

LGA SAROC Terms of Reference

Effective 3 May 2024



Local Government Association of South Australia

SAROC Terms of Reference

1. Establishment

In accordance with clause 19 of the Local Government Association of South Australia Constitution and Rules (**Constitution**) there are 2 regional organisations of Members: the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (**SAROC**) and the Greater Adelaide Regional Organisation of Councils (**GAROC**).

2. Terms of Reference

2.1. These Terms of Reference set out the functions to be discharged by SAROC.

2.2. The operation of the Terms of Reference may be altered by the Board of Directors either generally or in respect of specific circumstances by resolution with the exception of clauses 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4. A resolution for the purposes of this clause 2.2 will be reported to the chairperson of SAROC within 24 hours of the meeting of the Board of Directors at which the resolution was passed.

2.3. These Terms of Reference will be presented to the Members at a General Meeting for ratification annually (or more frequently as determined by the Board).

2.4. Clauses 4.2, 4.3 or 4.4 of this Terms of Reference may be altered only:

2.4.1. By resolution passed at a General Meeting of which at least 30 days' notice has been given to Members; and

2.4.2. With approval of the Minister.

2.5. The term:

SAROC Region means the combined local government area of each Member listed in the Schedule.

SAROC Regional Grouping means all of the Members of the Regional Groupings of Members as identified in the Schedule.

2.6. A capitalised term not defined in this document has the meaning provided for the term in the Constitution.

3. Status

SAROC is a committee of the LGA and is responsible to the Board of Directors for the discharge of its functions.

4. SAROC

4.1. Role

The role of SAROC is regional advocacy, policy initiation and review, leadership, engagement and capacity building in the SAROC Region.

4.2. Membership

Each Regional Grouping of Members listed in the schedule to these Terms of Reference will elect in accordance with clauses 4.3 and 4.4 from the Members of the Regional Grouping of Members, 2 Council Members as members of SAROC provided that each person elected is from a different Member.



4.3. Nominations for election to SAROC

- 4.3.1. The members of SAROC will be elected biennially.
- 4.3.2. In the year in which SAROC members will be elected, and at least 3 months before the Annual General Meeting, the Chief Executive shall write to all Members of the SAROC Regional Grouping, as listed in the schedule, calling for nominations for the membership of SAROC.
- 4.3.3. Each Member of the SAROC Regional Grouping may nominate a candidate for membership of SAROC, provided that:
 - 4.3.3.1. a person nominated as a member of SAROC must be a representative of a Member on the relevant Regional Grouping of Members; and
 - 4.3.3.2. only a Council Member can be nominated to SAROC.
- 4.3.4. A nomination of a person as a member of SAROC must be received by the Chief Executive Officer not later than 5 pm on the day specified for the closure of nominations (**Close of Nominations**). A nomination must be signed by the candidate indicating his or her willingness to stand for election and be in the form determined by the Chief Executive.

4.4. Election to SAROC

- 4.4.1. The Chief Executive shall be the returning officer for any election of members to SAROC.
- 4.4.2. After the Close of Nominations, the Chief Executive will notify Members of each Regional Grouping of Members of the candidates for membership of SAROC nominated by the Regional Grouping of Members.
- 4.4.3. If the only nominations received from a Regional Grouping of Members by the Close of Nominations match the membership positions described in clause 4.2 then the Chief Executive will declare those persons duly elected to those membership positions.
- 4.4.4. If the number of persons nominated by the Close of Nominations by a Regional Grouping of Members exceeds the number of membership positions described in clause 4.2, then an election for the purpose of clause 4.2 must be held in accordance with this clause.
- 4.4.5. In the event of an election being required, the SAROC Regional Grouping in consultation with the Chief Executive shall conduct an election.
- 4.4.6. The Chief Executive, in consultation with the SAROC Regional Grouping shall nominate the date, time and place for the counting of votes and shall invite each candidate and a person nominated as the candidate's scrutineer to be present:
 - (a) at the counting of the votes the Chief Executive shall produce unopened envelopes marked "Ballot Paper" and if satisfied that all votes are valid, count the number of votes received by each candidate;



- (b) in respect of an election for the purposes of clause 4.2, the 2 candidates from a Regional Grouping of Members with the most votes shall be deemed elected and the Chief Executive shall declare the candidates elected at the Annual General Meeting; and
 - (c) in the case of candidates for membership positions described in clause 4.2 receiving the same number of votes, the Chief Executive shall draw lots at the counting of the votes to determine which candidate is elected.
- 4.4.7. The Chief Executive may, in his or her discretion, appoint a deputy returning officer and delegate any of his or her powers, functions or duties to that person who shall act accordingly.
- 4.4.8. The Chief Executive may, in his or her discretion, delegate any of his or her powers, functions or duties to an Executive Officer of a Regional Grouping of Members who shall act accordingly for the conduct of elections for the purpose of clause 4.2 in respect of the Regional Grouping of Members relevant to that Executive Officer.

4.5. Term of office

The term of office for members of SAROC shall commence after the Annual General Meeting of the year in which the member is elected. Each member of SAROC will serve for a period of 2 years or until a circumstance causing a casual vacancy as described in clause 4.7.2 occurs.

4.6. Duties

- 4.6.1. Each member of SAROC must:
- (a) undertake his or her role as a SAROC member honestly and act with reasonable care and diligence in the performance and discharge of functions and duties;
 - (b) not make improper use of information acquired by virtue of his or her position as a SAROC member to gain, directly or indirectly, an advantage for himself or herself or for another person or to cause detriment to the LGA;
 - (c) not make improper use of his or her position as a SAROC member to gain, directly or indirectly, an advantage for himself or herself or for another person or to cause detriment to the LGA; and
 - (d) not act in any matter where the SAROC member has a conflict of interest (provided that an interest shared in common with all or a substantial proportion of the members of SAROC will not be an interest giving rise to a conflict of interest).

4.7. Absences and casual vacancies

- 4.7.1. A leave of absence may be granted to a member of SAROC by resolution of SAROC. A replacement member of SAROC will be appointed for the period of the leave of absence by resolution of the majority of Members comprising the Regional Grouping of Members relevant to the person the subject of the leave of absence.



- 4.7.2. A casual vacancy will occur in the office of a member of SAROC if the member of SAROC:
- (a) dies;
 - (b) resigns from SAROC;
 - (c) is dismissed by resolution of the Board of Directors from SAROC for Misconduct;
 - (d) ceases to be a Council Member; or
 - (e) an administrator is appointed to administer the affairs of the Member for which the member of SAROC is a Council Member.
- 4.7.3. If there is a casual vacancy in the membership of SAROC then the Regional Grouping of Members relevant to the SAROC member the subject of the casual vacancy will appoint by resolution of the majority of Members comprising the Regional Grouping of Members another Council Member to serve as a member of SAROC for the balance of the membership term.

5. Responsibilities

5.1. Board of Directors

- 5.1.1. The role of the Board of Directors is to oversee corporate governance of the LGA and provide strategic direction and leadership.
- 5.1.2. The duties of the Board of Directors are to ensure that:
- (a) the LGA acts in accordance with applicable laws and the Constitution;
 - (b) the LGA acts ethically and with integrity, respecting diversity and striving for gender balance participation in all activities;
 - (c) the activities of the LGA are conducted efficiently and effectively and that the assets of the LGA are properly managed and maintained;
 - (d) subject to any overriding fiduciary or other duty to maintain confidentiality, the affairs of the LGA are undertaken in an open and transparent manner; and
 - (e) the LGA performs to its business plan and achieves or betters the financial outcomes projected in its budget.
- 5.1.3. The Board of Directors may from time to time refer matters to SAROC for consideration.
- 5.1.4. The Board of Directors will receive, consider and respond to any report and recommendations provided to the Board of Directors by SAROC.
- 5.1.5. The Board of Directors will periodically review the performance of SAROC.

5.2. SAROC

- 5.2.1. SAROC will fulfil its functions under these Terms of Reference in a timely, objective and professional manner consistent with the 'LGA Strategic Management Framework'.



- 5.2.2. SAROC may, through the Chief Executive and at the LGA's expense, seek external legal, financial or other advice on matters within its functions or concerning these Terms of Reference.

5.3. Chief Executive

- 5.3.1. The Chief Executive will make available to SAROC information of the LGA which is relevant to the functions of SAROC.
- 5.3.2. The Chief Executive will ensure that administrative support and other resources are made available to SAROC as included in the SAROC approved annual business plan and budget to enable SAROC to discharge its obligations under these Terms of Reference.
- 5.3.3. Resources made available to SAROC will include resourcing by the LGA Office or external resources considered appropriate by the Chief Executive acting in consultation with SAROC.

6. Functions of SAROC

6.1. LGA Object

- 6.1.1. The object of the LGA is to achieve public value through the promotion and advancement of the interests of local government by:
- (a) advocating to achieve greater influence for local government in matters affecting councils and communities;
 - (b) assisting member councils to build capacity and increase sustainability through integrated and coordinated local government; and
 - (c) advancing local government through best practice and continuous improvement.
- 6.1.2. SAROC will assist in the achievement of the LGA's object by:
- (a) supporting the activities of the LGA at a regional level;
 - (b) promoting communication between Members and between Members and the LGA;
 - (c) advocating in respect of matters which affect the SAROC Regional Grouping;
 - (d) encouraging engagement of Members within the SAROC Regional Grouping with SAROC and the LGA; and
 - (e) participating in policy development and implementation.

6.2. Consideration and referral of Member items of business

- 6.2.1. Any Member of the SAROC Regional Grouping may raise an item of business for the consideration of the Board of Directors or a General Meeting with SAROC. The item of business must be clearly described in writing, including an indication as to whether the impact of the item is confined to the Member or has broader implications for the local government sector.
- 6.2.2. SAROC will consider each item of business raised with SAROC by a Member.



- 6.2.3. A Member may be invited by SAROC to address a meeting of SAROC in respect of the proposed item of business.
- 6.2.4. Where considered appropriate by SAROC on the basis of the nature, scope and impact or potential impact of the item on the local government sector, SAROC will refer the item to either the Board of Directors or a General Meeting.
- 6.2.5. SAROC will inform the Member which has raised the item of business as to whether or not the item will be referred to the Board of Directors or a General Meeting.
- 6.2.6. Where an item of business is not referred to the Board of Directors or a General Meeting, SAROC may provide assistance or guidance to the Member in respect of progressing the matter.

6.3. Proposals for policy development

- 6.3.1. SAROC may develop proposals for policy positions for consideration at a General Meeting either in response to an issue raised by a Member within the SAROC Regional Grouping or independently.
- 6.3.2. A policy position developed by SAROC will be referred to the Board of Directors for consideration and determination as to whether or not the position should be put for consideration and adoption to a General Meeting.

6.4. Election to Board of Directors

- 6.4.1. SAROC will elect 3 members of SAROC (each of which must be a Council Member with relevant business and governance experience) to the Board of Directors.
- 6.4.2. In addition to Directors elected under clause 6.4.1, the chairperson of SAROC will be a Director.
- 6.4.3. The term of office as a Director of the 3 persons elected to the Board of Directors by SAROC and the chairperson of SAROC will commence after the Annual General Meeting of the year in which the person is elected and shall be for 2 years or until a casual vacancy in that office occurs.
- 6.4.4. Persons elected under clause 6.4.1 are eligible for re-election for subsequent terms.

6.5. Strategic and annual business planning

- 6.5.1. SAROC will develop, in consultation with the Members of the SAROC Regional Grouping, a 4 year strategic plan for regional advocacy, policy initiation and review, leadership, engagement and capacity building in the SAROC Region. The strategic plan will be reviewed and updated annually by SAROC by June each year.
- 6.5.2. SAROC will develop, in consultation with the Members within the SAROC Regional Grouping, an annual business plan for the next financial year by June each year.



6.5.3. The strategic plan and annual business plan for the next financial year will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval by June each year.

6.6. Other functions

SAROC will undertake any other functions:

6.6.1. of SAROC set out in the Constitution; and

6.6.2. delegated by the Board of Directors to SAROC.

7. Budget

7.1 SAROC will by June each year develop and adopt a budget to cover anticipated expenses of activities under the strategic plan and annual business plan during the next financial year. After adoption by SAROC, the budget will be provided to the Board of Directors for consideration and approval.

7.2 SAROC will provide a financial report to the Board of Directors no later than September providing a true and correct record of the expenditure of SAROC against the annual budget.

7.3 The chairperson of SAROC will meet with the Audit Committee of the LGA or the LGA's external auditor on request to discuss the SAROC financial report.

8. Committees

SAROC may establish committees consisting of any person with relevant experience, skill or expertise for any purpose and determine the terms of reference for such committees.

9. Meetings of SAROC

9.1. Resolution of the Board of Directors

Requirements under this clause 9 may be altered, supplemented or replaced by resolution of the Board of Directors.

9.2. Frequency of meetings and venue

9.2.1. SAROC will meet at least once in each 2 month period at such times and places as shall be determined by the Chief Executive.

9.2.2. Any member of SAROC or the Board of Directors may convene additional meetings of SAROC.

9.2.3. Notice of a meeting of SAROC will be provided in writing to members of SAROC by the Chief Executive no less than 7 days prior to the meeting providing the date, time and place of the meeting and the proposed business to be conducted at the meeting.

9.3. Chairperson

9.3.1. The chairperson of SAROC will be a Council Member appointed by SAROC.

9.3.2. The chairperson will be the official spokesperson for SAROC.

9.3.3. If the chairperson of SAROC is absent from a meeting of SAROC then the members attending the SAROC meeting will appoint a chairperson for the purposes of that meeting.



9.4. Decision making

- 9.4.1. All questions arising at a meeting of SAROC shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the members of SAROC present and voting on each question.
- 9.4.2. The Chair of the meeting has a deliberative vote and, if there are equal numbers of votes on any question, a casting vote.

9.5. Meeting procedure

The meeting procedures determined by the Board of Directors from time to time will apply to meetings of SAROC.

9.6. Attendance

- 9.6.1. Meetings of SAROC will be closed to the public.
- 9.6.2. SAROC may invite any person to attend its meetings.

9.7. Minutes

- 9.7.1. Minutes will be kept of all SAROC meetings including a record of the actions of SAROC.
- 9.7.2. Within 48 hours of a SAROC meeting, the chairperson will review and confirm the draft minutes. The draft minutes will then be circulated to SAROC members for comment and if necessary amendment before being certified as correct by the chairperson.

9.8. Quorum

The number of members of SAROC which constitutes a quorum for a meeting of SAROC is the number ascertained by dividing the total number of members of SAROC by 2, ignoring any fraction resulting from the division, and adding 1.

9.9. Performance assessment

SAROC will assess its performance against:

- 9.9.1. the strategic plan and annual business plan each quarter; and
- 9.9.2. these Terms of Reference annually.

9.10. Reporting

- 9.10.1. A Director elected by SAROC will provide a verbal report to the Board of Directors on key matters being considered by SAROC at each Board of Director's meeting at which the minutes of SAROC are to be considered by the Board of Directors.
- 9.10.2. Any matter relevant to regional advocacy, policy initiation and review, leadership, engagement and capacity building in the SAROC Region considered to be of significance to the corporate governance, strategic direction and leadership of the LGA will be reported by SAROC to the Board as soon as practicable after SAROC has considered the matter.
- 9.10.3. SAROC will provide an annual report to the Board of Directors by September each year summarising:



- (a) the discharge of SAROC's responsibilities and functions under these Terms of Reference and against the strategic plan and annual business plan;
- (b) the activities of SAROC during the financial year;
- (c) items of business referred to the Board of Directors or a General Meeting during the financial year; and
- (d) items being considered by SAROC which have not been reported to the Board of Directors and the intended actions in respect of those matters.

10. Access to information

- 10.1.1. SAROC is entitled, acting through the Chief Executive, to access any information or discuss matters with staff of the LGA Office.
- 10.1.2. A copy of the agenda for a SAROC meeting, reports to be considered by SAROC and minutes of SAROC meetings certified under clause 9.7.2 will be available to all Directors.
- 10.1.3. Subject to confidentiality requirements as determined by the Board of Directors or SAROC, a copy of the SAROC agenda, reports and minutes certified under clause 9.7.2. will be published on the LGA website for review by Members.

11. Administration

- 11.1. Subject to clause 11.2, an administrator appointed to administer the affairs of the Member may exercise the rights and satisfy the obligations of the administered Member under these Terms of Reference.
- 11.2. An administrator is ineligible to be a member of SAROC.

Schedule: List of Regional Groupings of Members in the SAROC Regional Grouping

Regional Grouping of Members	Members
Southern & Hills Councils	Alexandrina Mount Barker Victor Harbor Yankalilla Kangaroo Island
Legatus Councils	Adelaide Plains Barossa Barunga West Clare & Gilbert Valleys Copper Coast Goyder Light Mount Remarkable Northern Areas Orroroo Carrieton Peterborough Wakefield Yorke Peninsula Flinders Ranges
Eyre Peninsula	Ceduna Cleve Elliston Franklin Harbor Kimba Streaky Bay Tumby Bay Wudinna Lower Eyre Peninsula Port Lincoln
Limestone Coast	Grant Kingston Mount Gambier Naracoorte Lucindale Robe Tatiara Wattle Range



Murraylands & Riverland	Loxton Waikerie Mid Murray Karoonda East Murray Coorong District Southern Mallee Berri Barmera Renmark Paringa Murray Bridge
Spencer Gulf Cities	Port Augusta Port Pirie Whyalla

Review History

Version Date	Description of Change
8 January 2020	Approved by Minister for Local Government on 8 January 2020. Document Release
29 October 2020	Ratified at the Annual General Meeting
29 October 2021	Ratified at the Annual General Meeting
28 October 2022	Ratified at the Annual General Meeting
26 October 2023	Ratified at the Annual General Meeting
3 May 2024	Authorised by LGA Board 14 March 2024. Changes effective 3 May 2024 following approval from LGA President and LGA Acting CEO. Changes to quorum requirement.

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