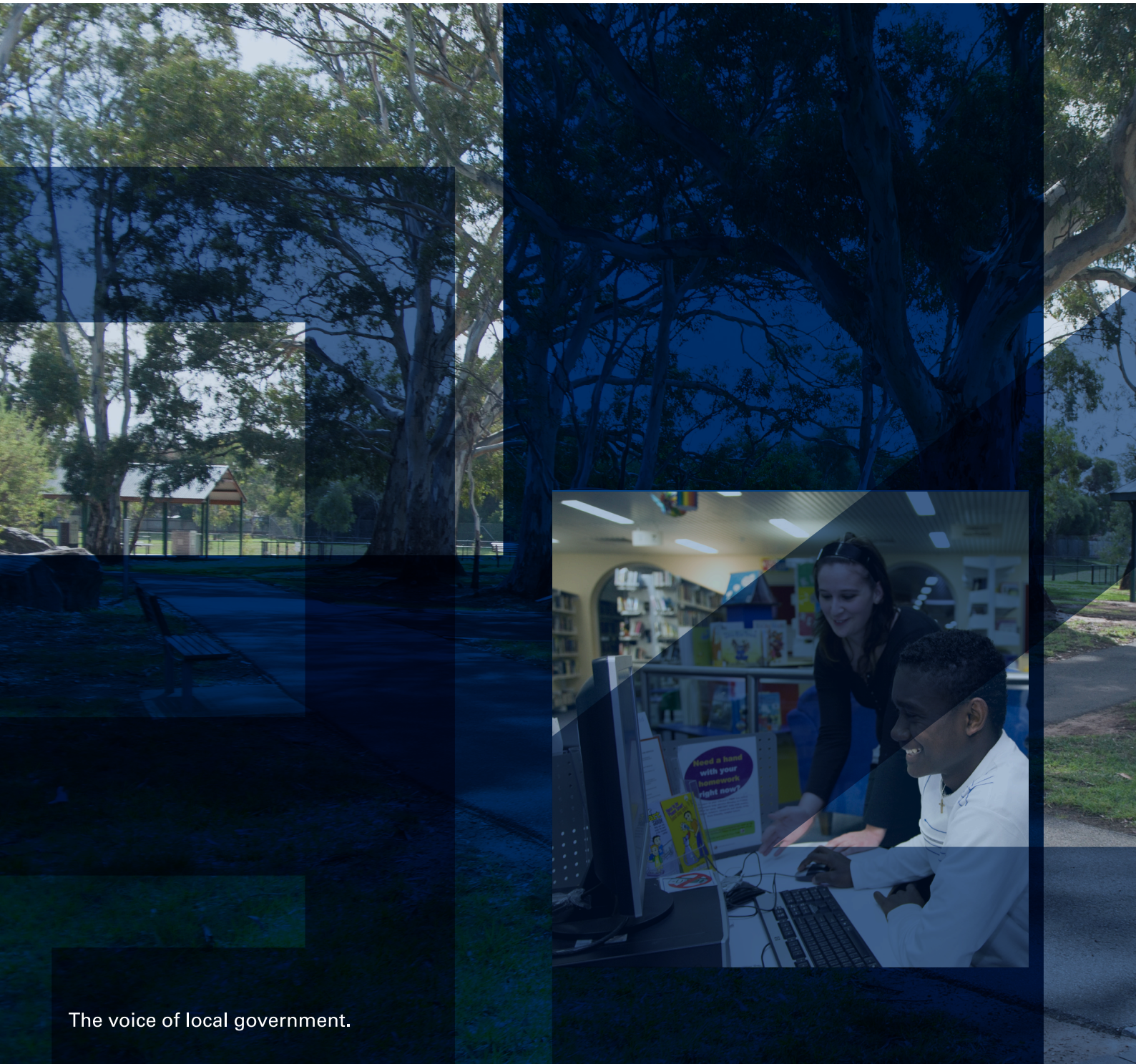




Local Government Association
of South Australia

2019-2020 State Budget Submission



The voice of local government.

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About the LGA

The Local Government Association (LGA) is a peak membership body that provides leadership, support and services to member councils.

All 68 of South Australia's councils are members of the LGA. The value of LGA membership has been independently verified by UHY Haines Norton as being worth around \$139 million to the local government sector in 2019.

The LGA is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of 10 mayors and councillors elected by member councils to provide oversight of the Association's corporate governance.

Two separate bodies – The Greater Adelaide Region Organisation of Councils (GAROC) and South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) – have also been established under the LGA's Constitution to develop policy positions for the sector and provide strategic advice to the LGA Board.

Member councils have the opportunity to provide input into LGA policies and advocacy through two general meetings every year.

The LGA also provides a range of commercial services to members through LGASA Mutual, LGASA Commercial and LGA Procurement. These services save councils money and drive downward pressure on rates.



Introduction

As the closest government to communities, councils deliver hundreds of facilities and services that drive economic development, protect the environment, bring communities together, support public health, and improve the local amenity enjoyed by all South Australians.

South Australian councils manage public assets worth more than \$22 billion. As a sector, local government is three times more asset intensive than the State Government, and nine times more than Federal Government.

Local government collects less than 4% of the total taxes paid by Australians, which means that partnerships with – and fair funding from – other spheres of government is vital.

The 12 key priorities outlined in the LGA's 2019-20 State Budget Submission will support South Australia's economy, environment, and wellbeing while also addressing cost of living pressures by helping councils drive downward pressure on rates.

Councils have worked hard in recent years to find efficiencies and reduce annual rate increases. These efficiencies have been achieved despite significant cost pressures on council budgets, including rising energy prices and escalating State Government taxes and levies.

The State Government can help local government continue to drive downward pressure on council rates by honouring its pre-election commitment to stop cost shifting to local government as well as investing in the strategic partnership opportunities outlined in this submission.

Councils and the LGA already partner with the State Government on a range of programs, including food safety inspections, Community Wastewater Management Schemes and library services.

Even more can be achieved for communities through increased investment and greater collaboration.

Councils are an experienced partner in government and the LGA and its members look forward to working with the State Government on programs and positive solutions that will benefit all South Australians.

About local government in South Australia



Summary of the commitments we are seeking

1 Local government reform

- Additional resources within the Office of Local Government to work collaboratively with the LGA on sensible local government reform – with improvements to the Council Members Code of Conduct progressed as a priority.
- Investment in establishing a sophisticated sector-wide benchmarking program for local government.
- Sufficient resources for the Boundaries Commission to administer new boundary reform processes.



2 Infrastructure funding partnerships

- Introduce a \$20 million per annum Neighbourhood Infrastructure Fund to help councils bring forward investment in local infrastructure priorities and create jobs.
- Advocacy to the Federal Government to return the total value of Financial Assistance Grants to 1% of Commonwealth taxation.



3 Roads

- Lift the State Government's road resurfacing and re-sheeting targets, and increase investment in repairing and maintaining State Government road infrastructure.
- Strongly advocate to the Federal Government to secure long-term Supplementary Road Funding for South Australia at \$20 million per year.



4 Waste and recycling

- Freeze the Solid Waste Levy for 2019-20 and beyond at its 2018-19 level.
- More funding to be made available to councils for worthwhile waste and recycling projects through the Green Industry Fund.



5 Libraries

- No reduction in State Government funding for libraries.
- A new long-term public library funding agreement between the State Government and LGA.



6 Coastal management

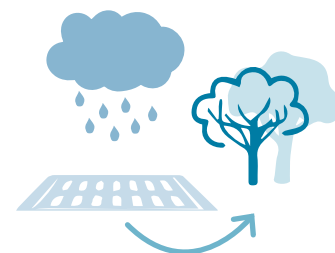
- A \$10 million per year increase in the State Government's coastal management funding, with a focus on supporting small regional councils to protect and enhance their local coastal assets.



7

Stormwater management

- An annual increase in the Stormwater Management Fund administered by the Stormwater Management Authority from \$5 million to at least \$12 million per annum.



8

Heritage

- An increase to the South Australian Heritage Grants Program to support owners of heritage places around the State.
- Revival and expansion of the Heritage Advisory Service to provide councils with professional heritage advice and the community with certainty in the heritage process.
- Investigate establishing a heritage lottery fund, similar to lotteries in place in Western Australia and in the UK to fund heritage conservation.



9

Housing

- Amend the Local Government Act to remove the mandatory rebate for public housing stock that is transferred by the State Government to the Community Housing sector in the future.
- Ensure that the renewal of public housing stock previously transferred to the Community Housing sector occurs in a timely and collaborative way.



10

Emergency management

- A funding commitment of \$275,000 per year for four years to support the LGA's work with councils on disaster mitigation, and the ongoing operation of the Local Government Functional Support Group.



11

Abundant species

- A state-wide strategy to manage abundant species in South Australia, along with funding to implement medium and long term actions that are required to manage the issue.



12

Health and wellbeing

- A funding commitment of \$2 million per year for the next 10 years to partner with the LGA on a Community Wellbeing Alliance, which would include regionally based staff employed to help councils deliver Regional Public Health Plans.
- Appropriate resourcing for Wellbeing SA that will support state and local government public health and wellbeing partnerships.



Local Government reform

What's the issue?

Sensible and effective local government reforms are required to help councils drive downward pressure on rates, further improve transparency, and increase the value delivered to ratepayers.



Why does it matter?

Councils can best serve their communities, and deliver better outcomes, when they are supported by effective legislative and regulatory arrangements. Providing an effective local government framework is a shared responsibility between councils, the LGA and the Parliament of South Australia.

Further information

South Australian councils have a history of driving positive reform in the local government sector. The *Local Government Financial Sustainability Program*, which commenced in 2005, has led to over a decade of sustained improvement in local government finances and asset management.

Councils want to partner with the Parliament on further opportunities to strengthen the sector, and the LGA welcomes the Government's commitment to working with councils on a review and update of the *Local Government Act 1999* in 2019.

The LGA has consulted with its members on opportunities to achieve continued improvement, and has broad support for a range of proposals, which include:

- Improving the Code of Conduct for council members
- Implementing a sophisticated benchmarking program
- Standardising service reviews and external council audits
- Maximising the effectiveness of council audit committees
- Streamlining the representation review process
- Considering opportunities to diversify local government revenue
- Enhancing local government elections

The LGA worked closely with the previous Government on boundary adjustment reform, and now that this legislation has come into effect it is important that the Boundaries Commission is appropriately resourced to administer any boundary adjustment proposals it receives.

The 2019-20 State Budget provides an opportunity for the Government to partner with the LGA and councils to deliver sensible local government reform that will strengthen our sector, and drive downward pressure on rates.

Commitments sought

- Additional resources within the Office of Local Government to work collaboratively with the LGA on sensible local government reform – with improvements to the Council Members Code of Conduct progressed as a priority.
- Investment in establishing a sophisticated sector-wide benchmarking program for local government.
- Sufficient resources for the Boundaries Commission to administer new boundary reform processes.

Infrastructure funding partnerships

What's the issue?

Councils nationally collect less than 4% of the total taxes paid in Australia, and they need support from other spheres of government to provide and maintain the infrastructure their communities need such as swimming pools, playgrounds, sports facilities, regional airports and jetties.



Why does it matter?

If councils can't access the funds needed to provide the infrastructure their communities require, they will need to increase either rates or borrowings to maintain the quality of infrastructure and facilities that communities use every day.

Further information

Programs such as the State Local Government Infrastructure Partnership and Community Wastewater Management Scheme have demonstrated the benefits of state and local government working together to deliver local infrastructure projects.

These projects not only meet the needs of their communities, but also stimulate economic activity and create new jobs.

The State Local Government Infrastructure Partnership that the LGA negotiated with the previous Government saw \$24.1 million provided to 28 councils in early 2018 to bring forward 32 projects worth around \$132 million. So far, 214 FTE jobs have been created through this program.

Information collected by the Australian Local Government Association shows there are more than 160 shovel ready projects that South Australian councils could bring forward if they had funding support. State Government investment in these projects would stimulate economic opportunities, create jobs, and help drive downward pressure on council rates.

Independent economic modelling by ACIL Allen in 2018 shows that a \$20 million annual investment by the State Government in a neighbourhood infrastructure program would generate 61 direct and 221 indirect jobs, plus an economic output of \$40.24 million per year.

The State Government can also support the construction and maintenance of local infrastructure by strongly advocating to the Federal Government to increase the Financial Assistance Grants provided to councils. The value of these grants has decreased in real terms from 1% of Commonwealth taxation in 1996 to 0.55% today.

Commitments sought

- Introduce a \$20 million per annum Neighbourhood Infrastructure Fund to help councils bring forward investment in local infrastructure priorities and create jobs.
- Advocacy to the Federal Government to return the total value Financial Assistance Grants to 1% of Commonwealth taxation.

What's the issue?

Current levels of State Government funding are inadequate to maintain safe, high quality state roads in metropolitan and regional areas.

Why does it matter?

High quality road infrastructure enhances accessibility, improves road safety, and supports the economy.

Further information

Adequate funding is needed to maintain the safe and high quality road infrastructure that is essential for improving Australia's standards of living.

South Australian councils and communities continue to be concerned about the poor condition of State Government owned main roads in both metropolitan and country areas.

Both metropolitan and regional communities have an expectation to access quality and safe road networks. However, there needs to be a spotlight on the safety of our major regional roads given that across Australia 66% of all road deaths occur in regional and remote areas, despite two thirds of Australians living in cities. In South Australia, there were 51 fatal crashes in rural areas in 2018, which was 12 more than in 2017.

In addition to the suffering experienced by victims and their loved ones, the financial cost of road fatalities and injuries is approximately \$1 billion each year.

One third – or 213.9 billion tonne-kilometres – of Australia's domestic freight was moved by road in 2015-16. Roads provide essential linkages for many of South Australia's key industries, and improvements in the quality of South Australia's roads will increase productivity, international competitiveness, and deliver benefits directly to communities and businesses.

South Australia's local road network is disadvantaged by an unfair share of Federal road funding. Our state has 11% of the nation's local roads, 7% of the population, yet only receives 5.5% of the Identified Local Roads component of Federal Financial Assistance Grants. The State Government can help to address this inequity with strong advocacy to the Federal Government for ongoing supplementary road funding for South Australia.

Commitments sought

- Lift the State Government's road resurfacing and re-sheeting targets, and increase investment in repairing and maintaining State Government road infrastructure.
- Strongly advocate to the Federal Government to secure long-term supplementary road funding for South Australia at \$20 million per year.

Waste and recycling

What's the issue?

China's National Sword policy, and the State Government's Solid Waste Levy, are making it significantly more expensive for councils to process kerbside waste and recycling.



Why does it matter?

South Australia has a proud history of leading the nation in recycling practices, but more support from the State Government is needed to reduce cost pressures and create greater certainty and stability.

Further information

China's National Sword policy has effectively ruled out China as a destination for Australia's recycled materials, and made it more expensive for councils to process their kerbside recycling. A market analysis commissioned by the LGA found this policy is costing SA councils an additional \$8.8 million a year.

Exponential increases in the Solid Waste Levy over the past decade have also put considerable pressure on council budgets. The levy has increased from \$5 a tonne in 2003/04 to \$100 a tonne (in metro areas) in 2018/19. It is expected to cost South Australian councils – and their ratepayers – \$35 million in 2019-20.

Comprised of revenue collected through the Solid Waste Levy, the State Government's Green Industry Fund could be used to provide greater support to councils during this transitional period for the waste and resource recovery sector, and to shield ratepayers from increased costs.

There is currently at least \$120 million in the Green Industry Fund, and councils will be expected to provide at least a further \$140 million over the coming four years. Given that councils and their ratepayers are significant contributors to this fund, local government should be able to access significant levels of funding for worthwhile projects and to drive downward pressure on rates.

Providing councils with pathways to access funding through the Green Industry Fund will ensure the continuation of waste and recycling services in all communities, and fulfil the promise made to South Australians at the 2018 state election to stop cost shifting to councils.

Some examples of projects that could be funded through the Green Industry Fund include:

- Continuation of transport subsidies for recyclables for regional councils
- Support for councils to achieve state-wide consistency in kerbside collection services in SA
- Expansion of the Container Deposit Scheme to ensure more glass is recovered outside of the kerbside-collected yellow bin system (significantly reducing waste costs for councils)
- Reimbursing councils for the costs of cleaning up illegally dumped waste

Commitments sought

- Freeze the Solid Waste Levy for 2019-20 and beyond at its 2018-19 level.
- More funding to be made available to councils for worthwhile waste and recycling projects through the Green Industry Fund.

Libraries

What's the issue?

Councils and their communities need certainty about future funding for South Australia's libraries.



Why does it matter?

Libraries are essential community infrastructure and any reduction in State Government funding for libraries would put these vital community facilities at risk.

Further information

SA councils contribute 86% of all capital and operating funding for libraries, investing more than \$72 million every year in these valuable community assets.

The 10 year agreement between the State Government and LGA regarding public library funding is due to expire in 2021.

Today's libraries are about so much more than borrowing books. Libraries are essential community infrastructure, providing opportunities for users of all ages to learn, play, and connect with others.

South Australian councils currently support 125 libraries, as well as 13 mobile libraries and 41 other library outlets.

There were nearly 10 million visits to SA libraries last financial year, with 13 million books and other physical items borrowed.

Over time the range of services provided by libraries has grown, and today libraries operate as multi-purpose community hubs, delivering a number of state and local government programs. Around 360,000 children and 150,000 adults attend library programs each year.

Libraries also provide access to internet and computer facilities which improve digital access and literacy and offer an avenue for community members to access State Government services online.

The State Government makes a valued contribution to the growth and sustainability of South Australia's public libraries. However, State Government funding has fallen to around 11% of the total costs of providing library services.

As demand for the range of services offered through libraries grows, a new funding agreement between state and local government is required to provide certainty for the ongoing development and operation of libraries.

Commitments sought

- No reduction in State Government funding for libraries.
- A new long-term public library funding agreement between the State Government and LGA.

Coastal management

What's the issue?

The task of protecting and maintaining South Australia's coastal assets is beyond the funding capacity of coastal councils.



Why does it matter?

South Australia's coastline is enjoyed by the broader community, as well as visitors to the State, so funding the upkeep of our coastal areas must be a shared responsibility.

Further information

The Coast Protection Board has estimated that around \$25 million of works are required to address current legacy issues associated with South Australia's coastal assets.

To undertake this work would require affected councils to significantly increase rates for local homeowners and businesses. This is particularly an issue for small regional councils, which have a low ratepayer base and limited ability to generate the revenue required for major works.

In the metropolitan area, the Metropolitan Coastal Councils Alliance estimates that the severe storms in September of 2016 cost metropolitan coastal councils \$5 million in remediation works. Even for larger councils, this was a significant cost pressure on their budgets, and there is still damage from these storms that has not been repaired.

While the State Government does provide some funding for coastal protection – both ongoing and ad hoc – the majority of the costs for coastal management are borne by councils and their ratepayers.

The major costs to councils associated with coastal management include infrastructure development and maintenance (69%), sewerage and stormwater infrastructure development and maintenance (15%) and land use planning and management (16%).

Increasing the overall quantum of grant funds available to councils by \$10 million each year would assist councils to undertake the backlog of works needed to protect coastal assets and develop more proactive coastal management strategies.

Many coastal councils are also responsible for funding the maintenance of State Government owned jetties. This is an additional cost pressure that councils must balance with other coastal management priorities.

Given South Australia's coastline is enjoyed by the broader community – as well as interstate and international visitors – funding coastal management must be a shared responsibility and the State Government should increase its contribution to relieve pressure on coastal property owners to fund the protection of our coastline.

Commitments sought

- A \$10 million per year increase in the State Government's coastal management funding, with a focus on supporting small regional councils to protect and enhance their local coastal assets.

Stormwater management

What's the issue?

Responsibility for stormwater management is beyond the funding capacity of local government as councils collect only 4% of national taxation. It must be a shared responsibility between Federal, State and local government.



Why does it matter?

Effective stormwater management is an essential part of managing natural hazards and being environmentally responsible. South Australian communities deserve quality stormwater infrastructure that is supported by all spheres of government.

Further information

The Stormwater Management Authority (SMA) was established in 2007 under the *Local Government (Stormwater Management) Amendment Act 2007*, and is responsible for the operation of a Stormwater Management Agreement between the State Government and the LGA.

The State Government provides around \$5 million per year to a Stormwater Management Fund, which is administered by the SMA and has been established to assist local government to meet the costs of stormwater management planning and stormwater infrastructure.

By comparison, councils across South Australia collectively spent around \$111 million on stormwater management activities in 2016/17.

While the funding provided by the State Government has supported important stormwater projects, the current level of State Government investment is too low to address the stormwater management priorities in South Australia.

The LGA believes that the Federal Government is an important funding partner in stormwater management. Increased investment by the State Government could help to leverage a greater funding share from the Federal Government.

Increased State Government would also support councils through the Stormwater Management Authority to help deliver priority stormwater projects, reduce pressure on council budgets, and help drive downward pressure on council rates.

Commitments sought

- An annual increase in the Stormwater Management Fund administered by the Stormwater Management Authority from \$5 million to at least \$12 million per annum.

Heritage

What's the issue?

More State Government support is required to maximise and promote the benefits of a strong heritage framework in South Australia.



Why does it matter?

Heritage places reflect the diversity and uniqueness of our communities. Heritage is not only important from a social and conservation perspective, but is also a valuable driver of economic development.

Further information

A 2017 City of Adelaide study concluded that every \$1 spent conserving heritage fabric generates a \$1.68 return within South Australia's economy, and that the City's Heritage Incentives Scheme indirectly boosts gross state product by an estimated \$395 million annually, supporting some 3,000 jobs. It also reports that overseas research concludes that work on heritage buildings creates more jobs than new construction.

The LGA is seeking a commitment from the State Government to progress heritage reform as a priority, to provide certainty to local government and the community. This needs to be supported with funding to enable councils to implement reform through the planning system.

Funding support could assist owners of heritage places to ensure fire safety and accessibility requirements are met when upgrades are undertaken to preserve their heritage value. This would support adaptive reuse, and lead to viable buildings which contribute to the economic and social value of communities.

Commitments sought

- An increase to the South Australian Heritage Grants Program to support owners of heritage places around the State.
- Revival and expansion of the Heritage Advisory Service to provide councils with professional heritage advice and the community with certainty in the heritage process.
- Investigate establishing a heritage lottery fund, similar to lotteries in place in Western Australia and in the UK to fund heritage conservation.

Housing

What's the issue?

Councils are mandated under the Local Government Act to provide Community Housing Providers with a 75% rate rebate. The transfer of the State Government's public housing stock to Community Housing Providers has come at a significant cost to impacted councils.



Why does it matter?

The cost of providing mandatory rate rebates to Community Housing Providers is borne by all other ratepayers, and disproportionately impacts on home owners in lower socio-economic areas.

Further information

In 2009 the *Local Government (Accountability) Amendment Bill 2009* was passed by the South Australian Parliament, enabling Community Housing Providers (CHPs) to be entitled to a mandatory 75% rebate on council rates. At that point in time, large transfers of public housing from the State Government to CHPs were not contemplated.

However, since 2015 the State Government has transferred more than 5,000 SA Housing Trust properties to CHPs across 17 different council areas. These properties now receive a 75% rate rebate, whereas the State Government previously paid full rates to fund the services and facilities provided by councils.

For every 5,000 properties that are transferred, affected councils lose around \$4.4 million in rates revenue.

These mandatory rates rebates also disproportionately affect some of South Australia's most disadvantaged communities, where homeowners can least afford to pay more to cover the costs of the rebate.

The State Government transferred these properties to CHPs with the promise they would be renewed and costs would be recovered as redeveloped properties are sold. This is yet to occur across all sites and councils are not a party to the negotiations between the State Government and CHPs.

The LGA understands that affordable and sustainable public housing is an issue for South Australia - especially with the growing waiting list - and we support the objectives behind increasing the availability of quality community housing.

However, public housing is a State Government responsibility, and councils and their ratepayers cannot afford to keep subsidising the State's housing policy.

Commitments sought

- Amend the *Local Government Act* to remove the mandatory rebate for public housing stock that is transferred by the State Government to the Community Housing sector in the future.
- Ensure that the renewal of public housing stock previously transferred to the Community Housing sector occurs in a timely and collaborative way.

Emergency management

What's the issue?

Councils are playing an increasing role in emergency management planning and response, but are not being adequately resourced for these new responsibilities.

Why does it matter?

Better coordination between state and local government in preparing for and during emergency events will reduce the risk of loss of life and property damage.

Further information

Preparing for and mitigating against the impacts of emergency events is necessary to minimise the human, environmental and economic costs of natural disasters.

In November 2017, modelling by Deloitte Access Economics outlined that the total economic cost of natural disasters in South Australia will grow at 3.6% per year to \$700 million per year by 2050, up from an average of \$200 million per year today. The Productivity Commission Report on Natural Disaster Funding Arrangements in 2014 pointed to the long term savings to be realised through increased upfront investment in disaster risk reduction.

Councils play an important role in disaster mitigation risk, through asset management, stormwater management, climate change adaption, public health, community resilience and more. Increased investment from the State Government would support councils to build on these programs, and reduce current and future disaster risk and associated costs.

Councils also partner with State Government agencies and emergency services in responding to disaster events when they occur. The State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) underwent a substantial review in 2016 that resulted in the establishment of the Local Government Functional Support Group (LGFSG), to ensure a coordinated response from local government during emergencies. The LGA is the lead agency for the LGFSG.

Funding has previously been received from the Natural Disaster Resilience Program to assist with the establishment and implementation of the LGFSG, but ongoing support is required to ensure this body is appropriately resourced to coordinate state/local government cooperation during emergency events.

The State Government places pressure on council rates when it mandates new responsibilities for councils without providing an ongoing funding stream to cover the costs of these additional services.

It is envisaged that the funding needed to support local government to meet its emergency management responsibilities could be sourced from the Emergency Services Levy.

Commitments sought

- A funding commitment of \$275,000 per year for four years to support the LGA's work with councils on disaster mitigation, and the ongoing operation of the Local Government Functional Support Group.



Abundant species



What's the issue?

Abundant species such as Little Corellas are causing considerable damage to South Australia's environment and infrastructure.

Why does it matter?

The management of abundant species is a State Government responsibility, but councils and their ratepayers are incurring significant clean up and mitigation costs.

Further information

The LGA's member councils have raised concerns about the overabundance of native and feral species in South Australia, such as:

- Little Corella
- White Ibis
- Fruit bat
- Feral cat
- European Red Fox
- Dingo and wild dog

In December 2018 the LGA provided a submission to the South Australian Parliament Natural Resources Committee's Overabundant Species Enquiry, highlighting the impact of managing abundant species on the local government sector.

The LGA has worked with councils, the Department for Environment and Water, and University of South Australia on possible short and medium term solutions to address the issue of abundant species in South Australia.

However, what is needed is a state-wide plan, developed by the State Government, and supported by funding to help implement medium and long term actions.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list published on 26 October 2017 studied the worsening in conservation status of species between 1996 and 2008, and reported that Australia is one of seven countries with the worst performing record on biodiversity.

This is an opportunity for the State Government to take a leadership role in addressing a significant environmental issue for South Australia, and partner with local government in delivering a solution with lasting benefits.

Commitments sought

- A state-wide strategy to manage abundant species in South Australia, along with funding to implement medium and long term actions that are required to manage the issue.

Health and Wellbeing

What's the issue?

Increased State Government investment and better partnerships are needed in health and wellbeing, especially in regional South Australia.



Why does it matter?

While councils play an important role in delivering public health and wellbeing outcomes, they lack resources, and in some communities, even basic health facilities.

Further information

Councils are the primary public health authorities in their communities, and under the *South Australian Public Health Act (2011)*, are responsible for developing and implementing Regional Public Health Plans.

The State Government has previously partnered with the local government sector on public health to deliver the OPAL (Obesity Prevention and Active Lifestyle) Program, although State Government support for the program was withdrawn in June 2017.

The LGA has worked with its members to develop a proposal for a Community Wellbeing Alliance that would build on the success of the OPAL program, and see skilled staff working directly with councils at a regional level to advance Regional Public Health Plans, respond to emerging public health issues, and build and promote community wellbeing.

This proposed program would include the employment of six regional staff, as well as one metropolitan based staff member. This would result in all 68 of South Australia's councils receiving support.

The LGA has already partnered with the Southern and Hills LGA and Murraylands and Riverland LGA to trial an implementation of the proposed program in these regions, and it is hoped the program will expand to all regions with State Government support.

The LGA welcomes the Government's commitment to establishing Wellbeing SA as a prevention, health promotion and primary care agency within SA Health. We support Wellbeing SA being appropriately resourced, and for funds to be made available for the State Government to partner with councils to drive public health and wellbeing initiatives for South Australian communities.

Unfortunately, many regional councils are increasingly concerned about the availability of adequate primary health and wellbeing services within their communities. Some councils in rural areas are taking on responsibilities in this area as a 'provider of last resort', which in turn increases cost pressures on ratepayers where local government is forced to address market failure and take on non-traditional service delivery roles.

Commitments sought

- A funding commitment of \$2 million per year for the next 10 years to partner with the LGA on a Community Wellbeing Alliance, which would include regionally based staff employed to help councils deliver Regional Public Health Plans.
- Appropriate resourcing for Wellbeing SA that will support state and local government public health and wellbeing partnerships.



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