

8.2 SA Coastal Councils Alliance

Late Reports

From: Anita Crisp
Key Initiative: K.I 1 Leadership and advocacy
Strategy: 2C Equip councils for the future
Meeting: SAROC Committee 19 September 2019
ECM: 687630 Attachment: 687631

Recommendation

That the SAROC Committee:

1. notes the report
2. recommends to the LGA Board that the Coastal Councils Alliance/ coordination/ executive committee support 15 hours per week to be integrated within the LGA Secretariat from January 2020;
3. recommends that SAROC/GAROC/LGA Board or Directors escalate coastal management within future LGA priorities and business plans and commit an annual budget allocation for ongoing coordination/executive support to the Coastal Councils Alliance from 2020/21; and
4. seeks confirmation from the LGA that the Coastal Councils Alliance can be launched at the LGA AGM in October 2019.

LGA Officer's Comments

(Officer: Victoria Brown, Senior Policy Advisor)

Alternative Recommendation

That the SAROC Committee:

1. *accepts this late item; and*
2. *recommends that this item is deferred to the November 2019 SAROC meeting to allow the LGA Secretariat to examine the resource/ cost implications of the proposal on the LGA Secretariat/ Board of Directors/ GAROC/ SAROC.*

Due to the lateness of this report the LGA Secretariat has not had the opportunity to consider the resourcing and coordination implications of this proposal on the LGA, GAROC and SAROC.

The LGA Secretariat therefore requires an opportunity to discuss the proposals outlined in this report and examine these matters. The LGA Secretariat will provide an update to SAROC and GAROC on these activities at the November SAROC and GAROC meetings.

The LGA Secretariat has included the launch of the Coastal Councils Alliance in its draft program for the LGA AGM in October 2019 and can progress this matter with the project coordinator without consideration of a formal motion.

Discussion

Background:

Half of South Australia's Councils are coastal.

Eight are located along the 80km metropolitan Adelaide coastline, from Sellicks Beach to St Kilda, with the remaining 26 spread around the vast, 4,000km regional coastline, from Eyre Peninsula, Spencer Gulf, Yorke Peninsula, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island and Limestone Coast.

In November 2017 the Metropolitan Seaside Councils convened a workshop with local Councils at the SA Coastal Conference, which confirmed a strong level of interest in forming a statewide 'Coastal Councils Alliance' to provide an opportunity for collaboration and a single advocacy voice in relation to the escalating task around coastal management.

Following this lead from the Metropolitan Seaside Councils, in January 2018, SAROC formally resolved to support the formation of the SA Coastal Councils Alliance.

In May 2018 the LGA convened a further workshop to:

1. identify whether there is interest from councils in establishing a state based coastal alliance, or other government mechanism to enable coastal councils to collaborate and advocate on coastal issues; and
2. develop a common understanding of issues impacting on coastal councils and identify areas of interest where councils may seek to work together.

The forum again re-affirmed a strong desire by Councils to improve collaboration and coordinated advocacy in relation to coastal issues.

Unfortunately the LGA did not have the resources to progress the matter, with the combined Limestone Coast, Southern & Hills, Eyre Peninsula, Legatus, Spencer Gulf Cities, Metro Seaside Councils then preparing an application to LG R&D scheme, receiving \$100,000 to establish the governance and administrative arrangements for an SA Coastal Councils Alliance and to prepare an advocacy document identifying key coastal issues.

Anita Crisp from Spencer Gulf Cities was engaged to establish and provide coordination for the Coastal Councils Alliance for the initial 12 month project, with Limestone Coast LGA Officer Prae Wongthong engaged to provide research support. A project steering committee comprising executive officers from each region, plus representatives from the LGA, Coast Protection Board and Mutual Liability Scheme has been overseeing the project progress and administration to date.

Scope of Coastal Issues

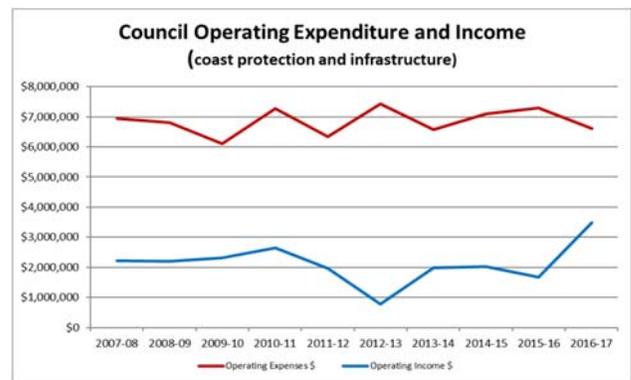
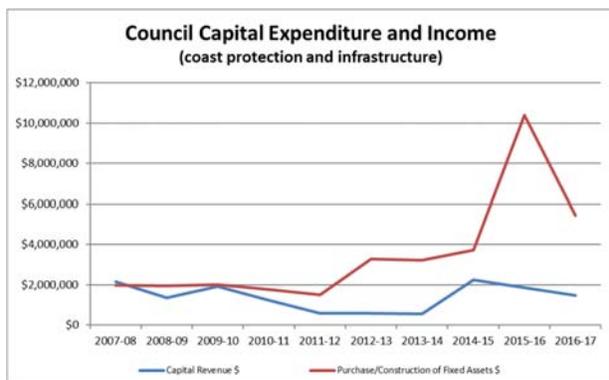
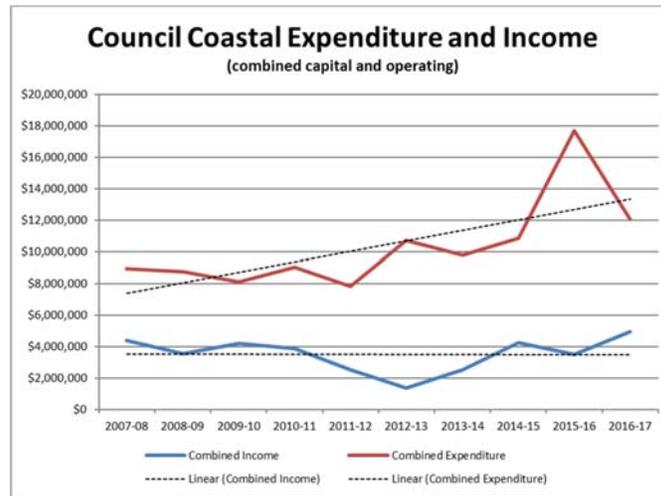
Through the project, Council engagement has highlighted that, regardless of their size or location across the state, Coastal Councils are facing similar issues and resourcing pressures, including: sand and beach management; cliff erosion; access management and signage; environmental management relating to weeds, shorebirds, revegetation and illegal dumping; dredging; growing need for protection infrastructure like levees, seawalls, groynes; maintenance and replacement cost pressures on recreational infrastructure like jetties, boat ramps; planning and development anomalies.

Feedback has overwhelmingly reinforced that now, more than ever, Coastal Councils in South Australia need a strong, united voice to help find solutions to the increasing cost, liability and resourcing impacts facing local government.

The project initiative was also featured at the LGA Showcase in April, with a presentation and display booth generating positive feedback and additional Council input.

Through the Coastal Councils project to date, a discussion paper on the management of jetties has been prepared for Councils; work is well underway to identify current and emerging coastal management works and costings across Councils in SA; and a review of funding and legislative arrangements here and in other jurisdictions has also commenced.

Preliminary analysis of 10 years LG Grants Commission data on coastal expenditure (below) has confirmed a clear upward trend in expenditure and minimal change in income support.



The level of operating expenditure incurred by Councils has remained at approximately three times any income to support this work, with capital works trebling since 2011-12, again with supporting income remaining static.

Furthermore, current funding and support arrangements for coastal issues are disparate, often inconsistent and inequitable and, fundamentally, not enough for the rapidly escalating task ahead.

As a result of this initial investigation, the combined regional local government associations and Metropolitan Seaside Councils have submitted a further application to the Local Government R&D scheme for additional resourcing for the 2020 year, with a focus on working with State Government to develop a new funding model for coastal protection and management. This application is seeking \$35,000 from the R&D scheme, which will be matched by \$35,000 from the Coast Protection board and further supported from the \$25,000 SAROC coastal allocation, \$5,000 from the Regional LGA's and \$5,000 from Metro Seaside Councils.

Coastal Councils Executive Committee

Council input over the past few months has also provided some clear direction for the governance and operation of the Alliance into the future. In particular, that there should be a strong relationship

and coordination support from the LGA, rather than creating a separate entity, and that a small executive committee of Mayors/Elected Members should be appointed to provide oversight, guidance and advocacy.

This Executive Committee has now been appointed, comprising two delegates and a proxy from each of the following coastal zones, along with automatic appointment of the LGA President as an ex-officio member:

Southern Zone

- Mayor Keith Parkes - Alexandrina (delegate)
- Mayor Richard Sage - Grant (delegate)
- Mayor Alison Nunan - Robe (proxy)

Metropolitan Zone

- Councillor Bill Jamieson - Onkaparinga (delegate)
- Councillor Oahn Nguyen – Charles Sturt (delegate)
- Councillor William Miller – Holdfast Bay (proxy)

Northern Zone

- Mayor Darren Braund – Yorke Peninsula (delegate)
- Mayor Leon Stephens – Port Pirie (delegate)
- Mayor Mark Wasley – Adelaide Plains (proxy)

Western Zone

- Councillor Alan Tingay – Lower Eyre Peninsula (delegate)
- Councillor Andrea Broadfoot – Port Lincoln (delegate)
- D/Mayor Robert Randall – Tumby Bay (proxy)

The key role for the Executive Committee over coming months will be to finalise the administrative arrangements, resourcing and terms of reference for the full Coastal Councils Alliance and to guide this transition by the end of 2019.

The Executive Committee will also oversee finalisation and release of the Coastal Councils advocacy document that is currently being prepared.

It is hoped this document can be 'launched' at the LGA annual general meeting in October.

There will also be a key promotional opportunity at the South Australian Coastal Conference the following month. Whilst the conference is convened by coastal practitioners, there is a strong local government presence through workshop presentations, with a keynote address also allocated to the Coastal Alliance.

Future Coordination and Resourcing

The current coordination/executive support for the Coastal Alliance will finish in December 2019. This role has been provided on a part-time basis, up to 15 hours per week.

As a base level of support, the current level of time commitment is considered adequate, with the strong preference from member Councils and the Coastal Alliance Executive Committee that this support be incorporated into a role within the LGA Secretariat, as the peak advocacy body for the sector.

The current allocation of \$25,000 from SAROC, \$10,000 from the Regional LGAs/MSSC and (pending) \$35,000 LGR&D scheme grant and \$35,000 from Coast Protection board, will provide sufficient funding for coordination and some specialist support for a further 12 months, until December 2020.

From January 2021 (half-way through the 2020/21 financial year), it is proposed that SAROC, GAROC and the LGA Board escalate coastal management within future LGA priorities and business plans and each commit to providing a further 2-3 year funding allocation (approximately \$15-20,000 each per annum) to ensure the momentum generated through the early start-up phase of the Alliance is not lost and that issues facing Coastal Councils continue to be strongly advocated and workable solutions implemented.

Financial and Resource Implications

The financial and resource implications on the LGA/SAROC and GAROC require further investigations.

SA Coastal Councils Alliance – Terms of Reference

(final draft)

Objectives

1. To provide an informed, coordinated advocacy voice for issues impacting on Coastal Councils in SA
2. To provide a forum for information sharing and networking on coastal management issues facing Councils across SA.
3. To ensure all SA Coastal Councils are regularly updated on the work of the Alliance.

Membership

- Automatic membership of all 34 Coastal Councils - Grant, Wattle Range, Robe, Kingston, Coorong, Alexandrina, Victor Harbor, Kangaroo Island, Yankallilla, Onkaparinga, Marion, Holdfast Bay, West Torrens, Charles Sturt, Port Adelaide Enfield, Salisbury, Playford, Adelaide Plains, Wakefield, Yorke Peninsula, Copper Coast, Barunga West, Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Whyalla, Franklin Harbor, Cleve, Tumby Bay, Port Lincoln, Lower Eyre, Elliston, Streaky Bay, Ceduna.

Executive Committee

- Two representatives with an active interest and strong links to key local government and coastal networks to be elected from Councils within each of the following coastal zones:

South

Grant, Wattle Range, Robe, Kingston, Coorong, Alexandrina, Victor Harbor, Kangaroo Island, Yankallilla

Metropolitan

Onkaparinga, Marion, Holdfast Bay, West Torrens, Charles Sturt, Port Adelaide Enfield, Salisbury, Playford

North

Adelaide Plains, Wakefield, Yorke Peninsula, Copper Coast, Barunga West, Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Whyalla

West

Franklin Harbor, Cleve, Tumby Bay, Port Lincoln, Lower Eyre, Elliston, Streaky Bay, Ceduna

- The President of the LGA shall be an ex-officio member of the Coastal Councils Alliance.

Chair

- One Chair and one Deputy Chair shall be selected from and by the Executive Committee members.
- The Chair of the Executive Committee shall be the Chair and primary spokesperson of the Coastal Councils Alliance.

Meeting Frequency

- To minimise travel, the SA Coastal Councils Alliance will meet twice per year in April and October, in conjunction with SA Local Government Associations ordinary and annual general meetings.
- The Executive Committee will meet at least quarterly.

Resources (tbc)

- Executive support for the Coastal Councils Alliance and Executive Committee shall be provided by the Coastal Councils Alliance Coordinator, based within the LGA Secretariat (*tbc*)
- Core funding for the Alliance shall be sought from an equal, annual allocation from the LGA's Greater Adelaide Regional Organisation of Councils (GAROC) and SA Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) (*tbc from 2020*)
- Additional project or specialist support shall to be funded by grants, Councils or other external assistance as relevant.

Delegated Authority

- Nil – The Coastal Councils Alliance has no formal structure or legal authority.

Coastal Councils Technical Working Group

Draft Terms of Reference

Objectives

1. Provide technical support to the SA Coastal Councils Alliance
2. Information sharing and networking on coastal management issues
3. Collaboration and efficiency gains through shared resources and initiatives
4. Maintain oversight of current and emerging coastal management works and costings.
5. Provide input into SA Coastal Councils advocacy strategies.
6. Develop workshop programs for bi-annual Alliance showcase/networking event.
7. Assist development of options for new, sustainable funding model and cost-sharing arrangements

Membership

- Coastal Council officers or elected members with relevant expertise/involvement in coastal management.
- LG Mutual Liability Scheme
- LGA staff officers with relevant expertise/involvement in coastal management.
- Regional Executive Officers (metro, regional), as relevant.
- DEW Coast Protection Branch staff
- University academics/researchers, as invited.

Meeting Frequency

- Quarterly vs as needed vs face to face vs by email updates or combination - *tbc*

Delegated Authority

- Nil - advisory only.
- To provide recommendations, information and reports to SA Coastal Councils Alliance.