

SHLGA LATEST NEWS



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Member Update



A clear roadmap for the year ahead

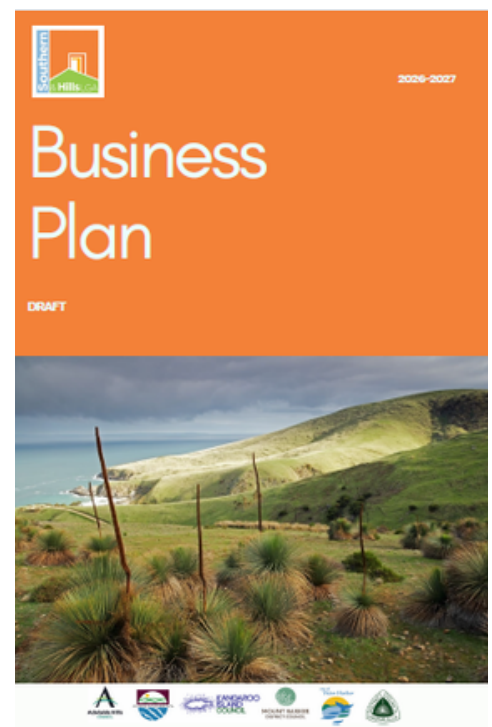
With the adoption of its 2026–27 Business Plan, SHLGA has set a clear direction for the next twelve months and beyond.

The Plan outlines how the Association will work with councils to respond to some of the biggest challenges facing the Southern and Hills region – from managing growth and housing affordability to improving transport, strengthening climate resilience and supporting financially sustainable local government.

While advocacy will continue to be a core focus, the Business Plan also places greater emphasis on creating opportunities for councils to learn from one another, build regional partnerships and collaborate on projects that deliver practical outcomes.

Importantly, the Plan forms the first year of a new four-year roadmap, providing greater certainty about SHLGA's priorities and ensuring that projects undertaken today contribute to longer-term regional outcomes.

Read the 2026–27 Business Plan [here](#).



Latest News



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Regional voice on fair and sustainable federal funding

SHLGA has been invited to appear before the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport as part of its Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability.

SHLGA will present evidence to the Committee in Adelaide on 25 August, building on its submission lodged earlier this year on behalf of the region's six constituent councils. The invitation provides an important opportunity to highlight the unique challenges facing high-growth, regional, coastal and island councils, and to advocate directly for long-term reform of local government funding.

SHLGA's evidence will focus on the need to strengthen Financial Assistance Grants, including increasing the overall funding pool and reforming distribution to better recognise growth, tourism and seasonal populations. It will also advocate for multi-year Commonwealth funding agreements, reduced reliance on short-term competitive grant programs, and action to address cost shifting from other levels of government. We are seeking stronger partnerships with local government in policy and funding design.

SHLGA welcomes the opportunity to ensure the voice of the Southern and Hills region is heard as the Committee develops its recommendations to the Australian Government.

Southern and Hills Local Government Association

Submission

Inquiry into Local Government
Funding and Fiscal Sustainability

February 2026



ADELAIDE HILLS FLEURIEU KANGAROO ISLAND

Regional Drought Resilience Plan

A Framework to Guide Future Effort and Investment
to Support Sustainable Primary Production



Seeking Funding Support for Drought Aware Councils

SHLGA has submitted an application to the Future Drought Fund's Regional Drought Resilience Plan Social Outcome Grants program to deliver a Drought Aware Councils initiative across the region.

If successful, the project will provide training for frontline council staff to better recognise the health and wellbeing impacts of drought and connect community members with appropriate support services.

The proposal also includes development of a practical Local Government Drought Wellbeing Toolkit to strengthen councils' capacity to support communities before, during and after periods of drought.

Changed local government elections schedule

The rescheduling of South Australia's local government elections to April 2027 will not affect SHLGA's governance arrangements. Existing Board Members and Deputy Board Members will automatically continue in office until the conclusion of the rescheduled election process, with no action required by constituent councils.

The President and Deputy President will also continue in their current roles in accordance with the SHLGA Charter.

Board meetings, business planning and financial management will continue as normal, with an updated schedule of Board meetings to be adopted shortly to cover the period leading up to the April 2027 local government elections.



More SHaRe sessions coming soon

Our SHaRe program continues to grow, with another series of practical knowledge-sharing sessions coming soon. Upcoming topics include the Regional Drought Resilience Plan and innovative approaches to workforce planning. Watch this space!

ShaRe provides an opportunity to hear from experts and share experiences across councils on topics of common interest.

We welcome your ideas for future SHaRe sessions. If there is a topic, challenge or success story you would like explored, please let us know at admin@shlga.sa.gov.au.

New Regional Landscape Plan Released

The Hills and Fleurieu Regional Landscape Plan 2026–2031 sets a shared direction for caring for the region's land, water and nature. Councils are recognised as key delivery partners, and SHLGA looks forward to ongoing collaboration with the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board and other regional partners. We also thank Board Chair David Greenhough and senior staff for presenting on current priorities to the SHLGA Board in May.

