smith, Flinders University (SA Universities)
- Cleofe Vinas-Wilson, Australian Workers Union (Union Representative)
- Clinton Jury (LGA CEO)

During 2023-24, Mayor Claire Boan, City of Port Adelaide Enfield and Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross, City of Mitcham concluded their terms on the Committee.

Overview of Activities

In 2024-25, the LGR&DS allocated over \$1.8 million of funding to projects of strategic benefit to local government via two competitive grant rounds, regional capacity-building allocations provided to Regional LGAs, allocations to SAROC and GAROC, and strategic initiatives initiated by the LGA CEO and Board of Directors. The allocations were approved by the LGA Board of Directors and informed by advice from the LGR&DS Advisory Committee.

Funding was allocated based on the LGR&DS principles and purposes and on the priorities identified in the 2024-25 Annual Business Plan, which the LGA Board approved in January 2024.

The priorities included:

- Climate and Environment
- Community Wellbeing and Inclusion
- Planning and Infrastructure
- Financial Sustainability
- Building Sector Capacity

Appendices 2 to 5 contain an overview of the projects funded by grant rounds, noting that:

- Thirteen projects were approved in 2024-25, with \$817,540 in funding allocated through two grant rounds and CEO/Board allocations (*Appendix 2*).
- There are currently seventeen active projects, and it is anticipated that sixteen of these projects will be completed in 2025 (*Appendix 3*).
- Eighteen projects were completed in 2024-25 (*Appendix 4*).

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Funding Allocations 2024-25

The financial report in *Appendix 1* outlines the Scheme's financial position as of 30 June 2025. The report also includes the 2025-26 financial year budget, which the LGA Board of Directors approved in May 2025.

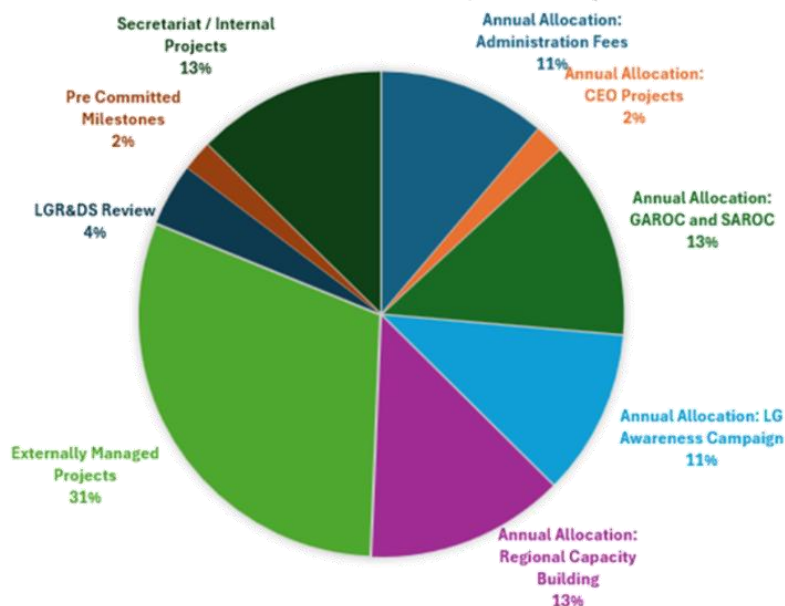
The total revenue received in 2024-25 was \$3,123,582, comprising \$2,969,291 in Taxation Equivalent Regime (TER) Funding from Local Government Finance Authority (LGFA) and \$154,288 in returned surplus funds from internally funded project allocations.

As demonstrated in the pie chart below, the LGR&DS allocated a total of \$1,811,894 in 2024-25. The Scheme funded a range of projects providing benefits to Local Government as a whole. The funding was distributed as follows:

- 31% of the funding (\$552,540) was allocated to ten externally managed projects funded through competitive funding rounds and an out-of-session grant application
- 13 % of the funding (\$240,000) was project funding distributed through SAROC & GAROC
- 13% of the funding (\$240,000) was distributed to regional LGAs through the regional capacity-building allocations
- 13 % of the funding (\$230,000) was allocated to two LGA-managed projects
- 11% of the funding (\$202,801) was used to administer the Scheme
- 11% of the funding (\$200,000) was allocated to the Local Government Awareness Campaign
- 4% of the funding (\$75,040) was allocated to an independent review of the LGR&DS
- 2% of the funding (\$36,514) was allocated to pre-committed milestones
- 2% of the funding (\$35,000) was allocated through the CEO Allocation

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LGR&DS FUNDING ALLOCATIONS 2024-25 (\$ 1,811,894)



Grant Round Allocations

A detailed overview of the approved projects for 2024-25 is available in *Appendix 2*.

Through the two grant rounds, the LGR&DS Advisory Committee assessed 43 applications requesting over \$3.4 million in funding. The applications were assessed against the assessment criteria set out in the annual guidelines, which included links to the Scheme's principles and purposes and the priorities as set out in the Annual Business Plan.

The Committee's recommendations were forwarded to the LGA Board of Directors for approval. The LGA Board made all recommendations the LGR&DS Advisory Committee set out.

LGA Research Library

Information regarding all projects funded by the Local Government Research and Development Scheme is available through the [LGA Research Library](https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/member-services/financial-sustainability/grants/research-and-publications/research-library).³

³ <https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/member-services/financial-sustainability/grants/research-and-publications/research-library> (Please search for the project number to access any of the projects.)

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Ongoing Project Allocations

In 2024-25, ongoing allocations accounted for 50% of the Schemes' allocated funding.

All ongoing allocations must address the Scheme's principles and purposes, and outcomes are reported to the LGR&DS Advisory Committee and the LGA Board of Directors .

SAROC and GAROC Activities

GAROC (Greater Adelaide Regional Organisation of Councils) and SAROC (South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils) receive a combined annual funding allocation of \$240,000. In 2024-25 the funding has been spent on a range of strategic projects for the benefit of the local government sector in South Australia, including:

- Environment and Natural Resources
 - Support native vegetation reform
- Financial Sustainability
 - Development of tools and resources to improve financial sustainability
- Planning and Development of Local Government
 - Contribute to the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan
- Community and Wellbeing
 - Develop guidance and advice for councils on providing childcare services

The outcomes of projects from GAROC and SAROC, have been reported directly to the LGA Board of Directors. The agendas for the GAROC and SAROC meetings are available through the [LGA website](#).

From 2025-26, the GAROC and SAROC allocations will be replaced with Strategic Board Allocations. The revised ongoing project allocation was recommended by the LGR&DS Advisory Committee, based on an independent review of the Scheme undertaken by Deloitte, and will ensure greater strategic alignment and transparency.

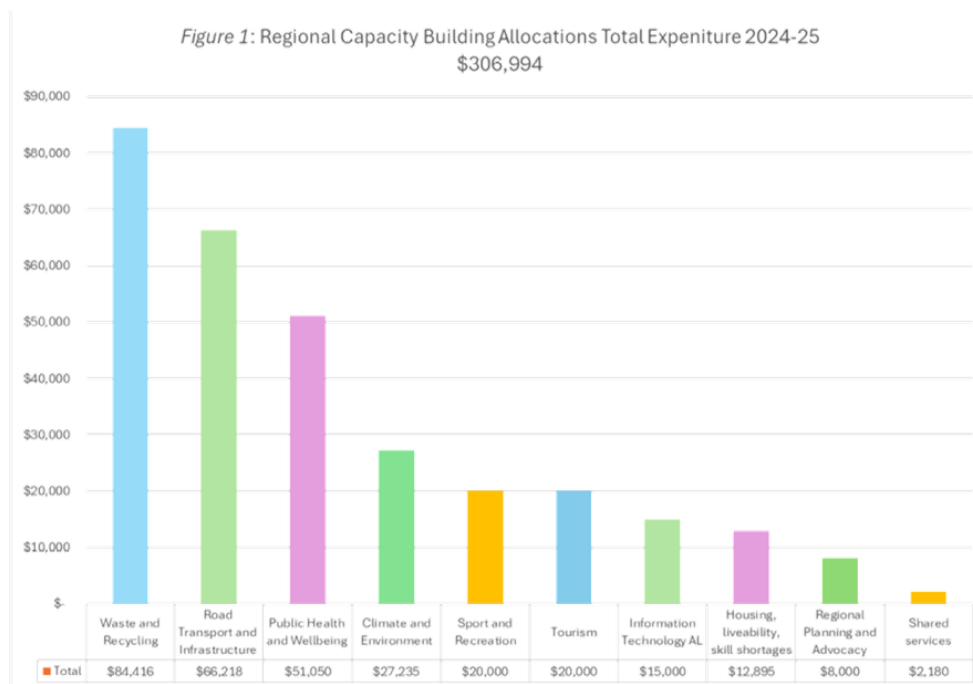
Upon the completion of the 2024-25 financial year, a total of \$175,067 in uncommitted GAROC and SAROC has been transferred back to the Scheme.

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Regional Capacity Building Activities 2024-25

In 2024-25, six Regional LGAs received a total of \$240,000 in funding and spent a total of \$306,994⁴ on a range of regional capacity building projects, activities and initiatives.

Figure 1 provides an overview of how the funding was spent, demonstrating that Waste and Recycling (\$84,416), Road Transport and Infrastructure (\$66,218) and Public Health (\$51,050) were the top three priorities by the regional LGAs.



⁴ Noting that a number of the Regional LGAs had carry over funding from previous years.

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Local Government Awareness Campaign

The LGR&DS provides an annual allocation of \$200,000 for the Local Government Awareness Campaign.

The campaign is an annual initiative designed to increase public understanding, relevance, and engagement with local councils across South Australia, and to highlight the essential work they do in local communities.

In 2024-25, the campaign aimed to highlight the importance of councils and the support and services they provide for the communities. This was achieved through several partnerships and website enhancements.

Local Council news site

The LGA has consistently worked to improve the council news website, achieving a 125% increase for the 2024-2025 period compared to the previous financial year.

Solstice Media Partnership

Included two feature articles per month in InDaily, inclusion in newsletter to 58,000 subscribers, social media posts and content in SA Life, CityMag, or Business Insight.

South Aussie with Cossie Partnership

Will include eight produced TV segments airing twice in prime time on Channel 7 and regional networks, along with 40 social media posts. Several TV segments have been filmed, covering Council-managed caravan parks including Yankalilla's (Normanville caravan park) public libraries featuring Prospect and Mitcham's libraries, and Marion's Seacliff Golf Course.

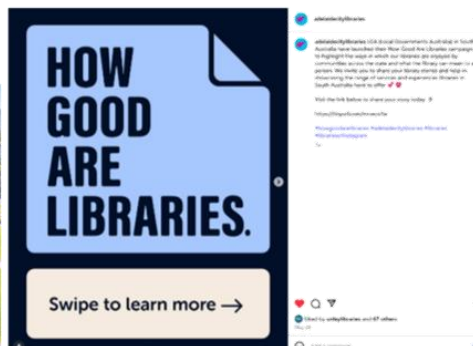
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IN DEPTH SPONSORED

Council rates explained: Where your money goes and why it matters

If you own a property in South Australia, you're probably paying council rates. But what exactly are you paying for? Let's clear up some common myths.



Scheme Administration

The LGA uses these funds to administer the Scheme, including to cover the salary costs for the LGA Secretariat's management of the Scheme and expenses associated with the online grant management system.

Independent evaluation of the Scheme

The LGR&DS continues to strengthen compliance to ensure the funding benefits South Australian councils and their communities. In 2024-25, the LGR&DS Advisory Committee initiated an independent review of the Scheme.

Following a competitive procurement process, Deloitte was appointed to undertake the review. The review found that the LGR&DS has had a significantly positive impact on South Australian councils and their communities. Noting that the Scheme has enabled and facilitated projects that foster collaboration, enhance service efficiency, and support innovation across the local government sector and the broader community.

It is essential to note that no material findings were identified within the scope of this evaluation review.

The evaluation report also made several recommendations on enhancing the Scheme's delivery, providing actionable insights and strategic guidance for further improvements. It includes eight key recommendations to further improve the Scheme's overall effectiveness, strategic focus, and long-term impact.

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Priorities for 2025-2026

2025-26 Funding Rounds

The LGR&DS Advisory Committee has recommended that the LGA Board approve a range of projects that will provide excellent value to the sector in 2025-26. Details of funded projects are available in *Appendix 6*.

Internal/LGA-led funding round.

The LGA Board of Directors approved six LGA-led projects totaling \$1,184,455. through the 2025-26 internal funding round in May.

External round

The 2025-26 external funding included 45 applications requesting over \$3.7 million worth of funding. The LGR&DS Advisory Committee recommended for two projects totalling \$355,090 in funding which the LGA Board approved of Directors in October 2025.

Actions following LGR&DS Independent Review

The LGR&DS continues strengthening compliance to ensure the funding benefits South Australian councils and their communities.

Over the next 12 months, the LGR&DS will work to implement the key actions findings from the independent review as per the action plan approved by the LGA Board in May 2025.

The actions will include a review of the Scheme's processes, policies and procedures, and implementing several improvements linked to the recommendations of the review, including:

- Prioritise funding for high-impact projects aligned with strategic priorities
- Review the business planning and assessment process to ensure that the approved projects are strategic and provide the best outcomes for the Local Government Sector.
- Market the Scheme as a Strategic Innovation Program
- Enhance Evaluation Processes
- Improve the Grant Assessment Process

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Appendix 1 – Financial Allocations for the year ending June 2025, and budget for 2025-26

	2025-26	2024-25	
	Budget Full Year	Actual Full Year	Budget Full Year
Income			
LGFA TER Project Funding	2,585,400	2,969,291	1,885,500
R&D Funds Returned - LGA Internal	-	154,288	-
Total Income	2,585,400	3,123,580	1,885,500
Project allocations			
Annual Allocation: Administration Fees	181,900	202,801	170,000
Annual Allocation: LGA Board Strategic Allocation	440,000	-	-
Annual Allocation: GAROC and SAROC	-	240,000	240,000
Annual Allocation: CEO Projects	60,000	35,000	60,000
Annual Allocation: LG Awareness Campaign	200,000	200,000	200,000
Annual Allocation: Regional Capacity Building	240,000	240,000	240,000
Secretariat / Internal Projects	1,239,455	230,000	230,000
Externally Managed Projects	1,159,446	552,540	626,250
LGA Managed: R&D Scheme Review	-	75,040	75,040
Previously Committed Milestones	145,359	36,514	34,000
Total allocations LG R&D SCHEME	3,666,160	1,811,894	1,875,290
Net Surplus/(Deficit) LG R&D SCHEME	(1,080,760)	1,311,685	10,210
Statement of R&D Reserves			
Opening Reserve Balance	2,571,252	1,259,566	20,566
Plus Inflows	2,585,400	3,123,580	1,885,500
Less Outflows	(3,666,160)	(1,811,894)	(1,875,290)
Closing Reserve Balance	1,490,491	2,571,252	30,776

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Appendix 2 - Approved projects 2024-25

Project Title	Organisation	Funds Granted	Completion date (estimate)
Feasibility Study into Local Government Role in Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging	City of Mitcham	\$49,700	Complete
Developing a new bait for pest birds of the grains industry	Department for Primary Industries and Regions	\$95,000	02/03/2026
Addressing the regional EHO shortage by promoting environmental health cadetships	Flinders University	\$30,700	30/10/2025
Implementation of the new Food Safety Standard 3.2.2A	Flinders University	\$39,700	Complete
Environmental Health Officers Knowledge Base (update)	Flinders University	\$42,000	01/12/2025
Youth Centres and Loneliness: Developing a youth specific program design and evaluation framework	Flinders University	\$49,881	12/02/2026
Asset Management for Green Infrastructure	Institute of Public Works Engineering (IPWEA)	\$95,000	06/01/2026
Rainbow Council Project	SARAA South Australian Rainbow Advocacy Alliance	\$49,697	15/12/2025
Monitoring and optimising outdoor fitness equipment usage in South Australia	University of South Australia	\$55,862	30/06/2026
Strong and connected communities: Supporting volunteer engagement in local government	Volunteering SA&NT	\$45,000	Complete
Coastal Adaptation Program Management - Stage Two (further to Stage One)	LGA SA ⁵	\$80,000	Complete
Supporting councils with financial sustainability	LGA SA ⁶	\$150,000	30/01/2026
Phase 2: Regional Childcare Desert Advocacy Project (RCDAP)	Northern & Yorke Local Government Association ⁷	\$35,000	30/09/2025
Grants funded 2025-26		\$817,540	

⁵ Funded through internal grant round

⁶ Funded through internal grant round

⁷ Funded by LGA CEO allocation

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Appendix 3 - Current projects 30 June 2025

Developing a new bait for pest birds of the grains industry, Department for Primary Industries and Regions, \$95,000

Massive populations of pest birds are increasingly impacting the grain industry by consuming grain, damaging infrastructure, contaminating stores, and posing health and biosecurity risks. Pest birds cause severe social, ecological, and economic impacts for Councils.

This project would start the development of a new bait for pest birds. The aim is to reduce environmental and infrastructure damage, while increasing productivity and community well-being. *(estimated completion date 02/03/2026)*

Asset Management for Green Infrastructure, Institute of Public Works Engineering (IPWEA), \$95,000

Councils manage nature-based Green Infrastructure (GI) assets to provide essential, cost-effective, sustainable, and climate-resilient services, as well as community wellbeing and environmental co-benefits.

This project will develop a best-practice e-book, as well as an online Training Module for Council asset and financial managers, environment officers, engineers, and consultants. Content will include: land, water and coastal GI assets; valuation and condition assessment methodologies; co-benefits; service provision; demand management; lifecycle analysis; risk assessments; long-term strategic and financial management planning. *(estimated completion date 06/01/2026)*

Youth Centres and Loneliness: Developing a youth specific program design and evaluation framework, Flinders University, \$49,881

This project will be completed in partnership with the City of Onkaparinga, SA Youth Forum. The project aims to address youth loneliness by developing a set of co-designed principles and a new evaluation toolkit to enable councils to understand, design for, and evaluate loneliness among young people. Loneliness among young people is a growing concern. However, much of what we know about loneliness is derived from research with adults. This project will employ young people as peer researchers to investigate the spaces and programs in youth centres that support or hinder young people's development of connections and experiences of loneliness. *(estimated completion date 12/02/2026)*

Rainbow Council Project, South Australian Rainbow Advocacy Alliance, \$49,697

The project aims to improve the LGBTIQA+ community's well-being and inclusion by building sector capacity across South Australian local councils. LGBTIQA+ South Australians face ongoing discrimination and exclusion, which impacts their ability to participate in their local communities and harms their physical and mental health and wellbeing. This project addresses these inequities through (1) building the capacity of local councils, (2) developing relationships across local councils, and (3) promoting diversity in council initiatives. *(estimated completion date 15/01/2025)*

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Environmental Health Officers Knowledge Base (update), Flinders University, \$42,000

This project seeks to review and update the Environmental Health Knowledge Base. Resources will be collated through Environmental Health Australia (EHA) Special Interest Groups, Environmental Health managers, and EHOs with knowledge and/or expertise in specific areas. Lawyers with expertise in local government will check all resources with legal implications. *(estimated completion date 01/12/2025)*

Monitoring and optimising outdoor fitness equipment usage in South Australia, University of South Australia, \$55,862

South Australian councils have invested in providing freely accessible outdoor fitness equipment (OFE) to promote physical activity, community well-being, and inclusion. However, limited information is available about how OFE is used, potentially limiting the success of such initiatives. This project aims to generate evidence on OFE utilisation in local councils. The study seeks to advance the understanding of OFE usage patterns. This evidence will support councils' decision-making on planning and infrastructure priorities for the future. *(estimated completion date 30/06/2026)*

Addressing the regional EHO shortage by promoting environmental health cadetships, Flinders University, \$30,700

The chronic, ongoing Environmental Health Officer (EHO) workforce shortage in South Australia is particularly severe in regional and rural areas. This makes councils vulnerable, and therefore public health, as they need EHOs with local knowledge to mitigate emerging public health risks.

This project seeks to identify key barriers to employing regional EHOs by interviewing council executives and staff. It also explores the capacity to establish a cadetship program to "grow their own" EHOs, including twinning councils to support one cadet across two councils. *(estimated completion date 30/10/2025)*

Phase 2: Regional Childcare Desert Advocacy Project (RCDAP), Northern & Yorke Local Government Association, \$35,000 (funded by LGA CEO allocation)

The campaign will focus on the electoral region of Grey in articulating the known gaps and the future need of childcare availability through high levels of engagement with the state and federal government as well as relevant agencies. The project aims to secure a commitment to future funding and/or programs that will improve childcare availability in the region. The outcome will include a case study report, which can be shared for the benefit of the sector. *(estimated completion date 30/09/2025)*

Supporting councils with financial sustainability, LGA SA, \$150,000

Financial Sustainability is consistently listed as the number one risk in local government. The Strategic Management Plan advice prepared by the Essential Services Commission identified that around a quarter of the councils reviewed are at risk of financial unsustainability. This project aims to deliver, as a one-year pilot program, practical support to a cohort of councils facing financial sustainability challenges. It will trial actions that are tailored to each council, but to establish patterns and develop a longer-term strategy and tools for supporting councils. *(estimated completion date 30/01/2026)*

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Grow Your Own – Urban and Regional Planners Initiative, Murray River Study Hub, Rural City of Murray Bridge, \$40,000 (funded by LGA CEO allocation)

The 'Grow your Own' project seeks to address regional skill shortages in SA with the aim to educate planners and work towards a long-term strategy to solve the lack of qualified planners in regional SA.

The 'Grow your Own' project will aim to educate qualified planners locally through online learning supported by a regional study hub. The program has been designed through a partnership of SA's Regional University Centres. *(estimated completion date 30/07/2026)*

Recognising and rewarding staff of Local Government: A step toward greater wellbeing and retention in the workforce, University of South Australia, \$47,000

There are limited resources available to local governments on new recognition policies other than what is anecdotally understood as 'best practice'. This project seeks to bridge the gap between local government perceptions of the public's attitudes toward recognition, what the public genuinely thinks about these practices, and the Councilors' role in better-informing decision making and policy. *(estimated completion date 07/07/2025)*

Climate Change Policy Pilot, LGA SA, \$170,000

The project aims to support the local government sector in preparing for climate change by:

- The development of a Climate Risk Strategic Plan to explore opportunities and challenges and provide direction for the Local Government Sector in understanding and managing its climate risk.
- A sustainable Housing Policy Investigation on the urgent and immediate changes required to the SA Planning System to embed sustainable and resilient housing requirements. *(estimated completion date 22/12/2025)*

Participation and Elections Review -consultation and engagement with the sector, LGA SA, \$95,000

Participation and Elections Review is seeking feedback on ideas and suggestions for better engagement with councils through a council term and at election time. This project will support LGA consultation/engagement with the local government sector on the review through engaging resources to facilitate consultation with council staff to assess & prioritise change proposals following the 'ideas gathering' stage. *(estimated completion date 28/12/2025)*

Building Sector Capability, LGA SA, \$150,000

Skill shortages are a real issue for local government, with several councils working on strategies to educate, attract and retain staff.

This project aims to build on previous research and successful programs in the sector to develop a web-based resource that collates existing resources and promotes careers in local government. This will include:

- Resources, tools and case studies from across the sector
- Practical information on careers in councils
- Showcasing benefit of working in local government *(estimated completion date 30/07/2025)*

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Coastal management council coordination, LGA SA, \$60,000

This project outlines the intention for collaborative action within the local government sector to promote long-term social, environmental, and economic resilience, thereby enhancing effective coastal management and risk mitigation in South Australia. The project will work to implement a Coastal Coordinator role within the LGA to work with member councils to strengthen collaboration and increase capacity to deliver effective coastal management across SAs 34 coastal councils. *(estimated completion date 02/03/2026)*

Local Government Reform Implementation (LG Equip), LGA SA, \$390,000

LG Equip is a comprehensive and cost-effective program that will provide LGA members with all the information, resources and support they will need to successfully implement around 150 new outcomes under the proposed local government reforms. The R&D funding will be used to develop policies, guidelines and templates to enable councils to meet the requirements of the reforms. The LGA's legislation team will work closely with its legal advisors to develop these resources. *(estimated completion date 03/04/2026)*

Resilient South Pilot – Incorporating Climate Risk into Asset Management, City of Marion, \$99,000

The Resilient South project (Cities of Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham, Onkaparinga) provides the information required for councils and asset managers to commit funds and resources towards climate risk management obligations confidently. It is delivered in four phases over four years.

The timing allows project outcomes to inform the next round of legislated Asset Management Plans and Long-Term Financial Plans. *(estimated completion date 19/12/2025)*

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Appendix 4 - Completed Projects 2024-25

Decision support for lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in local roads and footpaths, City of Charles Sturt, \$50,000

This project delivered:

- a GHG emissions calculator for the South Australian Councils, to allow decisions to be made about carbon requirements for road construction
- guidance material, case studies and detailed advice on carbon processes for councils to implement with the calculator.

The outputs of this project have been shared with councils through the LGA Climate Change Resource Hub, see [emissions reduction](#).

Feasibility Study into Local Government Role in Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging, City of Mitcham, \$49,700

This project explored the strategic role councils could play in delivering public EV charging infrastructure. A [report](#) was produced which assessed the viability, benefits, risks, and models for local government involvement in EV charging.

Support Framework and Guidelines for Visually Impaired Council Members, City of Victor Harbor, \$40,000

This project has led to the development and implementation of a [toolkit](#) and [guidelines](#) to support visually impaired Council Members.

Using these tools, councils can enhance the effectiveness and confidence of members who are blind or have low vision, supporting accessibility and diversity.

Building regulatory efficiencies for sustainable onsite wastewater system management, Environmental Health Australia (SA) Inc, \$70,897

This project worked to improve councils' abilities to detect and respond to Aerated Wastewater Treatment System (AWTS) failures through:

- the development of a standardised [Aerated Wastewater Treatment System \(AWTS\) Service Template](#).
- A plan for the Delivery of an AWTS IT system for councils
- A Community of practice for ongoing collaboration among stakeholders working for effective, efficient, and consistent regulatory oversight of onsite wastewater systems across South Australia.

Ending homelessness: a toolkit for local government, Flinders University, \$78,720

This project has developed a [toolkit](#) to assist South Australian councils to advance efforts to help end homelessness.

The toolkit is an evidence-based resource offering guidance for regional and metropolitan councils. The toolkit outlines an approach to address homelessness, including responding to disaster-related homelessness, culturally safe practices, and ideas on how local government can play a proactive role in ending homelessness.

The toolkit comprises nine fact sheets, each with a different focus designed to assist councils with their thinking, actions and advocacy.

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SA Local Government Aboriginal Cultural Capability Toolkit, Flinders University, \$71,686

The [Ngutungka Toolkit](#) (place of knowledge) was developed to support local councils.

The Ngutungka toolkit is a platform that shares stories of excellence and partnerships from across our 68 South Australian Local Councils and is designed to build awareness, confidence and the [cultural capabilities](#) of our Local Council leaders, councillors and employees.

The toolkit provides practical advice and resources on reconciliation and cultural awareness.

The toolkit aims to strengthen culturally appropriate engagement with Aboriginal communities and organisations.

A clandestine laboratory and methamphetamine contamination toolkit for Environmental Health Officers, Flinders University, \$34,700

This project has developed a [toolkit](#) to help councils respond to illicit drug labs and methamphetamine contamination.

Environmental Health Officers in councils work with police to prevent entry to properties notified to be involved in the production of illicit drugs. The toolkit helps Environmental Health Officers respond to and remediate properties found to be clandestine drug labs.

The toolkit offers background information and context to the issues and also confounding factors that should be taken into consideration when managing or living within a contaminated property.

Implementation of the new Food Safety Standard 3.2.2A, Flinders University, \$39,700

This study evaluated the implementation of the new food safety standard, Standard 3.2.2A, in South Australia by Local Government Environmental Health Officers (EHOs). The evaluation identified key areas that were working well and areas needing improvements. Based on these findings a number of recommendations were made to improve the implementation process and reduce associated workloads.

Financial Sustainability Updates, LGA SA, \$15,000

20 [Financial Sustainability Papers](#) have been reviewed and updated as necessary to account for legislative changes resulting from the Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021 and to incorporate other improvements suggested by the Finance Managers Group, an independent expert consultant and LGA staff.

Asset Management Integration, LGA SA, \$100,000

The project's first component produced an asset management and financial planning Maturity Assessment Report, which provided insight into SA Councils' asset management planning and report capability. The report analyses the prevalence and extent to which asset management plans are aligned with councils' long-term financial plans.

The project's second component included [13 asset management information](#) papers developed based on conversations with IPWEA and on observations contained within the recent Auditor-General report.

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Support for councils in community wellbeing, LGA SA, \$83,400

A dedicated officer within the LGA will lead and coordinate a range of initiatives supporting and building the capacity of councils to invest in and strengthen community wellbeing planning and implementation, and the connection between Preventative Health SA and councils.

Key outcomes have included monthly webinars, the Wellbeing Update Newsletter and support for the Resource Guides being developed by Public Health SA.

Measuring the costs of legislative compliance, LGA SA, \$70,000

This project produced a report to provide councils with an understanding of the costs/savings associated with legal compliance with statutory obligations to enable them to make informed decisions in their ongoing budgeting and financial planning.

Climate Risk Training & Engagement Package, LGA SA, \$42,000

Climate liability and climate risk management are ongoing issues in local government.

This project has established a suite of resources for use by councils. It explains the role that council key decision-makers have in managing climate risk. It provides a consistent message aligned with councils key responsibilities and duties regarding managing any significant strategic risk within the council.

The training modules are available for free through the LGA website - [Climate risk assessment & planning | LGA South Australia](#)

Coastal Adaptation Stage One and Two, \$230,000

South Australia has over 5000 km of coastline with 90% of the population living on or near the coast. With 34 of the 68 SA councils responsible for coastal management in their region.

The LGA has worked in partnership with the Department of Environment and Water to successfully gain \$3.7 million in funding from the Government Coastal and Estuarine Risk Management Program. The purpose of this project is to fund a dedicated project manager to manage the coastal adaptation project.

Information regarding this projects progress is available through the [SA Climate Ready Coasts](#) web-page.

Local Government Data Governance Framework, Local Government Information Technology Association of South Australia Inc., \$49,500

This project has led to the development of a data management framework for councils, which has been made available through the Local Government Information Technology website: [LGITSA Data Governance Framework](#)

The Framework is designed to meet legal, organisational, and customer needs. It provides local governments with practical and cost-effective guidance on data treatment and privacy, reduces data-related risks, and implements data governance processes and systems.

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Workforce and gender equity in SA Local Government, Local Government Professionals Australia, SA, \$75,000

This project provides a [data report](#) for councils to address gender equality and create fairer local government workplaces. It also provides an excellent opportunity for local government to plan for the future and address skill shortages.

The project has made several key recommendations on how systemic barriers to gender equality can be addressed. It includes a detailed report, and an extensive Resource list has also been provided to give easy access to helpful tools and supporting evidence.

Collaboration Towards Emergency Resilience, Mid Murray Council, \$120,000

This project has produced an [Emergency Resilience Plan](#) to help councils and communities better cope with disasters. The plan, developed in collaboration with community groups, incorporates the lessons from the 2022-23 River Murray flood event.

The project has used the experience of the Murray River floods to develop a range of materials supporting community resilience in an emergency.

Strong and connected communities: Supporting volunteer engagement in local government, Volunteering SA&NT, \$45,000

This project has sought to build the capacity of local government by developing a range of resources and to empower volunteer managers to attract better, recruit, retain and manage volunteers and volunteer programs.

The project has significantly enhanced the capacity of volunteer managers working in local government by improving existing resources and developing new, practical materials tailored to their needs.

These resources will be available through councils through the LGRS portal.

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Appendix 5 - Approved projects 2025-26

Project Title	Organisation	Funds Granted	Completion date (estimate)
Coastal Adaptation Program Management - Stage Three	LGA SA	\$80,000	30/06/2026
Pilot project to provide support for councils in climate change	LGA SA	\$329,940	28/09/2027
Election Education Program	LGA SA	\$194,515	30/07/2027
Model for HR Shared Services for members	LGA SA	80,000	30/10/2026
Election 2026 campaign - Marketing Campaign	LGA SA	\$350,000	26/02/2027
PointData Urban Policy Modelling for Growth Management	LGA SA	\$150,000	28/11/2025
Local Government Financial Management Manual	LGQIT	\$295,100	31/12/2027
Planning for change: Integrating Coastal Retreat in Adaptation Planning	URPT	\$59,000	30/09/2026

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6.4 LGA Mutual 2024-25 Annual Update

LGA Updates

From:	Nathan Petrus, Chief Executive Officer - LGA Mutual	
Strategy:	4 - Achieve	
Outcome:	4.1 We lead by example in the governance and operations of the LGA	
Meeting:	Annual General Meeting	21 November 2025
ECM:	852334	
Attachment:	Nil	

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting receives and notes the LGA Mutual Annual Update for the year 2024-2025.

Discussion

LGA Mutual is responsible for the management of the Mutual Liability Scheme and the Workers Compensation Scheme on behalf of LGA. We achieve this through the leadership of our independent skills-based Board, with day-to-day services provided via our long-standing contractor, JLT Risk Solutions, trading as Local Government Risk Services (LGRS).

Enhancing our risk services to local government in 2024-25

In 2023-24, we listened to member feedback and in 2024-25 we acted on it, focusing on new and expanded services, clearer communication and initiatives to promote collaboration, including:

- We expanded our Psychosocial Support Program (previously called Mentally Healthy Workplace Program), to address increased requirements from psychosocial regulations. In addition, our Healthy Lifestyles Program continues to grow and, now in its 25th year, it offers over 2,000 health checks and 3,000 skin checks annually to promote wellbeing.
- We are nearing completion of the LG Safe project, with all resources and support tools to be completed by December 2025. Aided by the significant input from members, we are delivering a comprehensive and simpler to follow WHS framework, tailored to the needs of local government. Our focus will then shift to providing an ongoing support service, to help members embed and use the LG Safe resources.

- Our Regional Council Collaboration Pilot Project is commencing, helping councils in the Eyre Peninsula and Northern Areas work together towards a more consistent and effective WHS system through pooling resources. We are working closely with those councils to help set up the arrangements and provide ongoing support.
- Expanding resources to deliver greater strategic risk advice to members and updating best practice risk guidelines, covering Automated External Defibrillators, liability limits and contaminated sites.

Delivering broad protection, stable contributions and financial predictability

Through LGRS, we have continued to provide broad protection to members, managing all of their civil liability and workers compensation claims. In 2024-25, we saw a record low in workers compensation claims (411), which was 11% lower than the previous year. This was a fantastic result for local government.

Effective risk management practices help to keep members' contributions low and stable. The Workers' Compensation Scheme average contribution rate in 2024-25 remained stable at 2.48% and the Mutual Liability Scheme member contributions rose by 5%, despite rising reinsurance costs and more civil liability claims.

Both the Mutual Liability and Workers Compensation Schemes continue to perform very well in a challenging environment.

The Mutual Liability Scheme generated a surplus of \$175,871 in 2024-25, in line with the adopted budget of a \$167,880 surplus.

The Workers Compensation Scheme generated a surplus of \$1,598,680 during the year, which was \$182,765 unfavourable compared to the adopted 2024-25 budget. However, the Scheme's accumulated surplus of \$19.71 million allowed the LGA Mutual Board to make a Special Distribution to members of \$1 million and allocate a further \$1 million to the Risk Incentive Program in 2024-25.

Closing comments

In 2024-25, we saw the departure of Dr Andrew Johnson from the LGA Mutual CEO role, which he held for six years. Among many other achievements, Andrew was instrumental in establishing the strong governance arrangements that underpin our ability to deliver effective and value-for-money services to members. The LGA Mutual Board thanks Andrew for his hard work over many years.

It also extends its thanks to the LGRS team, who continue to deliver all our services to members, consistently achieving high member satisfaction.

The [LGA Mutual Pty Ltd's 2024-25 Annual Report](#) (including abridged financial statements) will be available on the LGA's website prior to the Annual General meeting.

6.5 LGA Procurement Annual Report 2023-2024

LGA Updates

From:	Simon Blom, Chief Executive Officer	
Strategy:	4 - Achieve	
Outcome:	4.2 The LGA's financial sustainability is supported by a growth in revenue from value-adding member services and LGA Procurement	
Meeting:	Annual General Meeting	21 November 2025
ECM:	852335	
Attachment:	Nil	

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting receives and notes the LGA Procurement Annual Report for the year 2024-2025.

Discussion

LGA Procurement is here to empower community-focused organisations to deliver value to their communities. We deliver best value purchasing and procurement services. We offer free resources, purchasing advice, specialised training, and access to hundreds of pre-qualified suppliers to help councils deliver the services and programs that matter to their communities in an efficient and effective way.

In 2024-25 we launched our LinkedIn channel to better connect with stakeholders and share insights. We delivered bespoke procurement training, both face-to-face and online, helping build capability across councils. And we hosted our inaugural Forward50 event — a standout moment that brought suppliers and council decision-makers together to explore future trends and opportunities.

We again tackled aggregated electricity procurement — a complex and often confusing decision for councils. To assist, we facilitated presentations from SA councils that had invested in alternative solutions, allowing others to learn from their journeys. For those not wanting to take that journey at this time, LGA Procurement presented an offer for 5.5 years of electricity supply for Large and Unmetered sites, with rates comparable to 2018 and no escalation. The team also tendered for Small site supply, and we modelled the commodity offer and estimated the final invoice impact for each individual council, helping them make informed decisions. 64 councils and entities participated, with a cumulative saving of almost 7% on previous pricing.

Using VendorPanel, LGA Procurement has delivered an estimated \$5.2 million in savings to the sector during 2024-25 with contract management efficiencies, tender avoidance savings, and negotiated price savings. During the year, South Australia's local government sector:

- spent more than \$66 million through 31 managed contracts on VendorPanel accessing over 700 suppliers.

LGA Procurement completed:

- 102 procurement consultancy projects for 21 councils across South Australia with a combined value of over \$27 million.

Over recent years, LGA Procurement has retained modest profits, which have accumulated on our balance sheet. At the close of the 2024–25 financial year, the LGA Procurement Board resolved to make a one-off additional transfer to our sole shareholder, the LGA.

The full LGA Procurement 2023-24 Annual Report is available on the LGA Procurement website.

Financial and Resource Implications

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

6.6 Local Government Financial Indicators 2025

LGA Updates

From:	James Holyman, Manager Policy	
Strategy:	Assist	
Outcome:	2.3 Councils are engaged in addressing sector-wide priorities, including local government reforms and achieving greater financial sustainability	
Meeting:	Annual General Meeting	21 November 2025
ECM:	852336	Attachment: 853297
Attachment	1. 853297 – SA Local Government Financial Indicators Report 2025	

Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting notes the report.

Discussion

The *SA Local Government Sector Financial Indicators Report 2025* is submitted to the Annual General Meeting showing the latest values, history and comparisons of key financial sustainability indicators for the sector.

The report presents analysis of the most recent SA Local Government Grants Commission Database Reports 2023-24 and demonstrates ongoing progress in both the financial performance and financial position of the sector.

It is important to understand that the current financial condition of individual councils varies substantially. The analysis presented is sector-wide and not reflective of individual councils.

In 2023-24 the sector's:

- adjusted **operating surplus ratio was -4.4 per cent**, showing that existing levels of income were insufficient to cover this year's expenditure. However there has been increased renewal of community assets and service delivery costs that have been funded through the deficit and a 21 per cent increase in borrowings. Overall, the sector's expenses exceeded operating income by almost \$127 million. This varied from an adjusted operating deficit of 57.3 per cent through to surplus of 11.6 per cent. This is the first operating deficit in over a decade (since 2012-13).
- adjusted **net financial liabilities ratio was 42 per cent**, showing overall debt levels remain modest relative to annual income. The sector's net amount owed to others of around \$1,202 million as at 30 June 2024 is also very low when put in the context of

infrastructure and other physical assets valued at over \$35 billion. This is up \$4 billion on the previous financial year. Councils ranged from minus 103 per cent to a high of 174 per cent.

- **asset renewal funding ratio was 104 per cent.** While most councils are renewing and replacing their assets in either a satisfactory or optimal way, there are some councils that could improve the capital spending needed to cost-effectively maintain desired and affordable service levels from their assets. At the lower end, a council recorded an asset renewal ratio of 32 per cent through to a high of 578 per cent.

By way of comparison, the table below shows the sector's results from 2022-23 compared with 2023-24:

Ratios	2023-24		2022-23	
	Result	Range	Result	Range
Adjusted Operating Surplus	-4.4%	-57.3% - 11.6%	0.5%	-19.9% - 24.0%
Net Financial Liabilities	42%	-103% - 174%	34%	-119% - 134%
Asset Renewal Funding	104%	32% - 578%	95%	28% - 227%

Financial and Resource Implications

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

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SA Local Government Financial Indicators Report 2025

Financial Year 2023-2024

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1. Summary

The SA Local Government Financial Indicators Report provides an outline of the current financial performance and position of the local government sector in South Australia. LGA has undertaken analysis of the most recent SA Local Government Grants Commission Database Reports, which relate to the 2023-24 financial year.

While the report focuses on the financial performance and financial position of the local government sector, it does not provide an outline of specific councils. As the financial condition of individual councils varies, this report presents some analysis that highlights these variations.

Overall, evidence suggests that while the South Australian local government sector recorded expenses exceeding income during the year, councils collectively remain in a strong financial position, with low indebtedness and generally sound asset management practices.

In 2023-24:

- adjusted **operating surplus ratio was -4.4 per cent**, showing that existing levels of income were insufficient to cover this year's expenditure. However there has been increased renewal of community assets and service delivery costs that have been funded through the deficit and a 21 per cent increase in borrowings. Overall, the sector's expenses exceeded operating income by almost \$127 million. This varied from an adjusted operating deficit of 57.3 per cent through to surplus of 11.6 per cent. This is the first operating deficit in over a decade (since 2012-13).
- the sector's adjusted **net financial liabilities ratio was 42 per cent**, showing overall debt levels remain modest relative to annual income. The sector's net amount owed to others of around \$1,202 million as at 30 June 2024 is also very low when put in the context of infrastructure and other physical assets valued at over \$35 billion. This is up \$4 billion on the previous financial year. Councils ranged from minus 103 per cent to a high of 174 per cent.
- the sector's **asset renewal funding ratio was 104 per cent**. While most councils are renewing and replacing their assets in either a satisfactory or optimal way, there are some councils that could improve the capital spending needed to cost-effectively maintain desired and affordable service levels from their assets. At the lower end, a council recorded an asset renewal ratio of 32 per cent through to a high of 578 per cent.

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2. Efficiency of local government

The local government sector in South Australia is an efficient provider of government services, when compared to the state and federal governments. ALGA's 2022 submission to the Local Government Productivity Inquiry indicate that:

"... household, business and property services provided by local government have high efficiency which generate value [...] compared to the service provision of Territory, State and Commonwealth productivity".¹

This is also supported by evidence of local government's careful and effective stewardship of public resources through satisfaction surveys where local government regularly outshines the State and Commonwealth in terms of trust, which is reflective not only of accountability and accessibility, but also faith in the delivery of service.²

Sustaining good financial and asset management practices and seeking to continually enhance them are critical success factors for councils as they seek to improve the services they provide to their local communities.

South Australian councils collectively manage an annual budget of almost \$2.9 billion and maintain infrastructure and other physical assets worth around \$35.2 billion.

Taxation revenue raised by councils (from general and other rates on property) was \$2,160 million in 2023-24. Together with other own-source funding (mainly user and statutory charges), approximately 90 per cent of local government operating revenue is from its own sources. The remaining revenue comes from grants from federal and state governments.

The rates collected by councils nationally are 2.88 per cent of the total taxes paid by Australians.³

South Australian councils manage their finances conservatively under difficult constraints. Local government can raise only one type of tax (council rates), has very low indebtedness, receives the lowest per capita level of grants from other levels of government in the nation, and relies on an ongoing extension of the Supplementary Local Roads Program to ensure a fair share of federal government grant funding.

¹ Australian Local Government Association 2022, *Research for Submission to Local Government Productivity Inquiry*, Prepared by SGS Economics and Planning

² Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) 2022 *Research for Submission to Local Government Productivity Inquiry*, Prepared by SGS Economics and Planning, page 3

³ [Taxation Revenue, Australia, 2023-24 financial year | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

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Cost shifting from state to local government continues to apply pressure to council budgets. Research undertaken by SGS Economics and Planning estimated that in 2024 the total cost to the South Australian local government sector of cost shifting was \$253.9 million, or an average of \$3.7 million per council and an average per rateable property cost of \$271, noting that this figure will vary by council⁴. Key cost shifting pressures include short falls in cost recovery (e.g. solid waste levy, food safety services, local nuisance and litter control), statutory planning, library services along with a shortfall in the reimbursement of council costs incurred in collecting the State's Regional Landscapes levy.

Within this context, South Australian councils are doing a lot with a little and often providing an increased range or level of services to a high standard.

In 2019, the South Australian Productivity Commission undertook an Inquiry into Local Government Costs and Efficiency. The Inquiry found that in comparison with each other, most councils achieved high levels of relative efficiency.

3. Local government financial sustainability

Financial sustainability has, for many years, been identified by council CEOs and General Managers as the number one risk facing local government.⁵ There are, however, many different underlying factors that can impact on councils' sustainability. They include issues around the cost of replacing or upgrading infrastructure, the ability to appropriately manage assets as an ongoing concern and the growth in volume, scope and quality of legislated and non-legislated services (often linked to population growth)⁶.

Many of the factors that drive sustainability are outside the control of local government. They include:

- impacts of natural disasters and other external environmental factors that impact directly on council services and divert resources from other necessary council services
- expansion of the roles and requirements placed on councils by federal and state governments, increasing their costs without commensurate revenue to support them

⁴ South Australian Local Government 2024 Cost of Compliance Survey, November 2024, SGS Economics and Planning

⁵ JLT Public Sector Risk Report 2022/23

⁶ South Australian Productivity Commission 2019, *Inquiry into Local Government Costs and Efficiency – Final Report*, November 2019, page 10

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- cost pressures faced by councils that exceed CPI, such as increases in the cost of building and maintaining infrastructure.

Added to this is that many councils have limited capacity to raise revenue through rates and there are excessive rate exemptions, concessions and fee limits set by the State Government that prevent councils from fully recovering their costs.

Under the Local Government Act 1999, the South Australian Government established an independent financial advice scheme to support the long-term sustainability of councils. The Scheme, now in its third year, aims to review all 68 councils across the state over a four-year period. Reviews are conducted by the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA), which has so far confirmed existing concerns that around one-third of councils assessed are at risk of financial unsustainability. In many cases, ESCOSA's findings highlight the ongoing challenges councils face in maintaining and renewing critical community assets.

A key objective for local government is to achieve and maintain the financial sustainability of South Australian councils, both collectively and individually. A council's long-term financial performance and position are considered sustainable when it can deliver planned service and infrastructure levels over time without the need for unplanned rate increases or disruptive reductions in services.

A healthy and productive local government sector is essential for the wellbeing of local communities. As the level of government closest to community, councils play a pivotal role in delivering services and supporting local development. To continue meeting community needs now and into the future, councils require greater financial and resource support.

ESCOSA's work

In ESCOSA's reports⁷, councils that are performing well generally have in place robust and effective behaviours, strategies and practices in relation to:

- governance
- understanding their asset base and renewal needs
- alignment of Long-Term Financial Plans and Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans
- clear and transparent planning input assumptions that are reviewed annually

⁷ [ESCOSA - Advice to Local Government](#)

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- cost control and strategic approach to revenue
- balancing the use of cash and debt
- community consultation.

Effective asset management continues to challenge some councils. Issues that ESCOSA has observed include:

- insufficient understanding of current asset values, condition and remaining useful lives to drive effective asset management planning
- inadequate alignment between Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans and Long-Term Financial Plans
- inadequate maintenance, renewal and replacement practices to optimise asset life and costs
- asset registers not comprehensive or current
- allowing significant backlogs of asset renewal and replacement to build up, sometimes while prioritising the development of new or upgraded assets, while the renewal and replacement of existing assets is under-funded. This can lead to councils over-extending themselves financially and finding themselves unable to maintain assets and services for their communities.

ESCOSA has seen some instances of:

- councils potentially not fully complying with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1999 in their financial management practices
- multiple years of forecast deficits, without a plan to return to financial sustainability
- insufficient transparency around forecast rate increases and the underlying assumptions
- inadequate planning for cost controls
- over-accumulating cash reserves without a clear reason. The Commission advises obtaining ratepayers' opinion on the policy for cash reserves, in conjunction with expert advice on appropriate minimum cash balances. The Commission also supports the judicious use of debt for new infrastructure, to spread the cost more equitably across the community over time.

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ESCOSA has observed that councils strive to deliver financially sustainable services for ratepayers and communities, while operating in diverse and challenging geographic and social contexts.

4. Measuring Long-Term Financial Performance

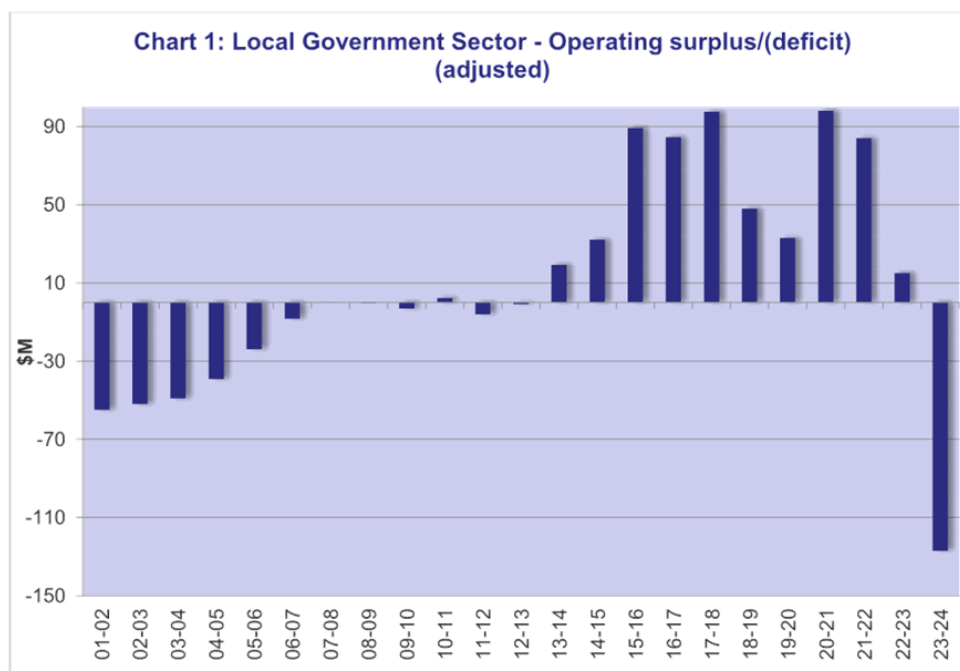
The most critical measure of local government financial performance is the annual operating result which measures the difference between day-to-day income and expenses for a financial year.

Historically, the aggregate level of local government's annual operating deficit reduced steadily from 2000-01 (when expenses exceeded income by \$75 million) until 2007-08 (when the operating deficit was eliminated). Subsequently, an approximate 'break-even' operating result was recorded for five years up until 2012-13. Between 2013-14 and 2022-23 there were operating surpluses. However, in 2023-24 the overall result for the sector is an operating deficit of \$127 million.

A total of 17 (25%) councils recorded an operating surplus in 2023-24, and this is similar to the 24% councils who recorded an operating surplus in 2000-01).

Chart 1 provides aggregate data from 2000-01 until 2023-24 covering the sector's operating surplus/(deficit). The data has been adjusted to remove the distortion otherwise caused by the irregular timing of receipt of Federal financial assistance grants (FA Grants) received in some years.

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5. Financial Indicators

The following information provides an update on the latest values, history and comparisons of key financial indicators for the local government sector as a whole. LGA appreciates the assistance of the SA Local Government Grants Commission in providing this data.

There are three key indicators covering SA local government's financial performance (operating surplus ratio), financial position (net financial liabilities ratio) and asset management performance (asset sustainability ratio or asset renewal funding ratio).

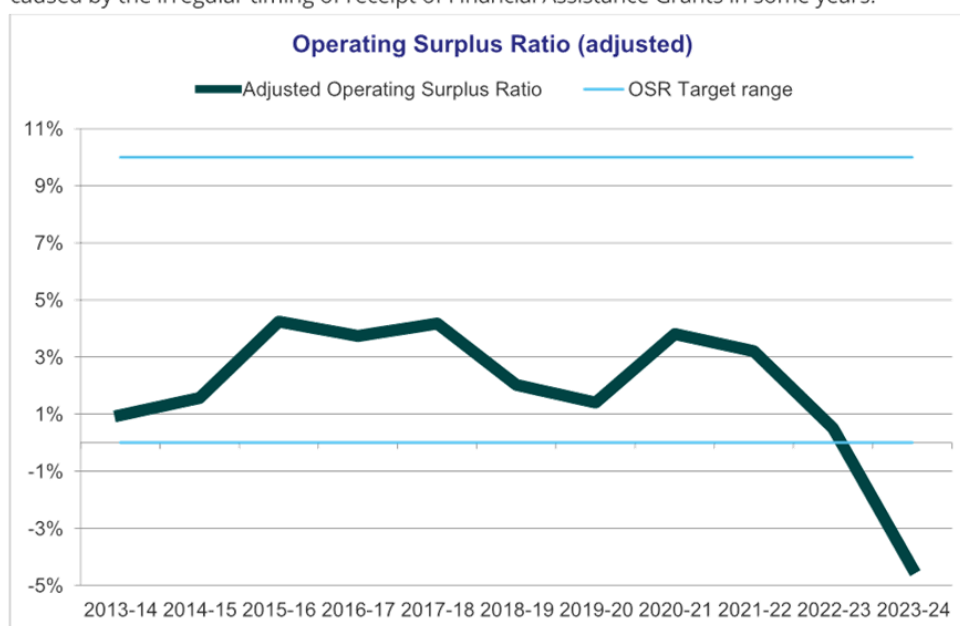
Indicator 1: Operating Surplus Ratio

The operating surplus ratio is calculated as the percentage by which the annual operating surplus or deficit varies from total operating income. Just like any household or other organisation, a council's long-term financial sustainability is dependent upon ensuring that, on average over time, its expenses are in line with associated income. In essence this requires current day citizens to fully meet the cost of services provided for them by their council.

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Guidance material provided to councils under LGA's Financial Sustainability Program suggests that councils generally should seek to achieve, on average over time, a target range for an operating surplus ratio of between zero per cent and 10 per cent. This is because if a council consistently achieves a modest positive operating surplus ratio and has soundly based projections showing that it can continue to do so in future, having regard to asset management and its community's service level needs, then it is financially sustainable.

Chart 2 below provides aggregate data on operating surplus ratio for the last decade (from 2013-14 until 2023-24). Again, the data has been adjusted to remove the distortion otherwise caused by the irregular timing of receipt of Financial Assistance Grants in some years.

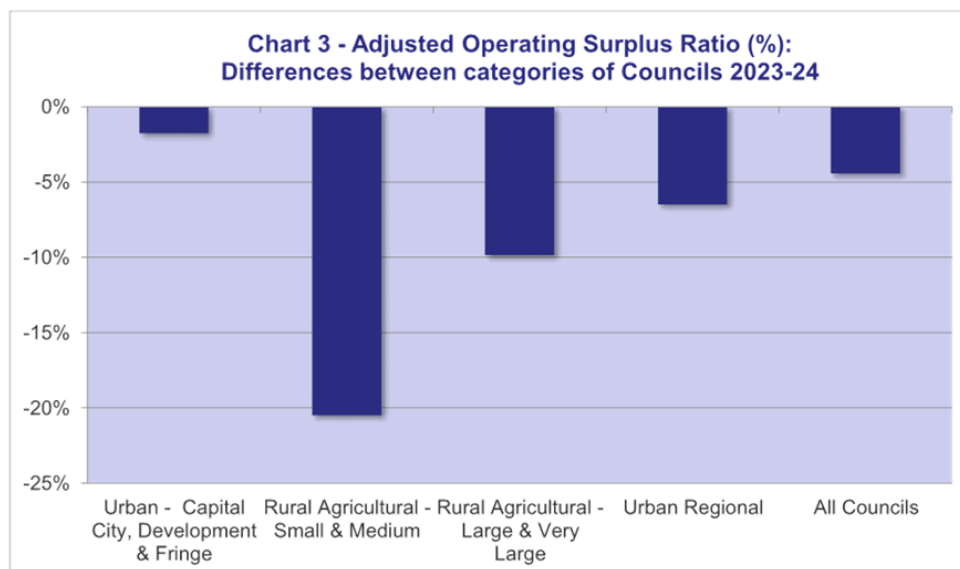


As shown in **Chart 2**, the local government sector's operating surplus ratio in 2023-24 was -4.4 per cent. The adjusted operating deficit in 2023-24 of \$127 million can be compared with the average operating surplus across the sector since 2013-14 of \$43 million.

Historically, this ratio has been as low as negative 8.3 per cent in 2000-01 and has returned an adjusted operating deficit in ten of the years since then.

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Chart 3 below shows the differences in the operating surplus ratios between categories of councils recorded in 2023-24.



As shown in **Chart 3**, all categories of councils in 2023-24 have adjusted operating surplus ratio deficits. The average adjusted operating deficit ratio for Urban – Capital City, Development and Fringe councils was 1.75 per cent. This can be compared with the previous year where the ratio was 2 per cent.

All other categories of councils recorded an average adjusted operating deficit:

Category of Councils	Number	2023-24	2022-23
Rural Agricultural – Small and Medium	19	-20.48%	-2.1%
Rural Agricultural – Large and Very Large	19	-9.86%	-3.5%
Urban Regional	9	-6.48%	-2.3%

Indicator 2: Net Financial Liabilities Ratio

Net financial liabilities represent the amount of money owed by councils to others less money held, invested or owed to councils. It is the most comprehensive measure of the indebtedness of a council as it includes items such as employee long service leave entitlements and other amounts payable as well as taking account of the level of a council's cash and investments.

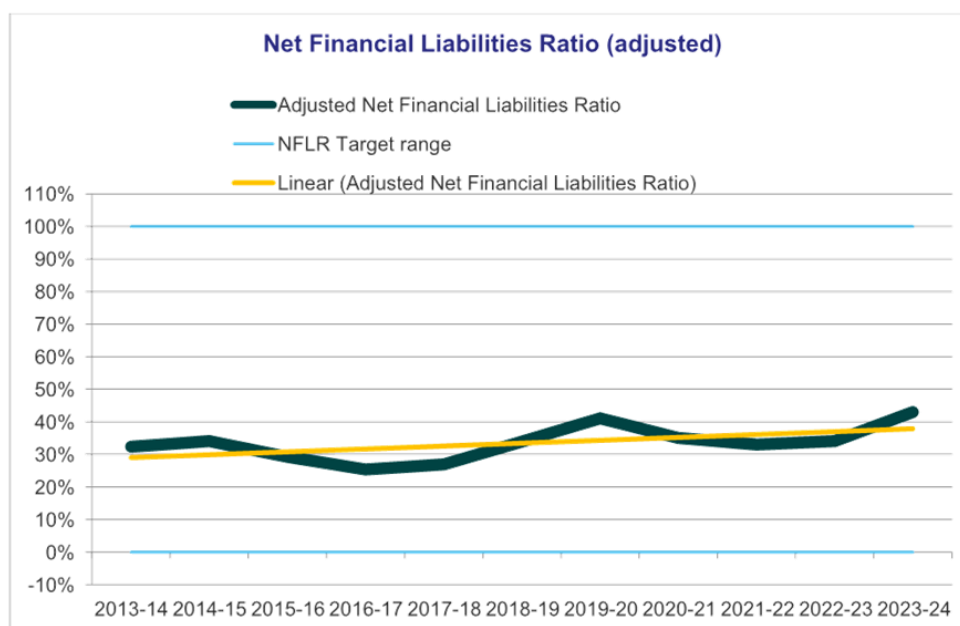
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At 30 June 2024, the level of net financial liabilities was around \$1202 million. This is very low when put in the context of local government infrastructure and other physical assets valued at around \$35 billion.

The net financial liabilities ratio is a measure of the significance of the net amount owed at the end of a financial year compared with income for the year.

There is no optimal single number or even narrow range for this indicator. What is important is that each council understands and is comfortable with its ratio and that it has been determined based on future community needs and long-term financial sustainability. Councils generally seek to achieve a target range of between zero and 100 per cent, but higher than 100 per cent may be appropriate in some circumstances. A target range should be set by a council having regard to the target for its operating surplus ratio and the needs that are identified in its long-term financial plan and its infrastructure and asset management plan.

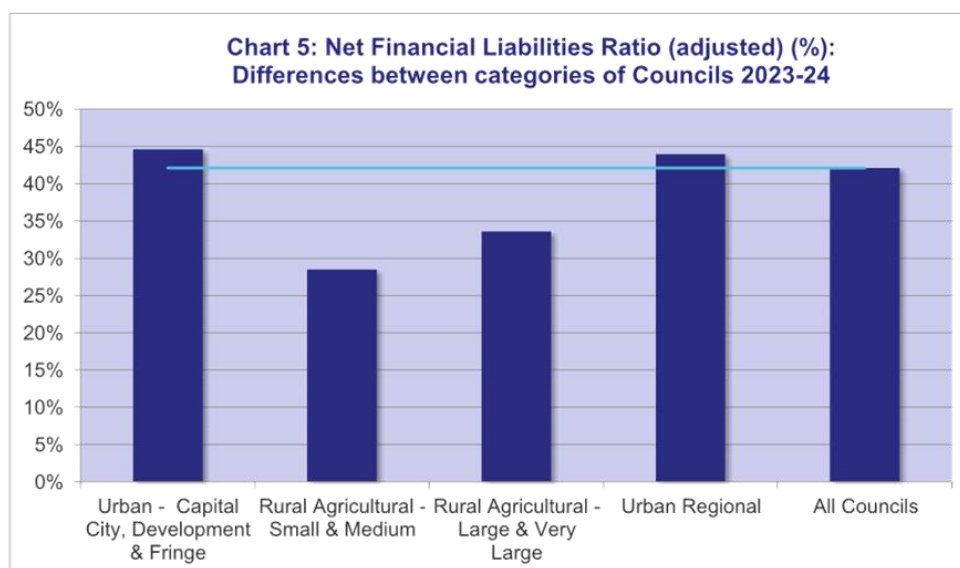
Chart 4 below provides aggregate data on net financial liabilities ratio for the last decade (from 2013-14 until 2023-24). Again, the data has been adjusted to remove the distortion otherwise caused by the irregular timing of receipt of FA Grants in some years.



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As shown in **Chart 4**, the adjusted net financial liabilities ratio for the local government sector in 2023-24 was 34 per cent. The ratio has consistently landed between 25 to 45 percent (i.e. around the middle of the suggested target range) over the decade.

Chart 5 below shows the differences in the net financial liabilities ratios between categories of councils recorded in 2023-24. The chart highlights that some councils are averse to incurring debt to help finance the cost of infrastructure. This may lead to these councils under-investing in infrastructure relative to what their operating revenue streams will allow. Their asset service levels will be lower as a result. Also, it could be that some councils believe they do not have the capacity to fund debt.



Provided sustained operating deficits are avoided, there appears to be considerable scope for some councils to increase their level of borrowings (or liquidate some of their large stock of cash and investments, which is equivalent to borrowing) to finance capital expenditure. Such borrowings could be undertaken for renewal or replacement of existing assets where a council's Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan suggests that it is optimal to do so. For example, it may be a financially better option for a council to borrow money to undertake the reseal of a deteriorating road sooner than originally planned and thus avoid having to fully reconstruct the road within a few years at a cost two or three times the cost of the timely reseal.

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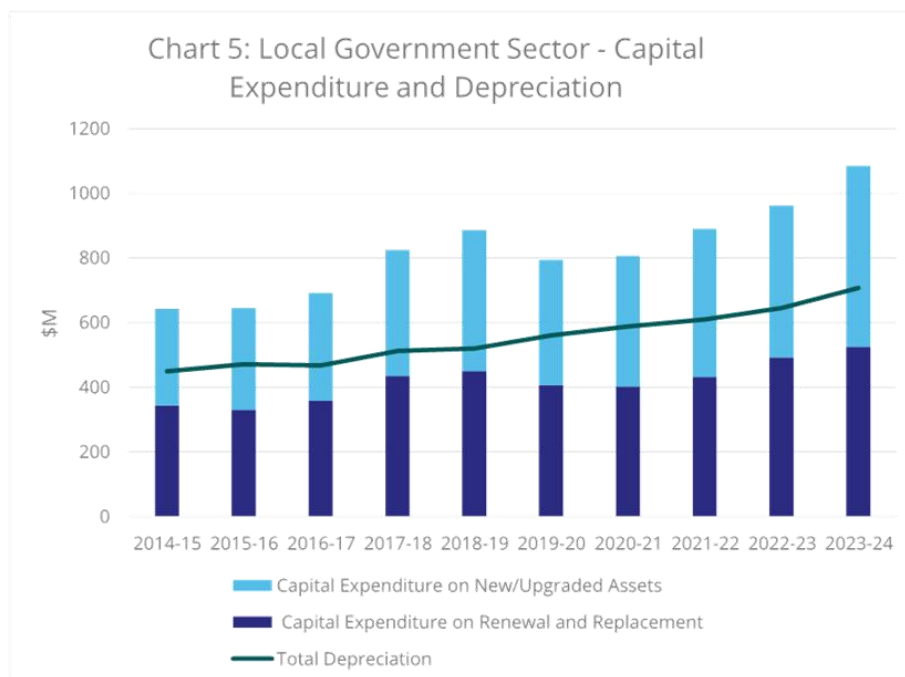
Of course, where a council is not achieving an underlying operating surplus, or trending towards doing so in the medium term, then generally any capital expenditure on upgrading or expanding infrastructure needs to be modest and targeted, because it normally will lead to additional maintenance and depreciation costs, i.e. reflected in the operating result.

Capital Investment Expenditure

Overall, capital expenditure in 2023-24 was \$1085 million, made up of \$525 million on renewal and replacement of existing assets and \$560 million on new and upgraded assets.

The ESCOSA review scheme findings have included the requirement for councils to have a greater focus on capital investment expenditure on renewal and replacement of existing assets rather than new assets.

Chart 5 shows the level of capital expenditure over the past ten years on renewal/replacement of existing assets on one hand and expenditure on new/upgraded assets on the other. This shows an increased expenditure on renewing and replacing existing assets in most years.



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Indicator 3: Asset Renewal Funding Ratio

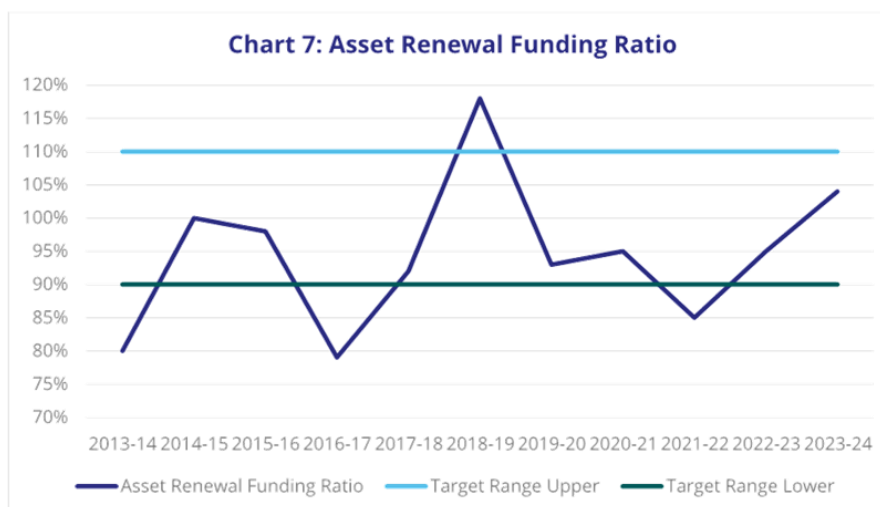
A third financial indicator adopted by the sector in recent years covers the asset management performance of councils. The asset renewal funding ratio represents the level of capital expenditure on renewal and replacement of assets relative to the level of such expenditure identified as warranted in a council's infrastructure and asset management plan.

This indicator is a measure of whether a council is accommodating asset renewal and replacement in an optimal and cost-effective way from a timing perspective, relative to the risk it is prepared to accept, and the service levels it wishes to maintain. If capital expenditure on renewing or replacing existing assets is at a level consistent with proposed in a soundly prepared Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan (i.e. close to 100 per cent over the medium term of the Long Term Financial Plan) that is based on long-run affordable service levels, then it is likely that a Council is reasonably optimising timing of asset renewal activity. Any material underspending on renewal and replacement over the medium term is likely to adversely impact on the cost-effective achievement of preferred, affordable service levels and could potentially progressively undermine a council's financial sustainability. For example, additional maintenance costs associated with assets that have exceeded their economic life might be higher than costs that would be associated with renewal or replacement. Eventually a Council will be confronted with failed assets, and potentially significant renewal and replacement expenditure needs that cannot be accommodated without sudden large rate increases

There are operational and other reasons why the asset renewal funding ratio result may vary between years. This may not necessarily detract from asset management performance if a council's target is achieved over the medium term (e.g. over a rolling 3- or 5-year average).

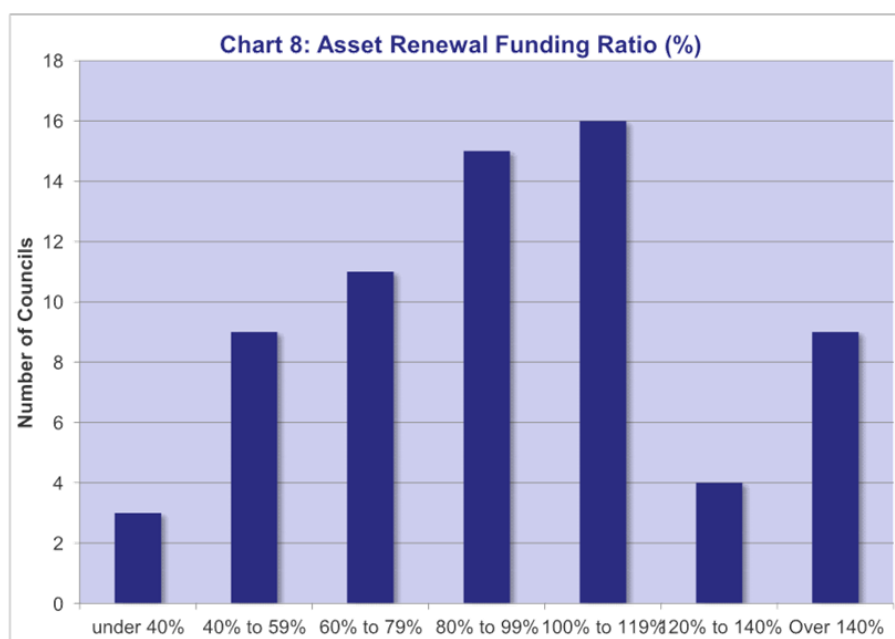
Chart 7 below provides the sector's annual asset renewal funding ratio from 2013-14 through to 2023-24.

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Across the sector, the asset renewal funding ratio for 2023-24 is within the target range. The average across the 10 years in the graph above is 94 per cent.

Chart 8 below provides summary information for the asset renewal funding ratio in 2023-24.



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For 2023-24, 19 councils (28 per cent) had a ratio above the target range, 18 councils (27 per cent) were within the target range, and 30 councils had an asset renewal funding ratio below the target range. It is important to note that an assessment for each individual council should be made over the medium term, not on an annual basis.

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6.7 Preferential Voting Review Outcomes and Recommendations

LGA Updates

From:	Wade Reynolds, Executive Director Corporate Services	
Strategy:	4 - Achieve	
Outcome:	4.1 We lead by example in the governance and operations of the LGA	
Meeting:	Annual General Meeting	21 November 2025
ECM:	853360	
Attachments:	1. 852152 – Excerpt of LGA Constitution and Rules – marked up September 2025 2. 852153 – Excerpt of SAROC Terms of Reference – marked up October 2025 3. 852154 – Excerpt of GAROC Terms of Reference – marked up October 2025	
	Link – LGA Constitution (current)	
	Link – SAROC Terms of Reference (current)	
	Link – GAROC Terms of Reference (current)	

Purpose

This report seeks approval from the Annual General Meeting on proposed changes to the LGA Constitution, SAROC Terms of Reference, and GAROC Terms of Reference.

Recommendation *(must be carried by ≥50% of votes)*

That the Annual General Meeting:

1. **Notes that any alterations to the LGA Constitution, and alterations to clauses 4.2–4.4 of the SAROC Terms of Reference and GAROC Terms of Reference, require approval from the Minister for Local Government;**
2. **Will consider and vote upon the proposed alterations to the LGA Constitution, GAROC Terms of Reference, and SAROC Terms of Reference as separate ‘groups’ of amendments (grouped together in the manner described in the following two subparagraphs), to be considered separately and voted on in the order specified below:**
 - a. **DECISION A – Preferential Voting for LGA President**
 - b. **DECISION B – Voting Submission Method for LGA President, GAROC Committee and SAROC Committee Elections**

3. **Determines that DECISION B, which includes some amendments that require a 75% majority of votes and some that require only a 50% majority of votes, will be considered not to have been carried unless a 75% majority is achieved; and**
4. **Authorises the Chief Executive to make any typographical, numbering and formatting corrections which the Chief Executive sees fit prior to submission of the alterations to the Minister for approval under Schedule 1 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.**

Decisions for Voting Separately

DECISION A - Preferential Voting for LGA President *(must be carried by ≥75% of votes)*

That the Annual General Meeting approves the proposed changes to the LGA Constitution, as marked up in Attachment 1 of this report (item 6.7 'Preferential Voting Review Outcomes and Recommendations', LGA AGM – 21 November 2025), that would implement a Preferential Voting method for the election of LGA President.

DECISION B - Voting Submission Method for LGA President, GAROC Committee and SAROC Committee Elections *(must be carried by ≥75% of votes)*

That the Annual General Meeting approves the proposed changes to the LGA Constitution, SAROC Terms of Reference, and GAROC Terms of Reference, as marked up in Attachments 1-3 of this report (item 6.7 'Preferential Voting Review Outcomes and Recommendations', LGA AGM – 21 November 2025), that would remove physical sealed ballot papers from the process for LGA President, SAROC Committee, and GAROC Committee elections, and instead accept the provision of council resolutions as a Member Council's vote in those elections.

Summary

- In 2024, the City of Marion submitted an Item of Business requesting LGA to consider the adoption of preferential voting for LGA President. The Item of Business was approved by Members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 22 November 2024.
- Consultation with Members occurred and informed a suite of proposed amendments to the LGA Constitution, SAROC Terms of Reference, and GAROC Terms of Reference.
- The LGA Board of Directors discussed the proposed amendments and approved the matters presented for Members' consideration at the 2025 AGM.

Discussion

Proposed Amendments

Attached is a marked-up draft of the LGA Constitution, SAROC Terms of Reference, and GAROC Terms of Reference. Full versions of the documents are linked at the beginning of this report should Members want to read the original documents in their entirety.

The marked-up documents in Attachments 1-3 contain proposed amendments provided by Norman Waterhouse that, if approved, would:

1. Introduce a preferential voting method for the election of LGA President (Attachment 1);
2. Remove physical sealed ballot papers from the election process for LGA President, SAROC Committee members, and GAROC Committee members (Attachments 1-3); and
3. Accept the provision of council resolutions as a Member Council's vote in the elections for LGA President, SAROC Committee members, and GAROC Committee members (Attachments 1-3).

Process for Updating LGA Constitution and Ancillary Documents

The proposed changes to the LGA Constitution require at least 75% of the votes cast by Members at a General Meeting and subsequently approval from the Minister for Local Government (Minister) before they can be implemented.

Certain clauses in the SAROC and GAROC Terms of Reference documents, such as the ones proposed for amendment in Attachments 2 and 3, also require approval by Members at a General Meeting followed by approval from the Minister before they can take effect.

If approved by Members, these documents will be put to the Minister to be approved and implemented prior to the commencement of the 2026 LGA elections.

Background information

Preferential Voting Item of Business

An Item of Business submitted by the City of Marion and approved by Member Councils at the AGM on 22 November 2024 prompted a process to explore the adoption of a preferential voting system for the election of LGA President.

An excerpt from those AGM minutes is included below:

9.1 Voting Method – LGA President & LGA Board Positions (City of Marion)

That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to consider the adoption of preferential voting for the LGA President (subsequent to the 2024 AGM); the voting methods used in South Australian elections for the House of Assembly and Legislative Council to be followed respectively.

Consultation with Members

While the Item of Business submitted by the City of Marion only referred to preferential voting for LGA President, the scope of consultation was extended so that it included:

1. Preferential Voting (primary scope)

The primary focus of consultation was about the proposed adoption of a Preferential Voting system for the LGA President.

There was strong support for this change.

2. Voting Submission Method

A broader reform concept was to replace the physical sealed ballot papers required in the current process with copies of council resolutions.

This was also widely supported.

Formal correspondence was sent to Members in August 2025 seeking feedback on the above points by way of formal council resolution. This outgoing correspondence included a fact sheet about preferential voting and shared previous issues with the current sealed ballot process.

Mayors and elected members were also invited to attend one of three webinars where preferential voting was explained, and the associated advantages, challenges, and implementation considerations were discussed.

LGA Board Consideration

After being presented with a summary of the feedback, and with most Directors attending a webinar themselves, the LGA Board of Directors (LGA Board) felt that there was clear support for the adoption of Preferential Voting for LGA President and for the change to Voting Submission Method.

The LGA Board noted that participants of some webinars proposed extending the adoption of preferential voting to the election of SAROC Committee members and GAROC Committee members. However, the LGA Board noted mixed views for this proposal and therefore did not support this recommendation.

In October 2025, the LGA Board approved the final suite of proposed amendments that are presented to Member Councils for consideration in Attachments 1-3.

Other Matters

In addition to the scope of matters outlined above, some webinar participants wished to revisit eligibility requirements to nominate for the Office of LGA President. In particular the following two clauses in the [LGA Constitution](#):

"28.5 To be eligible for the position of President, a person must also be a current member of SAROC or GAROC who has undertaken that role for a period of not less than 1 year."

"28.6 The eligibility for office of President shall rotate each term between a person who is a Council Member of a Member within a Regional Grouping of Members in SAROC and a Council Member of a Member within a Regional Grouping of Members in GAROC."

The eligibility and process for electing the LGA President was a key topic of discussion during last year's review of the LGA Constitution and ancillary documents, though no changes were proposed as a result of that process.

This matter may be revisited in a future LGA governance review.

Implications

Financial and resource

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

Risk

This activity presents low risk and aligns with the organisation's strategic priorities and existing policies.

Consultation

Broad consultation with Members, the GAROC Committee and SAROC Committee has been undertaken and the feedback incorporated.

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EXCERPT of LGA Constitution and Rules – Marked up September 2025

- 28.8 If no nomination is received for the office of President under clause 28.7, then the Chief Executive shall call for additional nominations from and by the Delegates at the Annual General Meeting and will conduct an election at the meeting pursuant to whatever process the Chief Executive determines to be appropriate.
- 28.9 If 1 or more nominations are received for the office of President under clause 28.7, then the process in clause 29 shall apply.

29. Election for office of President

- 29.1 The Chief Executive shall be the returning officer for any election for the office of President.
- 29.2 After the Close of Nominations, the Chief Executive will notify all Members of the candidates for the office of President.
- 29.3 If only 1 person is nominated for President by the Close of Nominations, the Chief Executive shall declare such person duly elected.
- 29.4 If the number of persons nominated for the office of President by the Close of Nominations exceeds 1 person then an election must be held in accordance with this clause.
- 29.5 In the event of an election being required, the Chief Executive shall conduct the election as follows:
- 29.5.1 at least six weeks before the Annual General Meeting the Chief Executive shall ~~deliver ballot papers to~~correspond with each Member ~~to inform the Member of the election and their entitlement to vote in the election;~~
- 29.5.2 the ~~ballot papers~~correspondence shall:
- (a) list the candidates for election;
 - (b) specify the day of closure of the election; and
 - (c) ~~be accompanied by an envelope marked "Ballot Paper" and a second envelope marked "Returning Officer"~~inform the Member of the method of voting and the requirements necessary for the Member's vote to be accepted;
- 29.5.3 each Member shall determine by resolution the candidate it wishes elected by passing a resolution which places the number 1 next to the name of the candidate for whom it votes as its first preference, and consecutive

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- numbers next to the names of all of the remaining candidates, so as to indicate the order of preference for all candidates;
- 29.5.4 the chief executive officer of the Delegate of a Member or in the Delegate's chief executive officer's absence, the chair of the meeting for that Memberperson acting in that position, shall sign a copy of the minutes or an extract of the minutes of the meeting at which the resolution is passed (in a manner consistent with section 91(11) of the Local Government Act 1999) and send a copy of the signed minutes, which shall be deemed to be the ballot of the Member, to the Chief Executivemark the ballot paper with an "X" next to the candidate that the Member wishes elected and seal the ballot paper in the envelope marked "Ballot Paper" inside the envelope marked "Returning Officer". Before sealing the second envelope the Delegate must indicate the Member's name on the inside flap of the envelope. The envelope may then be sealed and delivered to the Returning Officer;
- 29.5.5 on receipt of the envelopes-ballots the Chief Executive must compile and securely store the ballots for counting;:
- (-) open the outer envelope addressed to the "Returning Officer" and record the name of the Member which appears on the inside flap of the envelope on the roll of Member's eligible to vote; and
- (-) place the envelope marked "Ballot Paper" unopened into the ballot box;
- ~~29.5.8~~29.5.6 the Chief Executive shall nominate the date, time and place for the counting of votes and shall invite each candidate and a person nominated as the candidate's scrutineer to be present;
- ~~29.5.9~~29.5.7 at the counting of the votes the Chief Executive shall produce unopened envelopes marked "Ballot Paper"the compiled ballots, reject all informal or invalid ballots and if satisfied that all votes are valid, and count the number of valid first preference votes received by each candidate;
- 29.5.8 the candidate with the most largest number of first preference votes, if that number constitutes an absolute majority of valid votes cast in the election, shall be deemed elected;
- 29.5.9 if no candidate has received an absolute majority of first preference votes, the Chief Executive shall proceed to count the valid votes as follows:

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(a) the candidate who has received the fewest first preference votes will be excluded, and each ballot counted to that candidate is to be counted to the candidate next in the order of the voter's preference;

(b) if no candidate then has an absolute majority of votes, the process of excluding the candidate who has the fewest votes, and counting each of that candidate's ballot papers to the unexcluded candidate next in the order of the voter's preference, is to be repeated until 1 candidate has received an absolute majority of votes;

(c) the candidate who has received an absolute majority of votes shall be deemed elected;

29.5.10 ~~and~~ the Chief Executive shall declare the candidate elected at the Annual General Meeting; and

29.5.11 in the case of candidates receiving the same number of votes at any stage in the count or distribution of preferences, the Chief Executive shall draw lots at the counting of the votes and the lot drawn will be the candidate elected or not excluded (as the case may be).

29.6 The Chief Executive may, in his or her discretion, appoint a deputy returning officer and delegate any of his or her powers, functions or duties to that person who shall act accordingly.

30. Term of Office of Directors

30.1 The President shall take office after the Annual General Meeting of the year in which elected and shall hold office for 2 years or until any vacancy in that office occurs.

30.2 When a new President is elected, the person retiring from the Office of President shall hold office as Immediate Past President for a term of office which is the same as the term of office of his or her successor as President under clause 30.1.

30.3 The term of office of the SAROC and GAROC chairpersons as Directors operates for the term of their respective appointments as chairperson.

30.4 The term of office of the six persons appointed to the Board of Directors by SAROC (3 persons) and GAROC (3 persons) shall commence after the Annual General Meeting of the year in which the person is elected and shall be for 2 years or until a vacancy in that office occurs for any such person.

30.5 Directors appointed by SAROC or GAROC under clause 30.4 may be reappointed for subsequent terms provided they meet eligibility requirements.

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EXERPT of SAROC Terms of Reference – Marked up October 2025

- 4.4.6. In the event of an election being required, the Chief Executive shall conduct the election as follows:
- (a) at least six weeks before the Annual General Meeting, the Chief Executive shall ~~deliver ballot papers~~correspond with ~~to~~ each Member of the Regional Grouping of Members to inform the Member of the election and their entitlement to vote in the election;
 - (b) the ~~ballot papers~~correspondence shall:
 - (i) list the candidates for election;
 - (ii) specify the day of closure of the election;
 - (iii) inform the Member of the method of voting and the requirements necessary for the Member's vote to be accepted~~be accompanied by an envelope marked "Ballot Paper" and a second envelope marked "Returning Officer";~~
 - (c) each Member shall determine by resolution the candidate or candidates (as relevant) it wishes to elect;
 - (d) the ~~chief executive officer of the chair of the meeting for that Member or in the chief executive officer's absence, the person acting in that position sign a copy of the minutes or an extract of the minutes of the meeting at which the resolution is passed (in a manner consistent with section 91(11) of the Local Government Act 1999) and send a copy of the signed minutes, which shall be deemed to be the ballot of the Member, to the Chief Executive~~shall mark the ballot paper with an "X" next to the candidate or candidates (as relevant) that the Member wishes elected and seal the ballot paper in the envelope marked "Ballot Paper" inside the envelope marked "Returning Officer". Before sealing the second envelope the chair must indicate the Member's name on the inside flap of the envelope. The envelope may then be sealed and delivered to the Returning Officer;
 - (e) on receipt of the ~~envelopes~~ballots the Chief Executive must compile and securely store the ballots for counting;

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~~open the outer envelope addressed to the "Returning Officer" and record the name of the Member which appears on the inside flap of the envelope on the roll of Member's eligible to vote; and place the envelope marked "Ballot Paper" unopened into the ballot box;~~

- (f) the Chief Executive shall nominate the date, time and place for the counting of votes and shall invite each candidate and a person nominated as the candidate's scrutineer to be present;
- (g) at the counting of the votes the Chief Executive shall produce ~~the compiled ballots, reject all informal or invalid ballots and unopened envelopes marked "Ballot Paper" and if satisfied that all votes are valid,~~ count the number of votes received by each candidate;
- (h) the candidate with the most votes shall be deemed elected to one of the two positions on SAROC for that Regional Grouping of Members;
- (i) the candidate with the second most votes (or, if that candidate is from the same Member as the first elected candidate, then the candidate with the next most votes who is not from the same Member as the first elected candidate) shall be deemed elected to the other of the two positions on SAROC for that Regional Grouping of Members;
- (j) the Chief Executive shall declare the candidates elected at the Annual General Meeting;
- (k) in the case of candidates from a Regional Grouping of Members receiving the same number of votes, the Chief Executive shall (if necessary to determine the result of the election) draw lots at the counting of the votes to determine which candidate will be deemed to have received more votes.

4.4.7. The Chief Executive may, in his or her discretion, appoint a deputy returning officer and delegate any of his or her powers, functions or duties to that person who shall act accordingly.

4.5. Term of office

4.5.1. The term of office for members of SAROC shall commence after the Annual General Meeting of the year in which the member is elected. Each member of SAROC will serve for a period of 2 years or until a circumstance causing a casual vacancy as described in clause 4.7.3(a) occurs.

4.6. Duties

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**EXERPT of GAROC Terms of Reference – Marked up October
2025**

- 4.4.6. In the event of an election being required, the Chief Executive shall conduct the election as follows:
- (a) at least six weeks before the Annual General Meeting, the Chief Executive shall ~~correspond with deliver ballot papers to~~ each Member of the Regional Grouping of Members ~~to inform the Member of the election and their entitlement to vote in the election;~~
 - (b) the ~~correspondence ballot papers~~ shall:
 - (i) list the candidates for election;
 - (ii) specify the day of closure of the election;
 - (iii) ~~inform the Member of the method of voting and the requirements necessary for the Member's vote to be accepted be accompanied by an envelope marked "Ballot Paper" and a second envelope marked "Returning Officer";~~
 - (c) each Member shall determine by resolution the candidate or candidates (as relevant) it wishes to elect;
 - (d) ~~the chief executive officer of the Member or in the chief executive officer's absence, the person acting in that position sign a copy of the minutes or an extract of the minutes of the meeting at which the resolution is passed (in a manner consistent with section 91(11) of the Local Government Act 1999) and send a copy of the signed minutes, which shall be deemed to be the ballot of the Member, to the Chief Executive the chair of the meeting for that Member shall mark the ballot paper with an "X" next to the candidate or candidates (as relevant) that the Member wishes elected and seal the ballot paper in the envelope marked "Ballot Paper" inside the envelope marked "Returning Officer". Before sealing the second envelope the chair must indicate the Member's name on the inside flap of the envelope. The envelope may then be sealed and delivered to the Returning Officer;~~
 - (e) on receipt of the ~~envelopes ballots~~ the Chief Executive must ~~compile and securely store the ballots for counting;~~

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~~open the outer envelope addressed to the "Returning Officer" and record the name of the Member which appears on the inside flap of the envelope on the roll of Member's eligible to vote; and place the envelope marked "Ballot Paper" unopened into the ballot box;~~

- (f) the Chief Executive shall nominate the date, time and place for the counting of votes and shall invite each candidate and a person nominated as the candidate's scrutineer to be present;
- (g) at the counting of the votes the Chief Executive shall produce ~~the compiled ballots, reject all informal or invalid ballots and unopened envelopes marked "Ballot Paper" and if satisfied that all votes are valid,~~ count the number of votes received by each candidate;
- (h) the candidate with the most votes shall be deemed elected to one of the two positions on GAROC for that Regional Grouping of Members;
- (i) the candidate with the second most votes (or, if that candidate is from the same Member as the first elected candidate, then the candidate with the next most votes who is not from the same Member as the first elected candidate) shall be deemed elected to the other of the two positions on GAROC for that Regional Grouping of Members;
- (j) the Chief Executive shall declare the candidates elected at the Annual General Meeting;
- (k) in the case of candidates from a Regional Grouping of Members receiving the same number of votes, the Chief Executive shall (if necessary to determine the result of the election) draw lots at the counting of the votes to determine which candidate will be deemed to have received more votes.

4.4.7. The Chief Executive may, in his or her discretion, appoint a deputy returning officer and delegate any of his or her powers, functions or duties to that person who shall act accordingly.

4.5. Term of office

4.5.1. The term of office for members of GAROC shall commence after the Annual General Meeting of the year in which the member is elected. Each member of GAROC will serve for a period of 2 years or until a circumstance causing a casual vacancy as described in clause 4.7.4 occurs.

4.6. Duties

8.1 Long-Term Parking on Council Roads (City of Charles Sturt)

Recommendation Reports from the GAROC Committee

Submitted by:	City of Charles Sturt	
Approved by:	GAROC Committee	
Meeting	Annual General Meeting	21 November 2025
ECM:	853051	
Attachment:	1. 846335 – Proposed Item of Business – Long Term Parking on Council Roads – City of Charles Sturt	

Recommendation Proposed by the LGA Secretariat

That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to:

- 1. Advocate to the Minister for Transport to consider the inclusion of legislation to enable the Council to enforce long term parking controls of vehicles on Council roads.***
- 2. Advocate to the Minister for Transport to consider the inclusion of legislation to enable the Council to enforce long term parking controls of vehicles on State roads.***

GAROC Committee's Comments

This Item of Business (IoB) was tabled at the GAROC Committee meeting held on 22 September 2025. The resolution was carried.

LGA Guidelines

The Guidelines outline that all proposals will be assessed against the guiding principles in terms of their strategic importance to local government and the LGA, supporting evidence, alignment with LGA policy and resourcing requirements.

The matter raised in this IoB has been assessed against these guiding principles which can be summarised in the following table:

LGA Guiding Principle	Secretariat comment
Strategic importance	The item is linked to the LGA's Strategic Plan objective 1.2 as stated above.

Supporting evidence	Related matters include: • Motion on increasing onsite garage sizes and relating to number of bedrooms in a dwelling which was supported by members after being carried at the AGM in November 2024¹. LGA has been progressing this matter through existing resources. • The Statutes Amendment (Vehicle Parking and Urban Renewal) Bill 2025², which was introduced to the South Australian Parliament on 4 September 2025.
Alignment with LGA policy	Nil
Resourcing	LGA checked with the City of Charles Sturt about anticipated advocacy actions that will be progressed. This was confirmed to be a written letter to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) and followed up with a meeting to discuss. As per the officer commentary below, this has already been progressed within LGA's existing resources.

LGA Officer's Comments

(Officer: Sarah Wozniak, Senior Policy Advisor)

Parking is an everyday issue that can be contentious in local government. Both on and off street car parking must strike a balance between competing community interests, including drivers seeking convenience, businesses seeking easy access for customers and residents wanting cleaner air and quieter streets. By design, much of South Australia is vehicle dependent.

In addition to the item of business submitted by the City of Charles Sturt, LGA was separately contacted by DIT in June 2025 to provide commentary and advice to them directly on this matter.

Noting the interest from the sector in relation to available and proactive pathways to manage parking on local roads, LGA sought advice from our legal partners Norman Waterhouse to consider the proposal by City of Charles Sturt and prepare a response to the DIT letter.

LGA returned a letter to DIT in late July 2025 seeking a meeting to follow up and discuss further. A meeting between LGA and DIT on this topic is being scheduled. What LGA will continue advocating for, is to enable a simple pathway for councils to more effectively enforce parking controls to reduce the occurrence of vehicle storage on local roads and ensure vehicle turnover for a range of safety and amenity purposes.

¹ AGM-2024-Minutes-22-November-2024.pdf – item 9.4, which was carried after amendment to the original motion

² Statutes Amendment (Vehicle Parking and Urban Renewal) Bill 2025 | South Australian Legislation

The content for this briefing was substantially drawn from the advice received from our legal partners, which was returned in letter format to DIT on this matter. The proposal outlined by the City of Charles Sturt is one avenue to achieve the desired result. This briefing summarises LGA's full considerations on this topic.

Regulation and controls

Various Australian Standards set out requirements for the design and installation of both on and off street parking areas. Some of the standards were last updated many years ago and in the intervening time, vehicle types and their dimensions have changed. This has a flow-on effect that, together with changing residential allotment and dwelling sizes, has led to increased parking and storage of many vehicle types on residential streets.

South Australian councils have various legislative mechanisms available to them to regulate and control the parking or standing of vehicles on roads. Rule 200 of the Australian Road Rules (ARR) is one such mechanism, as is Section 237 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (LG Act). Authorised persons appointed by a council may also exercise powers under the *Road Traffic Act 1961* or the *Heavy Vehicle National Law* (South Australia) to remove vehicles from roads that are, for example, unattended or broken down and causing obstructions to traffic or obstructing or hindering vehicles from entering or leaving land adjacent to a road.

Each of the above legislative provisions are constrained to different extents. In many cases, they require an authorised officer to form a belief on reasonable grounds that particular circumstances exist.

There are gaps in these legislative mechanisms which result in an inability to deal with certain vehicles in particular circumstances. For example, a vehicle parked on a road in a built-up area that has a Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) of 4.5 tonnes or less and does not exceed 7.5 metres in length does not breach Rule 200 of the ARR, even though it might be a trailer or caravan somewhat larger in size than a passenger vehicle. Even if Rule 200 of the ARR is breached, this is an offence provision which does not, without more (e.g. hinderance, hazard, abandonment etc.), in itself enliven an authorised officer's power to remove the vehicle from the road.

Similarly, an authorised person appointed by a council pursuant to the LG Act is constrained in how they may deal with a vehicle that has been left on a road. For them to use Section 236, and in some cases Section 237 of the LG Act, they must first form the opinion a vehicle has been abandoned. This is inherently difficult because the authorised person must be satisfied the owner of the vehicle has completely and finally given up their possessory right to that vehicle.

Nearly all councils in this state, supported by legal opinion, consider that the effect of Section 237(3a) of the LG Act is that a vehicle lawfully parked on a public road cannot be dealt with pursuant to this section. In many cases, an owner can simply continue to register their vehicle and leave it 'stored' on the road. In those circumstances, neither Section 236 or 237 of the LG Act has any work to do. There is nothing in these sections which modify this position e.g., if the vehicle is parked on a narrow or one way street, or in a school zone, or the vicinity

of a school zone. Section 237 of the LG Act is not an offence provision and if enlivened, empowers an authorised person to remove and impound a vehicle.

Material considerations

LGA acknowledges that councils have the power pursuant to the LG Act to make bylaws. In respect of by-laws about roads, the subject matter is constrained to that set out in Section 239 of the LG Act and Regulation 28 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2013* with the result that a council cannot make a by-law about the parking or standing of vehicles on a road.

Additionally, it is within the ambit of a council to install parking controls to address areas of concern, including by way of permit parking. This cannot be supported as a broad-brush approach, because of the potential for increased burden associated with the administration of permit parking and associated increased resourcing and enforcement costs. Further, this could lead to the presence of a vast number of parking control signs being erected in residential areas, giving rise to potential impacts on visual amenity.

Potential solutions

Unattended property – City of Charles Sturt proposal

The proposal by the City of Charles Sturt³ provides an option to address long-term parking on local roads by creating legislation similar to that in NSW through the *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021*. This Act enables councils to regulate storage of unattended items, including vehicles, in public spaces where they have been there for more than 28 days. The City of Charles Sturt requested DIT consider:

- Establishing a maximum duration for on-street parking for all vehicles regardless of size.
- Empowering councils to issue expiations for all vehicles that overstay maximum duration.
- Bridging regulatory gaps in the ARR.
- Reasonable community expectations in this regard.

Unattended property – alternative

Prior to amendments to Section 237 of the LG Act which commenced operation on 31 March 2016, that section provided, relevantly and in part, as follows:

237 - Removal of vehicles

- (1) If a vehicle has been left on a public road or place, or on local government land for at least 24 hours, an authorised person may place a prescribed warning notice on the vehicle.
- (2) After 24 hours has expired since the placement of a prescribed warning notice, an authorised person may have the vehicle removed to an appropriate place.
- (3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply in prescribed circumstances.

³ As outlined in their letter to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, dated 23 April 2025, available through the council agenda papers ([Agendas and minutes | City of Charles Sturt](#)) for the meeting of the City of Charles Sturt held on 14 July 2025

The above provided a simple mechanism for an authorised person of a council to deal with a vehicle left on a public road for a least 48 hours. The definition of a vehicle in the LG Act is broad and encompassed all vehicle types including trailers, caravans and the like. While the concept of abandonment was a necessary addition to the section, it has inadvertently allowed the road to be used as a storage area for trailers and caravans and similar types of vehicles.

However, these specific types of vehicles could be treated differently to other common vehicles. This would include an amendment to Section 237(3) and (3a) of the LG Act so that the concept of abandonment could be removed when dealing with specific classes of vehicle.

It is acknowledged that in some cases an owner could simply move their vehicle and return it to the same position. However, even in those cases, it creates the opportunity for access by other vehicles and supports the aim of achieving vehicle turnover, especially in higher density urban areas.

The above approach is considered the most straight forward in terms of empowering councils to deal with vehicles that have been left on a road. It may be the case that Section 237 is amended to additionally provide for an offence for an owner to leave a vehicle on a road for, say, 48 hours. The expiation amount and maximum penalty could be adopted from that currently set out in Section 236.

The above previous version of Section 237 of the LG Act provided for prescribed circumstances, which could be used to make specific exemptions if that was also considered appropriate.

Financial and Resource Implications

While this activity was not anticipated in LGA's work program, it has been progressed within existing resources.

Advocacy has been progressed according to the expectations of the City of Charles Sturt, which submitted the item of business. The advocacy action progressed is to write a letter and schedule a follow up meeting with DIT to discuss. The recommendation to GAROC is that this item be progressed to the AGM in November, but noting the expected advocacy work is already being undertaken by LGA.

Risk

This activity presents low risk and aligns with the organisation's strategic priorities and existing policies.

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LGA General Meeting – Proposed Item of Business

The purpose of this form is to request consideration by SAROC, GAROC or the Board of Directors of an item of business to be included on the agenda of an LGA General Meeting - refer Clause 16.3.1 of the [LGA Constitution](#). Prior to submitting a proposed Item of Business, please refer to the [Considering Proposed Items of Business for LGA General Meetings Guidelines](#).

Council name	City of Charles Sturt
The body the item is being referred to <i>Proposals may only be submitted to the ROC of which council is a member, or to the LGA Board of Directors.</i>	GAROC
Subject of the proposed item of business	Long-Term Parking on Council Roads
Proposed motion for the General Meeting	That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to advocate to the Minister for Transport to consider the inclusion of legislation to enable the Council to enforce long term parking controls of vehicles on Council roads. That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to advocate to the Minister for Transport to consider the inclusion of legislation to enable the Council to enforce long term parking controls of vehicles on State roads.
Supporting information <i>Provide a summary of the issue(s), relevant background information, description of the impact on the sector and evidence that this is an item of strategic importance to local government.</i>	Over recent years, Council has received a growing number of complaints from residents concerned about large, often immobile vehicles being stored for extended periods on suburban streets. These vehicles, although often legally registered, can obstruct sight lines, reduce driveway access, impede waste collection and emergency vehicle access, and significantly reduce neighbourhood amenity. Under the current Australian Road Rules (ARR), there is limited recourse available to councils unless a specific breach occurs. For instance, ARR Regulation 200(1) restricts heavy or long vehicles—defined as those over 7.5 metres in length or 4.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass—from parking in built-up areas for more than one hour, unless signs indicate otherwise. However, many of the vehicles causing concern in residential areas (e.g. small trailers, caravans, or

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	boats) fall below this threshold and are therefore not covered by this rule. This regulatory gap leaves councils unable to respond effectively, even when multiple vehicles are stored for extended periods on public roads. Councils can currently only act within its available and delegated authority, which is guided by the Australian Road Rules and relevant By-laws. Investigations into these concerns have determined that no breach of parking regulations has occurred, meaning there is no legal basis for Council to take action to remove or expiate these vehicles. We note with interest the approach taken in New South Wales through the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021, which enables councils to regulate the storage of unattended items, including vehicles, in public spaces for more than 28 days. This provides local authorities with greater flexibility to address legitimate community concerns regarding street congestion and visual amenity. Given the increasing number of concerns, it is proposed that the LGA advocate to the Minister for Transport to review the current road rules relating to the on-street parking of large vehicles—including trailers, boats, and caravans—as well as the permitted duration for any vehicle to remain parked. This review would support improved amenity, accessibility, and fairness for all residents and road users.
Regional LGA <i>(Information requested from councils in SAROC only)</i> <i>Advise if this item has been considered by your RLGA and outcome of discussion</i>	
LGA Policy Manual <i>Does this item require a change to the LGA Policy Manual (new policy or amendment to existing policy)?</i>	(View LGA's Policy Manual)
LGA Strategic Plan reference	(View the plan and identify the Key Initiative and Strategy reference) <i>Strategy 1 – Advocate</i> <i>Outcome 1.2 Governments rely on our proactive contribution to policy and legislation that impact councils, leading to better outcomes for communities.</i>
Council Contact Officer submitting form	Aaron Galanti agalanti@charlessturt.sa.gov.au

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	8408 1233
Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting	Council Meeting – 14 July 2025 – Item 6.2
Date submitted to LGA	15 July 2025

Please return Word version of completed form to lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au.
Refer to [LGA OGM/AGM Webpage](#) in respect to deadlines for upcoming General Meetings.

9.1 Continued State Government advocacy to remove facilitation and collection of the State Governments Landscape Levy as a responsibility for Local Government Council in South Australia (Kangaroo Island Council and The Rural City of Murray Bridge)

Recommendation Reports from the LGA Board of Directors

Submitted by:	Kangaroo Island Council and The Rural City of Murray Bridge		
Approved by:	LGA Board of Directors		
Meeting	Annual General Meeting	21 November 2025	
ECM:	852877		
Attachment:	1. 848803 – Proposed Item of Business – Continued State Government advocacy to remove facilitation and collection of the State Governments Landscape Levy as a responsibility for Local Government Council in South Australia – Kangaroo Island Council 2. 849218 – Transfer of the Landscape Levy Collection Responsibility from the Local Government to State Government – The Rural City of Murray Bridge		

Recommendation proposed by LGA

That the Annual General Meeting requests:

1. *LGA to engage with the State Government, renewing advocacy to oppose council collection of the landscape levy, seek a commitment to remove this responsibility from the remit of councils and have this function transferred to RevenueSA or another appropriate state agency for collection; and*
2. *LGA to consider, as part of its annual review of the model rates notice, more clearly defining the separation of council rates charges from the state-imposed landscape levy.*

LGA Board of Directors' Comments

The Item of Business (IoB) submitted by the Kangaroo Island Council, on continued advocacy to remove councils from collection and remittance of the landscape levy, was tabled at the LGA Board of Directors meeting held on 2 October 2025. The LGA Board also considered the support of SAROC Committee in its deliberation of a significantly similar IoB proposed by The Rural City of Murray Bridge at its meeting on the same day.

Both SAROC Committee and the LGA Board were supportive of the suggestion by the LGA Secretariat to combine these two IoBs into one motion. The LGA Board and SAROC Committee were advised that the respective mayors of both councils who submitted the IoBs had been consulted in the preparation of the revised motion and were supportive of the revision.

LGA Guidelines

The Guidelines outline that all proposals will be assessed against the guiding principles in terms of their strategic importance to local government and the LGA, supporting evidence, alignment with LGA's policy and resourcing requirements.

The matter raised in this IoB has been assessed against these guiding principles which can be summarised in the following table:

LGA Guiding Principle	Comment
Strategic importance	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
Supporting evidence	This is an ongoing LGA advocacy priority and has been informed by previous successful AGM motions (most recently in October 2022 ¹) that seek to remove councils from having to act as a collection agent for a state-imposed tax.
Alignment with LGA policy	1.2.6 Cost Shifting Cost shifting and unsustainable increases in levies and charges from state government puts significant pressure on council rates and creates fiscal impacts in councils. Local government will continue to rigorously object to cost shifting in any form, including mandatory revenue collection for federal or state government. 7.1.1 Local government recognises that a council's long term financial performance and position is sustainable where planned long-term service and infrastructure levels and standards are met without unplanned increases in rates and disruptive cuts to services. Councils shall continue to plan in the long-term to safeguard financial and service security.

¹ LGA AGM - Agenda 28 October 2022, item 7.1 – Landscapes Board Levy, page 237

Resourcing	This work is anticipated on LGA's work program. LGA may repurpose resources and reprioritise other projects, scaling up or down as needed, to accommodate this work. Timeframes for commencement will need to be determined having regard to existing workplans and priorities.
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LGA Officer's Comments

(Officer: Sarah Wozniak, Senior Policy Advisor)

LGA is committed to advocating on the removal of the councils from the process of collecting and remitting the state-imposed landscape levy. The primary aim is to shift this responsibility from local governments to a state agency, such as Revenue SA.

To support this advocacy, LGA is exploring options to survey members on their experiences with the collection process. The survey will gather data on the financial and administrative costs to councils, including issues like unpaid or late levy payments and the resources required to manage ratepayer inquiries.

About the Landscape South Australia Act (LSA Act)

The LSA Act promotes sustainable and integrated management of the state's landscapes and to make provision for the protection of the state's natural resources.

The State Government and Department for Environment and Water (DEW), along with the eight regional landscape boards are responsible for management of the state's landscapes and natural resources under the framework provided by the LSA Act, funded by the landscape levy. This levy is currently collected by local councils and remitted to the state.

Operation of the LSA Act and landscape levy

Section 66 of the LSA Act imposes the responsibility directly onto councils '*...to make a contribution towards the costs of the [regional landscape] board performing its functions under this Act*'. In turn, section 69 of the LSA Act permits councils to 'reimburse themselves' for this contribution by imposing a levy on rateable land within the region. This means that the framework places the obligation of the financial contribution, and the burden of this, squarely onto councils themselves, not ratepayers; while in practice, this cost is passed on to ratepayers indirectly through the council rating process.

Ongoing advocacy

On behalf of members, LGA maintains a long-standing strong opposition to the approach taken under the LSA Act. This state-imposed tax would be more appropriately collected by a state entity such as Revenue SA, e.g. through inclusion on Department of Treasury and Finance notices for land tax or the emergency services levy.

When the LSA Act came into operation in late 2019, it replaced the former framework for management of natural resources under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. During

the debate on the relevant Bill², the State Government's representative rejected LGA's position that this tax would be more appropriately collected by Revenue SA saying that '...previous reviews have concluded that local government provides the most cost-effective levy collection option...' among other commentary regarding options for councils to recover associated set-up and ongoing costs of this task.

LGA strongly objects to this type of cost shifting mechanism being used by the state government, where local governments are footing the bill for the associated administrative and financial burden of a confusingly named levy from which they derive little direct benefit.

Through LGA's annual review of the model rates notice³, wording about the landscape levy has been progressively strengthened to provide information to ratepayers about this state-imposed tax. This could be further reviewed and improved in future to more clearly define the separation in council rates charges from the state tax. The current model rates notice states:

State Government Landscape Levy

The Regional Landscape Levy is a State Government property tax collected by councils under the Landscapes South Australia Act 2019. All funds are provided to your Regional Landscape Board. For more information, visit your local Landscape Board [insert relevant board name] at www.landscape.sa.gov.au or phone xxxx xxxx. Any concerns should be directed to your local State MP.

Other items of business on the landscape levy

This matter was last brought to the full membership at the AGM on 28 October 2022⁴ where the following motion was carried:

'That the Annual General Meeting requests the Local Government Association to request the State Government review the manner which they collect the Landscape levy from local communities. With the desired outcome being one in which Revenue SA collect the levy directly in alignment with the Emergency Services levy.'

As noted in the above section of this report, in this cycle, two member councils submitted significantly similar IoBs for consideration by the wider membership at the AGM in November 2025, being to renew advocacy against local government having to collect and remit the landscape levy to the State Government. With support of both submitting member councils, the resulting revised motion is presented for consideration.

LGA notes that to remove councils from the process to collect and remit the landscape levy requires substantive changes to the LSA Act itself through the tabling of a Bill in the SA Parliament. Due to the timing of the forthcoming State Election due to be held in early 2026, even with the ongoing advocacy of LGA on this matter, it is unlikely that the Government will consider tabling of a suitable Bill to take effect before the State Election.

² Landscape South Australia Bill – Second Reading, Legislative Council Hansard Tuesday 23 July 2019 (page 4143, Hon Michelle Lensink MLC), available at [SA Parliament Hansard - Home](#)

³ [Updated LGA Model Rates Notice for 2025-26 | LGA South Australia](#)

⁴ [LGA AGM - Agenda 28 October 2022](#), item 7.1 – Landscapes Board Levy, page 237

However, LGA has included this matter in the proposed draft 2026 State Election Advocacy Platform.

Independent Review of the LSA Act

The LSA Act mandates an independent review after three years of operation. In July 2023, Hon John Hill was appointed to conduct this review. LGA actively participated in the process, providing written and verbal submissions and engaging with the advisory group.

The 2024 report handed down by the Hon John Hill⁵ cited a lack of evidence that councils were financially and administratively burdened by their role in collecting and carrying debt from unpaid levies. The report went on to say:

'If evidence is provided in the future, this should be investigated further to confirm whether councils are able to recover the appropriate costs from landscape boards and are not being financially burdened.'

The State Government is yet to formally respond to the review's findings, although in July 2025, the then Deputy Premier advised LGA that as an initial response, she had instructed DEW, jointly with the landscape boards, to undertake a review of the State Landscape Strategy.

Drought relief advocacy

LGA understands the impacts of drought on our members in regions in this year have been significant. We wrote to the Deputy Premier on 3 June 2025 requesting to align the landscape levy to receipt of funds during this drought period, including introducing extended payment periods under the LSA Act and its associated regulations to enable councils to remit the levy to the State Government based on actual receipt of funds, rather than a complete amount at scheduled intervals. This would allow councils to remit the levy as payments are received from ratepayers and would support more sustainable financial management.

The Deputy Premier responded that, as the payment scheme and interest provisions are outlined in the LSA Act itself, there is no current capacity to formally amend the scheme in the short-term. This is consistent with independent legal advice which LGA received in relation to this proposal.

However, the Deputy Premier advised LGA that she had also instructed DEW to work with the general managers of the regional landscape boards to investigate options to make administrative adjustments to the arrangements in response to our concerns raised on the payment of the landscape levies in drought affected areas.

This interim request measure was designed to give more immediate relief to councils in collecting and remitting the landscape levy where ratepayers in their regions have been suffering under significant drought pressures.

⁵ [Landscape SA Act - Review Report - 2024](#), page 30

This activity does not replace LGA's ongoing advocacy to seek removal of councils from entire process of collecting and remitting the landscape levy, which is the long-term aim.

Implications

Financial and resource

LGA may repurpose resources and reprioritise other projects, scaling up or down as needed, to accommodate this work. Timeframes for commencement will need to be determined having regard to existing workplans and priorities.

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LGA General Meeting – Proposed Item of Business

The purpose of this form is to request consideration by SAROC, GAROC or the Board of Directors of an item of business to be included on the agenda of an LGA General Meeting - refer Clause 16.3.1 of the [LGA Constitution](#). Prior to submitting a proposed Item of Business, please refer to the [Considering Proposed Items of Business for LGA General Meetings Guidelines](#).

Council name	Kangaroo Island Council
The body the item is being referred to <i>Proposals may only be submitted to the ROC of which council is a member, or to the LGA Board of Directors.</i>	LGA Board of Directors
Subject of the proposed item of business	Continued State Government advocacy to remove facilitation and collection of the State Governments Landscape Levy as a responsibility for Local Government Councils in South Australia.
Proposed motion for the General Meeting	That the Annual / Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to; That LGA SA continues to advocate the South Australian State Government to have the Landscape Levy removed from Councils responsibility to collect and renews their advocacy efforts in relation to the local government sector opposition to collection of the levy.
Supporting information <i>Provide a summary of the issue(s), relevant background information, description of</i>	The Landscapes South Australia Act 2019 replaced the Natural Resources Management Act 2004 and establishes a framework for managing the state's natural resources through regional Landscape Boards . The Landscape Levy is a statutory charge imposed on rateable land within each region to fund the operations of the Landscape Boards.

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<i>the impact on the sector and evidence that this is an item of strategic importance to local government.</i>	The Levy is collected by Local Government Councils on behalf of the State Government and then remitted to the relevant Landscape Board or the State Government. The amount payable is determined annually and is not retained by councils. Key Issues for Local Government Councils Administrative Burden - Councils are required to calculate, collect, manage, and remit the levy without retaining any revenue. - This includes system changes, billing, handling of queries and disputes, and managing public inquiries — all of which require significant staff time and resources. Financial Impact - Councils receive limited compensation for costs incurred in administering the levy. - Cost recovery is limited, creating a financial impost on local government budgets. - The obligation for Councils to remit the Landscape Levy quarterly in advance places financial pressure on Councils in instances where rate payers are under financial hardship. Ratepayer Confusion and Reputational Risk - Ratepayers often do not distinguish between council rates and the levy, leading to confusion and dissatisfaction. - Councils may face reputational damage for a tax they neither control nor benefit from. - Councils have no input in relation to critical projects for Landscape Levy spend. Lack of Control or Influence - Councils have no input into the amount or structure of the levy, yet are responsible for enforcing its collection. - Discrepancies between regional needs and levy allocations further frustrate councils and communities. Legal and Compliance Risks - Councils must ensure full compliance with legislative requirements for collection and remittance, including timelines and auditing, exposing them to legal risk without corresponding authority. Impact on South Australian Local Government Councils Operational Strain: Council staff and systems are diverted to manage a state-imposed function, affecting delivery of core local services. Budget Pressure: Additional unfunded work constrains council resources, particularly in smaller or regional councils. Community Relations: Negative perceptions arise when councils are seen as tax collectors for the state, weakening trust and accountability at the local level. Or as having a say in the rate and allocation of the Landscape Levy.
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	• Advocacy for Reform: The Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA SA) and individual councils have advocated for a revised funding model that either: ○ Removes councils from the collection role; or ○ Provides full cost recovery for administrative functions. In summary - Collection of the State Government's Landscape Levy by Councils as determined by the Landscapes Act SA and the responsibilities of Councils under the Local Government Act 1999 is an administrative, financial and political burden on Council's and community rate payers. The State Government should be encouraged to facilitate the collection of the Landscape Levy via State Government Revenue SA mechanisms in the same manner as the Notice of Emergency Services Levy Assessment. Clarity of charges from Councils and responsibilities of Councils would be provided to community members through the direct facilitation of the Landscape Levy by State Government. The current arrangement under the Landscapes SA Act places an administrative and financial burden on local councils for a function that primarily serves state and regional objectives. Kangaroo Island Council calls for a more equitable model that recognises the role and resource constraints of local government in South Australia.
Regional LGA <i>(Information requested from councils in SAROC only)</i> <i>Advise if this item has been considered by your RLGA and outcome of discussion</i>	Kangaroo Island Council's review of published SHLGA documents and minutes did not find a specific review or investigation into the facilitation of the Landscape Levy by State Government through Local Councils. Southern & Hills LGA engaged in relation to NRM / Landscape Levy reviews in 2018 and changes (as noted in their Key Outcomes Document dated 7 February 2020) • Landscape Bill ○ Collection of NRM levy is still in the legislation. This despite the State now having a mechanism through the ESL to collect its own taxes. Opposition Labor opposed the NRM levy being collected via LG rates but could not obtain the Greens vote to eliminate this aspect ○ However it was noted the LG sector had previously embraced the idea of the levy collection SHLGA may be able to provide more recent information.
LGA Policy Manual <i>Does this item require a change to the LGA Policy Manual (new policy or</i>	(View LGA's Policy Manual) 7.1.1 Local government recognises that a council's long term financial performance and position is sustainable where planned long term service and infrastructure levels and standards are met without unplanned increases in rates and disruptive cuts to services. Councils shall continue to plan in the long-term to safeguard financial and service security.

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<i>amendment to existing policy)?</i>	
LGA Strategic Plan reference	(View the plan and identify the Key Initiative and Strategy reference) <i>(choose only one Key Initiative and one Strategy)</i> - Advocate – Achieve greater influence for local government. - We are close to our members, seek their feedback and represent them with evidence based advocacy on issues that matter.
Council Contact Officer submitting form	Clare Jones pa@kicouncil.sa.gov.au 08 8553 4506
Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting	12 August 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting Minute: OM289:2025 Moved: Cr B Teasdale, Seconded: Cr S Pledge That Council resolves: That Mayor Pengilly proposes an item of business to the Local Government Association South Australia, Ordinary General Meeting on 21 November 2025; being that the, LGA SA continues to advocate the South Australian State Government to have the Landscape Levy removed from Councils responsibility to collect and renews their advocacy efforts in relation to the local government sector opposition to collection of the levy. CARRIED Minute: OM289:2025
Date submitted to LGA	12 August 2025

Please return Word version of completed form to lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au.

Refer to [LGA OGM/AGM Webpage](#) in respect to deadlines for upcoming General Meetings.

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LGA General Meeting – Proposed Item of Business

The purpose of this form is to request consideration by SAROC, GAROC or the Board of Directors of an item of business to be included on the agenda of an LGA General Meeting - refer Clause 16.3.1 of the [LGA Constitution](#). Prior to submitting a proposed Item of Business, please refer to the [Considering Proposed Items of Business for LGA General Meetings Guidelines](#).

Council name	The Rural City of Murray Bridge
The body the item is being referred to <i>Proposals may only be submitted to the ROC of which council is a member, or to the LGA Board of Directors.</i>	Board of Directors <u>OR</u> SAROC <u>OR</u> GAROC (<i>choose only one</i>) SAROC
Subject of the proposed item of business	Transfer of Landscape Levy Collection Responsibility from Local Government to State Government.
Proposed motion for the General Meeting	Request for the LGA to urgently engage with the State Government to: 1. Advocate for the transfer of the State Government Landscape Levy collection responsibility from Local Government to RevenueSA or another appropriate State agency, to take effect prior to 1 July 2026; 2. Secure a firm commitment from the State Government to remove the State Government Landscape Levy collection responsibility from Local Government in advance of the upcoming State election; and 3. Formally notify the State Government that Member Councils of the Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association are actively considering the option of issuing modified rates notices to clearly distinguish the State Government Landscape Levy from council-imposed rates and charges, in the interests of transparency and accountability.
Supporting information <i>Provide a summary of the issue(s), relevant background information, description of the impact on the sector and evidence that this is an item of strategic importance to local government.</i>	The collection of the State Government's Landscape Levy by local councils places an administrative and reputational burden on local government, as it creates confusion among ratepayers regarding the origin and purpose of the charge. This motion seeks to shift the collection responsibility to a State agency (e.g. RevenueSA), improving transparency and ensuring

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	ratepayers clearly understand that the levy is imposed by the State Government, not councils. It also responds to ongoing concerns raised by multiple councils in the Murraylands and Riverland region about the negative impact this practice has on community trust, council resources, and local government accountability. This matter is of strategic importance to all councils subject to the Landscape Levy, particularly regional councils, and aligns with the broader sector goal of clarifying local vs state revenue responsibilities.
Regional LGA <i>(Information requested from councils in SAROC only)</i> <i>Advise if this item has been considered by your RLGA and outcome of discussion</i>	This item was discussed at the Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association meeting on 31 July 2025, where member councils expressed strong support for the motion and agreed that coordinated advocacy was needed.
LGA Policy Manual <i>Does this item require a change to the LGA Policy Manual (new policy or amendment to existing policy)?</i>	(View LGA's Policy Manual) Yes
LGA Strategic Plan reference	(View the plan and identify the Key Initiative and Strategy reference) Key Initiative: Effective Advocacy Strategy: Proactively represent and advocate for local government priorities to State and Federal Governments
Council Contact Officer submitting form	Samara McKenzie s.mckenzie@murraybridge.sa.gov.au (insert telephone number)
Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting	Minute Ref: Item 702 – The Rural City of Murray Bridge Council Meeting held on 11 August 2025
Date submitted to LGA	14/08/2025

Please return Word version of completed form to lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au.

Refer to [LGA OGM/AGM Webpage](#) in respect to deadlines for upcoming General Meetings.

9.2 Support for a Coordinated Sector-Wide Approach to Sustainable Procurement (City of Marion)

Recommendation Reports from the LGA Board of Directors

Submitted by:	City of Marion	
Approved by:	LGA Board of Directors	
Meeting	Annual General Meeting	21 November 2025
ECM:	852980	
Attachment:	1. 847673 – Proposed Item of Business – Support for a Coordinated Sector-Wide Approach to Sustainable Procurement – City of Marion	

Recommendation Proposed by the LGA Secretariat

That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to:

- 1. Recognise the critical role of sustainable procurement in supporting councils to reduce emissions, stimulate the circular economy and meet net zero targets; and*
- 2. Investigate the development of a coordinated sector-wide approach to sustainable procurement, including:*
 - a. Development of standardised sustainable procurement guidance and tools for councils;*
 - b. Integration of strong sustainability and emissions reduction criteria into LGA Procurement contracts and supplier arrangements;*
 - c. Capacity building and training for council staff on sustainable procurement practices;*
 - d. A shared platform to access case studies, supplier information, and procurement templates; and*
 - e. Alignment with the LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan 2024–2030, LGA Net Zero Accelerate Program recommendations and State Government circular economy objectives.*

LGA Board of Directors Comments

This Item of Business (IoB) was tabled at the LGA Board of Directors meeting held on 2 October 2025. The resolution was carried.

LGA Guidelines

The Guidelines outline that all proposals will be assessed against the guiding principles in terms of their strategic importance to local government and the LGA, supporting evidence, alignment with LGA policy and resourcing requirements.

The matter raised in this IoB has been assessed against these guiding principles which can be summarised in the following table:

LGA Guiding Principle	Secretariat comment
Strategic importance	2. Assist 2.2 Councils draw upon our resources, services and advice in order to save time and money and reduce risk.
Supporting evidence	Outcomes from the 'Buying it Back' circular procurement pilot project has supported participating councils to increase and track their purchase of recycled content. Active prioritisation of sustainable products and services is not performed consistently in the scope and/or evaluation criteria of procurement processes or in defining the use of sustainable projects in broader project scopes. There is a suite of tools and guidelines available from LGA, LGA Procurement, Green Industries, and IPWEA. Each council makes its own determination to use these resources or not, and to prioritise sustainability in its procurement decisions, or not. The Local Government Act 1999 (SA) does not mandate the use of environmentally sustainable or circular economy products A coordinated sector-wide approach will require a commitment from the sector.
Alignment with LGA policy	4.4 Managing the Risks of Climate Change Local Government recognises the need for managing the risk of climate change. LGA has sustainable procurement within policy.
Resourcing	This activity will require resourcing to achieve the development of additional or updated resources for councils.

This matter was submitted directly to the LGA Board of Directors for consideration, as requested by the submitting Council.

LGA Officer's Comments

(Officer: Simon Blom)

The AGM is requested to recognise the critical role of sustainable procurement in supporting councils to reduce emissions, stimulate the circular economy and meet net zero targets.

The AGM has previously recognised the critical role of sustainable procurement via the Buying it Back project in 2020.

The Buying it Back project was a pilot project in South Australia whereby councils worked together to use their buying power to increase the demand for recyclable materials. It was also known as the Circular Procurement Pilot project.

At the LGA of SA AGM on 29 October 2020 the recommendations put forward by the Circular Procurement Pilot project were carried.

The recommendations recognised the strategic importance for councils to leverage their procurement capacity by prioritising recycled content and material to assist in the development of onshore markets for South Australian recyclate and recyclables. This will ultimately drive down the recycling costs paid by councils.

- Recommendation 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.
- Recommendation 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)
 - 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. Require 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.
- Recommendation 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 (i.e. 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).

This project also uncovered some challenges councils experience when undertaking sustainable procurement, for example verification of a product's environmental claims.

LGA Procurement has not seen evidence of councils actively prioritising sustainable products and services in the scopes and/or evaluation criteria of procurement processes, or defining the use of sustainable projects in broader project scopes.

Investigate the development of a coordinated sector-wide approach to sustainable procurement, including:

- a. Development of standardised sustainable procurement guidance and tools for councils;
- b. Integration of strong sustainability and emissions reduction criteria into LGA Procurement contracts and supplier arrangements;
- c. Capacity building and training for council staff on sustainable procurement practices;
- d. A shared platform to access case studies, supplier information, and procurement templates; and
- e. Alignment with the LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan 2024–2030, LGA Net Zero Accelerate Program recommendations and State Government circular economy objectives.

There is a suite of tools and guidelines available from LGA, LGA Procurement, Green Industries, and IPWEA. Each council makes its own determination to use these resources or not, and to prioritise sustainability in its procurement decisions, or not.

Section 49 of the *Local Government* requires Councils to develop and maintain procurement policies that ensure:

- Value for money
- Probity and accountability
- Encouragement of open and effective competition

The Local Government Act 1999 (SA) does not mandate the use of environmentally sustainable or circular economy products.

The local government sector's appreciation of what constitutes "value for money" is changing, and there is an increasing awareness that value for money does not always mean the lowest cost option.

Pursuing "value for money" may allow for the consideration of policy objectives beyond the immediate qualities of the product itself – this is where consideration of the "big picture" in the procurement process can occur.

LGA Procurement promotes a triple bottom line approach to procurement, considering:

- Economic
- Social
- Environmental impacts

LGA Procurement provides a free model procurement policy which contains nine Procurement Objectives, one of which is Environmental Sustainability. This objective contains seven practical ways to achieve Environmental Sustainability procurement. These are:

- Purchasing recycled and environmentally preferred products where possible.
- Adopting purchasing practices which conserve natural resources.
- Aligning the Council's procurement activities with principles of ecological sustainability.
- Select products and services which have lower environmental impacts across their life cycle compared with competing products and services.
- Integrating relevant principles of waste minimisation and conservation of energy.
- Provide leadership to business, industry, and the community in promoting the use of environmentally sensitive goods and services. and
- Fostering the development of products and services which have a low environmental impact.

There is no requirement for councils to use the services of LGA Procurement or to adopt its policies or procedures.

LGA Procurement RFQ templates include provision of Schedules which require the supplier to identify 'Use of Recycled Materials' and 'Environmentally Sustainable Initiatives', and encourage the Assessment Criterion to be weighted with these inclusions.

LGA Procurement Preferred Supplier Agreements, Heads of Agreements, and Approved Supplier Agreements are facilitation mechanisms for engagement that enable councils to engage suppliers and determine their own sustainability goals. LGAP's mission is to provide efficient and cost-effective procurement solutions to councils. LGAP cannot set targets as it has no control over specific purchases.

LGA Procurement has developed 5 modules of training, being:

- Introduction to Procurement
- Developing Specifications
- Approach to Market
- Evaluating Responses & Report Writing
- Contract Management.

In each training module, there is sufficient opportunity for groups to consider and discuss individual council objectives associated with sustainability initiatives.

VendorPanel is the software platform that LGA Procurement uses to manage preferred suppliers. LGA Procurement provides free access to Vendor Panel for all councils.

Vendor Panel has partnered with Givvable – A supplier intelligence tool that enables buyers in Vendor Panel to track verified ESG credentials of suppliers. The credentials cover Ethical, Environmental, Social, Diversity and Governance, and where verified credentials are identified for suppliers, they are awarded badges within the platform to support buyers in identifying suppliers.

The Buying it Back Project developed several tools to assist councils. These included a recycled content evaluator, a circular products list, and staff training. Green Industries SA now host and update these tools on their website as part of their circular procurement knowledge hub.¹

Green Industries SA Circular Procurement Knowledge Hub hosts a range of useful tools, guidance notes, training and case studies. There is no requirement to use these tools from Green Industries.

LGA supported IPWEA in developing a practice note for the circular economy and use of recycled materials in infrastructure assets.

The Local Government Research and Development Scheme recently supported the delivery of the 'Lowering greenhouse gas emissions in local roads and footpaths' project. This project, led by the City of Charles Sturt, developed a useful carbon calculator tool for road and footpath design² that allows building and asset managers to compare different materials and design options (including innovative materials).

LGA's Net Zero Accelerate Program has recently developed a useful Sustainable Procurement Guide Note for councils. This is one of six short, principle-based documents that supplement the best-practice Net Zero Guideline.

LGA Procurement is available to assist individual councils in the procurement of sustainable products on a case-by-case basis.

For investment in additional resources to be warranted, a strong commitment to sustainable procurement is needed from the sector.

¹ <https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/circular-procurement>

² <https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/members/environment/climate-change/resources/emissions-reduction>

The investigation of a coordinated sector-wide approach to sustainable procurement will likely result in the recommendation for a Sustainable Procurement Commitment Charter, or similar, for adoption by councils, outlining shared principles, expectations, and required outcomes to guide sector-wide progress. Without such a commitment, the investment is likely not to yield a return.

Implications

Financial and resource

This activity will require funding investment / resourcing:

Project Executive Summary	Start	End	Funds
Standardised guidance and tools, training, case studies, supplier information, and procurement templates, currently exist. The development of additional or updated free resources for councils will require funding. With no legislated requirement or commitment from the sector, the risk remains that these resources will not be widely used. A coordinated sector-wide approach will require a commitment from the sector. This investigation will likely result in a recommendation for a Sustainable Procurement Commitment Charter, or similar, for adoption by councils, which commits councils to action.	Jun 2026	Jun 2027	\$75K

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LGA General Meeting – Proposed Item of Business

The purpose of this form is to request consideration by SAROC, GAROC or the Board of Directors of an item of business to be included on the agenda of an LGA General Meeting - refer Clause 16.3.1 of the [LGA Constitution](#). Prior to submitting a proposed Item of Business, please refer to the [Considering Proposed Items of Business for LGA General Meetings Guidelines](#).

Council name	City of Marion
The body the item is being referred to <i>Proposals may only be submitted to the ROC of which council is a member, or to the LGA Board of Directors.</i>	Board of Directors
Subject of the proposed item of business	Support for a Coordinated Sector-Wide Approach to Sustainable Procurement
Proposed motion for the General Meeting	That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to: 1. Recognise the critical role of sustainable procurement in supporting councils to reduce emissions, stimulate the circular economy and meet net zero targets; and 2. Investigate the development of a coordinated sector-wide approach to sustainable procurement, including: a. Development of standardised sustainable procurement guidance and tools for councils; b. Integration of strong sustainability and emissions reduction criteria into LGA Procurement contracts and supplier arrangements; c. Capacity building and training for council staff on sustainable procurement practices; d. A shared platform to access case studies, supplier information, and procurement templates; and e. Alignment with the LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan 2024–2030, LGA Net Zero Accelerate Program recommendations and State Government circular economy objectives.

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Supporting information <i>Provide a summary of the issue(s), relevant background information, description of the impact on the sector and evidence that this is an item of strategic importance to local government.</i>	The <i>Net Zero Accelerate: Sector-Wide Emissions Summary Report</i> (LGA, 2024) identifies procurement as a significant driver of council emissions, particularly through supply chain emissions associated with goods, services, construction and waste (often referred to as “Scope 3 emissions” in carbon accounting). Many councils have made strong progress in reducing operational emissions from fuel and electricity (Scopes 1 and 2), but now face the challenge of tackling emissions embedded in their supply chains. The report recommends embedding sustainability considerations into procurement processes and strengthening the sustainability focus of LGA Procurement to support councils in making climate-conscious purchasing decisions. This includes promoting low-emission materials, recycled content, and suppliers aligned with environmental and social goals. However, individual councils face barriers, including: • Lack of consistent tools and templates for evaluating sustainability in tenders; • Uncertainty around balancing cost, risk, and environmental outcomes; • Limited awareness of available low-carbon or circular economy suppliers; • Inconsistent sustainability criteria in LGA Procurement contracts or panels. A coordinated, sector-wide approach would help address these barriers, reduce duplication, and build shared capability. Specifically, the LGA can: • Lead the development of procurement guides and training aligned with emissions reduction and circular economy principles; • Work with LGA Procurement to review and strengthen its sustainability criteria and supplier selection processes;
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	• Create a centralised resource hub with sample procurement documents, case studies, and supplier directories; • Advocate for increased access to verified sustainable products and services, including local markets for recycled materials. By embedding sustainability into procurement, councils can accelerate progress toward net zero, stimulate local green markets, and deliver on community expectations for environmental leadership and responsible financial stewardship.
Regional LGA <i>(Information requested from councils in SAROC only)</i> <i>Advise if this item has been considered by your RLGA and outcome of discussion</i>	N/A
LGA Policy Manual <i>Does this item require a change to the LGA Policy Manual (new policy or amendment to existing policy)?</i>	(View LGA's Policy Manual) Recommend confirming that this is priority of the LGA through including "Sustainable Procurement" as a priority area under 4.4 Managing the Risks of Climate Change.
LGA Strategic Plan reference	Strategy 3 – Advance – 3.2 New partnerships and services help councils innovate and prepare for the future.
Council Contact Officer submitting form	Amey Johnson Amey.johnson@marion.sa.gov.au 8375 6826
Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting	Minute Reference: GC250722R12.4 Council Meeting held: 22/072025
Date submitted to LGA	30/07/2025

Please return Word version of completed form to lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au.

Refer to [LGA OGM/AGM Webpage](#) in respect to deadlines for upcoming General Meetings.

9.3 Equitable Community Service Obligation funding for CWMS networks (City of Onkaparinga)

Recommendation Reports from the LGA Board of Directors

Submitted by:	City of Onkaparinga	
Approved by:	LGA Board of Directors	
Meeting	Annual General Meeting	21 November 2025
ECM:	853018	
Attachment:	1. 849217 – Proposed Item of Business – Equitable Community Service Obligation funding for CWMS networks – City of Onkaparinga	

Recommendation proposed by LGA

That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA advocate to the South Australian Government to progress the recommendations of its 2020 review of the Water Industry Act to extend community service obligation payments to water industry entities other than SA Water, notably local government CWMS networks.

LGA Board of Directors' Comments

This Item of Business (IoB) was tabled at the LGA Board of Directors meeting held on 2 October 2025. The resolution was carried as submitted.

LGA Guidelines

The Guidelines outline that all proposals will be assessed against the guiding principles in terms of their strategic importance to local government and the LGA, supporting evidence, alignment with LGA's policy and resourcing requirements.

The matter raised in this IoB has been assessed against these guiding principles which can be summarised in the following table:

LGA Guiding Principle	Comment
Strategic importance	Our current Strategic Plan relates under 2. Outcomes, 2.3 Councils are engaged in addressing sector-wide priorities, including local government reforms and achieving greater financial sustainability.
Supporting evidence	Supporting evidence is the gazetted CSO annual payments made to SA Water, noting payments are only made to SA

	Water and no other wastewater retailers. The 2020 Review of the Water Industry Act by Department for Environment and Water which recommended consideration of the applicability of community service obligation payments for water industry entities other than SA Water.
Alignment with LGA policy	While the proposal does not align directly with any item in the LGA Policy Manual it is consistent with the statutory obligation to be sustainable.
Resourcing	While the Proposed Item of Business provides no estimation of necessary resourcing; advocacy to the Department for Environment and Water to undertake the recommended review can be delivered within existing LGA resources.

This matter was submitted directly to the LGA Board of Directors for consideration, as requested by the submitting Council.

LGA Officer's Comments

(Officer: David Eggers/Andrew Lamb)

Summary

- SA Water will receive \$40 million community service obligation (CSO) funding in 2025–26 to cover under-recovery of wastewater costs from statewide pricing.
- Other providers, such as councils operating CWMS (~100,000 connections), do not receive comparable CSO support, despite a 2020 review recommending extension of CSO payments beyond SA Water.
- Advocacy for reform could address this inequity, improve CWMS sector financial sustainability, and complement existing capital subsidy arrangements.

Background

A community service obligation (CSO) exists when a government directs a public enterprise to deliver goods or services that it would not otherwise provide on a commercial basis, and which are not generally required of other public or private sector businesses or would only be supplied commercially at significantly higher prices.

In 2025-26 SA Water will receive \$40 million funding from the South Australian Government to meet the under-recovery of costs for wastewater services associated with the application of state-wide wastewater pricing. A separate CSO also applies for the provision of drinking water services. The purpose of the statewide pricing facility CSO is to provide equity for SA Water customers across the state, irrespective of geographic location. The payment recognises the

higher cost of delivering wastewater services outside of the metropolitan area due to geographic factors and lesser economies of scale from a smaller customer base.

Water and sewer CSO funding is not extended to other service providers, such as councils delivering CWMS. A review of the Water Industry Act 2012 in 2020 by the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) highlighted this issue. It recommended:

“..consideration of the applicability of community service obligation payments for water industry entities other than SA Water.”

DEW has not yet commenced work to progress this recommendation of the review to inform amendments to the Act. In relation to CSOs, it is understood DEW's initial focus is on the community concessions scheme that applies to eligible customers (charities, not-for-profit organisations, places of worship etc) of SA Water.

Advocacy to the South Australian Government could assist in progressing this important policy reform. Addressing this inequity, could both contribute significantly to the financial sustainability of CWMS networks and/or support pricing equity.

City of Onkaparinga's research, advises the scale of the \$40 million payment to SA Water, equates to approximately \$565 per connection annually for each of its residential regional wastewater customers. While criteria for how CSOs might be extended to other water utilities is yet to be developed, the magnitude of the funding provided to SA Water offers a significant opportunity for the CWMS sector, which consists of ~ 100,000 connections.

The proposal put forward in the proposed Item of Business is complementary to existing funding arrangements for the CWMS sector. The LGA CWMS sector agreement with the South Australian Government provides primarily capital funding via the subsidy scheme for CWMS expansions.

State-wide Pricing Facility CSO

E. State-wide Pricing Facility

SA Water must, in fixing standard terms and conditions governing the provision of services pursuant to Section 36 of the *Water Industry Act 2012*, set such standard terms and conditions relating to the prices of, or tariffs for, the provision of drinking water and sewerage retail services it provides on the basis of state-wide pricing, i.e. the tariffs or tariff components for such services must be the same, or result in a similar outcome, for any customer in the class of customer to which the terms and conditions are expressed to apply, irrespective of the customer's location.

The South Australian Government will make the following contributions to SA Water in each financial year of the fourth regulatory period in order to support the lowest levels of state-wide standard terms and conditions relating to price as possible:

- (i) In relation to SA Water's drinking retail services:

2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
\$67,416,173	\$67,416,173	\$67,416,173	\$67,416,173

- (ii) In relation to SA Water's sewerage retail services:

2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
\$40,162,827	\$40,162,827	\$40,162,827	\$40,162,827

Implications

Financial and resource

While this activity is not currently anticipated in LGA's work program it can be delivered within existing resources.

The calculations and data provided by City of Onkaparinga suggests that significant additional funding would be available to councils to operate and maintain CWMS services. This would assist councils in numerous ways; the main advantages include:

- for councils whose service fees recognise full cost recovery, it would enable councils to provide cheaper services to customers as the required revenue would be offset by a CSO.
- for councils who are not fully recovering the costs of the service, the CSO will increase their revenue toward full cost recovery without imposing increases to CWMS customers.

If approved, LGA will develop an advocacy strategy that can be used to engage with the South Australian Government, highlight the inequities in current CSO arrangements, and press for policy reform that extends funding support to council-operated CWMS networks.

Risk

This activity introduces potential risks that will be mitigated through established controls and oversight mechanisms.

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LGA General Meeting – Proposed Item of Business

The purpose of this form is to request consideration by SAROC, GAROC or the Board of Directors of an item of business to be included on the agenda of an LGA General Meeting - refer Clause 16.3.1 of the [LGA Constitution](#). Prior to submitting a proposed Item of Business, please refer to the [Considering Proposed Items of Business for LGA General Meetings Guidelines](#).

Council name	City of Onkaparinga
The body the item is being referred to <i>Proposals may only be submitted to the ROC of which council is a member, or to the LGA Board of Directors.</i>	Board of Directors
Subject of the proposed item of business	Equitable Community Service Obligation funding for CWMS networks
Proposed motion for the General Meeting	That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA advocate to the South Australian Government to progress the recommendations of its 2020 review of the Water Industry Act to extend community service obligation payments to water industry entities other than SA Water, notably local government CWMS networks.
Supporting information <i>Provide a summary of the issue(s), relevant background information, description of the impact on the sector and evidence that this is an item of strategic importance to local government.</i>	A community service obligation (CSO) arises when a government specifically requires a public enterprise to carry out activities relating to outputs or inputs which it would not elect to do on a commercial basis, and which the government does not require other businesses in the public or private sectors to generally undertake or which it would only do commercially at higher prices. In 2025-26 SA Water will receive \$40 million funding from the South Australian Government to meet the under-recovery of costs for wastewater services associated with the application of state-wide pricing (refer below). A separate CSO applies for the provision of drinking water services. The purpose of the Statewide Pricing Facility CSO is to provide equity for SA Water customers across the state, irrespective of geographic location. The payment recognises the higher cost of delivering wastewater services outside of the metropolitan area due to geographic factors and lesser economies of scale from a smaller customer base.

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	However, the CSO funding is not extended to other wastewater service providers, such as local government CWMS networks. A review of the Water Industry Act 2012 in 2020 by the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) highlighted this issue. It recommends: <i>“consideration of the applicability of community service obligation payments for water industry entities other than SA Water.”</i> DEW is working to progress the recommendations of the review to inform amendments to the Act. In relation to CSOs, it is understood DEW's initial focus is on the community concessions scheme that applies to eligible customers (charities, not-for-profit organisations, places of worship etc) of SA Water. Advocacy by the LGA to the South Australian Government could assist in progressing this important policy reform. Addressing this inequity, could both contribute significantly to the financial sustainability of CWMS networks and/or support pricing equity. For the purpose of illustrating its scale, the \$40 million payment to SA Water equates to approximately \$565 per household for each its regional wastewater customers. Criteria for how CSO might be extended to other water utilities are yet to be developed. However, the magnitude the funding provided to SA Water offers a significant opportunity for the CWMS sector. The proposal is complimentary to existing funding arrangements for the CWMS sector. The LGA CWMS sector agreement with the South Australian Government provides primarily capital funding via the subsidy scheme for CWMS expansions. CSO funding would consider the operating costs of existing networks. On a per regional customer basis the Statewide CSO funding is significantly greater than that currently received via the subsidy scheme. This approach aligns with directions in other jurisdictions. For example the NSW Productivity and Equality Commission's 2024 review of funding models for local water utilities highlighted the important role of CSO payments. A more detailed discussion of the current CSO arrangements for SA Water and arrangements in other jurisdictions, prepared by consultants Ricardo, can be found here. State-wide Pricing Facility CSO
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	E. State-wide Pricing Facility SA Water must, in fixing standard terms and conditions governing the provision of services pursuant to Section 36 of the <i>Water Industry Act 2012</i>, set such standard terms and conditions relating to the prices of, or tariffs for, the provision of drinking water and sewerage retail services it provides on the basis of state-wide pricing, i.e. the tariffs or tariff components for such services must be the same, or result in a similar outcome, for any customer in the class of customer to which the terms and conditions are expressed to apply, irrespective of the customer's location. The South Australian Government will make the following contributions to SA Water in each financial year of the fourth regulatory period in order to support the lowest levels of state-wide standard terms and conditions relating to price as possible: (i) In relation to SA Water's drinking retail services: <table><tr><th>2024-25</th><th>2025-26</th><th>2026-27</th><th>2027-28</th></tr><tr><td>\$67,416,173</td><td>\$67,416,173</td><td>\$67,416,173</td><td>\$67,416,173</td></tr></table> (ii) In relation to SA Water's sewerage retail services: <table><tr><th>2024-25</th><th>2025-26</th><th>2026-27</th><th>2027-28</th></tr><tr><td>\$40,162,827</td><td>\$40,162,827</td><td>\$40,162,827</td><td>\$40,162,827</td></tr></table> https://www.governmentgazette.sa.gov.au/2024/June/2024_046.pdf	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	\$67,416,173	\$67,416,173	\$67,416,173	\$67,416,173	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	\$40,162,827	\$40,162,827	\$40,162,827	\$40,162,827
2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28														
\$67,416,173	\$67,416,173	\$67,416,173	\$67,416,173														
2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28														
\$40,162,827	\$40,162,827	\$40,162,827	\$40,162,827														
Regional LGA (Information requested from councils in SAROC only) Advise if this item has been considered by your RLGA and outcome of discussion	NA																
LGA Policy Manual Does this item require a change to the LGA Policy Manual (new policy or amendment to existing policy)?	The extension of the current Statewide Pricing Facility CSO to CWMS networks directly supports the policy manual's aim of SA Water equivalent pricing: <i>Local government recognises that councils are best placed to provide community wastewater management systems to communities. Councils will continue to work with state government to ensure that both funding and technical expertise is available for the provision of systems at a cost which is comparable to the equivalent SA Water sewer charge.</i>																
LGA Strategic Plan reference	The proposal aligns with the following outcome: <i>1.1 We are close to our members, seek their feedback and represent them with evidence-based advocacy on issues that matter.</i>																
Council Contact Officer submitting form	Ben Calder, Team Leader Water Services Ben.Calder@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au 08 8384 0686																
Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting	Council meeting 19 August 2025 item 9.7 carried minutes https://www.onkaparingacity.com/files/sharedassets/public/v1/agendas-and-minutes/ceopmc/council-meetings/minutes-council-meeting-19-august-2025-public.pdf																

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Date submitted to LGA	14 August 2025 - as a draft subject to outcome of above meeting.
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Please return Word version of completed form to lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au.

Refer to [LGA OGM/AGM Webpage](#) in respect to deadlines for upcoming General Meetings.



REVIEW OF COMMUNITY SERVICE OBLIGATIONS TO SUPPORT WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES

Report for the City of Onkaparinga

Ricardo ref: C00 -001.2
07/03/2025

Issue: 1.0

Review of Community Service Obligations to support water and wastewater services | City of Onkaparinga

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Author:
Richard Cawley

Approved by:
Richard Cawley

Signed



Ricardo reference:
COO 001.2

Date:
07 March 2025

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Review of Community Service Obligations to support water and wastewater services | City of Onkaparinga

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1. OBJECTIVE

To provide advice on the current Community Service Obligations (CSOs) in place across Australia, in relation to Water and Wastewater services, and the potential opportunities for the South Australian local government sector to access CSO funding to support its CWMS and recycled water services, including:

- Current legislation, regulations and policy
- Current arrangements across Australia
- The potential impact on Councils' CWMS and recycled water customers from obtaining CSO funding
- Next steps to assess possible funding opportunities.

2. LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

CSO's are arrangement where a government (federal, state or local) can provide support for utility water or wastewater services which without the subsidy are not considered commercially viable. Where the utility cannot recover sufficient costs through user charges, governments can effectively subsidise service delivery through funding from the broader tax base.

In 2004 an agreement of the Council of Australian Governments established the *National Water Initiative* (NWI), the national blueprint for water reform.

The NWI recognises that the provision of water services to some small rural and regional communities is unlikely to ever be economically viable, and that water services need to be maintained to meet social and public health obligations. The NWI states for rural and regional water services:

'where full cost recovery is unlikely to be achieved in the long term and a Community Service Obligation (CSO) is deemed necessary, the size of the subsidy is to be reported publicly and, where practicable, jurisdictions consider alternative management arrangements aimed at removing the need for an ongoing CSO'. (clause 66(v)(c))¹

The NWI subsequently established its *Pricing Principles* for the water sector, which include the use of CSO's as a means of government funding non-commercially viable activities. The Pricing Principles allow the use of CSOs for the recovery of operating expenditure, and the recovery of capital investment via depreciation costs and return on investment.

Outside of the CSO framework there are examples of state government funding of local government water infrastructure such as the *NSW Safe and Secure Water Program*².

NSW Safe and Secure Water Program

The Safe and Secure Water Program provides funding for local water utilities to reduce water security, water quality and environmental risks in regional towns in NSW.

The program was established in 2017 and updated in late 2018 to better target the available funding to address priority risks.

The program is designed to:

- prioritise projects to address the highest risks and issues for regional NSW water
- ensure a minimum level of service in smaller towns where the cost of critical infrastructure outweighs economic benefit
- provide more flexibility by including cost effective non-infrastructure options.

Water and wastewater service providers are being provided with over one billion dollars of funding by the NSW Government through the Safe and Secure Water Program (NSW DPIE 2022c, p. 3).

¹ NWI Pricing Principles, 1994

² [Safe and Secure Water program | NSW Government Water](#)

Review of Community Service Obligations to support water and wastewater services | City of Onkaparinga

The Productivity Commission in its 2024 review of the *NWI Pricing Principles* noted that the NSW Safe and Secure Water Program funding lacked the transparency of CSOs funding does not appear to have been targeted towards service areas where full cost recovery is not possible, meaning it is unlikely to be in line with the NWI and the *NWI Pricing Principles*.³

3. CURRENT ARRANGMENTS

3.1 STATEWIDE PRICING SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The State Government's Statewide Pricing policy requires that all SA Water customers are charged on the same basis irrespective of location. The cost for SA Water to provide reticulated water and wastewater services to its customers in South Australian regional areas is higher than the cost to service customer in metropolitan Adelaide. Based upon higher cost to service regional customers the government provides SA Water with a CSO payment to ensure full cost recovery. Between 2004 and 2013 the CSO amount was calculated as the shortfall between the revenue from regional customers and the cost of providing regional services. This cost was inclusive of operating costs, depreciation and return on assets⁴.

Since the introduction of economic regulation for the water sector in South Australia in the 2012, the cost to service regional and metropolitan customers is no longer separately calculated and statewide pricing CSO was fixed in nominal terms (reducing by inflation in real terms since the time).

The 2024 Revenue Determination⁵ and the setting of SA Water prices encapsulated these CSOs, as directed by the Minister pursuant to *Section 6 of the Public Corporations Act 1993*, and *Sections 6 and 7(2)(f) of the South Australian Water Corporations Act 1994*⁶.

Table 1 SA Water Statewide price CSO funding

Year	2024 - 25	2025 - 26	2026 - 27	2027 - 28
Water	\$67,416,173	\$67,416,173	\$67,416,173	\$67,416,173
Wastewater	\$40,162,827	\$40,162,827	\$40,162,827	\$40,162,827
Total	\$107,579,000	\$107,579,000	\$107,579,000	\$107,579,000

The statewide price CSO is equivalent to a subsidy of approximately \$90 per property per year for water and \$65 for wastewater if assumed applied across all SA Water customers (residential customers in metropolitan and regional locations)

³ Productivity Commission, National Water Reform 2024 Inquiry report, May 2024, p171

⁴ DTF Transparency Statement - Part A Water and Wastewater Services in Metropolitan and Regional South Australia 2009 – 2010.

⁵ [ESCOSA - SA Water regulatory determination 2024](#)

⁶ [20240625-Water-SAWRD24-MinisterialDirectionPursuantSection6PCA1993.pdf.aspx](#)

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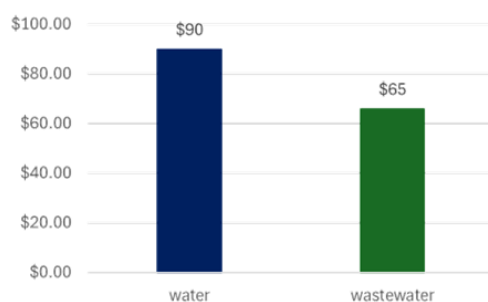


Figure 1 . SA Water Statewide price CSO funding per property per year (all customers)

As the original purpose of the statewide price CSO was to ensure full cost recovery for regional services it would be reasonable to assess the value of the CSO only for regional customers. This is equivalent to a subsidy of approximately \$345 per property per year for water and \$565 for wastewater (based upon regional residential properties only).

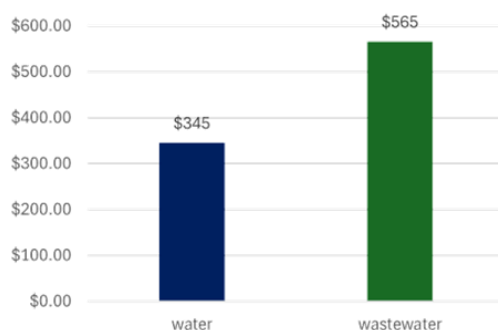


Figure 2 SA Water Statewide price CSO funding per property per year (regional residential customers only)

Applying a proportionate CSO funding to the Councils CWMS customers would have the obvious bill benefits to customers.

3.2 OTHER CSO FUNDING

In addition to the statewide pricing CSO, the *Section 6 Ministerial Direction* also provides CSOs to SA Water to fund the following activities.

Table 2 Section 6 Ministerial Directions, Other CSOs for SA Water

Year	2024 - 25	2025 - 26	2026 - 27	2027 - 28
Emergency Management Services	\$690,000	\$707,000	\$735,000	\$753,000
Government Radio Network Services	\$682,000	\$699,000	\$716,000	\$734,000
Aboriginal communities	\$9,254,000	\$9,485,000	\$9,722,000	\$9,966,000
Tea Tree Gully CWMS	\$3,175,000			
Total	\$13,801,000	\$10,891,000	\$11,173,000	\$11,453,000

Note: SA Water is required to spend \$47,688,700 on the on operating cost Aboriginal communities in the 2024-28 regulatory period, \$9,261,700 in excess of the CSO funding.

The SA Government does not currently provide CSO funding at any other water utilities in South Australia.

4. LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

The NWI Pricing Principles, including the use of CSOs within the water sector, has been the subject of a number of reviews in recent years, including reviews by the Productivity Commission⁷ and Infrastructure Australia⁸. The Productivity Commission in its review called for more targeted and transparent use of CSOs to fund non-commercially viable water services. Infrastructure Australia noted the need for certainty of funding for long term planning and supported CSO funding for ongoing operational costs for regional water services.⁹

In 2020 the South Australian Department of Environment and Water (DEW) released its Review of the *Water Industry Act 2012*, the legislation that governs the water sector in South Australia¹⁰. This policy review paper included the consideration of the role of CSOs and potential changes to CSO funding.

This review noted that the use of statewide pricing for SA Water, supported by CSOs, resulted in several water retailers (that do not have access to CSOs to subsidise costs and keep prices equivalent to state-wide prices), having prices that are either above state-wide prices, or would be if they were fully cost recovering. Noting that this was particularly the case in regional areas where costs can be higher and customer bases smaller, making full cost recovery difficult.

The review highlighted the need for consideration of the role of the state-wide price and CSOs which potentially creates inequities for customers, potentially opening the door for CSO to be provided to water and wastewater service providers other than SA Water.

The review referenced the report by the independent chair of the Customer Negotiation Committee for the SA Water Revenue 2020 Determination process that highlighted issues associated with state-wide pricing. In particular, the Chair noted that because SA Water does not allocate its costs to regions (including the metropolitan area) the CSO payment effectively lowers the overall costs to all customers as opposed to subsidising rural areas to bring prices down to that in the metropolitan area.

It is understood that DEW is currently developing recommendations for updating the Water Industry Act 2012, potentially including review to CSO funding, for consideration by the State Government in 2025.

Report by the independent chair of the Customer Negotiation Committee for the SA Water 2020 Revenue Determination process

It would be much better for customers and for the cause of rational decision making by Governments if SA Water calculated the cost of providing services on a region by region basis and the Government paid explicit subsidies to keep prices to levels which it judged to be appropriate. ... the Government would decide both the extent to which it wished to subsidise customers overall and the particular customers who should benefit" (Mr John Hill, Independent Chair, Customer Negotiation Committee, SA Water RD20).

⁷ Productivity Commission, National Water Reform 2024 Inquiry report, May 2024

⁸ Infrastructure Australia, Reforming Urban Water - A national pathway for change, December 2017

⁹ Infrastructure Australia, Reforming Urban Water A national pathway for change, December 2017, p72

¹⁰ Department of Environment and water, Review of the Water Industry Act 2012, What next for regulation of the Water Industry?, 2020

5. OPPORTUNITIES AND NEXT STEPS

Based upon the above evidence there are potential avenues for the Council to seek funding from the State Government to support any non-commercially viable CWMS services via the extension of CSOs or alternative funding arrangements, similar to the NSW Safe and Secure Water Program.

The potential next steps to pursue these opportunities includes:

- Engage with the DEW on understand the potential changes to CSO funding as part of the *Water Industry Act 2012* review
- Work with other partners, such as the LGA, to assess opportunities to influence State Government funding policy for funding for local government CWMS schemes, similar to the NSW Safe and Secure Water Program
- Assess the commercial nature of the Councils CWMS business and any current cross subsidy funding
- Consider potential expansion of the Council's CWMS and recycled water services to additional customer, currently assessed as not commercially viable, but may be so with grant of CSO funding
- It is recommended that further investigations are undertaken into these options to inform advocacy by the sector, including economic justifications and quantification of potential benefits for councils CWMS customers.



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Notification of Appointment of Substitute Council Delegate for one meeting only

The purpose of this form is to notify LGA of a temporary delegate for the nominated meeting if a council's registered voting delegate is unable to vote at an LGA General Meeting.

Under the LGA Constitution (Clause 12) to be eligible for appointment as a delegate, a person must be a Council Member. Each Member may appoint a person to act as the delegate at the General Meeting.

For LGA General Meeting of	<i>(meeting date)</i>
Council name	<i>(insert Council name)</i>
Council Appointed Delegate currently on Voting Register	Mayor / Councillor <i>(insert full name)</i>
Substitute Council Delegate (appointed for the above meeting date only and <u>lapses</u> after that meeting has occurred)	Mayor / Councillor <i>(insert full name)</i>
Council Resolution	<i>(insert date & resolution no.)</i> <i>(insert council resolution)</i>
Name and Signature of Chief Executive Officer	Signature: <i>(insert CEO name)</i>
Date	<i>(insert date)</i>

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Please return completed form to lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au.

**For a permanent change to a council's appointed voting delegate please submit the
Notification of Appointment of Council Delegate form available on the [LGA website](#).**

INFORMAL DISCUSSION

6.1 Events and Activation Update

Presenter: Mr Tom Madigan, Senior Manager Business and Activation

Purpose: Provide Council with an update on Events and Activation

Duration: 20min

6.2 Quarterly Capital Projects Update

Presenter:	Ms Janey Mitson – Senior Manager Assets & Delivery, Mr Matt Dineen – Senior Manager Development Services, and Mr Vince Rigter – Senior Manager City Plans
Purpose:	To provide an update to the Council on the progress of Council's Capital Projects.
Duration:	30 minutes