

GAROC Annual Business Plan 2020-21



Introduction

The Greater Adelaide Region Organisation of Councils (GAROC) is a committee established by the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA). It is responsible to the LGA Board of Directors for the discharge of its functions.

One of the functions of GAROC is to develop a four-year Strategic Plan in consultation with metropolitan councils. GAROC's Strategic Plan for the period 2019-2023 should be read in-conjunction with this Annual Business Plan. This revised Strategic Plan 2019-23 identifies four strategic themes and objectives. These are:

Theme 1: Economic Development

GAROC recognises that local government's significant investment in infrastructure and services is a driver of the local economy. A strong state economy is underpinned by a financially sustainable local government sector that promotes its area and provides an attractive climate and locations for the development of business, commerce, industry and tourism.

GAROC recognises the important role of councils to enable, facilitate and enhance local economic opportunities. With the right policy settings and partnerships, 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 and opportunities in metropolitan Adelaide and assist councils to contribute to creating conditions for productivity that supports sustainable job growth and pathways to employment.

Objective: Support member councils to play their important role in stimulating the economic and social recovery of their communities in post COVID-19 recovery.

Theme 2: Design, Planning and Placemaking

GAROC recognises the importance of good decision making that enhances the built environment and supports well-considered planning processes that achieve quality design outcomes and the preservation of character and local heritage.

Objective: Advocate to the State Government and Parliament to ensure that South Australia's planning system reflects leading practice, facilitates better design outcomes and supports local decision making.

Objective: Provide assistance and resources to metropolitan councils that support their important role as local place makers and custodians of public spaces.

Theme 3: Environmental Reform

GAROC acknowledges local government's role in protecting and enhancing the environment and recognises that climate change poses a serious risk to local communities and ecosystems. GAROC also recognises the important role councils play in providing high quality, innovative and sustainable waste management services that meet the needs of the community

Objective: Support LGA advocacy to State and Federal Government and assists member councils to ensure that all levels of government undertake mitigation and adaptation actions that reduce climate risks and build community resilience.

Objective: Support councils to improve waste and recycling practices and deliver viable and innovative waste services that meet the needs of the community and grow the Circular Economy and advocate for State and Federal Government legislation, policies, funding and programs that will enable and support these outcomes.

Theme 4: Reform and Innovation

GAROC recognises the opportunity to work with metropolitan councils to lead reform and innovations that enhance decision making, build community trust and drive downward pressure on council rates.

Objective: Assist councils to enhance local government through innovations in benchmarking, systems thinking, data management and engagement processes.

Reporting and Approval Process

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

The GAROC 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 GAROC 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, GAROC 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 GAROC recognises the work of other organisations and their plans which support the business of the GAROC, 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

GAROC Annual Business Plan 2020-21

Theme 1: Economic Development

Objective: Enable advocacy and partnership opportunities that recognise the specific needs and opportunities in metropolitan Adelaide and assist councils to contribute to creating conditions for productivity that supports sustainable job growth and pathways to employment.

Objective: Support member councils to play their important role in stimulating the economic and social recovery of their communities in post COVID-19 recovery.

Actions	Milestone	Proposed Outcomes	Budget / Resources	Link to GAROC role
<p>Supporting economic development – advocacy</p> <p><i>Economic stimulus and local recovery</i></p> <p>Support LGA advocacy to Federal and State governments for funding, initiatives and legislation that assists councils to support businesses and communities to respond and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p><i>Reducing red tape</i></p> <p>Advocate for the reinstatement of the State/Local Government Red Tape Taskforce and seek opportunities for all levels of government to work proactively to simplify decision-making, planning and administration policies and practices.</p>	June 2021	<p>GAROC will listen to and represent the interests of metropolitan councils, and advocate for funding, policy and legislation that supports economic and social recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Key opportunities for future advocacy will arise from the COVID-19 pandemic. GAROC will seek opportunities to consult with member councils to inform and support written submissions to influence the response from State and Federal government.</p> <p>Reinstatement of the State/Local Government Red Tape Taskforce would ensure government continues to support local business as they recover from the impact of COVID-19, including strengthening member council commitments to the Small Business Friendly Council initiative.</p>	<p>LGA Secretariat</p> <p>\$50,000 budget allocation in 2020-21 to support actions in the Economic Development theme - for research and workshops identified in the actions.</p>	<p>Policy initiation and review</p> <p>Leadership</p> <p>Regional advocacy</p>

<p>Supporting economic development – assistance</p> <p><i>Collaboration and Leadership</i></p> <p>Host a series of workshops to inform local government’s role in economic and community recovery from COVID-19.</p> <p><i>Strategy and purpose</i></p> <p>Commissioning an assessment to develop an understanding of State and federal government policies and initiatives that support local government’s economic development role and a framework for the economic development strategies within metropolitan councils.</p>	<p>June 2021</p>	<p>Efforts to support economic recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 provides an opportunity for GAROC to bring metropolitan councils together to encourage a culture of collaboration and further participate in existing networks to build and maintain effective relationships with key stakeholders.</p> <p>GAROC will bring together Economic and Community Development practitioners within councils to drive a cohesive approach, cross-collaboration, innovation and build the evidence base for meaningful partnerships with local businesses, not-for-profit groups and other stakeholders to identify practical actions and activities that stimulate economic and community development in their areas.</p> <p>Metropolitan councils come together to collaborate and build partnerships with each other and with other agencies, authorities and organisations that have a complementary role in economic and community development.</p> <p>Metropolitan councils are assisted to adopt a customer service approach to support economic development to make it easier to do business in South Australia.</p> <p>Metropolitan councils are aware of and are supported to align their key objectives and priorities to leverage funding support from Federal and State government policies and initiatives.</p>	<p>As above.</p>	<p>Regional advocacy</p> <p>Leadership</p> <p>Policy initiation and review</p> <p>Leadership</p> <p>Regional advocacy</p>
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Theme 2: Design, Planning and Placemaking

Objective: Advocate to the State Government and Parliament to ensure that South Australia's planning system reflects leading practice, facilitates better design outcomes and supports local decision making.

Objective: Provide assistance and resources to metropolitan councils that support their important role as local place makers and custodians of public spaces.

Action	Milestone	Proposed outcomes	Budget	Link to GAROC role
<p>Heritage</p> <p>Engage with metropolitan councils further understand and represent their interests on local heritage issues.</p> <p>Infill</p> <p>Undertake a review of the Planning and Design Code with respect to the impacts of infill development in consultation with councils.</p>	June 2021	<p>Listen and represent the interest of metropolitan councils and advocate for planning reform that supports quality design outcomes that complement and preserve the special qualities of local communities.</p> <p>There is an opportunity for GAROC member councils to support strong advocacy on the Planning and Design Code. It is important for the local government sector to assist in ensuring that the planning system underpins the ability of councils to deliver sustainable developments and public spaces.</p>	LGA Secretariat \$40,000 budget allocation in 2020-21 for optional research and workshop activities as required, as identified by GAROC.	Regional advocacy Leadership

Theme 3: Environmental Reform				
<i>Objective: Support LGA advocacy to State and Federal Government and assists member councils to ensure that all levels of government undertake mitigation and adaptation actions that reduce climate risks and build community resilience.</i>				
<i>Objective: Support councils to improve waste and recycling practices and deliver viable and innovative waste services that meet the needs of the community and grow the Circular Economy and advocate for State and Federal Government legislation, policies, funding and programs that will enable and support these outcomes.</i>				
Action	Milestone	Proposed outcomes	Budget	Link to GAROC role
<p>Climate Change – coordination</p> <p>Support LGA advocacy to the State Government for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the State - Local Government Climate Change Partnership Proposal; and renewal of the Regional Climate Partnerships – Sector Agreements <p>by working with member councils and the Regional Climate Partnerships coordinators to clearly identify and communicate their success in delivering practical, proactive, and positive climate action.</p>	June 2021	<p>Build State Government awareness and appreciation for the practical outcomes of the Regional Climate Partnerships and activities being undertaken by member councils.</p> <p>Commence a <i>State - Local Government Climate Change Partnership Proposal</i> with the State Government to jointly progress actions that harness economic opportunity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and build resilience to climate risk.</p> <p>Renewed commitment and co-investment from the State Government in the eleven Regional Climate Partnerships (Resilient South, AdaptWest, Resilient East and Adapting Northern Adelaide are the Partnerships within Greater Adelaide).</p> <p>Realise the potential for greater collaboration and alignment between State and local government on climate change.</p> <p>Support capacity building in councils including climate risk in asset management, identifying sector-wide needs and</p>	LGA Secretariat \$10,000 budget allocation in 2020-21 for workshop activities and promotional materials as identified.	Regional advocacy

		improve understanding of state and federal government priorities and funding programs.		
Coastal Management Financial contribution to the activities and resourcing of the SA Coastal Council Alliance.	January 2021	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.	\$20,000	Regional advocacy
Food Waste Provide in-principal support to a proposal to partner with a supermarket chain to support community uptake of food waste recycling.	June 2021	Leverage opportunity from the Food Waste Recycling Proposal. by providing waste recycling initiatives and education campaigns, partnering with councils and Green Industries SA (GISA) to provide kitchen caddies free through supermarkets.	\$50,000	Leadership

Theme 4: Reform and Innovation

Objective: Assist councils to enhance local government through innovations in benchmarking, systems thinking, data management and engagement processes.

Action	Milestone	Proposed outcomes	Budget	Link to GAROC role
<p>Benchmarking, expenditure framework, service reviews and data</p> <p>Support LGA activities in sector-wide performance measurement and enhance integrated long-term asset and financial management.</p>	June 2021	Metropolitan councils' issues sufficiently considered in local government reform and innovations.	<p>Nil required from 2020-21</p> <p>(\$70,000 allocated in 2019-20)</p>	<p>Engagement and capacity building</p> <p>Leadership</p> <p>Policy initiation and review</p>
<p>Integrated service, asset management and financial planning</p> <p>Support the LGA's Local Government Asset Management Integration Program</p>	June 2021	Maturity of metropolitan asset management plans assessed and increased understanding of integrated asset management to deliver better services and community outcomes.	<p>Nil required from 2020-21</p> <p>(\$30,000 allocated in 2019-20)</p>	<p>Leadership</p> <p>Policy initiation and review</p>
<p>Establishing GAROC regions</p> <p>Support councils in the transition to GAROC regions</p>	June 2021	<p>New GAROC regions will come into effect in October 2021.</p> <p>After that time, subject to other priorities, GAROC may seek to bring interested councils together for a further workshop to discuss a consistent approach to the transition to a regionalised GAROC structure.</p>	No significant allocation required.	<p>Engagement and capacity building</p>

