

SHLGA LATEST NEWS



August 2026 Vol. 006

Member Update



Councils unite behind fair funding call

SHLGA has given evidence to the Federal Parliament's inquiry into local government funding and financial sustainability, highlighting the growing financial pressures facing regional councils. President Mayor Moira Jenkins called for increased Financial Assistance Grants, more predictable long-term funding and arrangements that better recognise regional circumstances.

SHLGA's evidence reinforced the united message of South Australia's regional LGAs, highlighted in a [joint media release](#) calling for a fairer and more sustainable funding partnership with the Commonwealth.

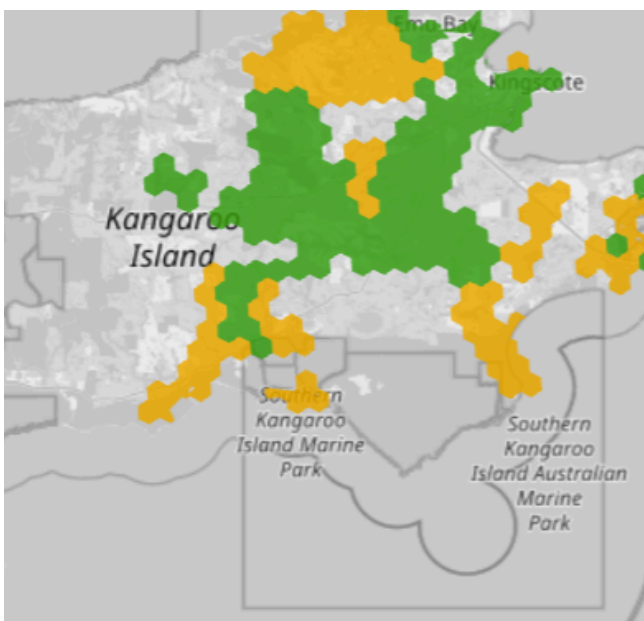


Spotlight: Digital Connectivity

SHLGA has endorsed a regional position on digital connectivity, recognising reliable telecommunications as essential infrastructure for economic prosperity, community wellbeing and resilience.

Our advocacy will focus on improved coverage, greater network capacity, resilient communications during emergencies and ensuring the Southern and Hills region receives a fair share of future government and industry investment.

Read the SHLGA Policy Statement [here](#).



Don't leave us carrying the cost of disasters

SHLGA is calling on the Australian Government to ensure proposed changes to national disaster recovery funding do not leave councils and communities carrying greater costs.

In its submission on the proposed Disaster Recovery Funding Framework, SHLGA supports simpler, faster and more resilient recovery arrangements, while warning against shifting greater financial risk to councils. SHLGA is seeking equitable thresholds for accessing assistance, recognition of council staff and equipment costs, simpler funding arrangements and greater opportunities to rebuild damaged infrastructure to more resilient standards.

The reforms should strengthen government partnership and ensure regional communities are supported when disasters strike.

Read more on the [SHLGA Website](https://shlga.sa.gov.au)



Webinar – Regional Drought Resilience Update

20 October 2026
1pm – 2pm

Join SHLGA and RDA AHFKI for an update on the Regional Drought Resilience Plan, implementation priorities and emerging initiatives.

Participate in a discussion on how councils are strengthening resilience across our region, and where there are opportunities for further collaboration.

ADELAIDE HILLS FLEURIEU KANGAROO ISLAND

Regional Drought Resilience Plan

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



Guest Presenter:
Markus Bucy
Drought Resilience Lead, RDA AHFKI



SHaRe

SOUTHERN HILLS AND ADLAIDE REGION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To receive the MS Terms link for this webinar
please register by emailing us on:
admineshlga.sa.gov.au

Register today – Regional Drought Resilience Update

Join SHLGA and RDA Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island for a SHaRe webinar exploring the Regional Drought Resilience Plan, current initiatives and opportunities for council collaboration.

20 October 2026 | 1–2pm | Online

Hear about regional priorities, implementation activities and how councils can contribute to building stronger drought resilience across the region.

To register, email admin@shlga.sa.gov.au.

SHLGA feedback helps shape ESCOSA framework

ESCOSA has finalised the framework for the second cycle of its Local Government Advice Scheme. SHLGA previously made a submission supporting continuation of the Scheme while seeking improvements to ensure ESCOSA's advice is practical, proportionate and reflects the different circumstances and operating environments of councils.

SHLGA has reviewed ESCOSA's final framework and consultation outcomes against the issues raised in our submission. Encouragingly, a number of SHLGA's concerns have been addressed, including stronger engagement with councils, greater consideration of council context and implementation constraints, and a focus on providing clearer and more useful advice.

A further issue has emerged following the deferral of South Australia's council elections to April 2027. ESCOSA reports for first-tranche councils are now scheduled for publication during the election period, despite the Scheme originally being timed to avoid this clash. SHLGA has written to LGA South Australia asking it to press the State Government to address this unintended timing issue.

Southern and Hills Local Government Association

Submission

ESCOSA Local Government Advice
Second Cycle: Framework and Approach

June 2026



July 2026



SHLGA Board Meeting

The SHLGA Board met on Kangaroo Island in August, with discussions spanning regional advocacy, governance and emerging issues.

Key outcomes included endorsing advocacy positions on digital connectivity and local government financial sustainability, adopting a new Risk Management Policy and Risk Register, and endorsing SHLGA's submission on proposed disaster recovery funding reforms. The Board also heard updates on Kangaroo Island tourism, First Nations engagement and regional stakeholder priorities.

Read the Board Papers on the [SHLGA website](https://www.shlga.sa.gov.au).