



Southern & Hills Local Government Association

13 Ringmer Drv, Burnside SA 5066 | mb 0418 502 311 |
Email: graeme@shlga.sa.gov.au | www.shlga.sa.gov.au |

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 - 2021
Purpose: Information/Discussion
Date: 5 April 2021

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 2020-2021 projects and successes of the S&HLGA include:

- Regional projects – SA Coastal Councils Alliance governance implementation, S&HLGA Resilient Hills & Coast Climate Change Regional Sector Agreement, S&HLGA Regional Public Health ILC communications and destinations projects and Community Wellbeing Indicators project. S&HLGA 2030 Regional Transport Plan Roads project, South Coast Freight Route

update, SE Freeway Transport Corridor review. Development of Regional Waste Management Strategy with other Regional LGAs

- Advocacy- SA Grants Commission reform, Infrastructure plan, Abundant species and Little Corellas maintenance, South Coast Freight Route, SAROC and LGA strategic and annual business plans, Planning and Design code
- 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- e.g SA Councils Coastal alliance, 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 – Charter review and options, GM crops submission
- Developing and building capacity – Successful external grant funding

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 2020-2021 we secured \$157,872 external funding from the LGA Information Linkages and Capacity Building Program funded by the National Disability Insurance Agency to undertake Regional Champions for accessible Communications and Regional Champions for accessible destination Projects

Number of member Councils	6
Value for the region	\$157,872
Average Value per participating Council	\$26,312

The S&HLGA EO provides secretarial and administrative services to the S&HLGA Regional Public Health Committee. There are usually six meeting per year (three concluded 2020-21 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	\$4,500
Average Value per participating Council	\$750

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

The Resilient Hills and Coast 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.

The S&HLGA EO provides secretarial and administrative services to the RH&C Committee. There are approximately six meeting per year (Four concluded 2020-21 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	\$6,000
Average Value per participating Council	\$1,000

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 10 years commencing 2011-12 the S&HLGA region has secured a total of \$17,073,732 road funding under the SLRP. During 2020-2021 the region received \$2,010,000.

Number of member Councils	5
Value for the region	\$2,010,000
Average Value per participating Council	\$402,000

The S&HLGA EO provides secretarial and administrative services to the S&HLGA Transport Committee. There are approximately four meeting per year (one concluded 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.

Number of member Councils	5
Value for the region	\$1,500
Average Value per participating Council	\$300

C. *Capacity building*

The S&HLGA was successful during 2020-2021 in obtaining the LGA Regional Capacity Building Grant of \$42,151

Number of member Councils	6
Value for the region	\$42,151
Average Value per participating Council	\$7,025

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	\$363,062	\$2,178,372
Capacity building	\$7,025	\$42,151
Total	\$390,087	\$2,340,523

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 four (4) years

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Av Council membership	\$12,529	\$12,279	\$13,536	\$15,202
Value per Council	\$427,871	\$430,953	\$401,809	\$390,087
Return on Investment	3,375%	3,385%	2,968%	2,466%

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 and savings representing a ROI of 3,385%