

# SAROC Annual Business Plan 2020-21



## Introduction

The South Australian Region Organisation of Councils (the SAROC) is one of two regional organisations established by the Local Government Association of South Australia.

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

One of the functions of the SAROC is to develop in consultation with its members within the SAROC Regional Group a four-year Strategic Plan and an Annual Business Plan.

This Annual Business Plan should be read in conjunction with the SAROC Strategic Plan, which includes the following Themes and Objectives which will guide the activities and actions of the SAROC over the next four years.

### Theme 1: Economic Development

The SAROC recognises the important role councils play as local place makers. With the right policy settings and partnerships, regional councils can help to create the best conditions for local businesses to grow and thrive.

***Objective: Enable advocacy and partnership opportunities that recognise the specific needs of the regions and support councils to drive sustainable economic development.***

### Theme 2: Community Development

The SAROC acknowledges the significant contribution regional councils make to community development through public health and community wellbeing activities, and the need for adequate levels of State Government services and funding to support healthy and resilient communities.

***Objective: Support strong, vibrant and cohesive regional communities through advocacy and partnerships that unlock local government's potential to deliver quality community services and meaningful outcomes in public health and wellbeing.***

### Theme 3: Natural and Built Environment

The SAROC recognises the importance of local government's role in the future planning and maintenance of South Australia's natural and built environment.

***Objective: Influence, inform and advocate for the State Government to address policy and legislative barriers that hinder councils from undertaking their roles in maintaining and enhancing the natural and built environment in regional South Australia.***

### Theme 4: Financial Sustainability and Governance

The SAROC recognises the challenges regional councils face in attaining and maintaining financial sustainability. The SAROC acknowledges that councils proactively improve practices to achieve best practice in financial management, governance and reporting.

***Objective: Advocate to maximise contributions and investment from other tiers of government to contribute toward local government financial sustainability, and to assist councils to identify opportunities to support and strengthen governance arrangements.***

## Reporting and Approval Process

This Annual Business Plan links the key activities that the SAROC will undertake on an annual basis to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

The SAROC Annual Business Plan will be supported by a budget to cover anticipated expenses of the proposed activities to be undertaken during the financial year.

The SAROC Annual Business Plan and budget is required to be presented to the LGA Board of Directors for approval by June each year.

On a quarterly basis, the SAROC will assess its performance against the Strategic Plan and Annual Business Plan and provide a report to the LGA Board of Directors and member councils.

## Other Plans

The SAROC recognises the work of other organisations and their plans which support the business of the SAROC, these other plans include:

1. The LGA Strategic Plan and Annual Business Plan
2. The LGA Advocacy Plan
3. LGA Work Plans
4. The LGA Research and Development Fund Annual Business Plan
5. Regional LGA Annual Business Plans

## SAROC Annual Business Plan 2020-21

<b>Theme 1: Economic Development</b>				
<i>Objective: Enable advocacy and partnership opportunities that recognise the specific needs of the regions and support councils to drive sustainable economic development.</i>				
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Proposed Outcomes</b>	<b>Budget / Resources</b>	<b>Link to SAROC role</b>
<p><b>1.1 Supporting regional economies – advocacy</b></p> <p>Advocate to State and Federal government for funding, initiatives and legislation that assists with the growth and development of regional South Australia, including commitments towards assisting regional councils and communities to respond and recover from the Covid-19 public health emergency and the decentralisation of South Australia's population.</p>	June 2021	<p>SAROC will listen and represent the interest of regional councils and advocate for policy and legislation that supports South Australia's regions.</p> <p>Significant State Government strategies in PIRSA's regional development strategy and Infrastructure SA's 20-year strategy are due to be released in 2020. It is likely these reports will further implement the State Government's Royalties for Regions and impact on SAROC's activity in this area in 2020-21.</p> <p>SAROC will continue to seek opportunities to consult with member councils and regional LGAs to inform and make written submissions to influence policy, funding and legislative arrangements being considered by State and Federal government, and their agencies.</p> <p>Key opportunities for advocacy will include assisting regional councils and communities to respond and recover from the Covid-19 public health emergency, implementation of South Australia's forthcoming Regional Development Strategy, increased funding and appropriate locations for mobile phone towers to address blackspots, changes to mobile food van licencing, and responding to increased instances of drought and bushfire conditions.</p>	<p>LGA Secretariat</p> <p>Regional LGA executive officers</p> <p>\$20,000 budget allocation in 2020-21 for optional research and workshop required, as identified by SAROC</p>	<p>Regional advocacy</p> <p>Leadership</p>

<p><b>1.2 Supporting regional economies – partnerships</b></p> <p>Host a regional development workshop to bring together a broad range of stakeholders to drive cross-collaboration, innovation and build the evidence base for future LGA and SAROC advocacy, and scope for a potential Local Government Strategic Investment Plan for Regional South Australia.</p>	<p>September 2020</p>	<p>SAROC recognises that in order to be a strong partner and voice representing the regions, it will need to work in close collaboration with regional LGAs and regional councils along with key stakeholders including RDAs and Federal and State Government agencies.</p> <p>In the main, councils are funding members of RDAs that have undertaken significant engagement with regional councils to understand their needs. There is an opportunity to bring this work together to support greater interaction between SAROC and RDASA in areas of state significance to inform local government policy, council activities at the local level and ensure that RDAs are supported in common objectives.</p>	<p>LGA Secretariat Regional LGA executive officers \$15,000 budget allocation in 2020-21 for optional research and workshop activities as required, as identified by SAROC.</p>	<p>Regional advocacy Leadership Policy initiation and review</p>
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## Theme 2: Community Development

**Objective: Support strong, vibrant and cohesive regional communities through advocacy and partnerships that unlock local government's potential to deliver quality community services and meaningful outcomes in public health and wellbeing.**

Action	Milestone	Proposed outcomes	Budget	Link to SAROC role
<p><b>2.1 Regional health workforce</b></p> <p>Continue to advocate to the Federal and State Governments for the provision of improved health services.</p>	June 2021	<p>In September 2019, consulted with members and considered evidence provided by the Eyre Peninsula LGA in making a submission to the State Government's draft Rural Medical Workforce Plan</p> <p>In December 2019, the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, the Hon. Stephen Wade MLC, released South Australia's Rural Medical Workforce Plan, prepared to meet the Government's commitment to develop and implement 'a plan to recruit, train and develop the health professionals... needed to deliver country health services'. The Plan identifies a specific strategy to collaborate with local government to address the unique challenges facing rural communities, recognising that the social and economic wellbeing of their community is paramount to councils in their role as public health authorities.</p> <p>Over the next two years, the Plan commits that the Government will seek to partner with councils through the LGA to maximise the personal and family supports provided to rural doctors, particularly for recruiting to challenging areas, by:</p> <p>1) creating partnerships between councils, regional Local Health Networks, the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency and other key stakeholders to provide a holistic approach to doctor recruitment, considering opportunities and support for partners and families, and including social and community supports.</p>	<p>LGA Secretariat</p> <p>Regional LGA executive officers</p> <p>\$25,000 allocated from SAROC's budget in 2019-20 and is carried forward to 2020-21 to support advocacy on this issue, which is being used to identify the health service needs of regional communities and commission research to identify sustainable health models for small communities undertaken.</p>	<p>Regional advocacy</p> <p>Leadership</p> <p>Policy initiation and review</p>

		2) developing and support mechanisms for regional and rural doctors to receive support in areas including housing, transport costs and child care.		
<p><b>2.2 Regional public health planning</b></p> <p>Assist councils and regional LGAs to build capacity and best practice in their development, review and renewal of regional public health plans and to assist regional councils and communities to respond and recover from the Covid-19 public health emergency.</p>	June 2021	<p>In 2019, the LGA and SA Health concluded their Local Government Public Health Program, with the release of Regional Public Health Guidelines and other support materials.</p> <p>SAROC will facilitate a 'learning circle' to support councils and regional LGAs, and other critical stakeholders, who are currently reviewing their regional public health plans under the Public Health Act 2011.</p> <p>This activity will seek to identify how regional councils can assist communities to respond and recover from the Covid-19 public health emergency, and support advocacy identified in the LGA Advocacy Plan 2019-23 to seek support for public health planning and improving the relationship between councils and Public Health Partner Authorities.</p> <p>Regional LGA executive officers have highlighted an opportunity for 'volunteering in local government' to be a focus area that links regional public health plans and support for areas that councils are involved with including local assets such ovals and institutes / town halls plus, visitor information services and events. SAROC and regional LGAs could support councils to run a series of trial projects across each region that focus on attraction and retention of volunteers.</p>	LGA Secretariat Regional LGA executive officers	Leadership Policy initiation and review
<p><b>2.3 Community Wellbeing Alliance</b></p> <p>Advocate for a State and local government partnership to finalise the Community Wellbeing Alliance.</p>	October 2020	<p>The Local Government Research and Development Scheme has supported the implementation and evaluation of two regional LGA trials that are currently underway (MRLGA and Southern &amp; Hills LGA).</p> <p>SAROC will facilitate a workshop to bring together regional LGAs and councils to use the outcomes of the pilot program evaluation to refine a proposal for a state-wide program.</p>	LGA Secretariat Regional LGA executive officers	

### Theme 3: Natural and Built Environment

**Objective: Influence, inform and advocate for the State Government to address policy and legislative barriers that hinder councils from undertaking their roles in maintaining and enhancing the natural and built environment in regional South Australia.**

Action	Milestone	Proposed outcomes	Budget	Link to SAROC role
<b>3.1: Overabundant Species – Little Corellas</b>	June 2021	<p>The LGA and SAROC have consistently sought a State Government commitment to fund implementation of a statewide Little Corella strategy that includes financial assistance to local governments for the development of integrated local management plans and the implementation of medium- and long-term management options at a local-scale.</p> <p>In 2020-21, SAROC will continue to advocate to the State Government for the management and control of abundant species.</p> <p>SAROC will also, in line with any implementation of the forthcoming State Government statewide Little Corella strategy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. facilitate council and regional LGA discussions with the Department for Environment and Water, at their request, to identify potential processes, permissions and approach to short-term culling activities.</li> <li>2. reassess available research on medium and long-term actions and provide funding to commission advice on biological/sterilisation options.</li> <li>3. assist councils to undertake further research by trailing coordinated habitat interventions at sites affected by Little Corellas. Such trials will to be conducted with academic rigour, documented and shared among stakeholders so that other councils benefit from the lessons learned.</li> </ol>	<p>LGA Secretariat</p> <p>Regional LGA executive officers</p> <p>\$19,000 budget allocation in 2020-21 for biological advice and coordinated habitat interventions and trial sites.</p>	<p>Policy initiation and review</p> <p>Leadership</p> <p>Regional advocacy</p>

<p><b>3.2 Coastal Management</b></p> <p>Financial contribution to the activities and resourcing of the SA Coastal Council Alliance.</p>	<p>June 2021</p>	<p>Ensure the financial sustainability of SA Coastal Council Alliance, that the momentum generated through the early start-up phase of the Alliance is not lost, and that issues facing coastal councils continue to be strongly advocated and workable solutions implemented.</p>	<p>\$20,000 grant to SACCA in 2020-21.</p>	<p>Regional advocacy</p>
<p><b>3.3 Water Policy</b></p> <p>Facilitate local government discussion relating to water policy including advocating for a national water policy</p>	<p>June 2021</p>	<p>In 2019, SAROC facilitated a meeting of the SA Inter regional Murray Darling Association at LGA House, attended by 30 plus local government and other representatives.</p> <p>In 2020, SAROC will host a second annual meeting of the MDA member councils to discuss issues relating to water policy, prior to the Murray Darling Authority AGM.</p>	<p>LGA Secretariat Regional LGA executive officers</p>	<p>Leadership</p>
<p><b>3.4 Regional waste</b></p> <p>Develop a regional waste management strategy to enable the coordination of waste and recycling infrastructure across regions</p>	<p>June 2021</p>	<p>The Legatus Group will manage the delivery of a draft SA Regional Waste Management Strategy in partnership with others including the LGA and SAROC.</p> <p>The Legatus Group has secured further grant funding from Green Industries SA (GISA) to create a draft Regional Waste Management Strategy to enable South Australian regions to contribute increasingly to the circular economy. This will provide an understanding of regional waste streams and processing costs to provide a foundation and hence a pathway for future infrastructure and management system planning.</p>	<p>LGA Secretariat Regional LGA executive officers</p> <p>SAROC's budget of \$30,000 towards this action in 2019-20, has been allocated to the Legatus Group.</p>	<p>Policy initiation and review Leadership</p>

## Theme 4: Financial Sustainability and Governance

**Objective: Advocate to maximise contributions and investment from other tiers of government to contribute toward local government financial sustainability, and to assist councils to identify opportunities to support and strengthen governance arrangements.**

Action	Milestone	Proposed outcomes	Budget	Link to SAROC role
<p><b>4.1 Regional local roads – mapping and priorities</b></p> <p>Facilitate coordination between regional LGAs to prepare a SAROC SA Regional Local Road Priorities report that will enable a cross regional approach to support funding applications to State and Federal Government based on an agreed priority list. Leadership from SAROC on this issue, will also assist in strengthening the linkages with Regional Development South Australia for collaborative approaches to gaining resources for Regional SA.</p>	June 2021	<p>Regional LGAs have developed local road plans that identify road priorities. These are used to assist in funding applications usually by individual councils but on occasions jointly across council boundaries, including the Special Local Roads Program (SLRP) administered by the LGA.</p> <p>Regional LGAs would like to take a state-wide approach that identifies the linkages beyond regional boundaries and establishes a priority list it would allow for increased discussions with industry and to seek funding support from Federal and State Governments. This would also assist the LGA in forming recommendations to the State and federal government on priorities to be funded from the SLRP.</p> <p>A state-wide, regional mapping activity and priority report could be used to develop funding proposals from the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program, the Better Regions Fund, the Regional Black Spot Fund and or a specific infrastructure approaches to State and federal governments.</p>	<p>LGA Secretariat</p> <p>Regional LGA executive officers</p> <p>\$15,000 budget allocation in 2020-21, to be supplemented by regional LGAs.</p>	<p>Regional advocacy</p> <p>Policy initiation and review</p>