

# SAROC Annual Business Plan 2019-2020



## 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 2019-2020

<b>Theme 1: Economic Development</b>				
<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>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Link to SAROC role</b>
Lobby the Commonwealth and State Government to develop and implement initiatives that will assist with the growth and development of regional South Australia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tour of the region hosted by SAROC for Federal MPs to highlight regional roads which would benefit from increased supplementary road funding.</li> <li>• The Minister for Regional Development has been invited and attended a SAROC meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an advocacy strategy has been developed and implemented as agreed by SAROC</li> </ul>	\$2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Advocacy</li> <li>• Leadership</li> </ul>
Continue to advocate to the State and Commonwealth Governments for the decentralisation of South Australia's population to support regional South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population carrying capacity and infrastructure needs (including social) identified</li> <li>• Representation to relevant Commonwealth and State MP's, Committee and Inquires provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry capacity of the regions identified by December 2019</li> <li>• Commonwealth and State Government policy and programs support increasing regional SA population</li> </ul>	To be undertaken from within existing LGA resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Advocacy</li> <li>• Leadership</li> </ul>

## 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	Measurement	Budget	Link to SAROC role
Lobby the Commonwealth and State Governments for the provision of improved health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Minister of Health and the CEO of Country Health have been invited and attended a SAROC meeting</li> <li>Health service needs of regional communities understood.</li> <li>A rural/regional workforce policy and plan for whole of states regions developed in conjunction with regional LGA's and councils.</li> <li>Sustainable health models for small communities developed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an advocacy strategy has been developed and implemented as agreed by SAROC</li> <li>The health service needs of regional communities identified by 30 June 2020</li> <li>Research to identify sustainable health models for small communities undertaken.</li> <li>Investigations into the development of a regional workforce policy and plan commenced.</li> </ul>	\$25,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Advocacy</li> <li>Leadership</li> <li>Policy Initiation and Review</li> </ul>
Work with the State Government and Green Industries SA to develop education materials to support increased recycling and reduced waste to landfill in regional communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State wide education program developed and released by the State Government in 2019.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Increase in materials being recycled with less contamination and reduced amount of waste going to landfill is able to be measured in</li> </ul>	Funding opportunities from GISA to be identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy Initiation and Review</li> <li>Engagement and Capacity Building in the</li> </ul>

		future years		Regions
Continue to advocate to Commonwealth and State governments for improved telecommunications coverage in regional and remote South Australia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priority blackspot areas in South Australia identified and mapped.</li> <li>Funding opportunities identified and submissions for funding made.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an advocacy strategy has been developed and implemented as agreed by SAROC</li> <li>Level of funding received exceeds level of previous years</li> </ul>	To be undertaken from within existing LGA resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Advocacy</li> <li>Leadership</li> </ul>
<b>Theme 3: Natural and Built Environment</b>				
<b><i>Objective: Influence, inform and advocate for the State Government to address policy and legislative barriers that prevent councils from maintaining and enhancing the natural and built environment in regional South Australia.</i></b>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Link to SAROC role</b>
Facilitate the development of Joint Planning Boards by councils and assist with the sharing of information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information relating to establishing joint planning board is shared between councils and regions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of councils participating in Joint Planning Boards</li> </ul>	To be undertaken from within existing LGA resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy Initiation and Review</li> <li>Engagement and Capacity Building in the Regions</li> </ul>
Participate in the NRM reform process and advocate on behalf of regional councils on the draft Landscapes SA Bill and its implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAROC has advocated on behalf of regional councils on the draft Landscapes SA Bill and its implementation.</li> <li>The Minister for Environment and Water has been invited and attended a SAROC meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an advocacy strategy has been developed and implemented as agreed by SAROC</li> </ul>	To be undertaken from within existing LGA resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Advocacy</li> <li>Leadership</li> </ul>
Continue to advocate to the State Government for the management and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding sought to undertake a study into biological solutions for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding application is successful</li> </ul>	Funding source TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Advocacy</li> </ul>

control of native abundant species	<p>Little Corellas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAROC has written to the relevant Commonwealth and State Government Ministers to support the replacement of the Dog proof fence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an advocacy strategy has been developed and implemented as agreed by SAROC</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leadership</li> </ul>
Support the work and resourcing of the Coastal Councils Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarterly reports to be provided by the Coastal Council Alliance on actions and activities undertaken by the Alliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an advocacy strategy has been developed and implemented as agreed by SAROC</li> <li>Number of councils engaged</li> </ul>	\$25,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement and Capacity Building in the Regions</li> </ul>
Facilitate local government discussion relating to water policy including advocating for a national water policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An annual meeting of the MDA member councils is held to discuss issues relating to water policy, prior to the MDA AGM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of councils engaged</li> </ul>	\$2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Advocacy</li> <li>Leadership</li> </ul>

#### 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	Measurement	Budget	Link to SAROC role
Develop a regional waste management strategy to enable the coordination of waste and recycling infrastructure across regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft regional waste management strategy completed for consultation purposes by 30 June 2020</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level of funding received from the State government to support the implementation of the strategy</li> </ul>	<p>Funding opportunities from GISA to be identified</p> <p>\$30,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Advocacy</li> </ul>

<p>Progress the development of a joint agreement between councils and DPTI to enable the establishment of an efficient road maintenance program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft agreement developed and consulted on by 30 June 2020</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take up of the agreement by councils</li> </ul>	<p>\$5000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement and Capacity Building in the Regions</li> </ul>

## Regional LGA Work Plans

The network of regional Local Government Associations across South Australia plays a vital role in supporting and advocating for local government and regional communities. As there is a strong connection and a shared membership between regional LGAs and SAROC, there is a significant amount of alignment between the strategic objectives of SAROC and the work plans and priorities of regional LGAs. While these projects will be progressed and resources separately from the SAROC Annual Business Plan, it is important that SAROC and the LGA have a complete picture of the work that is proposed to occur across the local government sector that furthers the strategic objectives of SAROC. As such, SAROC provides an opportunity for regional LGAs, as required, to bring forward items of business for discussion and debate and for information sharing and engagement on the key matters being progressed by regional LGAs that are of interest or benefit to regional councils.