

LGA Advocacy Plan 2019 – 2023

First endorsed: September 2019

Latest revision: August 2022

Introduction

The object of the LGA is to achieve public value through the promotion and advancement of the interests of local government. From an advocacy perspective, the focus of the LGA is advocating to achieve greater influence for local government in matters affecting councils and communities.

The LGA is at the forefront of strategic policy development and reform in the local government sector. We seek to achieve influence for local government in matters affecting South Australian councils and their local communities. We do this by listening to and representing our 68 member councils and building positive relationships with people and organisations with an interest in or influence over matters of importance to local government.

There is significant value in the leadership and advocacy driven by the LGA in partnership with our member councils. Recent significant advocacy outcomes the LGA and our member councils have achieved include securing sensible, evidence-based local government reform within the *Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021* and state and federal stimulus funding for local government to support economic and community recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the national level, working with the Australian Local Government Association, we have secured the Commonwealth Government's commitment to extend South Australia's supplementary local roads funding to 2023, and extensions to the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund.

Speaking with one voice through the LGA gives the local government sector and SA councils a 'seat at the table' with decision makers. This means that our communities can enjoy the benefits of governments working in partnership towards common objectives.

Councils that are adequately resourced and supported by an enabling and contemporary state legislative framework are a strong partner in government and can make a great contribution to the economic and social progress of South Australia.

LGA Strategic Plan 2021-25

The LGA Strategic Plan 2021-25 identifies Advocacy as a key strategy and outlines the following outcomes that activities in this Advocacy Plan seek to deliver:

1. We are close to our members, seek their feedback and represent them with evidence-based advocacy on issues that matter.
2. Governments rely on our proactive contribution to policy and legislation that impacts councils, leading to better outcomes for communities.
3. Communities understand and value the services provided by local government and are encouraged to participate in council processes.

2019 – 2023 Advocacy Plan

The purpose of the LGA Advocacy Plan 2019-2023 is to define and prioritise the LGA's advocacy agenda to increase certainty and transparency for members about the outcomes being pursued on their behalf, and to ensure that sufficient resources are available to progress and monitor these important issues. The plan will help the LGA to deliver a focused and effective advocacy agenda over the next four years.

The Advocacy Plan is intended to sit alongside the LGA's Strategic Plan, Annual Business Plans and Policy Manual as an important part of the LGA's Strategic Management Framework. It guides decision making about the prioritisation of resources, assists in identifying partnership opportunities with key stakeholders and enhances our accountability to our members.

This Advocacy Plan is not a complete list of everything the LGA is doing on behalf of its members. The LGA provides a range of additional services that 'Assist' and 'Advance' councils, such as education and training, commercial services, guidelines and model documents, governance advice and research and development.

The Plan's four-year horizon recognises that effective, evidence-based advocacy can take time and the need for advocacy activities to be carefully timed around key events such as State and Federal Government budgets and election cycles.

While the LGA always uses best endeavours to forecast the key issues that will need to be addressed over the coming years, there will always be new issues for local government that emerge during the life of this plan that require an advocacy response from the LGA. The Advocacy Plan will be monitored quarterly and updated annually to allow for reprioritisation of the LGA's work plan as new issues emerge, issues evolve, or as member priorities change.

The issues and actions on the 2019-23 Advocacy Plan have been updated to reflect the current context of the local government, planning and waste reforms, as well as new advocacy to support the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the sector and member councils' actions to support economic and community recovery.

Aims - what successful advocacy looks like

Commitments / Relationships / Reputation

Commitments

Elicit genuine and specific commitments from State and Federal government that are relevant to local government's priorities and community outcomes.

Commitments can take the form of:

- funding for councils via targeted contributions and competitive grants – leveraging allocations from existing programs, as well as maintaining and building on existing commitments;
- legislation and regulations that enable local government services and consider implications (cost, appropriate support) for councils; and
- development of Government strategies and policies that reflect insights and experience of local government, including a 'seat at the table' with representation on relevant groups.

Relationships

Set the tone for how local government will work as a partner in government through mutually beneficial intergovernmental relations - recognising opportunity to leverage influence and further opportunities over time through ongoing advocacy.

Reputation

LGA advocacy creates the opportunity to progress and influence local government's brand and reputation with key decision makers and influencers:

- Government, ministers, Opposition and department agencies – build on the trust and credibility of the sector, reset conflicts and change the conversation on points of difference.
- Peak bodies and other key influencers – identify opportunities to align and build a coalition of support on common areas of interest

Principles - an influence-based approach

The LGA adopts an influence-based approach to advocacy and acknowledges that the most influential way to garner support or 'change the mind' of State Government decision making (our advocacy goal) is to:

- convey urgency and inspire action on priorities, with a focus on the meaningful and practical measures State and local government can pursue;
- acknowledge and build on our common ground, highlight shared achievements and demonstrate a credible track record to be built upon;
- adopt a tone that is positive, credible and likeable, while not glossing over points of difference or opportunities that may be missed;
- leverage local government as a respectful, reliable partner that is trusted by the governments, department agencies and the community;
- focus on areas of strength and relevance for the local government sector; and
- support positions with a small number of cohesive, compelling reasons, back with targeted examples and case studies from member councils.

2022-23 advocacy priorities and actions

The issues and actions set out in this Plan have been informed by our members through annual surveys, general meetings, the LGA Board of Directors, and the SAROC and GAROC committees. They also reflect legislative and policy reforms being undertaken by the State and Federal Government that are relevant to the role of councils and impact on local communities.

Local government has a broad range of roles and responsibilities, and the diversity of the sector's interests is reflected in the LGA's Advocacy Plan. Typically, the LGA will prioritise issues that have an immediate direct impact on local government such as changes to the responsibilities, funding, and compliance obligations of councils.

During 2022-23, the LGA will dedicate most of its advocacy focus and resources towards the following priority issues.

- supporting advocacy via the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to increase federal **Financial Assistance Grants** and secure long-term certainty of **supplementary road funding for South Australia**.
- establishing a **State-Local Government Relations Agreement** that provides a framework for ensuring State Government action responds to local needs and considers local solutions.
- informing the State Government's independent review of the **Planning Development and Infrastructure Act** and associated documents
- engaging with the State Planning Commission to enable close collaboration and evidenced based investigations during the review of the **Regional Plans** and the review of the **Thirty-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide**.
- developing a roadmap with state and federal governments for increasing **regional housing** supply that includes better incentives for private development in regional areas and alternative funding models for affordable housing projects and associated infrastructure, including a process to secure government funds.
- establishing a formal role for the local government sector to shape state-wide and community-based initiatives to better address **medical workforce shortages** in regional areas.
- achieving access to 50 per cent of council contributions to the Green Industry Fund (through solid waste levy payments) for local government in the form of grants for waste initiatives, trials and programs to support achievement of the State Government's waste targets or the transition to a **circular economy**.
- informing and encouraging a **review of mandatory rebates**, discounts and exemptions resulting in councils' discretion to determine rating structures which produce the best outcomes for all community members.
- securing the future funding of **South Australian libraries**, including restoring CPI to the Government's funding contribution, allocating funds to digital inclusion programs, funding a

dedicated grants program to drive innovation and reform, and finalising new arrangements for Schools Community Libraries.

- increasing state and federal government grant funding for **coastal adaptation** initiatives.
- improving **stormwater management** by securing increased funding in the Stormwater Management Fund and informing a stormwater reform process in partnership with the Stormwater Management Authority
- releasing the South Australian **Jetties Strategic Plan** that includes a \$10 million State Government investment in priority jetty maintenance and upgrades
- securing additional State Government investment to provide ongoing sustainable and equitable funding for councils to deliver **immunisation services**.
- delivering the advocacy identified in the **LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan 2021-23** to drive urgent and sustained action to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- establishing a **State-Local Government Climate Change Partnership** that provides long term certainty for the Regional Climate Partnership Sector Agreements, commits to practical action on adaptation and mitigation, and embeds South Australia's leadership on climate change at the national level.
- Lobbying for State Government leadership to provide ongoing operational support to ensure an effective response to **hoarding and squalor** in South Australia.
- Promoting the need for the Australian Government together with States and Territories to commit to a **national plan to end homelessness** by 2030 which addresses all the drivers of homelessness.
- informing the forthcoming legislated review of the **Dog and Cat Management Act 1995**.
- Negotiating the **implementation of local government reforms** and liaising with relevant State Government bodies to limit resource impacts and costs to council arising from the reforms including lobbying for further change where unintended consequences of reforms are identified.
- Liaising with State Government and key stakeholders to support councils to meet statutory strategic management planning requirements, enhance financial management capability and advocating for change in relation to **strategic management plan oversight arrangements**.
- Negotiating with the Legislative Review Committee to **reform by-law making arrangements** and so reduce the number of council by-laws disallowed by Parliament.

2019 – 2023 advocacy issues

Theme: Local Government Sector

Local government welcomes its role as a partner in government and shall continue to work closely with state and federal governments and other key stakeholders to seek solutions to issues that impact communities.

Objective: Advocate for sensible local government reform and build the respect of federal and state government in all transactions between the spheres of government.

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Local Government Reform – implementation	<p>The LGA has worked with member councils and the Parliament of South Australia to arrive at sensible and effective reforms that will drive downward pressure on council rates, improve the financial sustainability of councils, and deliver lasting benefits to South Australian communities.</p> <p>Implementation of the reforms contained in the Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021 will be most effective if they are driven by the local government sector through the LGA.</p> <p>The LGA has already allocated additional internal resources to help progress this work, but without additional funding support there is a risk that the reform implementation will fall short of the expectations of councils or their communities.</p>	<p>The LGA has allocated an additional \$250,000 to support the reform implementation project and seeks a matching contribution from the State Government to increase the LGA's capacity to deliver the benefits of a high-performing local government sector.</p> <p>LGA advocacy is also aimed at ensuring the commencement of each element of the legislative scheme occurs once councils have had time to update policies, procedures, IT systems, forms and processes and for council members and staff to complete training on the new arrangements.</p>	<p>Pursue opportunities to request an increase in State Government funding and resources to successfully implement meaningful local government reform.</p> <p>Continue to consult extensively with member councils as the LGA commences work on an implementation plan of the 150 outcomes required to support councils to implement the proposed changes.</p> <p>Liaise with relevant ministers and members of parliament to inform discussions and build support for required Ministerial approval.</p>	LGA Board

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
State- Local Government Relations Agreement	<p>Coordination across all governments in planning, funding and delivering facilities and services can maximise the value of investments by governments. This can be best facilitated through formal structures such as the State-Local Government Relations Agreement and the Premier's State- Local Government Forum.</p> <p>A more cooperative, strategic approach to providing and using public infrastructure will reduce duplication, lower asset operating costs and create a strong foundation for the attraction of businesses and skilled labour needed for economic growth.</p>	To enable local government to deliver on its potential as a partner to advance South Australia, the LGA is asking the State Government to support a State-Local Government Relations Agreement to provide a foundation for more productive state-local partnerships.	<p>Continue to outline the benefits of a formal partnership in correspondence with the Premier and senior Government Ministers.</p> <p>Proactively identify and pursue opportunities to work collaboratively with the State Government, through its departments and agencies.</p> <p>Develop proposals and seek to enter into agreements for grants and programs that deliver interdependent value for the state government, councils and their communities.</p>	LGA Board

Theme: Financial Sustainability

Local government acknowledges its statutory obligation to be sustainable and that this can only be achieved through attainment and maintenance of financial sustainability.

Objective: Maximise contributions, investment and the appropriate policy settings from other spheres of government to contribute toward local government financial sustainability.

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Federal funding to local government – FAGs	The financial sustainability of councils and their ability to provide essential services and infrastructure in their communities is impacted by the relative decline in core federal funding in the form of Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs).	Restore the quantum of Financial Assistance Grants to at least 1 per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue	<p>Support ALGA in developing a Federal advocacy campaign and promote the use of the campaign in SA.</p> <p>Build third party support from individuals and organisations that would benefit from increased local investment.</p> <p>Use member communications to encourage councils to acknowledge the financial contribution of the Federal Government toward local projects.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to identify projects and services being delivered by councils that support the priorities and objectives of the Federal Government.</p>	LGA Board

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Review of statutory fees, charges and mandatory rebates.	<p>In most cases, the fees and charges that are set by State Government regulations for the provision of services do not cover the cost of providing the service. For example, planning fees only cover between 20-30% of the cost of providing assessment services, with the other 70-80% subsidised by all ratepayers. Setting user fees and charges too low puts pressure on council rates and requires public funds to be used inequitably for private benefits.</p> <p>Where a State Government role or function is to be undertaken by Local Government on the State's behalf (mandated or by agreement) then those roles and functions must come with an appropriate level of funding and/or fees structures which actually recover the cost of service arrangements.</p> <p>Mandatory rebates place inequitable burden on all other ratepayers. Legislative changes are required to ensure that rates are charged equitably across all properties that have capacity to pay their fair share.</p>	<p>Commitment and action from the State Government to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adopt a policy that allows statutory fees and charges to be increased to achieve reasonable recovery of costs. undertake a review of mandatory statutory rebates and exemptions from payment of local government rates. <p>Relevant legislation be amended to remove or recompense councils for state-government mandated discounts on rates for: Community housing / Electricity providers / Religious services / Public cemeteries / Educational purposes.</p>	<p>Continue to outline the need for the State Government to conduct a comprehensive review of local government fees and charges to establish modern price setting principles which promote efficiency, flexibility and fairness in service delivery.</p> <p>Work with interested councils to undertake analysis and prepare an issues paper to inform and advocate for a review of the mandatory rate rebates that councils are compelled to provide; and engage an appropriate economic advisory consultant to prepare a report for government advocating for changes to statutory rate rebates and exemptions in SA.</p> <p>Continue to advocate for legislative changes that would see renewable energy generators paying a fair share of rates to reduce the financial burden on the wider community.</p>	<p>LGA Board</p> <p>GAROC</p> <p>SAROC</p>

Theme: Infrastructure and Assets

The LGA and our member councils recognise that with appropriate funding and partnership opportunities local government can be part of the solution in addressing the infrastructure challenges South Australia faces in ensuring liveable, vibrant and prosperous communities.

Objective: Enable advocacy and partnership opportunities that supports local government to fulfil its responsibilities in a range of public infrastructure and facilities that support families and businesses, create and support economic opportunity and build community inclusion and safety.

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Federal funding of South Australia's local road network	<p>South Australia has 11% of the nation's local roads and 7% of the population but receives only 5.5% of the Identified Local Roads component of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs).</p> <p>Since 2003, successive Federal Governments have allocated supplementary road funding to South Australia as a temporary fix to an unfair funding formula. SA councils need confidence and certainty that this funding is secure over the long term.</p>	Permanent reinstatement of South Australia's supplementary local roads funding – beyond 2021.	<p>Develop an options appraisal and issues paper to support future advocacy.</p> <p>Develop and implement an advocacy campaign at the federal level and leverage ALGA support where required.</p> <p>Support councils to undertake advocacy activities locally.</p> <p>Coordinate a delegation of members to Canberra to engage with representatives and decision makers.</p>	LGA Board
State funding of regional roads – road safety	<p>Local government recognises the importance of State Government investment in the strategic road network for economic and social prosperity.</p> <p>Local government acknowledges its obligation for the maintenance, renewal and safety of local road networks. Councils shall continue to fulfil this obligation recognising the significant obligation of federal/state governments in</p>	Increased State Government funds for the maintenance and upgrade of safe and high-quality regional roads.	<p>Incorporate this issue within the LGA's State Budget Submissions</p> <p>Coordinate advocacy with other peak body associations.</p> <p>Develop and implement actions from the LGASA Guide to Local Government Road Safety Actions and Strategies.</p>	SAROC

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
	providing financial assistance to the sector in discharging these duties.		Support engagement with member councils and liaise with state and federal government agencies to inform their respective Road Safety Strategies and Action Plans.	
Heavy Vehicle National Law – reform implementation	<p>The National Transport Commission (NTC) has undertaken a review of the Heavy Vehicle National Law and its supporting regulations. This may have various implications for councils in their role as local road managers.</p> <p>In May 2021, infrastructure and transport ministers approved a two-year HVNL Safety and Productivity Program to implement reform outcomes from the HVNL review.</p>	Ensure that the new Heavy Vehicle National Law appropriately considers and reflects the role of local government and implications for councils.	<p>Continue to engage with member councils to ensure that LGA advocacy is evidence based and reflects operational considerations.</p> <p>Undertake advocacy on relevant elements of the reform implementation.</p>	LGA Board
Electric Vehicles Fleet Incentives	<p>Local government recognises that electric vehicles provide for potential zero emission transport and reduce negative impacts such as toxic emissions, engine noise and greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Councils, because of their roles and responsibilities as road authorities, infrastructure providers, fleet managers and representatives of their local communities, can support and encourage the use of electric vehicles through their planning, policies, investment and procurement activities.</p>	<p>Federal Government to remove the luxury vehicle tax on electric vehicles and to introduce incentives for local vehicle manufacturing to create local industries to change the Internal combustion fleet to an electric fleet based on renewable, locally produced power.</p> <p>State Government to assist councils convert to an electric vehicle fleet by providing incentives.</p>	Pursue opportunities at the federal and state government level to develop a trial of a subsidy scheme and/or incentives in South Australia, for cars, light commercial vehicles, trucks and buses fueled by alternative energy sources including electric, hybrid and hydrogen vehicles.	LGA Board

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Jetties – State Government funding and maintenance agreements	Local government is seeking to speak with one voice as new lease and funding agreements for jetties are negotiated with the State Government.	Ensure that future lease or other agreements with local government collectively safeguard the future of jetties in South Australia without creating a financial burden on ratepayers, especially in rural and regional areas.	<p>Establish an LGA steering committee of member councils to inform and guide future advocacy.</p> <p>Develop an Issues Paper to clearly articulate the issues, gaps and options for future funding and lease or other arrangements.</p> <p>Seek to meet with and inform stakeholders as appropriate.</p>	LGA Board
Mobile Phone Blackspot – state and federal funding	Regional communities continue to experience poor telecommunications coverage across South Australia. Access to reliable mobile phone and internet connectivity are extremely important to individuals and communities in terms of every-day liveability and emergency services, and also for business operability, viability and sustainability.	Improved telecommunications coverage in regional and remote South Australia.	<p>Identify and map priority blackspot areas in South Australia</p> <p>Identify funding opportunities for councils' submissions.</p> <p>Incorporate funding requests in State and Federal Budget submissions.</p>	SAROC

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Stormwater management—state funding allocations	Although stormwater management is the shared responsibility of state and local governments, responsibility often falls to councils. Local government is limited in its ability to fund stormwater infrastructure or to make decisions that have cross boundary implications.	Improved governance, legislation and funding arrangements to support council responsibilities for infrastructure provision. Work with state government to ensure an integrated approach to planning and for adequate funding of stormwater management and flood mitigation.	Develop issues and discussion paper to inform a review of Stormwater Management Practices in South Australia. Include requests for additional stormwater funding in State Budget submissions.	LGA Board

Theme: Economic Development

Local government acknowledges that ensuring sustainable economic development is a shared responsibility of all spheres of government. Councils contribute identifying and implementing solutions to impacts on economic growth, while highlighting the significant responsibilities of federal and state government.

Objective: Influence federal and state government activities in identifying and implementing programs that promote local aims and produce positive local outcomes.

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Supporting economic development	Local government seeks state and federal funding, policy and legislation that supports economic and social recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.	<p>Reinstatement of the State/Local Government Red Tape Taskforce to ensure government continues to support local business as they recover from the impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>Collaborate with the State Government to advocate and leverage Commonwealth Government strategies that increase capacity for manufacturing within Australia – for example, strengthening local remanufacturing to support an Australian Circular Economy, and incentives for electric vehicle manufacturing and existing fleet upgrades.</p>	<p>Continue to pursue opportunities for advocacy arising from the Federal and state government response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Engage with councils to identify opportunities and share ideas about how to cut red tape costs for business and use this information to make submissions to the SA Productivity Commission's review of the South Australian Regulatory Framework.</p> <p>Work with relevant State Government departments to establish and promote a clear pathway for councils to identify and progress opportunities for investment attraction in local manufacturing.</p>	LGA GAROC

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
			Commission research to inform advocacy to State and Commonwealth Government on the funding programs, incentives and policy settings that are needed to stimulate local manufacturing in metropolitan Adelaide.	
Supporting regional economies	<p>Local government acknowledges the significant role that regional economies play in the economic stability of South Australia. In recognition of the specific needs of the regions, the LGA and councils seek to work with Federal and State Government, Regional Development Australia Boards and key regional stakeholders to support regional economies, particularly as communities seek to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The centralisation of the public service to Adelaide may directly contribute to loss of jobs and residents living and working in regional South Australia - a disconnect that is reflected in centralised policy and decision making. The more the public service is centralised into Adelaide, the more policy decisions are formed through a 'city' lens and the more connection with regional communities is lost.</p>	State and Federal government 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 Covid19 public health emergency and the decentralisation of South Australia's population.	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 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.	LGA Board SAROC

Theme: Community Assets and Services

Local government acknowledges that protecting the health and wellbeing of its communities is a shared responsibility of all tiers of government and recognises the significant contributions that councils make in this area.

Objective: State and Federal Governments recognise and respond to the opportunities to work with councils to improve the quality of life of South Australians by better shaping neighbourhood development, improving infrastructure and access to public services.

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Libraries – state government funding	Libraries are a much loved community facility that provide a range of valued services to people of all ages. Public Library funding is the subject of a 10-year agreement between the State Government and the LGA, which is due to expire in 2021.	Renewal of the State/Local Government libraries funding agreement with no reduction in the level of State Government funding provided.	Design and implement a public awareness campaign to promote the value of libraries. Participate in negotiations with the State Government on behalf of the sector.	LGA Board
Aged Care Reforms – Commonwealth funding	Commonwealth age care reforms have created a high degree of uncertainty for councils and the communities they serve; however, there is a strong sense in our sector that there is an ongoing role for local government in supporting the needs of people as they get older.	Councils are sufficiently supported by the Commonwealth Government to provides a basic level of aged care services to support continued independence for people aged 65 and over living at home and delaying entry to more expensive residential care.	Seek opportunities to continue to advocate for going funding for those councils seeking to continue to provide services.	LGA Board
Lack of medical services in regional areas	The ongoing lack of medical services in regional areas means that councils are being relied upon to provide front-line medical services. This comes at a cost to ratepayers and can detract from councils' efforts to	Improved health services in regional and rural Australia – less reliance on local government intervention.	Continue to advocate to the Federal and State Governments for the provision of improved health services. Support for progression of a key action from the Rural	SAROC

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
	provide and maximise the benefits of community preventative health activities.		Medical Workforce Plan 2019-2024 by working with the Rural Support Service to investigate how to maximise the personal and family supports provided to rural doctors by assisting efforts in housing, transport costs and childcare, and support for partners and families, including social and community supports.	
Dog and Cat Management issues	<p>In 2022, there will be a legislated review of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.</p> <p>Dog and cat management issues impact on councils across the State and have the potential to impact on council resourcing requirements.</p> <p>Under current legislation, each council can determine the resources they put towards cat management and the by-laws they enact to support cat management operations. Councils make decisions based upon available resources, community expectations and competing funding priorities.</p>	<p>That cat management laws be consistent across local government jurisdictions whilst recognising resource limitations and operational realities of regional councils in administering the Act.</p> <p>That State Government through the Dog and Cat Management Board leads legislative reform including community consultation on cat management issues including registration and containment.</p>	Facilitate local government discussion relating to improved cat management laws to support greater consistency across local government jurisdictions in terms of administration of the Act and with a view towards legislative reforms on registration and containment and the powers of council authorised officers.	LGA Board SAROC

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Family and Domestic Violence training, education and development	<p>Family and domestic violence is a complex, serious and widespread problem in Australia, with individual and community impacts and social costs. However, it is also ultimately preventable.</p> <p>Councils play a role in creating safe public environments and can provide leadership across their communities in prevention of violence by promoting gender equity and equal and respectful relationships between men and women.</p>	As large employers, councils can influence and change workplace cultures to promote gender equity and the safety of women.	<p>Consult with member councils to determine what resources and programs currently exist to support employees and/or members of their communities impacted by Family and Domestic Violence and identify any further resources which should be developed.</p> <p>Liaise with the State and Federal Government to explore partnership opportunities to support the local government sector in providing consistent, best practice support and education to employees on matters relating to Family and Domestic Violence.</p>	LGA Board

Theme: Planning and Development

The LGA and our member councils recognise local government's role in future planning and development, and the importance of using planning processes to obtain enhanced planning and design outcomes for communities.

Objective: The State Government recognises the important role councils play and implements a fair, equitable and balanced planning system that facilitates high quality, sustainable and economically viable development.

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Planning Reform and implementation of the PDI Act	<p>The LGA has consistently advocated for a planning system that is accessible, integrated, accountable and supports local participation and decision making. Quality design outcomes are a hallmark of a great planning system.</p> <p>Local government acknowledges the benefits of an improved planning system and shall continue to liaise with state government on implementation of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016, through positive collaboration and mutual respect, and shall lobby against aspects of implementation in the Act that are not in the best interests of local communities.</p>	State Government recognition of the quality planning and design standards expected by local government and our residents that complement and preserve the fabric of local communities.	<p>Continue to host member forums and workshops that facilitate the exchange of information between councils and AGD and the State Planning Commission.</p> <p>Represent the views of local government on the Minister's Liaison Group.</p> <p>Provide regular briefings to key stakeholders and engage with industry groups to seek a range of perspectives.</p> <p>Make submissions on all key documents during the implementation of the new system.</p> <p>Make public statements that highlight the key issues of councils and communities.</p>	<p>LGA Board</p> <p>GAROC</p>

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Heritage and Contributory Items	Local government recognises the benefits of protecting our heritage while emphasising that classification of 'heritage' and 'conservation' status should be made locally, on the basis of evidence. Local government will oppose the implementation of policies that lack a sufficiently robust evidence base.	Local government interests on local heritage issues are fully represented, including community participation in heritage listing process and more robust heritage management, in any forthcoming State Government reviews or strategies.	<p>Advocate for the State Planning Commission to prepare an amended to the Planning and Design Code to include Representative Buildings as an Overlay to enable them to be clearly identified in the Code.</p> <p>Facilitate ongoing engagement between metropolitan councils and the State Planning Commission to identify opportunities to strengthen the Planning and Design Code in relation to heritage and historic character protection.</p>	GAROC
Infill Development	Local government recognises the need to contain urban sprawl. However, the increased densities resulting from infill development have placed additional pressure on services and infrastructure. In particular, member councils have raised issues associated with traffic management, carparking, stormwater management, loss of trees, provision of open space, privacy, overshadowing and design quality in relation to infill development.	<p>South Australia's planning system reflects leading practice and that the Planning and Design Code and associated instruments deliver quality planning and design outcomes that improve the amenity, liveability and sustainability of communities.</p> <p>Councils to be engaged at the design stage of State Government infrastructure projects to ensure good urban</p>	<p>Engage with the State Government and State Planning Commission on the preparation of Design Standards for infrastructure in the public realm.</p> <p>Undertake forums and workshops with council staff on draft Design Standards to seek feedback.</p> <p>Provide submissions and influence outcomes through GAROC on draft Design</p>	GAROC

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
		<p>design and coordinated, holistic placemaking that supports better outcomes as infill development occurs.</p> <p>The State Planning Commission's review Open Space and the Planning and Development Fund determines financial models that are more equitable and appropriate for councils experiencing higher volumes of infill development.</p>	<p>Standards developed with input from councils.</p> <p>Engage with metropolitan councils and undertake research to develop an LGA policy position on the preferred financial model within the Planning and Development Fund.</p>	
Non-compliant Building Cladding	The Grenfell Tower fire (London, 2017) highlighted the risk to public health and safety from non-compliant aluminium cladding on buildings.	An appropriate response from all spheres of government that properly informs but does not alarm the community unnecessarily and protects the interests of local government by determining steps for any remedial work by building owners to address problems with their buildings.	Continue to liaise with the State Government to ensure that councils are informed of future developments and are kept up to date with reliable expert advice when available.	LGA Board

Theme: Environment and Natural Resources

The LGA and our member councils appreciate local government's role in protecting the environment, managing the risks of climate change, and the importance of managing waste.

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

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
Climate Change – leadership, risk management and state of climate emergency	<p>The LGA Climate Commitment Action Plan 2021-23, recognises that responding to climate change is a shared responsibility across all levels of government and society.</p> <p>As the peak representative body for South Australia's councils, the LGA has an important role to advocate for urgent and sustained action to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. This will occur through direct advocacy to governments, partnerships, representation on influential decision-making bodies, and by raising awareness of the role and value of councils in managing climate risks.</p>	<p>State Government commitments that support councils, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of their Climate Change Action Plan 2021 -25 • State-Local Government Climate Change Partnership Proposal • Renewal of the Regional Climate Partnerships – Sector Agreements • Greater funding for councils to reduce their community emissions profiles, for climate risk management, waste management, coastal management and stormwater management. • Better recognition of and response to climate change in the Planning and Design Code 	<p>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> <p>Consult with member councils to determine climate change risk and management priorities.</p> <p>Review and update the “Managing the Risks of Climate Change” statements in the LGA Policy Manual based on recent science, evidence and practice.</p> <p>Increase awareness of the role and value of councils in managing climate risks through the LGA's ongoing awareness campaigns and</p>	LGA Board

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater support for the Electric Vehicle Strategy. <p>Greater Commonwealth Government funding and action on climate change, including funded schemes and incentives to support the uptake of electric vehicles.</p> <p>–</p>	<p>stakeholder engagement actions.</p> <p>Advocate for greater support for councils to address climate change via the local government members on the Premier's Climate Change Council.</p> <p>Ensure all relevant LGA Advocacy submissions address climate change impact.</p> <p>Pursue opportunities to work collaboratively with government agencies and other organisations with aligned goals and values on projects, programs and campaigns that will assist local government action on climate change.</p> <p>Maintain a high level of engagement with and participation in the Adaptation Practitioners Network.</p> <p>Continue to develop and maintain a productive working relationship with the Department for Water and Environment and Green Adelaide to ensure that the</p>	

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			LGA continues to host the central climate change coordinator roles that underpin the Regional Climate Partnerships and the state/local government Adaptation Practitioners Network.	
Waste & Recycling	<p>The LGA's Waste Action Plan identifies local, state and federal actions required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stabilise the waste industry • ensure the ongoing commercial viability of recycling services; and <p>establish a circular economy as a means of achieving sustainability in waste management.</p>	<p>That the State Government commits:</p> <p>50% of the monies accumulated in the Green Industry Fund (collected from council contributions to the Solid Waste Levy) be committed back to local government for worthwhile waste, recycling and resource recovery endeavours that support the transition towards a more circular economy.</p> <p>a guaranteed minimum level of reinvestment of the Solid Waste Levy in the waste, recycling and resource recovery sector;</p> <p>to ongoing research and development in collaboration with local government and other stakeholders into alternative waste technologies and strategies such as organics</p>	<p>Continue to outline the impacts of the increased levy on councils and ratepayers, via the LGA public awareness campaign.</p> <p>Provide regular briefings to state and federal members of Parliament to build support for local government's position.</p> <p>Commission independent research into the waste, recycling and resource recovery industry in South Australia and the role of SA local government organisations (councils and council authorities).</p> <p>Seek opportunities to continue to advocate for the stated outcomes.</p> <p>Make public statements that highlight the key issues of councils and communities.</p>	<p>LGA Board</p> <p>GAROC</p> <p>SAROC</p>

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
		<p>composting for food waste; kerbside collection technologies/strategies to incentivise households to maximise recycling rates and minimise the amount of general waste going to landfill; and</p> <p>Green Industries SA to expand its Waste Education/Awareness campaign to provide clear messaging on recycling and organic waste strategies to help the South Australian community.</p> <p>Green Industries SA to work more closely with local government and businesses in the development of sustainable economy, including making a lot more funding available and substantially increases funding in the waste and resource recovery infrastructure program.</p>	Develop a partnership proposal and negotiate with Green Industries SA on a renewed Service Level Agreement with the LGA.	
Wine Bottles – Container Deposit Scheme	<p>Local government recognises its statutory obligation of managing municipal waste and its vital role in waste resource recovery.</p> <p>Councils continue to promote improved waste management practices in accordance with the waste hierarchy and work with</p>	Determine if there is sufficient support across local government to request the State Government amend the Container Deposit Legislation (incorporated into the Environment Protection Act 1993) to include wine bottles,	Continue to be actively involved in the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) review process, which is currently ongoing, including through membership of the EPA Stakeholder Reference Group for the review.	LGA Board

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
	<p>residents and businesses to further limit the creation of waste.</p> <p>Currently wine bottles are not included in SA's Container Deposit Scheme. The LGA has worked with councils to review the benefits and risks of including wine bottles in Container Deposit Legislation to determine a strong advocacy position and commissioned a waste audit and economic analysis on recycling costs for councils.</p>	and to achieve consistency with the treatment of other glass bottles in the waste stream, an increase in the recycling of bottles, and a reduction in the contamination of other recycled waste caused by broken glass.		
Overabundant Species – Little Corellas	Overabundant species, such as Little Corella populations across several council areas, are causing significant impact to councils that need to expend substantial resources being in deterring and managing a wide range of issues.	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.	Advocate for and provide input to the SA Strategy for the Management of Little Corellas.	SAROC
Coastal Management	<p>The task of protecting and maintaining South Australia's coastal assets is beyond the funding capacity of coastal councils.</p> <p>South Australia's coastline is enjoyed by the broader community, as well as visitors to the State, so funding the upkeep of our coastal areas must be a shared responsibility.</p>	Equitable funding from Federal and State Government for coastal management works across South Australia.	<p>Include coastal management issues in submissions to Government, including budget submissions.</p> <p>Support the work of the South Australian Coastal Councils Alliance in researching issues and funding models and advocating for change.</p>	<p>LGA Board</p> <p>SAROC</p> <p>GAROC</p>

Issue	Position	Outcome sought	Key actions	Lead body
National Water Policy	<p>Local government recognises its obligation to conserve water resources, protect water quality, provide water for the environment and effectively manage storm and flood water. Councils contribute to improving water management infrastructure and processes, notwithstanding the responsibilities of federal and state governments.</p> <p>A National Water Policy is required that seeks to address the major challenges Australia faces in ensuring sustainable water supply in the face of increased climate variability and rising demand for water. In response, the Australian Government provides national leadership in water reform.</p>	Federal Government provides national leadership in water reform and makes a commitment to a national water policy.	Facilitate local government discussion relating to water policy including advocating for a national water policy.	SAROC