



Southern & Hills Local Government Association

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Adelaide Hills Council | Alexandrina Council | Mount Barker District Council | Kangaroo Island Council
| City of Victor Harbor | District Council of Yankalilla |

INTERNAL REPORT

Committee: Southern & Hills Local Government Association
From: Graeme Martin, Executive Officer
Title: S&HLGA Value Proposition - 2022
Purpose: Information/Discussion
Date: 3 May 2022

Proposition:

S&HLGA is continually reviewing its strategic direction. It is timely to consider the value proposition in the membership of S&HLGA

Background and methodology:

UHY Haines Norton were engaged by the LGA SA to provide a report on the value of membership of the LGA. The methodology adopted in order to try and value or monetize the membership benefits was:

- A. Comparing the costs paid by Councils to comparable alternative costs
- B. Where external comparisons were not available, a realistic estimate of the benefits was provided.

Many services required the staff resources of the LGA. If these services were undertaken by Councils individually they too would require an allocation of staff resources. For the purpose of the UHY report and for this report a full time salary (including on costs such as superannuation and workers compensation insurance) of \$100,000 per annum has been used as the cost benchmark and/or alternative cost.

Membership value proposition:

The value from membership in a regional organisation can be summarised in the following key categories; advocacy and representing the region, establishing and implementing high level regional partnerships and links, developing and strengthening regional capacity.

The recent 2021-2022 projects and successes of the S&HLGA include:

- Regional projects – SA Coastal Councils Alliance membership, developed the S&HLGA Resilient Hills & Coast Climate Change 2020-2025 Priorities and Action Plan, Reappointed the Resilient Hills and Coasts Project Officer, Closed out of S&HLGA Regional Public Health ILC communications and destinations projects and Community Wellbeing Indicators project (all

- impacted and delayed by COVID19). Commenced S&HLGA 2021-2025 Regional Public Health Plan, Completed and endorsed Part A strategic overview of the S&HLGA 2030 Regional Transport Plan project, South Coast Freight Route update, SE Freeway Transport Corridor review and Freight and People movement Committee membership, Development of Regional CWMS Resourcing and shared information Strategy with other Regional LGAs, Adopted and Gazetted S&HLGA Charter.
- Advocacy- LGA/Hudson Howell review of SLRP, LGA/URPS review of Regional Capacity Grant program, Regional Mobile Blackspot funding, Abundant species and Little Corellas maintenance, South Coast Freight Route, SAROC and LGA strategic and annual business plans, Regional Priorities for the State Government Election, Ministerial Audit Committee exemption
- Special Local Roads Program (SLRP) funding
- Website transition to LGA Squiz platform and updates and maintenance for promotion and marketing and information dissemination
- LGA Committee/working group memberships- i.e S&HLGA Regional Public Health Working Group, Regional Economic Development Officers Group, Regional Organisations EO Management Group, SAROC, Resilient Hills & Coast Climate Change Adaptation Group, S&HLGA Advisory Group, CWMS User Group, ILC Communications & Destinations Steering Committee, Community Wellbeing Indicators Steering Committee
- Research and benchmarking – Assisted MRLGA with report into Purpose, Priorities and Resourcing for the regional LGA, Hoarding and Squalor, S&HLGA Strategic Plan, S&HLGA 2021-2025 Business Plan
- Developing and building capacity – Successful external grant funding, Landscape Board contribution to RH&C project officer

Financial Benefits

A. General advocacy

The S&HLGA Executive Officer (EO) undertakes general advocacy on behalf of the region and its councils. This takes shape in provision of information to stakeholders and influencers, representation at forums and working groups, conference networking, research papers and awareness, co-ordination of surveys and liaison with key stakeholders, marketing via the website and communications. If Councils were to manage this individually they would likely need the services of someone at one day per week or 0.2 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff member.

Number of member Councils	6
Value for the region	\$120,000
Average Value per participating Council	\$20,000

B. Programs and Projects

i. S&HLGA Regional Public Health Plan

The S&HLGA has taken a collaborative approach to key regional projects and one of these has been the Public Health plan, a Council requirement under the SA Public Health Act. The S&HLGA Well Being in our Community- Regional Public Health Plan was commenced in 2015 and is a collaborative exercise between all the S&HLGA Councils outlining the regions strategic direction, roles and priorities around Public Health. This is an ongoing project with reports to SA Health one of the legislative requirements.

During 2021-2022 the LGA Information Linkages and Capacity Building Program, funded by the National Disability Insurance Agency, in turn funded the S&HLGA Regional Champions for accessible Communications and Regional Champions for accessible destination Projects, the latter being recognised by the Planning Institute of Australia (SA) in its annual Planning awards. The Community Well Being Indicators project was winner of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing Excellence in Public Health Award receiving a \$3000 prize

Number of member Councils	6
Value for the region	\$3,000
Average Value per participating Council	\$500

The S&HLGA EO provides secretarial and administrative services to the S&HLGA Regional Public Health Committee. There are usually six meeting per year (5 concluded 2021-22 YTD) with Agenda preparation, attendance, minutes and follow up actions and communications involved. This value is costed at \$1500 per meeting.

Number of member Councils	6
Value for the region	\$7,500
Average Value per participating Council	\$1,250

ii. *Resilient Hills and Coast Climate Change Adaptation Plan*

The Resilient Hills and Coast (RH&C) Climate Change Adaptation Plan is a collaborative exercise between all the S&HLGA Councils which maps out the vision, values, vulnerabilities and key decisions of the region around climate change impacts and identifies adaptation and mitigation priorities for the region. This is also an ongoing project with implementation and monitoring requirements.

During 2021-2022 S&HLGA secured partner contribution of \$10,000 from the Hills & Fleurieu Landscape Board for the re-appointment of the RH&C project co-ordinator

Number of member Councils	6
Value for the region	\$10,000
Average Value per participating Council	\$1,667

The S&HLGA EO provided secretarial and administrative services to the RH&C Committee prior to the re-appointment of a project co-ordinator. There are approximately six meeting per year (5 concluded 2021-22 YTD) with attendance, minutes and follow up actions and communications involved. This value is costed at \$1500 per meeting.

Number of member Councils	6
Value for the region	\$7,500
Average Value per participating Council	\$1,250

iii. *The S&HLGA 2020 Regional Transport Plan and Road Works Committee*

The EO co-ordinates and supervises the updates to the regional transport plan and the region's applications to the Special Local Roads program (SLRP) funding for significant local road improvements. Over the past 15 years commencing 2007-08 the S&HLGA region has secured a total of \$25,405,000 road funding under the SLRP. During 2021-2022 the region received \$1,853,300.

Number of member Councils	5
Value for the region	\$1,853,300
Average Value per participating Council	\$370,660

The S&HLGA EO provides secretarial and administrative services to the S&HLGA Transport Committee. There are approximately four meeting per year (3 concluded 2021-22 YTD) with Agenda preparation, attendance, minutes and follow up actions and communications involved. In addition to this is the liaison with the principal transport consultant, HDS Australia involving several meetings, contract supervision and general follow up action and communication. This has been accentuated by the tender and appointment of GTA and HDS consultants to undertake the development and production of the 2030 S&HLGA Regional Transport Plan. The annual SLRP applications are managed by the EO. This value is costed at \$1500 per meeting.

Number of member Councils	5
Value for the region	\$4,500
Average Value per participating Council	\$900

C. Capacity building

The S&HLGA was successful during 2021-2022 in obtaining the LGA Regional Capacity Building Grant of \$42,151

Number of member Councils	6
Value for the region	\$42,783
Average Value per participating Council	\$7,130

There are many services provided by the S&HLGA for the benefit of the region which are difficult to quantify in financial terms yet provide indirect benefits to the Council members. One of the key benefits is the fact that the six member Council CEOs and the six member Council Mayors and/or deputy Mayors are able to meet six times a year for a few hours each S&HLGA Board meeting and share collective knowledge, information and pool resources to advance the S&HLGA to achieve its objectives.

Summary

The table 1 below summarises the value per council and for the region as a total.

2021 Summary	Average Value per Council*	Total Value for the S&HLGA region
General advocacy	\$20,000	\$120,000
Programs and Projects	\$376,227	\$1,878,300
Capacity building	\$7,130	\$42,783
Total	\$403,357	\$2,041,083

Table 1

The table 2 below summarises and compares the S&HLGA membership subscriptions and levies total with the value per S&HLGA member Councils as measured in the value proposition over the past five (Total 14,606%) years

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Av Council membership	\$12,529	\$12,279	\$13,536	\$15,202	\$21,570
Value per Council	\$427,871	\$430,953	\$401,809	\$457,387	\$403,357
Return on Investment	3,375%	3,385%	2,968%	3,008%	1,870%

Table 2

e.g In 2018-2019 your Average annual S&HLGA membership cost of \$12,729 leveraged and returned you \$430,953 of value, savings and grants representing a ROI of 3,385%