



NOTICE OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 15 October 2024
in the Council Chambers, 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa,
commencing at 5.30pm.

A recording of the meeting will be available to view on the
Council's website.



Martin McCarthy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
THE BAROSSA COUNCIL

A G E N D A

Welcome by Mayor

1. ATTENDANCE RECORD

1.1 Members Present

Apologies

Nil

Not Present

Nil

Leave of Absence

Nil

2 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 Minutes of previous meetings – for confirmation:

2.1.1 Council meeting held on Tuesday 17 September 2024 at 5.30pm

2.2 Matters arising from previous minutes

Nil

3 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

3.1 Petitions

Nil

3.2 Deputations/Visitors to the meeting

Nil

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9. URGENT OTHER BUSINESS

10. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 19 November 2024 at 5.30pm

11. CLOSURE

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

3.3 NOTICE OF MOTION

3.3.1 CR HURN - REMOVAL OF TREES

From: Councillor Tony Hurn
24/89751

PURPOSE

To debate the Notice of Motion (NoM) put forward by Cr Hurn to remove two mature trees in Angas Street Tanunda and Jonathon Avenue Nuriootpa.

NOTICE OF MOTION RECOMMENDATION

That Council instruct the Chief Executive Officer to remove trees at both 44 Angas Street, Tanunda and 13 Jonathan Ave, Nuriootpa forthwith.

REPORT

A NoM motion was received on Monday 7 October 2024 within the prescribed timeframe for the prestation of the notice at the October meeting of Council.

The NoM and rationale is at the [Attachment](#).

Please note due to the timing of the notice and release of the agenda officers will provide a report on actions to date and tree health and safety prior to the Council meeting and table it as part of the meeting processes.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Notice of Motion - Cr Hurn - Tree Removal [↓](#) 

Supporting references

Nil

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Corporate Plan

BS5 Enterprise Risk - Strategic and operational risk assessment, control and monitoring; internal control and audit; business continuity and disaster recovery planning; organisational emergency management; insurance portfolio management; and Work Health Safety system coordination

Legislative Requirements

Section 12 of the Local Government Act (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013

FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

To be advised.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

None has been undertaken or requested by the Notice of Motion.

Notice of Motion

“That council staff be instructed to remove trees at both 44 Angas Street, Tanunda and 13 Jonathon Ave, Nuriootpa forthwith.”

Rationale

George and Chritine **Badrice of 44 Angas Street**, have been in conversation with council staff for the removal of the tree in front of his home for some time. The roots are cracking his driveway, lifting the gate, and lifting the path in the front of their lounge.

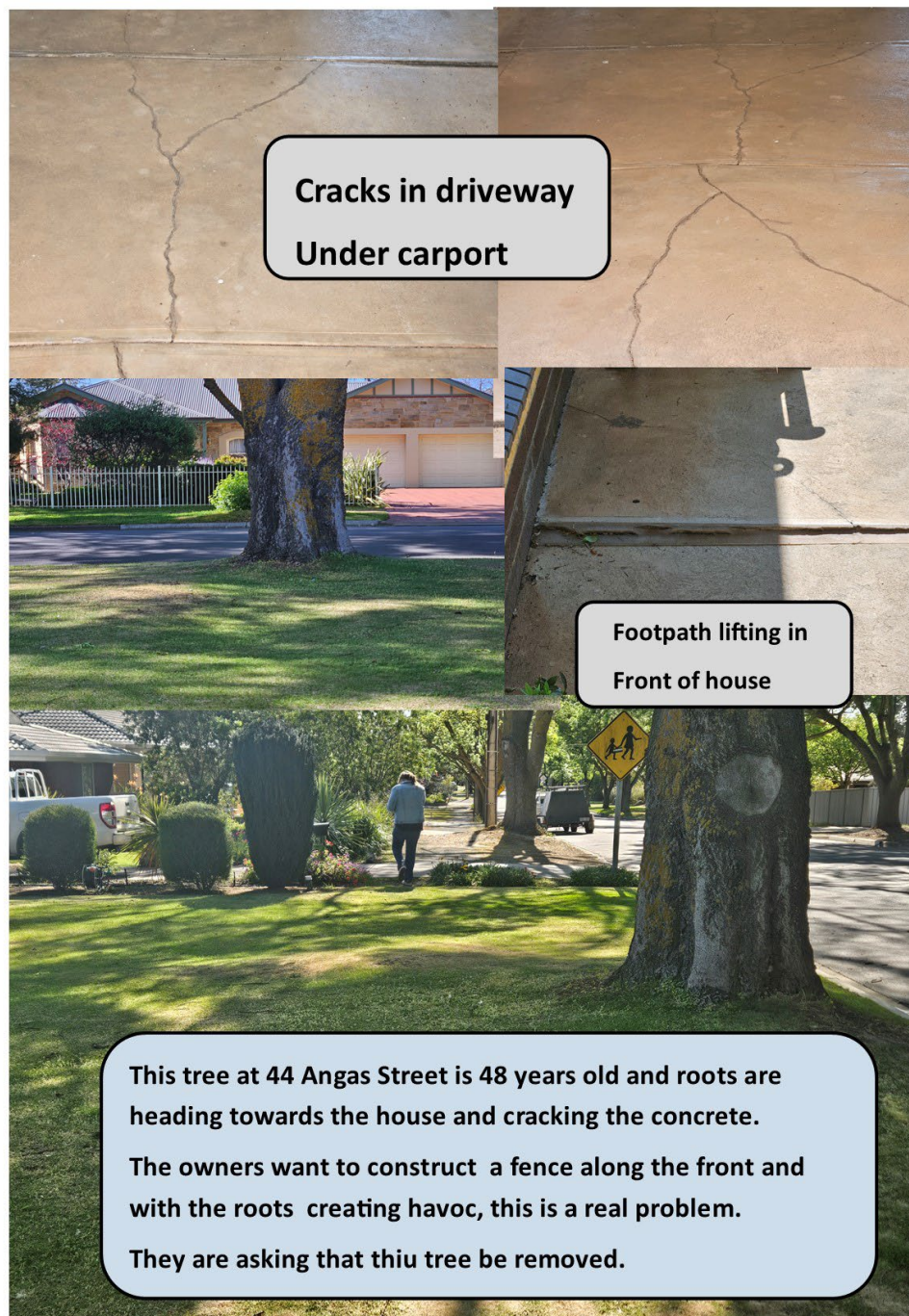
The house has wooden floors and he believes that the roots will be going under his home. I have seen roots in the property located at **13 Jonathon Ave**, as thick as my arm, going under that home.....so the argument could be applied to the Angas Street property as well. When digging a trench on Sunday 6th. October, at the Jonathon Ave property, they encountered roots **up to approximately 9 inches thick**.

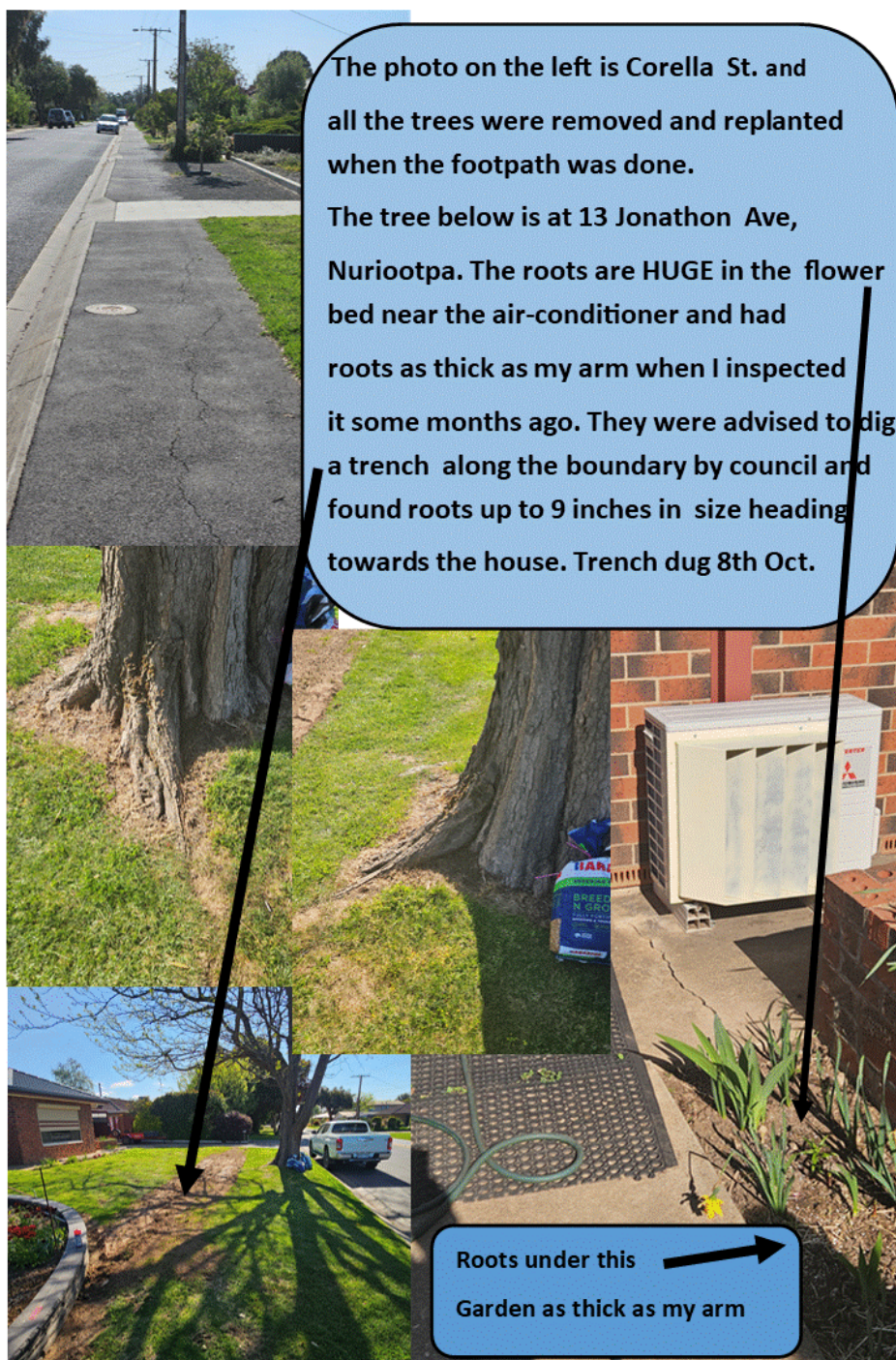
Council has a policy of not removing healthy trees, which is understandable, but if they are causing damage to the property and stress to the owners, then serious consideration should be made. **Corella street in Nuriootpa** is an example where I believe all the **mature trees** on the Eastern side were removed and a brand new footpath was laid.

New trees were planted and is a clear example of no fuss and “on with the job” when it suits. I can add a few more examples. When the Council Works Depot in Angaston was sold, several **Very Old gum trees were removed** and many truckloads of timber were disposed of to allow for several housing blocks. (no fuss here).

Council can remove trees at will, under the guise of progress, but if a ratepayer dares ask that a tree be removed under progress for them, then it, on most occasions, becomes an issue. **The Nuriootpa Bowling Club tree removal issue** was a NO, but after common sense prevailed after healthy discussion and reasoning, the trees were removed and a huge improvement was made to the area.

These two ratepayers have issues relating to roots damaging their properties and I feel commonsense should prevail and the trees be removed forthwith.





Mayor's Report - October Meeting 2024

24/89655

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

9/09/2024 Barossa and Gawler Football Association – Schulter Medal Count Function, Vine Inn Nuriootpa.

10/09/2024 Concordia site meeting with Urban Design Team with Natasha Weedon, Senior Strategy Advisor and Steve Kaesler, Manager Engineering Services.

11/09/2024 Concordia Major Design and Stakeholder Engagement Workshop.

Attendees were representing:

The Barossa Council staff – CEO, Martin McCarthy, Director Development and Community Services – Jake McVicar, Manager, Development Services – Aaron Curtis, Manager Infrastructure and Environmental Services - Glen Carter, Natasha Weedon - Senior Strategy Advisor.

Metro Homes

Concordia Land Trust

Planning Land Use Services

Barossa Council

Gawler Council

Light Regional Council

Regional Development Australia

SA Housing Trust

Office of Design and Architecture SA

Department for Infrastructure and Transport

SA Water

SA Power Networks

Electra Net

Department for Education SA

Department for Human Services

Department of Health

Infrastructure SA

Green Adelaide/Stormwater Authority

Water Sensitive SA

AECOM Transport Consultants

AECOM Social Infrastructure

Tonkin Stormwater Consultants

12/09/2024 Photo promotion for Council's approved sealing of Neldner Road - Tanunda Road with local resident Shane Kraft.

13/09/2024 Attended with CEO, Martin McCarthy (AFL Invitation - 2024 Second Semi-Final Adelaide Oval).

14/09/2024 Represented Council at the Maralinga Grass. 51st Annual Event – A Night of Music.

- 16/09/2024 Attended Eden Valley Tourism AGM, also attending was Cr Jane Evans.
- 17/10/2024 Meeting with representatives from the Collingrove Hill Climbing Event - Promoting the event and advising grant funding received by the organisation to seal the entrance road and event track.
- 23/09/2024 Meeting with World Cup Rugby representatives and Barossa Rams representatives to discuss the 2027 World Cup opportunities for the Barossa in hosting a team.

Welcomed and represented Council at Château Yaldara (1847) Mr Gow, the Chairman of the board and Delegate from COFCO Wines and Spirits.

COFCO Wine & Spirits focuses on consumers, adheres to brand leading, deepening reform and strict management of enterprises, deeply promotes product innovation, marketing innovation and management innovation, optimizes product structure, creates super single product combination, improves brand influence and market competitiveness, and strives to build COFCO Wine & Spirits into "the best comprehensive alcoholic drinks company in China" to meet the growing demand of consumers' growth of a better life and achieve high-quality business development.



24/09/2024 Attended with Steve Kaesler, Manager Engineering Services the Southern Barossa Business Alliance meeting regarding tourism signage options.

25/09/2024 Photo Promotion for the upcoming Touch Rugby Football Season.

Attended and represented Council at the Barossa Light and Gawler Umpires Association - 2024 Grand Final Dinner and Presentation



Councillor's Report to Council – Deputy Mayor Kathryn Schilling - 15 October Meeting 2024

24/89791

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

13/09/2024 Launch of the annual Adelaide German Week 13th September 2024 - Eröffnungsfeier (Opening Fire).

The Barossa holds an event during this week organised by the Barossa German Language, Barossa-Deutsch Konzert.

It was great to meet a very enthusiastic group of people and hear about trade opportunities between South Australia and Germany and the relationship between the early German settlers in South Australia and their assistance with documenting the Aboriginal language



Steffi Traeger president Barossa German Language Association and Samuel Doering historian.

1/10/2024 Torbreck Hillside Vineyard Opening - Fantastic to see our heritage preserved at this Lyndoch vineyard where the first vines were planted in 1849 and the 2nd winery to be established in the region.

The ironstone buildings have been restored into accommodation and hospitality spaces in a charming setting.



Connie Banaros, Member SA Parliament and Ian Hongell Head Winemaker

6/10/2024

Community Helpers 25 Anniversary Lunch 6th October 2024.
Great celebration of a volunteer based small business that has put back into our community over \$3 million by recycling household goods.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 NORTHERN AND YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - ANNUAL REPORT INCORPORATING THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2023-2024 FINANCIAL YEAR

**Author: Chief Executive Officer
24/86605**

The final and endorsed annual report incorporating the annual financial statements for the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association (previously Legatus) are hereby table for information. The report and accounts will be incorporated into Councils annual report and annual financial statements as required.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Northern and Yorke Local Government Association Annual Report for 2023-2024 Financial Year [↓](#)

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil



**NORTHERN
& YORKE**
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION

FY 23/24

ANNUAL REPORT

The Central Local Government Region was established in 1998 under Section 200 of the Local Government Act 1934 as a controlling authority and continues in existence as a regional subsidiary of the Local Government Act 1999.

In 2024 the Central Local Government Region of South Australia adopted the trading name of Northern and Yorke Local Government Association (N&YLGA) to which it is now referred.



F24 ANNUAL REPORT

THE NORTHERN AND YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (NYLGA) CHARTER CLAUSE 6.3 ANNUAL REPORT

- 6.3.1 *The N&YLGA must each year, produce an Annual Report summarising the activities, achievements and financial performance of the N&YLGA for the preceding Financial Year.*
- 6.3.2 *The Annual Report must incorporate the audited financial statements of the N&YLGA for the relevant Financial Year.*
- 6.3.3 *The Annual Report must be provided to the Constituent Councils by 30 September each year.*

The Central Local Government Region was established in 1998 under Section 200 of the Local Government Act 1934 as a controlling authority. It now continues in existence as a regional subsidiary of its member Councils under Part 2 of Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 1999 by the provisions of Section 25 of the Local Government (Implementation) Act 1999.

In 2016 the Central Local Government Region of South Australia adopted the trading name of Legatus Group and at their February 2024 Ordinary Meeting they adopted the trading name of Northern and Yorke Local Government Association.

The N&YLGA is a body corporate and is governed by a Board of Management which has the responsibility to manage all activities of the group and ensure that they act in accordance with its Charter.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Email: ceo@nylga.sa.gov.au
Website: <https://nylga.sa.gov.au/>



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board consists of all principal members (Mayors) of the Constituent Councils which for 2023/2024 were:

COUNCIL	DELEGATE
Adelaide Plains Council	Mayor Mark Wasley
Barunga West Council	Mayor Leonie Kerley
Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council	Mayor Allan Aughey OAM
Copper Coast Council	Mayor Roslyn Talbot
District Council of Mount Remarkable	Mayor Stephen McCarthy
District Council of Orreroo Carrieton	Mayor Grant Chapman
District Council of Peterborough	Mayor Ruth Whittle OAM
Light Regional Council	Mayor Bill O'Brien
Northern Areas Council	Mayor Sue Scarman
Port Pirie Regional Council	Mayor Leon Stephens
Regional Council of Goyder	Mayor Bill Gebhardt
The Barossa Council	Mayor Bim Lange OAM
The Flinders Ranges Council	Mayor Ken Anderson
Wakefield Regional Council	Mayor Rodney Reid
Yorke Peninsula Council	Mayor Darren Braund

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2023/24

Chairman	Mayor Rodney Reid
Deputy Chairs	Mayor Bill O'Brien Mayor Ken Anderson
South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils	Mayor Bill O'Brien Mayor Rodney Reid
Chief Executive Officer	Mr Simon Millcock
Auditor	Dean Newbery and Partners

The following meetings of the Board of Management were held during the 2023/24 year:

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| • 25 August 2023 | Annual General Meeting | Peterborough |
| • 25 August 2023 | Ordinary General Meeting | Peterborough |
| • 1 December 2023 | Ordinary General Meeting | Balaklava |
| • 15 December 2023 | Special General Meeting | Online |
| • 23 February 2024 | Ordinary General Meeting | Ardrossan |
| • 7 June 2024 | Ordinary General Meeting | Quorn |

There were four advisory committees in 2023/2024

- Audit and Risk Management Committee
- Road Transport and Infrastructure Advisory Committee
- Waste Management Advisory Committee
- Community Wastewater Management Advisory Committee

All agendas and minutes from the Board meetings and these committees are published on the N&YLGA Website.

All advisory committee minutes were provided with the agendas to the Legatus Group meetings.

The Constituent Councils are provided during the year with Board Agendas, Minutes, Annual Report, Business Plan, Budget and Financial Reports.

COMMITTEE	MEMBERS
Audit Committee	• Mayor Rodney Reid (Wakefield) • Mayor Stephen McCarthy (Mt Remarkable) • Mr Stephen Rufus (Chair) (Peterborough / Port Pirie) • Mr Ian McDonald (Independent) • Mr Peter Ackland (Port Pirie until 10 November 2023)
Road & Transport Infrastructure Advisory Committee	• Dr Helen Macdonald (Clare & Gilbert Valleys) (Chair) • Mayor Leon Stephens (Port Pirie) • Lee Wallis (Goyder) • Steve Kaesler (Barossa) • Tim Neumann (Copper Coast) • Andre Kompler (Yorke Peninsula) • Russell Troupe (Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure) • Daniel Willson (CEO RDA YMN) • Stuart Roberts (Wakefield) • Mitchell Foote (Flinders Ranges) • Scott Reid (Northern Areas)
Waste Management Advisory Committee	• Mayor Mark Wasley (Adelaide Plains) (Chair) • Simon Neumann (Copper Coast), • Tom Jones (Adelaide Plains) • Robyn Ridsdale (Barossa) • Glen Growden (Wakefield Regional) • Andre Kompler (Yorke Peninsula) • Megan Renzella (Light Regional)
Community Wastewater Management Advisory Committee	• Mayor Leon Stephens (Port Pirie) (Chair) • Gary Easthope (Clare and Gilbert Valleys) • Grant Smith (Yorke Peninsula) • Nathan Berry (Light) • Kirsty Morgan (Wakefield)



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

MAYOR RODNEY REID

The past 12 months have been a time of review and consolidation.

This included the change of name from the Legatus Group to the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association.

Following an initial review of the strategic plan in the previous year the board contracted BRM Advisory to undertake a further review of the strategic plan, the charter and the CEO's position. Lisa Teburea from BRM Advisory led the process for these reviews which included a series of workshops, surveys and one on one interviews. Along with the CEO I met with member councils throughout the year to provide updates on the process and outcomes.

Member councils were provided with the draft review of the charter and the strategic plan and at the February 2024 ordinary meeting the board noted the majority of the Constituent Councils had approved the Charter variations and the Strategic Plan Framework report and they adopted the recommendations.

Along with the change of name the major outcome was to transition to a new business planning framework in 2024-25, which introduces a rolling four-year Business Plan to be reviewed annually. The Business Plan will incorporate the functions of a Strategic Plan, Action Plan, Long-Term Financial Plan and Annual Business Plan and be used to inform an annual Budget. The June 2024 meeting endorsed the Business Plan for 2024/2025 after consultation with members.

The key 3 focus areas endorsed by the board are:

1 - ADVOCATE

- Harnesses and leverages the strength of fifteen Councils speaking together with a united and powerful voice to advocate for better outcomes of the region.

2 – COORDINATE

- Councils and partners work together through Legatus on issues, actions and outcomes that can be sensibly, efficiently and effectively progressed at a regional level to provide benefits to members.

3 – OPERATE

- To operate effectively in accordance with legislative requirements and delivers value to its members.
- The changes have seen the formation of an Executive Committee which includes the Chair, Deputy Chairs, CEO and a member council CEO plus councils now able to appoint a proxy for meetings.
- The board approved an extension of the CEO Simon Millcock's contract until December 2024. In March 2024 the final report on the review of the CEO position was distributed seeking comments from all Mayors and CEOs. This followed a workshop held by Lisa Teburea.
- At the June 2024 board meeting a report was provided on the review along with recommendations by the CEO Performance review panel. The recommendations of the review were accepted which included the CEO position becoming a .8FTE and the board agreed to advertise for the position of CEO.

Clarification continues on the Barunga West Council notice of their withdrawal of membership which is due to come into effect in October 2024.

The board after the previous five years of no significant increase in membership fees saw the need in 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 to increase fees above CPI to ensure that its agreed targets of 18 months of operational expenses held in reserves in its long term financial plan. Plus, this year there was a levy introduced from successful SLRP councils which goes towards the regional roads plan. The board continues to be in a sound financial position.

Advocating on regional and state-wide issues which included:

- Continued support for rating equity associated with major energy producers
- Wellbeing and Mental Health
- Community Wastewater Management Schemes which saw a review and CWMS reform program
- Adoption of Northern and Yorke Drought Resilience Plan in partnership with Regional Development Australia Organisations and the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board
- The role of Regional LGAs and SAROC
- Increased funding for Special Local Roads Program (SLRP)
- Support to the Flinders Ranges Council re their issues on water quality
- Support to the Orroroo Carrieton Council opposition to the model Fee Structure being set by ESCOSA
- Cessation of the management of unwanted stray, lost and surrendered pets by the Animal Welfare League
- Report to LGA on councils responses to Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 Breeder Reforms

The board meetings have allowed member councils to bring matters of interest to the table including issues around the Local Government elections and topics by councils at LGA and ALGA meetings. The board meetings continue to provide an opportunity for councils to test their issues before progressing further.

Support at a regional and state level with forums has also included:

- SA CWMS Conference (partnership with LGA) – Mount Barker
- Legatus Group Waste Forum (partnership with KESAB) – Wallaroo
- Yorke Mid North Alliance Regional Planning Forum (partnership Northern and Yorke Alliance) - Clare

Key reports and projects supported this year by the Legatus Group were:

- Local Government Career Pathways and Workforce Toolkit for Regional SA
- Carbon Offsetting Pre-feasibility report for Local Government
- Preparing your Community for Disasters Handbook and Community Disaster Preparedness website
- Northern and Yorke Climate Change Sector Agreement
- Northern and Yorke Drought Resilience Plan
- Regional Local Roads Plan database updates and their inclusion on the Regional Road Transport GIS

The region continues to gain great value from the processes used to assess and support the applications for SLRP as the region secured \$4,597,000 for 5 projects this year. This makes up 34.5% of all SLRP funding for Regional Roads and 25.7% if you include the metropolitan roads.

The Audit and Risk Management Group Committee have ensured that the work plan has assisted us in improving our governance and recommendations around variations to our policies. I would like to acknowledge all the Board members and council CEOs and staff who have committed time to the Advisory Committees.

It was a pleasure to have Mayor Bill O'Brien as a Deputy Chairman and fellow member of the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils and to have Mayor Ken Anderson as Deputy Chairman.

Plus, I extend a thank you to those councils who have hosted our meetings and also those who have provided case studies of best practice following the board meetings.

I thank CEO Simon Millcock for not only his work in the past year but also over the past 7 years as his commitment and passion for the local government sector and to the member councils has seen some significant policy changes and tangible benefits to our region.



Mayor Rodney Reid
Chairman



CEO'S REPORT

MR SIMON MILLCOCK

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the support provided to me by Chairman Mayor Rodney Reid and Deputy Chairs Mayor Bill O'Brien and Ken Anderson. Board Members, CEOs, Committees, Regional Partners and Admin Officer Tracey Rains.

Due to the 3 reviews of the Strategic Plan, Charter and CEO Position being undertaken there was an agreed decline in project work and forums. Funding was secured from the (1) LGA Regional Capacity Building Allocations (2) SAFECOM for the Preparing your community for disasters and emergencies and (3) LGA CWMS Conference.

This allowed for the employment of part time Administration Officer Tracey Rains. Whilst Tracey and I provided administrative support to BRM Advisory for the reviews. All contracts for grants and projects have been reported and acquitted.

This year 63% of the income came from its membership fees. The 15-member council's contributions during the previous six years had been on average around 33% of the income.

Due to a reduction in project work, there were less grants obtained and they comprised 28% of the income. Interest rates increased, which resulted in a better than predicted return on investment income.

The reduction in grant funding has also resulted in a major reduction in contractor and consultant costs over the past 2 years and reduction in wages.

Areas with increases in expenses to those budgeted were due to motor vehicle costs as the change over to a new vehicle was not able to occur. The conference and catering costs were substantially lower than the previous year. These would have been much lower but we again managed the responsibility of the Annual Forum for the Northern and Yorke Alliance.

The Legatus Group budget for 2023/2024 had shown an operating deficit of \$108,300 and the actual deficit was \$50,694. The N&YLGA continues to be in a sound financial position to cover its forthcoming liabilities and within the targets set by the board for its reserves.

The closure of the Legatus Group office has continued to assist with reduced administration costs with all staff working from their home offices. This will need to be addressed if the new CEO position requires an office and / or reimbursement for use of home office.

This year saw my attendance and delivery of agendas, minutes and reports to all the Board, Advisory Committees, Yorke Mid North Alliance and SAROC meetings whilst managing the delivery of state and regional forums.

I am a member of the Yorke Mid North Alliance and Regional LGA CEOs Forum. Whilst I provided a regional voice to help support the local government sector in several areas including:

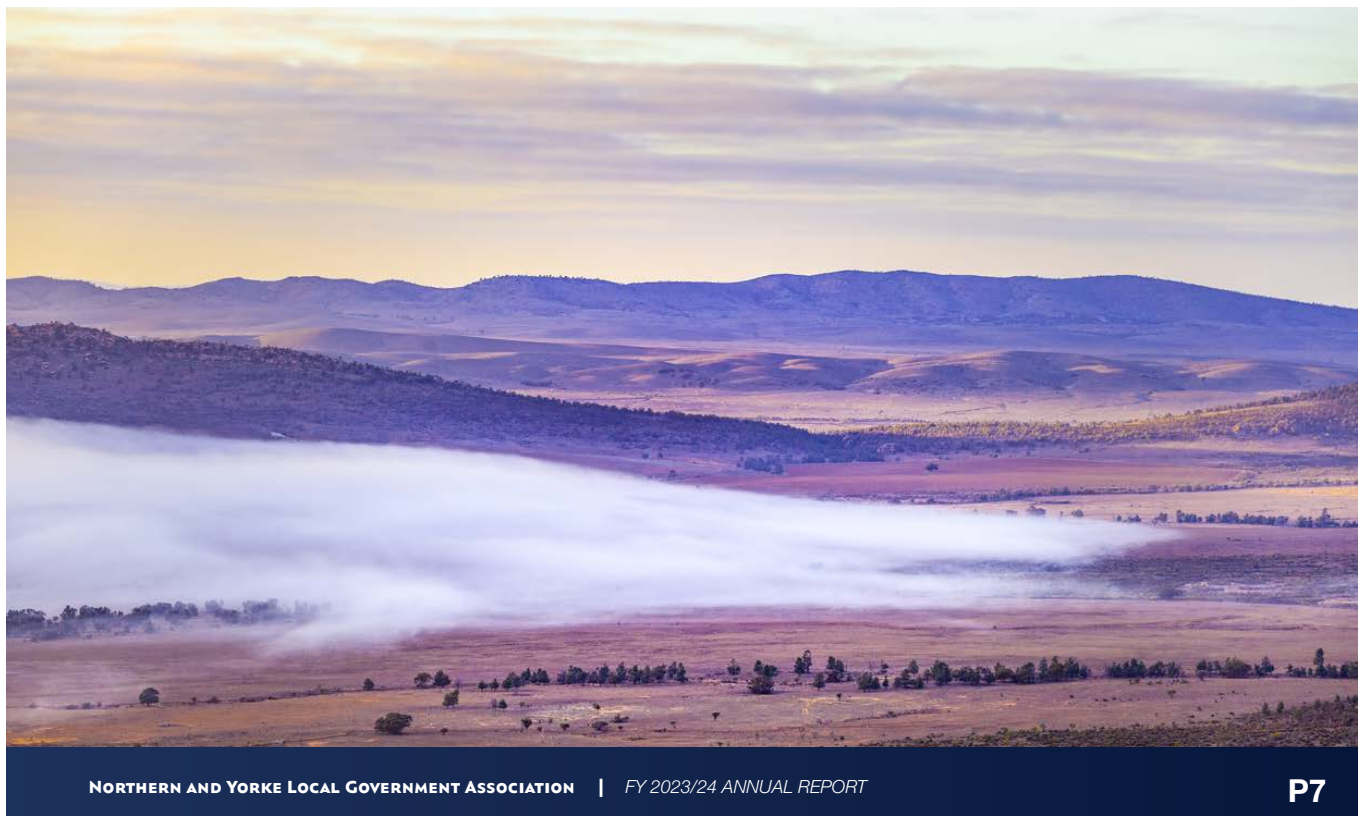
- Local Govt Regional Climate Partnerships Network
- UniSA C-Edge Advisory Board
- Volunteer SA NT – Volunteer Strategy
- Catalyst Foundation workshops / forums via promotion and assistance with speakers
- Local Government Climate Risk Community of Practice Forum
- DEW Climate projections
- Drought Hubs (Roseworthy and Orroroo)
- EPA State of the Environment Report
- Northern and Yorke Alliance
- Torrens University Cultural Immersion
- Local Govt Green House Gas Emissions Project Group
- LGA on the The Emergency Management Act 2004 Review
- SA Govt State Cultural Policy
- Climate Change Training for Local Govt

The Legatus Group Website updates include increased information plus the bi-monthly CEO Newsletter. The social media presence has continued to grow with increased followers on both Facebook and LinkedIn.



Simon Millcock

CEO





N&YLGA AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MR STEPHEN RUFUS

This is a summary of activities undertaken, and recommendations made during 2023-2024

The committee met on 4 occasions.

DATE	NO OF MEMBERS ATTENDING
14 August 2023	• 3
10 November 2023	• 4
14 February 2024	• 3
23 May 2024	• 4

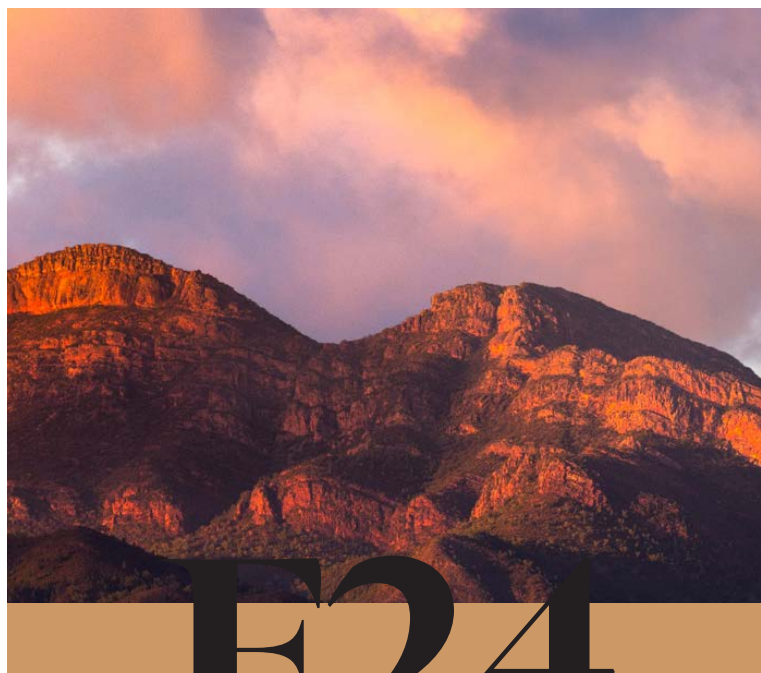
COMMITTEE MEMBER	NO OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Mayor Rodney Reid	• 4
Mayor Stephen McCarthy (from Nov 2023)	• 2
Peter Ackland (prior to Nov 2023)	• 1
Stephen Rufus	• 3
Ian McDonald	• 4

The following table sets out the principal issues addressed by the Committee for 2023-2024:

PRINCIPAL ISSUES EXAMINED	COMMENT
Audit Committee Chair and Members	Stephen Rufus continued as Chair and due to his move from Peterborough Council to Port Pirie Regional Council Peter Ackland resigned. Mayor Stephen McCarthy joined the committee and several calls for the vacant position were called throughout the year. All members re nominated for a further 2 years which was recommended for endorsement at the June 2024 Northern and Yorke LGA board meeting by member councils.
Annual Financial Report	No issues, unqualified audit, adopted for the 22/23 financial year. Noted the continued auditors independence.
Review of budget against actuals	Noted no issues and supported the allocation of the expenditure identified of carry over reserves and accumulated surplus for business plan and budgets.
Review of work plan, internal controls	1. Work planned maintained and adoption of recommendations by Auditor. 2. Recommended and supported workshop on strategic plans and long term financial plan with appropriate recommendations to the board. 3. Supported the continued independence of financial services.
Charter	Input to the ToR for the Audit Committee and the changes to the Charter.
Business, Budget and Strategic Plan	1. Monitored the 2023-2024 business plan and budget and its quarterly updates. 2. Noted, supported and provided input to Legatus Strategic Plan reviews. 3. Simplified the budget reporting.
Equity / Reserves	Recommendations to Board on the levels to be held and noted that they are in alignment with previous agreed levels.

Stephen Rufus

Chairman Audit and Risk Management Committee



F24

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR
01 JULY 2023 - 30 JUNE 2024

CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

trading as

NORTHERN & YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



NORTHERN and YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

General Purpose Financial Reports
for the year ended 30 June 2024

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NORTHERN and YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2024

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been authorised by the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association to certify the financial statements in their final form. In our opinion:

- the accompanying financial statements comply with the Local Government Act 1999, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011 and Australian Accounting Standards.
- the financial statements present a true and fair view of the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association's financial position at 30 June 2024 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the financial year.
- internal controls implemented by the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association provide a reasonable assurance that the Association's financial records are complete, accurate and reliable and were effective throughout the financial year.
- the financial statements accurately reflect the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association's accounting and other records.


Simon MILLCOCK
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER


Mayor Rodney REID
CHAIR

Date: 30/8/2024.

NORTHERN and YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
INCOME			
Council Contributions	2	237,615	173,850
Grants, subsidies and contributions	2	107,400	107,600
Investment income	2	27,731	22,035
Other income	2	7,211	18,329
Total Income		379,957	321,814
EXPENSES			
Employee costs	3	239,291	272,632
Materials, contracts & other expenses	3	188,815	167,150
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment	3	2,500	1,372
Total Expenses		430,606	441,155
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		(50,649)	(119,340)
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		(50,649)	(119,340)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		(50,649)	(119,340)

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

NORTHERN and YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	486,022	504,240
Trade & other receivables	4	1,791	91,100
Total Current Assets		487,813	595,340
Non-current Assets			
Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	5	10,000	13,409
Total Non-current Assets		10,000	13,409
Total Assets		497,813	608,749
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade & other payables	6	8,469	74,037
Provisions	6	40,161	13,457
Total Current Liabilities		48,630	87,494
Non-current Liabilities			
Provisions	6	-	21,423
Total Non-current Liabilities		-	21,423
Total Liabilities		48,630	108,917
NET ASSETS		449,183	499,832
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus		179,413	230,062
Other Reserves	7	269,770	269,770
TOTAL EQUITY		449,183	499,832

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

NORTHERN and YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
for the year ended 30 June 2024

		Accumulated Surplus	Other Reserves	TOTAL EQUITY
2024	Notes	\$	\$	\$
Balance at end of previous reporting period		230,062	269,770	499,831
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		(50,649)	-	(50,649)
Other Comprehensive Income				
Transfers between reserves	7	-	-	-
Balance at end of period		179,413	269,770	449,182
2023				
Balance at end of previous reporting period		349,402	269,770	619,172
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		(119,340)	-	(119,340)
Other Comprehensive Income				
Transfers between reserves	7	-	-	-
Balance at end of period		230,062	269,770	499,831

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

NORTHERN and YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
for the year ended 30 June 2024

		2024	2023
		\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	Notes		
<u>Receipts</u>			
Council Contributions		237,615	173,850
Investment receipts		27,731	22,035
Grants utilised for operating purposes		196,709	18,652
Reimbursements		-	-
Other revenues		7,211	18,329
<u>Payments</u>			
Employee costs		(234,010)	(277,300)
Materials, contracts & other expenses		(254,383)	(108,150)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities	8	(19,127)	(152,584)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Sale of replaced assets		-	-
<u>Payments</u>			
Expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets		-	-
Expenditure on new/upgraded assets		909	(909)
Purchase of investment property		-	-
Net purchase of investment securities		-	-
Development of real estate for sale		-	-
Loans made to community groups		-	-
Capital contributed to equity accounted Council businesses		-	-
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities		909	(909)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Proceeds from borrowings		-	-
Proceeds from aged care facility deposits		-	-
<u>Payments</u>			
Repayments of borrowings		-	-
Repayment of finance lease liabilities		-	-
Repayment of aged care facility deposits		-	-
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities		-	-
Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held		(18,218)	(153,493)
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period	8	504,240	657,733
Cash & cash equivalents at end of period	8	486,022	504,240

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

NORTHERN and YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial report are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

1. Basis of Preparation

This general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Interpretations and relevant South Australian legislation.

The financial report was authorised for issue by certificate under regulation 14 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates, and requires management to exercise its judgement in applying the Association's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are specifically referred to in the relevant sections of this Note.

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar (\$).

1.1 Historical Cost Convention

Except as stated below, these financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

1.2 The Local Government Reporting Entity

The Northern and Yorke Local Government Association ("the Association") is a regional subsidiary under Section 43 and Schedule 2 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

The Constituent Councils are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. The Barossa Council | 2. District Council of Mount Remarkable |
| 3. Barunga West Council | 4. Northern Areas Council |
| 5. Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council | 6. District Council of Orroroo/Carrieton |
| 7. Copper Coast Council | 8. District Council of Peterborough |
| 9. The Flinders Ranges Council | 10. Port Pirie Regional Council |
| 11. Regional Council of Goyder | 12. Wakefield Regional Council |
| 13. Light Regional Council | 14. Yorke Peninsula Council, and |
| 15. Adelaide Plains Council. | |

All funds received and expended by the Association have been included in the Financial Statements forming part of this Financial Report.

1.3 Income recognition

Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Income is recognised when the Association obtains control over the assets comprising the income, or when the amount due constitutes an enforceable debt, whichever first occurs.

Where grants, contributions and donations recognised as incomes during the reporting period were obtained on the condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period, and those conditions were undischarged as at the reporting date, the amounts subject to those undischarged conditions are disclosed in these notes. Also disclosed is the amount of grants, contributions and receivables recognised as incomes in a previous reporting period which were obtained in respect of the Association's operations for the current reporting period.

NORTHERN AND YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

1.4 Cash, Cash Equivalents and other Financial Instruments

Cash Assets include all amounts readily convertible to cash on hand at the Association's option with an insignificant risk of changes in value with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Receivables for generally unsecured and do not bear interest. All receivables are reviewed as at the reporting date and adequate allowance made for amounts the receipt of which is considered doubtful.

All financial instruments are recognised at fair value at the date of recognition. A detailed statement of the accounting policies applied to financial instruments forms part of Note 10.

1.5 Vehicles & Contents

All non-current assets purchased are capitalised as the expenditure is incurred and depreciated as soon as the asset is held "ready for use". All assets are recognised at cost. Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition.

Assets with an economic life in excess of one year are only capitalised where the cost of acquisition exceeds materiality thresholds established by the Association for each type of asset. In determining (and in annually reviewing) such thresholds, regard is had to the nature of the asset and its estimated service life. Examples of capitalisation thresholds applied during the year are as follows:

Contents	\$2,000
Motor Vehicles	\$5,000

All material asset classes are revalued on a regular basis such that the carrying values are not materially different from fair value. Plant and equipment assets recognised are systematically depreciated over their useful lives on a straight-line basis which, in the opinion of the Association, best reflects the consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets.

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values of classes of assets are reviewed annually. Major depreciation periods for each class of asset are shown below.

Contents	1 to 5 years
Motor Vehicles	3 to 5 years

1.6 Payables

Creditors are amounts due to external parties for the supply of goods and services and are recognised as liabilities when the goods and services are received. Creditors are normally paid 30 days after the month of invoice. No interest is payable on these amounts.

Amounts received from external parties in advance of service delivery are recognised as liabilities until the service is delivered or damage reinstated, or the amount is refunded as the case may be.

1.7 Employee Benefits

Salaries, Wages & Compensated Absences

The Association has 1 FTE employees as at the 30 June 2024, a Chief Executive Officer. Liabilities for employees' entitlements to salaries, wages and compensated absences expected to be paid or settled within 12 months of reporting date are accrued at nominal amounts (including payroll based oncosts) measured in accordance with AASB 119.

Liabilities for employee benefits not expected to be paid or settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows (including payroll based oncosts) to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Present values are calculated using government 10 year bond rates.

No accrual is made for sick leave as the Association's experience indicates that, on average, sick leave taken in each reporting period is less than the entitlement accruing in that period, and this experience is expected to recur in future reporting periods. The Association does not make payment for untaken sick leave.

NORTHERN AND YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

1.8 Superannuation

The Association contributes the statutory 11.0% SGC superannuation to the nominated superannuation funds for all staff. This will increase to 11.5% for the 2024-25 financial year.

1.9 GST Implications

In accordance with UIG Abstract 1031 "Accounting for the Goods & Services Tax"

- Receivables and Creditors include GST receivable and payable.
- Except in relation to input taxed activities, revenues and operating expenditures exclude GST receivable and payable.
- Non-current assets and capital expenditures include GST net of any recoupment.
- Amounts included in the Statement of Cash Flows are disclosed on a gross basis.

1.10 Leases

In the previous year, the Association performed an assessment of the potential impact of AASB 16 *Leases*. The Association was only engaged in a short-term lease as per Section 5 of AASB 16 and therefore the lease was recognised as an operating expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease. There were no leases for the year 23-24.

1.11 New Accounting Standards

In the current year, the Association adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current reporting period. The adoption of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations has not resulted in any material changes to the Association's accounting policies.

The Association has not applied any Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have been issued but are not yet effective. Certain new accounting standards and UIG interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2024 reporting period and have not been used in preparing these reports.

- AASB 2020-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current
- AASB 2020-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Annual Improvement 2018-2020 and Other Amendments
- AASB 2020-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current
- AASB 17 Insurance Contracts

The Association is of the view that none of the above new standards or interpretations will affect any of the amounts recognised in the financial statements, but that they may impact certain information otherwise disclosed.

1.12 Economic Dependencies

The Association is aware of its current dependence on Grants Revenue received from the Commonwealth Government, State Government and the Local Government Association for the ongoing operations of the Association. Should the Association not secure funding or a significantly reduced level of funding in future years, it may impact on the ability of the Association to continue operating as a going concern.

1.13 Disclaimer

Nothing contained within these statements may be taken to be an admission of any liability to any person under any circumstance.

1.14 Comparative Information

During the financial year, the Association has reviewed the allocation and classification of some transactions which have been updated in the comparative information presented. Changes in classification has resulted in no change to the previously reported financial performance and position of the Association.

NORTHERN and YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2 - INCOME

	2024 \$	2023 \$
COUNCIL CONTRIBUTIONS		
General Contribution	191,325	173,850
Other Council Contributions		
Coastal Alliance	13,290	-
SLRP Assessment Fee	33,000	-
	<u>46,290</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>237,615</u>	<u>173,850</u>
INVESTMENT INCOME		
Interest on investments		
Local Government Finance Authority	27,731	22,035
	<u>27,731</u>	<u>22,035</u>
OTHER INCOME		
Conference Registrations & Sponsorship	7,211	13,211
Sundry	-	5,118
	<u>7,211</u>	<u>18,329</u>
GRANTS, SUBSIDIES, CONTRIBUTIONS		
CWMS	4,500	31,000
Disaster Recovery	62,900	29,100
Volunteering	-	7,500
Regional Capacity	40,000	40,000
	<u>107,400</u>	<u>107,600</u>
<i>The functions to which these grants relate are shown in Note 10.</i>		
Sources of grants		
Commonwealth government	-	-
State government	62,900	29,100
LGA	44,500	71,000
Other	-	7,500
	<u>107,400</u>	<u>107,600</u>

NORTHERN and YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 3 - EXPENSES

	2024 \$	2023 \$
EMPLOYEE COSTS		
Salaries and Wages	171,614	200,665
Employee leave expense	34,466	37,008
Pay in Lieu of Notice	909	-
Superannuation	22,108	25,358
Workers' Compensation Insurance	2,963	2,920
Professional Development	1,011	461
FBT	6,220	6,220
Total Operating Employee Costs	239,291	272,632
Total Number of Employees	1.0	1.9
<i>(Full time equivalent at end of reporting period)</i>		
MATERIALS, CONTRACTS & OTHER EXPENSES		
<u>Prescribed Expenses</u>		
Auditor's Remuneration	2,645	2,441
Subtotal - Prescribed Expenses	2,645	2,441
<u>Other Materials, Contracts & Expenses</u>		
Contractors & Consultants	133,005	107,179
Legal Expenses	-	-
Unleaded Fuel	5,362	3,939
Other Motor Vehicle Costs	3,378	3,539
Members Allowances & Support	5,292	4,500
Meetings & Conferences	2,206	13,381
Insurance	9,839	10,537
Rental - Premises	195	-
Advertising	1,419	1,268
Accommodation	1,046	1,230
Airfares, Taxi Fares & Parking	488	223
Travel - Reimbursement	630	2,079
Catering & Meals	14,085	7,507
Telephone & Internet	2,079	2,981
IT & Web	5,169	5,354
Postage/Stationery	1,103	644
Sundry	874	349
Subtotal - Other Materials, Contracts & Expenses	186,170	164,709
	188,815	167,150
DEPRECIATION, AMORTISATION & IMPAIRMENT		
Depreciation		
Motor Vehicle	2,500	1,372
Contents	-	-
	2,500	1,372

NORTHERN and YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 4 - CURRENT ASSETS

CASH & EQUIVALENT ASSETS

Cash at Bank	36,022	38,081
Deposits at Call	450,000	466,159
	<u>486,022</u>	<u>504,240</u>

TRADE & OTHER RECEIVABLES

Accrued Revenues	1,791	1,780
Other levels of Government	-	89,320
	<u>1,791</u>	<u>91,100</u>

NORTHERN and YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5 - NON-CURRENT ASSETS - VEHICLES & CONTENTS

	2023				2024			
	\$				\$			
	AT FAIR VALUE	AT COST	ACCUM DEP'N	CARRYING AMOUNT	AT FAIR VALUE	AT COST	ACCUM DEP'N	CARRYING AMOUNT
Motor Vehicles	-	29,876	(16,467)	13,409	-	28,967	(18,967)	10,000
Contents	-	3,678	(3,678)	-	-	3,678	(3,678)	-
TOTAL PLANT & EQUIPMENT	-	33,554	(20,145)	13,409	-	32,645	(22,645)	10,000
<i>Comparatives</i>	-	32,645	(18,773)	13,872	-	33,554	(20,145)	13,409

	2023	CARRYING AMOUNT MOVEMENTS DURING YEAR							2024
	\$	\$							\$
	CARRYING AMOUNT	Additions		Disposals	Depreciation	Impairment	Transfers		Net Revaluation
		New/Upgrade	Renewals				In	Out	
Motor Vehicles	13,409	(909)	-	-	(2,500)	-	-	-	-
Contents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PLANT & EQUIPMENT	13,409	(909)	-	-	(2,500)	-	-	-	-
<i>Comparatives</i>	13,872	909	-	-	(1,372)	-	-	-	-

NORTHERN and YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 6 - LIABILITIES

	2024		2023	
	\$		\$	
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
TRADE & OTHER PAYABLES				
Goods & Services	1,068	-	-	-
Payments received in advance	-	-	49,100	-
Accrued expenses - employee entitlements	3,622	-	4,919	-
Accrued expenses - other	1,972	-	2,250	-
GST & PAYG	1,807	-	17,768	-
	<u>8,469</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,037</u>	<u>-</u>
PROVISIONS				
Employee entitlements - Annual Leave	10,031	-	13,457	-
Employee entitlements - Long Service Leave	30,130	-	-	21,423
	<u>40,161</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,457</u>	<u>21,423</u>

Note 7 - RESERVES

	1/7/2023	Transfers to Reserve	Transfers from Reserve	30/6/2024
OTHER RESERVES				
General Reserve	269,770	-	-	269,770
TOTAL OTHER RESERVES	<u>269,770</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>269,770</u>

Comparatives 269,770 269,770

PURPOSES OF RESERVES**Other Reserves**

This reserve was established to provide for one year of basic operation (employee costs, vehicle costs, insurance, materials), should no revenue be received.

NORTHERN and YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 8 - RECONCILIATION TO CASH FLOW STATEMENT

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash Assets comprise highly liquid investments with short periods to maturity subject to insignificant risk of changes of value. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Cash Flow Statement is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
Total cash & equivalent assets	4	486,022	504,240
Less: Short-term borrowings	8	-	-
Balances per Cash Flow Statement		<u>486,022</u>	<u>504,240</u>

(b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities

Net Surplus (Deficit)	(50,649)	(119,340)
Non-cash items in Income Statement		
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment	2,500	1,372
Net increase (decrease) in unpaid employee benefits	5,281	(4,668)
	<u>(42,868)</u>	<u>(122,636)</u>
Add (Less): Changes in Net Current Assets		
Net (increase) decrease in receivables	89,309	(88,948)
Net (increase) decrease in other current assets	909	(909)
Net increase (decrease) in trade & other payables	<u>(65,568)</u>	<u>59,000</u>
Net Cash provided by (or used in) operations	<u>(18,218)</u>	<u>(153,493)</u>

Note 9 - FUNCTIONS

The activities of the Region are categorised into the following programs, projects & activities:

- 1 A - Corporate Function
- 2 P001 - Regional & Community Sustainability
- 3 P006 - Disaster & Emergency Management
- 4 P009 - CWMS & Climate Change Co-ordinator
- 5 P017 - Waste Management Composting
- 6 P022 - Roads & Transport
- 7 P027 - Community Capacity Building
- 8 P028 - Regional Capacity Building
- 9 P034 - N&Y Coastal Management Action Plan
- 10 P038 - Regional Waste Strategy
- 11 P040 - Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- 12 P045 - Aboriginal Engagement Committee
- 13 P046 - DCP Pilot Organics Plant

Income and expenses have been attributed to the functions/activities throughout the financial year.

NORTHERN and YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 10 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

All financial instruments are categorised as *loans and receivables*.

Accounting Policies - Recognised Financial Instruments

Bank, Deposits at Call, Short Term Deposits **Accounting Policy:** Carried at lower of cost and net realisable value; Interest is recognised when earned.

Terms & conditions: Short term deposits are available on 24 hour call with the LGFA and have an interest rate of 4.55% as at 30 June 2024

Carrying amount: approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.

Receivables - Trade & other debtors

Accounting Policy: Carried at nominal value.

Terms & conditions: Amounts due have been calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective programs following advice of approvals, and do not bear interest.

Carrying amount: approximates fair value.

Liabilities - Creditors and Accruals

Accounting Policy: Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Group.

Terms & conditions: Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.

Carrying amount: approximates fair value.

Liquidity Analysis

2024	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year; ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
Financial Assets	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash & Equivalents	486,022	-	-	486,022	486,022
Receivables	1,791	-	-	1,791	1,791
Other Financial Assets	-	-	-	-	-
Total	487,813	-	-	487,813	487,813
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	8,469	-	-	8,469	8,469
Current Borrowings	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Current Borrowings	-	-	-	-	-
Total	8,469	-	-	8,469	8,469

2023	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year; ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
Financial Assets	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash & Equivalents	504,240	-	-	504,240	504,240
Receivables	91,100	-	-	91,100	91,100
Other Financial Assets	-	-	-	-	-
Total	595,340	-	-	595,340	595,340
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	2,250	-	-	2,250	2,250
Current Borrowings	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Current Borrowings	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2,250	-	-	2,250	2,250

Net Fair Value

All carrying values approximate fair value for all recognised financial instruments. There is no recognised market for the financial assets of the Group.

Risk Exposures

Credit Risk represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties fail to perform as contracted. The maximum credit risk on financial assets of the Group is the carrying amount, net of any allowance for doubtful debts. All Group investments are made with the SA Local Government Finance Authority and are guaranteed by the SA Government. Except as detailed in Notes 5 & 6 in relation to individual classes of receivables, exposure is concentrated within the Group's boundaries, and there is no material exposure to any individual debtor.

Market Risk is the risk that fair values of financial assets will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices. All of the Group's financial assets are denominated in Australian dollars and are not traded on any market, and hence neither market risk nor currency risk apply.

Liquidity Risk is the risk that the Group will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations with financial liabilities. In accordance with the model Treasury Management Policy (LGA Information Paper 15), liabilities have a range of maturity dates.

Interest Rate Risk is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Cash flow fluctuations are managed holistically in seeking to minimise interest costs over the longer term in a risk averse manner.

NORTHERN and YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 11 - FINANCIAL INDICATORS

	2024	2023	2022
These Financial Indicators have been calculated in accordance with <i>Information Paper 9 - Local Government Financial Indicators</i> prepared as part of the LGA Financial Sustainability Program for the Local Government Association of South Australia. Detailed methods of calculation are set out in the SA Model Statements.			

The Information Paper was revised in May 2015 and the financial indicators for previous years have been re-calculated in accordance with the revised formulas.

Operating Surplus Ratio			
<u>Operating Surplus</u>	(13.3%)	(37.1%)	(109.9%)
Total Operating Income			

This ratio expresses the operating surplus as a percentage of total operating revenue.

Net Financial Liabilities Ratio			
<u>Net Financial Liabilities</u>	(115.6%)	(151.2%)	(221.0%)
Total Operating Income			

Net Financial Liabilities are defined as total liabilities less financial assets. These are expressed as a percentage of total operating revenue.

Asset Renewal Funding Ratio			
<u>Net Asset Renewals</u>	0%	0%	0%
Depreciation Expenditure			

Net asset renewals expenditure is defined as net capital expenditure on the renewal and replacement of existing assets, and excludes new capital expenditure on the acquisition of additional assets.

NORTHERN and YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 12 - UNIFORM PRESENTATION OF FINANCES

The following is a high level summary of both operating and capital investment activities of the Group prepared on a simplified Uniform Presentation Framework basis.

All Councils in South Australia have agreed to summarise annual budgets and long-term financial plans on the same basis.

The arrangements ensure that all Councils provide a common 'core' of financial information, which enables meaningful comparisons of each Council's finances

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Income	379,957	321,814
Expenses	(430,606)	(441,155)
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	(50,649)	(119,340)
Net Outlays on Existing Assets		
Capital Expenditure on renewal and replacement of Existing Assets	-	-
Add back Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	2,500	1,372
Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets	-	-
	2,500	1,372
Net Outlays on New and Upgraded Assets		
Capital Expenditure on New and Upgraded Assets (including investment property & real estate developments)	909	(909)
Amounts received spec. for New and Upgraded Assets	-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Surplus Assets (including investment property and real estate developments)	-	-
	909	(909)
Net Lending / (Borrowing) for Financial Year	(47,240)	(118,877)

NORTHERN and YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 13 - RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The Key Management Personnel of the Group include the 15 Mayors/Chairpersons of the constituent Councils and the CEO. In all, 1 person was paid the following total compensation:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Salaries, allowances & other short term benefits	166,637	163,432
Member Allowance	5,292	4,500
Post-employment benefits	11,197	17,160
Long term benefits	-	-
FBT	6,220	6,220
Termination benefits	-	-
TOTAL	189,345	191,312

The Group received the following amounts in total:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Contributions for fringe benefits tax purposes	-	-
TOTAL	-	-

PARTIES RELATED TO KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

During the reporting period, no Key Management Personnel or parties related to them had any transactions on more favourable terms than those available to the general public.

OTHER RELATED PARTIES

Amounts received from Related Parties during the financial year and owed by Related Parties at the end of the financial year (inclusive of GST).

	Received 2024 \$	Outstanding 2024 \$
The Barossa Council	14,031	-
Barunga West Council	14,031	-
Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council	14,031	-
Copper Coast Council	14,031	-
The Flinders Ranges Council	14,031	-
Regional Council of Goyder	14,031	-
Light Regional Council	14,031	-
Adelaide Plains Council	14,031	-
District Council of Mount Remarkable	14,031	-
Northern Areas Council	14,031	-
District Council of Orroroo / Carrieton	14,031	-
District Council of Peterborough	14,031	-
Port Pirie Regional Council	14,031	-
Wakefield Regional Council	14,031	-
Yorke Peninsula Council	14,031	-
TOTAL	210,458	-

Description of Services provided to all Related Parties above:

The Legatus Group is the peak regional local government organisation that is focused on the interests of its communities. The Legatus Group's primary purpose focuses on the wealth, wellbeing and social cohesion of these communities via a sustainable approach of productive landscapes and natural environment. Its focus is on the key roles of local government.

The Group has Five Primary Goals and numerous strategies to achieve these are outlined in the Group's Strategic Plan 2018-2028 which is available on the Group's website.

NORTHERN and YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2024****Note 14 - CONTINGENCIES & ASSETS & LIABILITIES NOT RECOGNISED
IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

There are no contingencies, assets or liabilities not recognised in the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Note 15 - EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER REPORTING DATE

There were no events subsequent to 30 June 2024 that need to be disclosed in the financial statements.

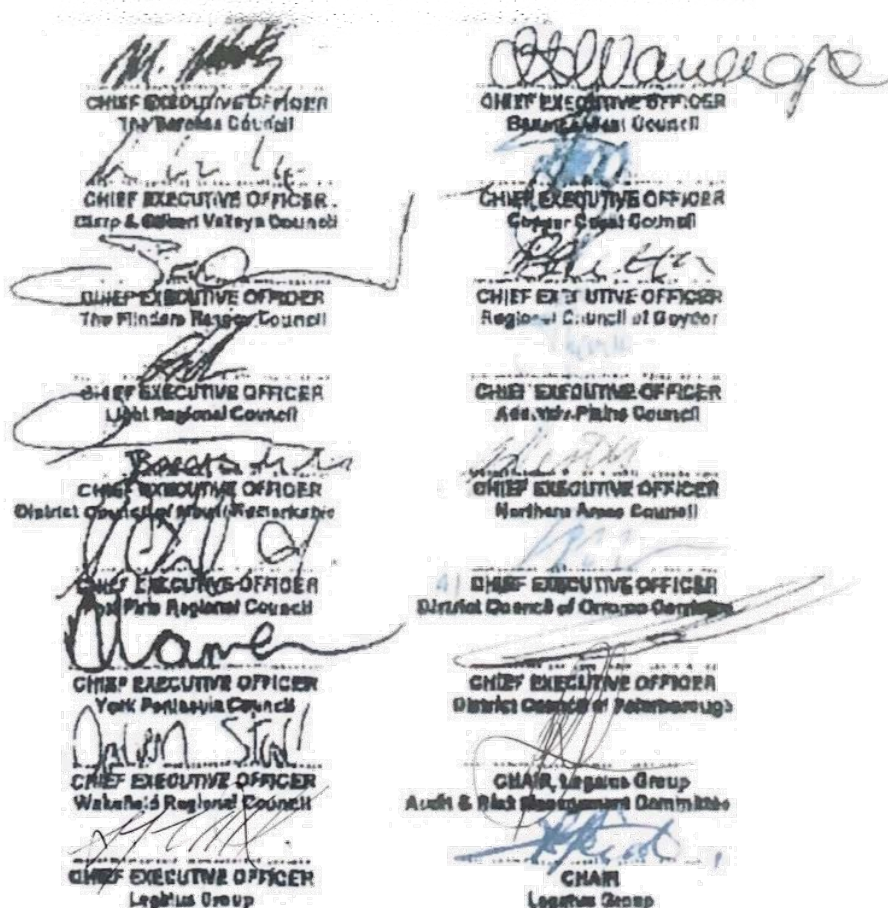
NORTHERN and YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2024

CERTIFICATION OF AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE

To the best of our knowledge and belief, we confirm that, for the purpose of the audit of the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association for the year ended 30 June 2024, the Council's Auditor, Dean Newbery, has maintained its independence in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 22(3) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
The Barossa Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Barossa Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
The Flinders Ranges Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Regional Council of Goyder

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Light Regional Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Adelaide Plains Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
District Council of Mount Remarkable

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Northern Areas Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Port Pirie Regional Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
District Council of Onkaparinga

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
York Peninsula Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
District Council of Peterborough

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Wentworth Regional Council

CHAIR, Legatus Group
Audit & Risk Management Committee

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Legatus Group

CHAIR
Legatus Group



The Central Local Government Region was established in 1998 under Section 200 of the Local Government Act 1934 as a controlling authority and continues in existence as a regional subsidiary of the Local Government Act 1999.

In 2024 the Central Local Government Region of South Australia adopted the trading name of Northern and Yorke Local Government Association (N&YLGA) to which it is now referred.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.2 PROPOSED CHARACTER PRESERVATION OVERLAY CODE AMENDMENT

**Author: Manager Development Services
24/87160**

The Chief Executive Officer, after preliminary engagement with Planning and Land Use Services and as instructed by Council, wrote to the State Planning Commission on 19 March 2024 to provide an update on the strategic work, undertaken to that point, on the Barossa Valley Character Preservation Overlay and to propose the commencement of a Code Amendment to further strengthen, and provide additional clarity, to the policy that exists within the current Overlay.

Council received a response to this request on 18 September 2024, attachment 1, effectively advising that, at this time, this work is not a priority for the State.

The priority for the Minister is tied to the recently released Housing Roadmap to address the housing crisis. The Commissions remit for the coming year is to progress Code amendments in accordance with the roadmap to deliver additional housing across the State.

The correspondence goes on to explain there are additional pieces of strategic work being undertaken by the Commission that will assist Council in achieving some its policy ambitions, such as:

- Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (GARP);
- Tourism Development Code Amendment; and
- Interface Management Code Amendment.

Council staff will continue to work with, and engage with the Commission, to ensure the strategic work undertaken is considered at the appropriate time.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Correspondence from Department for Housing and Land Use Services - Proposed Character Preservation Overlay Code Amendment [↓](#) 

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil

OFFICIAL



Government of South Australia

Department for Housing
and Urban Development

21449733

Planning & Land Use
Services

Level 10

83 Pirie Street
Adelaide SA 5000GPO Box 1815
Adelaide SA 5001
DX 171

Tel 08 7133 2804

18 September 2024

Mr Martin McCarthy
Chief Executive Officer
The Barossa CouncilBy email: jmcvicar@barossa.sa.gov.au

Dear Mr McCarthy

Proposed Character Preservation Overlay Code Amendment

Thank you for your letter dated 19 March 2024 providing an update on the strategic work being undertaken by The Barossa Council (the Council) in relation to Barossa Character Area planning.

I acknowledge the time taken to provide this reply and the ongoing dialogue that has occurred between our teams in respect of this and related matters over the course of this year to provide information on how recent adjustment to State Government and State Planning Commission priorities affects Barossa Character Area planning.

I acknowledge Council's desire to engage with the Commission to scope and initiate a Code Amendment to amend the Character Preservation District Overlay and other policy matters.

I note that the Commission expressed support in 2022 to leading a Code Amendment with the assistance of the Council to provide a greater level of detail for guiding the assessment of development within the Overlay, particularly regarding value adding and design.

The Premier recently released the Housing Roadmap to address the state's housing crisis. The Commission's priority for the coming year is to progress Code amendments in accordance with this Roadmap, in order to deliver much needed housing for South Australians.

The Commission is currently in the process of finalising its 2024-2025 Strategic Plan and associated work program considering the recently released Housing Roadmap and other current government priorities.

OFFICIAL

I note the following pieces of work are currently in progress which will assist in progressing the Council's expressed aims:

Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (GARP)

The GARP will soon be released for consultation. Council of course is invited to participate in the consultation process and make a submission on the draft GARP. The GARP will set the strategic direction for future development in the Barossa Council and may assist in providing support for amendments of the nature sought.

Proposed Tourism Development Code Amendment

Some of the matters identified by the Council in relation to the Rural Zone, including hospitality and tourism development, are likely to be reviewed through a forthcoming tourism Code amendment, anticipated to be initiated by the Commission in 2024.

PLUS met with several key stakeholders in May 2024, including the Barossa Council, to discuss the following matters to help inform the scope of the Code Amendment:

- current experiences with assessing tourism development in winery regions, in particular whether the Code's policies and rules are appropriately guiding tourism development and accommodation in these areas; and
- determining whether new policy is warranted (and if so, what this should be) and consider whether assessment pathways should be more streamlined.

It is intended this Code Amendment will review policies and pathways for tourism development in rural areas, to provide greater clarity about the circumstances in which tourist accommodation is appropriate and guide the scale and form of such accommodation.

PLUS will continue to work with affected councils to progress this work over 2024-2025.

Interface Management Code Amendment

It is noted that the Council has also requested that the Commission consider the following matters when preparing its Interface Management Code Amendment, which was initiated in December 2023:

- winery and beverage production policies
- buffers and interfaces between rural and urban land uses and between different forms of primary production.

Investigations are currently underway for this Code Amendment but are at an early stage. Matters identified by the Council, in particular issues relating to the rural and urban interface, may be considered in the preparation of a draft of this Code Amendment for public consultation.

OFFICIAL

Local Design Review

The Commission invites the Council to progress the establishment of a Local Design Review Panel.

Potential Council Code Amendment(s)

Your letter also identifies several other issues which may need to be progressed by the Council through separate Code Amendment processes, such as local policy changes to Illaparra Winery and expanded application of the Limited Land Division Overlay. You may wish to await confirmation of the scope of any Commission-led Code amendment regarding the Character Preservation District Overlay before progressing these local changes. However, if Council believes these changes need to be progressed as a matter of urgency, it may lodge a proposal to initiate a Code Amendment, or discuss this further with the Department.

Please note that a potential Character Preservation Overlay Code Amendment could only deal with matters of policy within the Overlay and would not alter the associated legislation or State Planning Policies. Decisions regarding legislation amendments are within the remit of the government.

The Commission completed its first five-year review into the Environment and Food Production Areas (EFPAs) in November 2021 and has ruled out any re-consideration of Character Preservation township boundaries as part of the consideration of the GARP. Consequently, any proposal by Council to alter the township boundaries of the Character Preservation District is unlikely to be considered by the Commission until another review of the EFPA is undertaken, which is scheduled to occur in 2027.

I hope this information is of assistance. My team and I would be pleased to meet with you to discuss it in more detail

Yours sincerely



Marc Voortman
DIRECTOR PLANNING
PLANNING AND LAND USE SERVICES

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.3 ANNUAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT OUTCOMES

Author: Chief Executive Officer
24/87575

As undertaken annually the financial assistance grants have been determined by the relevant Minister and his correspondence is attached.

The final outcomes compared to budget are in the following table.

Grant	Budget	Allocated	Variance	Advanced Payment	Balance	Qtrly Payment
General - Core Allocation	1,629,276	1,779,006	149,730	1,497,199	281,807	70,452
General - 23-24 Underpayment	0	15,301	15,301	0	15,301	3,825
Local Roads - Core Allocation	662,558	662,607	49	562,158	100,449	25,112
Local Roads - 23-24 Underpayment	0	2,366	2,366	0	2,366	592
Supp Roads	238,909	239,403	494	0	239,403	59,851
Operating	2,530,743	2,698,683	167,940	2,059,357	639,326	159,832
SLRP	400,000	400,000	0	0	400,000	100,000
Capital	2,930,743	3,098,683	167,940	2,059,357	1,039,326	259,832

The budget and long-term financial plan will be further updated as part of the quarter 1 budget review for these amounts. The funding outcome aligns to the anticipated road grants; we received further \$400k for Bethany Road resealing from the Special Local Roads Program also, which was factored into the budget. There are some minor one-off adjustments and the general purpose grant simply goes to a improvement to the operating position of Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Ministerial Correspondence - Approved Financial Assistance and Road Grants for 2024-2025 [!\[\]\(870f5d5e9c0d57485634be3ecf52f3ca_img.jpg\)](#) 

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil

Hon Joe Szakacs MP

24MINLG-0457

Mayor Michael Lange
The Barossa Council
PO Box 867
NURIOOTPA SA 5355

By email: mayor.lange@barossa.sa.gov.au

**Government
of South Australia**

**Minister for Trade and
Investment**

**Minister for Local
Government**

**Minister for Veterans'
Affairs**

GPO Box 1533
ADELAIDE SA 5000

T: (08) 7133 2070

E: minister.szakacs@sa.gov.au

Dear Mayor Lange

I am pleased to advise that the recommendations of the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission (the Commission) for the 2024-2025 distribution of the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants (FA Grants) and the Supplementary Local Road Funding for 2024-2025 to councils, were approved by the Hon Kristy McBain MP, Federal Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, on 13 August 2024.

FA Grants across Australia will provide an estimated \$3.28 billion for 2024-2025, which is an increase of 4.96% over 2023-2024. For South Australia, the total allocation is \$212.54 million, an increase of 3.71%.

South Australia's allocation includes General Purpose Grants of \$157,189,506, an increase of 3.27% from 2023-2024, and Identified Local Road Grants of \$55,354,766, an increase of 4.96% from 2023-2024. The Identified Local Road component includes formulae-based funding of \$47,051,766 and \$8,303,000 for the Special Local Roads Program.

Minister McBain has also advised there was an underpayment of the General Purpose Grants of \$1,505,450 and Identified Local Road Grants of \$167,925 in the 2023-2024 grants for South Australia. Cash grants received by councils during 2024-2025 will be adjusted accordingly in proportion to the approved 2023-2024 distributions.

As has been the case in recent years, a brought forward payment of the 2024-2025 FA Grants was made in late June 2023-2024. Approximately 85% of the 2024-2025 FA Grants was brought forward, providing a total of \$180.33 million for South Australia. This included \$133.37 million in General Purpose Grants and \$46.96 million in Identified Local Road Grants.

The brought forward payment was distributed on the basis of the Commission's draft recommendations for 2024-2025 to give councils immediate access to funds that can help manage the significant financial pressures currently being experienced.

It is also important to note that the timing of the 2024-2025 brought forward payment in late June 2024 meant that the Commission forwarded funds on to the Local Government Finance Authority (LGFA) for councils on Friday 28 June 2024, and funds were paid to councils' LGFA accounts on Monday 1 July 2024.



OFFICIAL

While no under or overpayments resulted from the brought forward payment of the 2024-2025 FA Grants, there were a number of adjustments made to the 2024-2025 grant outcomes for under and overpayments resulting from the 2023-2024 100% brought forward payment. Councils with these adjustments will be contacted by the Commission in due course.

Barossa Council received a total of \$2,059,357 comprising \$1,497,199 in General Purpose Grants and \$562,158 in Identified Local Road funding.

I am also pleased to confirm that the Commission's recommendations for distribution of the 2024-2025 Supplementary Local Road Funding, provided to South Australia to address the inequity in South Australia's share of the Identified Local Road Grants, has been approved by Minister McBain. The 2024-2025 Supplementary Local Road Funding was due to be paid by 3 September 2024.

In summary, the total allocation to the Barossa Council for the 2024-2025 financial year consists of:

Estimated FA Grants for 2024-2025

General Purpose Grant (GPG)	\$	1,779,006
Roads (Formulae Funding - ILRG)	\$	662,607
Roads (Special Local Roads Program - ILRG)	\$	*
Total Estimated Grant for 2024-2025	\$	2,441,613
Add Adjustment for 2023-2024 underpayment (GPG)	\$	15,301
Add Adjustment for 2023-2024 underpayment (ILRG)	\$	2,366
Less Brought Forward Payment Paid in June 2024 (GPG)	\$	1,497,199
Less Brought Forward Payment Paid in June 2024 (ILRG)	\$	562,158
Remaining 2024-2025 Cash Payable (rounded to the nearest dollar)	\$	399,923

2024-2025 Supplementary Local Road Funding

Supplementary Local Road Funding (Formulae Funding)	\$	239,403
Supplementary Local Road Funding (Special Local Roads)	\$	**

* Moneys provided under the Special Local Roads Program (FA Grants) have been allocated for work on the following project:

** Moneys provided under the Supplementary Local Road funding component of the Special Local Roads Program for 2024-25 have been allocated for work on the following project:

The General Purpose Grants and the Identified Local Road Grants are determined using different assessment methods.

To determine the recommended allocation of General Purpose Grants, the Commission assesses each council's capacity to raise revenue and their expenditure need relative to the average across the state.

Greater funding is directed to councils with less capacity to raise revenue from rates (i.e. typically those councils with lower than average property values) or where services cost more to provide for reasons outside the council's control (i.e. typically those councils with higher than average expenditure needs).

The Identified Local Road Grants are distributed on the basis of road length and population, and for rural councils, road length, population and the area of the council.

OFFICIAL

The Commission, comprising Chair, Mr Rob Donaldson and Commissioners, Ms Wendy Campana and Ms Erika Vickery OAM, makes recommendations to me each year based on its distribution methodology. This methodology is reviewed regularly by the Commission. There have been no changes to the distribution methodology for 2024- 2025.

The FA Grants are untied and the funding for 2024-2025 will be paid in four quarterly instalments, with the first instalment recently paid on 16 August 2024 and further instalments to be paid in November 2024, February 2025 and May 2025.

It would be appreciated if you could forward this information to the relevant council officers. Should you have any queries regarding your council's grant, please contact Mr Peter Ilee, the Commission's Executive Officer, by telephone on (08) 7133 1414 or via email to grants.commission@sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Hon Joe Szakacs MP
Minister for Trade and Investment
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

16 / 09 / 2024

cc: mmccarthy@barossa.sa.gov.au

OFFICIAL

Hon Joe Szakacs MP

24MINLG-0457

Mayor Michael Lange
The Barossa Council
PO Box 867
NURIOOTPA SA 5355

By email: mayor.lange@barossa.sa.gov.au



**Government
of South Australia**

**Minister for Trade and
Investment**

**Minister for Local
Government**

**Minister for Veterans'
Affairs**

GPO Box 1533
ADELAIDE SA 5000

T: (08) 7133 2070

E: minister.szakacs@sa.gov.au

Dear Mayor Lange

I am pleased to advise that the recommendations of the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission (the Commission) for the 2024-2025 distribution of the Roads to Recovery component of the Special Local Roads Program to councils were approved by the Hon Kristy McBain MP, Federal Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, on 13 August 2024.

The recommendations were made to the Commission based on the advice of the Local Government Transport Advisory Panel and the endorsement of the Local Government Association Board.

Unlike the Financial Assistance Grants, these grants are tied; they are made available under the Roads to Recovery Program and the funding conditions applied under the *National Land Transport Act 2014* (the Act). The terms and conditions that apply to Roads to Recovery funding provided directly to you under the Act, also apply to these grants.

The allocation to your council for 2024-2025 is \$400,000 for work on the following project(s): Bethany Road, Bethany.

The grants are tied for the specific project mentioned above. The Australian Government's intention is for the funding to be available as soon as required. Funding will be provided following successful completion of the works program in accordance with the Act. Moneys will be deposited into your account with the Local Government Finance Authority.

In order to comply with the Act, the grant is conditional on the council providing the Commission with quarterly reports and an annual report in a format that is consistent with those provided to the Australian Government for other moneys received directly by councils under the Roads to Recovery Program, and the provision of evidence of having met the signage requirements, as set out in the funding conditions.



OFFICIAL

The Commission, as the funding recipient under the Act, is responsible for submitting all reports on behalf of councils for these funds.

Quarterly and annual reports can be sent to grants.commission@sa.gov.au or by mail to Mr Peter Ilee, Executive Officer, Local Government Grants Commission, GPO Box 2329, Adelaide SA 5001.

It would be appreciated if you could forward a copy of this letter to the relevant council officers. Should you have any queries, please contact the Grants Commission by telephone on (08) 7133 1313 or via the above email address.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Szakacs', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Hon Joe Szakacs MP

Minister for Trade and Investment

Minister for Local Government

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

13/9/2024

cc: mmccarthy@barossa.sa.gov.au

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.4 LGA SA NET ZERO ACCELERATE PROGRAM

**Author: Sustainability Officer
24/87861**

In January 2024, Council secured a place in the inaugural LGA SA Net Zero Accelerate Program (The Program). Council was supported through this Program to measure corporate emissions and develop a baseline carbon inventory. Council has now received this inventory and two (2) other supporting sector wide resources, which were also produced by The Program (attachments 1 to 3). Council plan to use this information to inform targets and high yield actions to start actively pursuing reducing the carbon impact of Council's activities.

Council applied for a place in The Program because delivering a Carbon Management Plan¹ was a strategic action (CS17-1) of The Corporate Plan for financial year 2023 - 2024. The carbon management hierarchy² recommends measuring and understanding emissions as the first step to delivering an evidenced based plan that is tailored and focused on the greatest opportunities for improvement.

The Barossa Council were one (1) of fifteen (15) Local Government Councils in South Australia to benefit from The Program that was led by the Local Government Association and Department for Environment and Water, to help councils meet the state's emissions reduction goals. The South Australian Government set state-wide targets to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions³ in May 2022 when they declared a Climate Emergency⁴.

Council received consultant support and measurement services valued at about \$20,000 for a nominal contribution of \$500 to the LGA. There are currently no government acts or legislative mechanisms that require local governments to have a Carbon Management Plan or to measure and report on emissions. On the 29 August 2024 however, the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024⁵ was presented to the House of Assembly. The Bill amendments propose to give the Premier the ability to nominate a public sector entity to report on reducing emissions and managing climate risk.

Council has already taken actions, that while may have been more strongly linked to cost and efficiency gains, also contribute to reducing carbon emissions, for example, installing solar panels on Council facilities (2022), the recycled asphalt program, some lighting upgrades to LED, and mandating green organics bins for townships. Any further actions and plans to reduce Council's carbon emissions, will benefit from being

¹ A Carbon Management Plan is a documented strategy and set of actions to help reduce carbon emissions. Carbon emissions, greenhouse gas emissions and carbon pollution are often used interchangeably to refer to carbon dioxide and methane emissions.

² [circular-economy-in-south-australias-built-environment.pdf](#)

³ Targets declared to reducing net greenhouse gas emission by more than 50% by 2030, achieving net zero emission by 2050 and achieve 100% renewable energy generation by 2030;

⁴ [Climate emergency declaration passes in Parliament | Premier of South Australia](#),

⁵ [Climate Change Act – Draft Amendment Bill | YourSAy](#)

owned by all of Council and embedded in existing directorate plans and budgets that flow from The Community Plan.

The Executive Leadership Team provided in principle support (February 2024) to explore setting targets and identifying reduction strategies as the next step after measuring emissions. The carbon emissions inventory and recommendations from The Program will be used to consider high yield opportunities across all of Council, with a focus on leveraging the strength of cross-directorate teams and seeking out actions that deliver co-benefits.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 The Barossa Council Carbon Emissions Summary Report for Financial Year 2022 - 2023 prepared by dsquared [↓](#) 
- Attachment 2 LGA Net Zero Accelerate program - sector wide summary for local government emissions in SA prepared by dsquared - 16 September 2024 [↓](#) 
- Attachment 3 LGA Net Zero Accelerate program - a best practice guide to emissions management for local government in SA prepared by dsquared - 16 September 2024 [↓](#) 

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

[Department for Environment and Water - New program to help drive down local government emissions](#)

[Local Government Net Zero Accelerate Program | LGA South Australia](#)

dsquared



LGA Net Zero Accelerate
Program

Barossa Council

**Emissions Summary
Report**





Document Control

Issue	Date	Change	Checked	Approved
01	08/05/24	First draft issue	AD	JP
02	01/07/24	Second issue with emissions reduction section	AD	JP
03	02/09/24	Final issue with transport emissions updated	BH	JP

This Emissions Summary Report has been prepared by dsquared on behalf of the Local Government Association (LGA) of South Australia as part of the LGA Net Zero Accelerate Program, with funding provided by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW). Support has also been provided by a Technical Working Group which consists of LGA, DEW and local council representatives and we would like to acknowledge and thank the Technical Working Group for their time.



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment
and Water

About dsquared

Our Vision is to **think beyond the square.**

Our Mission is to create spaces, places, and communities that are positive for both the environment and for people. We will do this by providing our clients with sustainable and bespoke solutions that are innovative, challenge perceived ideas, and push the boundaries of achievement and excellence.

We confirm that all work has been undertaken in accordance with our ISO 9001 accredited quality management system.

Acknowledgement of country

The dsquared team wish to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of all country throughout Australia, and their cultural, spiritual, physical, and emotional connection with their land, waters, and community. We pay our respects to all Elders past, present, and emerging.

D Squared Consulting Pty Ltd
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Project Number: 2932



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Introduction

Purpose

This Emissions Summary Report has been prepared to assist Barossa Council in understanding and managing its current corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions footprint and to set a plan to reduce corporate emissions, as part of the Local Government Association (LGA) Accelerate Net Zero Program.

The scope of this Report is the Council's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for FY22/23 as a result of their corporate operations and does not include community related emissions such as kerbside waste to landfill. The aim is to develop a holistic emissions profile for the Council's operations which will then be used to work towards reducing emissions while also informing initiatives for the community.

The report recommends targets and milestones for the Council to work towards, while acknowledging that this is a long-term process and changes in the markets and technological advancements may provide additional emission reduction opportunities over the coming years.

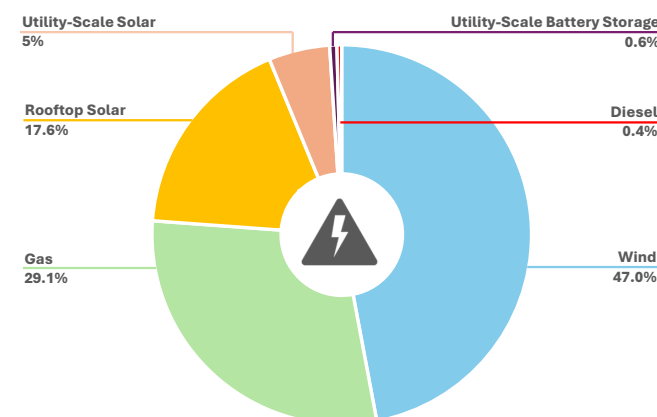
National and State context

Since 2009, Australia has decarbonised its economy by an average of 12 MtCO₂-e per year. In 2022 the Australian Government increased its commitment under the COP21 Paris Agreement to reduce emissions by 43% below 2005 levels, as well as committing to the goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2050, enshrined in the Climate Change Act 2022. Australia has also signed the Global Methane Pledge to collectively reduce global methane emissions by 30% by 2030.

In South Australia, the State Government has similarly set goals to reduce GHG emissions by more than 50% below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2050. SA has been a national leader in the renewable energy transition, transforming its energy system to a share of 70% renewables in 2022. The Australian Energy Market Operator forecasts this could rise to approximately 93% by 2025/2026, on track to meet the State Government's aspiration to achieve 100% net renewables by the end of 2027. In 2023, there were 289 days in which renewables met all of the state's operational demand for part of the day, and rooftop solar alone has met all state demand on occasions.

Australia's decarbonising of its energy sources within government, non-government and private industry, means electricity emissions will continue to reduce over time. Therefore, recommendations in this Report reflects a potential pathway for electricity emissions, to ensure emission reduction initiatives and capital is not over invested in electricity emissions related initiatives.

SA's average generation by fuel source



Source: Australian Energy Update 2023, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water



Council context and achievements

Barossa Council is committed to supporting a sustainable region, as outlined in the Council's Community Plan 2020-2040, which is an important framework on the net zero journey. The below summarises context of Barossa Council and some initiatives that have supported emission reduction outcomes and taking action on climate change in the region.

Context Land area: 894km² Population: 25,569 Distance from Adelaide: 40km NE 	Barossa RDA Climate Change Plan Barossa Regional Development Australia undertook an assessment for the wider region, identifying climate adaptation actions.	Solar PV systems 360kW of Solar PV installed across the Rex Aquatic Centre and Council offices in Nuriootpa. 	Barossa Bushgardens Showcasing 130 local Barossa plant species, the Bushgardens support biodiversity and critically endangered plants. Tubestock grown in the nursery supplies revegetation and grassland restoration. The Natural Resource Centre (NRC) provides information to the community on sustainable living, land management and climate change adaption. 
Waste and recycling Council operates a three-bin kerbside collection service, alongside provision of kitchen organics caddy. A waste transfer station at Springton also offers recycling of hard waste, e-waste and drumMuster containers. Council offers limited kerbside collections as part of the 'Declutter and Save' program to support waste diversion from landfill. 	Water security Following community and stakeholder workshops led by DEW, in partnerships with industry and neighbouring Councils, the Barossa Water Security Strategy was released in November 2022. The strategy seeks to secure agriculture and viticulture, natural heritage and biodiversity through diversified water supply and land management practices, whilst adapting to the changing climate. 	Electric vehicle charging Public EV charging stations are available at the Soldiers Memorial Hall in Nuriootpa and Barossa Visitor Centre in Tanunda. 	Premier wine region The region is home to over 550 wine grape growers and 170 wineries, including some of the world's oldest continually-producing vines. 
		Cycling & Walking The Barossa Cycle Hub offers shower and change facilities, encouraging use of the 40km of continuous sealed shared-use paths. 	



Carbon management hierarchy

To ensure the Council is following an established pathway, this plan has been developed based on the adjacent carbon management hierarchy with the aim to reduce emissions by measuring, avoiding, reducing, and switching sources. However, it is also acknowledged that there will be remaining emissions associated with the Council's operations that the Council will not be able to reduce to net zero emissions without using carbon offsets.

Standards

This plan has been developed in line with the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard, Climate Active Carbon Neutral Organisation Standard, and Science Based Targets Manuals and reference documents. The GHG Protocol and Climate Active are the main standards used in this Plan and are summarised below.

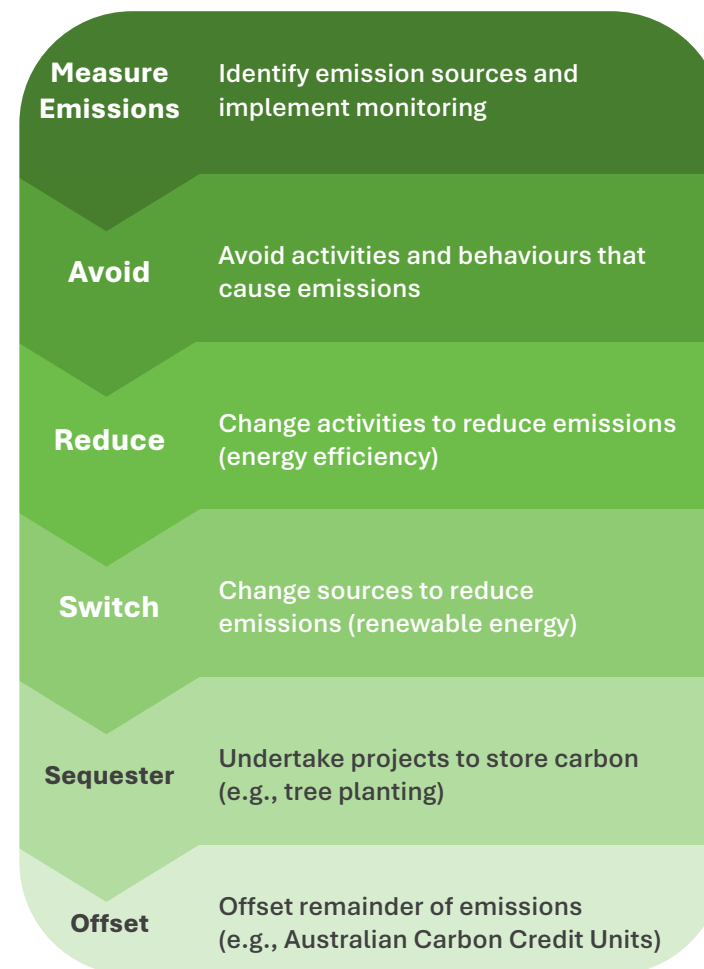


The **GHG Protocol** is an internationally accepted set of standards and resources for GHG emissions accounting and reporting and is used by both public and private entities. The GHG Protocol is referenced by many GHG emissions tools and certifications including Climate Active and the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). Although the GHG Protocol includes setting emissions reduction targets, the SBTi standards provide further guidance on setting a target in line with the Paris Agreement.



Climate Active Carbon Neutral Organisation Standards and Technical Guidance Manuals have been used throughout the development of this plan and associated emission calculations, including setting an emissions boundary and baseline year, to ensure that in the event Council pursues certification, the emissions inventory and initiatives will meet the minimum requirements.

Most favoured option



Least favoured option

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2932_Barossa Council_Emissions Summary Report



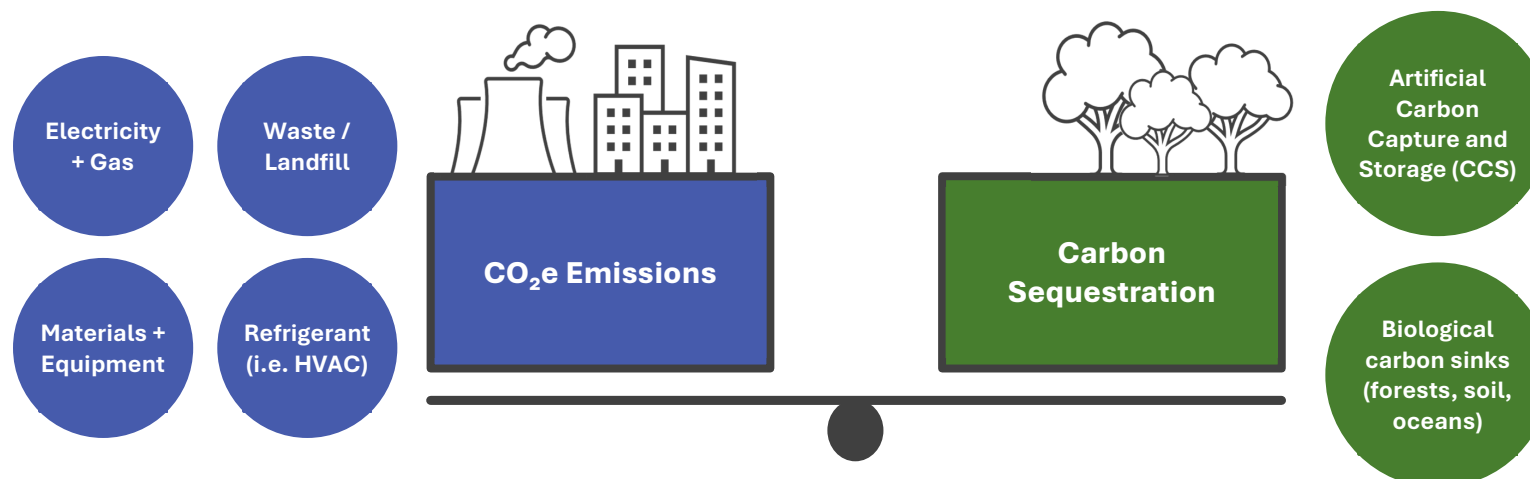
What is Net Zero Emissions

The net zero emissions definition is¹:

“net zero means cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions re-absorbed from the atmosphere”

The process of re-absorbing emissions is known as carbon sequestration and can occur through biological carbon sinks such as forests, soil and oceans, or through artificial Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) initiatives, which involves technological interventions. Carbon sequestration projects are independently verified to produce accredited carbon offsets, which Council can purchase to neutralise the remaining emissions to achieve net zero.

This plan recommends implementing direct emission reduction initiatives that will reduce the Council’s emissions as close to zero as possible, with a review to be undertaken in 3-5 years to confirm when and how net zero emissions could be achieved based on global and Australian progression on the net zero emissions transition.



¹ United Nations Climate Action – Net zero definition <<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/net-zero-coalition>>



Emissions boundary

For all councils in the LGA Net Zero Accelerate Program, an Operational Control approach was used to define the emissions boundary.

This approach captures all emissions which are in council's direct control or where council can influence operations and emissions as part of its policies and procedures.

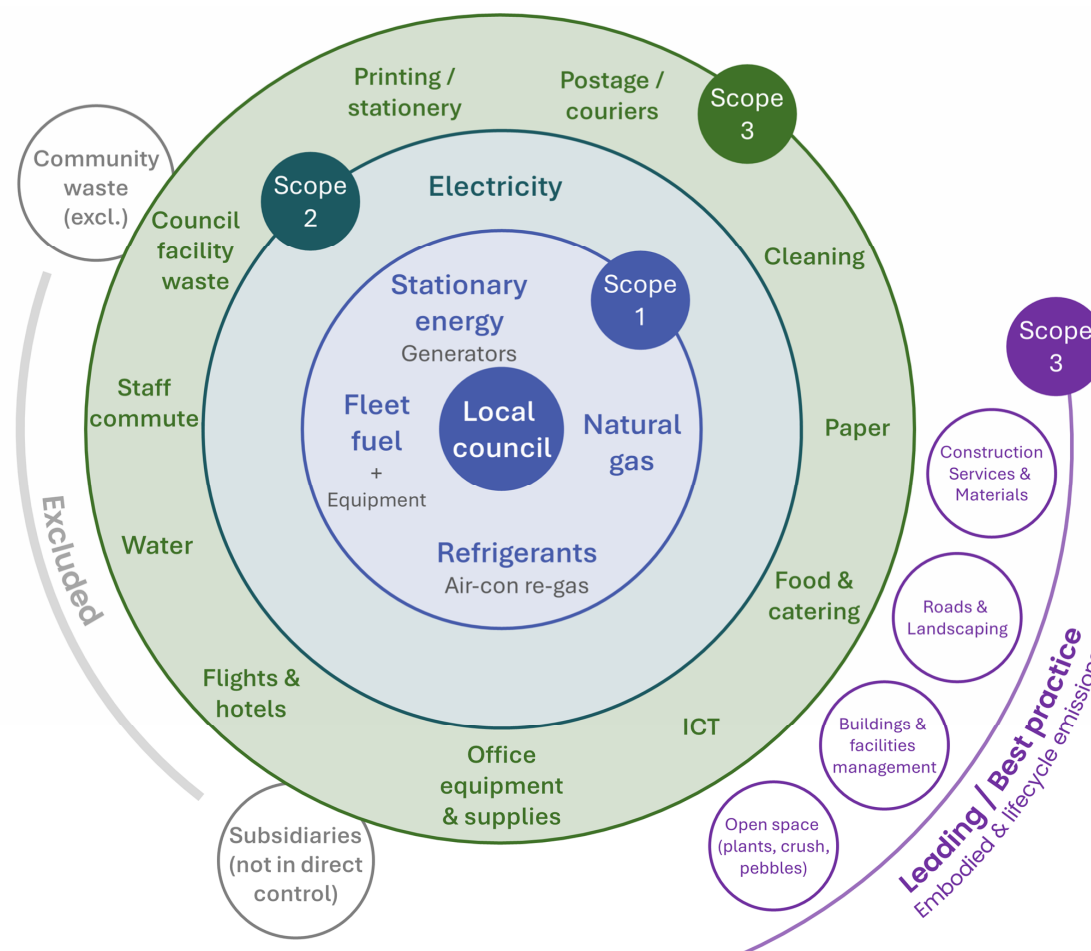
In addition to the Operational Control approach, local councils are in a unique position where they have emissions associated with their corporate operations, while also providing services and infrastructure to the community. As a result, developing a council emissions inventory is typically separated into:

- **Corporate emissions** relating to the council's corporate operations, similar to a commercial company. Corporate emissions are typically included in the inventory.
- **Community emissions** relating to services and infrastructure provided to the community e.g., kerbside waste services. Community emissions are typically excluded from the inventory.

For the purpose of this report, *corporate emissions* only have been included in the boundary.

Refer to the LGA Best Practice Guide for further details on defining the emissions boundary

Refer to the following page for more information on Scope 1, 2, and 3 emission sources.





Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions

The baseline emissions profile includes Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions for emissions sources associated with the Council's corporate operations (refer adjacent summary). Scope 3 emissions have been incorporated to enable the Council to demonstrate leadership by including indirect emissions from its operations and enable the Council to influence emissions across their supply chain.

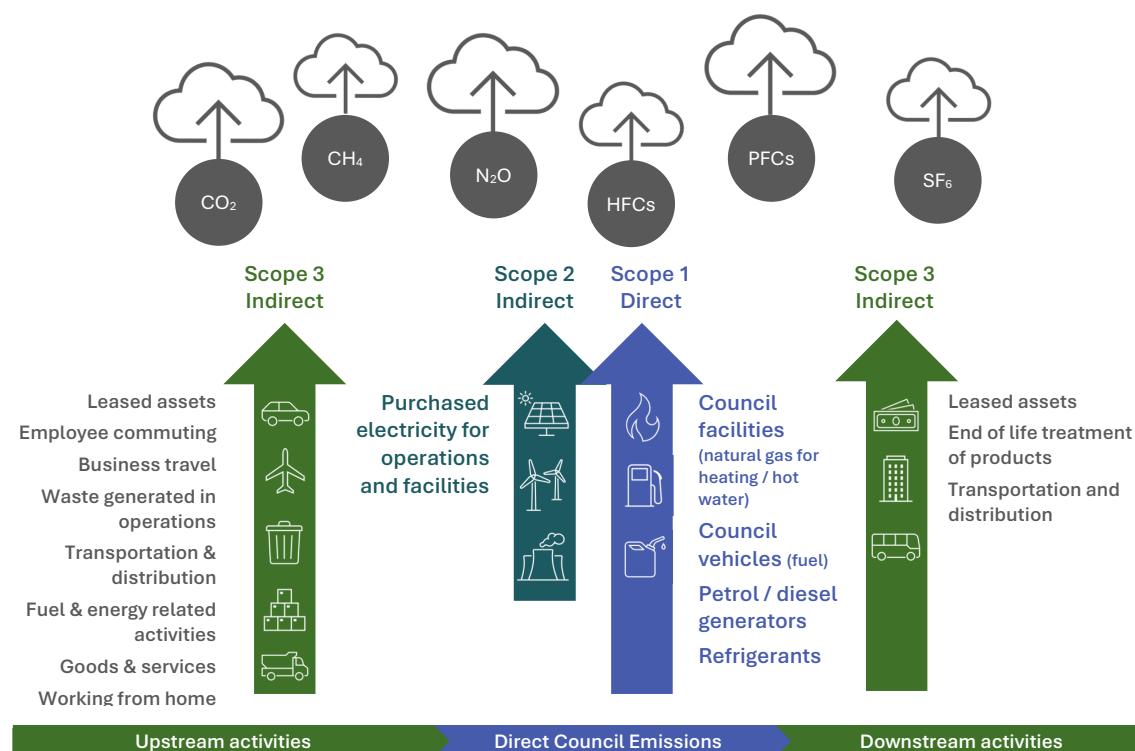
Scope 3 emissions are becoming increasingly important as Scope 1 and 2 emissions reduce and as data availability improves. Based on typical organisations that develop emissions inventories, approximately 90% of emissions are from Scope 3 indirect emissions which highlights that supplier and embodied emissions are a key priority for identifying emission reduction opportunities, as well as working with suppliers to reduce emissions and environmental impacts over time.

Emissions scopes are categorised as follows:

Scope 1: Direct GHG emissions occur from sources that are owned or controlled by the reporting organisation.

Scope 2: Indirect GHG emissions associated with the purchase of energy (electricity, steam, heat, or cooling).

Scope 3: Scope 3 emissions are the result of activities from assets not owned or controlled by the reporting organisation, but that the organisation indirectly impacts in its value chain, including embodied carbon.





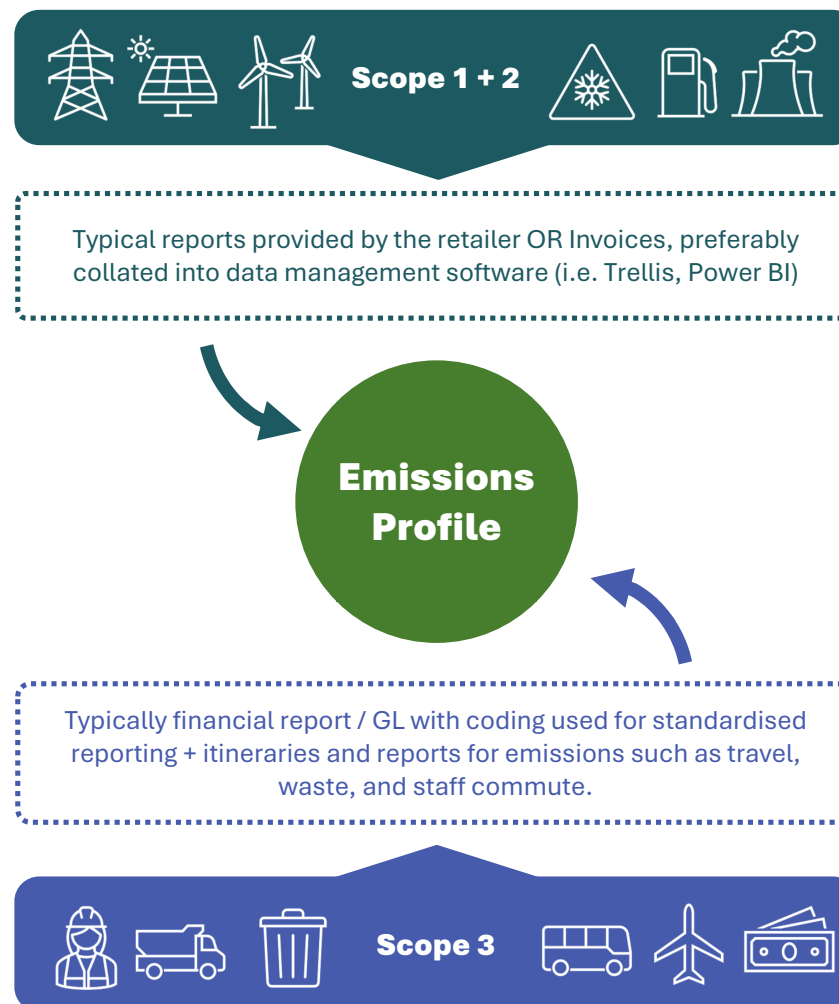
Data Sources

Financial reporting (money spent), energy retailer reports, vehicle fuel reports and water supply reports are the primary sources of data used in developing the emissions profile for Barossa Council.

Based on the data received from Council, the following recommendations are provided to improve ongoing data tracking and capture, as well as emissions accuracy and scope.

Data improvement recommendations:

- Track actual solar generation, use and export per site. This will provide an understanding of solar utilisation and guide future solar and storage investments.
- Record waste (landfill) and recycling volumes generated in Council facilities. For example, onsite staff or cleaners could weight bins and maintain a physical log for each time bins are emptied, or Waste Contractor can provide reports on bin size, weight and pick-up frequency.
- Record HVAC and equipment refrigerant re-gassing in maintenance records, including confirmation of the refrigerant used and quantity provided by the contractor.
- Undertake staff survey to collate a list of daily commuting distance, travel/vehicle type (i.e. car, bus, motorcycle), FTE and average days that the staff member would typically work from home.
- Maintain a record of flight itineraries, including departure, destination, number of staff and class travelled. Consider utilising a corporate travel partner (agent) for all flight bookings that can provide an annual travel summary.





Emissions Profile

FY23 emissions inventory

The 2022/23 corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile for Barossa Council is outlined below.

Emission Category	Total Emissions (tCO ₂ -e) FY23
Electricity	2,395
Machinery and vehicles	578
Transport	530
On site gas use	416
Recycled Water	300
Water	218
Streetlighting	210
ICT services and equipment	141
Waste	88
Office equipment and supplies	36
Wastewater*	31
Cleaning and chemicals	26
All other sources combined	52
TOTAL	5,021

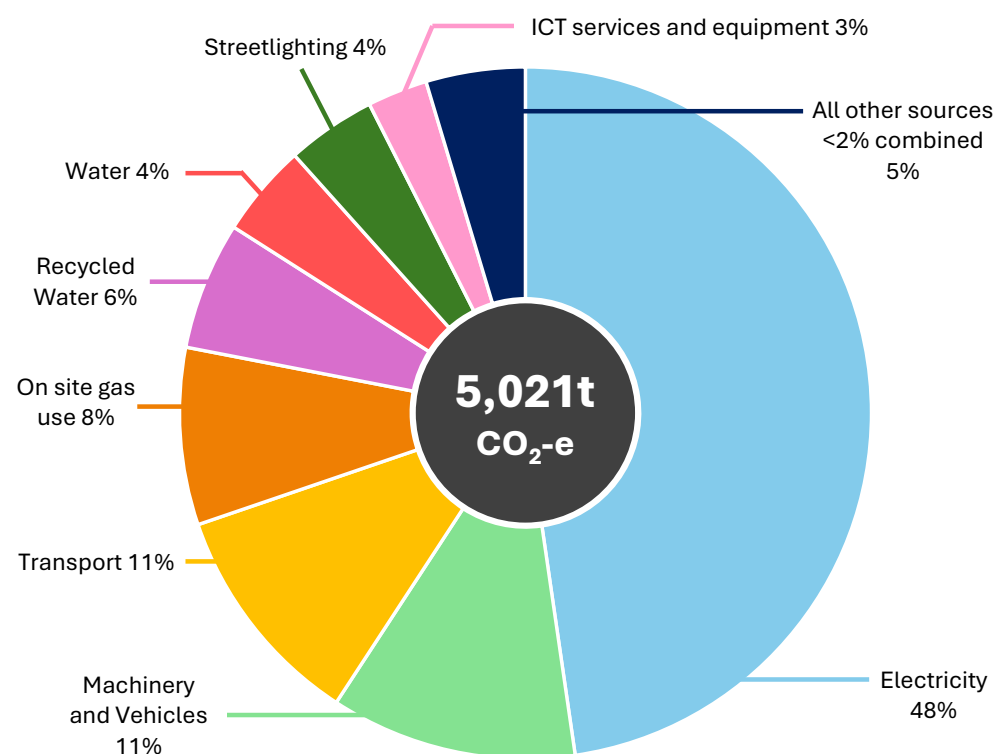
*Note: Emissions associated with the operation of the CWMS have been excluded for comparison to other metropolitan based councils. However, emissions from the CWMS are significant and increase total emissions by over 75%. Refer to summary in Appendix A.



Scope 1

Scope 2

Scope 3





The main emission categories are classified as follows:

 Electricity and Gas Energy is split into electricity and gas which is used to power buildings, facilities and streetlights including hot water and pool heating. Energy is a significant component to the Council's emissions totalling over 50%. The Rex Aquatic Centre contributes to over 95% of total on site gas use.	 Waste Operational waste from the Council's corporate facilities has been included with landfill methane emissions a significant source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Community kerbside waste collection is not included however is an important part of the community's emissions profile.
 Transport – fleet vehicles and business travel Transport includes fuel used in the Council's corporate fleet vehicles, maintenance vehicles and equipment (e.g. tractors and mowers). Flights are also included. Transport is the Council's largest single emission source and as a result is one of the largest opportunities for emission reduction outcomes. Diesel powered vehicles and equipment contributes to 40% of total transport emissions and produce pollutants and particulate matter that are harmful to human health.	 Water The Council uses a significant volume of water to operate its corporate and community facilities and irrigate parks and reserves for community use. Emissions associated with water include pumping and water treatment and wastewater treatment. A large amount of recycled water is expected to be supplied for irrigation, which contributes to the majority of the Council's water emission. Other emissions are associated with potable water supply and wastewater treatment for sites connected to the sewer network.
 Transport - staff commute Emissions associated with employee travel to and from work has been incorporated based on anonymous postcode data and average Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) commute to work data. Working from home days have been removed from the calculations. Sustainable transport modes (i.e. bike/walk/bus) can reduce commuting emissions.	 Refrigerants Refrigerants are used as a coolant in air-conditioning systems which can leak over time can and have a significantly higher Global Warming Potential (GWP) than CO₂. Although refrigerants only total 0.4% of the Council's emissions, they will become increasingly important as the Council works towards net zero emissions.
 Machinery and Vehicles Supply chain emissions from the purchase, maintenance and repair of Council's corporate fleet vehicles, including passenger and utility vehicles, trucks, heavy machinery and equipment. This category also accounts for hired vehicles.	 Supply chain – multiple categories Supply chain emissions from telecommunications, IT equipment, stationery, paper, catering, cleaning, accommodation and offices supplies have been included and represents almost 5% of the Council's emissions.

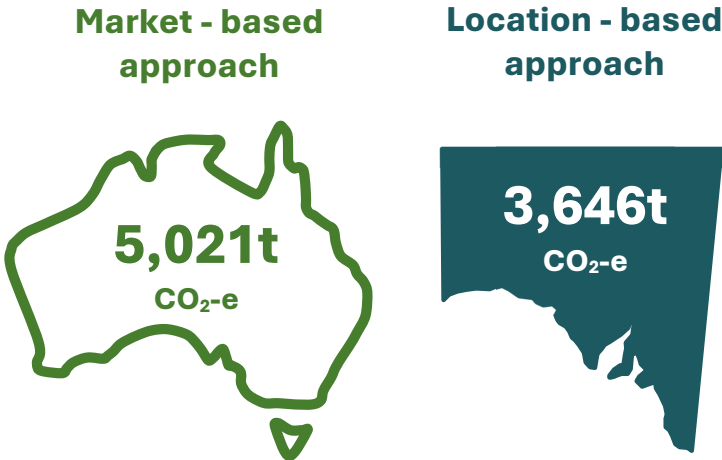


Electricity Emissions

A **market-based approach** has been used to estimate electricity emissions from purchased electricity. This means that an emissions factor based on the electricity market that the electricity has been purchased from has been used and an emissions reduction has been applied if the Council purchases accredited renewable energy products (i.e. electricity contracts with Green Power or voluntarily surrendering Large-scale Generation Certificates as part of a Power Purchase Agreement).

Alternatively, a **location-based approach** uses an emissions factor based on the local South Australian electricity grid, which has a higher proportion of renewable energy generation.

Total corporate GHG emissions under each approach are provided alongside for comparison and reference. As emission reduction initiatives are implemented and as the Australia’s electricity becomes greener with increasing renewable energy generation, the emission profile will change over time. As a result, the Council will need to continually update emissions data and track progression over time.



Top 5 Emissions

The Council’s top 5 emissions in 2022/23 are as follows and equate to over 80% of the Council’s emissions and are therefore a priority for reduction initiatives.





Emissions Reduction

Key initiatives

Emission reduction strategies that address Council's top 5 emissions have been grouped into two priority focus areas. Recommended emission reduction strategies that will have the largest impact on the Council's corporate emissions, while providing social, cultural, economic, and environmental benefits are outlined below for Council to consider. It is recommended that Council review and develop detailed business cases and implementation plans for initiatives that will have a large capital or operational cost impact.



Renewable Powered and Electrified Assets

Plan for the replacement of natural gas assets and petrol and diesel fleet vehicles with hybrid and all-electric alternatives.



Sustainable Supply Chain and Policies

Implement Council policies that support low emissions procurement and sustainable practices in Council operations.

Transport and Machinery



Low emission fleet

Review current vehicle fleet. Optimise and downsize fleet by prioritising smaller, low emission vehicles and equipment where suitable. For example, consider vehicle usage and switch larger utility vehicles to smaller passenger alternatives where practical.

Aim to further reduce fuel consumption through transition of light passenger and medium vehicles to hybrid and electric vehicles (over 3-5 years).

Plan for petrol and diesel powered equipment, machinery and heavy vehicles to transition to hybrid and electric alternatives as suitable options become available in the longer term (5-10 years).



Optimise transport procurement

Review fleet vehicle replacement frequency.

Flights 100% emissions offset at booking.

Reduce staff travel

Encourage practices that reduce fuel consumption for fleet and staff travel and commute, including:

- vehicle sharing (between staff) and car-pooling
- working from home / virtual meetings and conferencing
- provide public transport concessions / EOT facilities



Buildings and Assets



Improve building efficiency

Undertake a review of Council owned facilities, including energy audits or assessments for the facilities with the highest energy consumption, to identify opportunities for energy and water reduction.

Opportunities may include:

- thermal improvements, such as insulation, glazing and building sealing activities.
- Replacement or upgrade of building services equipment, such as lighting, fixtures, building plant.
- Installation of smart metering and energy management systems.

Natural gas transition

Transition assets to all-electric equipment as part of facilities maintenance and replacement programs. Transition pool heating from gas to electric heat pump or solar.

Mandate all-electric services for new capital works.

Procure renewable energy

Transition to 100% renewable energy via a mixture of onsite renewable (Solar PV) and decarbonisation of the electricity grid.

Undertake an assessment of available rooftop, energy demand and benefit analysis for the installation of rooftop solar PV and/or battery storage solutions where viable (payback < 7 years)

Consider procuring 100% renewable energy supply contract, pending Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) cost / benefit review.

Council Operation



Reduce embodied energy

Improve data capture for Scope 3 emissions for capital works projects including:

- asphalt for road replacement
- concrete for curbs and pedestrian pathways, and
- steel in capital works and maintenance.
- Landscaping, including crush, pebbles and plants.

Engage with suppliers and investigate opportunities to use recycled and low emission materials, such as low emission and carbon neutral concrete, recycled aggregates and supplementary cementitious material (SCMs) and warm mix asphalt.

Request low emission options for consideration as part of tender documentation for capital works projects.

Refrigerants

Low Global Warming Potential (GWP) refrigerants used on new builds and as part of asset replacement programs. Aim for refrigerants with GWP<10.

Sustainable products and services

Undertake supplier review to identify opportunities that reduce non-essential procurement. Investigate lower emissions options, such as carbon neutral certified companies and products, local suppliers, products with recycled content or reuse items. Develop sustainable procurement policies and KPIs.

Reduce waste

Support operational waste reduction, by offering additional separated recycling streams and encouraging digital practices.



Emissions Reduction Pathway

Based on the above initiatives, the following recommended targets have been developed to demonstrate the estimated emissions reduction that could be achieved by FY35. Two scenarios have been developed for comparison: 'Net Zero Pathway' and 'Net Zero Accelerate Pathway'. The Net Zero Pathway includes priority actions, whilst the Net Zero Accelerate Pathway includes additional initiatives to drive further change, faster. Emissions reduction initiatives have been sequenced in the pathway over time with consideration of feasibility for implementation, budgeting and availability of services and products/equipment.

Base year FY23

5,021 tCO₂-e

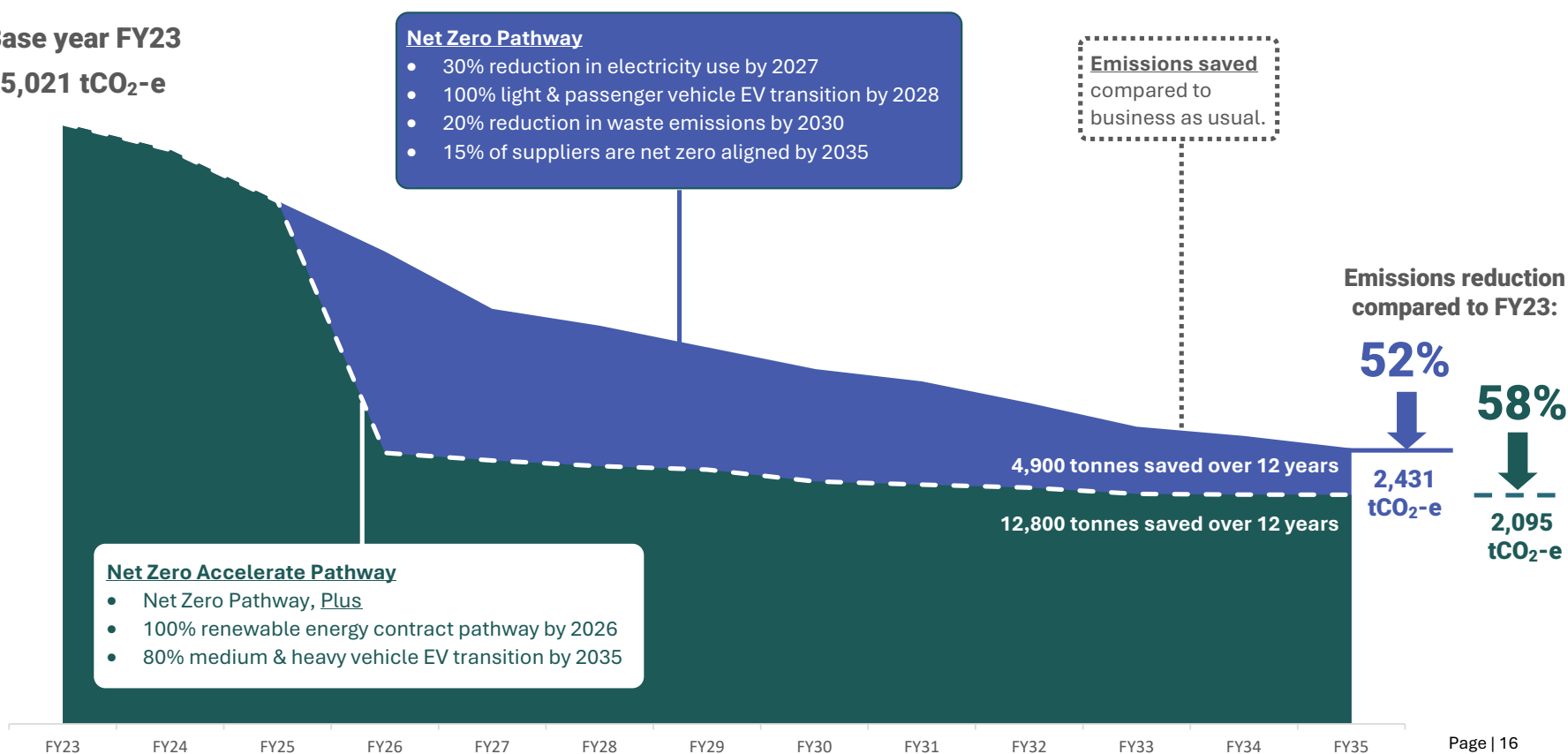
Net Zero Pathway

- 30% reduction in electricity use by 2027
- 100% light & passenger vehicle EV transition by 2028
- 20% reduction in waste emissions by 2030
- 15% of suppliers are net zero aligned by 2035

Emissions saved
compared to
business as usual.

Net Zero Accelerate Pathway

- Net Zero Pathway, Plus
- 100% renewable energy contract pathway by 2026
- 80% medium & heavy vehicle EV transition by 2035



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Appendix A CWMS Emissions

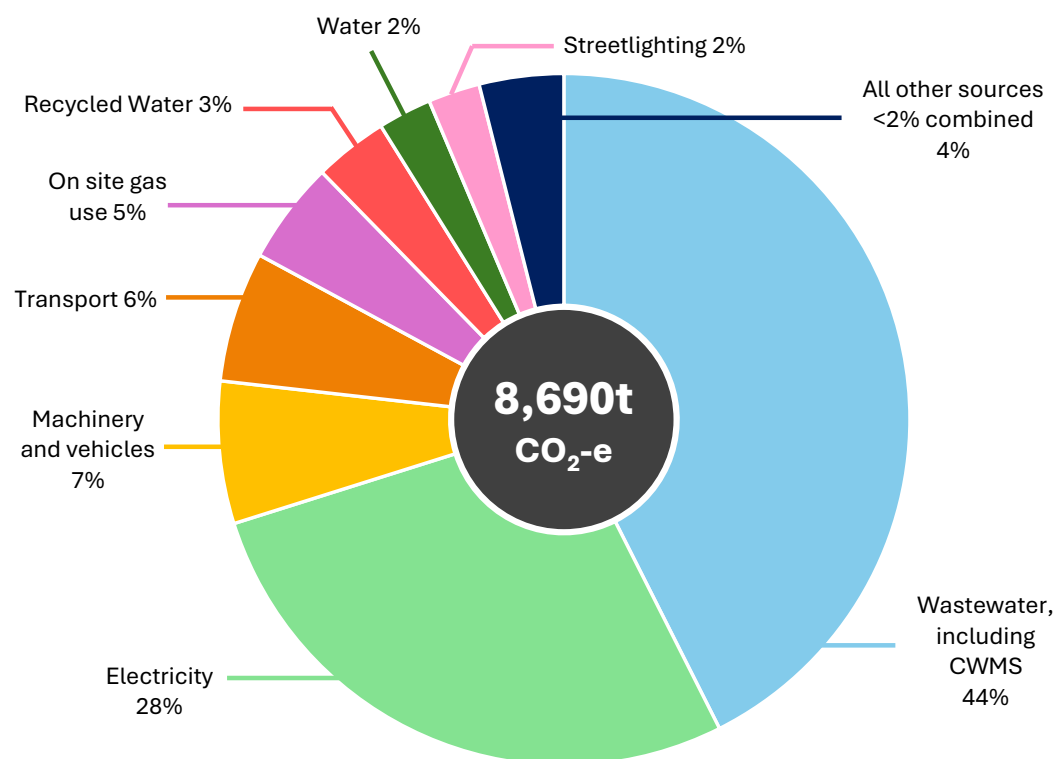
The Barossa Council operates a Community Waste Management System (CWMS). Given that this system services the community, it has been excluded from the main corporate emissions profile provided above. This allows for alignment with other councils that do not operate a CWMS, particularly metropolitan councils, for comparison purposes.

However, the CWMS is a significant source of scope 1 emissions, as a result of methane gases, **increasing total Council greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by over 75%, or 3,669 tCO₂-e for FY2022/23.**

Given the CWMS is within Council's operational control, it is recommended that opportunities to reduce methane emissions are investigated, such as:

- Ensuring proper containment of methane (preventing leaky valves, pipes, etc.).
- Alternative wastewater treatment methods, such as switching from anaerobic to aerobic treatment, or changing from sludge disposal to composting sludge and land application.
- Capturing methane and precise methane flaring for beneficial use (i.e. electricity generation) for digester systems.
- Utilise treated water discharge for irrigation of crops, sportsfields, and/or parks and reserves (ensure compliance with safety regulations).

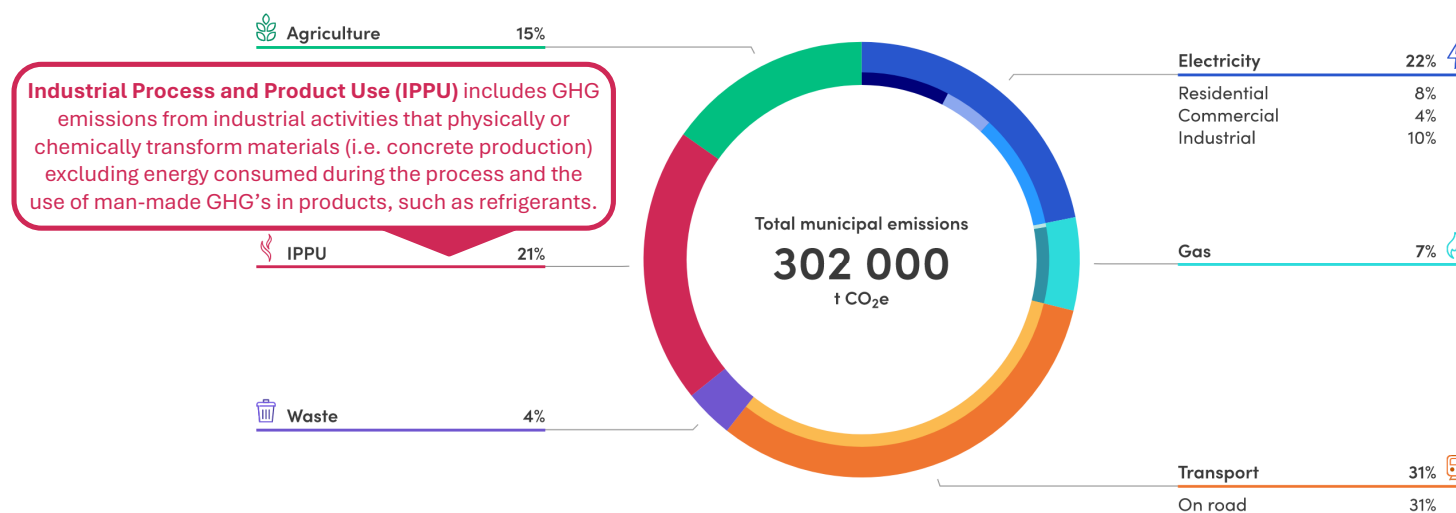
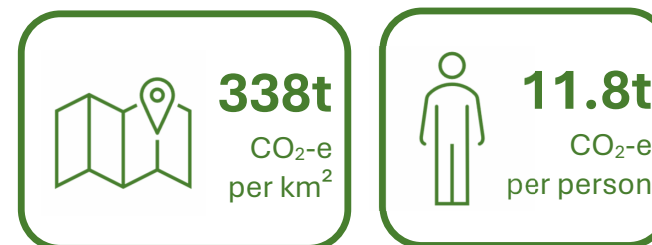
It is important to note that CWMS emissions are required to be included in the emissions inventory for formal Climate Active Carbon Neutral certification.





Appendix B Community Emissions

The Council's emissions inventory is based on corporate emissions and operations and excludes community emissions which are a major source of GHG emissions and provided below for information. In FY22, community emissions totalled approximately 302,000 tCO₂-e with Council emissions equating to almost 1.6% of community emissions. This highlights that by demonstrating leadership to the community and implementing projects that can inform and educate the community, Council can play a key role in supporting the community in reducing emissions.



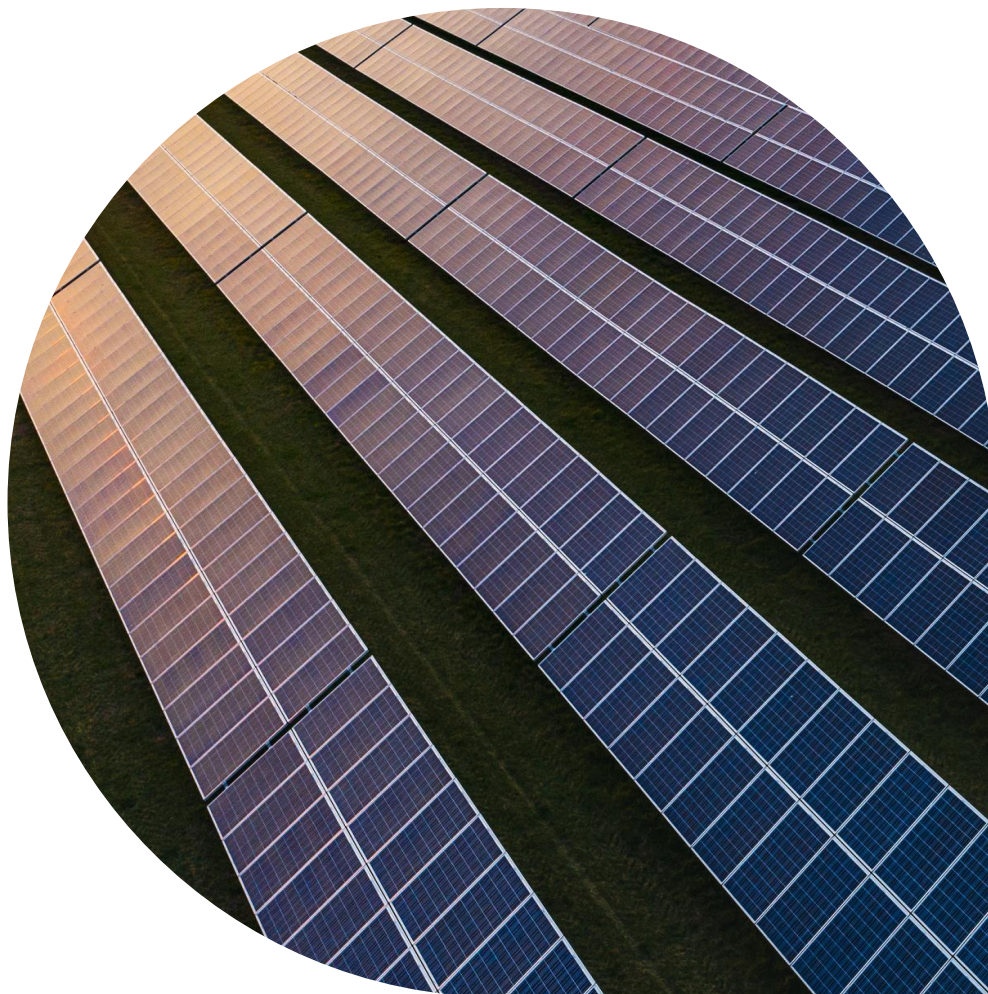
Council can support the community through programs that demonstrate leadership, educate and incentive, such as:

Outcomes of installed Solar PV and energy monitoring systems demonstrating the contribution of renewable energy from onsite systems and the SA electricity grid.

Energy and water efficiency improvements such as insulation, shading and more efficient equipment and appliances which can be replicated at home.

Hybrid and electrical vehicles which reduce both emissions and operating costs.

Support sustainable agriculture practices and waste management.



Net Zero Accelerate

A sector wide summary for local
government emissions in SA

dsquared

lga. South
Australia

Introduction

This **Sector Wide Summary for Local Government Emissions** has been prepared to assist South Australian councils in understanding and managing their corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions footprint. The summary enables councils to review average emissions profiles for local government, compare their emissions intensity, and estimate their emissions.

This summary has been developed as part of the Local Government Net Zero Accelerate Program (the Program), led by the Local Government Association of South Australia with funding from the Department for Environment and Water. The program strives to accelerate councils on their net zero emissions journey and work towards South Australia's emission reduction goals and targets.

The program supports councils to:

- Identify and report on emissions profiles.
- Take action on areas for emissions reduction.
- Establish a council emissions reduction strategy.

This **Sector Wide Summary** provides a resource for all South Australian councils to track and compare their emissions and includes the following key sections:

Section 1

Emissions
profile
summary

Emissions reporting standards, council emissions categories and sources, and data prioritisation.

Section 2

Sector
wide
emissions

Average regional, metropolitan, and combined emissions profiles for local government, including emissions intensity.

Section 3

Key
findings &
next steps

Summary of constraints, assumptions, improvements, key findings, and next steps to support councils.





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Emissions profile summary

Net Zero Accelerate Program

The Local Government Net Zero Accelerate Program is supporting 15 participating councils to collect emissions data, report on their corporate emissions profiles, identify the major emissions sources, and establish emissions reduction strategies.

Data from the 15 participating councils, as well as 5 additional councils that have provided their data to assist with the program, has been collated to enable the development of a sector wide emissions profile. The sector wide emissions profile is based on councils with consistent Scope 1, 2, and 3 data categories to ensure an accurate representation.

This summary is the first time consistent emissions data for the local government sector in South Australia has been collated, enabling a sector wide emissions profile to be estimated.

Standards used

This plan has been developed in line with the GHG Protocol and Climate Active Carbon Neutral Organisation standards, guidelines, and technical manuals (refer below).



The **GHG Protocol**¹ is an internationally accepted set of standards and resources for emissions accounting and reporting used by both public and private entities. The GHG Protocol is referenced by many GHG emissions tools and certifications including Climate Active and the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). The GHG Protocol and guidance documentation has been used throughout the development of this summary.



The **Climate Active Carbon Neutral Organisation Standard**² and Technical Guidance Manuals have been used throughout the development of this plan and associated emissions calculations, including setting an emissions boundary and baseline year. This is to ensure that in the event a council pursues certification, the emissions inventory and initiatives will meet the minimum requirements of Climate Active.



Emissions boundary

In line with the GHG Protocol and Climate Active, a review of local government operations has been undertaken and it was identified that an Operational Control approach is the most appropriate for local government (refer to the Best Practice Guide for further information).

Based on the Operational Control approach, the emissions boundary has been set to include emissions relating to a local council's corporate operations and excludes community emissions such as kerbside waste services and wastewater emissions where council operate a wastewater treatment plant or Community Wastewater Management Scheme. These services are typically managed by a separate entity or subsidiary and are not in a council's direct control. However, throughout engagement with councils in the Net Zero Accelerate Program and as part of the Best Practice Guide, opportunities to reduce community emissions have been considered where possible.

Emissions scopes

Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions have been included in the emissions profile. This ensures that the emissions profile and identified emissions reduction actions consider both direct and indirect reduction opportunities. Emissions scopes are categorised as follows:

- **Scope 1:** Direct GHG emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by the reporting organisation e.g., fossil fuels burnt and gases emitted to the atmosphere by the organisation.
- **Scope 2:** Indirect GHG emissions associated with the purchase of energy (electricity, steam, heat, or cooling) e.g., electricity purchased from the grid which is powered by fossil fuels such as coal, gas, and diesel.
- **Scope 3:** Scope 3 emissions are the result of activities from assets not owned or controlled by the reporting organisation, but that the organisation indirectly impacts in its value chain, including embodied carbon.

Scope 1

Direct emissions emitted by councils (fossil fuels burnt / gasses released)

Scope 2

Indirect emissions from purchased electricity consumption

Scope 3

Indirect emissions from the value / supply chain



What has been included

The program was designed to support councils in early stages of developing an emissions inventory and those that had not yet started their emissions reduction journey. The program was developed in line with the following data prioritisation, with councils encouraged to provide at least the Minimum and Good Practice categories:

- **Minimum:** Included Scope 1 and 2 emissions which are mandatory to report on, as well as a selection of Scope 3 emissions which are typically collated by local councils.
- **Good Practice:** Included an expanded selection of scope 3 emissions categories that would need to be included if reporting against standards such as Climate Active.
- **Best Practice:** Scope 3 emissions associated with capital works and infrastructure is typically harder to collate. Councils were given the option to include these emissions categories, however none of the councils did due to time and resourcing constraints.

The adjacent emissions categories align with Climate Active to enable councils to pursue certification if desired.

Emission categories	Minimum	Good Practice	Best Practice
Accommodation (hotel nights)		✓	
Cleaning and Chemicals (cleaning services)		✓	
Construction Materials and Services			✓
Electricity	✓		
Food & catering		✓	
Horticulture and Agriculture (construction related)			✓
ICT services and equipment		✓	
Machinery and vehicles (fleet vehicles & repairs)		✓	
Office equipment & supplies	✓		
Postage, courier and freight	✓		
Products (paper / clothing)	Paper	Clothing /workwear	
Professional Services (consultants)		✓	
Refrigerants (air-conditioning gases)	✓		
Roads and landscape			✓
Stationary Energy (natural gas, diesel / petrol generators)	✓		
Transport (fleet fuel, flights, staff commute)	✓	Staff commute	
Waste (landfill)	✓		
Water	✓		
Working from home		✓	



Emissions categories

The following table provides details on the main categories included in each council's emissions profile.

 Electricity Electricity used to power buildings, facilities and streetlights, including electric hot water and pool heating systems. A market-based approach has been used to estimate emissions from purchased grid electricity.	 Waste to landfill Operational waste from the council corporate facilities has been included, with landfill methane a significant source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
 Transport Transport includes fuel used in fleet vehicles (e.g. light passenger vehicles), along with maintenance vehicles and equipment (e.g. tractors and mowers). It also includes emissions associated with business related travel, flights, and staff travel to and from work.	 Water Includes water use in corporate and community facilities, as well as irrigation of community outdoor spaces. Emissions associated with water include pumping, water treatment and wastewater treatment.
 Refrigerants Refrigerants are used as a coolant in air-conditioning and hot water systems which can leak over time can and have a significantly higher Global Warming Potential (GWP) than CO₂.	 Stationary energy Stationary energy encompasses the combustion of fuels (gas, petrol, diesel) for on-site heat or electricity generation.
 Machinery and vehicles Machinery and vehicles encompass all purchases and maintenance costs of stationary machinery and fleet vehicles. Fleet vehicles include passenger vehicles as well as heavy plant/maintenance vehicles.	 Supply chain Supply chain emissions include professional services and consultants, telecommunications, ICT equipment, stationery, paper, catering, cleaning, accommodation and office supplies.



Sector wide emissions profiles

Introduction

The following section summarises emissions profiles and emissions intensity for the following groups of councils participating in this Sector Wide Summary:

- Regional councils
- Metropolitan councils
- All councils

All emissions profiles are for the 2022-23 financial year (FY23).

The listed councils have been incorporated into the assessment and sector wide emissions profiles. To be included in the assessment, data for the 'Minimum' and 'Good Practice' categories (refer page 6) was required to ensure a consistent assessment.

Note: The City of Salisbury, Mount Barker District Council, and Adelaide Hills Council have been incorporated in the metropolitan council assessment as they had similar emissions profiles to this category and are located in the greater metropolitan area.

Participating Net Zero Accelerate councils

Emissions profiles were developed for the following 15 councils:

- Barossa Council (The)
- Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council
- Coorong District Council
- Elliston (District Council of)
- Grant (District Council of)
- Kangaroo Island Council
- Kimba (District Council of)
- Lower Eyre Peninsula Council
- Mount Barker District Council
- Murray Bridge (Rural City of)
- Northern Areas Council
- Port Augusta (City of)
- Salisbury (City of)
- Streaky Bay (District Council of)
- Yankalilla (District Council of)

Contributing councils

The following additional councils have provided their emissions inventory data which has been incorporated into the sector wide emissions assessment. The councils were selected due to having good data sets with the same or similar Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions data as the Net Zero Accelerate Program.

- Adelaide (City of)
- Adelaide Hills Council
- Charles Sturt (City of)
- Port Adelaide Enfield (City of)
- West Torrens (City of)



Participating council map

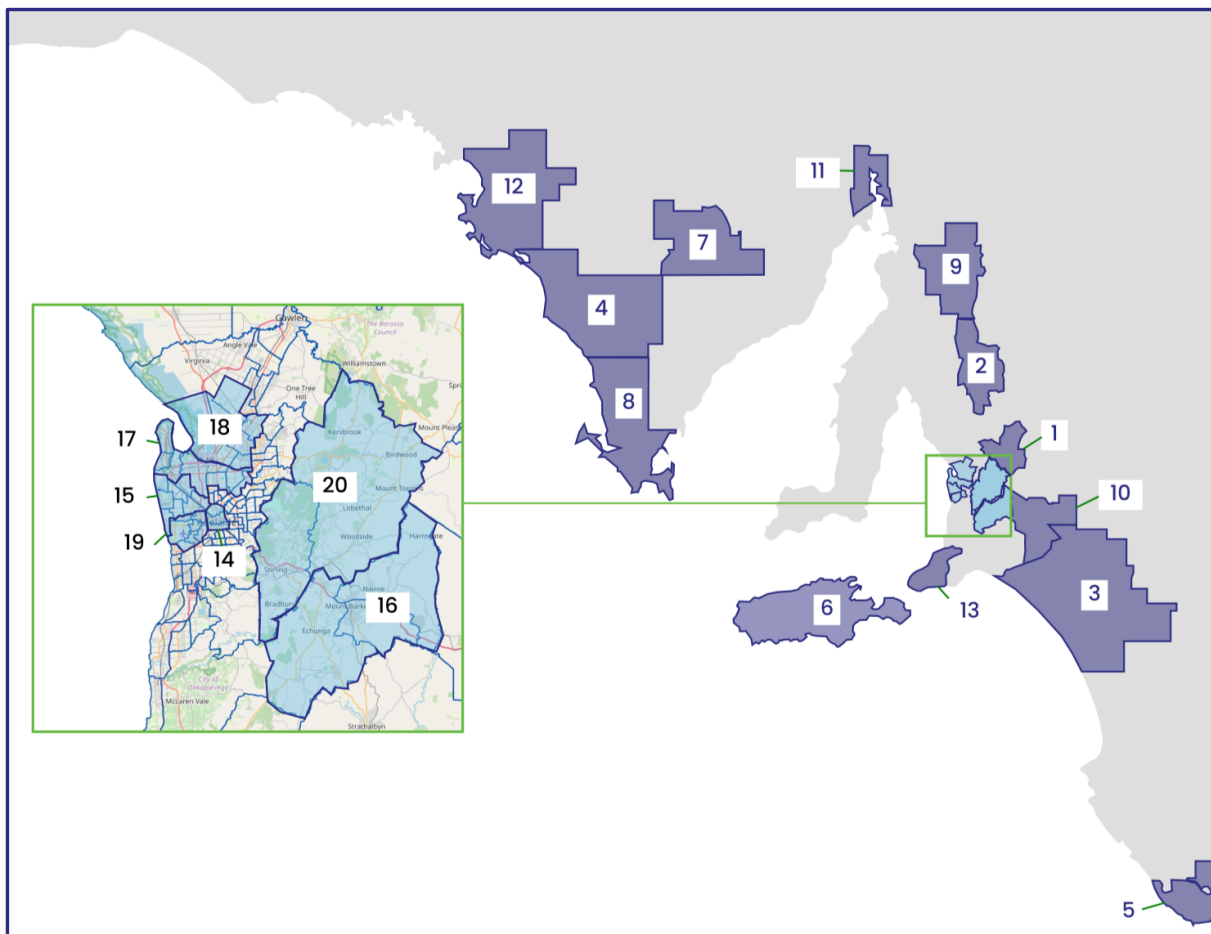
The below map outlines the participating council locations across South Australia.

Regional

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Barossa | 8. Lower Eyre |
| 2. Clare & GV | 9. Northern Areas |
| 3. Coorong | 10. Murray Bridge |
| 4. Elliston | 11. Port Augusta |
| 5. Grant | 12. Streaky Bay |
| 6. Kangaroo Island | 13. Yankalilla |
| 7. Kimba | |

Metropolitan

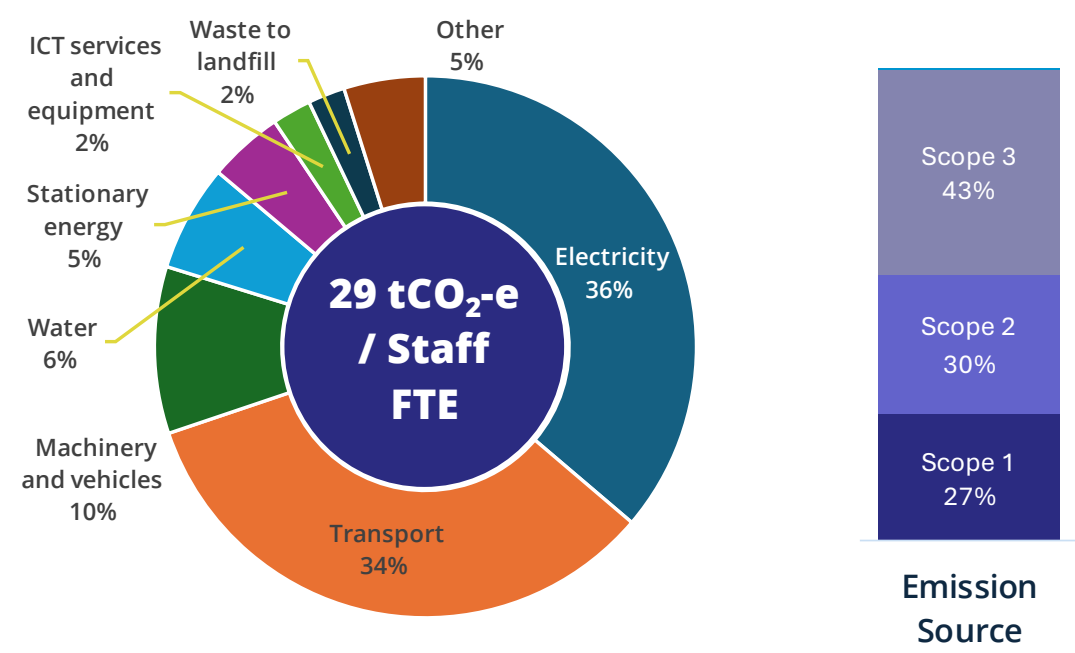
- 14. Adelaide City
- 15. Charles Sturt
- 16. Mount Barker
- 17. Port Adelaide Enfield
- 18. Salisbury
- 19. West Torrens
- 20. Adelaide Hills





Regional emissions

The average emission profile for regional councils participating in the Program is shown below.

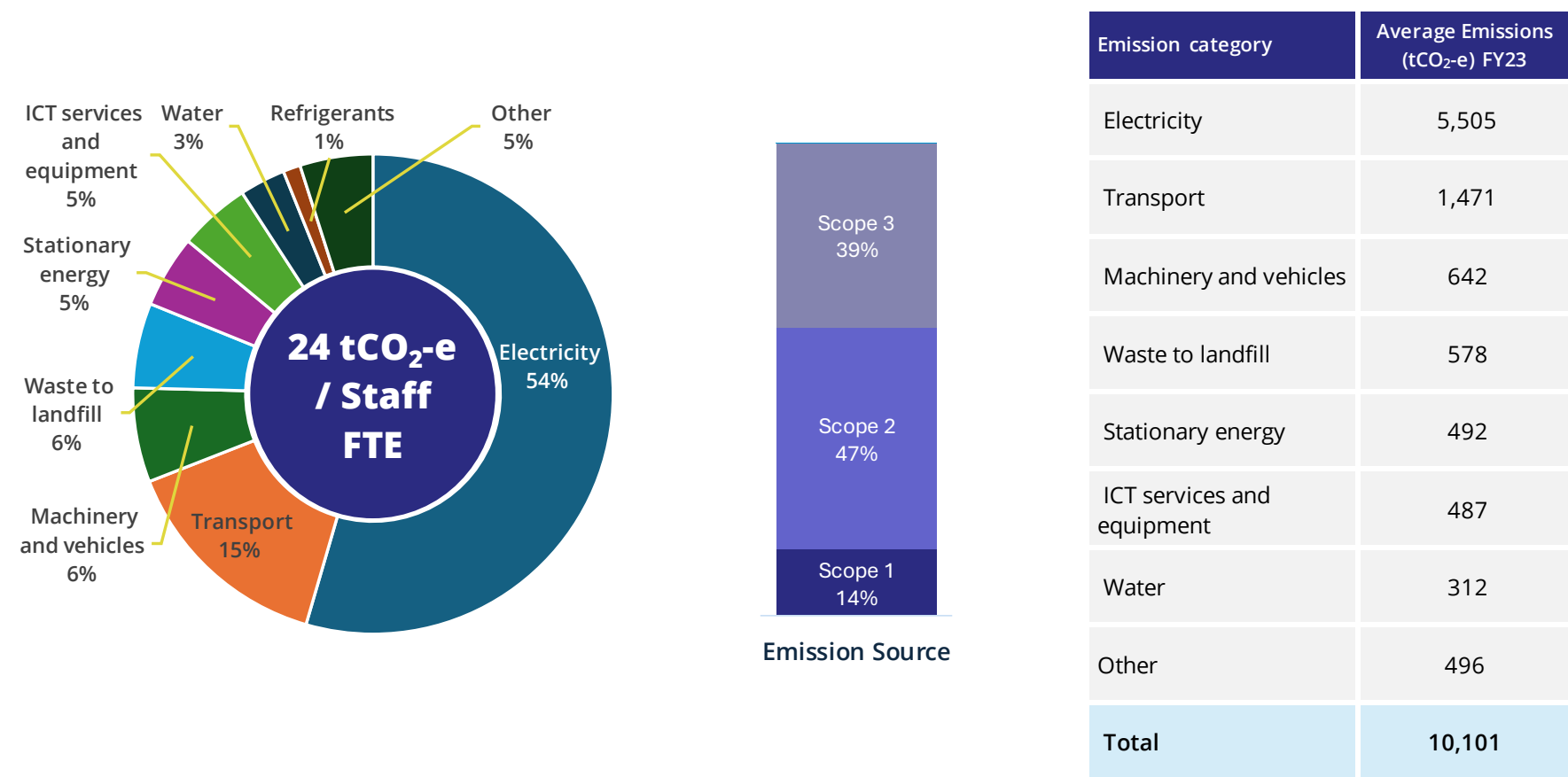


Emission category	Average Emissions (tCO ₂ -e) FY23
Electricity	720
Transport	668
Machinery and vehicles	198
Water	126
Stationary energy	89
ICT services and equipment	46
Waste to landfill	44
Other	97
Total	1,987



Metropolitan emissions

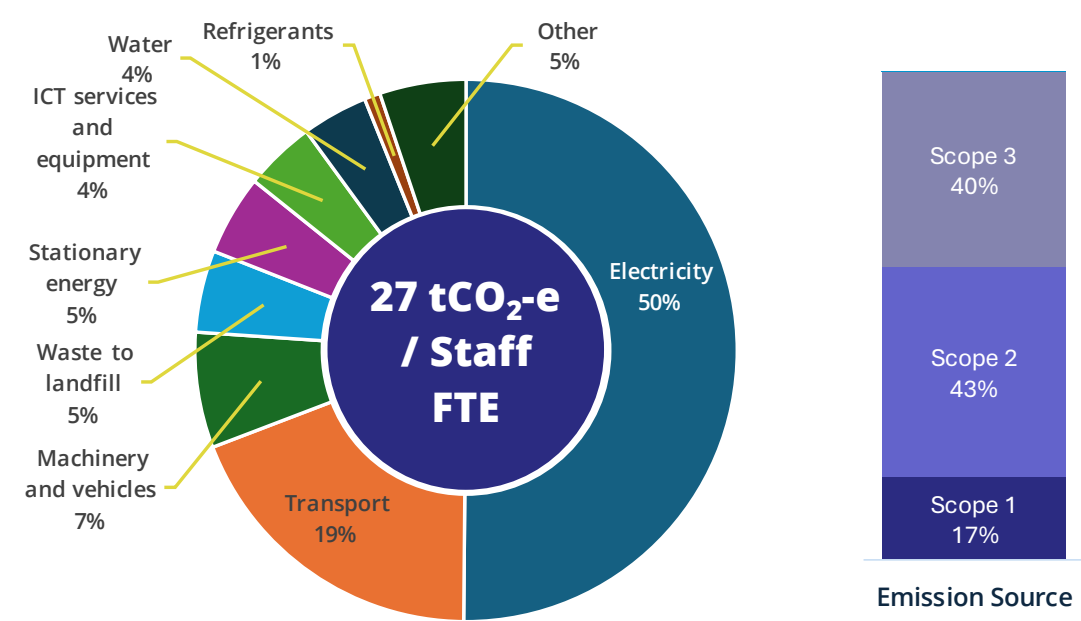
The average emission profile for metropolitan councils participating in the Program is shown below.





Combined emissions

The average emission profile for all councils participating in the Program is shown below.



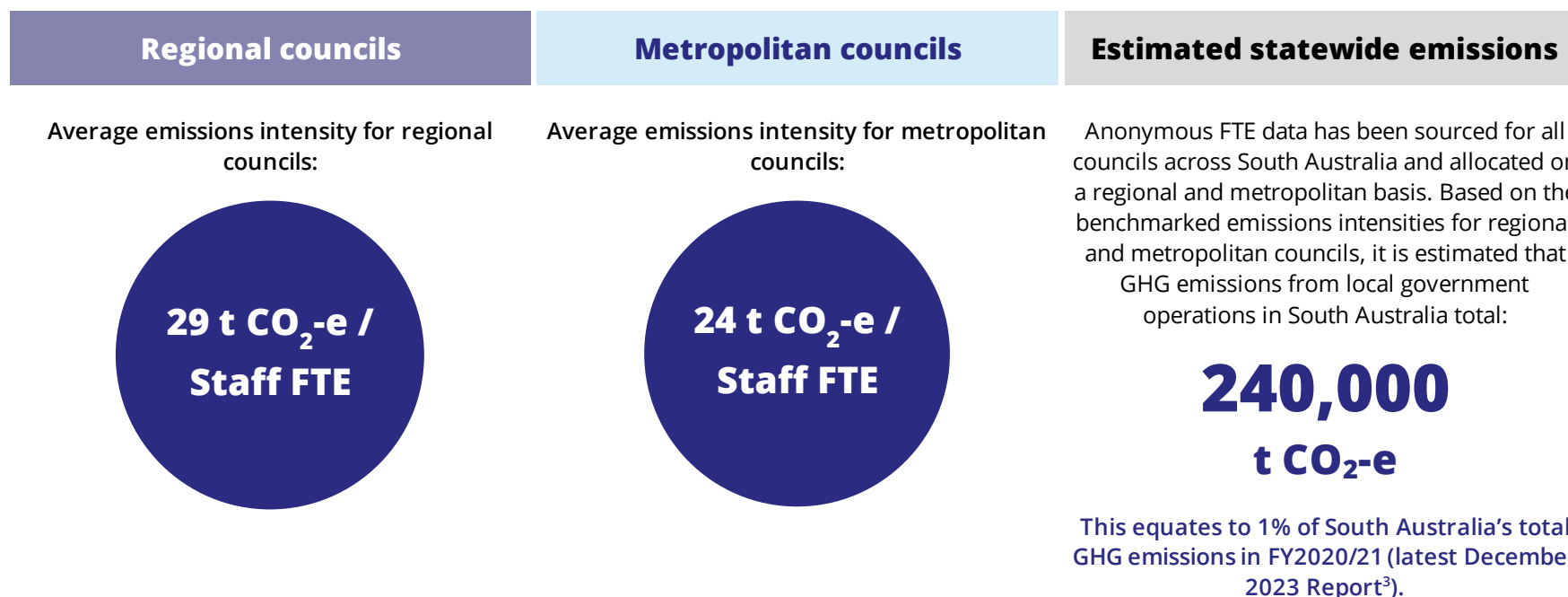
Emission category	Average Emissions (tCO ₂ -e) FY23
Electricity	2,481
Transport	943
Machinery and vehicles	341
Waste to landfill	242
Stationary energy	236
ICT services and equipment	209
Water	195
Other	255
Total	4,948



Emissions benchmarking results

A review of emissions intensity per council staff full time equivalent (FTE), community population, and local government area has been undertaken and identified that a per FTE emissions intensity was the most useful for comparison. This is due to the majority of the regional and metropolitan councils having a similar emissions profiles and emissions intensity, whereas the community population and land area varied significantly.

Emissions intensity tended to increase for regional councils compared to metropolitan councils. This is likely due to the improved efficiency opportunities for larger metropolitan councils e.g., offices and other council facilities are shared between more staff FTE, commute distances tend to be shorter, working from home is more popular, and public/active transport modes are more viable. In contrast, regional councils tend to have smaller or separate offices over much larger geographical areas, have limited access to public transport, and are often required to travel longer distances for meetings and professional development.





Published emissions reduction targets

A review of published emissions reduction targets and emissions intensities for various councils has been conducted and summarised in Appendix A. Each of the councils have committed to taking meaningful action on emissions reduction, however the baselines, targets, and emissions intensities vary depending on the data sets included and the councils place in the net zero journey. The key findings include:

- Older baselines and emissions reduction targets can benefit from the increase in renewable energy generation across Australia which reduces electricity emissions over time. For example, an emissions baseline in 2006 typically had a higher electricity share due to over 90% of electricity being sourced from fossil fuel generation sources. This is particularly relevant for councils in South Australia (SA) that have used a Location-based emissions factor which takes advantage of SA's renewable energy generation share reaching over 70%.
- Some councils purchase 100% accredited renewable energy which can reduce emissions significantly.
- Scope 3 emissions are tracked in different ways and although generally aligned, categories and inclusions are not all the same and therefore comparing emissions intensity may not be accurate.
- Some councils are beginning to incorporate embodied and construction-related emissions, which increased the total emissions inventory significantly. This highlights that construction and road projects are expected to be a large opportunity to reduce emissions for councils.

Some example South Australian council targets include the following (refer to Appendix A for further detail):

				
70% emissions reduction by 2030 (2020 baseline)	60% emissions reduction by 2030 (2020/21 baseline)	50% emissions reduction by 2030 (2017/18 baseline)	80% emissions reduction by 2030 (2010/11 baseline)	45% emissions reduction by 2030 (2018/19 baseline)



Key findings & next steps

The following section summarises the key findings, constraints and assumptions in the data, and recommended next steps to continue supporting local government on the net zero emissions transition.

Emissions data gap analysis

An analysis of the emissions source data has been undertaken to identify insights, constraints, and gaps. The following general observations were identified when comparing the data:

- Regional councils typically had less resources and capacity to collate emissions data and did not have dedicated roles and responsibilities for sustainability programs and reporting.
- Greater metropolitan councils such as the City of Salisbury and Mount Barker District Council had increased resources and dedicated sustainability positions that were able to support the program.
- Each council had different processes for collating data depending on their reporting capabilities and financial systems. As a result, categories, sub-categories, and included emissions data differed. As a result, average emissions intensity varied, and a larger data set would improve accuracy.

The quality of the following emissions data has been categorised as:

Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Majority of data based on estimates, industry averages, and assumptions.	Approx. 50-70% of the data is complete with averages used for councils with incomplete data.	Most councils were able to provide data for an accurate calculation to be completed.	All councils provided high quality and complete data.



Emissions category	Key findings	Key constraints	Data quality
Electricity	- The contribution of electricity in the emissions profile varied depending on the energy efficiency of buildings/facilities and investment in solar PV. - The contribution of electricity use from buildings is much lower for regional councils compared to metropolitan councils. This is likely due to metropolitan councils operating a larger number of facilities for both public and council use. - Solar PV contribution varied significantly between individual councils (regional or metropolitan), reducing energy imported from the grid from anywhere between 0-40%. - Streetlighting contribution to the emissions profile is significantly lower for regional councils compared to metropolitan councils. This is due to metropolitan councils having much greater numbers of streetlights within their council districts. As such, streetlight contribution for regional councils ranged between 0-7%, whereas metropolitan council ranged between 10-42%. - Lower electricity usage from buildings, facilities and streetlighting has resulted in a smaller electricity emission contribution for regional councils (36% vs metropolitan 55%).	- Electricity consumption data was collated from a range of data sources including invoices, LGA Procurement (LGAP) electricity reports and SA Power Networks (SAPN) metering data. A consistent approach is recommended to ensure all data is sourced in the same way e.g., from LGAP reports or SA Power Networks meter data. - Streetlighting data was inconsistent between councils and typically did not include Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) lighting (if applicable). Most councils were unable to provide complete streetlighting consumption data. - Some councils found it difficult to provide solar PV details, including location and size of PV systems, total generation, on-site utilisation and solar PV export to the grid.	Average
Transport	With electricity emissions reducing due to increasing renewable energy in the grid, transport is becoming the largest single emission source. This is particularly relevant if using the Location-based emissions factor which accounts for South Australia's renewable energy share reaching >70%.	Some councils were able to provide data on staff commute, which included staff FTE, postcodes, average commute distance, transport mode mix (car, bus, bike, etc) and number of working from home (WFH) days per year.	Average



Emissions category	Key findings	Key constraints	Data quality
Transport	- Fleet vehicles fuel use contribution to the emissions profile is higher for regional councils compared to metropolitan councils. This is expected to be due to a greater average driving distance for fleet vehicles (including both lightweight/passenger vehicles and heavy maintenance vehicles). - Staff commute fuel use contribution was also found to be much higher for regional councils for the same reason. - Public/active transport opportunities were limited in some regional councils, resulting in a greater portion of staff commuting in a private vehicle. - There is a greater transport emission contribution for regional councils (27% vs metropolitan 15%).	- Where data was not provided Australia Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and average commute distances were used, with an average one day per week working from home applied. - Average ABS and commute data is not always accurate compared to actual travel data. A staff survey is recommended to improve data accuracy and inform opportunities to support active and sustainable transport options.	
Machinery & vehicles	- The contribution of machinery and vehicles to the emissions profile depends on the fleet size and machinery/vehicle replacement cycle of each council. - All councils participating in the program were able to provide accurate machinery and vehicles data, including separation of purchase and maintenance costs of both stationary machinery and fleet vehicles. - Vehicle purchases and maintenance contribution to the emissions profile were found to be much higher for regional councils compared to metropolitan councils. - Machinery and vehicles are not consistently reported on for councils outside of the Net Zero Accelerate Program (i.e., contributing councils).	Totals costs were collated however it was unclear whether vehicles were purchased upfront or as part of leases which can change the emissions profile depending on when vehicles are due for replacement.	Excellent



Emissions category	Key findings	Key constraints	Data quality
Refrigerants	Emissions from refrigerants were estimated based on air-conditioning and equipment asset lists where available. For council's that provided this data, refrigerants were found to consistently account for between 0.4-1.5% of the total emissions inventory.	- Approximately half of councils participating in the program were able to provide an air-conditioning and equipment list. - Remaining councils were estimated based average data from the participating and contributing councils.	Average
Waste to landfill	- Waste from council facilities is often difficult to provide as most waste contracting services only provide total kerbside waste reporting data. - Waste from council facilities was estimated to be a portion of total community waste, by dividing total waste by community population, and then multiplying this value by council staff FTE.	Apportioning waste based on community population and staff FTE may not be an accurate reflection for councils that have implemented waste reduction initiatives in their own operations.	Poor
Stationary energy	- Most councils participating in the program were able to provide detailed stationary energy fuel use data, generally by supplying gas retailer reports/invoices. - Stationary diesel and petrol fuel use (i.e., generators) was also provided, albeit contributing a small amount to councils' overall emissions inventory. - The contribution of stationary energy in the emissions profile varies significantly depending on whether the council owns/operates a community pool/aquatic centre. Generally, these facilities use gas for water heating, which results in significant GHG emissions. - Some councils were upgrading their pools to renewable energy powered all-electric systems with heat pumps for hot water. This resulted in a significant reduction in emissions compared to natural gas boilers for pool hot water services.	Some council fleet fuel data is expected to include bulk fuel which is often used to refuel generators. However, where data was provided the total contribution was minor and is not expected to impact the emissions profile.	Good



Emissions category	Key findings	Key constraints	Data quality
Water	All councils participating in the program were able to provide potable water use from council facilities, including water use on parks, reserves, and sports fields. Some councils were also able to provide non-potable water use (sourced from stormwater, CWMS, rivers, lakes, etc.).	- Councils were inconsistent in how and where they sourced consumption data, with some relying on manual calculations from invoices and others providing SA Water reports. - A consistent approach to potable water reporting would improve data accuracy.	Good
Supply Chain	- Calculating emissions from supply chain is based on financial expenditure of services and products, including telecommunications, ICT equipment, stationery, paper, catering, cleaning, accommodation and offices supplies. - Emissions from councils' supply chain was found to contribute between 3-10% of the emissions inventory.	- Available supply chain financial data varied significantly between councils. - Spend-based emissions factors are based on averages and are a low maturity approach for calculating emissions (refer Best Practice Guide). - Where data was not available for councils, it was excluded from the emissions inventory and included as a future data improvement recommendation. This may result in a lower Scope 3 average.	Poor

To address some of the constraints identified in the Program, it is recommended councils and the LGA consider:

- Opportunities to increase resources and training for regional councils that may not have the capacity to continue regular emissions reporting and implement reduction initiatives.
- Creating standardised reporting approaches and templates for hard to source emissions categories such as supply chain, refrigerants, waste, staff commute, and working from home.
- Working with organisations such as Climate Active to investigate opportunities to share and use Climate Active emissions factors. This will remove the need for councils and the LGA to source updated emissions factors every year from consultants with subscriptions and licences.
- Developing a net zero working group for the LGA and councils to share learnings, approaches and resources to support the net zero transition.



Next steps

The key objectives of the Net Zero Accelerate Program were to accelerate the net zero emissions transition in local government, increase knowledge and awareness, and provide councils with resources to implement best practice approaches for emissions management. Based on this Sector Wide Summary and engaging with the participating councils, it is recommended the following opportunities are considered to expand the impact of the Program.

Improvement opportunity	Summary
Scale-up	It is recommended the LGA build on the Program and consider: - Supporting all councils to adopt the Good and Best Practice categories when collating emissions with public reporting undertaken to improve awareness and enable a comparison between councils. This includes councils that have already developed an emissions inventory but may not be tracking a large number of Scope 3 emissions. - Expanding the Net Zero Accelerate Program to capture more councils and collate a more comprehensive database for comparison. Although 30% of councils is a good starting point, 65% of the participating councils were regional and further analysis of metropolitan councils would provide a more accurate baseline. - Opportunities for the LGA to develop a central database for emissions reporting which enables automated emissions reporting and tracking.
Education & training	It is recommended that further training sessions and workshops are provided for councils and should focus on improving internal capacity, with topics such as: - Carbon accounting and standards, emissions scopes, and data collection techniques. - Transport emissions including improving fleet emissions tracking, strategies to reduce emissions, and key opportunities and constraints for electric vehicle transitions. - Energy and how to optimise solar PV system sizes, transition to all-electric, planning for battery storage, and what to consider as part of electricity contracts and Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). - Scope 3 emissions, how to work with suppliers, and what to consider as part of embodied emissions for construction and road related materials and services. - Carbon sequestration, carbon offsets, and carbon neutral certification.



Improvement opportunity	Summary
Reporting templates & emissions factors	To streamline emissions reporting, it is recommended that the LGA consider developing standardised reporting templates which can be used as part of the Grants Commission Return and ongoing emissions reporting. The LGA could provide the templates with the latest emissions factors embedded (updated annually) enabling councils to focus on emission reduction initiatives and provide consistent reporting. Opportunities include: • Working with Climate Active to provide licenced templates provided as part of the Climate Active program. • The LGA sourcing spend-based emissions factors on behalf of all local government. • Reporting emissions totals based on the LGAP contracts e.g., an LGAP emissions profile.
Subsidised emissions reduction services	Councils in the Program identified that additional support and investigations were required to undertake more detailed planning and develop forward budgets to enable initiatives to be implemented. It is recommended that the LGA consider developing another stage to the Net Zero Accelerate Program that enables council to access subsidised consultancy services to develop the following: • Low emissions fleet transition plans including electric vehicles, charging infrastructure, and future opportunities for medium and heavy vehicles. • Undertake energy audits, solar PV assessments including battery storage integration, and PPA / VPP integration to support 100% renewables. • Undertake a sustainable procurement review and work towards ISO 20400:2017 - Sustainable procurement. • Assess embodied emissions as part of capital works and road projects, and prioritise low emissions materials for large emissions sources such as concrete, steel and asphalt. These topics typically require specialist expertise to develop detailed implementation plans and budget estimates.
LGA Procurement contracts	For councils that utilise LGA Procurement (LGAP) contracts and panels, it is recommended that LGAP investigate emissions reporting as a value-add service. A large number of the contracts and panels LGAP have negotiated align with emissions categories captured in the Net Zero Accelerate Program and LGAP could consider automatically reporting emissions as part of future contracts to reduce resourcing requirements for councils. An additional opportunity is to develop standardised reporting templates for tenders, Requests for Quotes (RFQs), and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for councils to use as part of their procurement practices to consistently collate and track supplier emissions.



Summary

The program has advanced the net zero emissions transition for local government and enabled an expanded number of councils to understand and prioritise emissions reduction opportunities. Some of the key outcomes of the Sector Wide Summary include:

- Developing consistent emissions inventories to baseline and track emissions.
- Creating an emissions database which can be used to compare emissions intensity across local government.
- Identifying constraints and opportunities to improve the maturity and completeness of local government emissions inventories.
- Identifying future opportunities and next steps to scale-up and expand the Net Zero Accelerate Program.

It is recommended that the learnings and outcomes from the Program and this summary are used to plan next steps and implement programs for all councils in South Australia to continue the net zero journey. This includes:

- Developing training programs to increase internal skills, knowledge, and capacity within councils to track and reduce emissions.
- Developing standardised reporting templates and approaches to streamline reporting across local government.
- Supporting councils on embedding emissions tracking and key performance indicators in procurement processes.
- Considering subsidised emissions reduction consultancy services to develop detailed implementation plans for priority emissions reduction categories.
- Incorporating emissions reporting as part of contracts and panels procured by the LGA and councils to increase data availability.
- Sharing learnings and achievements as part of a net zero working group to increase awareness and reduce duplication.



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank and acknowledge the following who have contributed to the Net Zero Accelerate Program:

Project lead	Technical Working Group	Contributing councils
The program was led by the Local Government Association SA (LGA) with funding and support from the Department for Environment and Water.	The following councils supported the program as a Technical Working Group.	The following councils contributed information and data to the Sector Wide Emissions Profile report.
 Government of South Australia Department for Environment and Water Delivery partner The program was delivered by dsquared Consulting on behalf of the LGA and DEW. 		

Appendix A – Emissions reduction targets



The below provides a summary of councils that have publicly set targets and reported emissions for comparison including interstate councils. Due to each council reporting on different emissions categories, the table is broken down by similar data sets to the Net Zero Accelerate Program and councils with limited Scope 3 data for comparison.

Council		Emissions reduction target	Electricity emissions calculation	Emissions scopes	22/23 emissions	Emissions intensity
South Australian councils (similar data sets as Net Zero Accelerate Program)						
City of Adelaide		70% emissions reduction by 2030 (2020 baseline)	Market-based	Scope 1, 2, & 3	12,459 tCO₂-e	18 tCO₂-e / FTE
City of Port Adelaide Enfield		60% emissions reduction by 2030 (2020/21 baseline)	Market-based	Scope 1, 2, & 3	11,940* tCO₂-e	24 tCO₂-e / FTE
City of Charles Sturt		50% emissions reduction by 2030 (2017/18 baseline)	Market-based	Scope 1, 2, & 3	10,173** tCO₂-e	22 tCO₂-e / FTE

*The City of Port Adelaide Enfield's emissions data is based on an internal analysis for 22/23 which has been included for comparison only and is not publicly committed to or reported on. The City of Port Adelaide Enfield has publicly committed to reducing their emissions by 60% for Scope 1, 2 and a selection of Scope 3 data in line with their Net Zero Emissions Plan. It should be noted City of PAE's current publicly disclosed 2022/23 corporate greenhouse emission estimate is currently 5,402 tCO₂e, which varies to 11,940 tCO₂e above as it doesn't apply a market-based emission factor for electricity and applies less scope 3 data.

**The City of Charles Sturt's data is based on an internal analysis for 2021/22 data which is latest year available. The City of Charles Sturt has publicly committed to reducing their emissions by 60% for Scope 1, 2 and a selection of Scope 3 data in line with their Net Zero plan.



Council		Emissions reduction target	Electricity emissions calculation	Emissions scopes	22/23 emissions	Emissions intensity
South Australian councils (limited Scope 3 categories)						
City of Onkaparinga	 CITY OF ONKAPARINGA	80% emissions reduction by 2030 (2010/11 baseline)	Location-based	Scope 1, 2, & limited scope 3	7,110 tCO₂-e	9 tCO₂-e / FTE
City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters	 City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters	50% emissions reduction by 2030 (2018/19 baseline)	Location-based	Scope 1, 2, & limited scope 3	1,522 tCO₂-e	9 tCO₂-e / FTE
City of Mitcham	CITY OF MITCHAM 	45% emissions reduction by 2030 (2018/19 baseline)	Location-based	Scope 1, 2, & limited scope 3	1,538 tCO₂-e	6 tCO₂-e / FTE

Council		Emissions reduction target	Electricity emissions calculation	Emissions scopes	22/23 emissions	Emissions intensity
Interstate councils (similar data sets as Net Zero Accelerate Program)						
City of Sydney		Certified Carbon Neutral 80% emissions reduction by 2025 (2006 baseline)	Market-based	Scope 1, 2, & 3	12,144 tCO₂-e	7 tCO₂-e / FTE
City of Melbourne		Certified Carbon Neutral 4.5% emissions reduction per year (11/12 baseline) 76% reduction achieved in 19/20	Market-based	Scope 1, 2, & 3	12,163 tCO₂-e	8 tCO₂-e / FTE
City of Monash		Net zero by 2025 (18/19 baseline)	Market-based	Scope 1, 2, & 3 (includes construction emissions)	20,503 tCO₂-e	27 tCO₂-e / FTE



Emissions target summary

A review of published emissions reduction targets and emissions intensities for various councils has been conducted and summarised above. Each of the councils have committed to taking meaningful action on emissions reduction, however the baselines, targets and emissions intensities vary depending on the data sets included and the councils place in the net zero journey. The key findings include:

- Older baselines and emissions reduction targets can benefit from the increase in renewable energy generation in the grid which reduces electricity emissions over time. For example, an emissions baseline in 2006 typically had a higher electricity share due to over 90% of electricity being sourced from fossil fuel generation sources.
- Some councils purchase 100% accredited renewable energy which can reduce emissions significantly.
- Scope 3 emissions are tracked in different ways and although generally aligned, emissions categories are not all the same and therefore comparing emissions intensity may not be accurate.
- Some councils are beginning to incorporate embodied and construction related emissions which increased the total emissions inventory significantly. This highlights that construction and road projects are expected to be a large opportunity to reduce emissions.

Appendix B – Glossary



Term	Definition
Adaptation	Actions or measures implemented to reduce the expected impacts of climate change on human and natural systems e.g., planting drought tolerant species that are suitable for the expected increased drought conditions.
Anthropogenic climate change	Climate change caused by human activities such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and agricultural practices.
Emissions inventory	An account of the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions emitted to the atmosphere.
Carbon neutral	When an entities greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are offset by the equivalent amount of carbon offsets that avoid, reduce or remove / sequester carbon elsewhere.
Carbon offsets	Carbon offsets are generated by projects for each tonne of emissions avoided, removed or captured from the atmosphere such as by reforestation, renewable energy or energy efficiency.
Climate change	Long term changes in the earth's climate and weather patterns.
Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂-e)	A standardised measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases (GHG) based upon their global warming potential.
Global warming	An increase in earth's average surface temperature from human made greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
Greenhouse gas (GHG)	Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere such as carbon dioxide (CO ₂) and methane (CH ₄).
Mitigation	Actions or measures implemented to avoid, reduce, or remove GHG emissions.
Net zero emissions	When anthropogenic (human based) GHG emissions to the atmosphere are balanced by anthropogenic removals.
Zero emissions	Zero emissions, or absolute zero, is when emissions are reduced to zero without the use of carbon offsets e.g., zero emissions electricity is achieved when 100% of electricity consumption / demand is met with onsite solar PV and battery storage.

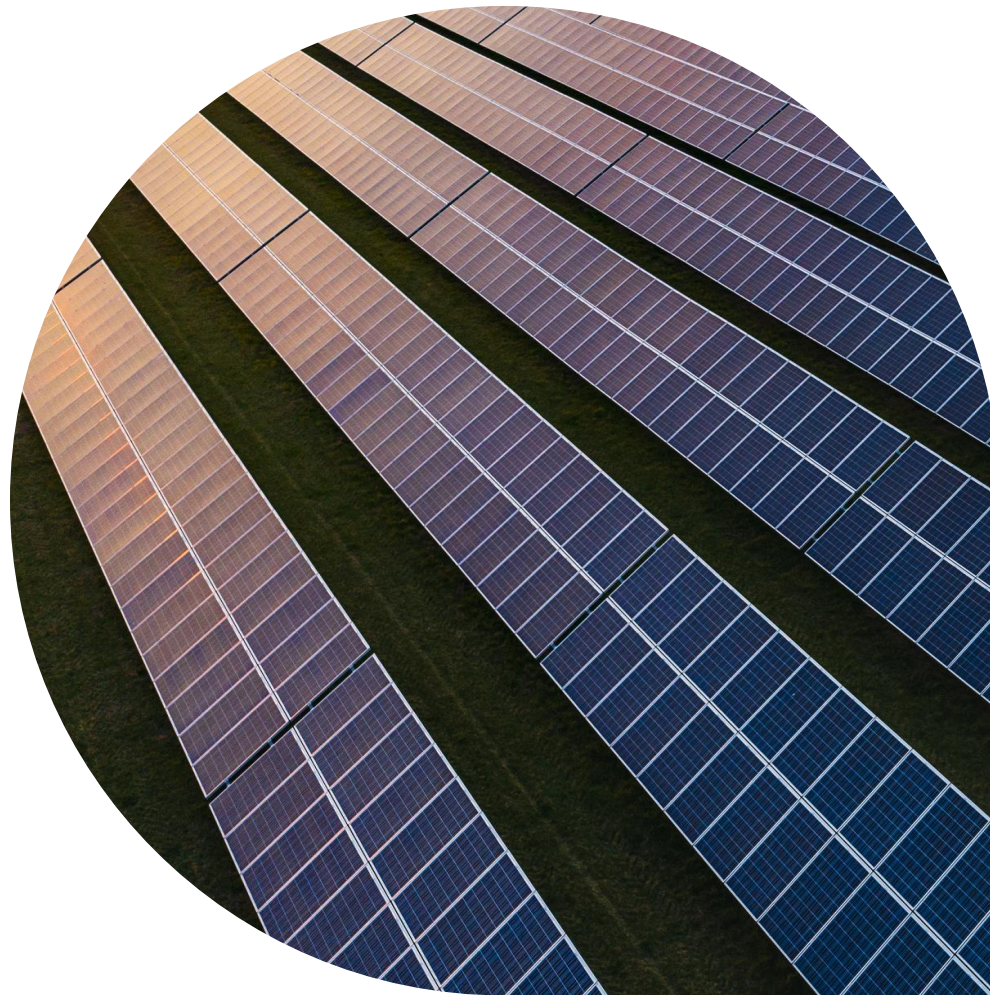
Appendix C – References



¹ Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol - [Homepage | GHG Protocol](#)

² Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard - [Homepage | Climate Active](#)

³ Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007 – Progress Report 2023 - [Department for Environment and Water - Climate change and greenhouse...](#)



Net Zero *Accelerate*

A best practice guide to emissions
management for local government
in SA

dsquared

lga. South
Australia

Introduction

Local government plays a key role in incorporating climate solutions into local decision-making and responding to climate change as part of the net zero emissions transition.

The Local Government Net Zero Accelerate Program, led by the Local Government Association of South Australia with funding from the Department for Environment and Water, strives to kick-start councils on the net zero emissions journey and work towards South Australia's emission reduction goals. The program supports councils to access greater support to help them:

- Identify and report on emissions profiles
- Take action on areas for emissions reduction
- Establish a council emissions reduction strategy.

This **Best Practice Guide** (the Guide) provides a resource for all South Australian councils to begin tracking and reducing emissions. The Guide includes the following three key sections:

Section 1

Local Council Emissions

Simple guidance on how to set an emissions boundary and base year, collate data and measure emissions, identify key priorities, and what this looks like for councils.

Section 2

Emissions Reduction Strategy

Summary of key opportunities and recommendations for emissions reduction based on the Net Zero Accelerate program, including supply chain (Scope 3) and community emissions.

Section 3

Net Zero Emissions Journey

How local council emissions inventories fit in broader ESG reporting, how reporting can help councils, Scope 3 construction related emissions, and what's on the horizon.





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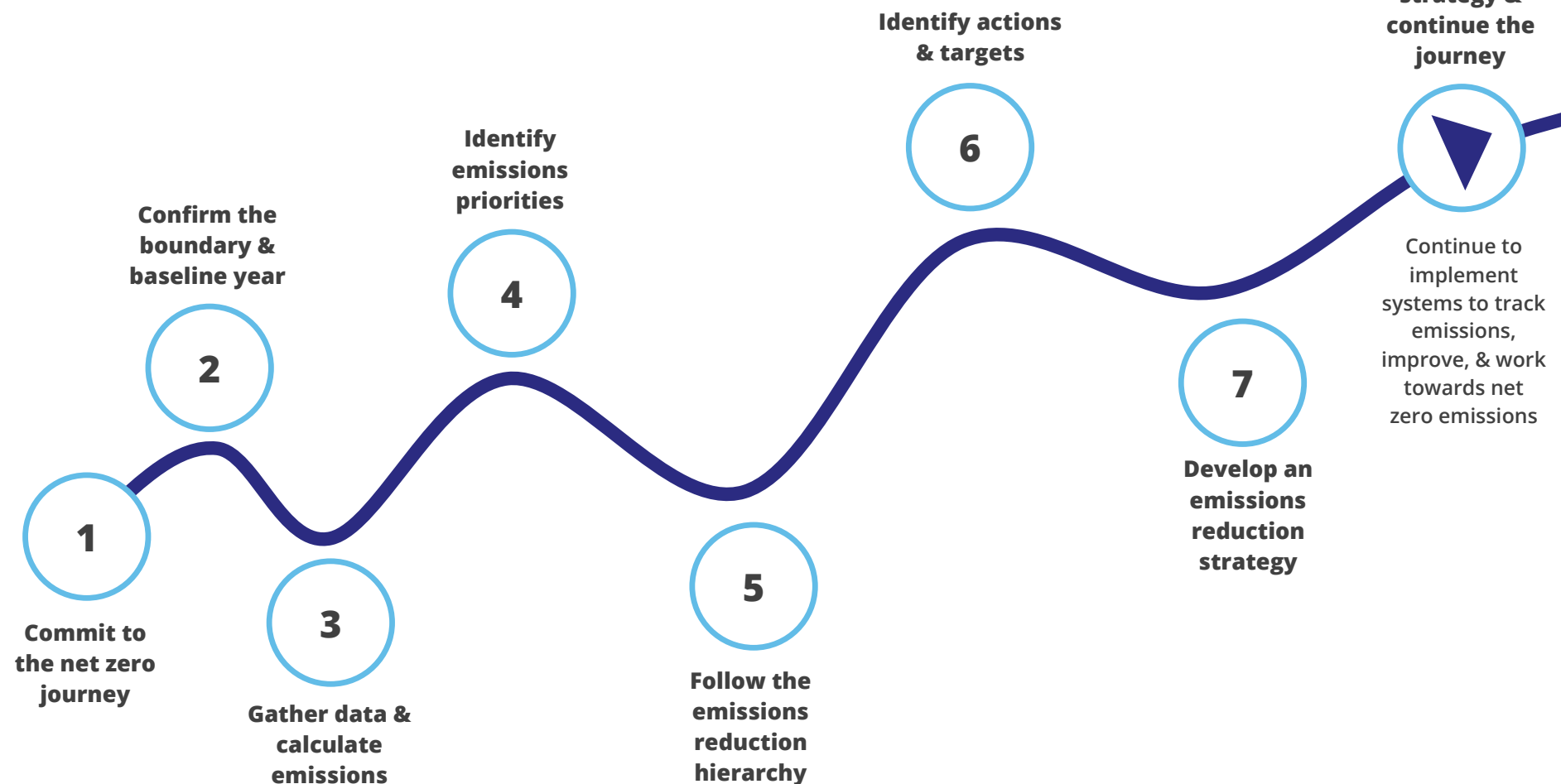
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Step-by-step overview

The following is a step-by-step overview of the key stages in this guide. Click on the circle or text to jump to the relevant section.





Developing a council emissions profile

Getting Started

The race to net zero emissions is underway and local government is in a unique position to reduce its own greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while also supporting their local community on the net zero transition.

Developing a GHG emissions inventory and emissions reduction strategy is a key first step which enables councils to:

- Understand what parts of their operations generate the most emissions.
- Enable a standardised metric to be used across different sources of emissions.
- Prioritise emissions reduction initiatives which will have the largest impact.
- Set a pathway to reducing emissions in a strategic and planned manner.

An emissions inventory and reduction strategy is the first step on a continuous journey to improve and work towards a zero emissions world.

Strategy & objectives

Developing an emissions inventory and reduction strategy is most effective when it is linked to the council's wider strategies and policies, and aligns with state, national and international emissions reduction commitments. This will ensure that the net zero journey is part of council's long-term strategic planning.

It is recommended that as part of developing an emissions inventory and reduction strategy, councils embed climate change action and the net zero emissions transition into their policies, strategies, and annual plans and reporting.

This will ensure internal and external stakeholders are aware of council's commitment to net zero and that a priority is placed on programs and initiatives that reduce emissions.

Strategic planning opportunities include:

- Adding an objective, priority, and/or section to strategic / community plans to track emissions and work towards net zero emissions.
- Updating council's Environmental Policy (if applicable) to include net zero emissions prior to 2050 as an objective.
- Referencing the emissions inventory and emissions reduction initiatives already undertaken.
- Celebrating sustainability achievements and outcomes as part of annual reports and marketing material and community communications.



Who needs to be involved

All parts of a council's operations generate emissions, from the electricity buildings consume and fuel used in fleet vehicles, to purchasing office stationery and food for Elected Members. As a result, a collaborative across-council approach is needed with input from the following areas required:

- Environment and sustainability
- Finance
- Procurement
- Property and assets
- Fleet
- Administration
- Marketing & communications
- Executive leadership
- Elected Members

It is important that at an early stage, all areas of council are made aware of the project and that a commitment from executive leadership is in place to support the team responsible for the project.

What is included

One of the first stages to developing an emissions inventory is confirming the organisational boundary and inclusions which is typically determined by applying an Operational or Financial Control approach in line with the GHG Protocol¹.

For local councils, an Operational Control approach is recommended to capture all emissions which are in council's direct control or where council can influence operations and emissions as part of its policies and procedures.

Where councils own or operate a share of a facility or subsidiary, such as a materials recycling facility or wastewater treatment plant, these emissions are typically excluded from the council's emissions inventory. However, it is recommended that councils consider opportunities for subsidiaries to begin developing emissions inventories and implement emissions reduction initiatives as part of their own operations to align with council strategies and targets.

Council vs. community emissions

In addition to the Operational Control approach, councils are in a unique position where they have emissions associated with their corporate operations, while also providing services and infrastructure to the community. As a result, developing a council emissions inventory is typically separated into:

- **Corporate emissions** relating to the council's corporate operations, similar to a commercial company. Corporate emissions are typically included in the inventory.
- **Community emissions** relating to services and infrastructure provided to the community e.g., kerbside waste services. Community emissions are typically excluded from the inventory.

For the purpose of this guide, *corporate emissions* only have been included in the boundary. This does not mean that community emissions are less-important, however councils have reduced ability to influence community emissions which are not in their direct control.



Leased community facilities

Many councils lease facilities to the community including sports clubs, community groups, and to non-government and not-for profit organisations. Where councils own and maintain the building and pay for utilities and waste services, it is recommended that the emissions are included in the corporate emissions profile. This is due to:

- Council owning the asset, and therefore have direct control over upgrading the facility, plant, and equipment to be more efficient and reduce emissions.
- Council reporting data for electricity, water, and waste typically includes the leased facility data and it is time consuming to separate out the data depending on the lease arrangements.
- Some assets having multiple parties e.g., different groups and entities which is challenging to apportion emissions.

Where councils have provided a long-term lease for land and do not have control over the asset, these facilities are typically excluded from the emissions inventory as the emissions are related to the tenant / operator.

Emissions categories & sources

Emissions inventories are categorised based on Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions sources as follows:

- **Scope 1:** Direct GHG emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by the reporting organisation e.g., fossil fuels burnt and gases emitted to the atmosphere by the organisation.
- **Scope 2:** Indirect GHG emissions associated with the purchase of energy (electricity, steam, heat, or cooling) e.g., electricity purchased from the grid which is powered by fossil fuels such as coal, gas, and diesel.
- **Scope 3:** Scope 3 emissions are the result of activities from assets not owned or controlled by the reporting organisation, but that the organisation indirectly impacts in its value chain, including embodied carbon.

A summary of the emissions categories included in the Net Zero Accelerate Program is provided in Appendix A.

Scope 3 emissions

Scope 3 emissions are becoming increasingly important as Scope 1 and 2 emissions reduce and as data availability improves. Based on typical organisations that develop emissions inventories, up to 80-90% of emissions can be from Scope 3 indirect emissions which highlights that supplier and embodied emissions are a key priority for identifying emission reduction opportunities, as well as working with suppliers to reduce emissions and environmental impacts over time.

Built environment & embodied emissions

Almost 40% of global GHG emissions are related to the built environment both during construction (11%) and in operation (28%)². As Scope 1 and 2 emissions continue to decrease due to increasing renewable energy, improved energy efficiency, and action on climate change, Scope 3 embodied emissions are increasing in share and importance. In particular construction materials such as concrete, steel, and asphalt.

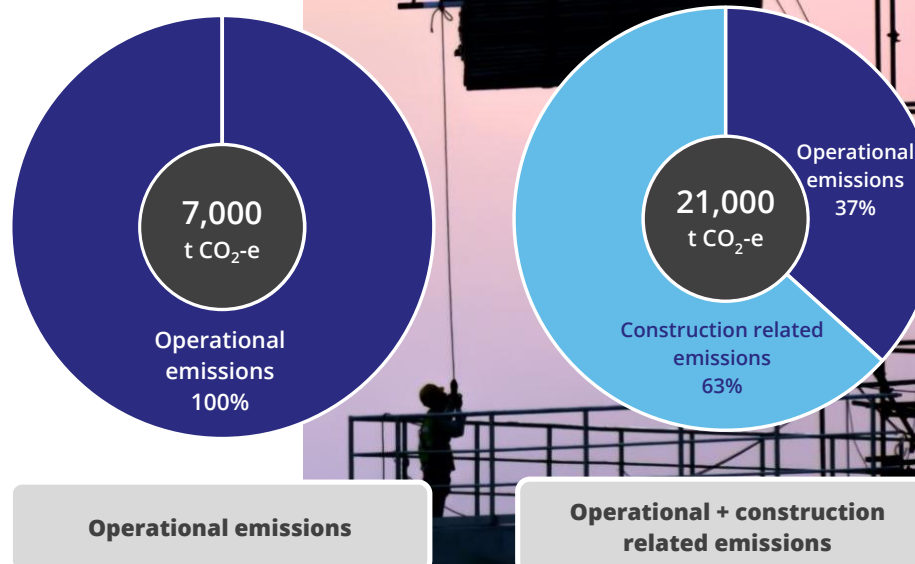
Due to local government delivering community infrastructure such as roads and public buildings, embodied emissions represent a significant source of emissions for councils and are a large opportunity to demonstrate leadership.

It is recommended that local government starts tracking construction-related and embodied emissions, with a focus on large capital works projects, roads, pedestrian pathways, and infrastructure works that use large amounts of concrete, steel, and asphalt.

Refer to the following page for a summary of typical emissions sources included in local government emissions profiles, with construction and embodied emissions incorporated by councils demonstrating best practice leadership in tracking emissions.

Local council example

The below is an example of a local council emissions inventory excluding and including construction and road related emissions. This demonstrates that infrastructure and construction-related emissions can be the largest source of emissions for local councils. Embodied emissions share will also continue to grow in share as operational emissions reduce.

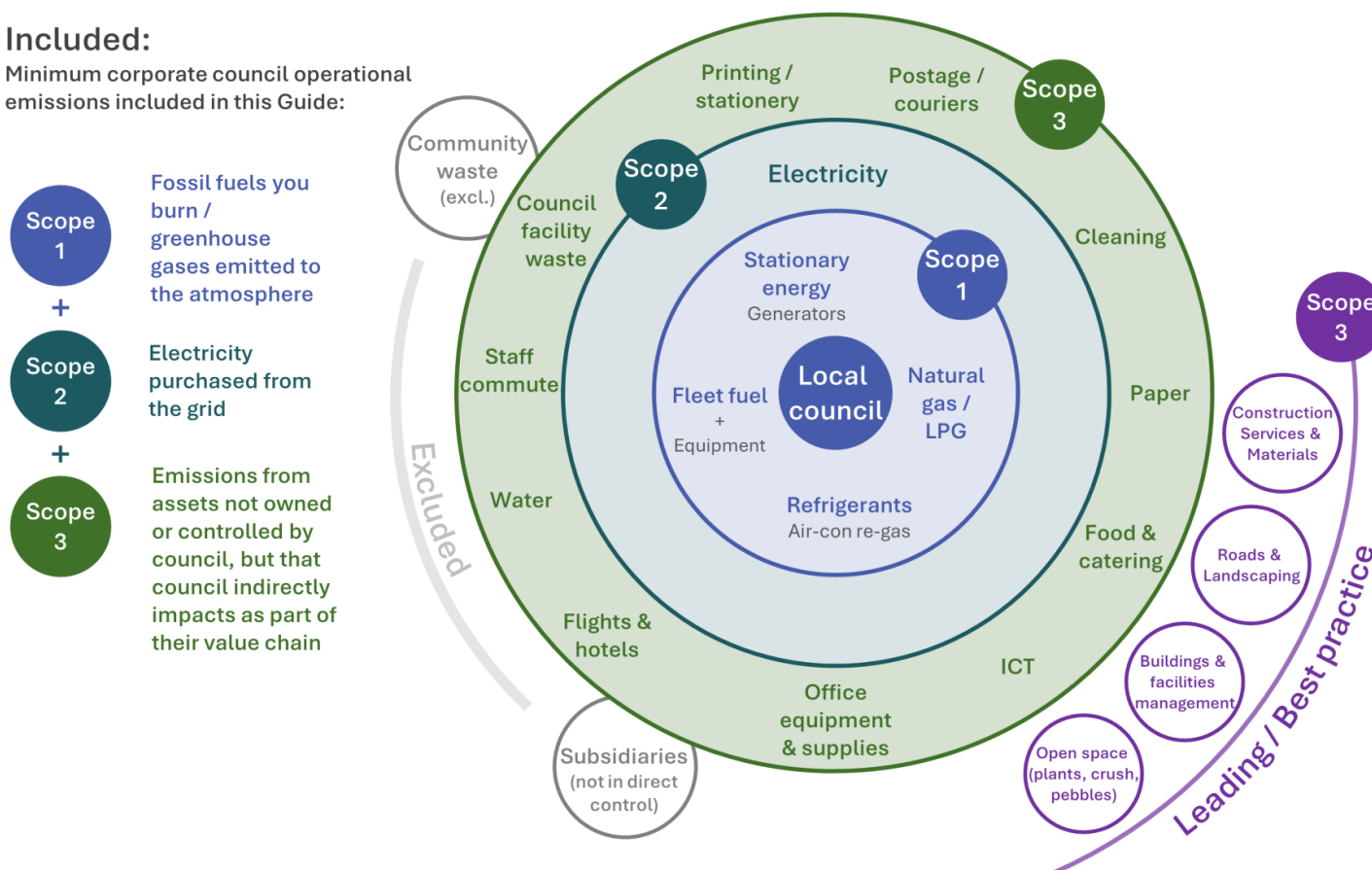


Example local government emissions sources

The below is a summary of the emissions sources and scopes included in Net Zero Accelerate Program for council operations. Due to the Net Zero Accelerate Program focussing on councils in earlier stages of developing an emissions inventory, construction related emissions were excluded but are recommended to be included as a best practice approach.

Included:

Minimum corporate council operational emissions included in this Guide:



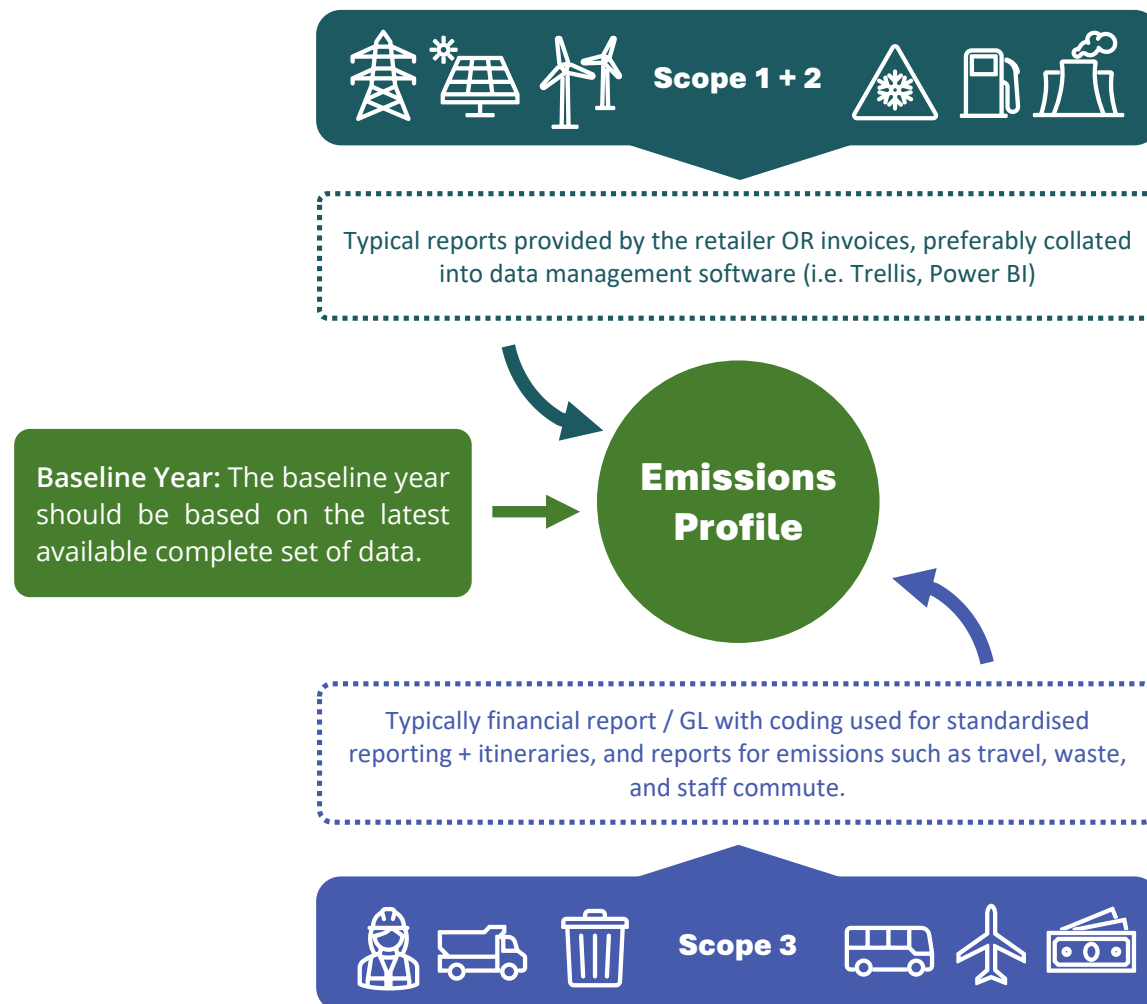
What do you need

Once the organisation boundary and control approach has been confirmed, the next step is setting a baseline year and gathering data. The baseline year is typically set based on the latest available and complete set of data.

Council data can be obtained from a range of sources including requesting:

- Consumption reports from the council's electricity or gas retailers.
- Waste to landfill reports from council's waste service provider.
- Water consumption reports from SA Water or alternative water suppliers e.g., recycled water networks.
- Asset registers from property/facility teams to identify air conditioning systems and refrigerants.
- Fuel reports for fleet, generators, and equipment.
- Flight and accommodation reports from travel agencies.
- Financial and annual reports.

Refer to Appendix B for a step-by-step guide on sourcing emissions data.





Calculating emissions

Once the raw activity data has been collated for the identified emissions sources, emissions factors are then used to convert activity data to a CO₂ equivalent (CO₂-e). Emissions factors are based on an average emissions intensity from different activities and are sourced from a range of references including:

- **National Greenhouse Accounts Factors³:** Australian Government emissions factors published annually based on National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGERS).
- **Australia's Emissions Projections⁴:** Emissions projections which are updated annually and include future emissions factors for categories such as electricity.
- **Climate Active Carbon Neutral⁵:** For councils that choose to pursue Carbon Neutral certification, Climate Active provides a set of resources which include emissions calculators. The resources and spreadsheets are protected under a License Agreement and can only be used for the purpose of calculating emissions for the participating organisation.

- **Subscriptions / licenses:** Emissions factors typically associated with Scope 3 emissions and embodied emissions are commercially available via subscriptions and licenses, and some open sources.

Refer to Appendix C for a list of publicly available emissions factors and references. See below example for calculating emissions:

Emissions calculation example

A local council has collated their electricity, gas, water, and waste data. The below provides an example calculation to convert to t CO₂-e. Refer Appendix C for the emissions factor references used in the calculation.

Category	Activity Data	Unit	Emissions Factor	Emissions (kg CO ₂ -e)	Emissions (t CO ₂ -e)
Electricity	100,000	kWh	0.77 kg CO ₂ -e / kWh	77,000	77
Natural Gas	300	GJ	62.13 kg CO ₂ -e / GJ	18,648	18.6
Water	50,000	kL	1.4932518 kg CO ₂ -e / kL	74,663	75
Waste	50	t	1,600 kg CO ₂ -e / t	80,000	80
				Total	206.6

Calculating electricity emissions

There are two options for calculating electricity emissions called the Location-based and Market-based approaches as follows.

- **Location-based:** The emissions factor is based on the local electricity grid emissions intensity e.g. the South Australian emissions factor published in the National Greenhouse Accounts Factors.
- **Market-based:** Represents the emissions intensity from the contractual arrangements of the organisation which can take into account the procurement of renewable energy via Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) or Green Power e.g. in the event the Council purchases 100% Green Power or LGCs are voluntarily surrendered on their behalf, a Market-based approach must be used.

Based on the 2022/23 emissions calculations, the Market-based approach results in electricity emissions being 2-3 times higher than using the South Australian emissions calculation. However, as renewable energy generation increases across Australia, Market-based electricity emissions will reduce.

For the Net Zero Accelerate Program and this Guide, a Market-based approach has been adopted for the following reasons:

- A Market-based approach enables a consistent calculation of electricity emissions across Australia, allowing local government to compare emissions across jurisdictions.
- Some councils elect to purchase Green Power as part of their electricity contract or have entered into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) which includes 100% accredited renewable energy via the voluntary surrender of Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs).
- During consultation in 2023, Climate Active proposed to mandate a Market-based approach as part of their Carbon Neutral certification standards. Climate Active reforms have not yet been finalised.
- Calculating electricity emissions based on the Australian market supports a greater focus on increasing renewables across Australia, including procuring 100% renewable energy.

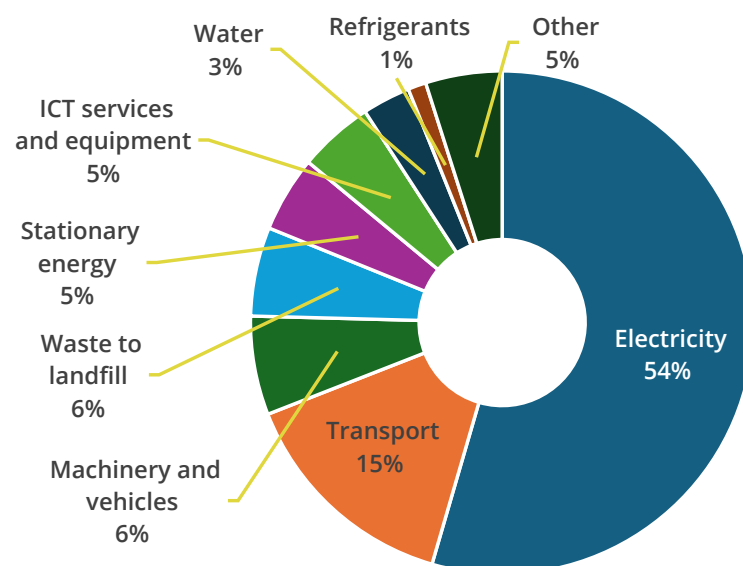




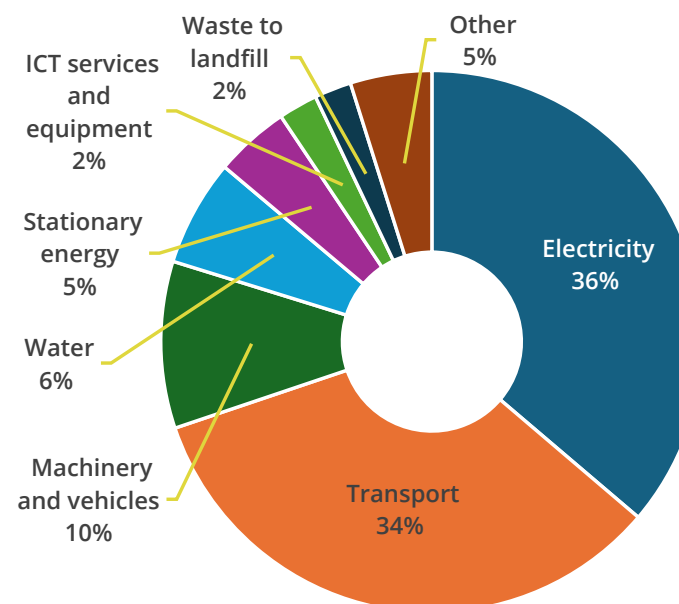
What does it look like

The below is an example emissions profile for local government in South Australia. This is based on averaged anonymous 2022/23 data from the 15 councils participating in the LGA Net Zero Accelerate Program, as well as data provided by the Technical Working Group and contributing councils. The emissions profiles are broken into regional versus metropolitan councils for comparison and further information is available in the Sector Wide Emissions Profile Report. The below emissions profiles have been used to identify emissions reduction priorities in the following emissions reduction strategy section.

Average Metropolitan Emissions Profile



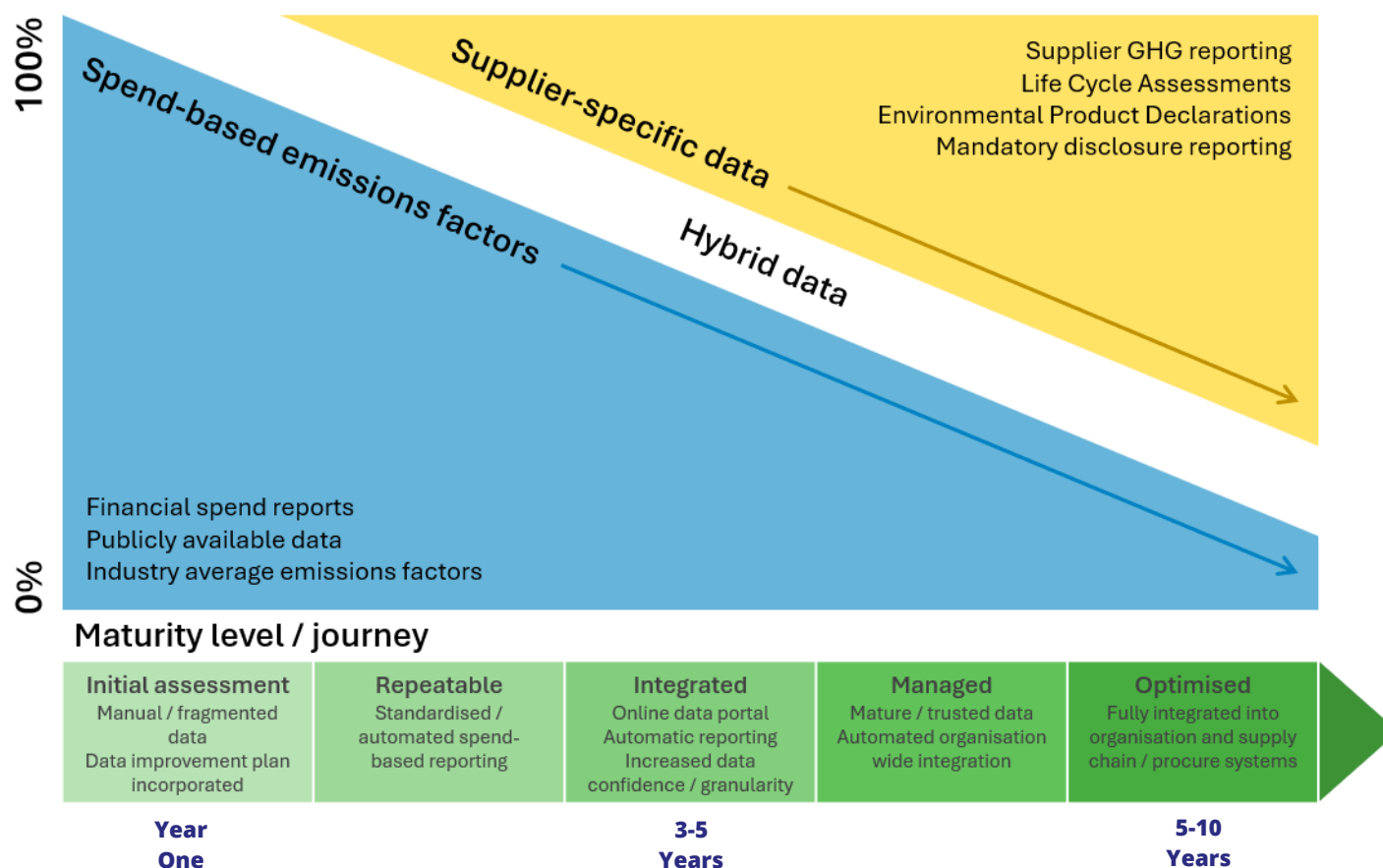
Average Regional Emissions Profile





Emissions data maturity

It is recommended that all councils developing an emissions inventory and reduction strategy consider the below maturity model, noting that industry averages and spend-based emissions calculations are a starting point but have a number of limitations. Over time, councils should focus on sourcing actual emissions data from their suppliers and targeting their highest emissions sources and categories first to enable decisions to be made that will have the greatest impact on total emissions over time.



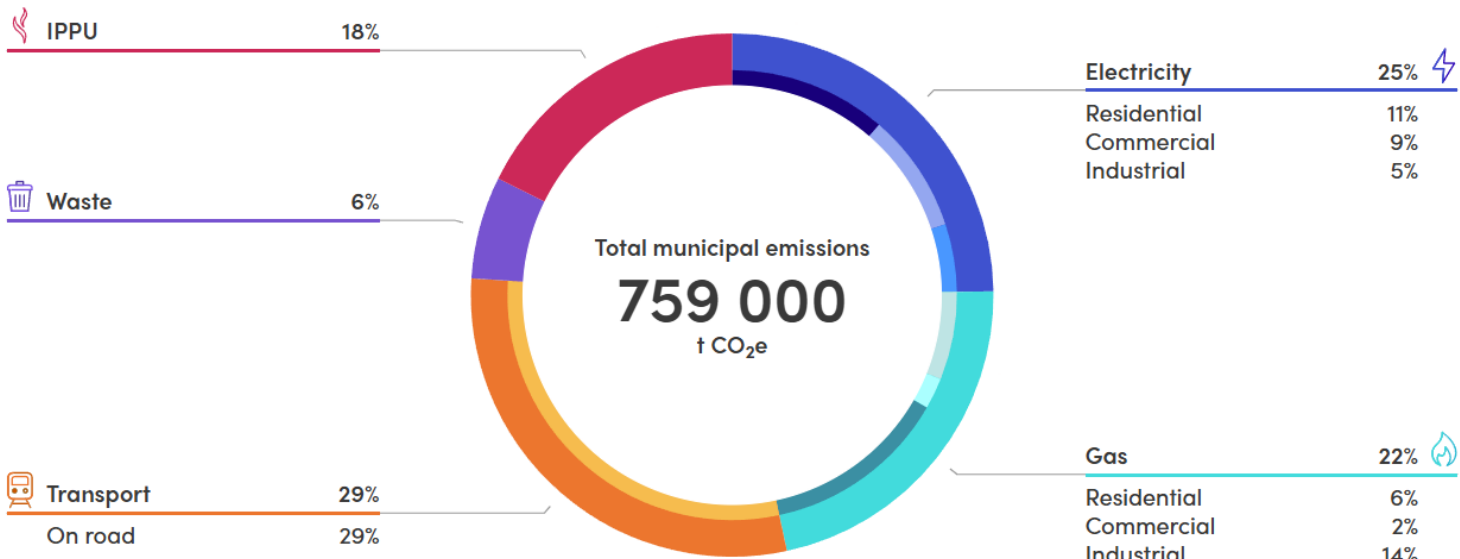
Community emissions

The focus of this guide is on council corporate emissions, however it is important to not lose sight of the broader net zero transition which includes community emissions. The below community emissions profile has been sourced from the Snapshot Climate tool⁶. The tool provides an estimate of community emissions for local government areas across Australia and is a useful resource to assist councils in developing community emissions reduction education programs and initiatives.

It is recommended councils consider community engagement and awareness programs as part of implementing emission reduction initiatives. For example, learnings from solar PV, battery storage, energy efficiency, and EV fleet transitions can be shared with the community.



Council corporate emissions typically equate to 1-2% of community GHG emissions.



Emissions Reduction Strategy

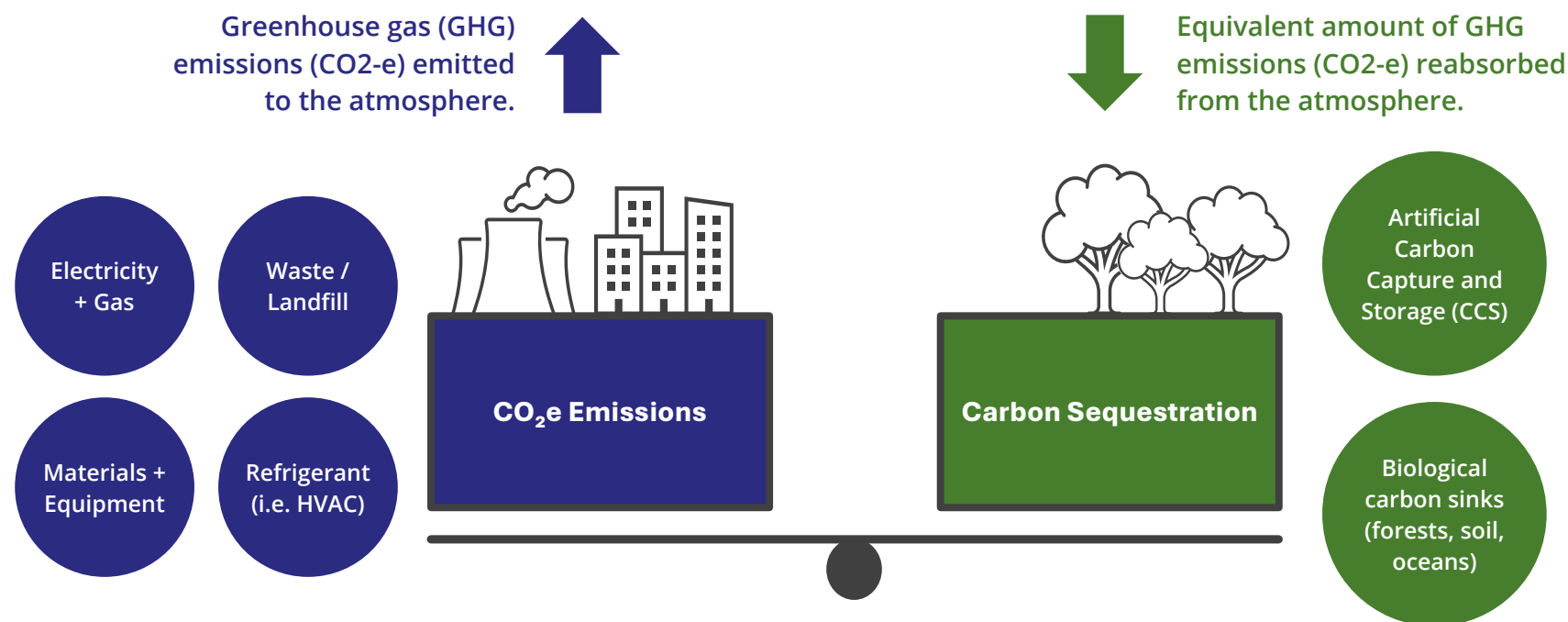
The following section outlines some of the key considerations for local councils when developing an emissions reduction strategy. The recommendations are based on implementing emissions reduction initiatives that work towards net zero emissions and aligning with interim emissions reduction targets.

Defining net zero emissions

A key question often raised as part of council workshops and by Elected Members is “What is net zero emissions?”. It is important that all stakeholders understand what net zero means, and also understand that the priority is reducing emissions.

The net zero emissions definition⁷:

“...means cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions re-absorbed from the atmosphere.”





Following the emissions reduction hierarchy

After an emissions profile is developed, the next stage is creating an emissions reduction strategy and setting targets towards net zero emissions. The emissions reduction strategy and targets should be based on the adjacent carbon management hierarchy.

The highest priority should be placed on reviewing existing operations, practices, and behaviours to avoid activities that result in emissions. Examples include:

Behaviour change: Implementing behaviour change programs to avoid and reduce emissions and wastage e.g. energy efficiency (turning off lights and appliances), waste avoidance (BYO containers and coffee cups), sustainable transport (ride / walk to work), and reviewing procurement practices to reduce the purchase of non-essential equipment and materials.

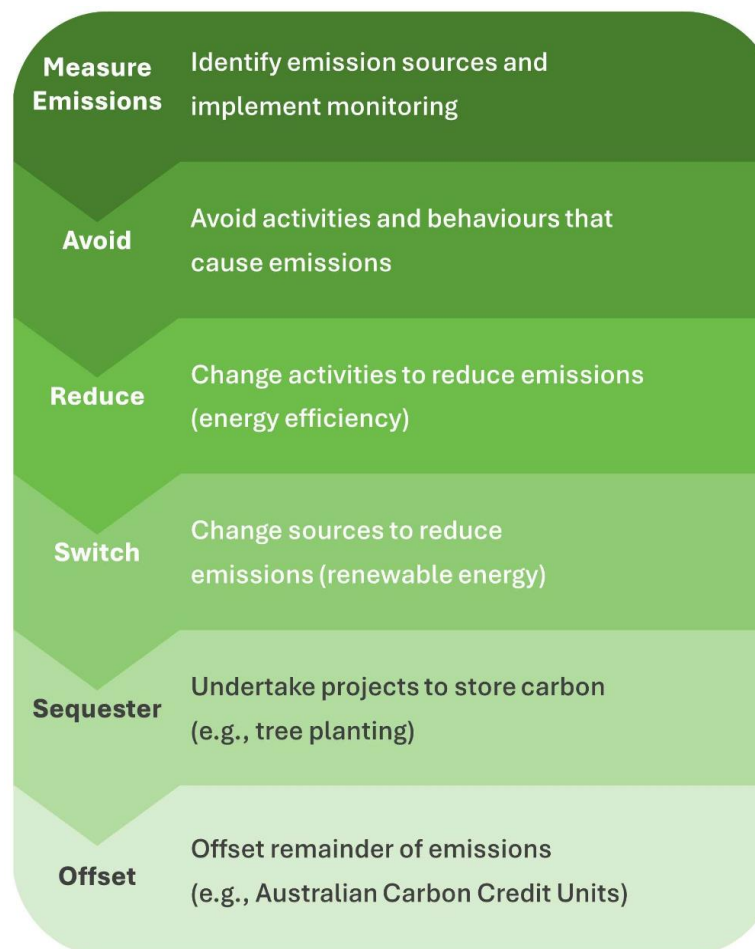
Optimisation: Optimising operations to reduce duplication, increase efficiency, and reduce consumption and costs e.g., undertaking a fleet review to reduce the number of fleet vehicle, and reducing the number of printers and setting limits on printing.

Emissions reduction:
Councils should focus on the fundamentals of tracking, avoiding, and reducing emissions in line with the adjacent hierarchy.

Carbon offsets:
Are the final stage and typically used to achieve Carbon Neutral certification (e.g., Climate Active) to reduce emissions to zero.

Most favoured option

Least favoured option





Emissions priorities

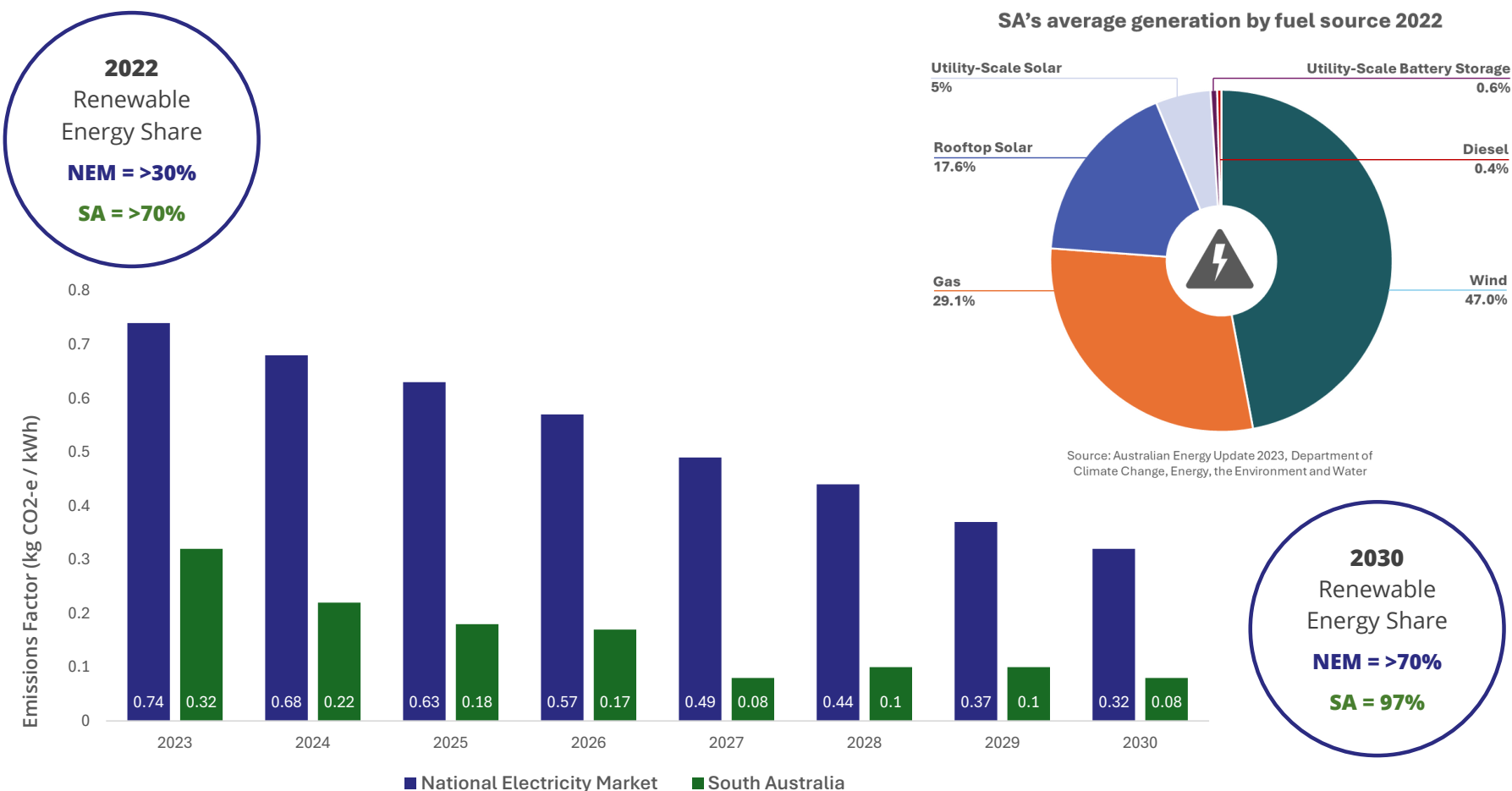
Based on the Net Zero Accelerate Program, on average the following top 5 emissions sources account for over 85% of local government emissions in South Australia. This should be used as a guide for councils to prioritise emissions reduction initiatives that have the largest impact on reducing emissions, with the emissions reduction hierarchy used to collaboratively review and identify reduction initiatives.

Top 5 emissions

1  Electricity for streetlights and buildings	2  Fuel used in fleet vehicles and staff travel	3  Machinery and vehicle purchase, hire, maintenance, and repair	4  Waste to landfill from corporate operations (excl. community)	5  Stationary energy (natural gas and fuel for generators)
Electricity consumed from the grid to power buildings, facilities, and public lighting. Emissions are based on the Market-based approach and therefore emissions are higher than the SA grid.	Fleet fuel use for pool and maintenance vehicles, trucks, and staff travel, as well as staff commute emissions using private vehicles. The largest source is fleet fuel use.	Includes the emissions associated with the purchase, maintenance, and hire of council vehicles. Combined with fleet fuel use, fleet and vehicle emissions are a major source of emissions for local councils.	Waste generated from corporate operations which result in GHG emissions due to methane released from landfill. Waste is also a large source of emissions for the community.	Emissions generated from burning natural gas for heating, hot water and swimming pools, and fuel used in generators (petrol and diesel). Swimming pools and large generators are a major source of emissions.

Renewable energy transition

Although electricity emissions are currently the highest on average, emissions projections should also be considered to inform priorities. A key projection to consider is increasing renewable energy across Australia, which is projected to reach >70% renewable energy generation by 2030 and has already been achieved in South Australia (refer below)⁸. Increasing renewables will reduce electricity emissions while also supporting all-electric buildings and vehicles.





Emissions reduction initiatives

Based on the identified emissions priorities it is recommended councils consider the following key emissions reduction programs and initiatives. Different areas in council should be engaged with to identify emissions reduction initiatives that are realistic and achievable.



Renewable Powered and Electrified Assets

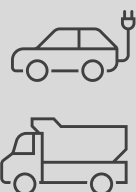
Plan for the replacement of natural gas assets and petrol and diesel fleet vehicles with hybrid and all-electric alternatives.



Sustainable Supply Chain and Policies

Implement Council policies that support low emissions procurement and sustainable practices in Council operations.

Transport and Machinery



Low emission fleet

Review current vehicle fleet and optimise and downsize the fleet by prioritising smaller, low emission vehicles and equipment where suitable. For example, consider vehicle usage and switch larger utility vehicles to smaller passenger alternatives where practical.

Aim to further reduce fuel consumption through transition of light passenger and medium vehicles to hybrid and electric vehicles (over 3-5 years).

Plan for larger petrol- and diesel-powered equipment, machinery and heavy vehicles to transition to hybrid and electric alternatives as suitable options become available in the longer term (5-10 years).

Optimise transport procurement

Review fleet vehicle replacement frequency and procurement approach (outright purchase versus leasing).

Flights are 100% emissions offset at booking.

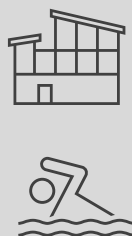
Reduce staff travel

Encourage practices that reduce fuel consumption for fleet and staff travel and commute, including:

- vehicle sharing (between staff) and car-pooling
- working from home / virtual meetings and conferencing
- provide public transport concessions / EOT facilities



Buildings and Assets



Improve building efficiency

Undertake a review of council owned facilities, including energy audits or assessments for the facilities with the highest energy consumption, to identify opportunities for energy and water reduction. Opportunities may include:

- Thermal improvements, such as insulation, glazing and building sealing activities.
- Replacement or upgrade of building services equipment, such as lighting, fixtures, building plant.
- Installation of smart metering and energy management systems.

Natural gas transition

Transition assets to all-electric equipment as part of facilities maintenance and replacement programs. Transition pool heating from gas to electric heat pump or solar.

Mandate all-electric services for new capital works.

Reduce embodied energy

Improve data capture for Scope 3 emissions for capital works projects including:

- Asphalt for road replacements
- Concrete for curbs and pedestrian pathways
- Steel in capital works and maintenance
- Landscaping, including crush, pebbles and plants.

Engage with suppliers and investigate recycled and low emission materials, such as low emission and carbon neutral concrete, recycled aggregates and supplementary cementitious material (SCMs), and warm mix asphalt.

Request low emission options for consideration as part of tender documentation for capital works projects.

Refrigerants

Low Global Warming Potential (GWP) refrigerants used on new builds and as part of asset replacement programs. Aim for refrigerants with GWP<10.

Council Operations



Procure renewable energy

Transition to 100% renewable energy via a mixture of onsite renewable (solar PV) and electricity grid decarbonisation.

Undertake an assessment of available rooftop, energy demand and benefit analysis for the installation of rooftop solar PV and/or battery storage solutions where viable.

Consider procuring 100% renewable energy supply contract, pending Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) cost / benefit review.

Sustainable products and services

Undertake supplier review to identify opportunities that reduce non-essential procurement. Investigate lower emissions options, such as carbon neutral certified companies and products, local suppliers, products with recycled content. Develop sustainable procurement policies and KPIs.

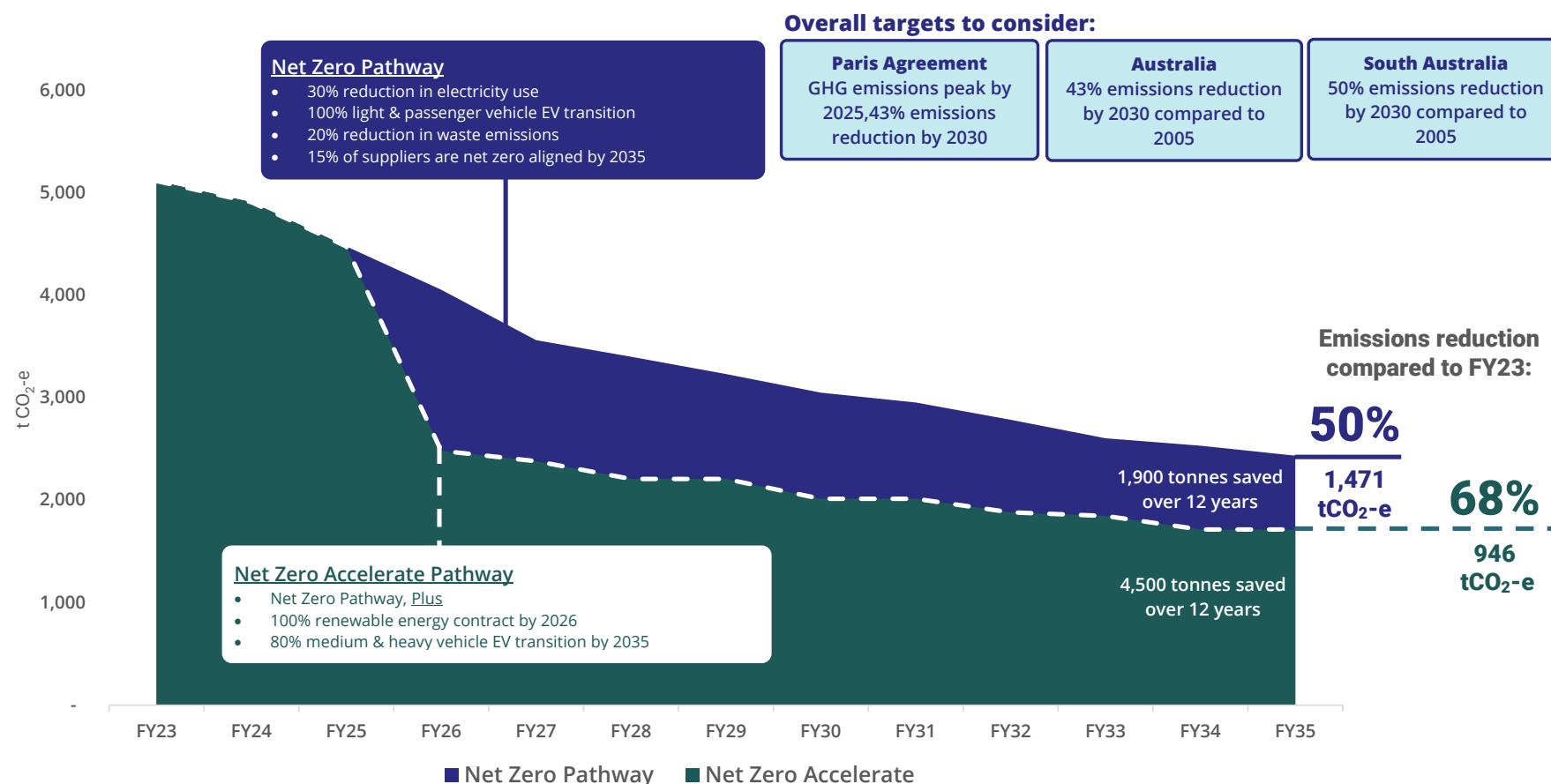
Reduce waste

Support operational waste reduction, by offering additional separated recycling streams and encouraging digital practices.



Emissions reduction pathway & targets

Based on the emissions reduction priorities, targets, and opportunities identified in this guide, the below is an emissions reduction pathway based on the average South Australia council emissions profile and includes the above emissions reduction initiatives. This below should be used as a guide to develop an emissions reduction strategy with a pathway to work towards net zero emissions.





Net zero emissions journey

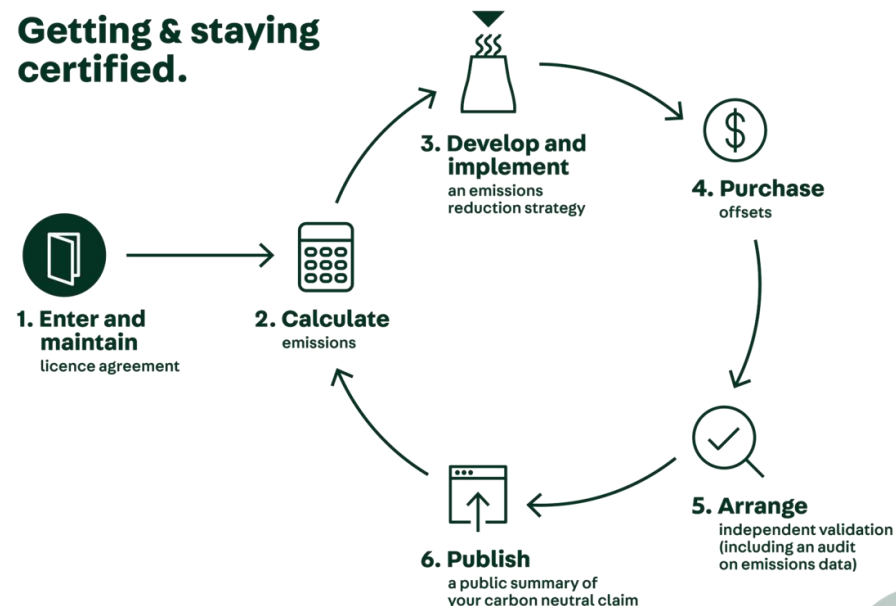
The net zero emissions transition is a journey, and it should be acknowledged that many organisations, including councils, are at various stages of understanding and reducing their emissions. However, there are several additional opportunities for councils to demonstrate leadership, support the net zero transition, and incorporate net zero emissions into broader Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) reporting. The below outlines some of the additional topics and opportunities which councils can consider.

Carbon neutral certification

Many councils that have developed an emissions reduction strategy or plan have also investigated achieving Climate Active Carbon Neutral certification. The key difference between the requirements included in this guide and achieving certification include:

- Data and evidence collated as part of the emissions inventory must be more robust and auditable. An independent third-party validation assessment is undertaken by an auditor as part of the certification process.
- Emissions reduction initiatives must be clearly defined, with initiatives, targets, and annual reporting undertaken to demonstrate whether targets have been achieved.
- Carbon offsets must be purchased to reduce emissions to zero on an annual basis. This can be expensive and can reduce the available budget to spend on emissions reduction initiatives.

The adjacent provides a summary of the certification process and key steps. Refer to the Climate Active guides for further information⁹.



Carbon offset approach

In the event certification is pursued and/or carbon offsets are purchased by a local council to reduce emissions to zero, it is recommended that the following key carbon offset principles and priorities are considered:

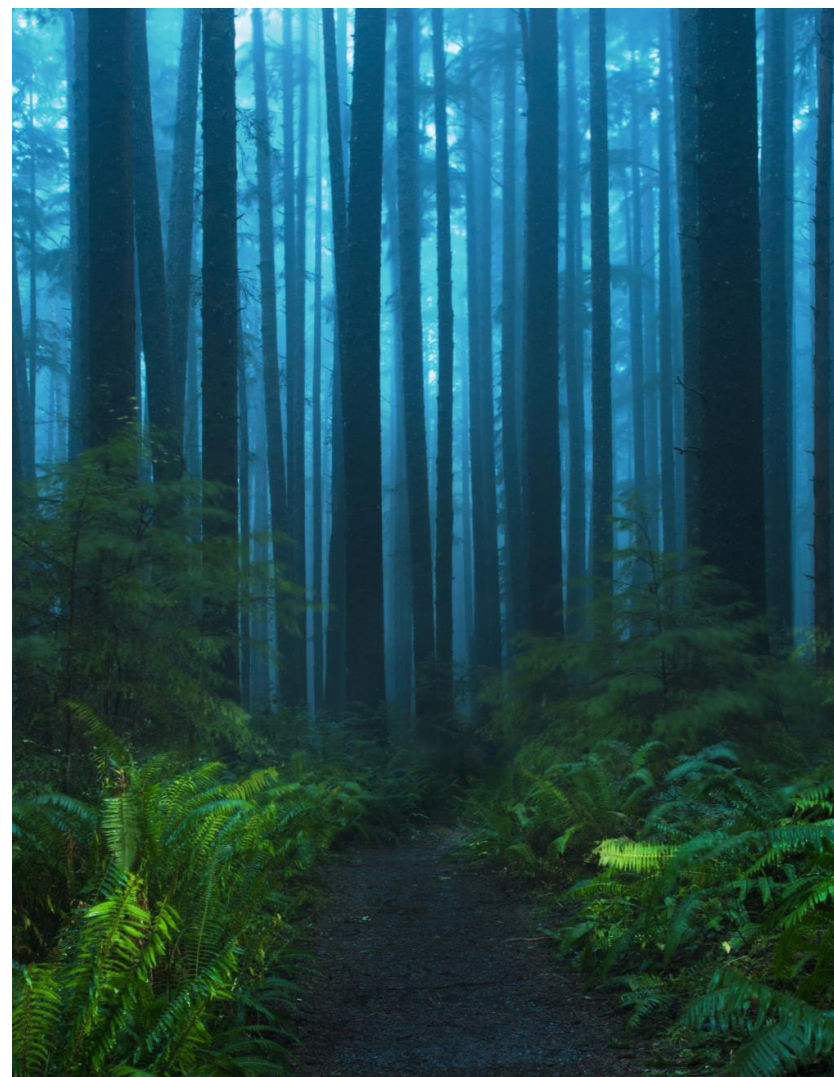
1. **Avoid and reduce emissions first.** The emission reduction strategy, actions, and targets should be the priority.
2. **Carbon removal should be the focus, including sequestration over the life of the project and end of life management.**
3. **Councils should partner with credible and transparent organisations to procure offsets.**
4. **Carbon offsets with social and environmental co-benefits should be selected.**

Carbon offset prices

The following price ranges per tonne are expected for projects based on current prices. A mix of carbon offsets can be purchased.

- **International (VCU / VER):** \$10-\$15 per tonne CO₂-e (lower prices are available for projects that have less environmental and social co-benefits).
- **Australian (ACCU):** \$40-\$55 per tonne CO₂-e for revegetation projects. \$50-80 per tonne CO₂-e for indigenous fire management projects.

Based on the average Sector Wide Emissions Profile, carbon offsets are estimated to cost between \$50,000 to \$300,000 per annum per council to maintain Carbon Neutral certification.





How does this fit in sustainability reporting

Council sustainability reporting

There are many standards that local government can adopt voluntarily to enhance sustainability reporting. The below standards can be referenced as they are recognised by industry and government.

- **Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards (Exposure Draft)**¹⁰
- **UN Sustainable Development Goals**¹¹
- **Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)**¹²

All of the above reporting standards and frameworks include categories for emissions monitoring and reduction strategies which form part of wider organisational approaches to improving sustainability outcomes.

Undertaking sustainability reporting, including maintaining emissions inventories can assist councils in completing annual reports such as the Grants Commissions Return which includes Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions as an optional reporting line.

Mandatory sustainability reporting

There are a number of new sustainability reporting standards and requirements which will begin to impact organisations councils work with, and programs councils participate in. The key upcoming reporting requirements include:

- Draft amendments to the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*¹³ which will require SA Government agencies to report on emissions and set emissions reduction targets.
- Under draft amendments to the *Corporations Act 2001*, companies will need to start reporting on climate risk and emissions in line with the Draft Exposure Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards¹⁴.

Although the above reporting standards do not impact local government directly, it is expected sustainability reporting may become a requirement for local government in the near future including reporting emissions.

Next steps

The new reporting standards are expected to increase data availability for councils trying to source data from their suppliers but will also be a challenging for many businesses to provide. In addition, voluntary reporting standards provide an opportunity for councils to improve their approach to sustainability programs and reporting.

It is recommended councils consider:

- Educational programs and support for local businesses impacted by the new reporting standards. This is an opportunity for local councils to increase the competitiveness and sustainability of local businesses.
- Ongoing reporting for emissions and reduction initiatives and incorporating sustainability reporting as part of broader strategies and programs. This will also support councils when applying for grant and funding programs such as the Community Energy Upgrade Fund. Annual reporting is recommended, however updating every 2-3 years is sufficient to track performance over time.



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank and acknowledge the following who have contributed to the Net Zero Accelerate Program:

Project lead	Technical Working Group	Contributing councils
The program was led by the Local Government Association and Department for Environment and Water.	The following councils supported the program as a Technical Working Group.	The following councils contributed information and data to the Sector Wide Emissions Profile report.
  Government of South Australia Department for Environment and Water	    	      CAMPBELLTOWN CITY COUNCIL  City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters



Appendix A – Emissions categories

The program was designed to support councils in early stages of developing an emissions inventory and those that had not yet started their emissions journey. The program was developed in line with the following data prioritisation, with councils encouraged to provide at least the Minimum and Good Practice categories:

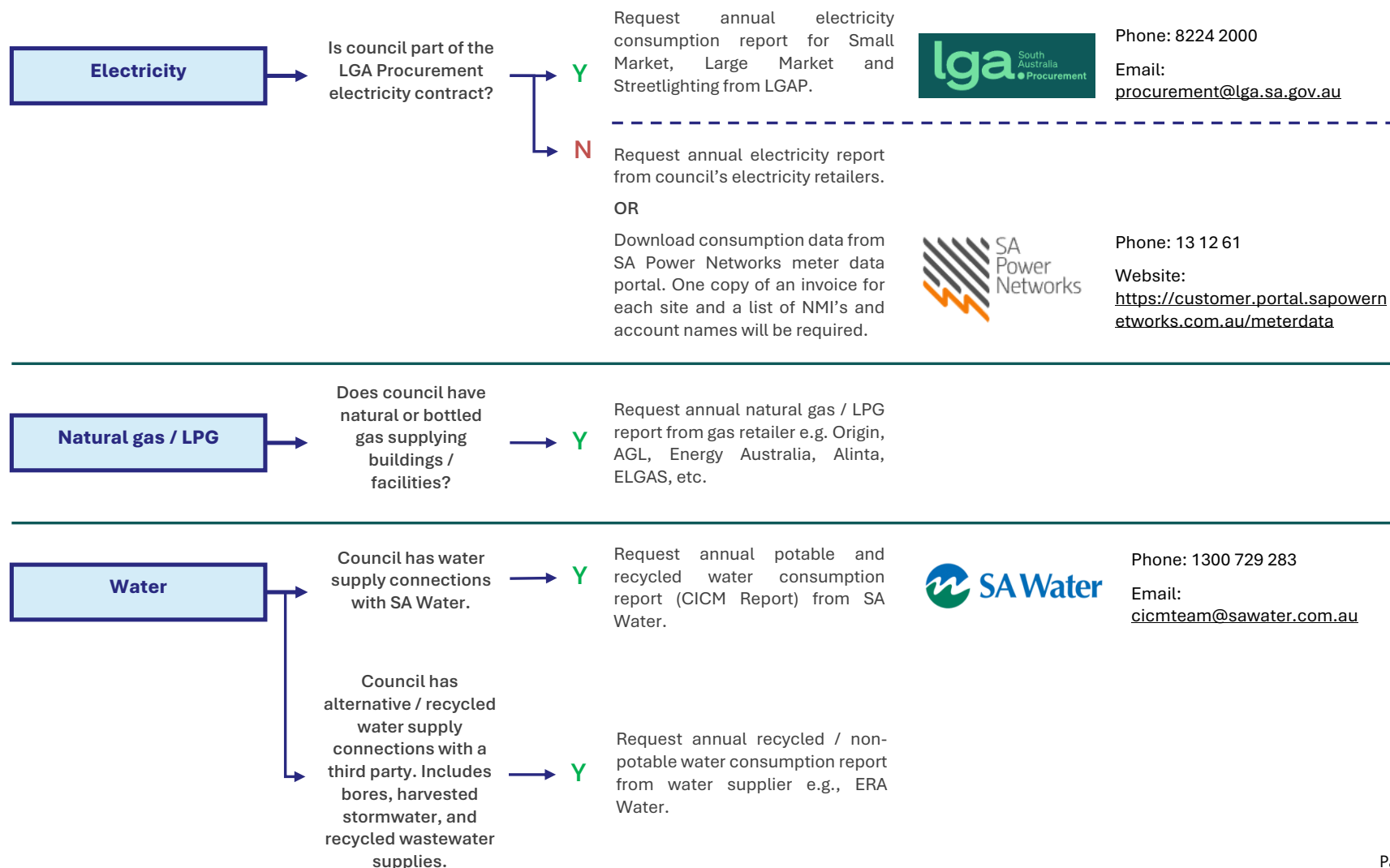
- **Minimum:** Included Scope 1 and 2 emissions which are mandatory to report on, as well as a selection of Scope 3 emissions which are typically collated by local councils.
- **Good Practice:** Included an expanded selection of Scope 3 emissions categories that would need to be included if reporting against standards such as Climate Active.
- **Best Practice:** Scope 3 emissions associated with capital works and infrastructure is typically harder to collate. Councils were given the option to include these emissions categories, however none of the councils did due to time and resourcing constraints.

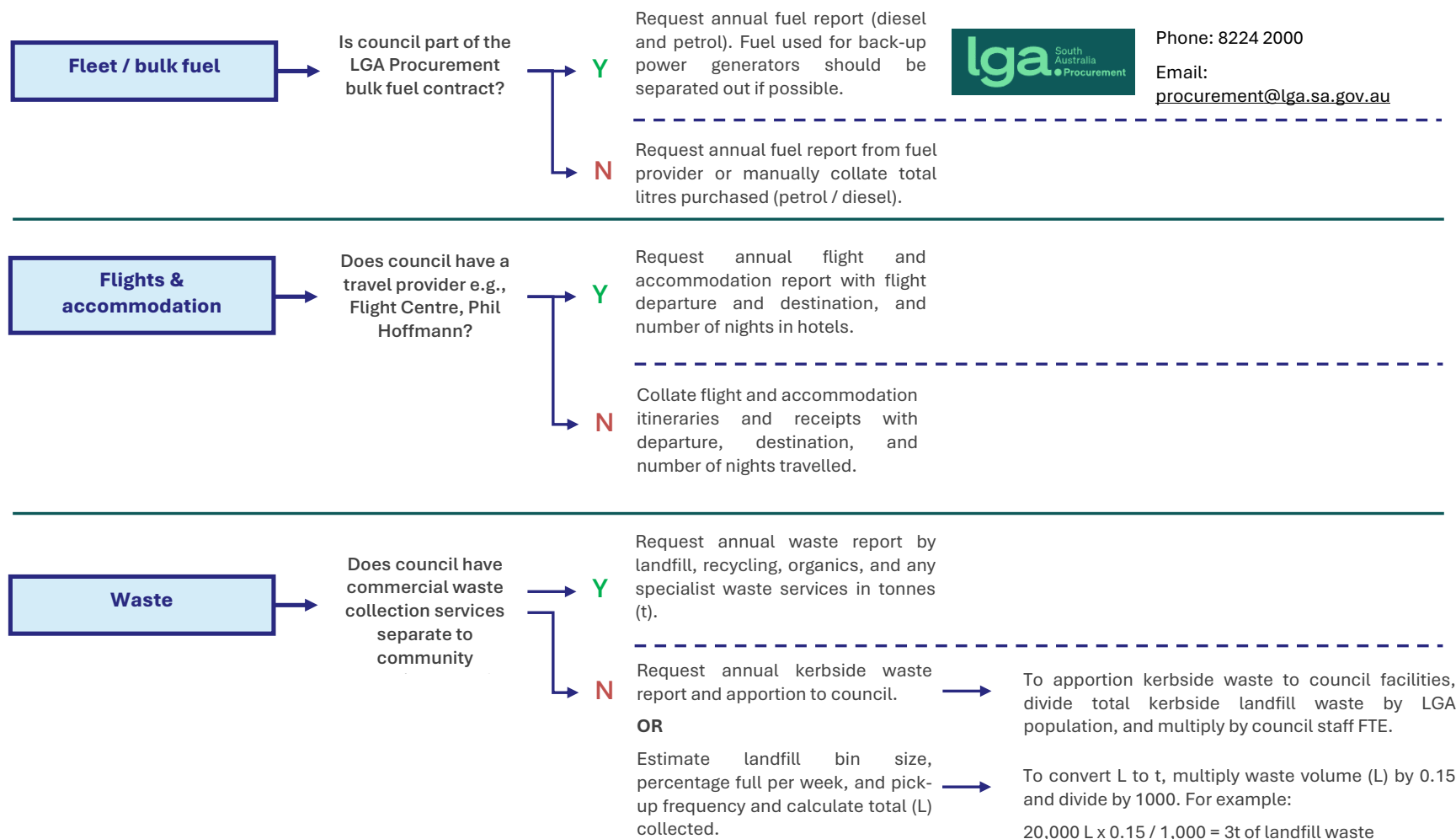
The adjacent emissions categories align with Climate Active to enable councils to pursue certification if desired.

Emission categories	Minimum	Good Practice	Best Practice
Accommodation (hotel nights)		✓	
Cleaning and Chemicals (cleaning services)		✓	
Construction Materials and Services			✓
Electricity	✓		
Food & catering		✓	
Horticulture and Agriculture (construction related)			✓
ICT services and equipment		✓	
Machinery and vehicles (fleet vehicles & repairs)		✓	
Office equipment & supplies	✓		
Postage, courier and freight	✓		
Products (paper / clothing)	Paper	Clothing /workwear	
Professional Services (consultants)		✓	
Refrigerants (air-conditioning gases)	✓		
Roads and landscape			✓
Stationary Energy (natural gas, diesel / petrol generators)	✓		
Transport (fleet fuel, flights, staff commute)	✓	Staff commute	
Waste (landfill)	✓		
Water	✓		
Working from home		✓	

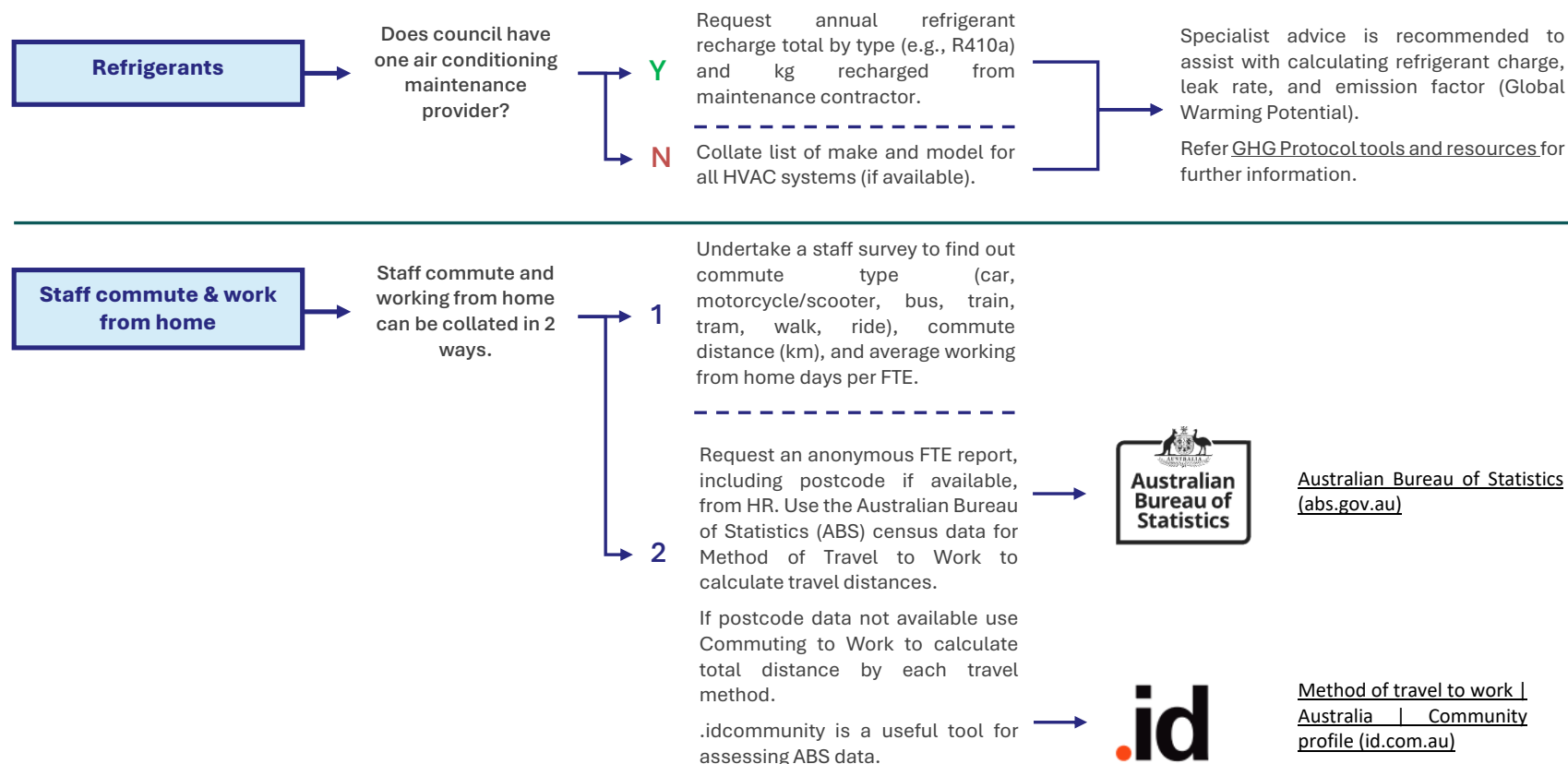
Appendix B – A guide to sourcing emissions data

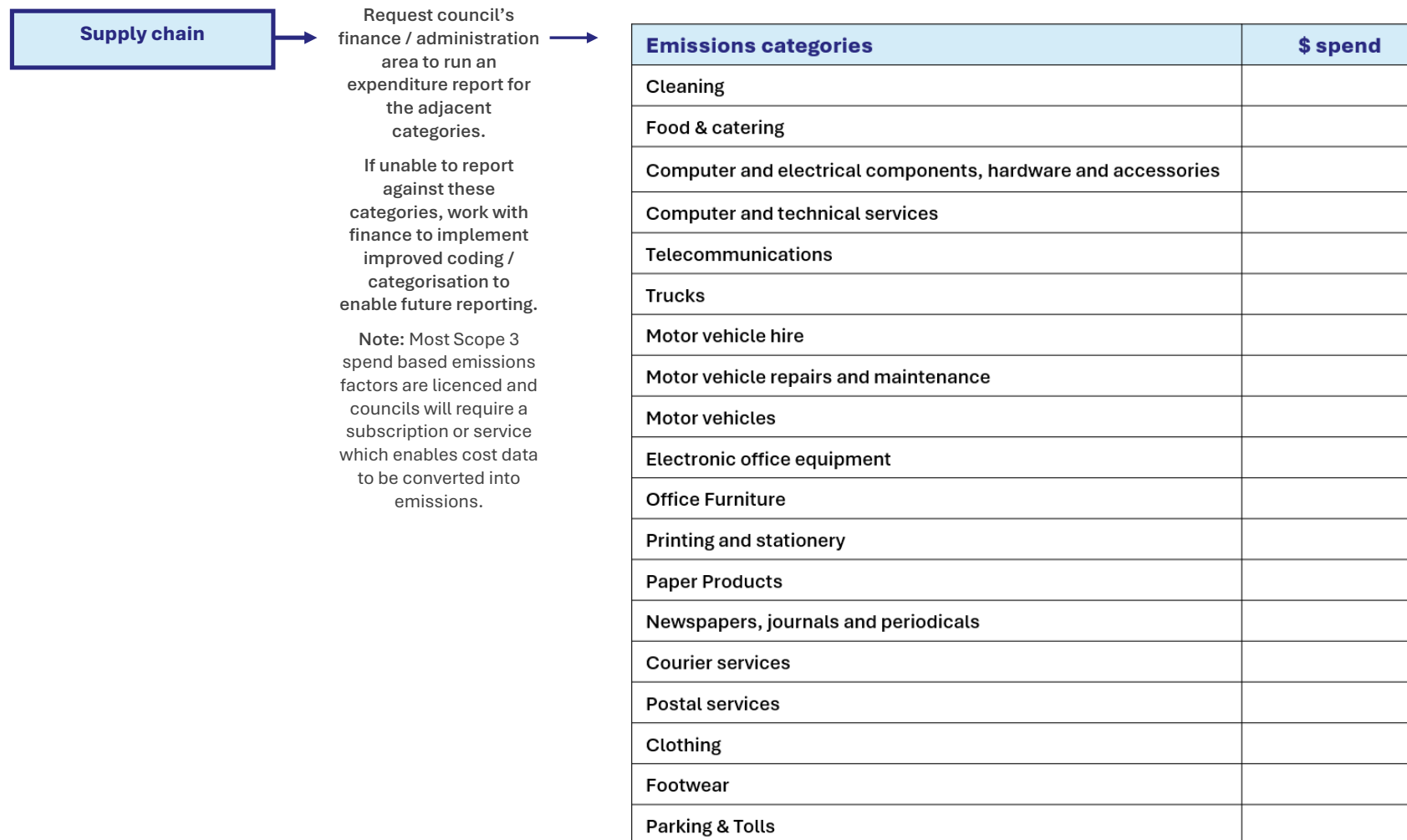
The following is a guide to sourcing emissions activity data to collate an emissions inventory.





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Appendix C – A guide to emissions factors

Emissions source	Activity unit	Emissions factor reference	How to use the data and emissions factors	Emissions factor (scope)		
				1	2	3
Electricity – Buildings and facilities	kWh	NGA Factors* National Greenhouse Accounts Factors - DCCEEW	The Best Practice Guide recommends a Market-based approach to calculate electricity emissions which requires renewables in the market, onsite renewable energy and Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs) to be considered. As a simplified way of calculating electricity emissions, councils can use the following to calculate Market-based electricity emissions. This will not be fully compliant with reporting standards if council has renewable energy systems however will enable councils to calculate the scale of their electricity emissions compared to other sources. Specialist advice should be sought to calculate Market-based electricity emissions. Market-based calculation: Use the National electricity emissions factor for Scope 2 and 3 emission factors from Table 1 in the NGA Factors – Electricity. Location-based calculation: Use the South Australia Scope 2 and 3 emissions factors from Table 1 in the NGA Factors – Electricity.	Market-based**:		
					0.65 kg CO ₂ -e / kWh	0.08 kg CO ₂ -e / kWh
				Location-based**:		
Electricity – Streetlights	kWh	NGA Factors* National Greenhouse Accounts Factors - DCCEEW	Due to streetlights being owned by SA Power Networks (SAPN) with councils paying a fee based on the light type, tariff and consumption, they are not in local government's direct control however it can be argued that councils have a level of control and can be a large emissions source. In addition, councils have requested SAPN install additional public lighting, and some councils have chosen to implement an LED streetlight replacement program to reduce consumption, costs and emissions which demonstrates that councils can influence and take ownership of the emissions. As a result, allocating electricity emissions from streetlighting is complicated and requires a review of lighting types and tariffs which requires specialist advice. As a simplified way of calculating electricity emissions from streetlighting, councils can use the following approach to calculate the scale of their streetlighting and public lighting emissions compared to other sources. Market-based calculation: Use the National electricity emissions factor for Scope 2 and 3 from Table 1 in the NGA Factors – Electricity and apply to Scope 3 emissions. Location-based calculation: Use the South Australia Scope 2 and 3 emissions factors from Table 1 in the NGA Factors – Electricity and apply to Scope 3 emissions.		0.25 kg CO ₂ -e / kWh	0.08 kg CO ₂ -e / kWh
				Use above Scope 2 and 3 emissions factor and apply total to Scope 3 emissions.		



Emissions source	Activity unit	Emissions factor reference	How to use the data and emissions factors	Emissions factor (scope)		
				1	2	3
Natural gas	GJ	NGA Factors* National Greenhouse Accounts Factors - DCCEEW	To convert MJ to GJ – Divide MJ by 1,000. Multiply gas consumption (GJ) by the emissions factors listed in Tables 5 and 6 in the latest version of the NGA Factors for Scope 1 and 3.	51.53 kg CO ₂ - e / GJ		Metro: 10.6 kg CO ₂ -e / GJ Non- metro: 10.7 kg CO ₂ -e / GJ
Bottled gas (liquefied natural gas / LPG)	GJ		Step One: Convert to MJ: •To convert LPG from kg to L divide total kg by 0.51 (45kg gas bottle = 88L). •To convert LPG from L to MJ multiply total by 25.3 (1L = 25.3MJ) Step Two: Calculate emissions •To convert MJ to GJ – Divide MJ by 1,000. •Multiply gas consumption (GJ) by emissions factor for Scope 1 and 3.	51.53 kg CO ₂ - e / GJ		3.6 kg CO ₂ -e / GJ
Water and wastewater treatment	KL	AusLCI auslci.com.au	Download the latest version of the AusLCI emissions factor database and find the “water and wastewater, South Australia” emissions factor. Multiply total water consumption (KL) by the <i>Climate change – CN</i> factor in the AusLCI database.			1.49 kg CO ₂ - e / KL
Water supply only	KL	AusLCI auslci.com.au	Where water consumption is used for irrigation only and enters the stormwater network (not sewer), a water supply only emissions can be used. Multiply total water consumption (KL) by the <i>Climate change – CN</i> factor in the AusLCI database.			0.42 kg CO ₂ -e / KL**



Emissions source	Activity unit	Emissions factor reference	How to use the data and emissions factors	Emissions factor (scope)		
				1	2	3
Fleet fuel - <u>Petrol</u>	kL	NGA Factors* <u>National Greenhouse Accounts Factors - DCCEEW</u>	Multiply petrol kL x energy content factor to calculate GJ. Energy content factor: •Petrol = 34.2 GJ/kL •Diesel = 38.6 GJ / kL Multiply GJ by NGA emissions factors.	67.62 kg CO ₂ -e / GJ		17.2 kg CO ₂ -e / GJ
Fleet fuel - <u>Diesel</u>	kL			70.41 kg CO ₂ -e / GJ		17.3 kg CO ₂ -e / GJ
Stationary energy – Generator fuel - <u>Petrol</u>	kL			67.80 kg CO ₂ -e / GJ		17.2 kg CO ₂ -e / GJ
Stationary energy – Generator fuel - <u>Diesel</u>	kL			70.20 kg CO ₂ -e / GJ		17.3 kg CO ₂ -e / GJ
Waste to landfill (municipal waste)	kL	NGA Factors* <u>National Greenhouse Accounts Factors - DCCEEW</u>	Calculate total tonnes of landfill waste (e.g., red bin / landfill). Multiply total tonnes by 1.6 t CO ₂ -e to calculate average landfill waste emissions.			1,600 kg CO ₂ -e / tonne



Emissions source	Activity unit	Emissions factor reference	How to use the data and emissions factors	Emissions factor (scope)		
				1	2	3
Very short economy flights (<400km)	Pax.km	UK Government conversion factor* Government conversion factors for company reporting of greenhouse gas emissions	Calculate flight distance based on flight itinerary and allocate to: •Very Short (<400km) •Short (>400km, <3,700km) •Long (>3,700km) If business or first class flights used, refer to the UK conversion factors for guidance. Multiply flight distance (pax.km) by emissions factor.			0.31 kg CO ₂ -e / pax.km
Short economy flights (>400km, <3,700km)	Pax.km					0.21 kg CO ₂ -e / pax.km
Long economy flights (>3,700km)	Pax.km					0.22 kg CO ₂ -e / pax.km
Hotel nights	Nights	Cornell Hotel Sustainability Benchmarking Index*	Calculate total number of nights stayed in accommodation. Multiply total nights by emissions factor (Assumes non-resort hotels in Australia.			43.04 kg CO ₂ -e / night
Refrigerants	kg	NGA Factors* National Greenhouse Accounts Factors - DCCCEW	Refrigerant calculations typically require specialist advice to confirm the refrigerant type and volume / charge. If the total refrigerant charge (kg) and type of refrigerant is known, emissions can be calculated by multiplying the charge, refrigerant Global Warming Potential (GWP), and leakage rate and dividing by 1,000 to calculate tonnes of CO ₂ -e (GWP x Charge x Leakage rate / 1,000). Refer to the NGA Factors for common refrigerants and leak rates for different types of equipment. Assign refrigerant emissions to Scope 1.	Assign to Scope 1		



Emissions source		Activity unit	Emissions factor reference	How to use the data and emissions factors	Emissions factor (scope)		
					1	2	3
Staff commute to work	Private car	km	UK Government conversion factor* Government conversion factors for company reporting of greenhouse gas emissions	Calculate total distance travelled by each form of transport (refer data guidance). Multiply total distance travelled by the relevant emissions factor. Private car is based on average vehicle emissions for Australian vehicles.			0.22 kg CO ₂ -e / km
	Bus	Pax.km					0.13 kg CO ₂ -e / pax.km
	Train	Pax.km					0.04 kg CO ₂ -e / pax.km
	Tram	Pax.km					0.04 kg CO ₂ -e / pax.km



Appendix D – Glossary

Term	Definition
Adaptation	Actions or measures implemented to reduce the expected impacts of climate change on human and natural systems e.g., planting drought tolerant species that are suitable for the expected increased drought conditions.
Anthropogenic climate change	Climate change caused by human activities such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and agricultural practices.
Emissions inventory	An account of the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions emitted to the atmosphere.
Carbon neutral	When an entities greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are offset by the equivalent amount of carbon offsets that avoid, reduce or remove / sequester carbon elsewhere.
Carbon offsets	Carbon offsets are generated by projects for each tonne of emissions avoided, removed or captured from the atmosphere such as by reforestation, renewable energy or energy efficiency.
Climate change	Long term changes in the earth's climate and weather patterns.
Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂-e)	A standardised measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases (GHG) based upon their global warming potential.
Global warming	An increase in earth's average surface temperature from human made greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
Greenhouse gas (GHG)	Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere such as carbon dioxide (CO ₂) and methane (CH ₄).
Mitigation	Actions or measures implemented to avoid, reduce, or remove GHG emissions.
Net zero emissions	When anthropogenic (human based) GHG emissions to the atmosphere are balanced by anthropogenic removals.
Zero emissions	Zero emissions, or absolute zero, is when emissions are reduced to zero without the use of carbon offsets e.g., zero emissions electricity is achieved when 100% of electricity consumption / demand is met with onsite solar PV and battery storage.



Appendix E – References

- ¹ GHG Protocol - [Homepage](#) | [GHG Protocol](#)
- ² World Green Building Council - [Embodied Carbon - World Green Building Council \(worldgbc.org\)](#)
- ³ National Greenhouse Accounts Factors - [National Greenhouse Accounts Factors - DCCEEW](#)
- ⁴ Australia's Emissions Projections - [Projecting greenhouse gas emissions - DCCEEW](#)
- ⁵ Climate Active Carbon Neutral - [Certification](#) | [Climate Active](#)
- ⁶ Snapshot Climate - [Snapshot Climate - Australian Emissions Profiles :: Snapshot](#)
- ⁷ UN Net Zero Coalition - [Net Zero Coalition](#) | [United Nations](#)
- ⁸ Australia's Emissions Projections - [Projecting greenhouse gas emissions - DCCEEW](#)
- ⁹ Climate Active Carbon Neutral - [Certification](#) | [Climate Active](#)
- ¹⁰ Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards - [Exposure Draft ED SR1 Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards – Disclosure of Climate-related Financial Information \(aasb.gov.au\)](#)
- ¹¹ UN Sustainable Development Goals - [THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development \(un.org\)](#)
- ¹² Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) - [GRI - Home \(globalreporting.org\)](#)
- ¹³ *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007* - [Department for Environment and Water - Climate Change and Greenhouse...](#)
- ¹⁴ Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards - [Exposure Draft ED SR1 Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards – Disclosure of Climate-related Financial Information \(aasb.gov.au\)](#)

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.5 RECYCLING OF SOFT PLASTICS AND OTHER RECYCLABLE MATERIAL - PARLIAMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

**Author: Sustainability Officer
24/87872**

The South Australian Government passed a resolution in May 2023 to appoint 'a *Select Committee to inquire into and report on the recycling of soft plastics and other recyclable material (the Inquiry), with particular reference to how South Australia has responded to REDcycle being unable to process soft plastics*'. The Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA) submitted a coordinated response to the Inquiry and The Barossa Council was a contributor to this response. The report of the Select Committee was tabled at the Legislative Council on 27 August 2024 and published thirty-three (33) recommendations of which 'Councils' were directly named in ten (10) of these recommendations.

Background

REDcycle was the recycling initiative where households could return soft plastics to supermarkets for recycling. The program was suspended in November 2022 because of unprocessed stockpiled materials, with no active recycling partner or markets for recycled material. REDcycle was the only established and widespread recycling pathway for soft plastics that households could access in South Australia. The ACCC granted conditional authorisation to the major supermarkets to collaborate and develop a 'Roadmap' to restarting soft plastics recycling through Australian supermarkets, but a renewed solution is yet to be launched.

Since the REDcycle program ceased, households have been instructed to put soft plastics in the kerbside red waste bin. Soft Plastics cannot be put in the kerbside yellow recycling bin as the Material Recycling Facilities (MRFs) do not have capacity to receive this material loose nor process it ready for recycling.

Council has previously supported a soft plastics recycling collection trial at The Father's Farm (2019/2020) that did not continue as the value of material collected was low and the model was not financially sustainable. The material market value of soft plastics has not changed since this trial. There are three (3) metropolitan Councils that have more recently trialled a "bag-in-bin" program, initiated by the Australian food and grocery manufacturing industry, where the Council kerbside bin service is fundamental to the collection model. The outcomes of this trial are yet to be shared. In July 2024, The State Government confirmed their focus on establishing local recycling capacity for soft plastics by awarding Recycling Plastics Australia, based in Kilburn, a \$20 million grant for new technology to clean and purify soft plastics to create new soft plastic packaging.

Report outcomes.

While the Select Committee found '*producers, or manufacturers of soft plastic products should take responsibility for the soft plastics they place on the market*', the report recommendations strongly focus on the role of Green Industries SA working with the LGA and Councils to take a leadership role in the solution, including the

development of a soft plastics waste strategy, procurement that supports recycled content and expanded kerbside collection model trials. There is no commentary related to how this might be funded. 'Councils' were directly named in ten (10) of the thirty-three (33) recommendations, suggesting that Council's may be asked to take a more active role in soft plastics recycling solutions delivery than they have previously.

Council will continue to monitor developments in this area and when opportunities arise, advocate for a consistent national approach with extended producer responsibility requirements, and caution around increased direct and indirect costs to Councils.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 Parliament of South Australia - Report of the Select Committee on Recycling Soft Plastics and Other Recyclable Material - 27 August 2024 [↓](#) 
- Attachment 2 The Barossa Council - copy of response to LGA regarding soft plastics Inquiry - August 2023 [↓](#) 

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

[New SA kerbside recycling trial aims to close the loop on soft plastic packaging - Waste Management Review](#)
[New soft plastics recycling technology for South Australia | Premier of South Australia](#)

Pp [316



Parliament of South Australia

**REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON RECYCLING
OF SOFT PLASTICS AND OTHER RECYCLABLE
MATERIAL**

Laid on the Table of the Legislative Council, and ordered to be printed 27 August 2024

First Session of the Fifty-Fifth Parliament

Enquiries may be directed to:

The Select Committee on the Recycling of Soft Plastics and other Recyclable Material

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Email: screcycling@parliament.sa.gov.au

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THE SELECT COMMITTEE

Appointment of Committee and Terms of Reference

On 17 May 2023, the Legislative Council passed a resolution on the motion of the Hon. Heidi Girolamo MLC for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into and report on the recycling of soft plastics and other recyclable material in South Australia, with particular reference to:

- (a) How South Australia has responded to REDcycle being unable to process soft plastics;
- (b) Investigate how supermarkets and other collection points have ceased collections and what can be done to re-establish these services;
- (c) Determine whether funding from the state government (including Green Industries SA funding) has been sufficient to support South Australian businesses and local government councils within the soft plastics and other recyclables industry, including aluminium;
- (d) Identifying short and long term opportunities and solutions to ensure soft plastics can be recycled in South Australia;
- (e) Examining strategies more broadly to reduce soft plastic waste generation and better management of commercial and residential waste; and
- (f) Any other related matters.

Membership

Hon Heidi Girolamo MLC, Chair of the Committee

Hon Justin Hanson MLC

Hon Michelle Lensink MLC

Hon Tung Ngo MLC

Hon Rob Simms MLC

The Committee is assisted by:

Secretary Ms Robyn Schutte

Research Officer Ms Mary Ann Bloomfield

CONDUCT OF INQUIRY

Notices were placed in the below list of newspapers and other publications to inform the public of the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry and to invite submissions and oral evidence.

14 July 2023

- Border Watch (Mt Gambier)

15 July 2023

- The Advertiser
- The Australian

18 July 2023

- Yorke Peninsula Country Times
- The Times (Victor Harbor)

19 July 2023 & 7 August 2023

- InDaily

19 July 2023

- Murray Pioneer (Renmark)
- Border Times (Pinaroo)
- Border Chronicle
- Gawler Bunyip
- Mt Barker Courier
- The Transcontinental

20 July 2023

- Port Lincoln Times
- Murray Valley Standard
- The Recorder (Port Pirie)
- Naracoorte Herald
- Whyalla News
- The Islander

In addition, the Committee wrote to a number of individuals and organisations with an interest in the Inquiry inviting them to provide oral evidence or make a written submission. Details of the Inquiry, including the Terms of Reference, were also made available on the Parliament of South Australia (Committees) website, Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Evidence Received

The Committee received 40 written submissions and held 7 hearings to receive oral evidence at Parliament House, Adelaide. The hearings occurred on 21 September 2023, 12 October 2023, 26 October 2023, 9 November 2023, 23 November 2023, 29 February 2024 and 14 March 2024.

A list of written submissions and oral evidence hearings is provided in the Appendices.

Site Visits

The Committee undertook several site visits:

23 November 2023

Woolworths, Walkerville, South Australia

Mr Jonathon Russell, Manager, Government Relations and Industry Affairs, Sustainability

Mr Brad O'Connor, National and State Manager

Ms Elisha Moore, Assistant State Manager (SA, NT, WA)

Mr Chad Harris, Walkerville Store Manager

OzHarvest (at Woolworths, Walkerville)

Ms Rachel Hibble, Adelaide City Manager

Mr Stefan Arkadianos, Adelaide City Assistant



Image 1 L to R, **Select Committee Members:** Hon Robert Simms MLC, Hon Tung Ngo MLC, Hon Justin Hanson MLC, Hon Heidi Girolamo MLC (Chair); Mr Brad O'Connor, *Woolworths*, Ms Rachel Hibble, *OzHarvest*, Mr Stefan Arkadianos, *OzHarvest*; Ms Elisha Moore, *Woolworths*, Mr Chad Harris, *Woolworths*, Jonathon Russell, *Woolworths*.



Image 2 Pallets wrapped in commercial grade soft plastic-wrap, *Woolworths*, Walkerville.

15 February 2024

YCA Recycling, Wingfield, South Australia

Mr Kai Hau, General Manager



Image 3 L to R, **Select Committee Members:** Hon Michelle Lensink MLC, Hon Robert Simms MLC, Hon Justin Hanson MLC, Hon Tung Ngo MLC, Hon Heidi Girolamo MLC (Chair); 3rd from right Mr Kai Hau, General Manager, *YCA Recycling*

4 Select Committee on the Recycling of Soft Plastics and Other Recyclable Material



Image 4 Select Committee Members: Hon Michelle Lensink MLC, Hon Justin Hanson MLC, Hon Heidi Girolamo MLC (Chair), Hon Tung Ngo MLC, Hon Robert Simms MLC; Mr Kai Hau, General Manager, *YCA Recycling*

15 February 2024

RPA Recycling Plastics Australia Pty Ltd, Kilburn, South Australia



Image 5 RPA Recycling Plastics Australia, L to R Mr Paul Bonney, Director, Mr Peter C. Gregg, Chair, Mr Stephen Scherer, General Manager. Select Committee Members: Hon Justin Hanson MLC, Hon Heidi Girolamo MLC (Chair), Hon Robert Simms MLC; Mr Tim Walsh, *Consultant for RPA.*

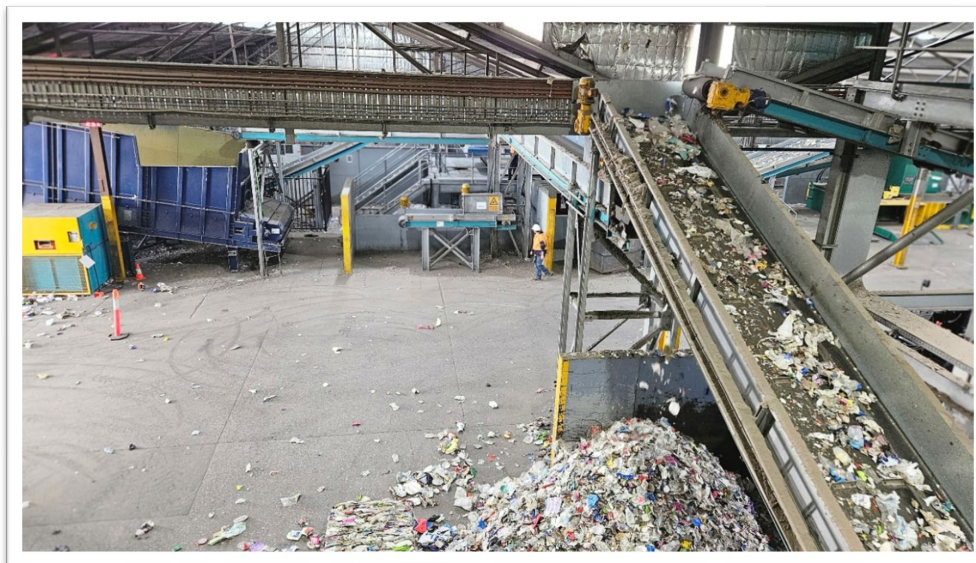


Image 6 The RPA facility soft plastics sorting system.

Acknowledgements

The Committee thanks all individuals, organisations and businesses who provided written submissions and oral evidence to the Inquiry.

The also Committee thanks the following businesses and organisations for their time during site visits:

- Woolworths, Walkerville
- OzHarvest
- YCA Recycling, Wingfield
- Recycling Plastics Australia, Kilburn

ACRONYMS

APCO	Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation
CEMDG	Circular Economy Market Development Grants
CDS	Container Deposit Scheme
DCCEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
EPA SA	Environment Protection Authority
GISA	Green Industries South Australia
FOGO	Food Organics and Garden Organics
HDPE	High-density polyethylene
LDPE	Low-density polyethylene
PET	polyethylene terephthalate
POM	Placed on Market
PP	Polypropylene
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
wPP	Woven polypropylene

SUMMARY

The Inquiry into the Recycling of Soft Plastics and Other Recyclable Materials (the Inquiry) found soft plastic waste is a pervasive issue that requires responses from many different parties, at local, state and national levels.^{1, 2} This can be achieved through the South Australian Government providing leadership and the development of a ‘soft plastics waste strategy’.

Redesigning Soft Plastics

The design of soft plastic products, particularly packaging, requires a whole-of-life-cycle design approach.³ The Committee found producers, or manufacturers of soft plastic products should take responsibility for the soft plastics they place on market.⁴ The Committee has made several recommendations to address the design and traceability of soft plastics, including for the South Australian Government to examine phasing out certain types of polymers; adopting a product stewardship scheme and promoting the Commonwealth Government’s *National framework for recycled content traceability guidelines*.

Recycling Soft Plastics – Kerbside Collection and Infrastructure Capacity

The Inquiry indicates there is broad support for a new soft plastics recycling scheme in South Australia. The Committee found the *Curby Trial* can be built on to reestablish and expand kerbside services for soft plastic waste however, more recycling infrastructure is needed.⁵ There will need to be more mechanical and advanced soft plastics recycling facilities; and, in conjunction, feedstocks must be guaranteed.⁶ Businesses need incentives to use the collected soft plastics; processors to process the waste efficiently back into raw materials, such as pellets; and manufacturers to purchase the pelletised plastics to make their products.^{7, 8, 9} There will also need to be assistance provided to Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) to sort increased types and volumes of soft plastic waste.

Return-to-Store Trials

The Committee heard from the Soft Plastics Taskforce that new trials will be undertaken in South Australia.¹⁰ To progress this, the Committee recommends Green Industries SA follow up with the Soft Plastics Taskforce when return-to-store services for soft plastics, formerly provided by REDcycle, will recommence in South Australia.

End Markets

The Committee acknowledges the South Australian Government’s recently announced co-contribution to the proposed Recycling Plastics Australia Pty. Ltd., operation in Kilburn and believes this is a step in the right direction.¹¹

¹ Green Industries SA (GISA), *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 6.

² Boomerang Alliance, *Written submission No.36*, 18 September 2023: 1.

³ Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation, *Sustainable Packaging Guidelines*, October 2020. Accessed: <https://apco.org.au/sustainable-packaging-guidelines>

⁴ Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR), *Written submission No. 23*, 8 September 2023: 2 – 3; 6.

⁵ Central Adelaide Waste and Recycling Authority (CAWRA), *Written submission No. 30*, 12 September 2023: 2; 8.

⁶ Sustainable Infrastructure Systems Pty Ltd. (SIS), *Written submission No. 40*, 20 March 2024: 4 - 5.

⁷ Mr Scott Morton, Director, BioBag World Australia, *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 119.

⁸ Waste and Recycling Industry Association of South Australia (WRISA), *Written submission No. 24*, 8 September 2023: 6.

⁹ Ms Stephanie Thoo, General Manager, Innovation and Sustainability, Pro Pac Group Pty Ltd., *Hansard*, 29 February 2024: 102.

¹⁰ Mr Laurie Kozlovic, Managing Director, Woolworths Group *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 67.

¹¹ Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water (Cmth); Dr Susan Close MP, Acting Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water (SA), Joint Media Release, *New Soft Plastic Recycling Technology for South Australia*, 16 July 2024: 1.

However, the Committee also found scaling up operations will require investment in end markets, as without vibrant, viable end markets, the recycling of soft plastic waste will be stymied.^{12, 13} The evidence shows government procurement can stimulate end markets for recyclables and the South Australian Government should develop and adopt a whole-of-state government procurement policy that supports waste reduction strategies.^{14, 15}

Reducing Soft Plastic Waste

There is more that can be done to continue reducing single-use plastics, including soft plastics.¹⁶ Banning some single-use plastic items under the *Single-Use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance) Act 2020*, has been very effective in reducing plastic waste.¹⁷ The Committee would like to see further investigations undertaken to ban more single-use plastics, following implementation of the next tranches of bans on 1 September 2024 and 1 September 2025. The Inquiry also identified there is a need to reduce soft plastics waste in the commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors.¹⁸ Providing assistance for industries to shift to reusing products or using alternative products, such as compostables, will continue to reduce the amount of soft plastic waste going to landfill.¹⁹ The Committee has recommended the South Australian Government provide incentives for innovation in compostable products to increase these alternatives.

Community Education and Engagement

The Committee found there is a need to expand the engagement and education of the community around the use of soft plastics and the importance of reducing waste created from these products.²⁰ The Committee recommends the South Australian Government work with local government and communities to raise awareness of soft plastic waste and make public the outcomes from implementation of the *2025 National Packaging Targets*, which must be completed by 31 December 2025.

Commonwealth, States and Territories

At the National level, there is still work to be undertaken resulting from the collaboration of the Commonwealth, States and Territories' Environment Ministers.²¹ The Commonwealth, States and Territories continue to work together to implement the next stages of the packaging regulation under the *National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure 2011* and achieve the *2025 National Packaging Targets*.²²



Hon Heidi Girolamo MLC
Chairperson of the Select Committee
21 August 2024

¹² Green Industries SA (GISA), *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025*, Adelaide, 2020: 26.

Accessed: <https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/resources/sa-waste-strategy-2020-2025>

¹³ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 3; 6.

¹⁴ City of Burnside, *Written submission No. 31*, 13 September 2023: 2.

¹⁵ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 6.

¹⁶ WRISA, *Written submission No. 24*, 8 September 2023: 1.

¹⁷ Government of South Australia, *Replace the Waste*. Accessed: <https://www.replacethewaste.sa.gov.au/>

¹⁸ Mr Kym Gladigau, *Written submission No. 13*, 7 September 2023: 2.

¹⁹ Mr Scott Morton, *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 119.

²⁰ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 10.

²¹ DCCEEW, *Reforming Packaging Regulation*, 15 December 2023. Accessed: [Reforming packaging regulation - DCCEEW](#)

²² DCCEEW, *Environment Ministers' Meeting, 21 June 2024, Agreed Communiqué*, 2024: 2. Accessed: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/stay-informed/communiques#environment-ministers-meeting>

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee makes the following recommendations:

Soft Plastics Strategy

1. Green Industries SA develop a soft plastics recycling strategy for South Australia in partnership with the Local Government Association of South Australia, Councils, Materials Recovery Facilities and the waste and recycling sectors, which sets targets for expanding soft plastics recycling and use of recycled product.

Expansion of Kerbside Trials

2. Green Industries SA partner with Councils to identify a timeframe for kerbside soft plastics waste collection trials to recommence and be expanded.
3. Green Industries SA partner with Councils, the Australian Food and Grocery Council and the Central Adelaide Waste and Recycling Authority in the recommencement and expansion of the Curby trial for kerbside collection of soft plastics.
4. Green Industries SA partner with the Local Government Association of South Australia, Councils and Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) to assist MRFs to address barriers to upscaling operations for processing soft plastics.

Recommencement of Return-to-Store Collection

5. Green Industries SA partner with the Local Government Association of South Australia, Councils, and independent partners including supermarkets to re-establish collection points for soft plastics, as soon as practicable, to assist and improve consumer collection efforts.
6. Green Industries SA follow up with the Soft Plastics Taskforce when soft plastics collection will recommence in South Australia from the Return-to-Store services formerly provided by REDcycle.

Review of Solid Waste Levy

7. The South Australian Government review the solid waste levy to support recycling goals. Include a focus on tangible recycling and waste management modern technology investments.

Recycling, Manufacturing and End Market Innovation

8. Green Industries SA provide grant funding for start-ups and end markets in soft plastics reduction and recycling.
9. Green Industries SA provide grant funding for start-ups and end markets in the manufacturing of certified compostable alternatives to soft plastics.
10. Green Industries SA increase funding for research and innovation for soft plastics reduction, recycling and compostable alternatives.
11. The South Australian Government identify areas that would benefit from an incentivised scheme for Business to Business (B2B) soft plastics processing and remanufacturing and assist to implement a suitable scheme to support this.

Government Procurement

12. Green Industries SA partner with Procurement Services SA to update the *Procurement Governance Policy*, the *Green Procurement Guideline*, and other relevant procurement policies or guidelines, to require South Australian Government Agencies to procure goods and services that:
 - where applicable, incorporate no less than 50 per cent recycled soft plastics or replacement with a compostable alternative; and
 - eliminate soft plastic waste in the delivery of goods and services, by 2026.
13. Green Industries SA partner with the Department for Transport and Infrastructure, to set targets for the use of recycled soft plastics in construction projects to drive demand and reduce environmental impact for all State Government Projects.
14. Green Industries SA partner with the Local Government Association of South Australia, to set targets for the use of recycled soft plastics in Council Projects.
15. Green Industries SA partner with the Local Government Association of South Australia, to determine if changes are required to the *Local Government Act 1999*, to require Councils to incorporate no less than 50 per cent recycled soft plastics or replacement with a compostable alternative in procurement of goods; and eliminate soft plastic waste in the delivery of goods and services, by 2026.

2025 National Targets

16. Green Industries SA ensure *Australia's 2025 National Packaging Targets* are implemented in South Australia by 31 December 2025 and publish a report to advise the community what actions have been taken to achieve the targets.

Business Incentives

17. Green Industries SA assist South Australian manufacturing businesses in achieving the *2025 National Packaging Targets* and provide incentives for businesses to invest in soft plastics recycling, waste reduction initiatives and alternatives to soft plastics.
18. Green Industries SA provide incentives to South Australian packaging manufacturers to invest in alternatives to soft plastic packaging, such as compostables.
19. The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, provide support and incentives to the South Australian Agricultural industry to transition to the use of recyclable soft plastics and compostable alternatives to soft plastics.

Recycling Education and Community Engagement

20. Green Industries SA promote *Australia's 2025 National Packaging Targets* to business, industry, government and the community, highlighting what changes will be made to packaging as a result.
21. Green Industries SA facilitate a statewide education program on the importance of soft plastics recycling and available initiatives.
22. Green Industries SA work with Plastic-Free SA and Councils to develop 'Plastic-Free Zones' in South Australian communities.

Single Use Plastics and Container Deposit Scheme

23. The South Australian Government, through Green Industries SA and the Environment Protection Authority of South Australia, undertake further investigations into banning more single-use plastics and limited-use plastics, to follow implementation of the next tranches of bans on 1 September 2024 and 1 September 2025.

24. The South Australian Government, through Green Industries SA and the Environment Protection Authority of South Australia investigate how the existing South Australian Container Deposit Scheme can be used as a model for a similar scheme to be introduced for some types of soft plastics, for example some HDPE, which will increase the value of those materials.
25. The South Australian Government investigate the potential for amending section 10(2) of the *Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010*, to provide Councils with options for the regularity of waste collection services for food and organics, recyclables and landfill.

Broader Issues at Commonwealth Level

26. The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water and Green Industries SA promote the Commonwealth Government's voluntary *National framework for recycled content traceability guidelines*.
27. The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water lobby through the Environment Ministers' Meeting, for the Commonwealth, States and Territories to legislate to ban types of soft plastics that are considered difficult to recycle or contain multiple polymers that render the product unrecyclable.
28. Green Industries SA work with the retail and supermarket sectors, the recycling sector and Councils to develop a roadmap to achieving the reduction and phase out of soft plastics by polymer type.
29. The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water lobby through the Environment Ministers' Meeting, for the Commonwealth, States and Territories to advocate for Commonwealth regulation of soft plastic imports.
30. The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water lobby through the Environment Ministers' Meeting, for the Commonwealth, States and Territories to adopt legislation that prescribes rules to stop the over-packaging of products in soft plastic, for sale in Australia.
31. The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water lobby through the Environment Ministers' Meeting, for the Commonwealth, States and Territories to:
 - i. Consider adopting a compulsory, participant funded product stewardship and traceability scheme for recycled soft plastics content;
 - ii. amend the Australasian Recycling Label program to include soft plastics and the recycled content of products; and
 - iii. adopt a 'Recycler Accreditation Scheme' with national minimum material quality standards.
32. The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water lobby through the Environment Ministers' Meeting, for the Commonwealth, States and Territories to undertake a review and report on the extent of production, use and disposal, including disposal methods, of soft plastics in the following sectors, with the view to addressing each within a circular economy framework:
 - Industrial and Manufacturing
 - Rural and Agricultural
 - Medical
 - Health and Pharmaceutical
 - Automotive
 - Transport and Freight.
33. The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water lobby through the Environment Ministers' Meeting, that the Australian Government continue to ban the export of post-consumer soft plastic waste and review the need for export bans on soft plastic waste produced in other industries.

Australia's 2025 National Packaging Targets

In 2018 Australia established the ambitious *2025 National Packaging Targets* (the Targets). The Targets create a new and sustainable pathway for the way packaging is managed in Australia. There are four Targets, which are to be achieved in Australia:

- 100 per cent of packaging being reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025;
- 70 per cent of plastic packaging being recycled or composted by 2025;
- 50 per cent of average recycled content included in packaging by 2025;
- the phase out of problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging by 2025.

The Targets apply to all packaging that is made, used and sold in Australia. The Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) is charged with delivering industry-led targets. Targets requiring attention by industry include:

- increasing the volume of plastic packaging being recycled;
- increasing the amount of recycled content in plastic packaging.

APCO has set a new recycled content target for plastic packaging (20 per cent), and material specific targets for recycled content in plastic packaging, which are made from:

- polyethylene terephthalate (PET) (30 per cent);
- high-density polyethylene (HDPE) (20 per cent);
- polypropylene (PP) (20 per cent).²³

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and APCO work with business, governments and organisations to develop a packaging value-chain to keep packaging materials out of landfill and retain the maximum value of the materials, energy and labour within the local economy.

Future developments will require fundamental changes to the way packaging is manufactured, used, collected and reprocessed into new packaging or products.

It is important that South Australia is well-placed to implement *Australia's 2025 National Packaging Targets* which, are to be achieved by 31 December 2025.²⁴

It is equally important that governments, business and organisations commit to a 'common agenda' to address the "complex social, economic and environmental issue" that is plastic packaging. APCO states "Stakeholders cannot work in isolation to solve these problems."²⁵

²³ DCCEEW, Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO). [Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation - DCCEEW](#)

²⁴ Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation's (APCO), *Australia's 2025 National Packaging Targets*, Sydney, 2023: 1. Accessed: <https://apco.org.au/national-packaging-targets>

²⁵ APCO, *Driving change with collective impact modelling*. Accessed: <https://apco.org.au/what-is-collective-impact>

Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020

The *Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020* (RAWR Act) (Cmth) provides the legal framework for how Australia manages many products throughout their lifecycles. It helps ensure the impacts from products and waste materials are managed from the design stage through to their recovery or disposal. The objectives of the RAWR Act include:

- to reduce the impact of products, waste from products and waste material on human and environmental health;
- to reduce the amount of waste from products;
- to support economic opportunities from product and waste management;
- to develop a circular economy that maximises the continued use of products and waste material over their lifecycle and accounts for their environmental impacts;
- to help Australia meet its international obligations to reduce impacts on human and environmental health.

The RAWR Act provides the legal framework to deliver a safe, circular economy for packaging in Australia. The RAWR Act underpins Australia's *National Waste Policy* and *National Plastics Plan*.²⁶

In 2021, an independent legislative review was conducted to examine the effectiveness of Australia's national co-regulatory framework for packaging, established under the National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure 2011. A report on the independent review was provided to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water on 6 September 2021 and included nine recommendations for reforming the packaging framework.²⁷

Australian governments' Environment Ministers agreed at the 21 October 2022 Environment Ministers' Meeting to reform the regulation of packaging by 2025, to ensure that all packaging available in Australia is designed to be recovered, reused, recycled and reprocessed safely in line with circular economy principles.²⁸

In 2021, Australia joined the New Zealand, and Pacific Island Countries (ANZPAC) Plastics Pact, which brings together 100 industry, government, and non-government organisation stakeholders, to reduce and manage plastic packaging in the Oceania region.²⁹

²⁶ See: [Waste publications and data - DCCEEW](#)

²⁷ DCCEEW, APCO, *Reforming Packaging Legislation*. "Independent Review of the UPM NEPM and Australian Packaging Covenant – Final Report", September 2021. Accessed: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/packaging/packaging-covenant#download>

²⁸ DCCEEW, APCO, *Reforming Packaging Legislation*.

²⁹ DCCEEW, APCO. Accessed: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/packaging/packaging-covenant#daff-page-main>

(A) How South Australia has Responded to REDcycle Being Unable to Process Soft Plastics

Context

REDcycle (the REDcycle scheme), commenced in 2011 as a recycling business operated by RG Programs and Services Pty Ltd., and eventually began providing return-to-store post-consumer soft plastics collection services.³⁰

By 2018, REDcycle was engaged by Coles, followed by Woolworths (2019) and around 270 consumer product 'brands' to collect post-consumer soft plastics returned to stores by the community.³¹

REDcycle was responsible for the collection, baling and transport of the soft plastics from the Coles and Woolworths supermarkets, to processing facilities in Victoria, and then to a third-party partner, Close the Loop, who manufactured products from the recycled soft plastics.³²

When REDcycle came to the attention of the Environment Protection Authority of South Australia (EPA SA) in mid-2022, it was stockpiling nearly four thousand tonnes of baled soft plastic waste in South Australia.³³

It transpired that there was no longer capacity for REDcycle to move the collected soft plastics on, resulting in over-supply of the waste product.³⁴ At the same time, a fire in one of Close the Loop's Victorian factories, made the factory inoperable and unable to receive the soft plastics bales from REDcycle.³⁵

The culmination of events led to REDcycle ceasing operations and announcing in November 2022 that it would no longer be providing collection and processing services for Coles and Woolworths soft plastics.

Coles and Woolworths announced they would be suspending the REDcycle program for consumers until further notice.³⁶ German supermarket chain, ALDI, had signed up to be part of the REDcycle scheme but was not participating at capacity when REDcycle ceased its operations.

Just prior to these events, in July 2021 the Australian Government enforced waste export bans for 'recycling commodities' in reaction to China's National Sword Policy which, placed restrictions on the export to China, of international recycling material, including soft plastics.³⁷

Australia's export ban saw an increase in recovered post-consumer soft plastics material flooding the domestic market. Before the waste export bans, recyclers of soft plastics were shipping waste to countries with lower reproduction costs and higher consumption demands, while at the same time, Australia continued to import cheaper virgin polymers for manufacturing.

³⁰ Environment Protection Authority of South Australia (EPA SA), *Written submission No. 14*, 8 September 2023: 1.

³¹ Soft Plastics Taskforce (Woolworths Group, Coles Group and ALDI), *Roadmap to Restart: An interim plan to restore community access to soft plastics recycling through Australian supermarkets*, 7 March 2023: 4. [Taskforce Roadmap - Final 20230307.docx \(woolworthsgroup.com.au\)](#)

³² EPA SA, *Written submission No. 14*, 8 September 2023: 1.

³³ EPA SA, *Written submission No. 14*, 8 September 2023: 2.

³⁴ Soft Plastics Taskforce, *Roadmap to Restart: An interim plan to restore community access to soft plastics recycling through Australian supermarkets*, 7 March 2023: 3; 12.

³⁵ EPA SA, *Written submission No. 14*, 8 September 2023: 2.

³⁶ EPA SA, *Written submission No. 14*, 8 September 2023: 1.

³⁷ The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW); Blue Environment Pty Ltd., *National Waste Report 2022*, Victoria, 16 December 2022: 52; 57.

According to the *National Waste Report 2022*, Australia was shipping at least 35 per cent of its total exported mixed plastics waste to China.

Other countries Australia was shipping waste commodities to included, Indonesia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, India and Malaysia. At its peak in 2016-17, this amounted to around 200 000 tonnes of mixed plastics waste being shipped every year.³⁸

It is understood that reprocessed products could re-enter Australian product chains through the “importation of the receiving nation’s finished products”.³⁹

Introduction to Responses

Evidence to the Inquiry suggests community responses in South Australia to the collapse of the REDcycle soft plastics collection scheme have included disappointment, frustration, and a loss of trust in recycling.

Local government councils indicated they have borne the brunt of the fallout from REDcycle’s collapse through fielding increased communications from residents and having increased landfill costs.⁴⁰

The REDcycle’s collapse has highlighted issues that will need to be addressed by both the State Government and the recycling industry, before another REDcycle type scheme can be run at scale, and for the future expansion of recycling of soft plastics in South Australia more broadly.⁴¹

These issues include the need for more recycling infrastructure, including mechanical and advanced soft plastics recycling facilities. As the evidence shows, collection is only one part of the recycling process.

For South Australia to achieve the shift to a circular economy, there will need to be significant investment in the other processes required to close the loop on soft plastics use. These include infrastructure for sorting, processing and remanufacturing, along with plastics design reforms, product stewardship, market development and continued single use plastics bans.⁴²

The absence of these elements have been shown to have contributed to the REDcycle collapse.

Investment in these areas will support South Australia’s commitment to the Commonwealth Government’s *National Waste Policy* and the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation’s (APCO) *2025 National Packaging Targets* to deliver a sustainable approach to packaging.⁴³

Without this investment, advocacy and law enhancement, South Australia will be unable to process or remanufacture the many tens of thousands of tonnes of soft plastics expected to enter the market and waste stream in the years ahead.

³⁸ DCCEEW; Blue Environment Pty Ltd., *National Waste Report 2022*, 16 December 2022: 57.

³⁹ Waste and Recycling Industry Association of South Australia (WRISA), *Written submission No. 24*, 8 September 2023: 1.

⁴⁰ Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA SA), *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 10.

⁴¹ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 3; 6.

⁴² WRISA, *Written submission No. 24*, 8 September 2023: 2.

⁴³ Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation’s (APCO), *Australia’s 2025 National Packaging Targets*, Sydney, 2023: 1. Accessed: <https://apco.org.au/national-packaging-targets>

Submissions

The Waste and Recycling Industry Association of South Australia (WRISA) provided that South Australia had largely not responded “specifically” to changes in REDcycle’s collection and processing capacity, and that:

REDcycle was largely a scheme aimed at collection / consolidation and not about local processing. Local industry has continued to invest in processing capacity however this capacity will never meet supply and markets for recovered plastics products need to grow significantly.⁴⁴

Submissions tend to agree that the REDcycle scheme was useful for diverting post-consumer soft plastics from landfill. This would have been complimentary to a broader soft plastics recycling scheme in South Australia, had it been more considered.⁴⁵

However, submissions also show there have been doubts as to the scheme’s usefulness in the face of poor end market take up and the lack of value placed on the resultant recycled raw material, such as plastic pellets.⁴⁶

The Soft Plastics Taskforce, which was formed by the principal supermarkets involved in the REDcycle program, Woolworths Group, Coles Group and later, ALDI, agrees with the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation’s (APCO) estimate of REDcycle’s collected post-consumer soft plastics, being approximately 5 per cent of soft plastics, Australia-wide.⁴⁷

Although it is not clear in the evidence the exact amount of soft plastics the REDcycle scheme collected in South Australia, Professor Ian Overton, Chief Executive, Green Industries SA, puts it at around 14 per cent of total soft plastics waste, or 1 200 tonnes per year.⁴⁸

According to Ms Gayle Sloan, Chief Executive, Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR), REDcycle’s annual collection of post-consumer soft plastics nation-wide, was around 11 000 tonnes, which she stated “wasn’t going to scratch the surface” of the approximately 553 000 tonnes being put into the market.⁴⁹

Evidence suggests that, were REDcycle to continue its program alongside other mechanisms for collection of soft plastics in South Australia, stockpiling would nevertheless have occurred as there was nowhere to send the material for processing other than interstate.⁵⁰

Ms Sloan offered that at the time of REDcycle being in operation there were:

[...] something like 600,000 tonnes of material being put on the market that were never going to go back through that system, so it was never appropriate for the size of scale, even for a collection, but it also didn’t have a market or a demand for that material when it was returned. The reality was it took around about 11,000 tonnes per annum, and you couldn’t even have the markets or the reprocessing capacity to deal with that.⁵¹

Submissions agreed, South Australia has very limited infrastructure for processing and remanufacturing soft plastics waste.

⁴⁴ WRISA, *Written submission No. 24*, 8 September 2023: 4.

⁴⁵ ProPac Group Pty Ltd., *Written submission No. 11*, 4 September 2023: 4.

⁴⁶ Mr Scott Morton, Director, BioBag World Australia, *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 119 – 120.

⁴⁷ Soft Plastics Taskforce, *Roadmap to Restart: An interim plan to restore community access to soft plastics recycling through Australian supermarkets*, 7 March 2023: 23

⁴⁸ Professor Ian Overton, Chief Executive, Green Industries SA, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 3; 5.

⁴⁹ Ms Gayle Sloan, Chief Executive, Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR), *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 106.

⁵⁰ Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR), *Written submission No. 23, Annexure A*, 8 September 2023: 5.

⁵¹ Ms Gayle Sloan, WMRR, *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 106.

This means local economies are impacted by having to send collected soft plastics waste interstate either to Victoria or New South Wales, to be processed and remanufactured into new plastic products.^{52, 53}

Local Government and Communities

The Committee received evidence that the South Australian community has responded to the collapse of the REDcycle soft plastics store drop-off and collection scheme, with a loss of trust in the state's capacity for recycling of soft plastics, the recycling industry and recycling more broadly.^{54, 55, 56}

The effect of the public's loss of trust has impacted local governments and has resulted in consumers and residents turning to local councils for a solution to the lack of options for recycling soft plastics in the community.^{57, 58} The City of Tea Tree Gully wrote:

The images of tonnes of soft plastics stockpiled in warehouses across Australia has certainly eroded some of the trust our community has in the recycling process. An issue we are now having to address at a local level.⁵⁹

The Local Government Association of South Australia (the LGA SA) advised that residents in some councils had expressed their concerns and frustrations at having to send their soft plastic to landfill or stockpile it themselves.⁶⁰ The LGA also commented that councils were left to deal with the fall out of the REDcycle collapse:

Councils received no warning from industry that the soft plastics recycling system was struggling and have been provided with limited information explaining how State and Federal government are managing the situation going forward. This left individual councils to handle enquires and educate the community without state-wide consistency in messaging.⁶¹

The City of Burnside commented that residents see the collapse of REDcycle as linked to the council's kerbside recycling and that this had "impacted residents' perceptions" of the council's recycling program.⁶²

The City of Marion agreed the REDcycle collapse had damaged the council's reputation, which in turn has affected residents' recycling commitment and also its recycling education program.⁶³

The City of Mitcham Administration commented:

Council has received many queries about the future of soft plastics recycling since REDcycle's closure, including what Local, State and Federal governments are doing. South Australians are avid recyclers and embrace new methods for recycling. The closure of REDcycle has dampened the public's enthusiasm for and trust in recycling.⁶⁴

⁵² LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 11.

⁵³ Mr Barry Cosier, Director, Sustainability, Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC), *Hansard*, 26 October 2023: 47.

⁵⁴ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 10.

⁵⁵ Mr Laurie Kozlovic, Managing Director, Sustainable Impact, Woolworths Group, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 60.

⁵⁶ City of Tea-Tree Gully, *Written submission No. 10*, 1 September 2023: 1.

⁵⁷ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 10.

⁵⁸ City of Mitcham Administration, *Written submission No. 9*, 1 September 2023: 1.

⁵⁹ City of Tea-Tree Gully, *Written submission No. 10*, 1 September 2023: 1.

⁶⁰ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 10.

⁶¹ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 10.

⁶² City of Burnside, *Written submission No. 31*, 13 September 2023: 3 – 4.

⁶³ City of Marion, *Written submission No. 34*, 14 September 2023: 2.

⁶⁴ City of Mitcham Administration, *Written submission No. 9*, 1 September 2023: 1.

The Committee received evidence from concerned individuals, such as Ms Helen Shepherd, who commented in her written submission, that consumers have been stockpiling many different types of soft plastics in the hope of being able to once again recycle these everyday materials.

Ms Shepherd stated that:

[...] since the collapse of Redcycle, soft plastics and other products (eg bubble wrap, citrus netting bags, confectionary wrappers, snap-lock bags, pasta and noodle bags, sliver lined chip bags, cat and dog pouches) have not been able to be recycled. This has caused considerable angst and many of us (including myself) are stockpiling our own soft plastics until Redcycle can begin again.⁶⁵

Mr Peter Croft, who also provided an individual submission, wrote to the Committee that recycling soft plastics has been a way for “older people” to address their concerns about climate change more broadly:

It is with this focus on concern about climate change and a bias to practical action that I express my great disappointment about the closure of the recycling of soft plastics previously undertaken by REDcycle. Older people more generally saw this recycling process as a practical action step – one of many which are needed. Cessation of the recycling process felt like a big step backwards. We recommend that the Select Committee ask the SA Government to prioritise the process of soft plastic collection and recycling both for its direct value in terms of resource usage but also for its value as a confidence booster for the community in making progress on climate change.⁶⁶

In December 2022, the City of Adelaide, City of Port Adelaide Enfield and City of Charles Sturt, with the Central Adelaide Waste and Recycling Authority (CAWRA) and the Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC), implemented a trial program called ‘Curby’, to collect soft plastics waste from households across the three councils, through the existing kerbside collection system.

The Curby trial formed part of the National Plastics Recycling Scheme (NPRS) initiated by the AFGC and received Commonwealth and State Government funding.⁶⁷ Approximately 4 000 households participated in the Curby trial and as CAWRA pointed out, demonstrated there is will in the community to recycle soft plastics again.⁶⁸ The Curby trial was also rolled out interstate in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.⁶⁹ CAWRA wrote in its submission to the Inquiry that:

Some have questioned the need for kerbside collection as part of the solution to soft plastic recycling in Australia. [...] Our communities have demonstrated they will embrace this approach and their participation is needed to generate the feedstock required to underpin investment in recycling infrastructure by the private sector and others.⁷⁰

The LGA SA commented in their written submission that while Curby has been useful in providing information for the kerbside method of soft plastics collection, there are ultimately many unanswered questions, such as “What is the proposed cost model beyond the trial and what is the role of councils, packaging manufacturers and others?” or “Where does kerbside collection fit within the broader National Plastics Recycling Scheme?” and “What alternatives are there to “bag in bin” kerbside soft plastics recycling and what are the opportunities and challenges associated with them?”⁷¹

The LGA SA advised consideration of these questions will be important for councils in deciding whether they provide this type of model of collection in the future.⁷²

⁶⁵ Ms Helen Shepherd, *Written Submission No. 6*, 31 August 2023: 1.

⁶⁶ Mr Peter Croft, *Written submission No. 28*, 8 September 2023: 2.

⁶⁷ CAWRA, *Written submission No. 30*, 12 September 2023: 4.

⁶⁸ CAWRA, *Written submission No. 30*, 12 September 2023: 4.

⁶⁹ CAWRA, *Written submission No. 30*, 12 September 2023: 4.

⁷⁰ CAWRA, *Written submission No. 30*, 12 September 2023: 2.

⁷¹ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 12.

⁷² LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 12.

The City of Holdfast Bay advised the end of REDcycle had put pressure on the council's fortnightly landfill collection system as the amount of soft plastics being diverted to landfill had increased from 2.3 per cent to 10 per cent.⁷³

The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters advised that suspension of REDcycle's soft plastics recycling program had left no viable option for the collection and recycling of the material.⁷⁴ The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters observed that this will need to be addressed at local, state and national government levels:

[t]he collapse of REDcycle has highlighted the gaps in processing for soft plastic across Australia and the need for support, regulation, investment and diverse programs across [...] Australia rather than reliance on a single provider or limited processors.⁷⁵

CAWRA identified there remained many questions around what the best method is to undertake collection of soft plastics at kerbside.⁷⁶

Waste, Recycling Business and Industry Responses

Mr Laurie Kozlovic, Managing Director, Woolworths Group, advised the Committee that Woolworths, Coles and ALDI (the Soft Plastics Taskforce) had been working to ensure the stockpile of soft plastics that had been collected by REDcycle would be safely stored and become "...an important feedstock to provide certainty for the recyclers as they commission their own recycling infrastructure."⁷⁷

The sites that had previously housed the REDcycle stockpiles included five located in South Australia, out of a national total of 44, and which have subsequently been reduced to two. Mr Kozlovic added that Woolworths had worked to ensure as much of the material that was still being returned to Woolworths stores after REDcycle's collapse was being recycled.⁷⁸ Mr Kozlovic told the Committee:

The collapse of REDcycle was incredibly disappointing to consumers. We shared that disappointment with the community and with more than 270 other brand partners of the REDcycle program which, like us, used their service to deliver an amenity to our customers.⁷⁹

He also commented that Woolworths "[...] volunteered to manage and safely store REDcycle stockpiles while recycling options [were] assessed and explored."⁸⁰

WMRR, along with other submissions believe the producers of soft plastics packaging avoided any responsibility that came with dealing with the stockpiled bales following REDcycle's collapse.⁸¹

The collapse of the RedCycle program has brought into sharp relief the urgent need for national leadership and action to hold brand owners and the packaging industry to account. For too long, these producers and generators of waste materials have avoided responsibility for end-of-life product management, with councils and communities often left to deal with the challenges and cost of dealing with a growing stream of low value, high complexity materials.⁸²

⁷³ City of Holdfast Bay, *Written submission No. 5*, 31 August 2023: 1.

⁷⁴ City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, *Written submission No. 29*, 11 September 2023: 2.

⁷⁵ City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, *Written submission No. 29*, 11 September 2023: 2.

⁷⁶ CAWRA, *Written submission No. 30*, 12 September 2023: 6.

⁷⁷ Mr Laurie Kozlovic, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 60.

⁷⁸ Mr Laurie Kozlovic, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 60.

⁷⁹ Mr Laurie Kozlovic, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 60.

⁸⁰ Mr Laurie Kozlovic, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 60.

⁸¹ WMRR, *Written submission No. 23*, 8 September 2023: 2.

⁸² WMRR, *Written submission No. 23*, 8 September 2023: 2.

WMRR explained that the growing number of different types of plastics entering the market increased the complexities of processing and recycling the collected source material.⁸³

Mr Colin Shearing, Chief Executive Officer, South Australian Independent Retailers Inc. (SAIR), commented that although SAIR businesses were not invited to be part of the REDcycle scheme, SAIR had approached REDcycle to be involved.⁸⁴ Mr Shearing advised that when REDcycle collapsed, consumers began dropping their soft plastics at Foodland stores, which created an issue for the supermarkets.⁸⁵ Mr Shearing further observed:

[...] it's about sovereignty about manufacturing—getting manufacturing up and running as another key industry into the recycling plane, if you like. That's very sad because we've got all this plastic that is just going to go into landfill or wherever it's going to go, and we don't have any what you call successful manufacturers in South Australia or Australia.⁸⁶

Mr Shearing commented REDcycle was a “great initiative” and consumers were very willing to participate, however, although REDcycle collapsed along with the return-to-store soft plastics collection, it was not essentially about REDcycle, rather it was about “what was happening at the other end.”⁸⁷

Mr Scott Morton, Director, BioBag World Australia, told the Committee the lack of responsibility for producers of soft plastics and the lack of incentive for purchasers to buy recycled products contributed to REDcycle’s collapse. Mr Morton offered:

[...] There was no requirement for me in any way, shape or form to take recycled content. There was no incentive for me to reduce the amount of plastics I was using. Again, there wasn't an incentive. It basically means that as a local producer I could produce thousands and thousands of tonnes of soft plastic without responsibility.⁸⁸

Mr Morton further commented that the REDcycle scheme had no end market plan, or end-of-life plan for the soft plastics that had been collected and processed:

[...] they were producing a commodity that nobody wanted. It's this magical, mixed plastic that somehow they were going to recycle into a product. I'm sorry but, even if it was going into park benches, or products like that, the reality was that it was near-on 50,000 park benches a year. Again, that park bench then didn't have an end of life, so we weren't going to recycle it; we were just putting it in a different location temporarily.⁸⁹

⁸³ WMRR, *Written submission No. 23*, 8 September 2023: 2.

⁸⁴ Mr Colin Shearing, Chief Executive Officer, South Australian Independent Retailers Inc., *Hansard*, 23 November 2023: 80.

⁸⁵ Mr Colin Shearing, *Hansard*, 23 November 2023: 81.

⁸⁶ Mr Colin Shearing, *Hansard*, 23 November 2023: 80.

⁸⁷ Mr Colin Shearing, *Hansard*, 23 November 2023: 80.

⁸⁸ Mr Scott Morton, *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 118.

⁸⁹ Mr Scott Morton, *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 118.

Soft Plastics Taskforce

The Woolworths Group, Coles Group and Aldi, received interim authorisation from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), to work together as the Soft Plastics Taskforce (the Taskforce), to address the collapse of the REDcycle program and commence a new soft plastics recycling program.^{90, 91, 92}

The Taskforce's *Roadmap to Restart: An interim plan to restore community access to soft plastics recycling through Australian supermarkets* (Roadmap to Restart), establishes the Taskforce's core objectives are to:

1. resume access to soft plastics recycling through Australian supermarkets;
2. restore public confidence in soft plastics recycling; and
3. maximise the recovery of soft plastics.⁹³

The Taskforce notes that to rebuild public trust in soft plastics recycling, it is critical that:

1. there is no single point of dependency for recovery and processing;
2. recovery options meet public expectations; and
3. each step in the recovery process is robust, viable and transparent.⁹⁴

Mr Laurie Kozlovic, Woolworths, advised:

We know that community members are eager to see soft plastic collections resume. In line with the task force's Roadmap to Restart, which was released in March 2023, we are working towards a trial restart for instore collections. The trial will allow community members to return soft plastics to several Woolworths stores plus Coles and Aldi stores. Our recycling partners will collect the material from the stores for consolidation and processing at nearby facilities.⁹⁵

The Taskforce *Roadmap to Restart* states that Coles and Woolworths are "[...] committed to providing their support to save as much of the stockpiled material from landfill as possible."⁹⁶ The Committee understands that the Taskforce approached REDcycle to "assume control of the existing soft plastics stockpiles so they could be stored safely" while Coles and Woolworths explored recycling options.⁹⁷ REDcycle accepted in February 2023, with Coles and Woolworths assuming control of the stockpiles. The Taskforce advised in *Roadmap to Restart* that:

While the Taskforce is working to accelerate solutions to resume in-store collections, it is limited by current local processing capacity. The timeline to resume collections may also be affected by the need to dedicate local processing capacity to the existing stockpiles prior.⁹⁸

A year later, in February 2024, the Taskforce commenced a new 'trial' return-to-store soft plastics collection scheme at Woolworths, Coles and ALDI stores in Victoria.

⁹⁰ EPA, *Written submission No. 14*, 8 September 2023: 3.

⁹¹ Ms Brooke Donnelly, General Manager Sustainability, Coles Group, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 62.

⁹² Soft Plastics Taskforce, *Roadmap to Restart: An interim plan to restore community access to soft plastics recycling through Australian supermarkets*, 7 March 2023: 3.

⁹³ Soft Plastics Taskforce, *Roadmap to Restart: An interim plan to restore community access to soft plastics recycling through Australian supermarkets*, 7 March 2023: 3.

⁹⁴ Soft Plastics Taskforce, *Roadmap to Restart: An interim plan to restore community access to soft plastics recycling through Australian supermarkets*, 7 March 2023: 4 - 5.

⁹⁵ Mr Laurie Kozlovic, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 60.

⁹⁶ Soft Plastics Taskforce, *Roadmap to Restart: An interim plan to restore community access to soft plastics recycling through Australian supermarkets*, 7 March 2023: 5.

⁹⁷ Soft Plastics Taskforce, *Roadmap to Restart: An interim plan to restore community access to soft plastics recycling through Australian supermarkets*, 7 March 2023: 5.

⁹⁸ Soft Plastics Taskforce, *Roadmap to Restart: An interim plan to restore community access to soft plastics recycling through Australian supermarkets*, 7 March 2023: 5.

The supermarkets have again partnered with Close the Loop, who will be responsible for manufacturing end products from the processed soft plastics.⁹⁹

Close the Loop states on its website that:

The smaller initial trial phase for soft plastics recycling allows the opportunity for the program to scale-up in-line with recycling and processing capacity in Australia, which will safeguard against the shortcomings of the previous program. This includes a focus on data and traceability frameworks to ensure ongoing success for future expansion of soft plastics recycling nationally.¹⁰⁰

Through the new soft plastics trial, Close the Loop will process and remanufacture the collected material into two types of product:

- engineered asphalt additive; or
- injection-moulding grade recycled resin for use in products that include shipping pallets, baskets and shopping trolleys.¹⁰¹

Close the Loop maintain that when they have “further capacity to recycle these materials around the nation, we will see soft plastics recycling availability increase.”¹⁰²

Green Industries SA

Green Industries SA (GISA) stated in its written submission that, the collapse of REDcycle is a national matter and highlights that companies supplying products and their associated soft plastics packaging to consumers, need to take responsibility for the packaging through an extended producer responsibility scheme.¹⁰³

GISA advised that in response to the collapse of REDcycle, the South Australian Government undertook a number of actions including to educate consumers, provide advocacy, advice and funding support to SA’s plastic recycling industry and provide representation at the Australian Government’s Officials Group, which oversees the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO).¹⁰⁴

GISA commented, while the agency has provided funding support to the National Plastics Recycling Scheme (NPRS) initiated by the Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC), it believes that the lack of viable end markets for recycled soft plastics product, which contributed to REDcycle’s collapse, will still exist.¹⁰⁵

Learnings

Mr Mark Anderson, General Manager of the Conservation Council of South Australia, asks an important question concerning the REDcycle scheme: “[...] how did the scheme actually affect soft plastic usage during the time that it was there?”¹⁰⁶

⁹⁹ Close the Loop, *Soft Plastics Recycling Resumes in Australia With Trial*, 9 Feb 2024. Accessed: [Soft Plastics Recycling Resumes in Australia with Trial - Close the Loop](#)

¹⁰⁰ Close the Loop, *Soft Plastics Recycling Resumes in Australia with Trial*, 9 Feb 2024.

¹⁰¹ Close the Loop, *Soft Plastics Recycling Resumes in Australia with Trial*, 9 Feb 2024.

¹⁰² Close the Loop, *Soft Plastics Recycling Resumes in Australia with Trial*, 9 Feb 2024.

¹⁰³ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 2.

¹⁰⁴ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 3.

¹⁰⁵ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 3.

¹⁰⁶ Mr Mark Anderson, General Manager, Conservation Council of South Australia, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 13.

Mr Anderson suggests the community in fact increased its consumption of soft plastics by 5 per cent in the first couple of years, believing the REDcycle scheme was there to solve the soft plastics problem.¹⁰⁷

Mr Anderson says:

[...] it may have encouraged people to feel as though there was an overarching solution for plastic pollution and for soft plastic pollution and that may have meant they relaxed other constraints they might have put on themselves about using the products, thinking that it's okay because this is the solution and it's happening.¹⁰⁸

According to some submissions, post-consumer soft plastic is “[...] a low value, complex material stream”¹⁰⁹ which is “[...] not sought after by brand owners, re-processors or manufacturers over virgin materials.”¹¹⁰ Some submissions argue to make recycling soft plastic commercially viable, requires “significant volumes.”¹¹¹

Other submissions consider use of multi-polymers in soft plastic packaging adds to the overall complexity, making soft plastics challenging to recycle, and results in a large amount ending up in landfill.¹¹²

The LGA SA advised there are limited end market options for some recycled soft plastics such as the low-end, post-consumer mixed polymers, which also contributes to the low number of Australian recycling facilities that accept and process it.¹¹³

This view is consistent with other submissions, such as GISA and the WMRR.^{114, 115}

These factors contributed to the collapse of the REDcycle program and will continue to present difficulties for reestablishing any similar scheme.¹¹⁶ The LGA SA comment, there needs to be education amongst consumers about the types of plastics that are being fed into the waste system:

There is a lack of understanding within the community about the value and impact the materials they consume have on the economy and environment. Education is required to support the community to recognise the value of materials consumed and how minimisation, avoidance and activities that maximise resource efficiency are necessary to achieve net zero.¹¹⁷

The Taskforce states in *Roadmap to Restart* that viable end markets require substantial investment and market certainty to grow.¹¹⁸ The Taskforce also stipulated that the stockpiled plastic waste retrieved from the REDcycle warehouses will need to be processed domestically.

Further, because of this, it will be likely that domestic processing will again be at capacity from the stockpiled material during 2023, causing some delay in the restart of future in-store collection.¹¹⁹

¹⁰⁷ Mr Mark Anderson, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 13.

¹⁰⁸ Mr Mark Anderson, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 13.

¹⁰⁹ WRISA, *Written submission No. 24*, 8 September 2023: 4.

¹¹⁰ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 6.

¹¹¹ WRISA, *Written submission No. 24*, 8 September 2023: 4.

¹¹² LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 8.

¹¹³ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 8; 11.

¹¹⁴ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 6 – 7.

¹¹⁵ WMRR, *Written submission No. 23*, 8 September 2023: 3.

¹¹⁶ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 8; 11.

¹¹⁷ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 11.

¹¹⁸ Soft Plastics Taskforce, *Roadmap to Restart: An interim plan to restore community access to soft plastics recycling through Australian supermarkets*, 7 March 2023: 20; 23.

¹¹⁹ Soft Plastics Taskforce, *Roadmap to Restart: An interim plan to restore community access to soft plastics recycling through Australian supermarkets*, 7 March 2023: 15.

The WMRR advises, the gaps in the system that have been highlighted since REDcycle's collapse, point to a need for whole of life cycle focus for dealing with soft plastics:

It is impossible to overstate the importance of addressing the critical gaps highlighted by APCO and ARCADIS (design standards, technology, markets, funding) if Australia is to avoid further stockpiling and landfilling issues. WMRR continues to urge both the Commonwealth and State Governments to address the system and not continue to fall into the trap of prior governments, to simply focus on collection systems without putting equal or greater focus on waste avoidance and minimisation at the design and production stages and on end market development.¹²⁰

GISA highlighted that for any future return-to-store soft plastics collection scheme to be able to scale up to full operations, it will require there to be end-users willing to purchase the recycled products.¹²¹

RECOMMENDATIONS

Soft Plastics Strategy

1. Green Industries SA develop a soft plastics recycling strategy for South Australia in partnership with the Local Government Association of South Australia, Councils, Materials Recovery Facilities and the waste and recycling sectors, which sets targets for expanding soft plastics recycling and use of recycled product.

¹²⁰ WMRR, *Written submission No. 23*, 8 September 2023: 3.

¹²¹ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 3; 6.

(B) Investigate how Supermarkets and Other Collection Points Have Ceased Collections and What can be Done to Re-Establish These Services

Evidence to the Inquiry shows there is a need for return-to-store soft plastics collection and recycling services in South Australia. However, it is recognised that for this type of scheme to be successful and not encounter the problems experienced by REDcycle, several things need to occur first; one of these is to establish objectives for end-of-life post-consumer soft plastic waste.¹²²

The second matter the evidence attests to, is the importance of capacity building across the post-consumer soft plastics supply-chain.¹²³ Fostering the growth of South Australia's circular economy at each step in the recycling process will require leadership from the South Australian Government, through partnering with the retail and recycling industries to support the sector to grow.¹²⁴ Lastly, it will be desirable for the State Government to partner with Local Government to engage communities and to expand collection points for soft plastic waste beyond supermarkets.¹²⁵

Increasing Soft Plastics Waste Collection and Processing

The evidence shows there is much support for a new return-to-store scheme for the collection of post-consumer soft plastic packaging waste. In order to achieve this, there will need to be increased collection of soft plastics waste products and, new local processing industry.

Ensuring the gaps in the circular economy, which were highlighted by REDcycle's collapse, are addressed, the South Australian Government could provide financial incentives and further recycling funding grants to Local Government, Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs), and private enterprise along with partnering with the LGA and councils.

The City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters commented:

A proactive and robust approach is required to re-establish soft plastic collection services. The State Government should work closely with the Federal Government, major supermarket retailers, industry, and Local Government, to identify suitable collection points for the future and understand the challenges that led to the cessation of collections.¹²⁶

Both Coles Group and Woolworths Group advised the Inquiry that recommencement of return-to-store collection would be a trial only and expansion would require appropriate infrastructure. Woolworths provided:

Taskforce members are working towards a re-start of in-store collections of soft plastics, on a limited trial basis. The trial will probably be centred on Taskforce stores in one state, in an area with proximity to appropriate recycling infrastructure. The recommencement of in-store collections will begin with a small-scale trial because work is still underway to ensure our recycling partners have the capacity to process the existing stockpiles, as well as any new stock collected from customers as part of the trial.¹²⁷

Coles Group also commented that once the stockpile of material from the REDcycle program has been dealt with, there will need to be a constant flow of enough material from collection points, and that this will be able to be adequately processed.¹²⁸

¹²² LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 8.

¹²³ ACOR, *Written submission No. 21*, 8 September 2023: 2.

¹²⁴ Coles Group, *Written submission No. 15*, 7 September 2023: 5.

¹²⁵ WMRR, *Written submission No. 23*, 8 September 2023: 3.

¹²⁶ City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, *Written submission No. 29*, 11 September 2023: 3.

¹²⁷ Woolworth Group, *Written submission No. 17*, 8 September 2023: 3.

¹²⁸ Coles Group, *Written submission No. 15*, 7 September 2023: 3 - 4.

Coles Group advised:

A fundamental tenet to the recommencing of any in-store soft plastics collection program is that there is sufficient local capacity to process the collected material. A program that requires any degree of material stockpiling is not acceptable.¹²⁹

Mr Laurie Kozlovic, Managing Director, Woolworths Group, provided oral evidence to the Committee on 9 November 2023. The Hon Heidi Girolamo MLC, Chairperson of the Committee questioned Mr Kozlovic regarding claims by Woolworths in their written submission that there would be renewed capacity to recycle soft plastics again in 2024:

The CHAIRPERSON: [...] In Woolworths' submission it states that there is potential for South Australia to have a significant level of soft plastic recycling coming online in the new year. Are you able to expand on this and how it's likely to be mobilised?

Mr KOZLOVIC: There are three companies we have been working with. With one we have been running a number of trials on sorting the plastic stockpiles and preparing them as a feedstock for chemical recycling. Chemical recycling is the process by which you will best be able to get plastic product back to plastic product, so the same purpose.

The second company we have been working with has been using and working through products and trials to use the product to repurpose it to replace virgin construction materials. There is a number, for example, of state government construction projects that are underway where the product could be used as a feedstock to supply construction material into that process. You will note, for example, that in Victoria they are starting to specify the amount of recycled content in government contracting using a similar type of process.

The third company we are working with is looking to establish agency agreements where they're going to bring technologies from other partners that are currently underway and building up the capacity into South Australia to then increase that amount of capacity to recycle here in this state.^{130, 131}

The AFGC advised the Soft Plastics Taskforce had support for the commencement of a kerbside collection system in conjunction with the return-to-store collection:

The [Taskforce] report states support for the AFGC's proposed NPRS and acknowledges that the in-store collection scheme models "are constrained in the volumes they can manage due to the space and logistics considerations within a retail store environment. Accordingly, such a scheme is not able to expand at the necessary exponential rate that future recycling capacity will demand."¹³²

Pro Pac Pty Ltd., a Victorian based manufacturer of products from soft plastics waste, stated rebuilding cooperation from the community is vital to achieve the amount of feedstock needed to upscale soft plastics recycling:

PPG agrees that it is important to not lose or further jeopardize such goodwill and recycling habits, and therefore reestablishing soft plastics collection points and services is important. However, this must include avenues beyond simply retail outlets and another REDcycle type scheme, with kerbside recycling being a presently underutilized collection point, despite its obvious scale and greater convenience for households.¹³³

Coles Group agreed with this view, stating it will be "of vital importance" to regain the trust of the public, to recycle soft plastics waste again.¹³⁴

¹²⁹ Coles Group, *Written submission No. 15*, 7 September 2023: 5.

¹³⁰ Hon Heidi Girolamo MLC, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 64.

¹³¹ Mr Laurie Kozlovic, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 64.

¹³² AFGC, *Written submission No. 22*, 8 September 2023: 4.

¹³³ Pro Pac Group Pty Ltd., *Written submission No. 11*, 5 September 2023: 3.

¹³⁴ Coles Group, *Written submission No. 15*, 7 September 2023: 5.

Collection is one part of the recycling process

However, as identified, collection is just one of the part of the recycling process.^{135, 136} Submissions agree, for post-consumer soft plastics recycling to begin again, there needs to be greater investment in processing infrastructure for soft plastics waste so it can be upscaled. The LGA SA advised:

Establishing large-scale collection systems in isolation of the effort and investment required to create the demand pull to recover, recycle and remanufacture this material back into the marketplace will only result in further stockpiling of material. A recycling system extends beyond the collection point of the system. As demonstrated by REDcycle's collapse and stockpiling of material, a recycling system is unsustainable without access to infrastructure, adequate processing capacity and demand for the recycled material.¹³⁷

Coles Group offered:

There is also a need for diversification in processing solutions to ensure the new program does not have a central dependency risk through reliance on one or only a few processors – noting that REDcycle being dependent on excessive capacity of the total volume with a single processor to such a degree was a significant contributor to the collapse of the program.¹³⁸

The evidence highlights the importance of addressing the gaps in South Australia's circular economy, to support, not just the recommencement of soft plastics collection, but also development of new and emerging systems for processing the waste and remanufacturing the product.

Recycled soft plastics manufacturing sector

The evidence shows the collection, processing and remanufacturing of post-consumer soft plastics waste is reliant on viable end markets.¹³⁹ This can be assisted by the South Australian Government by:

- mandating a minimum percentage of recycled products and circular economy-consistent services to be purchased through government procurement policy; and
- providing further grants for start-ups and recycled products manufacturing businesses based in South Australia.¹⁴⁰

Sustainable Infrastructure Systems Pty Ltd. (SIS) is a South Australian manufacturer of recycled infrastructure components from plastic waste. SIS provide products and services for the civil, building and construction industries.

SIS advised in their written submission that government procurement needs to include more recycled content:

The only way that supermarkets and other establishments can recommence the collection of soft plastics is if there are government bodies committing to and prioritising the procurement of products manufactured using and containing reused or recycled feedstock in place of virgin materials. [...] Success in collection and processing soft-plastics relies on the procurement of more expensive products. Until all tiers of government and the private sector are prepared to pay more for products containing reused materials, the raw feedstock will simply end up in landfill.¹⁴¹

¹³⁵ WMRR, *Written submission No. 23*, 8 September 2023: 3; 5.

¹³⁶ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 13.

¹³⁷ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 13.

¹³⁸ Coles Group, *Written submission No. 15*, 7 September 2023: 4.

¹³⁹ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 3.

¹⁴⁰ Sustainable Infrastructure Systems Pty Ltd. (SIS), *Written submission No. 40*, 20 March 2024: 4 - 5.

¹⁴¹ SIS, *Written submission No. 40*, 20 March 2024: 4.

Importantly this was also recognised by GISA in the written submission to the Inquiry:

GISA considers that re-establishing a return to store recycling program, or replacement with a suitably convenient collection method, is crucial, however the challenge remains that used, single-use soft plastic does not currently have a sustainable end-market once collected. The collapse of REDcycle and advice to dispose of soft plastics in landfill will result in the community being sceptical of any new soft plastic recycling proposals. These sentiments may increase the longer it takes to implement a new solution.¹⁴²

Professor Ian Overton, GISA, advised in his oral evidence, that GISA would provide some market stimulation and support to businesses however, as the majority of Commonwealth funding had been allocated, further support would be “[...] through policy, through regulation, through education; it's not just funding [...]”¹⁴³

Professor Overton advised, the position in Government at the time was to support plastics back into road base:

[...] if we can get more of that end product, that plastics back into road base, we replace the material that was going to be used in roads. There is a benefit there in terms of virgin material but also then we are using that as a market. We have been pushing standards and working with DIT around standards into road base. [...] We are looking at what we can do with the LDPE with the soft plastics.¹⁴⁴

The Committee understands the South Australian Government procured an asphalt product that uses soft plastics as a partial binder replacement, called Reconophalt™, in road asphalt for a significant part of the ‘Regency Road to Pym Street Project’. A similar project undertaken in Victoria in 2021 revealed the inclusion of soft plastics waste into asphalt for roads using Reconophalt™, can include up to 200 000 plastic bags for every one kilometre of a two-lane road.¹⁴⁵

The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) requires contractors tendering for construction of roads, to adopt sustainable practices, if viable to do so. Products such as Reconophalt™ provide innovative ways to achieve this.¹⁴⁶ Professor Overton added that GISA has launched a sustainable procurement hub on the GISA website to encourage sustainable business tenders.^{147, 148}

Increasing Public Education

Submissions agree, in order to increase the return of soft plastics to the point of purchase, or through other collection centres, there will need to be an education program to inform people about how they can apply the principles of the Waste Management Hierarchy (WMH) in everyday life, through what the LGA SA describe as the tools of the “10Rs of the Circular Economy”.¹⁴⁹

The LGA SA, commented figures provided by GISA show in 2021-22, household waste disposed to landfill in South Australia increased by 45 000 tonnes, from the previous year.¹⁵⁰

¹⁴² GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 3.

¹⁴³ Professor Ian Overton, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 10.

¹⁴⁴ Professor Ian Overton, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 6.

¹⁴⁵ Sustainability Victoria, *Reconophalt: Australia's first asphalt road alternative using soft plastics and glass*, 14 June 2021. Accessed: <https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/news/news-articles/reconophalt-australias-first-asphalt-road-alternative-using-soft-plastics-and-glass>

¹⁴⁶ GISA, Case Studies, *Department for Infrastructure and Transport: Regency Road to Pym Street Project*. Accessed: <https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/case-studies/regency-to-pym-street-project>

¹⁴⁷ Professor Ian Overton, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 6.

¹⁴⁸ GISA, *Circular procurement knowledge hub*. Accessed: <https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/circular-procurement>

¹⁴⁹ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 7.

¹⁵⁰ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 6.

The LGA SA is concerned that there is a changing trend in community behaviour around consumption:

The plateau of waste diverted from landfill and the 2021/22 trends of increased waste generation and waste disposed of to landfill, suggests that something needs to change in the way the community consumes and uses materials if we are going to achieve our net zero target.¹⁵¹

The LGA SA provide that the first step towards transitioning towards a circular economy involves governments, businesses, communities and consumers giving consideration to “[...] how and what types of products are manufactured, sold and consumed in the first place.”¹⁵²

It will be important that governments, business and the retail industry implement education programs in the community, with clear, relatable messaging.¹⁵³

RECOMMENDATIONS

Expansion of Kerbside Trials

2. Green Industries SA partner with Councils to identify a timeframe for kerbside soft plastics waste collection trials to recommence and be expanded.
3. Green Industries SA partner with Councils, the Australian Food and Grocery Council and the Central Adelaide Waste and Recycling Authority in the recommencement and expansion of the Curby trial for kerbside collection of soft plastics.
4. Green Industries SA partner with the Local Government Association of South Australia, Councils and Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) to assist MRFs to address barriers to upscaling operations for processing soft plastics.

Recommencement of Return-to-Store Collection

5. Green Industries SA partner with the Local Government Association of South Australia, Councils, and independent partners including supermarkets to re-establish collection points for soft plastics, as soon as practicable, to assist and improve consumer collection efforts.
6. Green Industries SA follow up with the Soft Plastics Taskforce when soft plastics collection will recommence in South Australia from the Return-to-Store services formerly provided by REDcycle.

¹⁵¹ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 6.

¹⁵² LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 7.

¹⁵³ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 13.

(C) Determine Whether Funding from the State Government (Including Green Industries SA Funding) has Been Sufficient to Support South Australian Businesses and Local Government Councils Within the Soft Plastics and Other Recyclables Industry, Including Aluminium

Evidence shows a multi-pronged approach is needed to address the increasing amounts of soft plastics both entering the market and, ending up as post-consumer waste. Submissions agree that recycling should be one of the strategies adopted to manage soft plastics waste streams, along with legislation to require tighter design rules for soft plastic packaging, continued banning of single-use plastics and mandatory product stewardship to ensure manufacturers are responsible for their products.

What is also evident, is the need for stimulus to ensure a circular economy can develop in South Australia. This means investment in education, infrastructure, and end markets.

Green Industries SA (GISA) is responsible for the development and administration of *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025* and, *South Australia's Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan*, 2018.

Both documents identify GISA's commitment to providing funding for South Australia's circular economy.^{154, 155} However, some submissions argue more detail about this funding is needed from the State Government.^{156, 157}

South Australia supports the Commonwealth Government's 2025 *National Packaging Targets* for 100 per cent of packaging being recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025.¹⁵⁸ *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025* (the Strategy), also has a target to achieve zero avoidable waste to landfill by 2030 across all waste streams, with this target set, "to stimulate action towards a circular economy."¹⁵⁹

The Strategy also aims to adopt kerbside bin systems across South Australia, to achieve 75 per cent municipal solid waste diversion of organics and recyclables.¹⁶⁰ This will include GISA working with regional and rural councils to ensure progressive waste diversion targets are set through Regional Waste Management Plans (RWMP).¹⁶¹

GISA has committed to support regional councils to implement RWMPs:

Green Industries SA will provide funding, advice and support to assist regions to progressively implement waste reforms and improve the recovery of materials from country areas through the update or development of Regional Waste Management Plans.¹⁶²

Submissions identified that although well placed to recommence kerbside collection of soft plastics through a scheme similar to Curby, South Australia does not have critical infrastructure to support the increased processing and remanufacturing of post-consumer soft plastics.¹⁶³

According to Pro Pac Pty Ltd, "[...] vibrant end markets for recycled materials are needed to make the recovery, collection and recycling viable."¹⁶⁴

¹⁵⁴ GISA, *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025*, 2020: 38; 54; 58.

¹⁵⁵ GISA, *South Australia's Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan*, Adelaide, SA, 2018: 37.

¹⁵⁶ City of Burnside, *Written submission No. 31*, 13 September 2023: 2.

¹⁵⁷ Pro Pac Pty Ltd., *Written submission No. 11*, 4 September 2023: 4.

¹⁵⁸ GISA, *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025*, 2020: 18.

¹⁵⁹ GISA, *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025*, 2020: 16.

¹⁶⁰ GISA, *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025*, 2020: 16 – 17.

¹⁶¹ GISA, *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025*, 2020: 17.

¹⁶² GISA, *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025*, 2020: 38.

¹⁶³ Pro Pac Pty Ltd., *Written submission No. 11*, 4 September 2023: 5.

¹⁶⁴ Pro Pac Pty Ltd., *Written submission No. 11*, 4 September 2023: 6.

[...] there must be products manufactured from recycled content, which are economically viable, and a marketplace must exist in which there is sufficient demand to achieve a production scale, which delivers a competitive return on invested capital. This is sometimes called “pull through” and without vibrant end markets, recycling struggles to be viable.¹⁶⁵

GISA is responsible for administering the different funding streams provided by the Commonwealth Government, through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), along with a portion of the funds from the South Australian Solid Waste Levy (SWL), through the Green Industry Fund and, other funding provided by the State Government through the budget process.¹⁶⁶

Along with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), GISA has responsibilities under the co-regulatory arrangement between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories under the *National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure 2011* and the *Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020* (Cmth).

Accordingly, the South Australian Government has been working with the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) to achieve the *2025 National Packaging Targets* in South Australia.¹⁶⁷

In 2021, the Australian Government and the States and Territories agreed under the *National Partnership on Recycling Infrastructure* (the Agreement), that the Commonwealth would provide a financial contribution of around \$190 million toward the Agreement, with South Australia’s portion outlined in Schedule D to the agreement.¹⁶⁸

The Agreement’s objective was to improve recycling outcomes by addressing critical infrastructure gaps in Australia’s waste management and resource recovery system. Key outcomes include facilitating greater resource recovery by:

- a) increasing the supply of quality recycled materials available for use; and
- b) increasing the capacity for domestic sorting, processing and manufacturing of materials affected by the COAG waste export ban.¹⁶⁹

Schedule D, ‘Agreement with South Australia’ describes in Part 2A, the purpose of the grants funding being provided by the Commonwealth under the terms of the Agreement:

The grants program delivered by South Australia will prioritise the following categories of projects:

- a) Mixed plastics reprocessing
- b) Increasing soft plastics processing capacity
- c) Commercialisation of new plastic separation technology
- d) Increasing glass remanufacturing capacity.¹⁷⁰

¹⁶⁵ Pro Pac Pty Ltd., *Written submission No. 11*, 4 September 2023: 5.

¹⁶⁶ GISA, *South Australia’s Waste Strategy 2020-2025*, 2020: 7.

¹⁶⁷ Prof. Ian Overton, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 8; 9.

¹⁶⁸ Commonwealth of Australia and the States and Territories, Federal Financial Relations, *National Partnership on Recycling Infrastructure*, 10 September 2020: 2. Accessed: [recycling_infrastructure_combined.pdf](https://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/recycling_infrastructure_combined.pdf) (federalfinancialrelations.gov.au)

¹⁶⁹ Commonwealth of Australia and the States and Territories, Federal Financial Relations, *National Partnership on Recycling Infrastructure*, 10 September 2020: 3.

¹⁷⁰ Commonwealth of Australia and South Australia, Federal Financial Relations, *National Partnership on Recycling Infrastructure*, “Schedule D South Australia”, 13 December 2022: 1. Accessed: [Schedule D_SA \(Jan 2023\).pdf](https://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/D_SA_Jan_2023.pdf) (federalfinancialrelations.gov.au)

Schedule D provides, South Australia's agreed co-contribution from financial year 2020-21 and 2023-24, to be \$18.96 million, with the Commonwealth to match this amount.¹⁷¹

Also in 2021, the Australian Government commissioned an independent review to examine the implementation processes of the used packaging reform program. The review found that there had been a lack of coordinated funding for the co-regulatory arrangement's enforcement, across the different jurisdictions.¹⁷²

The review acknowledged efforts had been made, but also highlighted that more financial support will be necessary if South Australia is to meet its monitoring and enforcement obligations under the co-regulatory arrangements.^{173, 174}

Submissions suggest greater financial investment at the state level will be required to support research, development and infrastructure roll-out in South Australia, and to develop the systems that will be needed into the future.^{175, 176}

Submissions also suggest a more significant contribution from the SWL towards these endeavours is required, as intended by the *Green Industries Act 2004*.¹⁷⁷

Submissions acknowledge the funding that has been committed to dealing with soft plastics waste and commend the support provided by GISA in this area.^{178, 179, 180}

However, most agree more funding is needed if South Australia is to meet its commitment of achieving the *2025 National Packaging Targets* set by the APCO.¹⁸¹

Increased grants with broader scope will also assist the industry to scale up collection, sorting, processing and remanufacturing of soft plastics, which will increase the volume of remanufactured soft plastics product from South Australia and create more viable competition at the local level and with imported, often lower-priced recycled products.^{182, 183, 184}

Submissions agree that these areas require prioritising to achieve a 'closed loop' system for dealing with the increasing production, use and disposal of soft plastics.

There is also widespread agreement amongst stakeholders that financial investment must come from both industry and governments.

¹⁷¹ Note this amount includes funding for non-plastics related grants. See: *Schedule D*, 2022: 3 – 4.

¹⁷² Matthew Pegg Consulting Pty Ltd., *Review of the co-regulatory arrangement under the National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure 2011*, Final Report prepared for the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Canberra, September 2021: 33.

¹⁷³ Matthew Pegg Consulting Pty Ltd., *Review of the co-regulatory arrangement under the National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure 2011*, Final Report, 2021: 32 – 33.

¹⁷⁴ See also: DCCEEW, *Australian Government response to the independent review of the co-regulatory arrangement under the National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure 2011*, December 2022: 6 – 8.

¹⁷⁵ Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA SA), *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 15.

¹⁷⁶ Waste Management & Resource Management Association Australia (WMRR), *Written submission No. 23*, 8 September 2023: 6.

¹⁷⁷ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 15.

¹⁷⁸ Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC), *Written submission No. 22*, 8 September 2023: 7.

¹⁷⁹ YCA Recycling Pty Ltd., *Written submission No. 26*, 8 September 2023: 2.

¹⁸⁰ Mr Laurie Kozlovic, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 67.

¹⁸¹ WRISA, *Written submission No. 24*, 8 September 2023: 5 – 6.

¹⁸² Sustainable Infrastructure Systems (SIS), *Written submission No. 40*, 20 March 2024: 5.

¹⁸³ YCA Recycling Pty Ltd., *Written submission No. 26*, 8 September 2023: 2.

¹⁸⁴ AFGC, *Written submission No. 22*, 8 September 2023: 7.

Several of the submissions argue the following measures require the support of government and further financial investment:

- broader public education on reducing soft plastics use in the community;
- commitment from industry to reduce the soft plastics they are producing and putting into the market, particularly products being manufactured from virgin materials and multi-polymer soft plastics;
- collection systems, processing capacity and ability for industry to scale up processing of different types of soft plastics for recycling;
- support the development of viable end markets and driving demand for products made from South Australian / Australian recycled soft plastics; and
- support greater soft plastics design parameters and product stewardship.^{185, 186, 187, 188}

The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR) “encourages” the South Australian Government to:

- review the dollar amounts for grant programs and provide information as to:
 - what grant funding has been paid out for soft plastics recycling;
 - how much material has been recycled;
 - how this is being tracked and reported;
 - core analysis in terms of volumes, sustainability of programs and real costs per tonne for diversion;
- provide funding for education and behavioural change programs that tackle the higher order waste management hierarchy actions of avoiding, reducing and repairing.¹⁸⁹

Kerbside Collection

Concerns were raised in the evidence that kerbside collection of soft plastics can result in the comingling of recyclables in collection bins, and consequently contamination of other resource streams.

These contaminated resources may then end up in landfill as a result. The Committee understands the two most prevalent contaminants in the kerbside collection system are soft plastics and glass that has broken in the bins.¹⁹⁰

Recyclables that have become contaminated in the collection stage of the recycling process, are reduced in value or they often end up in landfill, pushing the cost burden onto local governments.¹⁹¹

The City of Burnside advised an audit conducted by their kerbside collection authority in 2022 showed that soft plastics contamination had increased by 10 grams since 2019.¹⁹²

Soft plastic was the fifth highest contaminant by weight found in the recycling bins, with an average of 30 grams per household. That may not seem like a lot, but considering the light weight of soft plastic, it is a concern [...] This contamination of recycling bins costs money to remove and dump.¹⁹³

¹⁸⁵ WRISA, *Written submission No. 24*, 8 September 2023: 6.

¹⁸⁶ City of Burnside, *Written submission No. 31*, 13 September 2023: 5.

¹⁸⁷ City of Marion, *Written submission No. 34*, 14 September 2023: 3.

¹⁸⁸ Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR), *Written submission No. 21*, 8 September 2023: 1.

¹⁸⁹ WMRR, *Written submission No. 23*, 8 September 2023: 6.

¹⁹⁰ Southern Region Waste Resource Authority, *Written submission No. 20*, 8 September 2023: 1.

¹⁹¹ City of Burnside, *Written submission No. 31*, 13 September 2023: 3.

¹⁹² City of Burnside, *Written submission No. 31*, 13 September 2023: 3.

¹⁹³ City of Burnside, *Written submission No. 31*, 13 September 2023: 3.

As the manufacture of soft plastics products is increasing, so too is the use of multiple polymers in soft plastics packaging, or 'multi-layer' plastics, particularly in food packaging.¹⁹⁴

As the polymers that are used are combined in the manufacturing process, development of more sophisticated technology to separate them will be needed in the recycling process.^{195, 196} It is argued this is a complex and costly process.¹⁹⁷

However, where multiple-polymer soft plastics cannot be recycled, their end of life will see them sent to landfill.¹⁹⁸ This is considered to be the least desirable outcome on the WMH, and may be more costly for everyone, including councils, the community and the environment in the longer term.¹⁹⁹

The City of Burnside contends that funding of infrastructure to deal with soft plastics in South Australia, needs to be part of a broader strategy that deals with the reduction of the use of soft plastics and the education of the community:

Recycling infrastructure should be established for soft plastic, but with limited capacity. The capacity should be equal to the desired volumes of soft plastic moving through a circular economy. For example, if sixty percent of soft plastics can be eliminated, then there should be a target to establish recycling infrastructure that can manage the remaining forty percent of the soft plastic (these numbers are arbitrary and detailed research is required to set appropriate target percentages).²⁰⁰

A Viable Supply-Chain

South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025 (the Strategy), describes commodity prices and resources markets as key challenges that impact recycling and the circular economy in South Australia.²⁰¹ Some submissions identified that the uncertainty of feedstock supply may also have an impact on the costliness of operations and whether soft plastics recycling will be financially viable for the industry across the supply chain.²⁰²

This was identified as a particular concern for regional and rural councils, waste management authorities and materials recovery facilities (MRFs).^{203, 204} The Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority (AHRWMA), commented:

The issue, which has been recognised over many years, is the local capacity for processing of soft plastics and markets for recycled material. It is a difficult issue, particularly given the goal is to reduce the use of soft plastics. Many single use plastics are being replaced with compostables and we will likely see soft plastics phase out in the future, which is a goal to strive toward. However, we believe this also makes it difficult to invest capital in local solutions when the continuity of input feedstock is uncertain.²⁰⁵

¹⁹⁴ King, S, Hutchinson, SA., and Boxall, NJ, CSIRO, *Advanced recycling technologies to address Australia's plastic waste*, Australia, August 2021: 8; 11.

¹⁹⁵ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 7.

¹⁹⁶ King, S, Hutchinson, SA., and Boxall, NJ, CSIRO, *Advanced recycling technologies to address Australia's plastic waste*, Australia, August 2021: 13.

¹⁹⁷ City of Tea Tree Gully, *Written submission No. 10*, 1 September 2023: 2.

¹⁹⁸ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 7.

¹⁹⁹ Mr Andrew Lamb, LGA SA, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 26 - 27.

²⁰⁰ City of Burnside, *Written submission No. 31*, 13 September 2023: 5.

²⁰¹ GISA, *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025*, Adelaide, 2020: 23.

²⁰² WRISA, *Written submission No. 24*, 8 September 2023: 3; 5; 7.

²⁰³ Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority (AHRWMA), *Written submission No. 4*, 4 August 2023: 2.

²⁰⁴ Southern Region Waste Resource Authority, *Written submission No. 20*, 8 September 2023: 1.

²⁰⁵ AHRWMA, *Written submission No. 4*, 4 August 2023: 2.

The City of Mitcham Administration advised that there is a need to invest in recycling infrastructure and market development for reprocessing solutions, such as soft plastics pyrolysis.²⁰⁶

The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters agreed and claimed it will be crucial for MRFs to receive financial backing to undertake the kinds of initiatives required to meet the National Packaging Targets set by the Commonwealth Government.²⁰⁷

The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters argue, along with continued investment in programs such as 'Replace the Waste' and bans on single-use plastics, legislated funding mechanisms are needed to ensure councils are not burdened with the costs involved in the collection and processing of post-consumer soft plastics.²⁰⁸ The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters advise that:

Without this technology and infrastructure within South Australia, local MRFs cannot receive or process soft plastic materials, and South Australia would then be reliant on interstate facilities, resulting in high transport costs and carbon emissions.²⁰⁹

The Strategy provides that the State Government has a long-term strategic objective of increasing and maintaining the capacity of South Australia's recycling systems and reprocessing infrastructure. It also provides, the State Government has generated much of the existing "integrated waste management infrastructure" for recycling through providing support and financial investment.²¹⁰

The Strategy states this will have a critical role in supporting future industry development and economic growth.²¹¹ The Strategy also provides for market development and enhancement:

South Australia should expand market-related activities for existing recycled-content products, improve the quality and supply of waste feedstock used in manufacturing recycled-content products, and improve market confidence in the recycled materials and recycled-content products. This will generate confidence in and demand for quality recycled products.²¹²

As part of achieving this, according to the Strategy, South Australia committed to a number of actions arising out of the National Cabinet Environment Ministers' Meeting in 2018, to advance the use of recycled material products in the procurement policies and practices of governments. This included:

- Identify and recommend priority recovered materials and recycled-content products to be mandated for use in the government and industry procurement system, in the short and medium term.
- Develop successful procurement case studies demonstrating benefits of using recycled-content products to government and industry.
- Identify relevant training needs for procurement practitioners and developing tools for capacity building in sustainable procurement.
- Collaborate in and advocate for nationally consistent standards and/or frameworks for the requirement of recycled-content products in government procurement.²¹³

²⁰⁶ City of Mitcham Administration, *Written submission No. 9*, 1 September 2023: 2.

²⁰⁷ City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, *Written submission No. 29*, 11 September 2023: 4.

²⁰⁸ City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, *Written submission No. 29*, 11 September 2023: 4.

²⁰⁹ City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, *Written submission No. 29*, 11 September 2023: 4.

²¹⁰ GISA, *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025*, Adelaide, 2020: 28.

²¹¹ GISA, *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025*, Adelaide, 2020: 28.

²¹² GISA, *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025*, Adelaide, 2020: 26.

²¹³ GISA, *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025*, Adelaide, 2020: 26.

End Market Stimulus

Government Procurement

The City of Burnside advised the Council was part of the *Local Government Association of South Australia's* (LGA SA) project, *Buying it Back*, along with nine other councils. The project was funded by GISA and assisted the councils to adopt circular procurement practices by increasing purchase of recycled products.²¹⁴

Pro Pac Group Pty Ltd commented in their written submission, that there is an opportunity and responsibility for governments and industry to ensure recycled content is part of procurement practices at all levels of government:

[...] government and industry have a crucial role to play in changing and improving their procurement practices and priorities, by committing to the purchase of recycled product that is domestically manufactured. Where necessary, appropriate policy and legislative levers are required to encourage investment in Australian based solutions across the value chain.²¹⁵

Mr Andrew Lamb, Director Advocacy, LGA SA commented in his oral evidence to the Committee that:

Councils buy lots of goods and increasingly they are leveraging their procurement capacity to stimulate end markets for recycle to help buy back the contents of the yellow bin and other waste materials collected, recovered, recycled and turned into a useful product. Councils also play a part in educating communities.²¹⁶

Professor Ian Overton, GISA, advised the Committee, GISA provides a number of Circular Economy Market Development Grants and was aware of the need to develop soft plastics end markets and GISA was looking at how to support these.²¹⁷ GISA provides information on circular procurement on its 'Green procurement knowledge hub' website.²¹⁸

Professor Overton commented that GISA will continue to provide support to the resource recovery and circular economy sector through its various programs, including grant funding but that the ongoing government subsidisation of collection models and/or processing infrastructure is not the solution for the longer term. Professor Overton provided:

The development of clear and strong end markets in either South Australia or nationally would facilitate greater investment in additional processing capacity and will be critical in enabling collection systems to be re-established and an increased collection of this material above previous programs. The principles of the circular economy seek to have this at its highest order use of materials, including streams such as soft plastics.²¹⁹

Professor Overton advised that while recognising that the REDcycle program only accounted for collection of around 14 per cent of South Australia's post-consumer soft plastics waste through return-to-store, there is value in GISA supporting the new trials that have been funded through AFGC.²²⁰

Professor Overton further commented that GISA is supporting councils to 'scale up' sorting and processing of soft plastics through the Council Modernisation Fund.²²¹

²¹⁴ City of Burnside, *Written submission No. 31*, 13 September 2023: 2

²¹⁵ Pro Pac Group Pty Ltd, *Written submission No. 11*, 4 September 2023: 4.

²¹⁶ Mr Andrew Lamb, Director Advocacy, LGA SA, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 20.

²¹⁷ Prof. Ian Overton, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 6.

²¹⁸ GISA, *Circular procurement opportunities*. Accessed: <https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/circular-procurement-opportunities>

²¹⁹ Prof. Ian Overton, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 2.

²²⁰ Prof. Ian Overton, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 3; 4 – 5.

²²¹ Prof. Ian Overton, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 4 – 5.

Solid Waste Levy

Issues were identified in a number of submissions which suggest there could be reform of the Solid Waste Levy (SWL) hypothecation back to local government. Submissions also suggest Green Industries SA (GISA) needs to prioritise the funding of projects from the SWL, which have a focus on development of the circular economy for soft plastics.²²²

Under the *Environment Protection Act 1993* waste depot licence holders must pay a prescribed levy to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for solid waste received at their waste depots or waste recovery facilities. A portion of the SWL is collected under the *Green Industries SA Act 2004* (the GISA Act), contributing to the Green Industry Fund (the Fund), as described above. Both GISA and the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water (the Minister) have powers to make payments from the Fund under subsection 17(5) of the GISA Act.²²³

Subsection 17(5a) of the GISA Act provides that payments from the Fund may take the form of a grant to a person or body; or may be of various other forms such as shares and interests, or profit-sharing agreements, with approval of the Treasurer.²²⁴

GISA advised, between financial years 2019-20 and 2022-23 approximately \$12.03 million of revenue from the SWL went to the Green Industry Fund.²²⁵ During the same period, \$2.299 million, or 19 per cent of the SWL received in the Fund, went to soft plastics recycling grants.²²⁶ Also according to GISA, the \$2.299 million amount was derived from levies paid into to the Fund directly from “soft plastics disposed to landfill.”²²⁷ GISA advised soft plastics amounts to approximately 6.6 per cent of the total waste to landfill in South Australia.²²⁸

According to the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA SA) the amount of SWL collected, compared to the amount that is paid back to Councils in the form of grants, is out of proportion and should be increased.²²⁹

Citing EPA SA data, the LGA SA stated, the SWL in 2013-14 was \$47.00 per tonne for metropolitan Adelaide and \$23.50 per tonne for regional SA, where in 2023-24 the amount has increased 231 per cent to \$156.00 and \$78.00 respectively.²³⁰ The LGA SA commented:

Greater hypothecation of the Solid Waste Levy (“SWL”) to local government to support the delivery of worthwhile waste, recycling, resource recovery and circular economy initiatives has been a key focus of LGA advocacy.²³¹

In 2017, amendments were made to the GISA Act, which provide a broader scope for which the Fund may be applied, such as for the purposes of “mitigating the effects of climate change, minimising carbon emissions and adapting to climate change, or managing harms following a major incident or emergency [...]”²³²

²²² LGA SA, “Response to Additional Questions from the Select Committee of Soft Plastics and other Recyclables”, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023. Received 13 November 2023: 6.

²²³ *Green Industries SA Act 2004*, Part 3, subsection 17(5)— Green Industry Fund.

²²⁴ *Green Industries SA Act 2004*, Part 3, subsection 17(5a)— Green Industry Fund.

²²⁵ GISA, “Re: Green Industries SA – response to additional information / Questions on Notice”, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 9. Received 10 November 2023: 5.

²²⁶ GISA, “Re: Green Industries SA – response to additional information / Questions on Notice”, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 9. Received 10 November 2023: 5.

²²⁷ GISA, “Re: Green Industries SA – response to additional information / Questions on Notice”, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 9. Received 10 November 2023: 5.

²²⁸ GISA, “Re: Green Industries SA – response to additional information / Questions on Notice”, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 9. Received 10 November 2023: 5.

²²⁹ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 13.

²³⁰ EPA SA, *Historic Waste Levy Rates* cited in LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 14.

²³¹ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 14.

²³² GISA Act 2004, Green Industry Fund - Part 3, subsection 17(5)

The LGA SA argue that since these amendments, the Fund has been utilised for projects that do not have a circular economy, waste, recycling or resource recovery focus despite being in line with the requirements of the GISA Act.²³³ Mr Andrew Lamb, LGA SA, advised the Committee during his oral evidence that a greater proportion of the SWL needs to be allocated to recycling projects:

We need greater hypothecation of the solid waste levy. We need to go back to the purpose of that scheme. It was designed to stimulate recycling and reduce landfill. It's currently not effectively achieving that aim. There are currently no realistic options to recycle many types of waste, including soft plastics, so at the moment the solid waste levy is just a tax on landowners and councils used to subsidise government operations rather than achieve environmental outcomes.²³⁴

Ms Brianna McGee, Senior Policy Officer, LGA SA, advised that obtaining funding from the SWL was “more achievable” for larger councils, but for smaller councils who have less staff and less ability to quickly turn around applications within restricted time frames, it can be more of a challenge.

Ms McGee also commented that the LGA SA provided more support to regional councils during the SWL grant funding process.²³⁵ Mr Lamb added, part of the LGA SA’s submission is that the funds from the SWL are not going sufficiently to waste related issues.²³⁶

The City of Holdfast Bay advised, the total amount paid by the City of Holdfast Bay for the SWL between 2018-19 and 2022-23 was approximately \$4 million. The percentage provided back to the City of Holdfast Bay as GISA grants during the same period, was 6.7 per cent.²³⁷

The City of Marion submitted that they would like to see more of the SWL utilised to fund:

- new recycling infrastructure for soft plastics
- stimulation of end markets
- education campaigns to recover lost ground in consumer confidence.²³⁸

The City of Norwood, Payneham & St Peters provided, there is a need to invest in “[...] strategic planning, innovation investment and support for problem waste materials (such as soft plastics) [...]”²³⁹ and that:

Recent events have reinforced that revenue collected through the Solid Waste Levy which in turn is collected from ratepayers (estimated at \$1 092 000 in 2023-2024 for the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters) needs better strategic management, oversight and direct investment back into recycling in South Australia.²⁴⁰

The LGA SA advised in their written submission, based on estimates, councils have paid around \$244 million into the Fund, through the SWL since 2017, while receiving only 15 per cent of the contributions back in grants during the same time period.²⁴¹

The LGA SA argue, South Australia will require “[...] \$166 million worth of new or expanded waste and resource recovery infrastructure by 2025-26[...]” if the state is to properly manage the “[...] projected volume of waste, recycling, resource recovery and landfill [...]”²⁴²

²³³ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 15.

²³⁴ Mr Andrew Lamb, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 20.

²³⁵ Ms Brianna McGee, Senior Policy Officer, LGA SA, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 22.

²³⁶ Mr Andrew Lamb, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 22.

²³⁷ City of Holdfast Bay, “Response to Question on Notice”, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 36. 23 April 2024:

²³⁸ City of Marion, *Written submission No. 34*, 14 September 2023: 3.

²³⁹ City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, *Written submission No. 29*, 11 September 2023: 4.

²⁴⁰ City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, *Written submission No. 29*, 11 September 2023: 4.

²⁴¹ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 15.

²⁴² LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 15.

The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR) agreed, stating:²⁴³

WMRR encourages the Government to review the dollar amounts for grant programs and is seeking information on what grant funding has been paid out in this space, how much material has been recycled, and how is this being tracked and reported? Industry does not have these total figures and holds the view that funding has been both selective and directed at trials (other than the modernisation funds which were mainly Federal money). Industry is seeking core analysis in terms of volumes, sustainability of programs and real costs per tonne for diversion.²⁴⁴

Table 6 below, outlines South Australia's waste and recycling infrastructure assessment by sector for 2025-26. It shows the estimated projected number of new and expanded infrastructure units and total capital expenditure based on 'moderate additional diversion scenarios.' The total amount of \$166 million, covers projected new and expanded infrastructure units for all forms of waste management and resource recovery, which includes soft plastics disposal, although not separately identified.²⁴⁵

Table 6 South Australia's Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan ²⁴⁶

Number of new/ expanded infrastructure units	MSW	C&I	C&D	Total SA
Kerbside source separation bin systems	53,898	-	-	53,898
Skip bins	-	9,823	298	10,121
Collection vehicles	6	35	18	60
Vacuum systems	0.5	-	-	0.5
Transfer stations	1.2	3.3	-	4.5
Transfer vehicles	3	7	8	18.0
Material recovery facility	0.1	-	-	0.1
CDL facilities	4.6	8.6	-	13.2
Drop-off facilities	40.8	-	-	40.8
Composting facilities (open windrow)	3.8	1.7	-	5.5
Composting facilities (covered tunnel)	0.5	0.6	-	1.1
Energy-from-waste - anaerobic digestion	0.7	5.0	-	5.7
Construction & Demolition processing facilities	-	-	2.0	2.0
Other reprocessing facilities (medium technology)	2.9	13.0	-	15.9
Waste soil storage and remediation facilities	-	-	1.6	1.6
Emerging waste stream facilities	1.4	0.4	-	1.8
Total capital expenditure (\$ million)	49	88	29	166

*Fractions of units may indicate expansion of an existing facility, or a smaller capacity facility. The number of units is based on average infrastructure capacities (refer to Appendix A) and is intended to be indicative of the types and number of new/expanded infrastructure units that will potentially be needed. The same methodology applies to all infrastructure assessment by sector tables for both Metropolitan Adelaide and regions.

²⁴³ Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR), *Written submission No. 23*, 8 September 2023: 6.

²⁴⁴ WMRR, *Written submission No. 23*, 8 September 2023: 6.

²⁴⁵ GISA, *South Australia's Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan*, 2018: 37.

²⁴⁶ GISA, *South Australia's Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan*, 2018: 37.

Ms Gayle Sloan and Ms Tiana Nairn, WMRR, asserted during their oral evidence to the Committee that the South Australian Government could be looking at setting up regimes that enable circularity and incentivise people to buy back material.

This would mean funding programs from the SWL, to establish schemes that provide support to set up systems across the whole supply chain.²⁴⁷

Ms Sloan commented that while grant funding for infrastructure is very important, extension of processing soft plastics cannot work in isolation and must be part of a “holistic system that looks at an end-to-end solution”.²⁴⁸

It will be important for the State Government and Local Governments to implement data collection and report systems to better understand the movement of soft plastics across the supply chain in South Australia. This could include reporting on disposal of soft plastics, including:

- types of soft plastics;
- amounts being disposed to landfill;
- amounts diverted to be recycled and to what end products; and
- funding provided to councils and industry to support implementing new processes to enable the sector to grow.²⁴⁹

²⁴⁷ Ms Gayle Sloan, CEO and Ms Tiana Nairn, Branch President, WMRR, *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 110.

²⁴⁸ Ms Gayle Sloan, *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 110.

²⁴⁹ AFGC, *Written submission No. 22*, 8 September 2023: 6.

Soft Plastics Recycling Grants

A number of soft plastics projects and programs received funding from both State and Federal Governments in 2021-22, with funding administered by GISA. GISA advised these “...include market development, policy development and implementation, and education and behaviour change.”²⁵⁰

The following pages contain a number of tables which provide a breakdown of grants administered by GISA for 2021-2022:

Recipient	Project description	GISA Grant \$	Year
Recycling Modernisation Fund			
Advanced Plastics Recycling	Increase manufacturing capacity (plastics)	\$1,222,000	2021/22
Ngopamuldi Aboriginal Corporation / YCA Recycling	Plastic processing and extrusion equipment (soft plastics)	\$1,000,000 ²⁵¹	2021/22
Total RMF		\$2,222,000	
Recycling Infrastructure Grant			
YCA	Screen for plastic pelletising line	\$24,360	2022/23
Total RIG		\$24,360	
Council Modernisation Grant			
Central Adelaide Waste & Recycling Authority	Soft plastics collection trial (ACC, CS, PAE)	\$52,345	2022/23
Total CEMDG		\$52,345	
Grant Total Soft Plastics		\$2,298,705	

Circular Economy Market Development Grants

Green Industries SA (GISA) provides Circular Economy Market Development Grants (CEMDG) to local government, industry and not-for-profit organisations, research institutes and businesses to implement or improve their recycling and circular economy business practices.

²⁵⁰ Prof. Ian Overton, “Re: Green Industries SA – response to additional information / Questions on Notice”, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 9. Received 10 November 2023: 2.

²⁵¹ Prof. Ian Overton, “Re: Green Industries SA – response to additional information / Questions on Notice”, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 9. Received 10 November 2023: 2. Note: GISA advised the Ngopamuldi Aboriginal Corporation / YCA Recycling Project will not proceed and funding will be made available for another soft plastics project.

The CEMDG are awarded to businesses and organisations that “[...] design, apply and scale-up innovative circular economy business models and practices or produce, manufacture, sell or promote South Australian recycled materials and recycled-content products.”²⁵²

Applications for CEMDG can be for up to a maximum of \$100 000 exclusive of GST.²⁵³ In relation to private business, the CEMDG can provide a maximum of 50 per cent of eligible project costs which, must be matched by the business and does not include “in-kind” contributions.

GISA advised the Committee, \$1.5 million of GISA funding support was provided to projects under CEMDG program since the program commenced in 2018.²⁵⁴ Further information provided by GISA shows nine out of twenty-seven projects funded under the CEMDG are plastic related projects totalling \$417 497, since 2018.²⁵⁵

GISA provided the following estimates in future government funding for the CEMDG:²⁵⁶

Grant program / fund name	Purpose of grant program / fund	2023-24 Estimate \$000	2024-25 Estimate \$000	2025-26 Estimate \$000
Circular Economy Market Development Grants	Funding to support South Australian businesses to further their market development efforts for recycled and recyclable materials	200	200	200

Recycling Infrastructure Grants

The Recycling Infrastructure Grants (RIG) program through GISA, “[...] assists companies, local authorities and organisations to install infrastructure and provide innovative approaches to increase the recovery of resources and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill each year.”²⁵⁷ GISA provides that priority will be given to projects for:

- the development of new or upgrading of existing infrastructure and/or equipment to enable remanufacturing/value adding of targeted material streams for local use (preferred); or
- to allow for improved sorting and/or processing to enhance recoverable material quality through reduced contamination levels for local use or re-entry into export markets.²⁵⁸

The program targets recyclable materials “...most affected by low commodity prices, specifically, recovered paper, cardboard and plastics; and food waste salvage / recovery.”

²⁵² GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 4 – 5.

²⁵³ GISA, *Circular Economy Market Development Grants Guidelines 2023 – 24*, Adelaide, 2023: 5. Accessed: <https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/funding/ce-market-development-funding>

²⁵⁴ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 4.

²⁵⁵ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 4 – 5.

²⁵⁶ Prof. Ian Overton, “Re: Green Industries SA – response to additional information / Questions on Notice”, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 9. Received 10 November 2023: 4.

²⁵⁷ GISA, [Recycling Infrastructure Grants \(greenindustries.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au)

²⁵⁸ GISA, [Recycling Infrastructure Grants \(greenindustries.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au)

Grant funding is available to recycling businesses, charities, and local governments that recover, handle and process targeted material streams.²⁵⁹

Recycling Infrastructure Grants (RIG) range from \$25 000 to a maximum of \$200 000 per project, with a separate category available to councils for projects benefitting the local economy and/or three or more council areas. Up to \$500 000 grants are available for large scale projects involving significant capital expenditure by business and are of state significance.

YCA Recycling received a \$26 000 grant for a pelletising screen, under the RIG to expand its plastics operations to include manufacturing pellets from the soft plastics source material.²⁶⁰ YCA Recycling advised, in 2022 they had applied for both the Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF) grant and the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) grant to build a soft plastic processing and product manufacturing plant at Murray Bridge.²⁶¹

However, according to YCA Recycling, the BBRF grant funding stream was cancelled by the government and YCA Recycling was unable to proceed with the regional project.²⁶² The Australian Government announced on 24 October 2022 that the BBRF was to be discontinued.²⁶³ YCA Recycling commented:

YCA would like to see more funding go towards manufacturing to upgrade their machinery or setup new line in using the recycled materials. Different types of incentives should be given to both manufacturers and recyclers of produce and use of recycled material since it is expensive to make and purchase recycled material from Australia which none of the recycling business can compete with such a low price of imported recycled material.²⁶⁴

GISA provided that future funding may become available under grant programs during 2023-24 and beyond, however "...these programs are open to projects that recycle other material streams not just soft plastics."²⁶⁵

Recycling Modernisation Fund

The Australian Government's *National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019*, developed in collaboration with states, territories and local governments, provides targets to support the implementation of a national circular economy and is supported through the *Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020* (Cmth).²⁶⁶

The Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF) provides funding to governments, business, and industry for investment in new recycling infrastructure for sorting, processing and remanufacturing waste materials, including soft plastics.²⁶⁷

²⁵⁹ GISA, [Recycling Infrastructure Grants \(greenindustries.sa.gov.au\)](https://greenindustries.sa.gov.au)

²⁶⁰ YCA Recycling, *Written submission No. 26*, 8 September 2023: 2.

²⁶¹ YCA Recycling, *Written submission No. 26*, 8 September 2023: 2.

²⁶² YCA Recycling, *Written submission No. 26*, 8 September 2023: 2.

²⁶³ Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, *Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF)*. Accessed: [Building Better Regions Fund \(BBRF\) | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#)

²⁶⁴ YCA Recycling, *Written submission No. 26*, 8 September 2023: 2.

²⁶⁵ Prof. Ian Overton, "Re: Green Industries SA – response to additional information / Questions on Notice", *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 9. Received 10 November 2023: 3.

²⁶⁶ Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, *National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019*

²⁶⁷ Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, *National Waste and Resource Recovery data hub, Recycling Modernisation Fund data viewer*, 2024. Accessed: [Recycling Modernisation Fund data viewer - DCCEEW](#)

According to Green Industries SA (GISA), the Australian Government's funding of the RMF in conjunction with GISA, provided a total of \$19.35 million in grants to twenty-four applicants, across four grant program areas in South Australia from 2019-20 to 2022-23.²⁶⁸

Advanced Plastics Recycling (APR) received a \$1.2 million grant to establish/expand soft plastics recycling systems under the RMF, where waste soft plastics can be pelletised and then used to fill sound panels made by APR for SA.²⁶⁹

Professor Overton advised GISA had been looking at providing funding support for a soft plastics recycling processing plant in South Australia, under the 2021 \$60 million Federal RMF Plastics Technology stream grants.²⁷⁰ Professor Overton advised GISA had "[...] entertained several submissions from people looking at setting up a plant in South Australia [...]" to process an increased volume of soft plastics locally.²⁷¹ Professor Ian Overton commented:

[...] under the previous RMF we matched one to one with state and federal funding. That was a big round in the financial year 2021. We put \$19 million in and matched commonwealth funding, and a lot of that was around plastics. We do have \$1 million left out of that, so we will be looking to match an industry amount to submit a bid. They might want to go beyond the \$1 million, but we've got \$1 million to support that.²⁷²

Ms Brianna McGee stated the LGA SA commended the state government in partnering with the commonwealth through GISA, as funds had been made available to industry via the RMF.²⁷³

According to GISA, approximately \$18.8 million of grant funding from GISA's Recycling Infrastructure Grants (RIG) and the Australian Government's RMF, has been provided to support soft and rigid plastics related infrastructure projects since 2019-20.²⁷⁴ GISA provided the following estimates in future state government funding which includes the RIG and RMF grants:²⁷⁵

Grant program / fund name	Purpose of grant program / fund	2023-24 Estimate \$000	2024-25 Estimate \$000	2025-26 Estimate \$000
Recycling Infrastructure Grants, includes: Recycling Modernisation Fund and Food Waste for Healthy Soils Fund grants	Funding towards the construction of new and upgraded materials recovery and processing facilities, including to assist the resource recovery sector respond to challenges and opportunities presented by international market conditions	1,000	2,165	2,164

²⁶⁸ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 4.

²⁶⁹ APR, *Written submission No. 39*, January 2024: 1.

²⁷⁰ Prof. Ian Overton, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 10.

²⁷¹ Prof. Ian Overton, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 5.

²⁷² Prof. Ian Overton, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 6.

²⁷³ Ms Brianna McGee, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 22.

²⁷⁴ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 4.

²⁷⁵ Prof. Ian Overton, "Re: Green Industries SA – response to additional information / Questions on Notice", *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 9. Received 10 November 2023: 3.

Recycling Modernisation Fund Plastics Technology stream

In 2023, the Australian Government initiated a new Recycling Modernisation Fund Plastics Technology stream and provided up to \$60 million in grant funding for eligible activities.²⁷⁶

On 16 July 2024, the Federal Minister for Environment and Water announced that the South Australian company Recycling Plastics Australia Pty Ltd (RPA), in conjunction with the South Australian Government, would be the recipients of a Commonwealth funded \$20 million grant, the first from the Recycling Modernisation Fund Plastics Technology stream.

The grant will provide RPA with the opportunity to invest in advanced recycling technology to recycle soft plastic packaging back into new packaging.²⁷⁷

Council Modernisation Grants

The South Australian Government, through GISA, provides funding to support local governments to improve and update recycling infrastructure.

The National Plastics Recycling Scheme (NPRS) under the leadership of the Australia Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) has received funding support from the Australian Government National Product Stewardship Investment Fund and the GISA Council Modernisation Grant (CMG).²⁷⁸

The LGA SA argue the funding from the State Government through the CMG has been inadequate.

The LGA SA claim in their written submission, the State Government needs to contribute more to investment in infrastructure, education and initiatives that focus more on “higher order” design and consumption activities.²⁷⁹

Nevertheless, the City of Holdfast Bay states it has offered its residents and businesses a soft plastics bin collection services at Brighton Civic Centre since 2013 and has recently introduced a second bin to address the REDcycle collapse.²⁸⁰

The City of Holdfast Bay advised, the Council had implemented soft plastics a collection service at the Glenelg North Community Garden and has been investigating adding an additional service at Jetty Road, Glenelg.

Soft plastic collected through the service has increased from 3 960 Litres in early 2022 to 13 200 Litres in just over a year, an increase which, costs the City of Holdfast Bay around \$20 000 to administer.²⁸¹

Councils are concerned they will have to cover the cost for future increased kerbside collection and processing, and this will impact council budgets. The State Government does not address this in the provision of CMG.

²⁷⁶ DCCEEW, *The RMF Plastics Technology stream*. Accessed: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/how-we-manage-waste/recycling-modernisation-fund/plastics-technology-stream>

²⁷⁷ Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water (Cmth); Dr Susan Close MP, Acting Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water (SA), Joint Media Release, *New Soft Plastic Recycling Technology for South Australia*, 16 July 2024: 1.

²⁷⁸ CAWRA, *Written submission No. 30*, 12 September 2023:5.

²⁷⁹ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 13.

²⁸⁰ City of Holdfast Bay, *Written submission No. 5*, 31 August 2023: 1.

²⁸¹ City of Holdfast Bay, *Written submission No. 5*, 31 August 2023: 1.

Curby Trial

The NPRS is an industry-led plastics recycling scheme, which has been trialing collection of soft plastics through an expanded kerbside collection program (Curby). The kerbside collection trial was co-funded for 12 months to December 2023 by the AFGC, the Cities of Adelaide, Charles Sturt and Port Adelaide Enfield, the Australian Government, and GISA.²⁸²

A concern advised by the City of Marion was that its Council has been unable to participate in the Curby trial as the Southern Materials Recovery Facility (SMRF) used by the Council is unable to process the material due to absent end markets.²⁸³ CAWRA provided in its written submission that:

“[...] the trial operated at very small scale, with the resulting material transported in small quantities to interstate recyclers. Payloads have not been achieved, given the small volumes of material concerned.

The City of Marion also advised the following:

Further funding and support is necessary for establishment or expansion of industries for recycling soft plastics and other materials. A critical key component is that a sufficient scale and diversity of circular end markets are developed.²⁸⁴

This was agreed to by the City of Mitcham Administration, who has advocated for investment in market development for reprocessing solutions such as soft plastic pyrolysis.²⁸⁵ The City of Mitcham Administration also argue:

There is a need to ensure Material Recover Facilities (MRFs) can process soft plastics if they are the preferred processing facility and that they all have similar functionality/ability to sort materials. Currently small variations in MRF capabilities changes what can and can't be placed in the comingled recycling bin. This complicates educational messaging and causes confusion to residents.²⁸⁶

Mr Ian Harvey, Director, Policy and Evaluation, GISA, commented that the “...MRFs are not set up to deal with soft plastics” and the AFGC, principal supporter of the Curby trial “...was not looking to state government specifically to support it.”²⁸⁷ However, upgrading the MRFs has been a primary concern and Mr Harvey acknowledged, the MRFs :

“[...] will require some investment if they are going to proceed with more a scaled-up approach: specific baling equipment and potentially a separate conveyor line to deal with that particular stream. South Australia is not the only jurisdiction participating in this trial; there are other states also participating in it to try to get a collective national solution.”²⁸⁸

GISA's contribution to the trial was a \$52 345 grant provided to the Central Adelaide Waste and Recycling Authority (CAWRA), who was responsible for collecting and sorting the soft plastics in the trial.²⁸⁹

GISA provided matched funding to CAWRA's contribution under GISA's CMG program to support the South Australian trials.²⁹⁰ GISA's support for the Curby trial in South Australia has also involved supporting an education campaign.

²⁸² CAWRA, *Written submission No. 30*, 12 September 2023: 1.

²⁸³ The City of Marion, *Written submission No. 34*, 14 September 2023: 3

²⁸⁴ The City of Marion, *Written submission No. 34*, 14 September 2023: 3

²⁸⁵ City of Mitcham Administration, *Written submission No. 9*, 1 September 2023: 2.

²⁸⁶ City of Mitcham Administration, *Written submission No. 9*, 1 September 2023: 2.

²⁸⁷ Mr Ian Harvey, Director, Policy and Evaluation, GISA, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 4.

²⁸⁸ Mr Ian Harvey, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 4.

²⁸⁹ Central Adelaide Waste and Recycling Authority (CAWRA), *Written submission No. 30*, 12 September 2023: 1.

²⁹⁰ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, “Appendix 1: Green Industries grant funding for plastics”, 8 September 2023: 9.

Mr Barry Cosier, AFGC, advised the NPRS also received a Federal Government grant, initially of ‘seed funding’ of approximately \$1 million.²⁹¹ Mr Cosier advised the Committee that by the end of the 2023-24 financial year, AFGC members will have matched, and exceeded this amount with a further \$3 million.²⁹²

GISA provided the following estimates of future government funding for Council Modernisation Grants:²⁹³

Grant program / fund name	Purpose of grant program / fund	2023-24 Estimate \$000	2024-25 Estimate \$000	2025-26 Estimate \$000
Council Modernisation Grants	Funding to support modernisation and innovation of Local Government waste management systems	0	100	100

Solving Plastic Waste Cooperative Research Centre Funding

GISA advised it provided in-kind and financial support for the Griffith University ‘Solving Plastic Waste Cooperative Research Centre’ (CRC) bid totalling \$140 million in grant money.

Ms Jessica Wundke, Manager, Policy Reform, GISA, advised that following Griffith winning the bid, the University had been in discussions with some South Australian universities for their participation.²⁹⁴

The Solving Plastic Waste CRC provide that they will work with the plastics sector with the aim of progressing Australia’s elimination of plastic waste, establishing a Circular Economy as well as a “Climate Neutral Plastic Economy.” The CRC will also aim to grow the advanced manufacturing sector.²⁹⁵

Business Sustainability Program

In 2020-21 GISA’s Business Sustainability Program (LEAP Grants) provided \$49 985 in funding to support the development of the South Australian Independent Retailers Inc. Food Waste and Recycling Strategy (SAIRFWRS).²⁹⁶ The SAIRFWRS includes initiatives and actions around soft plastics and plastic packaging.²⁹⁷

²⁹¹ Mr Barry Cosier, *Hansard*, 26 October 2023: 47.

²⁹² Mr Barry Cosier, *Hansard*, 26 October 2023: 48.

²⁹³ Prof. Ian Overton, “Re: Green Industries SA – response to additional information / Questions on Notice”, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 9. Received 10 November 2023: 3.

²⁹⁴ Ms Jessica Wundke, Manager, Policy Reform, GISA, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 10.

²⁹⁵ Professor Chengrong Chen, Research Director, Solving Plastic Waste CRC, Griffith University, cited in “Griffith-led CRC attracts \$140 million to tackle plastic waste”, *Griffith University News*, 12 December 2023. Access: <https://news.griffith.edu.au/2023/12/12/griffith-led-crc-attracts-140-million-to-tackle-plastic-waste/>

²⁹⁶ GISA, *Projects Funded, 2020–2, LEAP Grants, South Australian Independent Retailers*. Accessed: <https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/projects-funded>

²⁹⁷ South Australian Independent Retailers Inc., *South Australian Independent Retailers Food Waste and Recycling Strategy 2021 – 2025*, June 2021: 7; 11 - 14.

Aluminium

The Committee received scant evidence in relation to aluminium recycling, except where it related to the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS). The Committee understands from GISA that aluminium recycling is relatively stable because of the high price fetched for the product.

GISA advised the most recently published *Circular Economy Resource Recovery Report 2021-22* indicates that twenty-nine thousand tonnes of aluminium were recovered.²⁹⁸

According to GISA, sixty-seven per cent of recovered aluminium is from the commercial and industrial sector; 28 per cent is from the municipal solid waste sector and 94 per cent of recovered aluminium is sent overseas for processing.²⁹⁹

RECOMMENDATIONS

Review of Solid Waste Levy

7. Review the solid waste levy to support recycling goals. Include a focus on tangible recycling and waste management modern technology investments.

Recycling, Manufacturing and End Market Innovation

8. Green Industries SA provide grant funding for start-ups and end markets in soft plastics reduction and recycling.
9. Green Industries SA provide grant funding for start-ups and end markets in the manufacturing of certified compostable alternatives to soft plastics.
10. Green Industries SA increase funding for research and innovation for soft plastics reduction, recycling and compostable alternatives.
11. The South Australian Government identify areas that would benefit from an incentivised scheme for Business to Business (B2B) soft plastics processing and remanufacturing and assist to implement a suitable scheme to support this.

²⁹⁸ See: GISA, *Circular Economy Resource Recovery Report 2021-22*
<https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/documents/gisa-cerrr-2021-22.pdf>

²⁹⁹ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 4.

(D) Identifying Short- and Long-Term Opportunities and Solutions to Ensure Soft Plastics can be Recycled in South Australia

South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025 highlights the principals of the *Waste Management Hierarchy* (WMH), which underpins the goals for a circular economy in South Australia.³⁰⁰

A circular economy is a system of closed loop production which, aims to keep the products made circulating through different iterations of use within their lifetimes, thereby making the most use out of the initial raw materials.

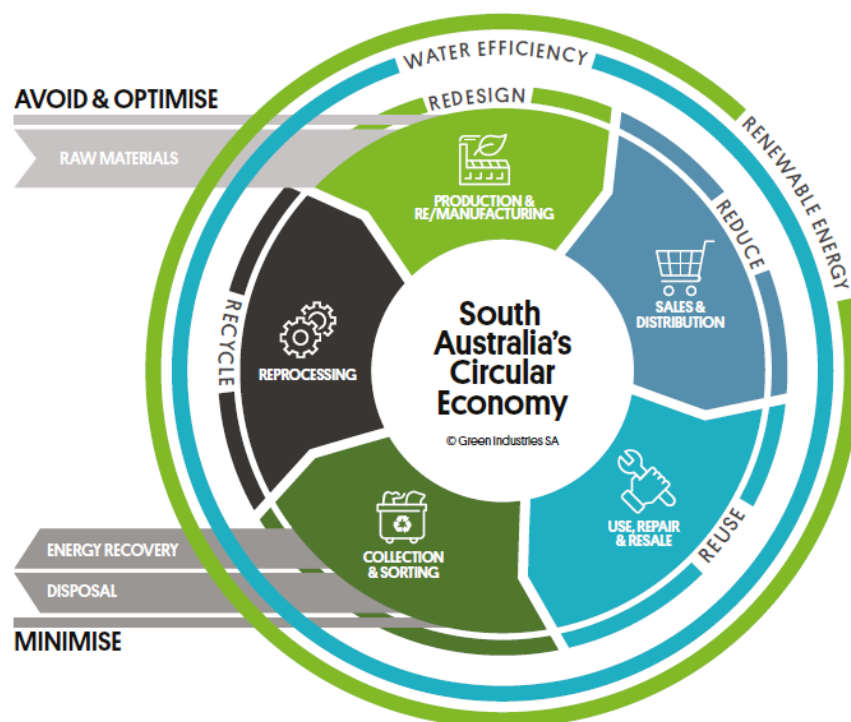


Fig. 1 South Australia's Circular Economy³⁰¹

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation describes that:

The circular economy considers every stage of a product's journey – before and after it reaches the customer. This approach is not only vital to stop plastic pollution, it also offers strong economic, social, and climate benefits.³⁰²

³⁰⁰ Green Industries South Australia (GISA), *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025*, Adelaide, SA, 2020: 22; 25.

³⁰¹ GISA, *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025*, Adelaide, 2020: 13.

³⁰² Ellen MacArthur Foundation, *Designing Out Plastic Pollution*. Accessed: [Plastics in a Circular Economy | Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#)

The Waste Management Hierarchy (WMH) is a tool that supports circular economies by scaling need for raw materials and identifying pathways for raw and recycled materials during their lifetimes. The first and foremost recommended approach of the WMH is to adopt avoidance strategies. This is followed by the 10Rs of the Circular Economy.³⁰³

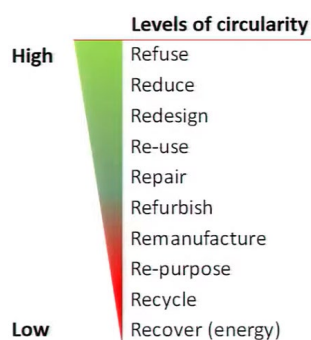


Fig. 2 Levels of Circularity – The 10R Principle³⁰⁴

Recycling is not simply the act of collection, but also involves the sorting, processing and remanufacturing of the collected material.³⁰⁵ Recycling is a system that aims to extend the life of the resources that are available to human beings.

Recycling post-consumer material, such as soft plastics or aluminium drink cans involves a series of steps before the source material can be remanufactured into new consumer products (these include collection, sorting, reprocessing and remanufacturing).



Fig. 3 Five Key Steps in Recycling³⁰⁶

³⁰³ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 7.

³⁰⁴ Cramer, Jacqueline, *Levels of Circularity – The 10R Principle*, 15 May 2017. Accessed: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Levels_of_circularity_10R_principle_Cramer_2017.png

³⁰⁵ Ms Gayle Sloan, *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 109.

³⁰⁶ “Five Key Steps in Recycling”, from *Five Key Steps of Recycling for Growing the Circular Economy*, 2020. Accessed at: <https://www.recyclingconnections.org/post/five-steps-of-recycling>

Evidence to the Inquiry demonstrates the problems associated with soft plastics and particularly soft plastic packaging, are multifarious and complex. Reducing the post-consumer soft plastics waste burden requires a number of different strategies by different stakeholders.

The evidence shows there is no single solution and to focus attention on any one strategy at the expense of others, could be deleterious to efforts made, as seen in the collapse of REDcycle.

Strategies are also required to address the increasing burden of commercial, industrial and agricultural soft plastics waste, and the evidence suggests some recent advances have been made in this area by local industry.

The evidence identifies, in addition to the support required from the South Australian Government, there is a need for the Australian Government to continue to provide funding and leadership through the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) for packaging design to be updated.

There also needs to be more emphasis on consumer behavioural change to drive avoidance and encourage the reuse of products. Some submissions consider that although the State Government's campaign 'replace the waste' has been useful, some of the items that are proposed as 'replacements', such as compostables, are also effectively single use, which fails to address consumption attitudes in the community.

Scaling-up Kerbside Collection Trials

The Committee understands financial support, through the Council Modernisation Fund (CMF) and possibly other funding streams, is still needed by Local Governments, so councils can upgrade or continue to upgrade their Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and ensure the collected soft plastics can be safely and efficiently sorted and processed.³⁰⁷

Several submissions consider the Curby trial that was undertaken by the Cities of Adelaide, Charles Sturt, Port Adelaide Enfield and CAWRA, was successful and could be rolled out over more local government areas.³⁰⁸ Other submissions argue the trial was too limited to understand how kerbside collection of soft plastics would be undertaken at scale.³⁰⁹

Ms Shani Wood, Environmental Officer, City of Holdfast Bay, offered that funding from state government or from product stewardship schemes would assist councils to undertake larger collection and processing of soft plastics from kerbside bins.³¹⁰

Ms Brianna McGee, LGA SA, advised the Committee that several other councils in South Australia wanted to participate in the Curby trial but were not encouraged as they had concerns about the lack of end markets, the lack of reprocessing capacity and overall risk of having soft plastics waste stockpiled.

Ms McGee commented that in weighing up the cost associated with the trial on a per household basis, these councils decided not to be involved.³¹¹

The evidence provided by Ms McGee suggests the Curby trial starter kit would cost councils around \$13 to \$15 per household.³¹² Ms McGee offered, this cost is “[...] the starter kit alone; we are not talking about the education process, the administration costs and the access to the kerbside bin as well.”³¹³

Professor Ian Overton, GISA, stated the Curby trial was undertaken with a view to build on the trial undertaken in Queensland, which showed a significant increase in the amount of soft plastics collected at kerbside.³¹⁴

Mr John Niarchos, Chief Executive Officer, CAWRA, explained, currently there is not capacity to scale up the Curby trial as the infrastructure and end markets are not in place. However, Mr Niarchos commented any scaling up would be focussed on households and providing a service, at the same time the market needs to evolve:

Ultimately, [the market’s] not there at the moment for it to be scaled up. We would need a market to be scaled, and that’s where this RMF and its investment in viable facilities is important, because that’s going to create demand and that will then lead to further decisions about how much material is required. What we know is that, if there is demand there and if economically it stacks up, we can go to our communities and we can say, ‘We’ve got a facility that’s willing to take your material,’ and have them participate.³¹⁵

CAWRA advised that more advanced sorting machines for processing soft plastics is needed to ensure the recycling sector can keep up with demand.

³⁰⁷ Ms Shani Wood, Environmental Officer, City of Holdfast Bay, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 32.

³⁰⁸ Mr John Niarchos, Chief Executive Officer, CAWRA, *Hansard*, 26 October 2023: 46.

³⁰⁹ Ms Gayle Sloan and Ms Tiani Nairn, WMRR, *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 108; 111.

³¹⁰ Ms Shani Wood, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 32.

³¹¹ Ms Brianna McGee, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 23.

³¹² Ms Brianna McGee, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 23.

³¹³ Ms Brianna McGee, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 23.

³¹⁴ Prof. Ian Overton, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 4 – 5.

³¹⁵ Mr John Niarchos, *Hansard*, 26 October 2023: 53.

CAWRA stated that during the Curby trial, batches of tested material collected from the processing sites revealed a high degree of contamination and this could be avoided by dedicated machines:

Lab testing of randomly selected bags has shown that quality of contents is high, and compatible with the requirements of downstream processors. Audits and inspections of CAWRA's baled material at processing destinations have also shown some cross contamination of bales with other recyclable items from the CAWRA MRF. This is likely due to the fact that the same baler is used for cardboard, steel and other plastics – with some remnants of these materials showing up in CAWRA's soft plastics bales between bags. This cross-contamination would be eliminated with the purchase and use of a dedicated baler for soft plastics only.³¹⁶

CAWRA advised, the Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) has been taking findings from the Curby trial in each state to inform development of the National Plastics Recycling Scheme (NPRS).

The NPRS will bring together industry participants in the soft plastic packaging supply chain to raise capital and project funding from government and other financial investors and institutions.³¹⁷ The AFGC commented in their written submission that:

While significant government funds have been provided to support an increase in recycling rates, consideration should be given to government investment opportunities in areas of research and commercialisation to enable the sector to move more quickly to contributing to a circular economy in line with community and government expectations.³¹⁸

The AFGC argues, brand owners would have more confidence to invest in recycling if National kerbside standards were adopted rather than the current council-by-council approach. The current system results in “vast variances in packaging acceptance nationwide”.³¹⁹

The LGA SA advocates that Councils will require more information “to assess the viability” of the ‘bag in bin’ approach before they can consider providing the service to their communities.³²⁰

The LGA SA also stated that there have been no ‘bag in bin’ trials undertaken in regional or remote council areas, where “...low material yields and long transport distances to a recycling facility are challenging and cost prohibitive for councils.”³²¹

Ms Gayle Sloan, WMRR, advised that an important element in a kerbside system, is ensuring clean collection, or avoidance of contamination of the product stream. She suggests separation of the products “at the source” is important for collection systems.³²²

The WMRR cautions, kerbside collection of soft plastics under the *National Plastics Recycling Scheme* (NPRS) will be challenging and will not see the scale of material required for businesses to be viable.³²³

The WMRR also claims the Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) is not fully funding the NPRS and councils will be left to cover the costs and the risk.³²⁴

³¹⁶ CAWRA, *Written submission No. 30*, 12 September 2023: 4 – 5.

³¹⁷ AFGC, *Written submission No. 22*, September 2023: 7.

³¹⁸ AFGC, *Written submission No. 22*, September 2023: 7.

³¹⁹ AFGC, *Written submission No. 22*, 8 September 2023: 6.

³²⁰ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 12.

³²¹ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 12.

³²² Ms Gayle Sloan, *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 109.

³²³ WMRR, *Written submission No. 23*, 8 September 2023: 3.

³²⁴ WMRR, *Written submission No. 23*, 8 September 2023: 2 – 3.

Recommencing the Return-to-Store Scheme

The reintroduction of a return-to-store scheme for soft plastic packaging is identified in numerous submissions as a desirable outcome at a community level, where contrary to the kerbside collection system, the scheme is available to everyone.³²⁵ Sustainable Infrastructure Systems Pty Ltd. (SIS), commented that government procurement needs to prioritise recycled products if any return-to-store scheme is to recommence:

If we want supermarkets to reinstate collection services, we need changes in procurement processes that include possible subsidies for products containing recycled / reused materials along with the prioritising of these products over virgin products, given the certification, quality, design life and other stakeholder assessed requirements and expectations are met.³²⁶

CAWRA argued, the REDcycle collapse highlights the importance of “establishing a diversified recycling sector” which, will support the collection services. CAWRA consider that any recycling service that relies too heavily on a single processing partner “will be vulnerable”. As such, collection of enough feedstock to support a number of processors will be essential to closing the loop.³²⁷

Processing and Establishing End Markets

Dr Philip Roetman, Coordinator, Environmental Sustainability, provided that the City of Holdfast Bay has offered soft plastics collection for the community since 2013, and once sorted, are used as an alternative fuel source for local industry.³²⁸

Ms Shani Wood, City of Holdfast Bay, also argues, ensuring there are alternative industries to sit alongside recycling at the higher level of the Waste Management Hierarchy (WMH), is also important, as plastics to energy is not the first or most desirable option:

[...] council believe that waste energy can play a significant role in soft plastics recovery whilst we wait for technology and industry to introduce new soft plastic recycling models [...] Whilst we acknowledge that energy recovery is not as beneficial as recycling, council are in strong agreement that it is imperative for the continued success of fortnightly landfill collections that a solution and collection point is currently offered.³²⁹

Dr Roetman commented that funding from the South Australian Government will be important to assist these industries to expand in response to increased demand. Ms Brianna McGee advised:

There would need to be more facilities locally and interstate. There would just need to be more facilities. This material needs to have pull-through from the market. It's that lack of buying back this material.³³⁰

Mr Laurie Kozlovic, Woolworths Group, advised that the Soft Plastics Taskforce had engaged in collaborative partnerships with a number of parties, and that Woolworths was funding trials in biotechnology to aid development of a circular economy:

Perhaps the biggest challenge for Australia's move to a circular economy is recycling infrastructure. It's been the core theme of our work, including in the task force, to help Australia develop a more mature and sophisticated recycling industry. For example, we cofounded and partnered with Samsara, an Australian startup developing a groundbreaking enzyme-based technology to break down plastics into single monomers in a truly circular solution.³³¹

³²⁵ Dr Philip Roetman, Coordinator, City of Holdfast Bay, *Hansard*, 12 October 2024: 35.

³²⁶ Sustainable Infrastructure Systems Pty Ltd. (SIS), *Written submission No. 40*, 20 March 2024: 5.

³²⁷ CAWRA, *Written submission No. 30*, 12 September 2023: 2.

³²⁸ Dr Philip Roetman, *Hansard*, 12 October 2024: 35.

³²⁹ Ms Shani Wood, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 32.

³³⁰ Ms Brianna McGee, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 29.

³³¹ Mr Laurie Kozlovic, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 61.

Mr Kozlovic advised there is also a need for more investment in the advanced mechanical and chemical recycling infrastructure, if South Australia is to shift to a fully circular economy.³³²

Mr Andrew Lamb, LGA SA, provided, the LGA supports the position of GISA that a circular economy “reduces reliance on natural and raw materials, keeps products in use longer and designs out waste and pollution.”³³³ Mr Lamb provided further:

[...] The LGA argues that we need to learn from the collapse of the REDcycle recycling scheme: another soft plastics recycling scheme is unlikely to succeed unless changes are made to the nature of the material being utilised in product design and unless there's infrastructure capacity to process material and the nature of the markets are such that plastic materials are addressed.³³⁴

SIS claimed in order to move products to recycled content, feedstock streams must be guaranteed. This means there will need to be more feedstock moving through the system beyond the supermarket feedstock streams.

SIS commented that, “the ongoing sourcing of soft plastic feedstock for product manufacture will be critical.”³³⁵

SIS also mentions that a “multi-faceted approach to sourcing plastic feedstock” is needed and offer eight methods for increasing the soft plastics feedstock across the supply chain:

- Local Collection Networks
- Public Collection Initiatives
- Material Recovery Facilities
- Industrial Partnerships
- Material Procurement Agreements
- Plastic Collection Events
- Educational Outreach
- Research and Innovation³³⁶

Limitations in the types of recycling methods were also identified as problematic in establishing end markets. For example, according to the CSIRO, plastics produced through the mechanical recycling process tend to not meet requirements for ‘food contact’ compliant applications.

Colours, odours and reduced physical properties result in a downgraded product, referred to as ‘downcycling’.³³⁷

An example is seen in the recycling of plastic into park benches, other street furniture, or product pallets. While mechanical recycling has its place in the circular economy for soft plastics, more advanced techniques are required to be able to turn soft plastic food packaging back into food grade packaging.³³⁸

Recycling Plastics Australia Pty Ltd (RPA), received a \$20 million grant under the Recycling Modernisation Fund Plastics Technology stream, which will provide advanced recycling technology to recycle soft plastic packaging back into new packaging.

³³² Mr Laurie Kozlovic, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 61.

³³³ Mr Andrew Lamb, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 20.

³³⁴ Mr Andrew Lamb, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 20.

³³⁵ Sustainable Infrastructure Systems Pty Ltd. (SIS), *Written submission No. 40*, 20 March 2024: 5.

³³⁶ SIS, *Written submission No. 40*, 20 March 2024: 6.

³³⁷ King, S, Hutchinson, SA., and Boxall, NJ, CSIRO, *Advanced recycling technologies to address Australia's plastic waste*, Australia, August 2021: 18.

³³⁸ King, S, Hutchinson, SA., and Boxall, NJ, CSIRO, *Advanced recycling technologies to address Australia's plastic waste*, Australia, August 2021: 18.

It is expected that around 14 000 tonnes of soft plastics will be diverted from landfill every year and contribute towards a reliable source of feedstock to encourage investment in end markets.³³⁹

WMRR provided that the 2017 *Benefits of a Circular Economy in South Australia Report*, highlighted, creating a circular economy would create 25 700 jobs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 27 per cent.

However, WMRR also stated despite work already completed, the implementation of a circular economy for SA, “[...] appears to have been overtaken by focus on single use plastics (SUP) bans and increased household organics collections.”³⁴⁰

The WMRR argue the focus now needs to be on the broader system required to meet national packaging targets. The WMRR stated:

It is WMRR’s strong view that SA needs to take the opportunity to refocus on creating a circular economy, that includes greater emphasis on design, producer responsibility and continuing the great work done earlier in SA on empowering the community to make consumption decisions higher up the hierarchy that drive avoidance and increased re-use and recovery. And whilst we support SA tackling individual material streams including organics and plastics [...] greater emphasis must be placed on evidence led interventions across the entire supply chain [...]³⁴¹

The EPA SA provided in their written submission that product standards which, support or enable the use of recovered materials will be an important element in continuing to develop local markets.

The waste and resource recovery sector continues to highlight the importance of promoting local “pull-through” for recyclables. Sustainable procurement policy is recognised by Green Industries SA (GISA) and the EPA as an important medium and longer-term measure to help boost local market demand.³⁴²

Compostable Soft Plastics

Some submissions argue compostables confuse the messaging to consumers, are not necessarily safe and may still harm the environment.

Other submissions highlight the usefulness of compostable plastics in the liminal space between phasing out single use soft plastics products and phasing in reusables made from higher quality plastics, or other materials.

Some submissions consider the introduction and enhancement of compostable packaging is a viable longer-term alternative to soft plastics.³⁴³

Ms Tiana Nairn, WMRR, commented that moving from one form of packaging to another may not be a solution in the longer-term:

WMRR would like to see re-usable materials promoted to avoid the waste in the first place, to keep it at a higher order structure. When we need to look at what is one form of packaging currently, moving to another, are you fixing one problem and creating another for the future? The character and content of those packages is really important [...]³⁴⁴

³³⁹ Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water (Cmth); Dr Susan Close MP, Acting Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water (SA), Joint Media Release, *New Soft Plastic Recycling Technology for South Australia*, 16 July 2024: 1.

³⁴⁰ WMRR, *Written submission No. 23*, 8 September 2023: 1.

³⁴¹ WMRR, *Written submission No. 23*, 8 September 2023: 1.

³⁴² EPA SA, *Written submission No. 14*, 7 September 2023: 4.

³⁴³ Mr Scott Morton, *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 122.

³⁴⁴ Ms Tiana Nairn, *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 114.

Mr Scott Morton, Director, BioBag World Australia, argues there is a place for compostable packaging in the supply-chain. Mr Morton commented:

There will not be one solution. Where the compostables fit is: is there going to be food contact and then are we going to contaminant that plastic, because that way it is harder to recycle? It really fits in that space, and is there a potential for environmental damage, which is where the agricultural side comes in. There are a number of things now that we could look at, whether it is bread bags or produce bags. They can all be compostable, and ideally for me to be a true circular system they should fit into a kitchen caddy and should capture organics, because then not only is it compostable, so it will stop plastics, but it will also have a second use, so we will be using fewer virgin resources, which is the aim.³⁴⁵

The LGA SA advised councils are exploring opportunities to increase food waste diversion with some councils identifying an opportunity to divert organic material through increased weekly FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) collections.³⁴⁶ This provides more opportunities for residents to recycle their FOGO waste and supports compostable products such as bin liners and barrier bags.

Expanded Container Deposit Scheme

Evidence suggests there is interest within the waste and recycling industry for a container deposit scheme (CDS), similar to the existing scheme for aluminum and other drink containers.³⁴⁷

Mr Sergi, Manager, Circular Economy and Waste, EPA SA commented one of the important characteristics of the South Australian CDS for glass and aluminium beverage containers, is that consumers are at the source of segregation of material streams³⁴⁸ Mr Sergi told the Committee:

If I compare the soft plastics scenario to the container deposit scheme, the design of the packaging is fundamental to any end market and fundamental to any system—it goes all the way up to the beginning. One of the reasons the container deposit scheme is so successful here in South Australia and you have such significant investment by industry is because the quality of the material from the consumer and the source segregation by the consumer is kept along the way; it's not mixed.

Whether it's plastic, glass, metal or liquid paperboard, its integrity is retained and it maximises opportunity for that end market. It's worth keeping in mind that the design of the soft plastics going forward needs to change because the mixed materials that we have now really create low-grade, low-value recyclables.³⁴⁹

The EPA SA has been conducting a review of the CDS and the LGA SA and councils have been partners in the review process.

The review has been progressed in two different stages, with the first stage examining a governance model and the second reviewing scope for inclusion of wine, spirit and cordial bottles.³⁵⁰

The review takes into consideration scope for the national harmonisation of the scheme across the Commonwealth, States and Territories. Research is also being conducted on behavioural interactions with these materials.³⁵¹

³⁴⁵ Mr Scott Morton, *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 119.

³⁴⁶ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 17.

³⁴⁷ Ms Gayle Sloan, *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 109.

³⁴⁸ Mr Steven Sergi, Manager, Circular Economy and Waste, EPA SA, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 7.

³⁴⁹ Mr Steven Sergi, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 7.

³⁵⁰ Ms Brianna McGee, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 26.

³⁵¹ Ms Brianna McGee, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 26.

Environment Protection Authority Waste Resources Policy Review

Mr Steven Sergi, EPA SA, informed the Committee during his oral evidence, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA SA) has also been undertaking a review of the *Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010* (the EPP) to modernise the EPP to improve the EPA's approach to regulation of recovered resources and waste, and to enable development of a circular economy in South Australia.³⁵²

Mr Sergi advised the EPA SA review is looking at how to the transition to a more circular economy, and ways of encouraging waste avoidance, which is at the top of the waste management hierarchy.³⁵³

By implementing reduction targets on soft plastic production and increasing recycling targets, post-consumer soft plastics can become more valuable, as less of it is produced. In turn, this can influence economic, societal, environmental and human health impacts of 'non-essential' plastics.³⁵⁴

Mr Sergi commented that waste which is generated as a result of consumption and the resources that come from that process will be reviewed for firstly, minimisation or avoidance followed by the recovery of the resources.³⁵⁵

³⁵² Mr Steven Sergi, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 2.

³⁵³ Mr Steven Sergi, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 11.

³⁵⁴ McGlade, J, Samy Fahim, I, Green, DS, Landrigan, P, Andrady, AL, Costa, MF, Geyer, R, Gomes, RL, Shau Hwai, AT, Jambeck, J, Li, D, Rochman, C, Ryan, PG, Thiel, M, Thompson, R, Townsend, KA, Turra, A and Maes, T, United Nations Environment Programme, *From pollution to solution: A global assessment of marine litter and plastic pollution*, Nairobi, 2021:

³⁵⁵ Mr Steven Sergi, *Hansard*, 21 September 2023: 2.

(E) Examining Strategies More Broadly to Reduce Soft Plastic Waste Generation and Better Management of Commercial and Residential Waste

In April 2024, Blue Environment and Industry Edge provided in their report for the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO), that total packaging product placed on market (POM) in Australia in 2021–22 was estimated to be 6.98 million tonnes.³⁵⁶ Of this amount, 18.3 per cent or 1.277 million tonnes, was indicated to be plastic packaging.³⁵⁷

Further breakdown of the figures shows 23.9 per cent, or 306 000 tonnes were plastic bags or pouches and 14.6 per cent, or 187 000 tonnes, was plastic wrap.³⁵⁸ Disturbingly, during the same period, recovery of post-consumer plastic packaging accounted for as little as an estimated 258 000 tonnes, or about 6.6 per cent of all post-consumer packaging recovery.³⁵⁹

According to the independent *National Waste Report 2022* commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), in 2020–21, Australia's resource recovery rate across all products (including waste reuse, recycling and energy recovery), was 63 per cent.³⁶⁰ South Australia ranked highest across the States and Territories, with a resource recovery rate of 80 per cent.³⁶¹

Many submissions identify an urgent priority is Commonwealth legislation, in order to regulate the obligations of manufacturers and producers of soft plastics products in Australia. Some submissions identify there is an urgent priority for the Commonwealth to implement legislation to regulate plastics entering Australia.

This includes regulatory compliance mechanisms, an extended producer responsibility scheme, the design elements of the soft plastic products, and to phase out hard to recycle soft plastics. Some submissions identify that continued bans on single use plastics is crucial.

Evidence to the Inquiry identified there is a need for the South Australian Government to continue to work with the Commonwealth, as South Australia makes the shift to a circular economy and closes the loop on soft plastics.

The evidence demonstrates it is possible to end the use of virgin polymers in manufacturing soft plastics and rely wholly on recycled ones. However, making this shift may not be achievable on a voluntary basis as it will require a paradigm shift for producers of soft plastics and necessitate continued support from all levels of government. The evidence also suggests support from the State Government should include increased funding, advocacy, education programs, infrastructure development and end market stimulus, for the industries that sit around the waste, resource recovery and recycling industries.

This will allow for innovative recycled plastics product solutions to be identified and diverse end markets to evolve. Initiatives that could be beneficial include community collection hub and advanced sorting machinery.

³⁵⁶ Blue Environment and IndustryEdge for Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO), *Australian Packaging Consumption & Recovery Data 2021–22*, version 1, April 2024: 1. Accessed: https://apco.org.au/resources?news_search_form%5Bterm%5D=Consumption&news_search_form%5Btime_period%5D=all

³⁵⁷ Blue Environment and IndustryEdge for APCO, *Australian Packaging Consumption & Recovery Data 2021–22*, version 1, April 2024: 2; 25.

³⁵⁸ Blue Environment and IndustryEdge for APCO, *Australian Packaging Consumption & Recovery Data 2021–22*, version 1, April 2024: 86.

³⁵⁹ Blue Environment and IndustryEdge for APCO, *Australian Packaging Consumption & Recovery Data 2021–22*, version 1, April 2024: 86; 94.

³⁶⁰ Blue Environment for DCCEEW, *National Waste Report 2022*, 16 December 2022: xiii. Accessed: [National Waste Report 2022 - DCCEEW](#)

³⁶¹ Blue Environment for DCCEEW, *National Waste Report 2022*, 16 December 2022: xv.

Most of the submissions agree there are a number of useful examples of how other jurisdictions have begun to manage their soft plastics.

This report looks at several examples from interstate such as New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland and in other countries, such as countries in the European Union (Spain, Netherlands and Belgium) and in the United Kingdom.

Soft Plastics Waste in Other Australian Jurisdictions

There are several Commonwealth led committees and councils, which have advisory and regulatory functions in the administering of National Environment Protection legislation. These include the National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) which consists of the Australian Government in conjunction with the States and Territories, and is formed under the *National Environment Protection Council Act 1994*.³⁶²

The NEPC is made up of environment agency heads across all Australian Governments and has functions for making National Environment Protection Measures (NEPMs), of which one is to provide measures for the reduction of used plastic packaging waste; and assessing and reporting on the implementation and effectiveness of the NEPMs.

The Australian Governments' Environment Ministers Council and the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) also have functions in the development of policy, regulation and cross-jurisdictional initiatives to protect the environment.

Commonwealth Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020

As a result of findings from the 2021 *Review of the co-regulatory arrangement under the National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure 2011*, the Australian Government is developing new mandatory requirements for packaging under the *Commonwealth Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020* (RAWR Act)(Cmth) that will replace the current co-regulatory arrangement by the end of 2025.³⁶³

The RAWR Act (Cmth) provides the legal framework to deliver a safe, circular economy for packaging in Australia. The objectives of the RAWR Act include:

- to reduce the impact of products, waste from products and waste material on human and environmental health;
- to reduce the amount of waste from products;
- to support economic opportunities from product and waste management;
- to develop a circular economy that maximises the continued use of products and waste material over their lifecycle and accounts for their environmental impacts;
- to help Australia meet its international obligations to reduce impacts on human and environmental health.³⁶⁴

³⁶² Australian Government, NEPC, *National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure*. Accessed: <https://www.nepc.gov.au/nepms/used-packaging>

³⁶³ Matthews Pegg Consulting Pty Ltd., *Review of the co-regulatory arrangement under the National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure 2011 – Final Report*, prepared for the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Canberra, September 2021. Accessed: [Reforming packaging regulation - DCCEEW](#)

³⁶⁴ *Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020*. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2020A00119/latest/text>

In June 2023, the Australian Governments' Environment Ministers' Meeting (EMM) agreed to introduce mandatory packaging design obligations based on international best practice and make industry responsible for the packaging they place on the market under the new regulatory scheme.³⁶⁵

Following, in November 2023, Environment Ministers also agreed on the following for the new regulatory scheme to be established under the RAWR Act:

- new national packaging regulation will be implemented under Commonwealth law;
- the Commonwealth Government will be the regulator and will mandate how packaging is designed, will set minimum recycled content requirements and prohibit harmful chemicals being used in packaging;
- design requirements for packaging will be finalised, in consultation with industry, by the end of 2024;
- there will be a national traceability framework put in place along with a product stewardship scheme;
- The new regulatory scheme will be in place by the end of 2025.³⁶⁶

In June 2024, Environment Ministers outlined the following:

- progress on the *National Circular Economy Framework*, due to be finalised by December 2024;
- development of stronger end markets for recycled products (a priority list of materials or products to be identified for consideration at the next EMM);
- progress on the new national packaging regulatory scheme. Advice for industry on anticipated design requirements, including recyclability, recycled content requirements and designing out chemicals from packaging placed on the market will be released at the end of 2024.³⁶⁷

The EMM also noted that since the collapse of the REDcycle scheme, industry had been slow to progress re-establishment of in-store collection of soft plastics. The Environment Ministers confirmed their commitment to a circular economy for plastics.³⁶⁸

The Ministers were advised by the States and Territories Environment Agencies, a report on staged improvement in the harmonisation of kerbside collection by way of a 'roadmap' would be completed by the end of 2024.

The roadmap is to address:

- a pathway to soft plastics collection;
- criteria to soft plastics collection;
- consideration of national design standards currently under development,
- different collection approaches across metropolitan, regional and remote locations; and
- national processing capacity.³⁶⁹

The Commonwealth will become the regulator once the new regulations come into force.

³⁶⁵ DCCEEW, *Environment Ministers' Meeting, 9 June 2023, Agreed Communiqué*, 2023: 2 – 3. Accessed: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/stay-informed/communiques#environment-ministers-meeting>

³⁶⁶ DCCEEW, *Reforming Packaging Regulation*, 15 December 2023. Accessed: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/packaging/reforming-packaging-regulation#:~:text=In%20October%202022%2C%20Australia%27s%20Environment,line%20with%20circular%20economy%20principles>.

³⁶⁷ DCCEEW, *Environment Ministers' Meeting, 21 June 2024, Agreed Communiqué*, 2024: 2. Accessed: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/stay-informed/communiques#environment-ministers-meeting>

³⁶⁸ DCCEEW, *Environment Ministers' Meeting, 21 June 2024, Agreed Communiqué*, 2024: 2.

³⁶⁹ DCCEEW, *Environment Ministers' Meeting, 21 June 2024, Agreed Communiqué*, 2024: 2.

The RAWR Act and mandatory requirements will provide regulatory certainty and national consistency for industry. States and Territories continue to meet their obligations under the existing regime and current co-regulatory requirements.³⁷⁰

The APCO will continue to administer the industry packaging scheme, the Australian Packaging Covenant, and undertake activities to support industry and drive action while the new regulations are developed.

All States and Territories agreed, the new mandatory rules will be enforced by the end of 2025.³⁷¹ An outline of some of the States and Territories' strategies follows.

New South Wales

NSW 20-Year Waste Strategy

In June 2021, the NSW Government released its plan for the first stage in the transition to a circular economy over the next 20 years. The *Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041: Stage 1 2021–2027 (the Strategy)*³⁷² alongside the accompanying *NSW Plastics Action Plan (Plastics Action Plan)* and *NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy: A guide to future infrastructure needs*. Stage 1 sets a six-year path to reduce waste, increase recycling, and realise the environmental and economic benefits of a circular economy.

The Strategy is supported by the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014 (NSW)³⁷³ and the *Plastic Reduction and Circular Economy Act 2021* (NSW).³⁷⁴ The EPA is working with the Department of Planning, Industry, and Environment (DPIE) to implement the *Strategy* and the *Plastics Action Plan*. The goal is to 'close the loop' to a low-carbon circular economy – from designing-out waste at the stage of product manufacture to creating sustainable markets for low-carbon recycled materials, while not compromising on the measures in place to protect the environment and human health.³⁷⁵

The New South Wales legislation for the management of plastic packaging provides for design standards and product stewardship (sections 8 and 13 of the *Plastic Reduction and Circular Economy Act 2021* (NSW)). Part 8 Recycling of Consumer Packaging, under the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014 (NSW), meets requirements of the APCO Agreement, 1 July 2010 and in recent amendments provides for product responsibilities to be prescribed.³⁷⁶ Under the DPIE's *NSW Plastics Action Plan 2021*, the NSW Government has designed a series of actions around managing the future of plastic waste.

³⁷⁰ DCCEEW, *Reforming Packaging Regulation*, 15 December 2023.

³⁷¹ DCCEEW, *Reforming Packaging Regulation*, 15 December 2023.

³⁷² NSW EPA, *Strategic direction for waste in NSW*. Accessed: <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/recycling-and-reuse/strategic-direction-for-waste-in-nsw>

³⁷³ *Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014* (NSW). Accessed: <https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-2014-0666#pt.8>

³⁷⁴ *Plastic Reduction and Circular Economy Act 2021* (NSW). Accessed: <https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2021-031>

³⁷⁵ NSW EPA, *Waste Delivery Plan*, Parramatta, NSW, 2021: 5. Accessed: <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/publications/recyclereuse/21p3399-waste-delivery-plan>

³⁷⁶ *Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014* [NSW]. Accessed: <https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-2014-0666#pt.8>

This involves implementing four outcomes:

- reduced plastic waste generation;
- make the most of plastic resources;
- reduced plastic leakage; and
- improved understanding of the future of plastics.³⁷⁷

Under the NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy: Stage 1 2021–2027, NSW has adopted the following targets:

- phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2025
- reduce the total waste generated in Australia by 10% per person by 2030
- achieve an average 80% recovery rate of resources from all waste streams by 2030
- significantly increase the use of recycled content by government and industry
- reduce plastic litter items by 30% by 2025
- reduce the overall litter by 60% by 2030
- triple the plastics recycling rate by 2030.³⁷⁸

Queensland

Queensland's Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy

Queensland has a *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy* (the Strategy), supported by the *Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan*. The Strategy has three strategic priorities to change the way waste is viewed and provide a pathway for Queensland to shift to a circular economy. Accordingly, this will result in the following outcomes identified in the Strategy:

- Improved data and information sharing on material flows across Queensland.
- Clear standards and guidelines for reuse, recycling and recovery.
- A clear position and policy on the role of fuels and energy from waste in Queensland.³⁷⁹

The Strategy, which commenced in July 2019, requires that a waste disposal levy is charged on all waste to landfill and provides a high-level framework for Queensland to become zero-waste, adopting the Waste and Resource Management Hierarchy.³⁸⁰

The levy rates in the metro areas start at \$85 per tonne for general waste and increase by \$10 per tonne, each year, until 1 July 2027, which will be \$145 per tonne. Regional area rates are calculated at an annual indexed rate.³⁸¹

The Strategy focuses on transitioning Queensland to the principles of a circular economy to help retain the value of material in the economy for as long as possible and is underpinned by the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*.³⁸²

³⁷⁷ New South Wales Government, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, *NSW Plastics Action Plan 2021*, June 2021: 4. Accessed: [NSW Plastics Action Plan](#)

³⁷⁸ New South Wales Government, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, *NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy: Stage 1 2021–2027*. Accessed: <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/plastics/plastics-action-plan>

³⁷⁹ Queensland Government, *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy*, 2019: 11; 17. Accessed: <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/circular-economy-waste-reduction/strategy-plans/strategy>

³⁸⁰ Queensland Government, *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy*, 2019: 7.

³⁸¹ Queensland Government, *Levy Rates*. Accessed: [Levy rates | Environment, land and water | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

³⁸² Queensland *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*. Accessed: <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2011-031>

Section 9 of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* provides the principles for building a circular economy in Queensland:

The **waste and resource management hierarchy** is the following precepts, listed in the preferred order in which waste and resource management options should be considered—

- (a) AVOID unnecessary resource consumption;
- (b) REDUCE waste generation and disposal;
- (c) RE-USE waste resources without further manufacturing;
- (d) RECYCLE waste resources to make the same or different products;
- (e) RECOVER waste resources, including the recovery of energy;
- (f) TREAT waste before disposal, including reducing the hazardous nature of waste;
- (g) DISPOSE of waste only if there is no viable alternative.³⁸³

By supporting governments and business to adopt sustainable waste and resource management practices, the Strategy provides the framework to help deliver coordinated, long-term growth for the recycling and resource recovery sector and at the same time, reducing the amount of waste produced.³⁸⁴

Queensland aims to reduce its Municipal Solid Waste by 95 per cent by 2050, starting with 55 per cent in 2025; 70 per cent by 2030; and 90 per cent by 2040.³⁸⁵ The Act contains both a ‘polluter pays’ principle as well as mechanisms for ‘product stewardship’, which include both voluntary and mandatory levers.³⁸⁶

To support transition to a circular economy the Queensland Government has worked with business, the waste management and resource recovery sector and local government to implement a *Resource Recovery Industries 10 Year Roadmap and Action Plan*. This will enable development of end markets for recycled materials in Queensland. The Queensland Government has committed to providing funding from the waste levy, to support business and industry to implement *Market Development Plans*.³⁸⁷

The Queensland Government is investing in waste management and recycling infrastructure and end market support by providing \$100 million in funding. It has been working to develop a procurement contract framework for waste management and resource recovery services.³⁸⁸ Queensland also introduced a ‘Container Refund Scheme in 2018’³⁸⁹ and implemented a ban on single-use plastic bags, with a staged ban on other single use items.³⁹⁰

³⁸³ Section 9, *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*. Accessed: [Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 - Queensland Legislation - Queensland Government](#)

³⁸⁴ Section 10, *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*. Accessed: [Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 - Queensland Legislation - Queensland Government](#)

³⁸⁵ Queensland Government, *Queensland Waste Strategy – Key Performance Indicators*, September 2018: 1. Accessed at: [Queensland Waste Strategy – Key Performance Indicators \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

³⁸⁶ Section 13, *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*. Accessed: [Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 - Queensland Legislation - Queensland Government](#)

³⁸⁷ Queensland Government, *Tackling Plastic Waste - Queensland's Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan*, 2019: 11. Accessed: [Tackling plastic waste | Environment, land and water | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

³⁸⁸ Queensland Government, *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy*, 2019: 2; 6. Accessed: <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/circular-economy-waste-reduction/strategy-plans/strategy>

³⁸⁹ Queensland Government, *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy*, 2019: 2; 6. Accessed: <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/circular-economy-waste-reduction/strategy-plans/strategy>

³⁹⁰ National Retail Association & the Queensland Government, *Single-Use Plastic Items Ban*. Accessed: <https://qldplasticsban.com.au/>

Queensland's Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan

Queensland's Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan (the *Plastics Plan*) is designed to “take a holistic approach to managing plastics”, through design, manufacture and disposal of plastic packaging. The *Plastics Plan* aims to create economic opportunities and employment, through plastic reprocessing, remanufacturing, new products and markets for alternatives to plastic packaging.³⁹¹

Queensland has a community-based program which looks to create ‘plastic-free’ areas within communities, such as the one initiated in Noosa in 2018. The ‘Plastic-free Noosa’ program is supported by 141 businesses and the program has delivered “significant economic benefits to the local community.”³⁹²

Another innovation from Queensland is the ‘Circular Economy Lab’ which includes 25 industry partners collaborating to create commercially viable alternatives to plastic packaging, including eliminating soft plastics film.³⁹³

Victoria

The Victorian Government’s *Circular Economy Risk, Consequence and Contingency Plan* (CERCC Plan) supports Victoria’s transition to a stronger and more resilient circular economy. The *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 (the CE Act)* (VIC) provides for the responsibilities and obligations for the government, service providers and others in the waste, recycling and resource recovery sectors.³⁹⁴

Victoria’s circular economy policy *Recycling Victoria: a new economy* outlines the responsibility of all levels of government, along with industry, businesses, communities and individuals in Victoria to support the growth of a circular economy.

The *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) (Risk, Consequence and Contingency Plans and Other Matters) Regulations 2023*, Schedule 1, provides for the following essential waste and recycling services:

- recycling and resource recovery;
- public waste;
- municipal resource recovery centres;
- transfer station and landfill;
- co-mingled recycling; and
- container deposit scheme.³⁹⁵

The Victorian Government has invested \$515 million for reforms to establish a circular economy, including \$380 million for the state’s transition to a circular economy. It has also invested \$100 million to improve recycling infrastructure in Victoria, with \$34.9 million regional resource recovery networks.

³⁹¹ Queensland Government, *Tackling Plastic Waste - Queensland’s Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan*, 2019: 4.

³⁹² Queensland Government, *Tackling Plastic Waste - Queensland’s Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan*, 2019: 11

³⁹³ Queensland Government, *Tackling Plastic Waste - Queensland’s Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan*, 2019: 12.

³⁹⁴ Government of Victoria, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, *Recycling Victoria, Circular Economy Risk, Consequence and Contingency Plan*, April 2024: 8. Accessed: [Circular Economy Risk, Consequence and Contingency Plan | vic.gov.au \(www.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.vic.gov.au/circular-economy-risk-consequence-and-contingency-plan)

³⁹⁵ Recycling Victoria, *Circular Economy Risk, Consequence and Contingency Plan*, April 2024: 35.

A further \$129 million has been invested to support councils implement a 4-stream waste and recycling service and container deposit scheme. The investments are supported by education and behaviour change programs.³⁹⁶

Soft Plastics Waste in Overseas Jurisdictions

[...] the European Union is [...] making a wide range of changes that are focused on environmental consequences. For example, in five years'—if you want to sell wine into the European market then the wine bottle needs to have a certain percentage of recycled content. The South Australian industry really needs to be aware that those markets are changing, and if we want to sell South Australian produce into those markets, we are going to need to have strong environmental credentials. Thinking about those things now and developing the technology and developing the systems to ensure South Australian business can do business with Europe is something that further supports our recommendations.³⁹⁷

The European Union

In 2020, the European Commission (the Commission) undertook a review of the use and recyclability of packaging, including plastic packaging. The Commission found there was widespread, increased use of packaging across the Member States and which, was hard to recycle or re-use.

This combination of issues created for the European Union (EU), the same difficulties experienced in Australia, namely the increasing burden of plastic waste.

The Commission found increased packaging was accounting for 36 per cent of landfill, and inhibited establishment of a “low-carbon, circular economy” across the EU.³⁹⁸

According to the Environment Council of the EU, 26 million tonnes of plastic waste is generated in Europe every year.³⁹⁹ Packaging waste generally has increased by nearly 25 per cent across the EU in the last 10 years and could increase a further 19 per cent by 2030 if nothing is done to address it. For plastic packaging waste alone, the increase is expected to be 46 per cent by 2030.⁴⁰⁰

The average European generates nearly 180 kilos of packaging waste per year.⁴⁰¹ It is estimated that 95 per cent of the value of plastic packaging material is “lost to the economy after a short first-use cycle.”

Member States of the EU have previously shipped their plastic packaging waste overseas, or have incinerated it, causing more than 850 million tonnes of greenhouse gases in 2019. The European Commission estimates by 2050, emissions could rise to 2.8 billion tonnes.⁴⁰²

³⁹⁶ Recycling Victoria, *Circular Economy Risk, Consequence and Contingency Plan*, April 2024: 30.

³⁹⁷ Mr Andrew Lamb, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 28.

³⁹⁸ European Union, EUR-Lex, European Commission, *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC*, Brussels, 30 November 2022: 1. Accessed: [EUR-Lex - 52022PC0677 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

³⁹⁹ European Commission, *Plastics*, 2024. Accessed: [Plastics - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁴⁰⁰ European Commission, *European Green Deal: Putting an end to wasteful packaging, boosting reuse and recycling*, Press Release, Brussels, 30 November 2022: 1.

⁴⁰¹ European Parliament, *Circular economy: definition, importance and benefits*, 24 May 2023. Accessed: [Circular economy: definition, importance and benefits | Topics | European Parliament \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁴⁰² European Parliament, *Plastic waste and recycling in the EU: facts and figures*, 19 December 2018: 3. Accessed: [Plastic waste and recycling in the EU: facts and figures | Topics | European Parliament \(europa.eu\)](#)

To address the need for more sustainable practices in Europe, in 2021, the EU introduced a levy on non-reusable plastic packaging, with EU Member States deciding how their own countries would administer the tax. Manufacturers, importers (into the EU) or acquirers (of intra-EU acquisition of plastic packaging) are required to pay the Plastic Tax. The Plastic Tax is not applied to goods, only to the packaging that goods are imported, sold, or otherwise acquired in.

In March 2024, the EU Council and European Parliament agreed the EU would implement further regulation on packaging and packaging waste in the EU, to be achieved by 2030.⁴⁰³

The *Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive*⁴⁰⁴, which commenced in 1994, will be revised and updated (the Packaging Directive), and the associated Regulations are to provide new rules, harmonise the packaging market across the EU and benefit Europe's circular economy.⁴⁰⁵ The European Commission Explanatory memoranda to the Packaging Directive proposal provides:

The proposed regulation updates the EU legislative framework for packaging and packaging waste. As an integral part of the European Green Deal and the new EU circular economy action plan, it will contribute to the EU's growth strategy for a modern, resource-efficient, clean and competitive economy with no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050 and with economic growth decoupled from resource use.⁴⁰⁶

The new Packaging Directive provides for 'packaging circularity' and encourages 'green Public procurement' practices.⁴⁰⁷ The Proposal for the Packaging Directive amendments provides:

To ensure packaging circularity, packaging should be designed and manufactured in such a way as to allow for the increased substitution of virgin materials with recycled materials. The increased use of recycled materials supports the development of the circular economy with well-functioning markets for recycled materials, reduces costs, dependencies and negative environmental impacts related to the use of primary raw materials, and allows for a more resource-efficient use of materials.⁴⁰⁸

The Packaging Directive contains 51 Articles that Member States are required to implement. These include minimum recycled content in all plastic packaging by 2040.⁴⁰⁹

⁴⁰³ Frédérique Ries, Council of the European Union Press, *Packaging: Council and Parliament strike a deal to make packaging more sustainable and reduce packaging waste in the EU*, 4 March 2024: 1. Accessed: [Packaging: Council and Parliament strike a deal to make packaging more sustainable and reduce packaging waste in the EU - Consilium \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁴⁰⁴ See: European Union, EUR-Lex, *European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste*. EUR-Lex - 01994L0062-20180704 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

⁴⁰⁵ European Commission, *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC*, 30 November 2022: 2. Accessed: [EUR-Lex - 52022PC0677 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁴⁰⁶ European Commission, *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC*, 30 November 2022: 2.

⁴⁰⁷ European Commission, *Annexes to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy, {SWD(2018) 16 final}*, 30 November 2024: 1.

⁴⁰⁸ European Commission, *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC*, 30 November 2022:

⁴⁰⁹ Frédérique Ries, Council of the European Union Press, *Packaging: Council and Parliament strike a deal to make packaging more sustainable and reduce packaging waste in the EU*, 4 March 2024: 1.

There is also a goal to reduce ‘unnecessary’ plastic packaging by 15 per cent from 2018 rates of use, by 2040,⁴¹⁰ and ensure 55 per cent of plastic packaging waste is being recycled by 2030.⁴¹¹

In line with the Waste Management Hierarchy, the Packaging Directive aims to reduce generation of packaging waste by setting mandatory re-use targets, restricting certain types of single-use packaging and minimising use of plastics in packaging.⁴¹²

The Regulations provide for a ‘Deposit Return System’, to be put in place by 2029 for recycling of plastic and metal drink containers, much like the CDS in South Australia, and there will be new rules for restricting packaging formats that include:

- single-use plastic packaging for fruit and vegetables or other food and beverages
- condiments and sauces within the hotel, restaurant and catering sector
- small cosmetic and toiletry products used in the accommodation sector
- very lightweight plastic bags.⁴¹³

The European Standardisation Organisation developed harmonised standards on mandatory requirements for the manufacture of plastic packaging across the EU, under the Packaging Directive.⁴¹⁴ This will require packaging to be manufactured with consideration of its full life cycle, ensuring it is sustainable and meets requirements for a circular economy.⁴¹⁵

It is also expected that by the end of 2024, there will be implementation of a producer responsibility scheme for all packaging, in each of the EU countries. The Packaging Directive will also provide for labelling harmonisation, to improve information for consumers.⁴¹⁶

Article 11 of the Packaging Directive Regulations requires that packaging is marked with a label containing information on its material composition in order to facilitate consumer sorting and prescribes that:

The same labels shall be placed on waste receptacles for the consumer to easily identify the appropriate disposal route (*Article 12*). Harmonised label shall be designed also to inform, at the choice of the manufacturer, about the recycled content in plastic packaging.

Reusable packaging shall bear a QR code or other type of data carrier giving access to the relevant information facilitating its re-use. The Commission shall be empowered to, by implementing acts, establish harmonised labelling requirements and formats for packaging and waste receptacles as well as for identifying the material composition of packaging means of digital marking technologies.⁴¹⁷

⁴¹⁰ European Commission, *European Green Deal: Putting an end to wasteful packaging, boosting reuse and recycling*, Press Release, 30 November 2022: 1.

⁴¹¹ European Parliament, *Plastic waste and recycling in the EU: facts and figures*, 19 December 2018. Accessed: [Plastic waste and recycling in the EU: facts and figures | Topics | European Parliament \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁴¹² Frédérique Ries, Council of the European Union Press, *Packaging: Council and Parliament strike a deal to make packaging more sustainable and reduce packaging waste in the EU*, 4 March 2024: 1.

⁴¹³ Frédérique Ries, Council of the European Union Press, *Packaging: Council and Parliament strike a deal to make packaging more sustainable and reduce packaging waste in the EU*, 4 March 2024: 2.

⁴¹⁴ European Commission, *Packaging waste*, 2022. Accessed: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/waste-and-recycling/packaging-waste_en

⁴¹⁵ European Commission, *Packaging waste*, 2022.

⁴¹⁶ European Commission, *Packaging waste*, 2022.

⁴¹⁷ European Commission, *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC*, 30 November 2022: 14. Accessed: [EUR-Lex - 52022PC0677 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#) See Also: [REPORT on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1020 and Directive \(EU\) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC | A9-0319/2023 | European Parliament \(europa.eu\)](#)

Articles 14 and 21 to 28 provide for the obligations of the producers of plastic packaging, while Articles 23 and 24 provide:

Articles 23 and 24 require that the economic operator who places reusable packaging on the market shall ensure a system for re-use for that packaging is in place. The economic operators that make use of reusable packaging shall also set up or participate in a system for re-use of such packaging.

The requirements for the system for re-use and for the reconditioning of reusable packaging are laid down in Annex VI to the Regulation.⁴¹⁸

The European Commission provides:

The proposal will clear up confusion on which packaging belongs to which recycling bin. Every piece of packaging will carry a label showing what the packaging is made of and in which waste stream it should go. Waste collection containers will carry the same labels. The same symbols will be used everywhere in the EU.⁴¹⁹

The new EU rules on packaging cover all types of packaging and packaging waste placed on the European market, including packaging from industrial, commercial, household and other sectors.⁴²⁰ The packaging rules will regulate what plastic packaging can be placed on the EU market, as well as packaging waste prevention and management.

The rules will also provide regulations around how packaging placed on the EU market has to comply with conditions concerning its design, manufacture, and reusable or recoverable nature. The Packaging Directive initiates harmonised rules to ensure that by 2030, all plastics packaging placed on the EU market can be reused or recycled.⁴²¹ This will promote producer responsibility and supports the 2019 mandate, Single-Use Plastics Directive (SUPD, 2019/904).^{422, 423}

EU countries already provide the European Commission with annual data on packaging waste generation, recovery, incineration and recycling.⁴²⁴ However, the new Packaging Directive increases commitments to monitor and report, in particular, data on the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags⁴²⁵, collection rate of used packaging and specific types of packaging collected.⁴²⁶

⁴¹⁸ European Commission, *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC*, 30 November 2022: 14 – 15.

⁴¹⁹ European Commission, *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC*, 30 November 2022: 14.

⁴²⁰ European Commission, *Packaging waste*, 2022.

⁴²¹ European Commission, *Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy*, Brussels, 2018: 1.

⁴²² European Union, EUR-Lex, *Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment*, 2019. Accessed: [Directive - 2019/904 - EN - SUP Directive - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2019/904/oj)

⁴²³ European Commission, *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC*, 30 November 2022: 16.

⁴²⁴ European Commission, *Commission Decision 2005/270/EC of 22 March 2005 establishing the formats relating to the database system under Directive 94/62/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on packaging and packaging waste, as last amended by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/665 of 17 April 2019*, 2019: 26 - 46

⁴²⁵ European Commission, *Implementation of the Packaging Directive*, 2024. Accessed: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/waste-and-recycling/packaging-waste/implementation-packaging-directive_en

⁴²⁶ European Commission, *Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/896 of 19 June 2018 laying down the methodology for the calculation of the annual consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags and amending Decision 2005/270/EC*, 25 June 2018, 2018: 6 - 10.

One initiative is to address waste by implementation of a common device charger. A Type-C USB will become the common charger for most electronic devices in the EU by the end of 2024 and will promote reusability.⁴²⁷

Further, in March 2023, the European Commission presented a new proposal to promote repairing and reusing goods. The proposal 'Right to Repair', will require retailers and suppliers to repair products unless it is cheaper to replace them.

This will encourage consumers to avoid opting to purchase new products and reduce both the number of discarded items and the packaging associated with them.⁴²⁸

One initiative of the Packaging Directive is in Article 21, which provides for further reduction in use by e-commerce suppliers by limiting the amount of packaging in a product's delivery. Article 21 requires that producers that supply products to final distributors or end users in grouped, transport or e-commerce packaging must ensure that the ratio of empty space in the packaging in relation to the packaged product(s) is maximum 40 per cent.⁴²⁹

The below summaries look at how overseas jurisdictions within the EU have implemented the requirements of the Packaging Directive and what other initiatives have been taken to address the increasing burden of soft plastics waste streams. The United Kingdom, although having left the EU in 2022, is also included.

Belgium

Belgium is a Member State of the European Union and is therefore bound by the Waste Packaging Directives. Belgium has federal and regional jurisdictions for management of resources and the environment.⁴³⁰

Under Belgian law, the *Product Standards Act 1998*, provides the requirements for placing packaging on the market. The *Eco Tax Act 1993* provides for Single Use Plastics (SUP) including discouraging the use of non-reusable or non-recycled drink containers.

While these Acts operate at a federal level, Belgium's waste management system for packaging is administered at a regional level with three regions, Brussels Capital, Flanders and Wallonia, the regions delegated responsibilities under Cooperation Agreements for the prevention and management of packaging waste (Cooperation Agreement).⁴³¹ Belgium has an Interregional Packaging Commission (IRPC), responsible for monitoring the legal requirements of producer responsibility for packaging waste in Belgium.

Cooperation Agreements have been adopted to implement the EU *Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive* (PPWD, 94/62/EC) and the *Waste Framework Directive* (WFD, 2008/98/EC).

⁴²⁷ European Parliament, *Green Deal: key to a climate-neutral and sustainable EU*, 22 June 2022. Accessed: [Green Deal: key to a climate-neutral and sustainable EU | Topics | European Parliament \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁴²⁸ European Parliament, *How to promote sustainable consumption*, 23 November 2020. Accessed: [How to promote sustainable consumption | Topics | European Parliament \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁴²⁹ European Commission, *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC*, 30 November 2022: 14.

⁴³⁰ Lexology, *Environmental law in Belgium*, Belgium, 20 November 2019. Accessed: [Environmental law in Belgium - Lexology](#)

⁴³¹ European Environment Agency, *Early warning assessment related to the 2025 targets for municipal waste and packaging waste -Belgium*, June 2022: 4. Accessed: [Belgium | European Environment Agency's home page \(europa.eu\)](#)

There is work being undertaken for a Cooperation Agreement on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for some types of waste beyond the SUP Directive.⁴³² The Cooperation Agreements are applicable to household and industrial and commercial packaging waste with an EPR scheme in place for all types. The Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO), Fost Plus, is responsible for collection and recycling activities for household packaging in all three regions. Valipac is the national PRO for all non-household packaging.⁴³³

Plastic packaging waste in the three regions is collected through municipal services in a co-mingled door-to-door service in cities, towns and suburbs and rural areas. Belgium also has a tax on the incineration of municipal waste which ranges from around 6 Euros per tonne to 14 Euros per tonne. In 2019, Belgium was incinerating approximately 43 per cent of municipal waste.⁴³⁴

Belgium has a packaging tax on reusable and non-reusable beverage packaging, which works into Belgium's container return scheme.⁴³⁵

Netherlands

Since 2016, the Dutch Government has been working towards achieving a circular economy with recent introduction of the *National Program on Circular Economy 2023-2030*. Under this program, there are four initiatives to make the Dutch economy circular by 2050.⁴³⁶ These are:

- Reducing raw material usage
- Substituting raw materials
- Extending product life
- High-grade processing.⁴³⁷

Targets for the Netherlands are to be using 50 per cent less primary resources such as minerals, metals and fossil carbon resources by 2030 and to achieve a circular economy with:

[...] sustainable, renewable raw materials that are used again and again wherever possible; products and materials are designed for circularity, reused, repaired and refurbished; hardly any waste is produced.⁴³⁸

In 2020, the Netherlands *National Waste Management Plan* (NWMP) set a target for the collection of household waste, where at least 75 per cent of household waste will be separately collected, with a maximum of 100 kg residual household waste generated per person per year.⁴³⁹

⁴³² Recycling Network Benelux and von Eye, Maxine, *Review of the EPR for Packaging Waste in Belgium*, Utrecht, October 2023: 5.

⁴³³ Recycling Network Benelux and von Eye, Maxine, *Review of the EPR for Packaging Waste in Belgium*, Utrecht, October 2023: 42.

⁴³⁴ European Environment Agency, *Early warning assessment related to the 2025 targets for municipal waste and packaging waste -Belgium*, June 2022: 15.

⁴³⁵ European Environment Agency, *Early warning assessment related to the 2025 targets for municipal waste and packaging waste -Belgium*, June 2022: 32.

⁴³⁶ Dutch Government, *Circular Dutch economy by 2050*. Accessed: [Circular Dutch economy by 2050 | Circular economy | Government.nl](#)

⁴³⁷ Dutch Government, *Circular Dutch economy by 2050*. Accessed:

⁴³⁸ European Environment Agency, *Early warning assessment related to the 2025 targets for municipal waste and packaging waste -Netherlands*, June 2022: 3. Accessed: [Netherlands | European Environment Agency's home page \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁴³⁹ European Environment Agency, *Early warning assessment related to the 2025 targets for municipal waste and packaging waste -Netherlands*, June 2022: 3.

The Netherlands incinerate municipal waste at a rate of 41.8 per cent (2020), but the European Environment Agency's report for the Netherlands, *Early warning assessment related to the 2025 targets for municipal waste and packaging waste*, shows this has been decreasing.⁴⁴⁰

The Netherlands also has a high recycling rate of 56.8 per cent and a low landfill rate of 1.4 per cent. In order to promote diversion of waste from landfill and incineration, the Netherlands has implemented an incineration and landfill tax. The tax for corporations is around 32 Euros per tonne (2020). All households are required to pay a waste tax, with each municipality charging a different amount and there are fines for sending recyclable items to landfill.

It is understood the Netherlands has been looking to improve the collection system by introducing separate collection for some items. All plastics and composite plastic packaging are collected through the door-to-door scheme.⁴⁴¹

The Netherlands also has an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme in place and the country has a recycling rate of 57.2 per cent for plastic packaging. Targets to increase this by 50 per cent are set for 2025 and a further 55 per cent by 2030.⁴⁴²

The EPR applies to all packaging, and the Netherlands has one Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO), 'Afvalfonds Verpakkingen'. There is a 'fee modulation' between material groups, and according to plastic type.

Each fee is based on the costs for collection and recycling of the respective packaging material. There is also a fixed fee for general system costs for each material type.⁴⁴³ The fee for plastic packaging in the Netherlands is EUR0.67 per kilogram.⁴⁴⁴

Spain

In Spain, the Plastic Tax agreed on by the EU Council Presidency and Commission was passed by Royal decree in 2022 and came into effect on 1 January 2023 (Law 7/2022 of 8 April 2022 on the management of waste and contaminated soil to promote a circular economy or the Law on Waste).⁴⁴⁵

The tax rate in Spain is EUR0.45 per kilogram for non-recycled plastic products and non-reusable packaging containing plastic, semi-finished plastic products which will be used to produce non-reusable packaging, and products containing plastic that enable non-reusable plastic packaging 'to be closed, marketed or presented'.⁴⁴⁶

Manufacturers and plastics purchasers from other EU countries must register with the Plastic Tax Territorial Registry for their place of business unless they 'handle' less than five kilograms of non-reusable plastic packaging per month.

⁴⁴⁰ European Environment Agency, *Early warning assessment related to the 2025 targets for municipal waste and packaging waste -Netherlands*, June 2022: 3.

⁴⁴¹ European Environment Agency, *Early warning assessment related to the 2025 targets for municipal waste and packaging waste -Netherlands*, June 2022: 4; 14.

⁴⁴² European Environment Agency, *Early warning assessment related to the 2025 targets for municipal waste and packaging waste -Netherlands*, June 2022: 16 – 17; 22.

⁴⁴³ European Environment Agency, *Early warning assessment related to the 2025 targets for municipal waste and packaging waste -Netherlands*, June 2022: 16.

⁴⁴⁴ Afvalfonds Verpakkingen, 2021 cited in European Environment Agency, *Early warning assessment related to the 2025 targets for municipal waste and packaging waste -Netherlands*, June 2022: 17.

⁴⁴⁵ Ferriz, Álvaro García and Cuervo, María González, *New Spanish tax on non-reusable plastic packaging*, 16 February 2023: 1. Accessed: <https://www.europeantax.blog/post/102i7xc/new-spanish-tax-on-non-reusable-plastic-packaging>

⁴⁴⁶ Ferriz, Álvaro García and Cuervo, María González, *New Spanish tax on non-reusable plastic packaging*, 16 February 2023: 1.

Where a purchaser is dealing with non-reusable plastic packaging containing more than five kilograms of non-recycled plastic, they must pay the Plastic Tax and keep an inventory to be filed with the Territorial Registry and tax agency. Importers of non-reusable plastic packaging are not required to register with the Territorial Registry but will be required to pay the Plastic Tax at customs.

Spain has a *National Waste Management Plan 2016-2022*, and the *National Waste Framework Plan 2016-2022*, as well as regional waste management plans.⁴⁴⁷

Spain also has in place a circular economy strategy (*España Circular*, 2030) which includes a 15 per cent reduction target for all waste generation (compared to 2010) and a target of 10 per cent to increase reuse from waste otherwise headed to municipal landfill.⁴⁴⁸

The legislation includes measures to reduce Single Use Plastic (SUP) by a 50 per cent reduction in the weight of SUPs to be achieved by 2026 and a 70 per cent reduction by 2030 (compared to 2022).⁴⁴⁹ The Law on Waste also promotes reuse of containers and the reduction of plastic packaging waste through the sale of bulk products. Spain has implemented a requirement that large grocery stores dedicate at least 20 per cent of floor space for products without any primary packaging, such as bulk goods, where the shop has at least 400 square meters of floor space.⁴⁵⁰

Although Spain has not yet implemented the EPR for plastic packaging, the new law on waste requires producers of SUPs packaging to be responsible for covering the costs of education, cleaning up dispersed rubbish SUPs, data and information collection.⁴⁵¹

Spain is also looking at legislation to require suppliers of fresh produce, such as fruit and vegetables, to be provided to consumers without plastic packaging. Products included in the new regulations will be set by the Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency.⁴⁵²

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom (UK) has a Resources and Waste Strategy, which provides policies for the UK to shift to a circular economy; and a Waste Management Plan for England, which provides waste management. This is supplemented by a 'Waste Prevention Programme for England' (Sic). The Waste Management Plan for England is subject to some provisions under the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (UK).⁴⁵³

⁴⁴⁷ European Environment Agency, *Early warning assessment related to the 2025 targets for municipal waste and packaging waste -Spain*, June 2022: 4. Accessed: [Spain | European Environment Agency's home page \(europa.eu\)](https://www.european-environment.org/home-page)

⁴⁴⁸ European Environment Agency, *Early warning assessment related to the 2025 targets for municipal waste and packaging waste -Spain*, June 2022: 4.

⁴⁴⁹ Agencia Estatal Boletín Oficial del Estado, *Law 7/2022, of 8 April, on waste and contaminated soil for a circular economy*. Accessed: [BOE-A-2022-5809 Law 7/2022, of 8 April, on waste and contaminated soil for a circular economy](https://www.boe.es/boe/L-2022-5809.html).

⁴⁵⁰ Parkinson, Lindsey, *Food Packaging Forum*, "Spain passes comprehensive waste reduction regulation, eases the way for reuse", 14 April 2022. Accessed: [Spain passes comprehensive waste reduction regulation, eases the way for reuse | Food Packaging Forum](https://www.foodpackagingforum.com/news/spain-passes-comprehensive-waste-reduction-regulation-eases-the-way-for-reuse)

⁴⁵¹ Parkinson, Lindsey, *Food Packaging Forum*, "Spain passes comprehensive waste reduction regulation, eases the way for reuse", 14 April 2022.

⁴⁵² Planelles, Manuel, *El País*, "Spain to ban sale of fruit and vegetables in plastic wrapping from 2023", 22 September 2021. Accessed: [Pollution: Spain to ban sale of fruit and vegetables in plastic wrapping from 2023 | Society | EL PAÍS English \(elpais.com\)](https://www.elpais.com/sociedad/2021/09/22/spain-to-ban-sale-of-fruit-and-vegetables-in-plastic-wrapping-from-2023_20210922.html)

⁴⁵³ United Kingdom Government, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, *Waste Management Plan for England 2021*, 27 January 2021. Accessed: [Waste Management Plan for England 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/91444/waste-management-plan-for-england-2021.pdf)

As part of the UK's Resources and Waste Strategy a plastic packaging waste recycling scheme has been implemented and has recently included an 'Extended Producer Responsibility' (EPR) Scheme for plastic packaging (2024). Plans for a proposed 'Deposit Return Scheme' (DRS) are in the consultation phase by the UK Government but have been delayed until 2025.⁴⁵⁴

In 2021, the UK Government introduced a Plastic Packaging Tax (PPT), effective from 1 April 2022, which applies to plastic packaging that is manufactured in or imported into the UK, containing less than 30% recycled plastic.^{455, 456}

The PPT is charged at approximately £210 per tonne. The tax applies to businesses that manufacture or import 10 tonnes or more of plastic packaging within a 12-month period, with aims to:

- increase collection and recycling of plastic waste;
- divert plastic waste from landfill or incineration;
- provide economic incentive for businesses to use recycled plastic in the manufacturing of plastic packaging; and
- create greater demand for recycled plastic products.⁴⁵⁷

In 2021, the total amount of packaging waste recycled was 8 million tonnes, out of a total of 13 million tonnes of packaging placed on the market. Of the amount recycled, 53 per cent was plastic packaging.⁴⁵⁸

The *Resources and Waste Strategy* is part of the UK's 25 Year Environment Plan⁴⁵⁹ which has a commitment to recycle at least 65 per cent of all packaging waste by 2025 and 70 per cent by 2030.⁴⁶⁰ The UK Government introduced to the UK Parliament, its proposal for a DRS in April 2024, but this will not be implemented until 2027.

The DRS will only include polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic bottles and steel and aluminium cans, excluding glass bottles and containers.⁴⁶¹

Bans on single-use plastics (SUP), including plates, trays, bowls, cutlery, balloon sticks, expanded and extruded polystyrene food and drinks containers came into force on 1 October 2023.

⁴⁵⁴ United Kingdom Government, National Audit Office, *The government's resources and waste reforms for England: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs report*, Session 2022-23, 30 June 2023, HC 1513, 30 June 2023: 10. Accessed: [The government's resources and waste reforms for England - NAO report](#)

⁴⁵⁵ The Finance Act 2021, Part 2 etc. (Plastic Packaging Tax) (Appointed Day) Regulations 2021 (UK); The Plastic Packaging Tax (Descriptions of Products) Regulations 2021 (UK); The Plastic Packaging Tax (General) Regulations 2022 (UK); The Plastic Packaging Tax (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (UK). Accessed: [Legislation.gov.uk](#)

⁴⁵⁶ United Kingdom Government, HM Revenue & Customs, *Plastic Packaging Tax - screening equality impact assessment*, 23 January 2023. Accessed: [Plastic Packaging Tax - screening equality impact assessment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

⁴⁵⁷ United Kingdom Government, HM Revenue & Customs, *Plastic Packaging Tax - screening equality impact assessment*, 23 January 2023.

⁴⁵⁸ United Kingdom Government, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, *Resources and Waste Strategy Monitoring Progress*, 4th edition, May 2024: 23. Accessed: [Monitoring progress 4th edition Resources and Waste Strategy \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

⁴⁵⁹ United Kingdom Government, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, *25 Year Environment Plan*, London, 2018: 85 (See pp. 83 – 93). Accessed: [25-year-environment-plan.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

⁴⁶⁰ United Kingdom Government, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, *Resources and Waste Strategy Monitoring Progress*, 4th edition, May 2024: 26.

⁴⁶¹ Robbie Moore, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Water and Rural Growth, UK Parliament, *Update: Deposit Return Scheme for Drink Containers*, 25 April 2024. Accessed: [Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

This is supported by further regulatory measures that include increasing compliance for plastic packaging producers and expanding the municipal waste and recycling collection system so recyclables can be collected more frequently.⁴⁶²

The UK Government plans to spend £3bn by 2042 on developing new waste infrastructure. The funding will be provided to the 'Waste Infrastructure Delivery program' which is said to have given "[...] the private sector the confidence to invest in waste management projects, including facilities to help improve recycling [...]"⁴⁶³

The Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations 2015 (the UK Regulations) implemented the provisions of the EU *Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste* for the essential requirements for packaging and they remain in force.⁴⁶⁴

The UK Regulations require that a person or body corporate is responsible for the placement on the market of packing or filling products for packaging, or importation of packed or filled packaging into the UK. The UK Regulations necessitate that any packaging described by the Regulations must meet the essential requirements before being placed on the market.⁴⁶⁵ Initiatives of the *25 Year Environment Plan* to address plastic packaging waste include:

- invoke the 'polluter pays' principle and extend producer responsibility for packaging, ensuring that producers pay the full costs of disposal for packaging they place on the market;
- stimulate demand for recycled plastic by introducing a tax on plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled plastic;
- harness the potential of extended producer responsibility for other product types; and
- set minimum requirements through ecodesign to encourage resource efficient product design

Initiatives of the *25 Year Environment Plan* to assist **consumers** include:

- incentivise consumers to purchase sustainably;
- provide consumers with better information on the sustainability of their purchases;
- ban plastic products where there is a clear case for it and alternatives exist;
- address barriers to reuse;
- support the market for remanufactured goods;
- encourage appropriate disposal of used products; and
- lead by example through procurement and the Greening Government Commitments.⁴⁶⁶

⁴⁶² United Kingdom Government, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, *Simpler bin collections for England to boost recycling*, 9 May 2024. Accessed: [Simpler bin collections for England to boost recycling - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/simpler-bin-collections-for-england-to-boost-recycling)

⁴⁶³ United Kingdom Government, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, *Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England*, London, 2018: 78. Accessed: [Our waste, our resources: a strategy for England \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/744444/our-waste-our-resources-a-strategy-for-england.pdf)

⁴⁶⁴ See: *The Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations 2015* (UK). Accessed: [The Packaging \(Essential Requirements\) Regulations 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/1026/contents/made)

⁴⁶⁵ United Kingdom Government, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, *The Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations 2015 (UK), Government Guidance Notes*, October 2015: 4. Accessed: [Packaging Essential Requirements Regulations Government Guidance Notes \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/544444/packaging-essential-requirements-regulations-government-guidance-notes.pdf)

⁴⁶⁶ United Kingdom Government, Food and Rural Affairs, Environment Agency, *Resources and Waste Strategy at a Glance*. Accessed: [Resources and waste strategy: at a glance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/744444/resources-and-waste-strategy-at-a-glance.pdf)

Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural Soft Plastics

Commercial and Industrial Soft Plastics Waste

Difficulties with the collection, processing and remanufacturing of commercial and industrial soft plastics have also been identified.⁴⁶⁷ Mr Andrew Lamb, LGA SA advised the Committee that more research and trials were needed to determine where and how soft plastics were being used and disposed of in hospitals, cafes, restaurants and other industries.⁴⁶⁸

GISA advised the collection and processing of single polymer material, such as clear pallet wrap, is usually more commercially efficient as it provides a clean recycling material stream in comparison with post-consumer soft plastics, which are varied and can include contaminants.⁴⁶⁹

Mr Colin Shearing, South Australian Independent Retailers Inc. (SAIR), advised the Committee that plastic pallet wrap can be recycled into plastic pallets.⁴⁷⁰

APR manufacturing Group advised it was in partnership with ACE Solutions to process single-use shrink wrap plastic packaging waste “from the depot to the supermarket.”⁴⁷¹ APR commented:

There is an estimated 15-30,000 tonnes annually wasted in this stream. The concept and following GISA grant was to fund equipment to process, pelletise, and manufacture products to be reused (circular economy) in the supermarket market- pallets, shrink-wrap for reuse in transport packaging and other uses.⁴⁷²

However, APR also advised that although it was a recipient of a large GISA grant to establish the soft plastics recycling, the project had not progressed due to “different strategies”.⁴⁷³

Pro Pac Pty Ltd., gave evidence that there are currently processes available to recycle pallet wraps and other ‘cling film’ type soft plastics, but that local markets weren’t properly established.⁴⁷⁴

Mr Scott Morton, BioBag World Australia advised the concern for remanufacturers is the low value placed on recycled plastics, including commercial and agricultural films. Another issue is the range of different types of soft plastics, which all require different recycling methods. Mr Morton advised:

So we have to get virgin materials to be more expensive. Unfortunately, what the REDcycle has done is create soft plastic as one homogenous stream, when it's not. The variety of plastics and the processing requirements are so diverse. We are talking hundreds of degrees Celsius in temperature profiles. They are just not compatible. We need to look at them piece by piece. Fruit and vegetable bags is a great one. Hopefully, we will remove it this September. That's one that makes sense. Agricultural films: same thing. There's no end market; it makes sense. We need to be increasing the cost of virgin plastics. It's simple.⁴⁷⁵

Although Australia has adopted bans on exporting plastic waste overseas, Ms Stephanie Thoo, General Manager, Innovation and Sustainability, Pro Pac Group Pty Ltd., told the Committee that there have been exemptions granted for a limited number of exporting companies.

For companies operating locally, baled industrial soft plastics do not receive the same price as those being exported to South-East Asia.⁴⁷⁶

⁴⁶⁷ Mr Andrew Lamb, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 20.

⁴⁶⁸ Mr Andrew Lamb, *Hansard*, 12 October 2023: 20.

⁴⁶⁹ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 7.

⁴⁷⁰ Mr Colin Shearing, *Hansard*, 23 November 2023: 81.

⁴⁷¹ APR Manufacturing Group, *Written submission No. 39*, January 2024, 1.

⁴⁷² APR Manufacturing Group, *Written submission No. 39*, January 2024, 1.

⁴⁷³ APR Manufacturing Group, *Written submission No. 39*, January 2024, 1.

⁴⁷⁴ Ms Stephanie Thoo, General Manager, Pro Pac Group Pty Ltd, *Hansard*, 29 February 2024: 101 - 102.

⁴⁷⁵ Mr Scott Morton, *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 119.

⁴⁷⁶ Ms Stephanie Thoo, *Hansard*, 29 February 2024: 102.

Ms Thoo advised the price received from overseas markets can be as much as \$500 to \$600 per tonne (for pallet wrap), where locally it will only fetch \$200 per tonne.⁴⁷⁷ Ms Thoo commented:

For us to feel confident in investing in a recycling facility, we need to have confidence that we can get enough good quality feedstock. We have tried approaching different value-chain players to get access to pallet wrap. At the moment, they are turning down the opportunity to collaborate with us because they can get paid more per tonne for their waste if they export it to South-East Asia than we can give them here locally.⁴⁷⁸

Like other witnesses and submissions to the Inquiry, Ms Thoo wants to see stronger design standards and regulation of soft plastics in order to increase the value of the products across the supply chain.⁴⁷⁹ Ms Thoo advised, designing for recyclability to ensure products are designed from the start of their journey with the end in mind, could be encouraged by either incentives or consequences for not doing that.⁴⁸⁰

GISA informed the Committee in their written submission that end market demand even for high quality recycled soft plastics sourced from the commercial and industrial sector has dropped due to global economic downturn.⁴⁸¹ GISA provided that:

If the market price continues to decrease, it is likely gate fees required to enable recyclers to commercially process LPDE will exceed landfill cost, in particular for coloured LDPE which has lower market price compared to clear LDPE. This may lead to the material no longer being collected for recycling and instead being consigned to landfill.⁴⁸²

GISA advised they understood that previously, recycled LDPE pellets were fetching USD \$800-\$900 per tonne which dropped to USD \$600-\$700 per tonne in 2023, due to difficulties in finding buyers.⁴⁸³

Agricultural Soft Plastics Waste

Mr Kym Gladigau, a fifth-generation farmer in the Adelaide Hills, provided in his written submission that his farm produces silage and hay products which, require baling with plastic twine; and in the case of the silage, also soft plastic wrapping to produce fermentation and avoid nutrient loss.⁴⁸⁴ Mr Gladigau provides:

[The bales] are tightly wrapped in a soft plastic film (not dissimilar to Glad Wrap). The bales, when tightly wrapped with a minimum of 4 layers of plastic film, stops the loss of nutritional value because it's not exposed to sunlight or air. It also allows the grass to be baled at 50% moisture which avoids nutritional losses due to waiting for dry weather needed to make hay.⁴⁸⁵

Mr Gladigau advised that on a yearly basis farmers must either burn, bury or dispose of their soft plastic waste into landfill. This may amount to around 1 741 tonnes of silage soft plastics waste being burnt or buried across the state, as there are no options to recycle it.⁴⁸⁶

Mr Gladigau commented, it is well recognised across the country that silage wrap and other soft plastics are a problem to recycle.

⁴⁷⁷ Ms Stephanie Thoo, *Hansard*, 29 February 2024: 102.

⁴⁷⁸ Ms Stephanie Thoo, *Hansard*, 29 February 2024: 101

⁴⁷⁹ Ms Stephanie Thoo, *Hansard*, 29 February 2024: 101 - 102.

⁴⁸⁰ Ms Stephanie Thoo, *Hansard*, 29 February 2024: 102.

⁴⁸¹ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 7.

⁴⁸² GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 7.

⁴⁸³ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 7.

⁴⁸⁴ Mr Kym Gladigau, *Written submission No.13*, 7 September 2023: 1.

⁴⁸⁵ Mr Kym Gladigau, *Written submission No.13*, 7 September 2023: 1.

⁴⁸⁶ Mr Kym Gladigau, *Written submission No.13*, 7 September 2023: 3.

Mr Gladigau referenced the Commonwealth funded pilot (National Product Stewardship Investment Fund), run by Dairy Australia, in which 76 000 silage bales of soft plastic waste was collected for recycling in Victoria, as a “[...] short-term solution to recycle farm soft plastics [...]”.⁴⁸⁷

Mr Gladigau also referred to an American initiative called ‘ByBlocks’. ‘ByBlocks’ are a construction product similar to concrete, made from plastic waste and according to Mr Gladigau, has potential as a solution to soft plastics waste in the agricultural sector.⁴⁸⁸

Mr Gladigau claims that farmers want “[...] a practical and cost-effective solution for managing farm soft plastics, including silage wraps.”⁴⁸⁹

The Committee heard evidence from Mr Scott Morton, who advised his company BioBag World Australia, is producing a compostable agricultural film in South Australia. This initiative provides farmers of fruit and vegetables to use a compostable product as a mulch film instead of regular black soft plastic, which cannot be recycled.⁴⁹⁰ Mr Morton advised that farmers have little choice but to either bury or burn the black mulch plastic they are currently using as there is no alternative way to dispose of it.⁴⁹¹

Mr Morton, further advised the Committee that because his business now focuses on manufacturing compostable plastics, he is unable to apply for recycling grants under the Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF), as there is no category for his operation:

[...] when I first started six years ago Green Industries were fantastic and they really supported me and that enabled me to take that initial plunge into the unknown of compostables, and it has grown us into the largest in Australia by a factor of several hundred tonnes. But the reality is that now, with federal government involvement, it has changed into the Recycling Modernisation Fund and I can no longer get funding. It is all about recycling plastic. There is no funding towards reduction, so we will be chasing our tail because we are trying to catch up on recycling whilst not reducing.⁴⁹²

According to evidence from GISA, some projects in the Agricultural and compostables categories have been financially supported not through the RMF, but through the Circular Economy Market Development Grants (CEMDG) program administered by GISA.⁴⁹³

In 2022-23, Grain Producers SA were awarded \$60 000 in funding under the CEMDG for a ‘Grain Silo Bag Recycling Feasibility Study’. Also awarded funding in that year was Jeffries, who received a \$22 000 grant from the CEMDG for a study on ‘Composted Products in Certified Compostable Bags.’⁴⁹⁴

Another initiative in the agricultural and horticultural sectors is ‘Big Bag Recovery’, which is part of the Industry Waste Recovery group and is the Australian Government Accredited Product Stewardship scheme. The project is aimed at recovery and recycling of woven polypropylene and low-density polyethylene (LDPE) plastic bags over 15 litres of contents, for example sacks and bulk bags.⁴⁹⁵

⁴⁸⁷ Mr Kym Gladigau, *Written submission No.13*, 7 September 2023: 2.

⁴⁸⁸ Mr Kym Gladigau, *Written submission No.13*, 7 September 2023: 4.

⁴⁸⁹ Mr Kym Gladigau, *Written submission No.13*, 7 September 2023: 2.

⁴⁹⁰ Mr Scott Morton, *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 117.

⁴⁹¹ Mr Scott Morton, *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 117.

⁴⁹² Mr Scott Morton, *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 118.

⁴⁹³ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 9.

⁴⁹⁴ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 9.

⁴⁹⁵ Big Bag Recovery <https://www.bigbagrecovery.com.au/#about>

RECOMMENDATIONS

Government Procurement

12. Green Industries SA partner with Procurement Services SA to update the *Procurement Governance Policy*, the *Green Procurement Guideline*, and other relevant procurement policies or guidelines, to require South Australian Government Agencies to procure goods and services that:
 - where applicable, incorporate no less than 50 per cent recycled soft plastics or replacement with a compostable alternative; and
 - eliminate soft plastic waste in the delivery of goods and services, by 2026.
13. Green Industries SA partner with the Department for Transport and Infrastructure and other relevant agencies, to set targets for the use of recycled soft plastics in construction projects to drive demand and reduce environmental impact for all State Government Projects.
14. Green Industries SA partner with the Local Government Association of South Australia, to set targets for the use of recycled soft plastics in Council Projects.
15. Green Industries SA partner with the Local Government Association of South Australia, to determine if changes are required to the *Local Government Act 1999*, to require Councils to incorporate no less than 50 per cent recycled soft plastics or replacement with a compostable alternative in procurement of goods; and eliminate soft plastic waste in the delivery of goods and services, by 2026.

2025 National Targets

16. Green Industries SA ensure *Australia's 2025 National Packaging Targets* are implemented in South Australia by 31 December 2025 and publish a report to advise the community what actions have been taken to achieve the targets.

Business Incentives

17. Green Industries SA assist South Australian manufacturing businesses in achieving the *2025 National Packaging Targets* and provide incentives for businesses to invest in soft plastic recycling and waste reduction initiatives.
18. Green Industries SA provide incentives to South Australian packaging manufacturers to invest in alternatives to soft plastic packaging, such as compostables.
19. The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, provide support and incentives to the South Australian Agricultural industry to transition to the use of recyclable soft plastics and compostable alternatives to soft plastics.

Recycling Education and Community Engagement

20. Green Industries SA promote *Australia's 2025 National Packaging Targets* to business, industry, government and the community, highlighting what changes will be made to packaging as a result.
21. Green Industries SA facilitate a statewide education program on the importance of soft plastics recycling and available initiatives.
22. Green Industries SA work with Plastic-Free SA and Councils to develop 'Plastic-Free Zones' in South Australian communities.

Single Use Plastics and Container Deposit Scheme

23. The South Australian Government, through Green Industries SA and the Environment Protection Authority of South Australia, undertake further investigations into banning more single-use plastics and limited-use plastics, to follow implementation of the next tranches of bans on 1 September 2024 and 1 September 2025.
24. The South Australian Government, through Green Industries SA and the Environment Protection Authority of South Australia investigate how the existing South Australian Container Deposit Scheme can be used as a model for a similar scheme to be introduced for some types of soft plastics, for example some HDPE, which will increase the value of those materials.
25. The South Australian Government investigate the potential for amending section 10(2) of the *Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010*, to provide Councils with options for the regularity of waste collection services for food and organics, recyclables and landfill.

(F) Any Other Related Matters

Product Stewardship, Design and Traceability

The bulk of submissions show there is a high degree of support for the adoption of a Product Stewardship scheme in South Australia, but more broadly as a nationally harmonised scheme. There is also support for this to be underpinned by rigorous soft plastic Design Standards, which should ideally be part of the national framework.

The Commonwealth Government has already developed a number of frameworks that apply to soft plastics and that can be used by importers and manufacturers of soft plastics products. However, although there are some legislative mechanisms that underpin these, such as the *National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure 2011* (NEPM) there are few ways to enforce design principles and in most cases the frameworks operate on a voluntary basis.

What is currently being done - Soft Plastic Packaging Design

The Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) provides a 'Quickstart Guide' *Design for Recycling: Soft Plastic Consumer Packaging*, which outlines best practice design guidance to create a more valuable material with greater functionality once recycled and support a circular economy.⁴⁹⁶

APCO Sustainable Packaging Guidelines

APCO provides leadership nationwide to address issues around packaging design, through development of the valuation of new and existing packaging using the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPGs).⁴⁹⁷ The SPGs are a central part of APCO's co-regulatory framework.

The *National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure 2011* (NEPM) and the Australian Packaging Covenant reference the SPGs to support the design and manufacture of packaging for the future. The SPGs are agreed by all state and territory governments and are given effect by legislation to enact the NEPM in each jurisdiction.⁴⁹⁸

Working towards the 2025 *National Packaging Targets*, the APCO SPGs establish 10 Sustainable Packaging Principles that make up the SPGs:

1. Design for recovery;
2. Optimise material efficiency;
3. Design to reduce product waste;
4. Eliminate hazardous materials;
5. Use recycled materials;
6. Use renewable materials;
7. Design to minimise litter;
8. Design for transport efficiency;
9. Design for accessibility; and
10. Provide consumer information on sustainability.⁴⁹⁹

⁴⁹⁶ APCO, *Quickstart Guide - Designing for Recyclability: Soft Plastic Consumer Packaging*, Version 4, July 2023. Accessed: <https://documents.packagingcovenant.org.au/public-documents/Quickstart%20Guide%20-%20Designing%20for%20Recyclability;%20Consumer%20Soft%20Plastic%20Packaging>

⁴⁹⁷ APCO, *Sustainable Packaging Guidelines*, October 2020. Accessed: <https://apco.org.au/sustainable-packaging-guidelines>

⁴⁹⁸ APCO, *Sustainable Packaging Guidelines*, October 2020.

⁴⁹⁹ APCO, *Sustainable Packaging Guidelines*, October 2020: 7.

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APCO is supported by state and territory government regulations that implement *the National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure 2011*. The SPGs provide a large range of tools and supports for government and the packaging sector, including through the Packaging Principles:

Packaging design is a critical element in meeting Signatory obligations under the Covenant. The Covenant states that in applying the SPGs, the aim for Signatories is to reduce packaging waste at the design stage by minimising materials used, optimising recyclability or reuse and reducing the potential for fugitive packaging.⁵⁰⁰

The below diagram shows the ‘Pathway to packaging sustainability’ which contain the four targets outlined by APCO:



Fig. 4 APCO, *Goals for more sustainable packaging procurement and design*.⁵⁰¹

CEFLEX

APCO supports and promotes the use of the Circular Economy for Flexible Packaging (CEFLEX) standards for soft plastics design. CEFLEX aims to “enhance the sustainability of flexible packaging throughout its life cycle.”⁵⁰²

CEFLEX is a European industry-led initiative including 180 companies, which has similarities to APCO’s *10 Sustainable Packaging Principles*. CEFLEX provides that soft plastics packaging should only be made with single polymer plastics, which will allow them to be easily and readily recycled into similar-grade products. CEFLEX provides that a central pillar of the *Designing for a Circular Economy* guidelines is the preference over single (mono) polymers to be incorporated at the design stage of production:

[...] there are some generic sustainable design principles that can be followed to support designing flexible packaging for a circular economy. In the first instance, CEFLEX advocates the collection of all flexible packaging for recycling. Followed by sorting and recycling the mono-material streams (mono-PE and mono-PP), over polyolefin mixes, over mixed plastics (including flexibles), over mixed materials. It is easier to recycle mono-material flexible packaging and their use contributes to improved quality of recycled materials.⁵⁰³

Pro Pac Group Pty Ltd. (PPG) advised the Committee in their written submission that as a producer of laminated plastic packaging in South Australia, PPG adheres to the CEFLEX standard for flexible packaging. PPG advised:

⁵⁰⁰ APCO, *Sustainable Packaging Guidelines*, October 2020: 6.

⁵⁰¹ APCO, *Sustainable Packaging Guidelines*, October 2020: 17.

⁵⁰² APCO, *Soft Plastics FAQ*. Accessed: [Soft Plastics FAQ - APCO](#)

⁵⁰³ CEFLEX, *Design Principles*. Accessed: <https://guidelines.cefex.eu/guidelines/design-principles/>

Advanced recyclers want CEFLEX compliant films as they feed better into their processes decrease contamination, thereby improving the economics of a what can be a capital intensive operation.⁵⁰⁴

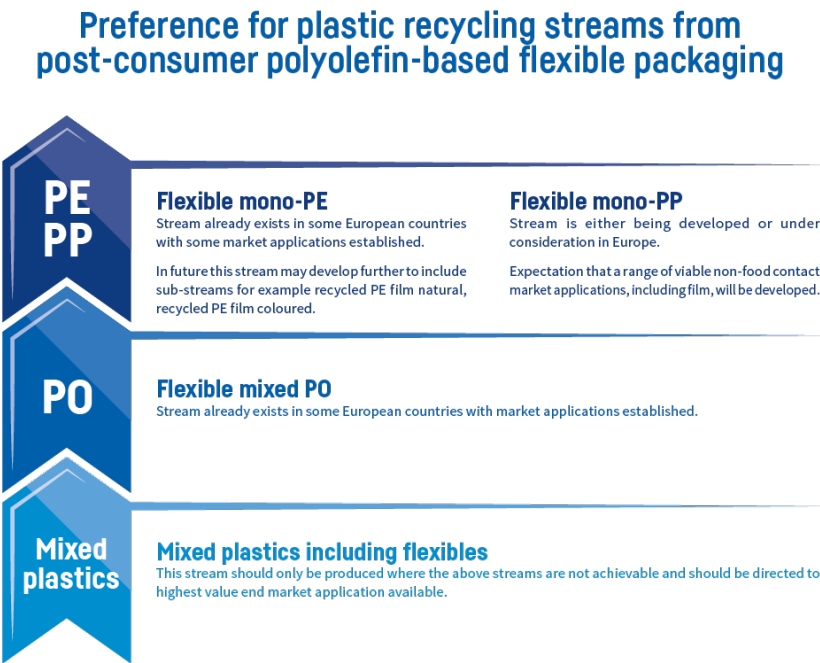


Fig. 5 CEFLEX, *Preference for plastic recycling streams from post-consumer polyolefin-based flexible packaging*⁵⁰⁵

Australasian Recycling Label

The Australasian Recycling Label (ARL) standards have also assisted consumers to identify what they can recycle and where to recycle it.⁵⁰⁶

The ARL provides a basic system of labelling to inform consumers what and where products can be recycled (Currently in Australia, CEFLEX products are most likely to be attributed to the ‘check locally’ label):^{507, 508}

⁵⁰⁴ Pro Pac Group Pty Ltd., *Written submission No. 11*, 5 September 2023: 8.
⁵⁰⁵ CEFLEX, *Preference for plastic recycling streams from post-consumer polyolefin-based flexible packaging*. Accessed: <https://guidelines.cefex.eu/guidelines/design-principles/>
⁵⁰⁶ APCO, *Soft Plastics FAQ*. Accessed: [Soft Plastics FAQ - APCO](#)
⁵⁰⁷ APCO, *Soft Plastics FAQ*.
⁵⁰⁸ See: <https://www.arl.org.au/>

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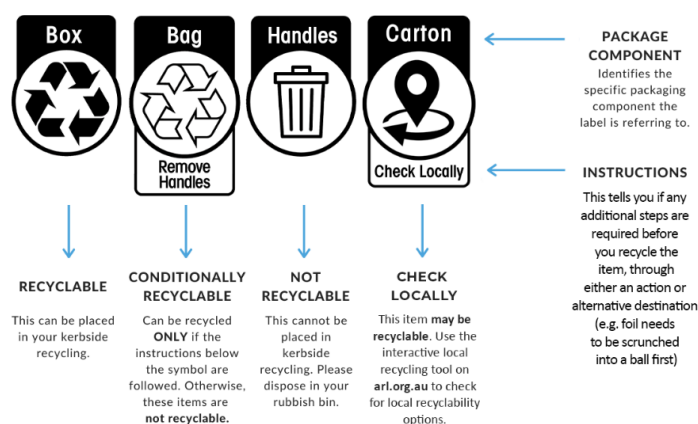


Fig. 6 Australasian Recycling Label⁵⁰⁹

In supporting the shift to a circular economy, GISA's written submission states:

Reducing the use of materials, including soft plastics, at the design and production stage is a crucial element of a circular economy. Strategies to limit the use of materials that do not fit within a circular economy are also a national issue related to extender producer and importer / distributor responsibility.⁵¹⁰

GISA advised that it promotes the highest and best use of waste material to contribute to circular economy principles, part of which is based on the principles of designing out waste and pollution.⁵¹¹

What needs to be done – further action

While it is recognised there are responsibilities for all parties involved in the life-cycle of a consumer product, addressing the manufacturing, importing or selling of soft plastics needs to be addressed through extended producer responsibility, or mandatory product stewardship scheme.

Evidence to the Inquiry shows there is a need for not just voluntary, but mandatory requirements for manufacturers and producers of soft plastic products to take responsibility for the products they place on the market.⁵¹²

This would include regulatory mechanisms to ensure producers comply with design standards, provide for the degree of recyclable content to be included in a packaging or soft plastic product and legislate the financial obligations for producers toward the collection and disposal of their products. The LGA SA offered:

⁵⁰⁹ Planet Ark Environmental Foundation, *Australasian Recycling Label*. Accessed: [https://recyclingnearyou.com.au/arl/#:~:text=The%20Australasian%20Recycling%20Label%20\(ARL,recycles%20waste%20going%20to%20landfill](https://recyclingnearyou.com.au/arl/#:~:text=The%20Australasian%20Recycling%20Label%20(ARL,recycles%20waste%20going%20to%20landfill).

⁵¹⁰ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 7.

⁵¹¹ GISA, *Written submission No. 25*, 8 September 2023: 1.

⁵¹² See: DCCEEW, *Product Stewardship*. <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/publications/national-waste-reports/2013/product-stewardship>

Mandatory product stewardship is required to reduce the amount of soft plastics entering the market, increase higher order “consumption” options for these products and enable “reuse” - the recyclability of this material through better product and packaging design, investment in processing and end-market development.⁵¹³

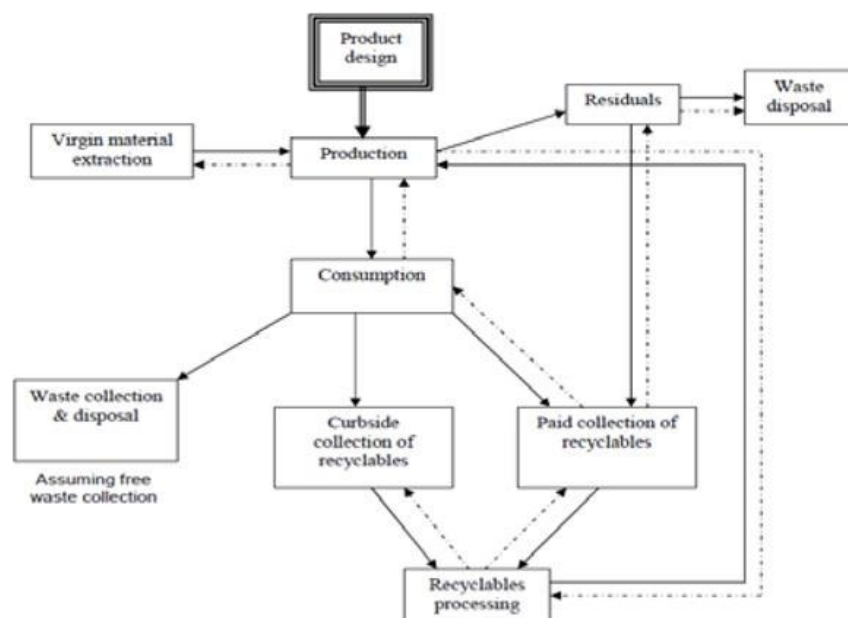


Fig. 7 DCCEEW, *Raw materials and product markets: the flow of materials and the flow of payments (solid lines depict material flows; dashed lines the money flow)*⁵¹⁴

The Boomerang Alliance agrees with this, commenting that a product stewardship scheme needs to be mandatory, apply national design standards and be responsible for costs associated with the collection, transport, recovery and processing of soft plastics.⁵¹⁵

Commonwealth and state governments need to take legislative action at the earliest opportunity in 2023 to impose the 2025 packaging targets along with obligations to fund and establish comprehensive collection arrangements and use of the material as recycled content. This can be achieved via federal legislation or unilateral action by one state such as NSW (which would force the pace nationally).⁵¹⁶

The Boomerang Alliance and the LGA SA argue, producers and retailers must also avoid and reduce unnecessary soft plastic packaging and only provide packaging that has been specifically designed and labelled to be readily and easily recoverable by the resource recovery industry.^{517, 518}

Product stewardship begins in the design stage of a product. The evidence attests to the need to improve the existing design standards of soft plastic products by designing out the complex and difficult to recycle plastics, such as low quality or mixed polymers.⁵¹⁹ Citing APCO, the LGA SA advises:

⁵¹³ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 18.

⁵¹⁴ DCCEEW, *Product Stewardship*. Accessed: [Product stewardship - DCCEEW](#)

⁵¹⁵ Boomerang Alliance, *Written submission No.36*, 18 September 2023: 3.

⁵¹⁶ Boomerang Alliance, *Written submission No.36*, 18 September 2023: 3.

⁵¹⁷ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 9.

⁵¹⁸ Boomerang Alliance, *Written submission No.36*, 18 September 2023: 3.

⁵¹⁹ LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 7; 17.

Greater emphasis on design and producer responsibility, through a mandatory product stewardship scheme for packaging, would capture the approximate 499,000 tonnes of soft plastics used in packaging that are placed on the market annually, this includes packaging that is utilised by businesses and industry.⁵²⁰

This would see the phasing out of unnecessary, problematic or inefficient packaging, with all soft plastics designed for recycling. The WMRR CEO, Ms Gayle Sloan advised funding is also required for other important supply chain mechanisms to be introduced through nationally consistent legislation, such as mandated product design standards, an extended producer responsibility scheme and container deposit and other 'take-back' schemes.⁵²¹

Some submissions, including the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, advocate for a plastics tax, which has been implemented in some EU countries and the United Kingdom.⁵²² A plastics tax would prohibit and tax types of plastics that do not fit in a circular economy. This would be achieved through tax on the use of virgin plastics implemented by per cent of virgin material content in a product. Further bans of single-use plastic products and the banning of difficult and non-recyclable plastics would support the plastics tax.

Standardised Packaging Labelling

Submissions show there needs to be transparency across the supply chain for soft plastics, from manufacture to disposal to recycling, to encourage consumer choice and accountability. Labelling on soft plastics products is one way to achieve this. The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters provided:

Mandate clear labelling of products indicating the percentage of recycled plastic content, with standardised labelling overseen by reputable organisations like Planet Ark. This transparency assists consumers to make informed choices about recyclable products.⁵²³

The City of Burnside suggested that labelling needs to be based on circular principles. If circular principles are applied, materials would need to meet four criteria in order to be labelled as recyclable.⁵²⁴ These four criteria are:

1. The material is recyclable;
2. The recycling process maintains the highest value of the material (no downcycling);
3. Collection programs are widely available (i.e., it is easy to have the material collected for recycling); and
4. There is demand for the recycled material (otherwise there is no point collecting it).⁵²⁵

The City of Burnside further commented:

[...] consumers need support in understanding what is recycled and what is not. Currently, manufactures can label products as 100% recyclable, even if there is no way for the material to be recycled (e.g., the material it theoretically recyclable, but there are no means to recycle it).⁵²⁶

⁵²⁰ APCO (2020) cited in LGA SA, *Written submission No. 38*, 5 October 2023: 9.

⁵²¹ Ms Gayle Sloan, *Hansard*, 14 March 2024: 108.

⁵²² City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, *Written submission No. 29*, 11 September 2023: 5.

⁵²³ City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, *Written submission No. 29*, 11 September 2023: 5.

⁵²⁴ City of Burnside, *Written submission No. 31*, 13 September 2023: 6.

⁵²⁵ City of Burnside, *Written submission No. 31*, 13 September 2023: 6.

⁵²⁶ City of Burnside, *Written submission No. 31*, 13 September 2023: 6.

This scenario was encountered by the Committee with the identification that product producers were still using the REDcycle logos and advertising that some products with soft plastic packaging available at Coles and Woolworths supermarkets were 100 per cent recyclable.

Removal of REDcycle Logos and 100 per cent Recyclable Plastic Packaging labels

On 9 November 2023, the Committee heard evidence from Ms Brooke Donnelly, Coles and Mr Laurie Kozlovic, Woolworths. The Committee identified that despite the collapse of REDcycle and cessation of the 'return-to-store' process for consumers to take their soft plastics back to the store of origin, Coles and Woolworths were still selling products in soft plastic packaging that displayed the REDcycle logo and provided instruction to purchasers to return the packaging to the store of purchase.⁵²⁷

These plastic products continued to claim the plastic packaging was 100 per cent recyclable. Committee members were concerned that consumers were being misinformed by Coles and Woolworths that they could still recycle these soft plastics by returning them to the store.^{528, 529}

Ms Brooke Donnelly, Coles, advised the Committee that Coles was working to remove the labelling on Coles branded products that displayed the REDcycle logos, and had commenced a "significant communication program" to address the labelling.⁵³⁰ Ms Donnelly stated that the process of removing the labels from packaging took time, but that Coles was engaged in this process.⁵³¹

There's a process to remove the REDcycle logo and label from packaging. You will notice in stores that there is signage, and if you go online there is also signage, that speaks to the fact that the REDcycle program is no longer available and that that program for dropping off soft plastics is not available to customers.⁵³²

Ms Donnelly also stated the company had "[...] taken very extensive and vigorous efforts to communicate that the program is no longer available [...]" and that Coles had signage at the point of sale at the registers, on the 'click and collect' website and throughout Coles stores.⁵³³ However, the Committee remained unconvinced.

The Hon Heidi Girolamo MLC, Presiding Member of the Committee questioned Ms Donnelly about the "phase-out" timeframe for REDcycle labelled packaging.⁵³⁴ Ms Donnelly replied:

There's a significant volume of products that have to have labelling changed. It is actually a practical ability to change it quickly enough and to run out the material and make those changes to the labelling. We have a deadline of 2025 to make those changes, and that has been a process that we have gone through with the ACCC, to ensure that we are providing transparent information to consumers in relation to labelling.⁵³⁵

Mr Kozlovic provided that the Taskforce had been addressing the issue of the packaging labelling as a priority as it was one of the first issues that had surfaced. Mr Kozlovic also stated the Taskforce had been working with the ACCC to deal with the complexities of the issue and remain transparent in what the Taskforce was doing.⁵³⁶

⁵²⁷ Hon Heidi Girolamo MLC, Committee Presiding Member, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 63.

⁵²⁸ Hon Heidi Girolamo MLC, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 63; 70.

⁵²⁹ Hon Robert Simms MLC, Committee Member, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 63; 70.

⁵³⁰ Ms Brooke Donnelly, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 63.

⁵³¹ Ms Brooke Donnelly, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 63.

⁵³² Ms Brooke Donnelly, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 63.

⁵³³ Ms Brooke Donnelly, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 63 - 64.

⁵³⁴ Hon Heidi Girolamo MLC, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 64.

⁵³⁵ Ms Brooke Donnelly, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 64.

⁵³⁶ Mr Laurie Kozlovic, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 71.

Mr Kozlovic advised:

It's a judgement call as to how we best get the message across to the public for those 270 companies who are participants of [REDcycle] and have it in their product in their brand. If you are company X and you are manufacturing a product, it comes right back to you when it gets put into the supply chain. How do we get it from there to there and then get it into the brand? It's not a simple case of you put something on and go from there, then we go through that process again, but in the time frame to do it— [...] —we would be restarted before it was all done in the first place, and they are the complexities of dealing across the whole country with multiple products, not one product.⁵³⁷

Ms Donnelly commented further that suppliers of products have their own stock of packaging materials, which are printed and held up to several years in order for a product to be consistent in its supply.⁵³⁸

Traceability

Establishing a traceability system for plastic packaging is another way to implement product stewardship responsibility. The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters argue there should be a way to track products as they move through the supply-chain:

[...] chain of custody is secured (a documented and verifiable process that tracks the movement of materials from source to final destination, ensuring transparency and accountability throughout the recycling journey).⁵³⁹

The AFGC stated:

Traceability of all food and grocery ingredients is not negotiable for brand owners, as all ingredients procured by brand owners must be able to be traced from farm to packet using batch codes and externally certified traceability systems. Without these systems in place, products will not be accepted for sale in Australian retail outlets. Post-consumer packaging with food contact also requires the same level of traceability, or brand owners will not be able to procure the material.⁵⁴⁰

The evidence demonstrates there is a desire within communities and from the waste and recycling sector for tighter controls on the availability and use of soft plastic packaging and the traceability of recycled soft plastics. This includes the types of plastics in the system, or, on the market; the legislative scheme that regulates the sale of soft plastics and the responsibilities of the producers and retailers of the products.

The DCCEEW has developed a *National Framework for Recycled Content Traceability* (the Traceability Framework), which provides “consistent traceability rules for recycled content and helps businesses to meet those rules.”⁵⁴¹

The DCCEEW recommends companies, businesses and organisations adopt the *GSI Global Traceability Standard* to assist in the design and “interoperability across supply-chains” of traceability systems.⁵⁴² However, presently, the Traceability Framework is only an ‘opt-in’ scheme not mandatory for businesses producing recyclable products from soft plastics.⁵⁴³

⁵³⁷ Mr Laurie Kozlovic, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 71.

⁵³⁸ Ms Brooke Donnelly, *Hansard*, 9 November 2023: 71 - 72.

⁵³⁹ City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, *Written submission No. 29*, 11 September 2023: 3.

⁵⁴⁰ AFGC, *Written submission No. 22*, September 2023: 5.

⁵⁴¹ DCCEEW, *National Framework for Recycled Content Traceability*, December 2023. Accessed: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/recycled-content-traceability>

⁵⁴² *GSI Global Traceability Standard*. Accessed: <https://www.gsl.org/standards/gsl-global-traceability-standard/current-standard#1-Introduction+1-1-Objective>

⁵⁴³ DCCEEW, *National Framework for Recycled Content Traceability*, December 2023: 6.

Ellen MacArthur Foundation Upstream Innovation Guide

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation, a leader in recycling and circular economy best practice worldwide, has devised the 'Upstream Innovation Guide' which provides details for manufacturers to consider in designing packaging products for the whole of their lifecycle, including their recycling.⁵⁴⁴

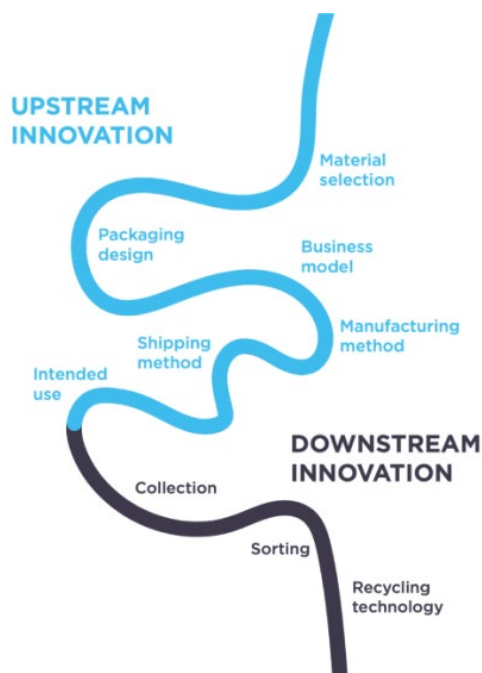


Fig. 8 Ellen MacArthur Foundation, *Upstream / Downstream Innovation infographic*⁵⁴⁵

The Upstream Guide provides:

Rethinking the packaging means innovating at the packaging design level (packaging concept, format, components, material choice) to provide the same essential packaging function, while designing out waste. For example, moving from non-recyclable to recyclable packaging formats or using a completely different type of material (such as an edible or dissolvable material).⁵⁴⁶

Upstream Innovation relies on three strategies:

- **Elimination:** Packaging is eliminated while user experience is maintained or enhanced. It requires rethinking a number of aspects to the business and how many types of packaging can be “unnecessary.”

⁵⁴⁴ Ellen MacArthur Foundation (Plastics team), *Upstream Innovation: A Guide to Packaging Solutions*, November 2020: 24 – 25. Accessed: [Upstream Innovation: a guide to packaging solutions \(ellenmacarthurfoundation.org\)](https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/upstream-innovation-a-guide-to-packaging-solutions)

⁵⁴⁵ Ellen MacArthur Foundation (Plastics team), *Upstream Innovation: A Guide to Packaging Solutions*, Accessed: [Upstream Innovation: a guide to packaging solutions \(ellenmacarthurfoundation.org\)](https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/upstream-innovation-a-guide-to-packaging-solutions)

⁵⁴⁶ Ellen MacArthur Foundation, *Upstream Innovation: A Guide to Packaging Solutions*, November 2020: 30.

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation makes the point that without eliminating many types of packaging, amongst other things, a circular economy is not achievable:

Without elimination, achieving a circular economy for plastics will not be possible. The demand for plastic packaging is set to double over the coming two decades making it impossible to keep this increased flow of plastics in the economy and out of the environment. To achieve a circular economy, we need to curb the growth in the amount of material that needs to be circulated.⁵⁴⁷

Two approaches are provided *Direct* and *Innovative* elimination. Direct elimination is used where packaging essentially has no functional purpose, while Innovative elimination is used as a process where there is a need for packaging but where plastic can be substituted for a less harmful option.

Examples of *Direct* elimination include eliminating secondary packaging, tear-offs and plastic film, for example around fruit and vegetables. *Innovative* elimination requires resolving indirectly through use of alternatives such as edible and dissolvable packaging, solid products or digital products.⁵⁴⁸ Other examples provided by the Ellen MacArthur Upstream Innovation publication include *Reuse* where packaging is reused, rather than discarded after one use, creating value for both users and businesses:

Reusable packaging is designed to be used multiple times, for its originally intended purpose, as part of a dedicated system for reuse. Reusable packaging is brought back into the economy through the washing of the entire intact packaging.⁵⁴⁹

There are four business-to-consumer models for reuse of packaging materials and include:

1. *Refill at home* Users refill their reusable container at home.
2. *Refill on the go* Users refill their reusable container away from home.
3. *Return from home* Packaging is picked up from home by a collection service
4. *Return on the go* Users return the packaging at a store or drop-off point.⁵⁵⁰

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation provides a detailed assessment of the benefits of reuse and gives examples of different applications. *Material Circulation* requires packaging to be designed so the materials it is made from can be recycled or composted:

When packaging (both reusable and single-use) can no longer serve its function, the material should be circulated through recycling or composting.⁵⁵¹

There are three main categories for materials circulation, a process which starts upstream in the design process. Other considerations include product delivery methods, reducing packaging complexity, increasing recycled content and supply chain opportunities.

1. **Plastics Recycling** Plastic packaging is broken down (mechanically or chemically) and the resulting materials are used to make new products (this excludes energy recovery and the use of the material as a fuel).
2. **Plastics Composting** Plastic packaging is decomposed in a home or industrial composting facility.
3. **Substitution** Plastic packaging is replaced with non-plastic packaging (for example paper or aluminium) and designed for recycling or composting.⁵⁵²

⁵⁴⁷ *Breaking the plastic wave report* [Breaking the Plastic Wave: Top Findings for Preventing Plastic Pollution | The Pew Charitable Trusts \(pewtrusts.org\)](#) Cited in Ellen MacArthur Foundation, *Upstream Innovation: A Guide to Packaging Solutions*, November 2020: 41.

⁵⁴⁸ Ellen MacArthur Foundation, *Upstream Innovation: A Guide to Packaging Solutions*, 2020: 43 – 45 and 50 – 51.

⁵⁴⁹ Ellen MacArthur Foundation, *Upstream Innovation: A Guide to Packaging Solutions*, 2020: 77.

⁵⁵⁰ Ellen MacArthur Foundation, *Upstream Innovation: A Guide to Packaging Solutions*, 2020: 79.

⁵⁵¹ Ellen MacArthur Foundation, *Upstream Innovation: A Guide to Packaging Solutions*, 2020: 120.

⁵⁵² Ellen MacArthur Foundation, *Upstream Innovation: A Guide to Packaging Solutions*, 2020: 122 – 123.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Broader Issues at Commonwealth Level

26. The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water and Green Industries SA promote the Commonwealth Government's voluntary *National framework for recycled content traceability guidelines*.
27. The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water lobby through the Environment Ministers' Meeting, for the Commonwealth, States and Territories to legislate to ban types of soft plastics that are considered difficult to recycle or contain multiple polymers that render the product unrecyclable.
28. Green Industries SA work with the retail and supermarket sectors, the recycling sector and Councils to develop a roadmap to achieving the reduction and phase out of soft plastics by polymer type.
29. The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water lobby through the Environment Ministers' Meeting, for the Commonwealth, States and Territories to advocate for Commonwealth regulation of soft plastic imports.
30. The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water lobby through the Environment Ministers' Meeting, for the Commonwealth, States and Territories to adopt legislation that prescribes rules to stop the over-packaging of products in soft plastic, for sale in Australia.
31. The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water lobby through the Environment Ministers' Meeting, for the Commonwealth, States and Territories to:
 - i. Consider adopting a compulsory, participant funded product stewardship and traceability scheme for recycled soft plastics content;
 - ii. amend the Australasian Recycling Label program to include soft plastics and the recycled content of products; and
 - iii. adopt a 'Recycler Accreditation Scheme' with national minimum material quality standards.
32. The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water lobby through the Environment Ministers' Meeting, for the Commonwealth, States and Territories to undertake a review and report on the extent of production, use and disposal, including disposal methods, of soft plastics in the following sectors, with the view to addressing each within a circular economy framework:
 - Industrial and Manufacturing
 - Rural and Agricultural
 - Medical
 - Health and Pharmaceutical
 - Automotive
 - Transport and Freight.
33. The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water lobby through the Environment Ministers' Meeting, that the Australian Government continue to ban the export of post-consumer soft plastic waste and review the need for export bans on soft plastic waste produced in other industries.

APPENDICES

Glossary⁵⁵³

Term	Meaning
Oxo-degradable photodegradable (fragmentable) or	Conventional fossil-based polymers (usually polyethylene (PE) or polypropylene (PP)) that have additives incorporated at low rates (2-3%) to cause highly accelerated fragmentation of the plastic in sunlight or in the presence of oxygen or in an anaerobic environment. These plastics cannot be certified compostable to Australian Standards and therefore are increasingly the focus of government legislators for removal from the Australian market.
PA Polyamides (Nylon)	Comprise the largest family of engineering plastics with a very wide range of applications, generally for industrial products and used in some flexible films especially for food applications. PA is not compostable.
PBAT Polybutylene adipate terephthalate and PBS Polybutylene succinate	Biodegradable plastics that can be made certified compostable.
PCL Polycaprolactone	A biodegradable polymer suitable for applications requiring years of stability. In recent years it is becoming of increased interest to manufacturers of medical devices and drug delivery particles. It can be made to be certified compostable.
PE Polyethylene	A type of resin and a polyolefin and one of the world's most widely produced conventional plastics.
HDPE High density PE	Plastic used for milk bottles, bleach, cleaners and most shampoo bottles. It is mostly used in rigid packaging, but also in some flexible film applications. Rigid HDPE packaging is recyclable through most of Australia's commingled recycling systems. With special additives HDPE can be made to be degradable, but it is not compostable.
LDPE Low density PE	Widely used in flexible plastics for carrier bags, bin liners and packaging films. LDPE is recyclable through special collections for flexible packaging. With special additives LDPE can be made to be degradable, but it is not compostable.
PET Polyethylene terephthalate	A type of resin and a form of polyester; it is commonly labelled with the number one code on or near the bottom of bottles and other containers. PET has some important characteristics such

⁵⁵³ The Glossary of Plastic Related Terms is directly sourced from: Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO), *Considerations for Compostable Plastic Packaging*, June 2021: 18 – 20. Accessed: [APCO](#)

	its strength, thermo-stability, gas barrier properties and transparency. It is also lightweight, shatter-resistant and highly recyclable through most of Australia's commingled recycling systems. It is a conventional plastic, and not compostable.
PHA Polyhydroxyalkanoate	A naturally occurring family of biodegradable polyesters. It can be made to be certified compostable.
PLA Polylactic acid	Biodegradable polyester produced from lactic acid, used in range of food/drink service-ware products, such as clear drink cups, and as filament for 3D printing. Plastic/Polymer A polymer is a chemical compound that contains a large number of identical molecular repeating units. A plastic material is a polymer, typically modified with additives, which can be moulded or shaped by pressure and temperature, to be flexible or rigid, coloured and printed. Depending upon the specific chemistry it can be made to be composted or mechanically recycled. Plastics are widely used in packaging and in durable products like furniture, flooring and water pipe.
POM - Placed on Market	Packaging that has been made available to the end-consumer, including business users. It includes locally manufactured and imported packaging, filled or unfilled.
PP Polypropylene	Widely used recyclable fossil-based plastic commonly used for clear takeaway food containers, margarine tubs, microwaveable meal trays, also produced as fibres and filaments for carpets, wall coverings and vehicle upholstery. It is a conventional plastic and not compostable.
PS and EPS Polystyrene	A plastic used to make single use cutlery and CD cases. It is not compostable and is generally rejected by conventional recycling systems. This plastic is also made into Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) to make white insulating fruit and fish boxes for cold transport. This is not compostable and is highly problematic for litter. Some recycling systems are available for clean EPS.
PVC Polyvinyl chloride	Occasionally used for rigid packaging like pill blister packs, clear hardware packaging and cake clam shells. Proposed for phase out in certain packaging applications due to its easy confusion with PET and unique recycling requirements. It is widely used in durable industrial products like pipe, flooring and hose. It is not compostable.
Starch-blended plastics	A majority of bio-based plastics are currently manufactured using starch as a feedstock (~80% of current bio-based plastics). The current major sources of this starch are maize, potatoes and cassava. Other potential sources include arrowroot, barley, some varieties of liana, millet, oats, rice, sago, sorghum, sweet potato, taro and wheat. They can be made to be certified compostable.

Polymer Types

Table 2: Polymer types, use, recovery and recyclability

CODE	NAME	USE	RECOVERY RATE 2018-19	RECYCLABILITY IN AUSTRALIA
 PET	Polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE)	Consumer drink packaging, medicine bottles	21%	Packaging captured in container deposit schemes, existing recycling PET facilities. Good polymer for mechanical recycling pathways. An ideal polymer for depolymerisation.
 HDPE	High-density polyethylene (HDPE)	Durable containers: detergent, bleach, shampoo, motor oil, milk bottles Cereal box liners, retail bags	19.7%	Municipal waste collection via MRF facilitates. Considered a good polymer for mechanical recycling pathways. When mechanical is not possible, best suited for conversion technologies.
 PVC	Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)	Packaging: rigid bottles, blister packs Medical: bedding, shrink wrap, tubes, fluid bags Carpet backing, coated fabrics and flooring Construction: ducting, pipes	2%	Collection scheme for some medical plastics. Considered contamination in municipal plastics collections. Opportunities for greater collection in building and construction sector. Undesirable for conversion technologies. Best suited for purification technologies.
 LDPE	Low-density polyethylene (LDPE)	Bags, film wrap, sealants, wire cable covering	17.3%	Consumer packaging wrap collected by REDcycle in Australian supermarkets. Clean post-industrial film suitable for mechanical recycling. Also suitable for conversion technologies.
 PP	Polypolypropylene (PP)	Packaging containers, bottle caps, carpets, flexible packaging	8.9%	Low recycling rate in Australia. Suitable for either conversion or purification technologies.
 PS	Polystyrene (PS) and Expanded polystyrene (EPS)	Packaging peanuts, Styrofoam, protective foam, insulation, yoghurt pots	11.5%	Growing focus to reduce PS in packaging to meet recovery targets. EPS packaging collected at transfer stations. There is some recycling into the built environment. The majority of what is collected is currently exported. Excellent candidate for purification technologies. Also good for conversion and depolymerisation technologies.
 Other	A mixture of polymer types: ABS/SAN/ASA, PU, nylon, bioplastic and other aggregated or unknown polymer types	Multilayer barrier films, toothbrushes, some food containers, tyres, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), etc.	5%	Low recyclability, niche collection and recycling of different polymer types.

Recovery rate data source: O'Farrell 2019

Source: CSIRO, 2021⁵⁵⁴

⁵⁵⁴ King, S, Hutchinson, SA., and Boxall, NJ, CSIRO, *Advanced recycling technologies to address Australia's plastic waste*, Australia, August 2021: 14

List of Relevant Legislation**South Australian:**

Environment Protection Act 1993

Green Industries Act 2004

Plastic Shopping Bags (Waste Avoidance) Act 2008

Single-Use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance) Act 2020

National Environment Protection Council (South Australia) Act 1995

Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Policy 2012

Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010

Commonwealth:

Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020

National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure 2011

Written Submissions

- 01 Mr Adrian Vlok
- 02 Ms Wendy Barnes
- 03 Ms Kathleen Zakis
- 04 Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority (AHRWMA)
- 05 City of Holdfast Bay
- 06 Ms Helen Shepherd
- 07 SA Independent Retailers Inc. (SAIR)
- 08 Soroptimist International Eastern Districts Adelaide
- 09 City of Mitcham Administration
- 10 City of Tea Tree Gully
- 11 Pro Pac Group Pty Ltd
- 12 Huhtamaki Australia
- 13 Mr Kym Gladigau
- 14 Environment Protection Authority, South Australia (EPA SA)
- 15 Coles Group
- 16 Mrs Judy Wesolowski
- 17 Woolworths Group
- 18 Ms Pam DiLorenzo
- 19 City of Adelaide Administration
- 20 Southern Region Waste Resource Authority (SRWRA)
(Cities of Onkaparinga, Marion & Holdfast Bay)
- 21 Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR)
- 22 Australian Food & Grocery Council (AFGC)
- 23 Waste Management & Resource Recovery Association of Australia. (WMRR)
- 24 Waste & Recycling Industry Association of South Australia (WRISA)
- 25 Green Industries SA (GISA)
- 26 YCA Recycling Pty Ltd
- 27 Council of the Ageing (COTA)
- 28 Mr Peter Croft
- 29 City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters (NPSP)
- 30 Central Adelaide Waste & Recycling Authority (CAWRA)
- 31 City of Burnside
- 32 Nazareth Early Childhood Centre
- 33 Motor Trade Association (MTA) SA/NT
- 34 City of Marion
- 35 Solupac Australia Pty Ltd

- 36 Boomerang Alliance
- 37 Conservation Council of SA
- 38 Local Government Association (LGA SA)
- 39 APR Manufacturing Group
- 40 Sustainable Infrastructure Systems Pty Ltd. (SIS)

- 98 Select Committee on the Recycling of Soft Plastics and Other Recyclable Material

Oral Evidence Hearings and Witnesses

The Committee held hearings of evidence at Parliament House, Adelaide, as follows:

Thursday, 21 September 2023**Green Industries SA (GISA)**

Professor Ian Overton, Chief Executive Officer

Ms Jessica Wundke, Manager, Policy Reform

Mr Ian Harvey, Director, Policy and Evaluation

Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

Mr Steve Sergi, Manager, Circular Economy and Waste

Conservation Council SA (Conservation SA)

Mr Mark Anderson, General Manager

Thursday, 12 October 2023**Local Government Association (LGA)**

Mr Andrew Lamb, Director Advocacy

Ms Brianna McGee, Senior Policy Officer

City of Holdfast Bay

Ms Shani Wood, Environmental Officer

City of Burnside

Dr Philip Roetman, Coordinator, Environmental Sustainability

Thursday, 26 October 2023**Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC)**

Mr Barry Cosier, Director, Sustainability (via video)

Central Adelaide Waste & Recycling Authority (CAWRA)

Mr John Niarchos, Chief Executive Officer

Thursday, 9 November 2023**Woolworths Group**

Mr Laurie Kozlovic, Managing Director, Sustainable Impact (also speaking for soft plastics task force)

Coles Group

Ms Brooke Donnelly, General Manager, Sustainability

Thursday, 23 November 2023**SA Independent Retailers Association**

Mr Colin Shearing, Chief Executive Officer

Thursday 29 February 2024**AusVeg SA**

Mr Jordan Brooke-Barnett, Chief Executive Officer

Pro-Pac Group

Ms Stephanie Thoo, General Manager, Innovation & Sustainability

14 March 2024**Waste Management & Resource Recovery Assoc of Aust**

Ms Gayle Sloan, Chief Executive Officer

Ms Tiana Nairn, Branch President, South Australia

BioBag World Australia

Mr Scott Morton, Director

Site Visits

23 November 2024 Woolworths Walkerville

15 February 2024 YCA – Wingfield
RPA – Kilburn

100 Select Committee on the Recycling of Soft Plastics and Other Recyclable Material

Robyn Ridsdale

From: Brianna McGee (LGA) <brianna.mcgee@lga.sa.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 August 2023 8:41 AM
To: Robyn Ridsdale
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Barossa Council FW: Feedback sought - parliamentary inquiry into soft plastics

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Hi Robyn,

Thank you for this feedback, if I have any questions I will reach out 😊

Cheers
Bree

From: Robyn Ridsdale <rridsdale@barossa.sa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 9:23 AM
To: Brianna McGee (LGA) <brianna.mcgee@lga.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Barossa Council FW: Feedback sought - parliamentary inquiry into soft plastics

Dear Brianna,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment to the LGA SA for the whole of local government response to the [South Australian Parliamentary Select Committee on Recycling of Soft Plastics and other Recyclable Material](#).

Confirming that Barossa Council is not providing a direct response to the committee, and the following comments are made by Administration and not directly endorsed by Elected Members.

Barossa Council in principle support,

- A consistent national approach with extended producer responsibility requirements. It is not sustainable for Councils to continue to carry alone the disposal cost through landfill levies, with no direct levers to change or influence packaging producers to reduce reliance on single-use soft plastics or create productive circular industries,
- Investment in secure and transparent productive end markets. Transparency is important for re-building community confidence following the failure of the RedCycle program. Productive end markets beyond more bollards, park benches or stockpiled plastic pellets is required. The provision for more detailed product specification sheets, maybe certification in some instances, could assist and provide greater confidence to procurement teams when assessing fit for purpose of recycled content alternatives,
- Caution regarding increased direct and indirect costs to Councils if the kerbside collection (bagged soft plastics in yellow recycling bin) model being trialled by selected Councils in SA was to be expanded further in South Australia. While a more customer centric model, financial risks may include increased processing costs passed onto Council and reduced competition in waste and recycling contracts if only selected MRF's in SA will accept bagged soft plastics in kerbside recycling bins,
- A coordinated and consistent approach to community education in South Australia and utilising WhichBin. Careful consideration for how this might work if MRF acceptance parameters for soft plastics vary between facilities will be important.

- Clarity regarding the material chain of custody if the kerbside collection model is adopted by Councils, and then industry partners don't scale up as required and local South Australian soft plastics manufacturing facilities don't come online.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the above.

Kind regards,

Robyn Ridsdale

Sustainability Officer

E: ridsdale@barossa.sa.gov.au | T: 08 8563 8364

From: Brianna McGee (LGA) <brianna.mcgee@lga.sa.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 15 August 2023 4:18 PM

To: Brianna McGee (LGA) <brianna.mcgee@lga.sa.gov.au>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback sought - parliamentary inquiry into soft plastics

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Dear all,

Feedback sought – parliamentary inquiry into soft plastics

The LGA is developing a whole of local government response to the [South Australian Parliamentary Select Committee on Recycling of Soft Plastics and other Recyclable Material](#) inquiry into soft plastics. Terms of Reference are **attached**.

You can provide input to the LGA response by providing comment or feedback in alignment with the attached terms of reference. Send any comments or response directly to me, [Brianna McGee](#), via email by **COB Friday 25 August 2023**. I acknowledge the tight turnaround time for feedback and appreciate any comments and insights that you can provide. If your council is providing your own response to the committee, please share with the LGA for consideration. Data, research, or other information gathered from relevant trials or collection programs is also welcome.

Please share with your council contacts and reach out if you have any additional questions or queries.

Kind regards,

Brianna

Brianna McGee • Senior Policy Officer • Local Government Association

Brianna.mcgee@lga.sa.gov.au • <https://protect->

au.mimecast.com/s/J1m4C4QO84Fpg4XTxuXnw?domain=lga.sa.gov.au • Follow us on

T: 08 8224 2049 • 148 Frome Street Adelaide 5000 • GPO Box 2693 Adelaide SA 5001



The LGA acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional custodians of the land, and we offer our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We advocate for and encourage South Australian councils to strengthen relationships with their local Aboriginal communities.



WARNING AND DISCLAIMER: The information provided by the LGA in this email does not constitute legal advice. If legal advice is required, we suggest that you seek out the services of a qualified legal provider. The contents of this email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and may be subject to legal professional privilege and copyright. You must not copy or distribute this message or any part of it or otherwise disclose its contents to anyone without written authorisation from the LGA. No representation is made that this email is free of viruses or other defects. Virus scanning is recommended and is the responsibility of the recipient. We take no responsibility for misdirection, corruption or unauthorised use of email communications, nor for any damage that may be caused as a result of transmitting or receiving an email communication. If you have received this communication in error, please delete the email and advise us immediately.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.6 THE FATHER'S FARM

**Author: Sustainability Officer
24/88553**

Council was formally notified by The Father's Farm in September that the Nuriootpa site that they are operating from has been sold, with lease arrangements ending on 30 June 2025.

The Father's Farm receives e-waste at no charge and processes it by removing metal and other valuable parts, which is then sold to recycling facilities to help fund a hands-on learning program supporting at-risk youth, called 'John's Place Program'. In financial year 2023 – 2024 there were seventeen (17) permanent program participants, which were a mixture of Flexible Learning Options (FLO) funded students, NDIS recipients, home school and Father's Farm sponsored students. On average there is one (1) volunteer mentor assigned per two (2) students, with additional e-waste, catering and management board volunteers also on site.

Council is The Father's Farms other consistent source of income outside of revenue from recycling. Council is providing \$24,000 of direct funding per annum to the program, with additional in-kind support valued at \$5,000 per annum. Council's partnership with The Father's Farm provides a convenient e-waste resource recovery service to residents. E-waste is prohibited from landfill disposal and cannot be put in the kerbside yellow recycling bin. Council's hard waste campaigns do accept e-waste and residents can drop e-waste off at Springton Transfer Station.

The Fathers' Farm team requested a meeting with Council, and this was facilitated on 23 September 2024, with Council inviting other parties including Light Regional Council, Regional Development Australia Barossa, and Employment Options (Facilitators of the Department of Education FLO Program at John's Place Program).

The Father's Farm team is keen to keep both the e-waste operation and John's Place Program operating from the same location, to retain what they describe as invaluable learnings from intergenerational relationships and social skill building that is achieved through the common purpose of adding value to e-waste recycling, the mentoring program and sharing a weekly meal together. The Father's Farm is not in a financial position to be able to purchase another site, and money available for rent is conservative. The existing site and space have been generously and heavily subsidised by the owner for an extended period now.

In the short term, Council will continue to work with The Father's Farm and other parties, including looking for other external funding, to explore possible options to retain e-waste processing activities to fund the John's Place Program.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.7 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2025 NOW OPEN

**Author: Executive Business Partner
24/88914**

Who makes a real difference in our community?

We encourage everyone to share a bit about their story, listen to the stories of others and celebrate with the people around you!

Each year, South Australia celebrates the achievements and contributions of outstanding members of their communities through the Citizen of the Year Awards. These individuals demonstrate extraordinary service every day within our communities so often invisible to most of us. This contribution builds the social and cultural fabric of our society, making a significant difference to the people of our state. The Citizen of the Year Awards program is proudly conducted by the Australia Day Council of South Australia in partnership with all Councils across our state.

The Awards acknowledge the unsung heroes of our community who through their contributions make our state a better place. These individuals and organisations offer outstanding service each day and enable our communities to be stronger as a result of their tireless efforts.

CATEGORIES

Citizen of the Year

This is presented to someone making an extraordinary contribution to the community and may recognise outstanding service over a number of years. To be eligible, the person must be an Australian Citizen.

Young Citizen of the Year

This is presented to a young emerging leader who is making a real difference in their community. To be eligible, the person must be an Australian Citizen aged over 16 years and under 30 years of age on January 26, 2025.

Community Event of the Year

This is presented to the person or group who has staged the most outstanding event for their community. To be eligible, the person or group must be Australian Citizens.

Award for Active Citizenship

This is presented to a person or group delivering outstanding work on an event or project for the community during the past calendar year. The person or group need not be Australian Citizens.

PROCEDURE

Each local Council in South Australia seek nominations in their local Council area, with the award recipients typically announced at the Council's Australia Day celebrations. Nominate someone who makes a real difference in your community and give them the opportunity to be rewarded and recognised for their important contribution. Councils can forward the details of their Award recipients to the Australia Day Council of South Australia to go in the running for the 2025 State Awards, presented by the Governor of South Australia.

Nominations for the 2025 Citizen of the Year close on 15 November 2024.

Nomination form can be downloaded via the link below or by using the attached form.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Australia Day Council SA - Citizen of the Year 2025 - Nomination Form
 

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

[Nominate | The Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards](#)

Nomination Form 2025

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

Do you know
someone who
makes your
community a
better place?

Nominations close
15 November 2024

Categories

Citizen of the Year

This is presented to
someone making
an extraordinary
contribution to the
community and may
recognise outstanding
service over a
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To be eligible, the
person must be an
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This is presented to
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To be eligible, the
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under 30 years of age
on January 26, 2025.

Community Event of the Year

This is presented to
a person or group
who has staged the
most outstanding
event for their
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To be eligible, the
person or group
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Citizens.

Award for Active Citizenship

This is presented to
a person or group
delivering outstanding
work on an event
or project for the
community during
the past calendar year.

The person or group
need not be Australian
Citizens.



Nomination Form 2025

The Citizen of the Year Awards are proudly presented by the Australia Day Council of South Australia, sponsored by LGA South Australia, Sarah Constructions, MGA Insurance, Community Bridging Services Inc., Community Business Bureau and Flinders University.

The Awards acknowledge the unsung heroes of our community who through their contributions make our state a better place. These individuals and organisations offer outstanding service each day and enable our communities to be stronger as a result of their tireless efforts.

Outstanding contribution and community service includes areas such as education, health, fundraising, charitable and voluntary services, business, sport, arts, the environment, or any other area that contributes to the advancement and well being of a community.

Nominate someone who makes a real difference in your community and give them the opportunity to be celebrated and recognised for their important contribution.

Nominee (the person/organisation you would like to nominate)

Please provide as much information as possible. Additional documents may be attached providing further information or testimonials of achievement.

☐ CITIZEN ☐ YOUNG CITIZEN ☐ COMMUNITY EVENT ☐ ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Date of Birth:

Email:

Council:

If you are unsure of the Nominee's Council, go to <https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/sa-councils/councils-listing> and enter their address in the search field of Find My Council by Location

Is the person being nominated an Australian citizen? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Reason for nomination

How has the person/organisation contributed to the community?

**CITIZEN OF THE
YEAR AWARDS**
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

Nomination Form 2025

How has the nominee demonstrated active citizenship and enhancement of community life?

How has the nominee's contribution been recognised elsewhere?

Additional material may be attached: maximum five A4 pages, minimum font size 10 point.

Referee

Please provide the contact details of a referee or attach a written reference.

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Occupation:

What is the referee's relationship to the nominee?

What can the referee comment on?



Nominator (your details)

Name:

Phone: Email:

☐ I give permission for the Australia Day Council of South Australia to submit this nomination to other recognition programs such as the Australian of the Year Awards.

Procedure

Each local Council in South Australia seeks nominations in their local Council area, with the Award recipients announced in late January.

Councils can forward the details of their Award recipients to the Australia Day Council of SA to go in the running for the State Awards, presented by the Governor of South Australia.

Visit the website to nominate online and for more information on the Awards, including past recipients.".

www.citizenoftheyear.com.au

Please return completed form before Friday, 15 November 2024 to:
Australia Day Council of South Australia, Office 18, 240 Currie St, Adelaide SA 5000
or email to adcsa@adcsa.com.au

How did you hear about the Citizen of the Year Award?:

☐ Social media

☐ Newsletter

☐ Website

☐ Newspaper article

☐ Word of mouth

☐ Information in Council office

☐ Nominated before

☐ Other, please specify:

Find out more about the Australia Day Council of SA:

☐ Yes I want to hear more about the Australia Day Council of South Australia

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.8 WILLIAMSTOWN AND LYNDOKH LANDCARE GROUP - MINUTES OF MEETING

**Author: Executive and Project Support Officer
24/88923**

The Minutes of the Williamstown and Lyndoch Landcare Group meeting held 25 September 2024, are attached for information.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Minutes - Williamstown and Lyndoch Landcare Group - 25
September 2024 [!\[\]\(003082e50e3009141f59bd5df831749f_img.jpg\)](#) 

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil



Meeting Minutes

PO Box 694
Lyndoch, SA 5351

Purpose General Meeting

Prepared by Terry Redman

Phone No. 0418 857 915

Location Council Rooms,
29 Barossa Valley Way,
Lyndoch, SA 5351

Date 25 September 2024

Attendees

Angus Atkinson (Chair)
Tina Woods
Terry Redman
Don Wegener

Distribution All current & life members, Chris Kruger (Executive Assistant, Development and Environmental Services, The Barossa Council) and Kim Thompson

File 20240925_GeneralMeetingMinutes.docx

Item		Action by	Date Due
1	Meeting Opened 7.31 pm.		
2	Apologies – Nelly Van Der Lerssel, Kym Burton, Maria Burton, Tracy Sinclair, Pam Cross, Margaret Puddy, Shirley Wegener, Elke Wiese, Joerg Wiese, Peter Henshaw		
3	Minutes of previous Meeting held 28 July 2024 – Accepted Moved by Don Wegener, seconded by Terry Redman – Carried.		
4	Business Arising last meeting: No business arising.		
4.1	<u>Actions now closed:</u>		
	ACTION: LandscapeSA, Northern and Yorke - Bio Control agents for the control of Horehound and Salvation Jane. After chasing up a lack of contact it was revealed an admin error led to loss of contact details.		



Meeting Minutes

	Contacted by Gawler branch of Northern and Yorke on 23/9/2024 advising some bio control agents had been obtained and available for collection. Picked up and distributed onto Salvation Jane, Thursday 26/09/2024. Have been placed on email list for coming years		
4.2	<u>Actions Still open:</u>		
	ACTION: Environmental and Cultural Flows Project – Water watch (water bugs and water quality monitoring - schools program in Winter) and Bioblitz (water bugs and water quality monitoring – citizen science in Spring), Liz Ninnes - Co-ordinator ACTION: Cultural Awareness activities with three First Nations of the Barossa Contact to be made with Liz Ninnes on both matters.	Angus Atkinson	Oct 24
	ACTION: Tour of Hansen Australia Quarries – Organise a tour as offered by Angie Garzon Gutierrez, Enviro Compliance & Planning Officer. Contact to be made later in the year	Angus Atkinson	Oct 24
	ACTION: Review WWLG obligations as an incorporated Association	Tina Woods	Dec 24
	ACTION: 2024/25 Year Objectives Plan – A meeting was held at the container 12/09/2024. All action item leaders provided a progress update. Next follow-up meeting scheduled for 10/10/2024.	Tina Woods	Sep 24
5	<u>New Actions from Business arising this meeting:</u>		
	ACTION: CFS Training - Following a recent meeting with local CFS, a training session will be undertaken at Altona on a Wednesday night in the near future.	Angus Atkinson	Oct 24
	ACTION: Pest animal control program – to be conducted at Altona over the next 18 months concluding June 2026.	Angus Atkinson	Oct 24
	ACTION: Query from Chris Kruger re Management Agreement	Tina Woods	Oct 24
6	<u>Correspondence IN-</u>		
	• Friends of Parks SA - ○ Wednesday Weekly mailout - • 28/08/2024, 04/09/2024, 11/09/2024, 18/09/2024, 23/09/2024*, 25/09/2024 • 23/09/2024 – Grants Program		



Meeting Minutes

	• Northern and Yorke - • Yakka News – 29/08/2024 – Fox control program. • Bite Sized Grants – from \$200 to \$2000 • Liz Nannes – Spring 2024/2025 – Information for Northern and Yorke Environmental Volunteers and Nature Educators. • Southern Barossa Business Group – • Lyndoch Street Party 13/12/2024 • Youth Opportunities Expo, Saturday 26/10/2024, Williamstown Hall • Barossa Council – • Kim Thompson - Email to Chair re Native Vegetation Council Grants meeting at Barossa Bushgardens, 11/09/2024 • Kim Thompson – Follow up to abovementioned meeting and discussions with Tanya Schneider, from Native Vegetation Council, an opportunity to undertake a pest animal control program at Altona over the next 18 months has been forthcoming. • Chris Kruger – Management Agreement query. • Landcare Association of South Australia • Natalia – September Members Blast – 05/09/2024 • Green Adelaide Newsletter – • 18/09/2024 • Ecological Directions – Ellen Krahner – ▪ Data has been prepared and loaded in BDBSA • Environmental Weed Control and Revegetation – Amanda Pearce ▪ Report/Monitoring		
	Correspondence OUT- Nil to Report		
7	Chair Report The dry winter and spring have delayed weed germination. However, Bridal Creeper and Scabiosa have now begun to appear. Amanda Pearce has been working along the river and less accessible locations and requested that we focus on Bridal Creeper along the easier access area and Grundy block. This has been the spray focus for the last three weeks and will continue for this spring. The wildlife camera has not shown any further deer incursions, but foxes have been very common. Monitoring has shifted to known fox dens and significant activity has been		



Meeting Minutes

	noted. However no sustained use of the dens is yet evident. Monitoring continues and we are currently seeking funding and assistance with feral pest control for 2025/26. Hand weeding for Scabiosa and Salvation Jane has been significantly improved with the purchase of Fiskars hand weeders. Much easier to use and less impact on the surrounding soil and plants. Attended the Native Vegetation Council Grants information session at Barossa Bushgardens on 11/9/2024.																																										
8	Monthly Volunteer Hours Summary <table><tr><th>Tasks</th><th>YTD</th><th>AUG 24</th><th>SEPT 24 (to date)</th></tr><tr><td>1. Admin Duties (Committee Members)²</td><td>62</td><td>23</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>2. Meetings, home & away</td><td>53</td><td>22</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>3. Promotions. (Tours, demos, etc.)</td><td>8</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>4. Propagation (Sowing, planting out, seed collection, etc.)</td><td>0</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>5. Weed & Pest Control</td><td>299</td><td>121</td><td>98</td></tr><tr><td>6. Construction & maintenance (Equipment, fencing, trails, buildings, etc.)</td><td>34</td><td>10</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>7. Equipment design & manufacture (Seed boxes, displays, jigs, tools, etc.)</td><td>0</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>8. Monitoring</td><td>18</td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Totals</td><td>474</td><td>182</td><td>128</td></tr></table>	Tasks	YTD	AUG 24	SEPT 24 (to date)	1. Admin Duties (Committee Members) ²	62	23	9	2. Meetings, home & away	53	22	9	3. Promotions. (Tours, demos, etc.)	8	4	4	4. Propagation (Sowing, planting out, seed collection, etc.)	0			5. Weed & Pest Control	299	121	98	6. Construction & maintenance (Equipment, fencing, trails, buildings, etc.)	34	10	4	7. Equipment design & manufacture (Seed boxes, displays, jigs, tools, etc.)	0			8. Monitoring	18	2	4	Totals	474	182	128		
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Meeting Minutes

9	Treasurers Report – as presented by Tina Woods: Moved that Report be accepted by Don Wegener, seconded by Terry Redman – Carried																																
	Monthly Income & Expenditure – since last General Meeting <table><tr><td></td><td>AUG 24</td><td>SEPT 24 (to date)</td></tr><tr><td>Balance Brought Forward</td><td>\$ 12,087.40</td><td>\$ 11,782.71</td></tr><tr><td>Income</td><td>\$ 5.07</td><td>\$ -</td></tr><tr><td>Expenses</td><td>\$ 309.76</td><td>\$ 3,700.29</td></tr><tr><td>End Month Balance</td><td>\$ 11,782.71</td><td>\$ 8,082.42</td></tr></table> Account Balances – since last General Meeting <table><tr><td></td><td>AUG 24</td><td>SEPT 24 (to date)</td></tr><tr><td>Administration</td><td>\$ 2,734.07</td><td>\$ 2,734.07</td></tr><tr><td>Credit Union Share</td><td>\$ 2.00</td><td>\$ 2.00</td></tr><tr><td>Project No.2 (Altona)</td><td>\$ 9,046.64</td><td>\$ 5,346.35</td></tr><tr><td>Total End Month Balance</td><td>\$ 11,782.71</td><td>\$ 8,082.42</td></tr></table> Notes: 1. FY24 Financial records have been shared with Kelly Wilksch, TBC Manager Financial Services for review. Nothing from TBC to date. 2. Major expenses since last meeting are as follows: New weeders & spray bottles \$309.76 BDBSA Upload Project \$799.04 Environmental Weed Control & Revegetation \$2,901.25		AUG 24	SEPT 24 (to date)	Balance Brought Forward	\$ 12,087.40	\$ 11,782.71	Income	\$ 5.07	\$ -	Expenses	\$ 309.76	\$ 3,700.29	End Month Balance	\$ 11,782.71	\$ 8,082.42		AUG 24	SEPT 24 (to date)	Administration	\$ 2,734.07	\$ 2,734.07	Credit Union Share	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	Project No.2 (Altona)	\$ 9,046.64	\$ 5,346.35	Total End Month Balance	\$ 11,782.71	\$ 8,082.42		
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Project No.2 (Altona)	\$ 9,046.64	\$ 5,346.35																															
Total End Month Balance	\$ 11,782.71	\$ 8,082.42																															
10	Petty Cash – as presented by Angus Atkinson Current balance \$194.95																																
11	Work Health and Safety Nil																																
12	Publicity: Facebook Regular updates continuing. 617 followers.																																



Meeting Minutes

	• Lyndoch Grapevine ○ Standing Advertisement. • Willy Wagtail ○ Standing Advertisement		
13	General Business:		
14	Key Dates for 2024 • Nature Festival – ▪ Join bird whisperer, Ian Falkenberg, for a walk-through Altona CSR Landcare Reserve and discover the awe-inspiring native birds. The reserve provides habitat for one hundred and thirty-nine species of native birds, fifty of which have State conservation rating of Endangered, Vulnerable or Rare. Date 1/10/2024, 5pm to 6pm. ▪ Bird walk Saturday 12/10/2024, 8.30am to 11.30am, Altona CSR Landcare Reserve with Ali Ben Kahn.		
15	Next Meeting – The next Meeting will be Wednesday 23rd October 2024, Council Rooms, 29 Barossa Valley Way, Lyndoch, SA		
16	Meeting Closed: 8.12pm.		

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.9 SISTER CITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

**Author: Executive Business Partner
24/89072**

Minutes of the Sister Cities Advisory Committee for 26 September 2024 are attached for information.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Minutes - Sister Cities Advisory Committee Meeting - 26 September 2024 [!\[\]\(17acf1afa8cdf0b67c53d4865a5ed469_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(ece8cabb5adcd402275b8866019cc3b8_img.jpg\)](#)

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil

2024/27

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SISTER CITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

held on Thursday 26 September 2024 commencing at 5.30pm
in the Council Chambers, 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa.

MINUTES

Welcome by Mayor Bim Lange declared the meeting open at 5.30pm.

1. ATTENDANCE RECORD**1.1 Members Present**

Mayor Bim Lange, Janine Harding, Rolf Binder, Rick Lane, Bill Simons, Scott Hazeldine, Louise Hickinbotham, Vanesa Lambert, Ingrid Day, Jo Seabrook and Milly Hoffman.

Apologies

Jo Moen, Carol Dadds, Courtney Percival

Not Present

Michelle Schwarz

Leave of Absence

Nil

Resignation of Matt Hale – Committee Member

Members were advised that Matt Hale has resigned from the Committee due to other commitments.

2024/28

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 Minutes of previous meetings – for confirmation:

MOVED Scott Hazeldine

That the Minutes of the Sister City Advisory Committee held on Thursday 25 July 2024 at 5.30pm, as circulated, be confirmed as true and correct records of the proceedings of those meetings.

SECONDED Rick Lane**CARRIED SCACC/9**

2.2 Matters arising from previous minutes

Nil

3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3.1 Update on Grapevine Official Delegation Visit to Barossa 2025

Janine Harding provided a verbal update regarding the Grapevine Official Delegation visit scheduled for April 2025 in terms of expected numbers of delegates, including officials, business owners, community members and students including possible recreation options for their visit. Also looking at collaboration with the Barossa Vintage Festival and how the Barossa Council can add value to the festival. Catherine Nacey provided a verbal update on accommodation options for April 2025.

The Committee discussed slowing down the itinerary with options and having a more tailored experience for delegates.

ACTION

Catherine and Janine will continue to liaise with delegates from Grapevine to finalise itinerary details and report back to the Committee

3.2 Update on the Exchange Program Working Group

Janine provided a verbal update on the progress of the working group and awaiting a response from PW McCallum in relation to specifics around students.

Rick Lane provided a verbal update on logistics of the visit in April in terms of teachers and what the Student Exchange Program might look like. Milly Hoffman, head of Agriculture and Winery at Nuriootpa High School (NHS) to assist Rick and provided a verbal update on discussion with PW McCallum and also commented around timing of Royal Adelaide Show and GrapeFest visit in September 2025.

2024/29

Ingrid Day spoke on the National and State policies around Student Exchange and that it may be better to register as a 'study tour'.

Bill Simons commented on the Rotary Student Exchange Program and that it is normally one student who is hosted by various clubs during their time.

Louise Hickinbotham advised that she has had discussions with Kiwanis for the possibility of sponsorship of a disadvantaged student to attend Grapevine. This is to be proposed at the next Kiwanis meeting in October. Lutheran Care Board are also looking into providing support to a First Nations student.

The Committee discussed if it would be suitable to include in the student application process a commitment to fundraising for the trip, their ability to host a student and if they may have any financial constraints. It was also discussed if it would be beneficial to combine fundraising efforts with Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis.

ACTION

Louise and Janine to present to Kiwanis at the next meeting and talk to the other Service Clubs in the Barossa Region to assess options of collaboration.

3.3 Update on the Trade Development Working Group

Rolf Binder provided a verbal update on the working group aims to set short term goals and long term objectives of strong business ties but also friendship. Important to tie to Grapevine but also extend to the rest of Texas. He has invited Anthony Grundel, Export Adviser – Trade Start/Austrade to the working group who will attend in October.

Scott Hazeldine provided a verbal update on exploring links through State Government, SA Tourism Commission in Texas and South by Southwest in Austin Texas.

ACTION

Anthony Grundel to present to the next Working Group meeting.

The Working Group will investigate further links with Government agencies and bring back to the Committee.

3.4 Update on the Event Volunteering Working Group

An update on the Event Volunteering Working Group was provided and it was agreed the group will focus on supporting the Student Exchange Program and look at the opportunities around the Barossa Vintage Festival before implementing at a larger scale if this is successful.

The Working group will investigate fundraising opportunities specifically for the Student Exchange Program, including support for the Young Ambassador Program at the Barossa Vintage Festival.

2024/30

ACTION

The Working Group will investigate further and bring back to the Committee.

3.5 Calendar of Events - April 2025

The Committee discussed the timeframes around all events during April 2025. Barossa Wine Auction to be added. Gather Round should see an increase in visitation for the week. Number of games and teams to be announced soon.

3.6 Barossa Vintage Festival 2025 - Verbal Update

Scott Hazeldine provided a verbal update that the Barossa Vintage Festival program is progressing well with Rebecca Reynolds and Maz McGann as Co-Directors. Funding is currently being sought with sponsorship opportunities. Aiming for a 10 per cent increase in attendance.

Janine provided a verbal update around some ideas where The Barossa Council and Grapevine delegates and students could be involved in the Barossa Vintage Festival such as a US themed event, blind wine tastings, Texas BBQ and Grapestomp, all to be discussed with the Co-Directors.

There are funds in the 2024/2025 budget which could be used for the Barossa Vintage Festival Young Ambassador award recipient to attend GrapeFest in 2025 as part of the official delegation. PW McCallum or other official from Grapevine could present this prize.

ACTION

Janine to meet with Co-Directors of the Barossa Vintage Festival and Council Executive Team and bring back further information to the Committee.

3.7 Barossa Vintage Festival Parade - Sister City Float

The Committee discussed having a friendship float, acknowledging the Grapevine delegation and students (who will be in attendance). Louise Hickinbotham has access to tractors and trailers.

All Committee Members in attendance committed to assisting.

ACTION

Louise, Janine and Catherine to meet to discuss further and bring a concept back to the Committee.

Bill Simons left the meeting at 6:40 pm

2024/31

3.8 International Greeter Association

Jo Seabrook and Ingrid Day provided a verbal update on the possibility of utilising The Barossa Council, Barossa Ambassadors, as part of a greeter program run through Visitor Services. The International Greeter Association has 4 main criteria:

- Run by volunteers
- Maximum of 6 participants
- Free
- Sustainable (walking and engaged with the community)

The Committee felt that this was achievable with current resources.

ACTION

Jo Seabrook and Ingrid Day will continue to look at the viability and aspects for implementation.

4. DEBATE REPORT

Nil

5. CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA

Nil

6. URGENT OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

7. NEXT MEETING

Thursday 28 November 2024 at 5.30pm

8. CLOSURE

Mayor Lange declared the meeting closed at 6.51pm.

Confirmed at Sister Cities Advisory Committee Meeting on 28 November 2024

Date:..... Chairperson:.....

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.10 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT

**Author: Chief Executive Officer
24/89090**

The Local Government Finance Authority annual report incorporating financial statements for the 2023-24 financial year have been received and is tabled for Councils information.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

[LGFA-AnnualReport2024-web.pdf](#)

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.11 PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES - ONECARD 2.0 COLLECTION REFORM UPDATE

Author: Manager Library Services
24/89133

This information is providing an update on the OneCard 2.0 Collection Reform Program from the Libraries Board of South Australia.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Libraries Board South Australia - OneCard 2 0 collection Reform Program Update - 25 September 2024 [!\[\]\(642aa997563f9a325b310230bb5078b7_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(9bef82f5a53106f2ad06a2de7acf5bcf_img.jpg\)](#)

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil

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25 September 2024

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Dear Mr. McCarthy

One Card 2.0 Collection Reform Program

In my previous correspondence to all councils regarding annual funding, I shared an update on the One Card 2.0 Collection Reform Program that has been initiated by the Libraries Board of South Australia. This strategic program will ensure that the significant collections held by public libraries across the state, including the State Library, are developed, managed, and preserved in a cohesive and efficient manner.

The One Card 2.0 Collection Reform Program is set to transform collection practices across the sector, aiming for increased accountability, efficiency, and integrated planning. By implementing both savings and non-savings reform streams, the program is designed to maximise community benefits. It will review existing systems, processes, and resource allocation to ensure they are optimally aligned and deployed, addressing current needs and preparing for future opportunities and challenges.

The Libraries Board has established and is funding a project management office (PMO) to execute the One Card 2.0 Collection Reform Program. The One Card Steering Committee was formed to oversee the governance of the One Card 2.0 Collection Reform Project. The committee includes strategists and practitioners who will oversee the program and is comprised of:

- Andrew Culley (Chair, and Libraries Board member)
- Paul Sutton (CEO, Charles Sturt Council)
- Peter Ackland (CEO, Port Pirie Council)
- Megan Berghuis (General Manager, City of Unley, and Libraries Board member)
- Dionne Collins (Director, City of Port Adelaide Enfield)
- Joann Weckert (Education Director, Department for Education)
- Geoff Strempe (State Library Director)
- Helen Walkden (Team Leader Libraries, City of Onkaparinga)

Jo Cooper (State Library) was appointed as the PMO Manager and will be overseeing the management of the various sub-projects within the reform program. The development of a communication strategy is underway, and now that the PMO and Steering Committee have formed, you can expect regular communication and updates on the key work being undertaken.

One Card 2.0 Collection Reform Program will consist of a series of concurrent projects over five plus years, commencing August 2024. The first projects are Collection Governance and Strategy project, led by Helen Kwaka as the Project Manager; Digital Future which includes Local and Family History digital solution, led by Jo Cooper as the Project Manager; and Collection Access led by Tony Leviston as the Project Manager, initially focussing on the library system and application environment.

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I have attached a brochure that gives Council a comprehensive look at the program. Inside, you'll find:

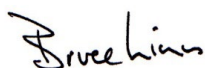
- An overview of program key outcomes and benefits
- Details about the reform initiatives
- Program vision and goals

This information has been directly distributed to library staff in Councils through the LibrariesSA Network, and can be shared with Council representatives to ensure they are informed of the details of the program.

An engagement process will commence shortly, where Council representatives and council library staff will have the opportunity to provide their feedback. Regular updates will be provided, keeping you informed and engaged with latest developments.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Hanlie Erasmus, Associate Director Public Library and Corporate Services hanlie.erasmus@sa.gov.au for assistance.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Linn
Chair
Libraries Board of South Australia

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One Card^{2.0}

Collection Reform Program

The journey continues



OFFICIAL

One Card^{2.0}

Collection Reform Program

Making a great library network even better

The **One Card Network** was launched in 2012 to connect all SA public libraries and give communities unprecedented access and convenience.

This collaboration between the Libraries Board of South Australia, the Local Government Association, South Australian Councils and the Department for Education, enables library customers to use any public library across SA with a single card, with access to almost three million items and the ability to borrow and return at any library in the state.

Customers continue to express through survey feedback that the main reason for using libraries is to access the collection.

The **One Card 2.0 Collections Reform Program** builds on the success of the initial One Card project.



Reshaping our collection strategy to better meet current and future needs

The **Libraries Act 1982** expects our public libraries to **continually improve to meet customer needs** via the following objective:

To achieve & maintain a co-ordinated system of libraries and library services that adequately meets the needs of the whole community.

The **Libraries Board of South Australia** is responsible for administering the Act and has determined that a priority to achieve the objective is in the area of collections, **ensuring that collection usage is maximised now and in the future.**

STATEWIDE COLLECTION **3.7M** items
Across public libraries & State Library



ANNUAL EXPENDITURE **\$13.4M**
Including purchase, management, catalogue, delivery



ANNUAL LOANS **14.7M**
Physical & digital copies



LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP **530k**
Across metro & regional SA



Key outcomes and benefits

There are many positive outcomes and benefits to be realised from the One Card 2.0 Program, including:

- maximising usage of our collections to fully realise information and literacy benefits to the community
- utilising staff expertise, systems and new technologies to improve community access to statewide collections
- reduced operating costs through shared online subscriptions between the State Library and public libraries



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One Card^{2.0}

Collection Reform Program

Reform initiatives

One Card 2.0 Collection Reform Program will consist of a series of initiatives working together to achieve the following outcomes and benefits:



Program timing

It's anticipated that the One Card 2.0 program initiatives will be delivered over a five year period, commencing in August 2024.

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One Card^{2.0}

Collection Reform Program

Program vision and intent

Vision: Provide seamless access to statewide knowledge, creativity and innovations, bringing together physical and digital content to meet the needs of the community. We develop contemporary and diverse collections, whilst preserving and capturing South Australian stories for discovery and connection.



Intent: The **One Card 2.0 Collections Reform Program** will review collection management practices and systems across the sector to achieve enhanced accountability, efficiency gains and integrated planning through the implementation of savings and non-savings reforms to deliver maximum benefit to the community through increased discovery and use.



Program governance

The **Program Sponsor** is the **Libraries Board of South Australia**.

A **Steering Committee** has been established to oversee the project with representatives from the funding stakeholders including the **Libraries Board of South Australia, Local Government, and the Department for Education**. The Steering Committee will make recommendations to the Libraries Board.

A **Project Management Office (PMO)** consisting of project leadership and senior library leaders will deliver the program. The PMO will report to the Steering Committee.

Your council's involvement

Council representatives on the Steering Committee will be informed throughout the program and contribute to decision making.

There will be a **consultation process** commencing late 2024, where Council members and Library staff will have the opportunity to provide their feedback.



One Card 2.0 key principles

- Customer Centric
- Collaborate with Intent
- Enhance Existing Culture & Values
- Leverage Expertise
- Sustainability
- Transparency
- Public Accountability
- Sector Coordination

For more information

Contact us via email: onecard2.0@sa.gov.au with any queries.



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MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.12 WILLIAMSTOWN QUEEN VICTORIA JUBILEE PARK - TABLING OF REPORT AND ALERTING TO FUTURE CONSIDERATION NEEDS RELATING TO SAFETY

**Author: Chief Executive Officer
24/89288**

As Elected Members are aware, I have had to act urgently to preserve the safety of life and assets due to a recent tree failure incident and subsequent independent arborist report, senior staff briefing and site assessment.

The purpose of this report is to table the relevant tree assessment report for the benefit of transparency and to formally table with Council the current actions implemented to resolve only the most immediate issues in the first instance. The whole of the stand of trees, as outlined in the tree assessment report, along the relevant bank are requiring consideration of how we will manage future use of the park and how those longer-term tree risks will be resolved.

Recap

On the night of Saturday, 14 September 2024 a large pine tree failed at the rear of the Williamstown caravan park and caused significant damage to assets. Importantly no one was injured in this incident. The risk assessment contained within the arborists report is provided at Attachment 1, it outlines unacceptable risks going forward.

The determination of the 1/400 outcome that attests to unacceptable risk so that used and accepted under the QTRA (Quantified Tree Risk Assessment) calculator and based on three critical assessment areas, and in summary the outcomes are:

- The Target – in this case the level of occupation of at-risk locations above 2.5hrs exposure is a rating of 1 - high.
- The Size – The size of the tree that is most likely to fail, in the cast for the urgent at-risk area being the caravan park it received a rating of 1 – high.
- The Probability of Failure – self-explanatory and is rated in the scale as 3 - mid range.

The only ultimate variable in this scale is the probably of failure as the other two risks are a given as fact. The target area for which the urgent action was taken is occupation well over 2.5 hours and is constant and the size impact I clear given the current failure it is total failure. The expert rates the probability as mid-range in the scale of 1 to 7, the lower number being the highest risk. Advice from the expert is the failure risk could be a 4 but anything higher would be an incorrect assessment. Even at a level 4 the risk outcome remains unacceptable and if we assume an even lower rating for probability of failure (which is not supported by the independent expert) in the assessment it still brings the outcome at the edge of the 'limits of tolerability' therefore still leaving significant risk to people and assets in the immediate location for which treatment has been instigated.

The management of the insurance claim and incident report have been active since the Monday after the incident date and are well advanced in accordance with normal administrative processes. The matter has also been reported to SafeWork SA and that is being managed with them directly including responding to requests for information and meeting them onsite.

On Friday, 27 September 2024 I received a definitive independent Tree Assessment Report and a Senior Officer briefing following a further site visit, undertaken on the same day, and the matter of risk has escalated extensively.

We have had an urgent tree assessment undertaken of the general stand of trees in the location of the failure and moving west along the embankment behind the current clubrooms and further west. The report outlines the assessment area. The summary of the report is:

- The risks are assessed as unacceptable in accordance with the industry standard risk assessment process.
- There is real and significant risk to human life.
- There is real and significant risk to assets.

Whilst the trees demonstrate reasonable health, individually, the actual issue is the interwoven impact of the canopy and how they were previously planted. The result of the planting many decades ago and the maturity of the trees has created an amazing canopy but that is the issue, if one or two fail it will create an escalating risk profile. The fail rate, due to the impact of removing the interwoven canopy, significantly increases the risk exposure of the whole interlinked tree stand to weather impacts and failure. As a lay person, I categorise it as the structural protection of the interwoven canopy is lost so like the trusses of a building roof, take one or two trusses away and the whole roof will fail eventually. The interwoven canopy has been compromised but the latest and prior removal of trees to a level now that the risk is unacceptable.

Actions To Date

To address the most critical risk exposure we isolated people and assets from the highest risk areas, the caravan park, as quickly as possible through relocation or other arrangements. Further, the advice was that we must urgently remove approximately 30-50 trees in the location outlined in the map at [Attachment 2](#). The full extent of tree removal will be an outcome of the actual work and how the trees can be made safe as it proceeds. The urgent and scheduled work is at a cost of \$79,800 which is reasonable (and significantly cheaper than the second quote) in these circumstances, and includes crane hire, removal of wood and foliage. The works will be funded from the tree management budget. Due to the limited timeframe in which to deal with the matter we had to accept what suppliers could do the work, and whilst attempting to provide the wood to commercial users they were unable to take it. However, due to the generosity of a local landowner we have been able to dispose of the wood to this landowner for their private use.

I made the decision to remove the trees after consulting the Mayor as contemplated by Section 58(1)(f) of the Local Government Act 1999.

Collectively the Mayor and I agree the risks, being independently assessed as unacceptable through the industry standard risk assessment process, as outlined in the attachments, required immediate action to be taken in order the safety of users

and their and our assets and to maintain caravan park operations within the core caravan park footprint.

The risk to human life, not just assets, is unacceptable when considering Council's risk framework and risk appetite.

Tree removal has already commenced and at the time of release of this report will be practically complete.

Once tree removal was organised and the immediate risks treatments were put in place, I communicated with all Councillors and the Executive Leadership Team members. Further, staff prepared necessary announcements through the release of a press statement and posted information as soon as possible on Council's website and social media channels. This information was released on Saturday, 28 October 2024.

Whilst the above actions resolve the most urgent of the safety matters and soon the caravan park will return to normal operations, areas that are used less and present slightly lower risk will remain unavailable, and access restricted namely in the 8-10 overflow sites between the ablution block and the current clubrooms. Therefore, ongoing restrictions will be in place for that section of the caravan park until such time as Council is able to consider its overall position on the removal of additional trees and the implementation of any such decision.

Future Decision Making

Following the urgent removal of trees in the first zone to address the immediate risk, a broader conversation will now be needed with Council as to what we do and how we design the future uses at the park and deal with the remaining 200-220 trees assessed within the tree report. At this stage, due to the removal of static risks associated with protracted stationery occupancy in the vicinity of the remaining trees therefore reducing the overall risk profile, a decision regarding further treatment at the site can be determined by Council later.

The access and use to the clubrooms are considered at this time a reasonable risk due to the transient nature of utilisation. Once the current urgent safety matters are resolved, Officers will undertake further risk assessment for use of the area not regularly used from the clubrooms extending west.

It is the current viewpoint that depending on how the park is designed and what level of removal may be required to return the risk to accepted levels, further investigation and determination will be required of Council.

It is suggested that a site visit with members in due course is necessary and with concurrence of Council we shall organise that soon.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 Independent Arborist Report [!\[\]\(05a3150ca7eafd44fce8deaa48838121_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(6ce459b4dcae8e7d92253a855b1dd385_img.jpg\)](#)
Attachment 2 Urgent Safety Tree Removal Map [!\[\]\(9bc524f09d89ff34ea77fbf6b37ad4f3_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(41ec8d40095d046d596d359eb223c781_img.jpg\)](#)

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil



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URBAN TREE MANAGEMENT
 Arboricultural Consultancy
 Tree Survey & Maintenance Plans
 Hazard & Risk Assessment

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 Dip Arb AQF (cert v) Reg. QTRA, Reg TRAQ

DATE: 24th SEPTEMBER 2024

VISUAL TREE ASSESSMENT

CLIENT

The Barossa Council
 43-51 Tanunda Road
 NURIOOTPA
 SA 5355

SITE ADDRESS

Williamstown Queen Jubilee Caravan and Recreation Park
 Corner of Mount Crawford & Springton Road
 WILLIAMSTOWN
 SA 5351

ARBORICULTURAL CONSULTANT:

Juan Cordes Diploma Arboriculture (AQF Certificate V)



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

A recent tree failure at the eastern end of the Williamstown Caravan Park has caused significant damage to a caravan and vehicle of guests utilising the facility. The tree was one of more than 250 trees currently located on the northern side of the oval and caravan park areas.

Due to the trees failure and damage caused, a full assessment and report is required to determine the health and structure of the remaining trees as well as the level of risk currently posed to property and persons utilising the caravan park and recreation grounds.

ASSIGNMENT

Verbal instructions were received on Monday the 16th of September 2024, and an inspection of the remaining trees was undertaken on the same day. A more detailed assessment was conducted on Monday the 23rd of September 2024.

The tree failure event was reported to occur on Sunday the 15th of September.

The instructions requested:

An assessment of the remaining tree's structural stability and their failure potential, including the provision of an accurate risk assessment clearly identifying the overall level of risk.

An assessment to provide recommendations with regard to future management of the pine trees on the northern side of the oval and caravan park area.

LIMITS OF THE ASSIGNMENT/INVESTIGATION

A complete analysis of the structural integrity of the upper crown was not undertaken. Therefore, the report is limited to those details available and visible at the time of inspection from the ground only, a climbing inspection was not requested for the purposes of this investigation.

2.0 OBSERVATIONS

CONTEXT

The trees subject to this report are the mature Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) located along the northern boundary of the Williamstown Caravan and Recreation Park. The area beneath the trees supports the caravan park and its amenities buildings, sports clubhouse building, car parking area and local sports ground further south.

The immediate area supports a mixture of tall, mature, locally indigenous and introduced trees situated throughout the Council owned and managed recreation park.



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The prevailing wind direction is south westerly, and strong northerly winds occur regularly in the warmer months (November – March). Local wind events that arise in the east are also common during the summer months and create the typical ‘gully breeze’ effect in the late afternoon periods.

The trees have been closely planted along an embankment on northern side of the caravan park and clubhouse building approximately 60 to 80 years ago with the anecdotal intention of harvesting the trees upon maturity in an era when such plantings of this species were common and commercially viable.

METHODOLOGY

The site inspection comprised a Visual Tree Assessment undertaken at ground level and the following tree attributes were assessed:

- Species
- Height (m)
- Crown spread
- Approximate age
- Condition of health and structure
- Defects and diseases
- Proximity of adjacent features and targets

SITE AND TREE ASSESSMENT

The trees have been planted along the northern boundary of the park area running east west in a row that has a width of 60 metres at its central widest point and 10 metres at its narrowest points that being the far east and west ends of the group that extends from the western end of the oval up to Victoria Creek on the eastern end of the caravan park.

The planting site is a relatively steep embankment that has informal walking tracks winding through the group of trees as well as vehicle access tracks, sports clubhouse and the caravan park area directly south of the trees. The far western end of the embankment also supports mature locally indigenous and other introduced species of trees.

The group display typical attributes of this species and age of trees in a close planting arrangement with the tree height of the more dominant trees exceeding 30 metres and crown spreads ranging from 4 metres for the smaller internal trees to over 16 metres on the larger trees located on the periphery of the group. Stem diameters varied throughout the group with circumferences ranging from over 3 metres on the larger trees to 0.7 metres on the smaller internal trees with the majority of trees having an average circumference of 1.5 metres measured at 1 metre above ground level.



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The area immediately below the trees is typical dense pine needles with winter grasses reaching a height of 30 cm.

The close planting arrangement along with the age and size of the trees leads way for competition for nutrients, water and light meaning smaller trees located internally in the group show a smaller, suppressed form whilst the larger more dominant trees display positive phototropism meaning they develop a crown form that exploits and extends into open spatial areas often developing a curved stem that supports an asymmetrical crown form.

The health of the trees as a group can be considered fair to good with the exception of a number of suppressed, smaller internally planted trees that show a decline in health or are dead. A small number of the larger trees show some form of crown dieback however the majority of the group display good foliage density, colour and size particularly the trees located on the edges of the group.

Each tree was inspected for structural instability that is typically evident in the form of soil heave around the base of the tree indicating movement of the tree's root plate. No evidence of soil heave was observed at the time of inspection.

Tree stumps are evident throughout the group likely to be from trees that have died and fallen or been removed.

The close planting arrangement of the trees means the crowns of the individual trees form a larger collective canopy that is formed by the forces that act upon it and forms a structure to withstand predominant wind forces.

Large diameter branch dieback and in this case, tree failures are considered to alter the aerodynamics of the adjacent trees. A tree crown is formed by the forces that act upon it and forms a structure to withstand predominant wind forces.

When tree dieback and failures alter the collective canopy structure, the remaining trees may be vulnerable as they experience different wind patterns to which they were previously subjected too. According to Matheny and Clark (1994) it is during this transition period that failure rates MAY increase, which provides some explanation as to why some altered trees continue to drop branches and adjacent trees can experience total tree failure.

The far eastern end of the group directly adjacent to the caravan park area is a narrowly planted row of just two trees wide and is the site of the recent tree failure. Multiple tree stumps in this immediate area show a history of trees being removed likely from a decline in health or death. Insect activity can be observed in a stump adjacent to the recent failure site and in some of the remaining structural root remnants at the site of the recently failed tree.

Due to the recent total tree failure on the eastern end of the group and the adjacent previously removed trees the immediate area has a heavily altered collective canopy structure significantly increasing the potential for further branch and tree failure.



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The recent tree failure and previous removals of adjacent trees on the eastern end of the group of trees will have an impact on adjacent tree stability due to the decrease in mass damping that the failed and removed trees previously afforded the remainder of the adjacent trees. Recent studies of trees have indicated that the morphology of a tree and the dynamic interaction of branches can influence the damping response in winds. Branches on trees act as coupled masses and in winds develop a mass damping effect which helps distribute, reduce, and dissipate the wind energy (James 2014).

The reduction in this mass damping effect, by the failed tree and removal of trees in the immediate area increases the wind load on the exposed remaining trees and their branches significantly increasing their failure potential.

Due to the absence of the failed and removed trees apparent within the eastern end of the group, the surrounding trees could be deemed to pose an unacceptable risk to the public, due to the cumulative alteration in the collective canopy.

The trees identified in this report have formed a large single canopy structure that has developed in line with the forces that are applied by the prevailing weather patterns. The loss of such a percentage of trees in the eastern end of the row will result in compromising the remaining trees in the immediate area.

This is due to the reactive nature of trees, which form reaction wood as a result of stress loadings on their structure. When trees grow the certain sections of the crown are protected to a degree from the prevailing weather conditions and as such do not develop reaction wood as certain areas of their structure are not exposed to stress loading.

The removal of this form of protection, by tree failure, death and large diameter branch loss, exposes certain trees and parts of the adjacent trees to loading to which they were previously protected, which is shown to be a major contributing factor of adjacent tree, branch and limb failure.

3.0 QUANTIFIED TREE RISK ASSESSMENT (QTRA)

The inspection includes an individual Quantified Tree Risk Assessment.

Ellison (2012) defines QTRA as a system established to quantify the risk of significant harm from tree failure within predetermined risk thresholds.

Values for the targets (people and property), the size of part (size of most likely part to fail) and the probability of failure are derived from an assessment of the tree and its surroundings. The values of these three primary components are then combined to calculate the probability of harm using Monte Carlo simulations [see appendix three].

MONTEREY PINES - QUANTIFIED TREE RISK ASSESSMENT



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The section of tree on which the QTRA was undertaken was identified as the part that overhung the target area with the highest occupancy rating or damage potential and deemed to have the most significant relationship between the tree and targets.

The property damage, combined with human occupation, pedestrian and vehicle movements were considered to pose the greatest target rating and have been used within the final assessment.

TARGET RATING ASSESSMENT

Property Damage – The caravans and park amenity buildings along with the sports clubhouse directly south of the trees occupies a large area beneath the southern aspect of the tree's crowns and is considered to have the potential to be damaged by any falling trees and branches. The level of damage that could be caused was estimated to fall within the category of between \$30,000 and \$300,000 and therefore allocated **Target Rating 2**.

Pedestrian Movements – This was estimated utilising a visual on-site assessment of the number of pedestrians that passed within the zone of influence of the section of the tree allocated as the highest potential for failure. This is deemed to be the large diameter lateral branches and now exposed trees in the eastern end of the group, which overhang the caravan park.

The number of pedestrians passing through the zone of influence was broadly estimated to be between 2 per hour to 7 per hour. This is shown to fall within **Target Rating 3**.

Human Occupation – The adjacent caravan park, amenity buildings and sports clubhouse are considered to be within the trees zone of influence and people utilising these areas are considered to potentially be impacted by the now exposed trees and branches that are identified as having the greatest potential to fail.

The caravan park has long term, constant occupancy, and this area is considered to support exposed occupancy of between 2.5 hours per day to constant and therefore allocated a **Target Rating 1**

The sports clubhouse and viewing areas are considered to support exposed occupancy of between 15 minutes to 2.4 hours per day.

This occupation of the sports clubhouse is taken to be within the weekend and late afternoon periods of the day. This is deemed to be a balanced approach to the assessment and taken in context with the fact that the areas will be utilised for the majority of the year supporting different sporting codes. This is identified as being a reasonable approach to the occupancy rating, taking all eventualities into consideration, and therefore allocated **Target Rating 2**.

Vehicular Movements



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This was estimated utilising a visual on-site assessment of the number of vehicle movements that passed within the zone of influence of the section of the tree allocated as the highest potential for failure. This is deemed to be the large diameter lateral branches and now exposed trees in the eastern end of the group, which overhang the caravan park.

The number of vehicles passing through the zone of influence was broadly estimated to be between 6 to 47 per hour under 50 kph. This is shown to fall within **Target Rating 4**.

SIZE OF PART ASSESSMENT

The section of the group of trees that overhangs the target areas showed major defects in the form of now exposed trees and branches to the prevailing weather conditions due to the recent tree failure and previous tree removals and were identified as the parts or trees most likely to fail. The tree stems were estimated to have a size of greater 450mm diameter and allocated within the **Size of Part Rating 1**.

Utilising the **Property Damage** classification on the size section of the calculator was also considered taking into account the target rating identified above and detailed in the following risk assessment table.

PROBABILITY OF FAILURE ASSESSMENT

At the time of inspection, the trees on the eastern end of the row were showing symptoms to suggest they had an increased potential for failure. The section of trees that was deemed to be most probable to fail is the now exposed trees in the eastern end adjacent to the recent failure site that have an asymmetrical crown form and bias to the south.

The final analysis of the probability of failure was undertaken taking into account any reasonably foreseeable effect on the tree's structures and was down scaled two levels from a base line of 1, this was deemed to be a reasonable approach to the overall assessment and identified within the **Probability of Failure Rating 3**.

QUANTIFIED TREE RISK ASSESSMENT - PROPERTY DAMAGE

RATING		DESCRIPTION
TARGET EVALUATION	2	Large trees now exposed to wind events that overhang the caravan park and amenity buildings to the south and has the potential to suffer damage that is estimated to fall within the range of \$30,000 and \$300,000.
SIZE OF PART	PROPERTY	Large trees now exposed to wind events that overhang the caravan park and amenity buildings to the south with a stem > 450mm diameter.
PROBABILITY OF FAILURE	3	The trees at the eastern end of the row showing alterations to their collective canopy structure that would suggest that it had an increased potential for failure identified within the size of part section of the assessment. The rating allocated was rounded down two steps from the highest probability rating, which in this instance was deemed to be a reasonable approach allocating a probability of failure between 1/100 and 1/1000.
TOTAL		1/3000



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This results in a risk assessment calculation that is within the **UNACCEPTABLE** category of risk that deems it to be posing a level of risk that is considered to be unacceptable when deemed to be as low as reasonably practicable over the period of inspection (12 months).

QUANTIFIED TREE RISK ASSESSMENT - PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENTS

RATING		DESCRIPTION
TARGET EVALUATION	3	Close proximity to the adjacent areas that supports moderate pedestrian movements. The rating is based on between 2 and 7 pedestrians per hour.
SIZE OF PART	1	Large trees that overhang the areas of pedestrian movement which fits within the size category of > 450mm diameter.
PROBABILITY OF FAILURE	3	The trees at the eastern end of the row showing alterations to their collective canopy structure that would suggest that it had an increased potential for failure identified within the size of part section of the assessment. The rating allocated was rounded down two steps from the highest probability rating, which in this instance was deemed to be a reasonable approach allocating a probability of failure between 1/100 and 1/1000.

TOTAL 1/40,000

This results in a risk assessment calculation that is within the **LIMITS OF TOLERABILITY** category of risk that deems it to be posing a level of risk that is considered to be unacceptable when deemed to be as low as reasonably practicable over the period of inspection (12 months).

QUANTIFIED TREE RISK ASSESSMENT – HUMAN OCCUPATION

RATING		DESCRIPTION
TARGET EVALUATION	1	Large trees now exposed to wind events that overhang the caravan park and amenity buildings to the south located beneath their crown structures that is estimated to have an occupancy rating of between 2.5 hours per day to constant.
SIZE OF PART	1	Large trees now exposed to wind events that lean towards and overhang the caravan park and amenity buildings to the south with a stem > 450mm diameter.
PROBABILITY OF FAILURE	3	The trees at the eastern end of the row showing alterations to their collective canopy structure that would suggest that it had an increased potential for failure identified within the size of part section of the assessment. The rating allocated was rounded down two steps from the highest probability rating, which in this instance was deemed to be a reasonable approach allocating a probability of failure between 1/100 and 1/1000.

TOTAL 1/400

This results in a risk assessment calculation that is within the **UNACCEPTABLE** category of risk that deems it to be posing a level of risk that is considered to be unacceptable when deemed to be as low as reasonably practicable over the period of inspection (12 months).

QUANTIFIED TREE RISK ASSESSMENT - VEHICULAR MOVEMENTS

RATING		DESCRIPTION
TARGET EVALUATION	4	Close proximity to the adjacent areas that supports moderate vehicle movements. The rating is based on vehicle movements between 6 to 47 per day under 50 kph per hour.
SIZE OF PART	1	Large trees that overhang the areas of pedestrian movement which fits within the size category of > 450mm diameter.
PROBABILITY OF FAILURE	3	The trees at the eastern end of the row showing alterations to their collective canopy structure that would suggest that it had an increased potential for failure identified within the size of part section of the assessment. The rating allocated was rounded down two steps from the highest probability rating, which in this instance was deemed to be a reasonable approach allocating a probability of failure between 1/100 and 1/1000.

TOTAL 1/400,000

This results in a risk assessment calculation that is within the **LIMITS OF TOLERABILITY** category of risk that deems it to be posing a level of



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risk that is considered to be tolerable when deemed to be as low as reasonably practicable over the period of inspection (12 months).

4.0 DISCUSSION

TREE ATTRIBUTES

The group of pine trees in 'excess of 250' are showing a range of overall form and structure from poor through to good having typical through to asymmetrical crown structures that supports good to poor foliage density with evidence of insect activity in the eastern end tree failure site and adjacent stumps and smaller tree stems in the groups internal areas.

The tree group has recently suffered a large tree failure event from its eastern end along with previous tree removals that has created a major void and opening exposing previously protected trees to the prevailing weather conditions and leaving tall trees with asymmetrical crown forms extending over high occupancy areas of the facility.

The failed tree had been removed from the Williamstown site prior to the inspection however photographs supplied by the Barossa Council show the tree had extensive insect damage and appears to be in advanced decline or dead.

The risk assessment undertaken encompasses all the trees in their differing areas and levels of occupancy however the focus is on the eastern end of the row of pine trees in the immediate area of the recent failure site and provides the trees in that vicinity with a risk rating that is contained within the unacceptable category and as such is considered to pose a level of risk to the adjacent caravan park, amenity structure, road and pedestrian accessible areas that is unacceptable and poses a high ongoing level of risk.

From a tree risk perspective, the trees on the western end of the row pose a low risk due to the fact the area around the trees has a low occupancy level. The further the tree stand extends to the east, the occupancy level increases and at the far eastern end of the row the area is considered high occupancy and is the site of the recent tree failure, previous removals and exposed trees with a high susceptibility of total tree failure.

CONCLUSION

The final assessment of the risks posed by this tree are consistent with the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment [QTRA] undertaken, which places the eastern most trees within the unacceptable level of risk. The level of risk identified places the trees within the 1/400 category which is within the unacceptable classification and the risk must be mitigated.

Tree removal is recommended for the group of trees at the eastern end of the row and should be implemented as soon as practicable. Dead trees throughout the group should be removed and the deadwood removed from the two large trees located on the edge of the embankment at eastern end of the sports clubhouse.



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The extent of the tree removals should end at a determined point that leaves the remaining trees posing an acceptable level of risk.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Juan Cordes".

JUAN CORDES [Consulting Arborist]

Diploma in Arboriculture **(AQF Certificate V)**
 Registered QTRA [**Quantified Tree Risk Assessment**]
 Registered TRAQ [**Tree Risk Assessment Qualification**]

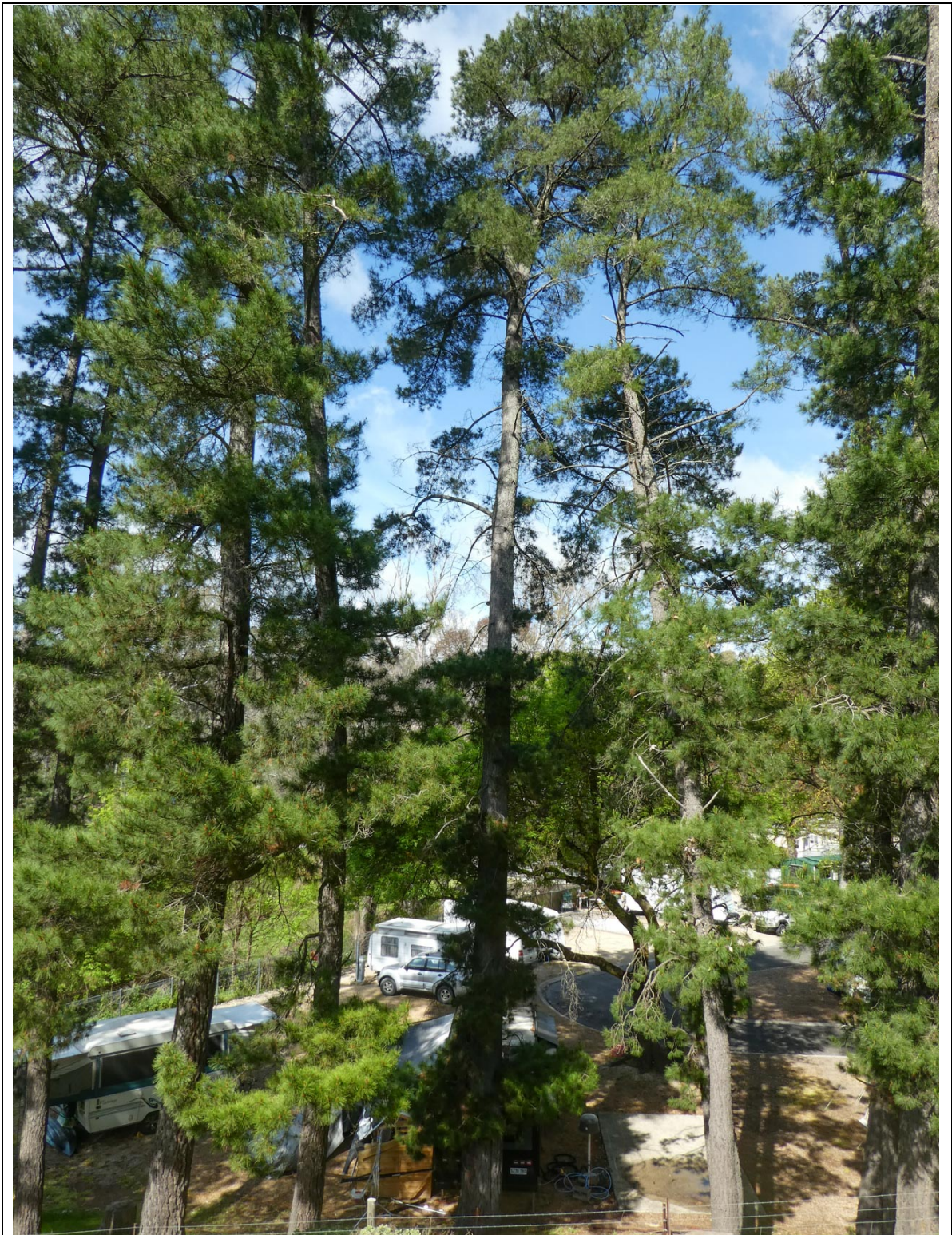
5.0 APPENDIX ONE – SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE



Photograph 1 - Showing the trees when viewed from the southeast demonstrating their location in relation to the oval and central clubhouse area and the notable impact on the recreation grounds landscape.



Photograph 2 - Showing the eastern most end of the group of trees and their location in relation to the caravan sites.



Photograph 3 – Showing the eastern most trees at the failure site area and bias of the remaining trees have to the south. The trees in this area display a heavy bias to the south over the caravan park and have little protection on the northern side.



Photograph 4 – Showing the site of the recent tree failure (red arrow) and the previous removal sites.



Photograph 5 – Supplied by the Barossa Council showing the recently failed tree root ball and lower stem.



Photograph 6 – Supplied by the Barossa Council showing significant insect activity in the lower stem section.



7.0 APPENDIX THREE - QTRA METHODOLOGY

QUANTIFIED TREE RISK ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

DEVELOPING THE PROBABILITY OF HARM

TARGET EVALUATION

Target evaluation considers the use and occupancy of the area that would be struck by the defective part. For the purpose of the assessment, targets are considered in three categories:

- People in vehicles
- Other human occupation; and
- Property

The target evaluation is refined to the one category that has the most significant relationship with the tree or trees in the assessment.

Ellison (2012) explains target evaluation as the assessment of repair or replacement value of property or the average occupation of people (vehicles or pedestrians) in the coming year. The assessment is represented as a target range that represents the appropriate property repair/replacement value or the frequency of occupation.

SIZE OF PART

Size of part refers to the likely force of the branch or tree upon impact with the target. Assessment considers only the tree parts that are significant in their relationship with the identified target.

Ellison (2012) states that QTRA categorizes Impact Potential by using the connection between diameter and average mass of the tree parts that are significant to the target in the event of failure.

The size of a branch and therefore its mass is proportional to the amount of damage or injury it can cause in any particular situation.

PROBABILITY OF FAILURE

The probability of failure is an evaluation of the tree's stability that is based on the structural condition of the tree. The estimate of the likelihood that a particular part of the tree will fail within the coming year is represented within a broad numerical range (Ellison).

The probability of failure is a 'reasonably informed judgment' based on the assessor's tree assessment and his knowledge of the species, its structure and form and the impacts of its environment.

The presence of defects such as included bark, decay or cavities and the extent to which they impact the structure of the tree play a part in forming the probability of failure value.

8.0 APPENDIX FOUR - REFERENCES

Ellison, M (2014) Quantified Tree Risk Assessment User Manual Version 5. *QTRA Tree Safety Management systems, Macclesfield, UK.*

Schwarze, F.W.M.R, Engels, J, Mattheck, C. (2000) Fungal Strategies of Wood Decay in Trees. *Springer – Verlag, Berlin.*

Schwarze, F.W.M.R. (2008) Diagnosis and Prognosis of The Development of Wood Decay in Urban Trees. *ENSPEC, Rowville, Australia.*

Ellison, M. (2014) Sudden Branch Drop. *Australian Arbor Age*

Lonsdale, D. (1999) Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management. Research for amenity trees No.7. *Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, HMSO, London.*

Mattheck, C & Breloer, H. (1994) *The Body Language of Trees, A Handbook for Failure Analysis.* Research into Amenity Trees No.4, HMSO, London.

Shigo, A. L. (1999) *A New Tree Biology* (ninth edition) Sherwin Dodge Printers, Littleton, New Hampshire.

Matheny, N.P: & Clark, J.R (1994) *Evaluation of Hazard Trees in Urban Areas.* ISA Publications.

James, K.R. (2015) *Branches and Damping on Trees in Winds* 23rd Conference on the mechanics of structures and materials, Byron Bay, Australia, 9-12 December 2014

9.0 APPENDIX FIVE – LIMITATIONS AND DISCLAIMER

This report only covers identifiable defects present at the time of inspection. The author accepts no responsibility and cannot be held liable for any structural defect or unforeseen event/situation that may occur after the time of inspection, unless clearly specified timescales are detailed within the report.

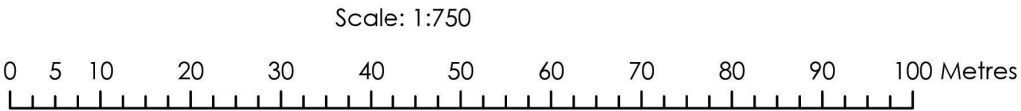
The author cannot guarantee trees contained within this report will be structurally sound under all circumstances and cannot guarantee that the recommendations made will categorically result in the tree being made safe.

Unless specifically mentioned this report will only be concerned with above ground inspections, that will be undertaken visually from ground level. Trees are living organisms and as such cannot be classified as safe under any circumstances. The recommendations are made on the basis of what can be reasonably identified at the time of inspection therefore the author accepts no liability for any recommendations made.

Care has been taken to obtain all information from reliable sources. All data has been verified insofar as possible; however, the author can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of information provided by others.

Current Time: 27/09/2024 2:10 PM

Williamstown Caravan Park - Tree Removal



Buildings Tree's to be removed



MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.13 STATE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION AND FACILITATION BILL

**Author: Chief Executive Officer
24/89392**

The *State Development Coordination and Facilitation Bill 2024* (the Bill) is a critical piece of legislation to go before the Parliament soon.

The aims, structure and powers within the Bill are extensive. The Bill is responding to unprecedented strategic challenges and opportunities for our state and is still under consideration. The Bill is expected to enter Parliament in the very near future.

On balance it is my assessment that the Bill, whilst it potentially has significant powers that manage a wide array of activities, is beneficial. The main concept is that of establishing State Development Areas (SDA) and the Coordinator-General Office (CGO) are of particular note. A SDA needs to be of significant environmental and economic 'go zone', the Concordia growth and development area is an example. The enactment of an area as a SDA, such as Concordia, provides a legislative platform for infrastructure, social, economic and community planning and delivery, not dissimilar to the current HIPDU model but with significantly more of a legislative tool. Other key functional impacts are:

- The Minister may make a recommendation for the establishment of SDA if it is considered appropriate to do so for the purposes of the provision of essential infrastructure.
- If Concordia was a declared project, Council may be subject to variations or specified time periods relating to certain functions. Alternatively, the CGO may call in a designated function thereby removing it from Council. It means we will need to be agile and responsive.
- The Act, if passed, would provide directive capacity to the provision and conditions applying to planning and land use matters e.g. open space, essential infrastructure etc.
- There are significant powers of the Commission to become a decision maker such as a relevant authority under the Planning Infrastructure and Development Act, the need for Council to continue to invest and have strong policy and relationships under this environment will be paramount for a SDA within our area.
- There will be limited opportunity to challenge given the limitation to judicial review and short timeframes for time allowed for appeal or review of decisions.
- Expansion of definition of primary infrastructure to include basic infrastructure, open space, local community sporting or recreation areas or facilities and libraries, local community buildings or other multi-use local community facilities. The CGO may then initiate a scheme in relation to the provision of this infrastructure including nature, scope, timing, staging, costs, benefits and funding arrangement.

The components of the Bill and how they ultimately function will have to await the passage of time. A preliminary synopsis of the public information and how they are likely to impact Council and community are:

- The establishment of the Coordinator-General Office.
- The mechanism for appointment of the State Development Area.
- How processes will be streamlined in a practical sense and what benefit, or costs may arise from faster paced development assessment.
- How will the Coordinator function better plan for and deliver infrastructure especially broader infrastructure for housing delivery including community, health, safety, education and other services in addition to the traditional needs of power, water, sewer, roads and the like.
- How will the powers to 'call in' development assessment be used and what checks and balances will be put in place to ensure wide engagement and sustainable future management of community which will ultimately fall to Councils in the main.
- What points of intervention or at least consultation is built into the system to ensure Councils and communities are engaged.
- What, who and how do powers such as funding powers for infrastructure going to be constructed and imposed and what checks and balances are in place for such powers.
- It would be advantageous that the Parliament deal within the Character Preservation District captured as land excluded from state development recommendation under section 23 (3).

Ultimately the Bill in my view is to provide a future legislative platform and coordination mechanism that is lacking presently when the State (not just the State Government) needs to progress with larger economic and community projects in a better coordinated and more efficient manner. The Bill aims to:

- facilitate economy-wide decarbonisation and net zero industry growth;
- ensure that South Australia's regulatory and planning system is effective, efficient, competitive and fit-for-purpose for our transition to net-zero;
- support the timely delivery of large housing developments to address the current housing crisis – helping to deliver more homes, more quickly;
- provide new powers to better coordinate, consolidate and streamline regulatory processes;
- proactively address known challenges faced by major and complex project;
- establish the concept of 'state development areas' – environmentally and economically suitable 'go zones', such as net zero industry precincts – that have been proactively assessed by regulators as environmentally and economically suitable for key developments to be facilitated at pace, while leaving existing planning and regulatory legislation otherwise unchanged.

The issues paper, draft Bill and guide to the Bill links are provided in the supporting references. Relevant Officers will continue to keep a watching brief on the passage of the Bill and inform Council further on its progress through Parliament and then implementation.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Issues Paper

[State Development Coordination and Facilitation](#)

The Bill

[State_Development_Coordinationand_Facilitation Bill](#)

Guide to the Bill

[State_Development_Coordinationand_Facilitation Bill](#)

DEBATE REPORT

7.1 Office of the Mayor and CEO

7.1.1 REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2024/25 - OPTIONS PAPER

**Author: Executive Business Partner
24/88916**

PURPOSE

This report provides the opportunity for Council to consider the Draft Representation Report. The report also seeks Council's approval for the Draft Representation Report to go out for public consultation as required under section 12 of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the draft Representation Report, as set out in Attachment 1 to go out to public consultation as per Council's Public Consultation Policy.

REPORT

Introduction

Councils in South Australia are required to undertake regular reviews of their elector representation arrangements (Representation Review).

A representation review is held to determine whether a Council would benefit from a change to its composition or ward structure. The Act sets out the requirements for a representation review and each Council must manage the representation review in the context of the prescribed process.

A prescribed review must comprehensively examine:

- all aspects of the composition of the council, and
- the potential division of the council area into wards, or the abolishment of existing wards, and
- a notice under this section may also change the name of a council.

The process includes:

- initiating the preparation of a representation options paper
- detailed public consultation processes
- preparing a report on the public consultation and council's response to the issues arising from the written submissions
- providing a final representation review report to the Electoral Commissioner.

A Council must undertake a reviewed once in every eight years in accordance with the published schedule.

The Barossa Council (Council) undertook its last Representation Review during the period April 2016 to April 2017.

On 1 August 2019, the Minister for Local Government gazetted a schedule of dates by which Councils are to commence and complete their next Elector Representation Review. The Barossa Council is required to undertake their review from April 2024 – April 2025.

Discussion

On the 19 March 2024 Council meeting, Council engaged Kelledy Jones Lawyers to undertake the Representation Review and prepare an 'Options Paper'.

The Options Paper provided the following options for consideration as to the Council's composition and structure:

This Review Report has been prepared to:

- provide information on the process undertaken by the Council in conducting its Representation Review;
- set out the rationale for selecting the proposed composition and structure;
- seek feedback from interested persons as part of the public consultation process.

Preferred Composition Structure

The Council proposes as follows with respect to composition and structure on this Review:

- the name of the Council remains unchanged;
- the Council area remains undivided, that is, no Wards are to be created;
- the elected body of the Council to continue to comprise a total of 11 Area Councillors, elected from the Council area as a whole; and
- a Mayor elected from the Council area as a whole.

Summary and Conclusion

Council is now asked to endorse the Draft Representation Review – Options Paper for public consultation.

Following which, the Council will receive and take into account the outcomes of the consultation, in determining its proposed representation and composition, for submission to the ECSA, requesting an exemption certificate.

Submissions can be made via:

- completing the feedback form online at <https://yoursay.barossa.sa.gov.au/>
- or collecting a copy from a Customer Service office located at 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1	Representation Review Report - Oct 2024 - Kelledy Jones  
Attachment 2	Representation Review Report - Appendix 1 - Oct 2024 - Kelledy Jones  

Attachment 3 Representation Review Report - Appendix 2 - Oct 2024 - Kelledy Jones [!\[\]\(c507f772dba2b921f86777f01218e570_img.jpg\)](#) 

Supporting references

[Public-Consultation-Policy.pdf \(barossa.sa.gov.au\)](#)

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Corporate Plan

BS7 Governance - Provision of governance advice and support in the discharge of legislative responsibilities for policy development, delegations and authorisations, internal review of Council decisions, delegations and authorisations, Native Title claims

Legislative Requirements

Local Government Act 1999 - Division 2—Powers of councils and representation reviews

FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Costs associated with advertising in the local newspaper and the costs for the required independent support both these items have been budgeted.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A period of public consultation will be conducted in accordance with Council's Public Consultation Policy.

Engagement methods are to include Council's yoursay.barossa.sa.gov.au consultation platform, Council website, a Public Notice in a local newspaper, hard copy documents at Council offices and social media posts inviting responses from the community. Interested residents, community groups and industry bodies will be invited to submit their feedback during the consultation period.



The Barossa Council

REPRESENTATION REVIEW REPORT

October 2024

Prepared in accordance with section 12 of the *Local Government Act 1999*

Prepared by
Kelley Jones

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- 1.2** Matters to be Considered
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- 8.1** Preferred Composition Structure
- 8.2** Next Steps

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- APPENDIX 2 - MINUTES FROM COUNCIL MEETING 19 MARCH 2024**
- APPENDIX 3 - AGENDA REPORT ITEM **XX** FROM COUNCIL MEETING OF 15
OCTOBER 2024**
- APPENDIX 4 - MINUTES FROM COUNCIL MEETING OF 15 OCTOBER 2024**
- APPENDIX 5 - DRAFT PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOTIFICATIONS**

DRAFT

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The Barossa Council

This paper has been prepared for The Barossa Council for the purposes of section 12 of the *Local Government Act 1999* by Kelledy Jones Lawyers.

Disclaimer

This Representation Review Report has been prepared by Kelledy Jones Lawyers for The Barossa Council's Representation Review for use by the Council and its constituents. The opinions, estimates and other information contained in this Report have been made in good faith and, as far as reasonably possible, are based on data or sources believed to be reliable. The contents of this Report are not to be taken as constituting formal legal advice.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Councils in South Australia are required to undertake regular reviews of their elector representation arrangements (the **Representation Review**).

The Barossa Council (the **Council**) undertook its last Representation Review during the period April 2016 to April 2017.

A Representation Review must be conducted in accordance with sections 12, 26(1)(c) and 33 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the **Act**).

This Report sets out the Council's proposed elector representation and the process it has undertaken to reach its proposed adopted composition and structure.

1.1 Legislative Requirements

In accordance with section 12(4) of the Act:

A review may relate to a specific aspect of the composition of the council, or of the Wards of the council, or may relate to those matters generally - but a council must ensure that all aspects of the composition of the council, and the issue of division or potential division, or the area of the Council into Wards, are comprehensively reviewed under this section at least once in each relevant period that is prescribed by the regulations.

Pursuant to regulation 4 of the *Local Government (General Regulations) 2013*, the relevant period for the Council to undertake its Representation Review was determined by the Minister, by notice in the Government Gazette (the **Gazette**) on 9 July 2020, being the period from April 2024 to April 2025 (**Appendix 1**).

The Council resolving at its meeting of 19 March 2024 to appoint Kelledy Jones Lawyers to assist it with its Representation Review (**Appendix 2**) and commenced its process by way of a workshop in June 2024.

1.2 Matters to be Considered

In accordance with section 12 of the Act, the Representation Review is required to consider the composition of the Council and the advantages and disadvantages of the options that are available for elector representation under the Act.

The key areas for consideration are:

- the number of Councillors;
- whether the Council should have Wards or no Wards (and if it has Wards, the name of the Wards);
- how Councillors are elected, from Wards; across the whole of the Council area; or a combination of both;
- the name of the Council.

The Representation Review Report must also take into account the principles set out in section 26 of the Act, in particular:

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- the resources available to local communities should be used as economically as possible while recognising the desirability of avoiding significant divisions within a community;
- a council should have a sufficient resource base to fulfil its functions fairly, effectively and efficiently;
- a council should offer its community a reasonable range of services delivered on an efficient, flexible, equitable and responsive basis;
- a council should facilitate effective planning and development within an area, and be constituted with respect to an area that can be promoted on a coherent basis;
- a council should be in a position to facilitate sustainable development, the protection of the environment and the integration of land use schemes;
- a council should reflect communities of interest of an economic, recreational, social, regional or other kind, and be consistent with community structures, values, expectations and aspirations;
- a council area should incorporate or promote an accessible centre (or centres) for local administration and services;
- the importance within the scheme of local government to ensure that local communities within large council areas can participate effectively in decisions about local matters;
- residents should receive adequate and fair representation within the local government system, while over-representation in comparison with councils of a similar size and type should be avoided.

The Representation Review Report must also have regard to section 33 of the Act, which lists the matters that must be taken into account, as far as practicable, if the Council proposes to change the Ward representation of the Council. These include:

- the desirability of reflecting communities of interest of an economic, social, regional or other kind;
- the population of the area, and of each Ward affected or envisaged by the proposal;
- the topography of the area, and of each Ward affected or envisaged by the proposal;
- the feasibility of communication between electors affected by the proposal and their elected representatives;
- the nature of substantial demographic changes that may occur in the foreseeable future; and
- the need to ensure adequate and fair representation while at the same time avoiding over-representation in comparison to other councils of a similar size and type (at least in the longer term).

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A proposal that relates to the formation or alteration of Wards must observe the principle that the number of electors represented by a Councillor must not, at the relevant date (assuming the proposal was in operation), vary from the Ward quota by more than 10% (+ or – across each Ward).

1.3 Representation Review Process

In undertaking this review, and in accordance with section 12 of the Act, the Council is required to:

- prepare a Representation Review Report, representing the Council's preferred Representation option, to be adopted by the Council for public consultation purposes;
- undertake a minimum three-week public consultation on the Representation Review Report (the **public consultation**);
- review the submissions received during the public consultation process and, if submissions are received, include those submissions in the Representation Review Report;
- consider and adopt a representation structure, having regard to the submissions received during the public consultation processes;
- have prepared, and adopt, the Final Representation Review Report;
- submit the Final Representation Review Report to the Electoral Commissioner of South Australia (the **ECSA**) to obtain a certificate of compliance; and
- on receipt of a certificate of compliance, publish a notice in the Gazette notifying of the future composition and structure of the Council, to come into effect on polling day for the November 2026 Local Government periodic elections.

2 BACKGROUND

The last 'relevant period' for the Council in undertaking a Representation Review was April 2016 to April 2017, at which time it determined to retain its existing 'no Wards' structure, being comprised of eleven (11) Area Councillors and a Mayor.

The Council commenced its current Representation Review process in June 2024.

3 CONSIDERATION OF REPRESENTATION AND COMPOSITION

At Agenda item 8.1.2 at its meeting of 19 March 2024, the Council resolved to appoint Kelledy Jones Lawyers, as a 'person' who, in the opinion of the Council was qualified to address the representation and governance issues that may arise with respect to the matters under review, and, in the first instance, to prepare this draft Representation Review Report (the **Review Report**) for the Council's consideration.

A copy of the relevant page of the Minutes from the Council meeting of 19 March 2024 is **Appendix 2**.

At the workshop of 5 June 2024, in the nature of an information and briefing session for the purposes of section 90A of the Act, Members received information with respect to the

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Representation Review Process and were asked to fill out a questionnaire to assist in preparation of this Report.

4 ADOPTION OF DRAFT REPRESENTATION REVIEW REPORT

Following feedback received from Members, including at that workshop and via the questionnaire, this Review Report has now been prepared for the Council's consideration.

Pursuant to sections 12 (6) and (7) of the Act, at Agenda item XX at its meeting of 15 October 2024, when the Council reached the item in question, following is consideration of the same, the Council resolved to adopt the proposal set out in this Review Report for the purposes of the public consultation process.

A copy of the Agenda report for item XX is **Appendix 3**.

A copy of the relevant page of the Minutes from the Council meeting of 15 October 2024 is **Appendix 4**.

As a result of recent amendments to the Representation Review process under section 12 of the Act, the Council is only required to undertake public consultation for the purposes of section 12(7) of the Act, in accordance with section 50 of the Act (in addition to any further discretionary matters set out under the Council's Public Consultation Policy).

In accordance with the Council's resolution and pursuant to section 12(7) of the Act, the public consultation on the Representation Review Report is now to be commenced on XX 2024, concluding on XX 2024.

The consultation has been notified by notice published in the Government Gazette on XX 2024, as well as in XX, being a local newspaper circulating in the Council area and on the Council's website www.barossa.sa.gov.au (inclusive of a link to the Review Report).

A copy of the draft public consultation notifications are **Appendix 5**.

In addition to these statutory publication requirements, the public consultation process also includes:

- posts made to the Council's Facebook page, notifying of the availability of the Review Report and inviting interested persons to make a submission;
- a copy of the Review Report is also available to view at the Council's Civic Centre located at 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa and is available for download from the Council's website.

Responses to the Review Report are invited by electronic submission through the YourSay function on the Council's website, email or hard copy submitted to the Council.

5 REPRESENTATION AND COMPOSITION PROPOSAL

The Council proposes to **retain its existing structure and composition** being:

- no Wards;
- 11 Area Councillors elected from the whole Council area; and
- a Mayor elected by electors from the whole Council area.

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As above, the Council does not have Wards and is not required to examine any realignment of Ward boundaries, to ensure that the Ward quotas remain within the statutory tolerance of 10% variance from the Ward Quota.

Based on the current number of electors in the Council area, being 19,397¹, the elector representation ratios under the Council's proposal will be 1,763 electors per Councillor.

6 PROPOSAL RATIONALE

6.1 Council Name

The Barossa Council was proclaimed on 1 July 1996, having been formed through the amalgamation of the, then, District Council of Angaston, the District Council of Barossa, and the District Council of Tanunda. The amalgamation of a portion of the District Council of Mount Pleasant also took effect on 1 July 1997.

Whilst section 12(2) of the Act provides that the Council may consider the alteration of its name as part of the Review process, the current name of the Council reflects both the geographic location of the Council area and, in part, the local government history of the region.

For this reason, supported by the absence of any submissions from Councillors, the name of the Council does not propose to change its name as part of this Representation Review.

As the name of Council has no impact upon the provision of fair and adequate representation, no changes to the name of the Council are proposed as part of this Review.

6.2 Composition

6.2.1 Number of Area or Ward Councillors

There are two (2) key factors that the Council must consider in relation to the number of Councillors:

- whether the current number of Councillors (11) has an impact on decision making by the Council; and
- ensuring adequate and fair representation, whilst avoiding overrepresentation in comparison to other councils of a similar size and characteristic.

The Council's proposal is to continue with 11 Area Councillors, to be elected from the Council as a whole.

The Council's view is that this number is appropriate and does not hinder the ability of the Council in its decision-making functions.

In relation to the consideration of adequate and fair representation, a table demonstrating a comparison of the Council against other councils, of similar size

¹ Statistics for Elector Representation Review 28 June 2024 ECSA
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and composition, by reference to the updated ECSA elector figures as of June 2024, is set out in the below Table.

Table 1: Comparison of elector ratios with other councils²

Council	Area	Councillors (not including Mayor)	Electors	Elector Ratio
Adelaide Hills	795 km ²	12	30,881	1 : 2,573
Alexandrina	1,827 km ²	9	23,134	1 : 2,570
Barossa	912 km²	11	19,397	1 : 1,763
Burnside	27 km ²	12	32,324	1 : 2,693
Campbelltown	24 km ²	10	37,148	1 : 3,714
Gawler	41 km ²	10	20,344	1 : 2,034
Mount Barker	595 km ²	10	29,999	1 : 2,999
Mount Gambier	308 km ²	8	20,420	1 : 2,552
Murray Bridge	1,830 km ²	9	16,015	1 : 1,779
Norwood, Payneham and St Peters	15 km ²	13	26,064	1 : 2,004
Port Augusta	1,153 km ²	9	9,808	1 : 1,089
Prospect	7.81 km ²	8	15,254	1 : 1,906
Unley	14.29 km ²	12	28,002	1 : 2,333
Whyalla	1,032 km ²	9	15,947	1 : 1,771

The above comparisons demonstrates the Council sits around 'mid-range' with respect to representation of electors and certainly does not indicate there is 'over representation' in the Council area, necessitating a consideration of a reduction in number of Members, particularly noting projected development in the Council area, to be addressed further below.

In arriving at the decision to retain 11 Area Councillors plus a Mayor at its last Review, a decision it proposes to maintain on this Review, the Council took into consideration its own experiences as a representative governance body and comparisons with other similar councils, as well as the incoming obligations under section 11A of the Act that now requires that a council must not be composed of more than 13 Members (including the Mayor), unless it is otherwise granted an exemption certificate under section 12(11b) of the Act by the ECSA.

The Council's own experiences demonstrate that as an elected body:

- it has been able to make informed, transparent and accountable decisions effectively for the community; and

² Table 1 above comprises those Councils classified into Group 2 for the purposes of and in accordance with the Remuneration Tribunal of SA's *Determination No.2 of 2022* on Elected Member Allowances.

- it provides appropriate, proportionate, representation for various interest groups/areas in the Council, having particular regard to the physical size of the Council; and
- each Councillor feels that their workload is appropriate and manageable.

The rationale for continuing with 11 Area Councillors:

- the Council has found 11 Area Councillors to be an appropriate number to provide:
 - appropriate elector representation for the different areas of the Council, taking into account the specific characteristics and demographics of the population of the Council area;
 - it provides for a diversity of skills, knowledge and life experiences amongst the elected member body; and
 - provides for different views points on matters to be raised and debated, to ensure all relevant considerations are taken into account in representing the interests of the community;
- this is a sufficient number to share the workload in giving effect to the Council's governance functions, as well as the individual roles and responsibilities of Councillors; and
- the number of Members is favourable when compared against similar councils in South Australia. That is, it could not be said that the electors in the Council area are under, or over, represented, when compared to other councils of a similar size and composition (refer **Table 1**).

The feedback from the Council and an analysis of the data prior, demonstrates that 11 Area Councillors, with a total elected member group of 12 (including the Mayor), is both a reasonable and suitable number to ensure that each member can carry out their role in accordance with section 59 of the Act, including that members:

represent the interests of residents and ratepayers, to provide community leadership and guidance and to facilitate communication between the community and the council.

6.3 Ward Structure

6.3.1 Wards or No Wards

The Council area has never been divided into Wards.

'Ward' is the name given to an electoral division within a council area in South Australia. Wards exist solely for electoral purposes and are similar in concept to electorates in the Australian and South Australian Parliaments.

As part of its Review process, the Council was required to consider whether it retained its existing no-Ward structure or whether it proposed to introduce Wards (and if so, how many).

The issue of whether a council is divided into Wards will also impact on the number and manner in which Councillors are elected, including:

- whether elected from within Wards as Ward Councillors;
- across the whole Council area as Area Councillors; or
- a combination of Ward Councillors and Area Councillors.

There is no difference in the roles and responsibilities of Councillors elected as Ward Councillors and those elected as Area Councillors, save for, Ward Councillors are generally understood to have specific expertise and experience in their particular Ward and are considered to be representative of those electors, residents and ratepayers in that Ward. However, there is no impediment to a member of the community approaching another Councillor, from outside of their Ward.

The Council proposes **to continue with its current structure of no Wards, with 11 Area Councillors to be elected from within the Council as a whole.**

In making this decision, the Council has considered the arguments in favour of the options available to it.

During this review, feedback from the Elected Members overwhelmingly favoured the retention of the no-Ward structure.

The Council acknowledges the factors that support the introduction of a Ward structure, including that:

- Ward Councillors may provide enhanced representation for specific Council areas, including smaller communities, communities of interest and those communities that may need additional assistance;
- Councillors may be said to have better local knowledge of their Ward area and understanding of local issues;
- reduces concerns that 'at large' elections do not guarantee that Councillors will have any empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities within the Council area, or be a representative of the same;
- more prominent or popular Councillors, or those perceived to have more 'power' or 'control', are not disproportionately called upon more frequently by community members, ensuring equity in demands on time and resources;
- Councillors having a smaller area to manage an appropriate workload;
- ensures better representation of all areas across the Council and reduces the risk of lack of representation in some areas and over representation in others;
- ensures Councillors do not all come from one area and reduces the risk of dominance by factional groups or 'stacking' of the Council;
- keeps costs of campaigning for candidates lower, as they only need to campaign within their Ward area. This is particularly relevant given the geographical and population size of the Council;

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- face to face communication between Councillors and electors, residents and ratepayers can be facilitated more easily; and
- the cost of Supplementary elections is lower for a Ward than across the whole Council area.

However, the Council's preference is to continue with its current structure of not having Wards, and in so determining, is persuaded that such a structure:

- affords electors the opportunity to elect more than a restricted number of nominal representatives from within a Ward (e.g. two (2) for each Ward);
- it gives electors the opportunity to vote for any candidate at an election, and judge the performance of all candidates (not just the candidates in their Ward, and noting a Ward Councillor is not required to live in the Ward);
- Councillors can be challenged to find the right balance between corporate governance duties and their representative role, with the desire to make decisions in the best interests of their Ward sometimes seen to outweigh the requirements to make decisions in the interests of the community as a whole;
- potential reduction in electoral accountability, where periodic elections are required for all Wards of a Council area, with the result that sometimes, incumbent members in some Wards are returned unopposed;
- the lines of communication between the Council and the community may be enhanced, given that members of the community can consult with all Members of the Council, rather than feel obliged to consult with specific Ward Councillors;
- such a structure automatically 'absorbs' any fluctuations in elector numbers and adjusts the elector ratio accordingly. That is, specified quota tolerance limits do not apply, and the Council is not required to adjust its Ward boundaries as part of any subsequent Representation Review, particularly noting proposed development in the area over the next few years and an existing Boundary Reform process, the outcome of which is currently unknown; and
- in some circumstances the Council can carry a casual vacancy and avoid the cost of a Supplementary Election.

For these reasons, continuing with the current structure of no Wards is the preferred option for the Council at this time.

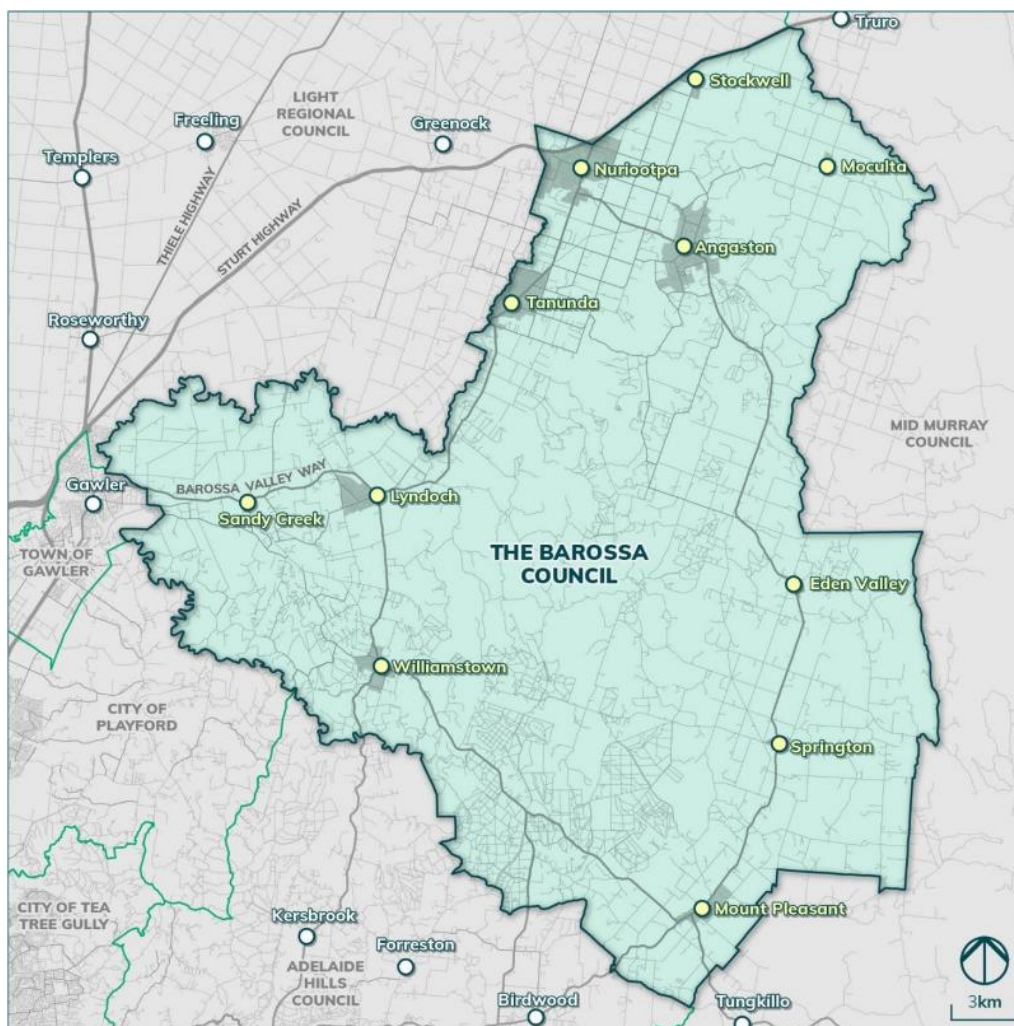
6.3.2 Ward Representation and Quotas

The elector ratio is the average number of electors represented by each Councillor, who represent Wards. The Mayor is not included in these calculations.

Where a Council does not propose a Ward structure, it is not required to observe the principle outlined in section 33(2) of the Act, where the number of electors represented by each Councillor must not vary from the Ward quota by more than 10%.

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A copy of the existing Council map is depicted below:



The Table below demonstrates the Council's current elector statistics, including the ration of representatives to electors, being 1:1,763.

Table 2: Elector Statistics

Statistics for Elector Representation Review



043 The Barossa Council

Mayor/Chairperson: M

Area Councillors: 0

Ward Code	Ward Name	HA Electors	Council Voters Roll	Total	No. of Rep	Quota	% Difference
1	Barossa	19324	73	19397	11	1763	0.00%
Total:		19324	73	19397	11	Average: 1763	

Last Review: 09-05-2017

Next Review: 01-04-2024

Accordingly, as the Council does not propose to be constituted of a Ward structure, it does not need to have regard to Ward Quota tolerances and is not required to consider Ward boundaries to ensure compliance for the purposes of section 33 of the Act.

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7 LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES TO BE CONSIDERED

In arriving at the abovementioned position, there are also a number of legislative requirements that are required to be taken into consideration, when determining the Council's composition as part of its Review, including the objectives contained at section 26(1)(c) of the Act, and the considerations under section 33 of the Act.

7.1 Section 33 of the Act

As set out above, in determining to retain its current structure of having no Wards, the Council is not required to consider section 33(2) of the Act, which establishes the principle that the number of electors represented by a Councillor must not vary from the Ward quota by more than 10 per cent.

The following factors have been taken into account in considering the number of electors in the Council area and the proposed no-Ward structure.

7.1.1 Population and Projections

While fluctuations in population and elector numbers are of little consequence where the Council is not comprised of Wards, given that quota tolerance limits do not apply for the purposes of section 33 of the Act, they are relevant for considerations of representation.

The following information was considered during the course of this Representation Review for the purposes of maintaining 11 Area Councillors, which demonstrates the population (and therefore the elector numbers) within the Council area will increase in the foreseeable future.

The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (formally the Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure) prepared population projections for South Australia, released in December 2019 - *Local Government Area Projections 2011 – 2036*. The estimated population projections for the Council area are as follows:

- 2024 – 26,268 (estimate from Australian Bureau of Statistics);
- 2026 – 26,481 (213);
- 2031 – 27,352 (+871); and
- 2036 – 28,428 (+4,841).

Population projections must be cautiously considered, based on the date the data was collected, and applying assumptions about future fertility, mortality and migration. This population data should also be interpreted having regard to the Council's own knowledge about its area, as well as anticipated population changes, including future development.

7.1.2 Demographic Trends

Demographic trends have also been considered, together with the potential for these trends to impact on the population of the Council area.

By using data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, it is clearly observable that the Council is experiencing, and expected to continue experiencing, significant increases in both the size and diversity of its population.

The below Table sets out the pattern of international migration within the Council population over the past five (5) years. It demonstrates consistent annual net increase in overseas migrants settling into the Council area, with a more significant increase in the past 12 months.

Table 3: Overseas Migration Figures

Description	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Overseas arrivals	102	115	121	25	132	177
Overseas departures	44	44	49	34	42	47
Net overseas migration	58	71	72	-9	90	130

In light of the Council comprising a substantially diverse and multicultural population, it is important that the wide range of cultural considerations for members of the community, often complex in nature, can be received and addressed by Councillors, supporting the retention as well of a no Ward structure, to ensure diversity across the Elected Member group.

7.1.3 Development Trends

The Council has seen an increase in the number of new residential dwellings approved for construction in the Council area over the past few years, which is consistent with trends across other councils and Australia as a whole, noting, of course, pressure in the construction industry.

The below Table sets out the number of dwellings **approved** by the Council between the 2021/22 financial year and the 2023/24 financial year.

Table 4: Private Sector Approvals

Description	2021	2022	2023
Private sector houses	218	105	126
Private sector dwelling (exc. Houses)	-	12	1
Total	218	117	127

This table indicates the residential developments approved throughout the Council area, which, once completed, will contribute to the increasing population and, in turn, elector numbers (noting, of course, not every 'resident' is an 'elector' for the purposes of the Representation Review process)

Construction of approved development may also be delayed for a period of time and this may include delay of construction and occupation until after the November 2026 periodic elections.

The Council has also considered the 30 Year Plan for Greater, which includes the communities of Nuriootpa, Angaston, Tanunda, Lyndoch, Williamstown and Mount Pleasant within the designated 'planned urban lands to 2038', specifically:

- the inclusion of Concordia within the 'future urban growth areas'; and
- estimated targets for an additional 46,400 dwellings and 110,000 people within the Barossa region by the year 2038.

The Council has also considered more recent development and demographic data, produced as part of the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan.

7.1.4 Greater Adelaide Regional Plan Data and Projections

The State Planning Commission has recently released its draft plan for the Greater Adelaide Region (September 2024), which identifies some key future demographic and development data relevant to the Council and its proposed representation structure.

The Plan identifies residential greenfield supply within the Council area, being the urban development of broad hectare farming land on the edge of suburbia. The Plan estimates greenfield supply within the region totals, including development-ready lots and proposed/undeveloped lots, to be 4,224 lots.

The Council, and the township of Barossa, is recognised in the Plan as a place of significance to the State, with its long history, tourism development and agricultural areas. The Plan highlights the importance balance that the Council must achieve in managing future population growth and land supply, whilst retaining its character and cultural importance.

The Plan's medium-series projection of population growth within the Council region (together with the northern plains region) over the next two decades will be, approximately, an increase of 603 people every year.

With significant development opportunities identified in Concordia and projected population and housing figures for the Council, there will be a need for sufficient Member representation to ensure responsible and attentive consideration is given to the needs of each community within the Council, as well as the Council as a whole.

The Council considers can be achieved through maintaining its existing composition of 11 Area Councillors and a Mayor, to ensure the needs of its diverse and growing community are met.

Over the next decade, being between 2021-31, the Council's housing target has been identified at 1,100 dwellings. This figure increases to 1,300-1,400 for the following two decades. For the Council, these developments are likely to come from the identified opportunities at Concordia, Tanunda and Nuriootpa.

The Plan highlights the need for the Council to retain its existing composition, in not only decision making for these strategic developments, but also in ensure appropriate and responsive representation for the increased population.

7.1.5 Communities of Interest

Communities of interest are factors relevant to the physical, economic and social environment, and include consideration and analysis of:

- neighbourhood communities;
- history/heritage of the Council area and communities;
- sporting facilities;
- community support services;
- recreation and leisure services and centres;
- retail and shopping centres;
- industrial and economic development; and
- environmental and geographic areas of interest.

Local knowledge is always the best tool to identify and determine communities of interest, along with development characteristics of the Council area.

7.1.6 Topography

The Barossa Council covers 912 km², extending from Nuriootpa and Stockwell in the north and Moculta, Eden Valley and Springton in the east, Williamstown and Mount Pleasant in the south, and Sandy Creek, Cockatoo Valley and Kalbeeba (near Gawler) in the west.

The area includes the Barossa Valley floor, the Barossa Range, and the Flaxman Valley, encompassing parts of the catchments of the North Para River, South Para River, River Torrens and Marne River. The topography varies from the gently sloping plains of the Barossa Valley floor through the more undulating Flaxman Valley and upper Torrens Valley to the steeper more elevated areas of the Barossa Range and Mount Crawford.

The topography of the City is not a primary factor in the Council's decision to maintain a no Ward structure, Members consider the accessibility of the Council area supports such a structure.

7.1.7 Communication

The Council considers the retention of the existing level of representation will continue to provide adequate and proven lines of communication between the elected member body of Council and the community.

7.1.8 Adequate and Fair Representation

For the reasons set out above in this Review Report, the Council is confident that its proposed representation composition and structure will continue to:

- provide an adequate number of Councillors to manage and meet the demands of its community and give effect to its representative role under the Act;
- provide an appropriate level of elector representation for local areas;
- maintain desired diversity in the skill set, experience and expertise of the elected member body; and
- ensure adequate lines of communication between the community and the Council.

7.2 Section 26 of the Act

Section 26(1)(c) of the Act requires that a number of broader principles are taken into account during the Review process, including:

- the desirability of avoiding significant divisions within the community;
- proposed changes should, wherever practicable, benefit ratepayers;
- a council having a sufficient resource base to fulfil its functions fairly, effectively and efficiently;
- a council should offer its community a reasonable range of services delivered efficiently, flexibly, equitably and on a responsive basis;
- a council should reflect communities of interest of an economic, recreational, social, regional or other kind, and be consistent with community structures, values, expectations and aspirations;
- ensure that local communities can participate effectively in decisions about local matters; and
- residents should receive adequate and fair representation within the local government system, while over-representation in comparison with Councils of a similar size and type should be avoided (at least in the longer term).

The proposed adopted composition and structure of the Council's elected representation is considered to comply with these legislative provisions, specifically in:

- ensuring there are a sufficient number of Councillors to undertake their representative roles fairly, effectively and efficiently;
- little to no detrimental impact upon ratepayers and/or existing communities of interest;
- continuing to provide adequate and fair representation to all electors;

- ensuring that communities, through its elected representation, can participate in decision making; and
- compares favourably with the composition and elector ratios of other Councils of a similar size (in terms of elector numbers) and characteristics.

8 CONCLUSION

This Review Report has been prepared to:

- provide information on the process undertaken by the Council in conducting its Representation Review;
- set out the rationale for selecting the proposed composition and structure;
- seek feedback from interested persons as part of the public consultation process.

8.1 Preferred Composition Structure

The Council proposes as follows with respect to composition and structure on this Review:

- the name of the Council remains unchanged;
- the Council area remains undivided, that is, no Wards are to be created;
- the elected body of the Council to continue to comprise a total of 11 Area Councillors, elected from the Council area as a whole; and
- a Mayor elected from the Council area as a whole.

8.2 Next Steps

This Report is now to be the subject of a public consultation process.

Following which, the Council will receive and take into account the outcomes of the consultation, in determining its proposed representation and composition, for submission to the ECSA, requesting an exemption certificate.

Submissions can be made via:

- completing the feedback form online at
<https://yoursay.barossa.sa.gov.au/>
- or collecting a copy from a Customer Service office located at:
 - 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa.

Submissions will be accepted until 5.00pm on **XX Month 2024** and should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 867, Nuriootpa, SA 5355 or emailed to:

- barossa@barossa.sa.gov.au

Further information regarding the elector representation review can be obtained by contacting Janine Harding, Executive Business Partner, on telephone 8563 8401 or emailing barossa@barossa.sa.gov.au.

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APPENDICES

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Kelley Jones

APPENDIX 1

No. 58 p. 3796

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

9 July 2020

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1999
NOTICE OF DETERMINATION OF RELEVANT PERIOD
Review of Council Compositions and Wards

Pursuant to section 12(4) of the *Local Government Act 1999* and Regulation 4 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2013*, I, Stephan Karl Knoll, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government in the state of South Australia, hereby revoke the Notice of Determination of Relevant Period published in the *Government Gazette* on 1 August 2019, pages 2883 to 2885 (inclusive) and determine the relevant period for the next review of council compositions and wards, to be the date as contained in the table listed hereunder.

Council	Last Review	Next Review Period
Adelaide	19/11/2013	June 2020–October 2021
Adelaide Plains	26/11/2013	June 2020–October 2021
Alexandrina	26/11/2013	June 2020–October 2021
Burnside	8/01/2013	June 2020–October 2021
Charles Sturt	5/09/2013	June 2020–October 2021
Coorong	18/09/2013	June 2020–October 2021
Flinders Ranges Council	14/05/2013	June 2020–October 2021
Goyder	16/08/2013	June 2020–October 2021
Light	14/11/2013	June 2020–October 2021
Marion	27/11/2013	June 2020–October 2021
Mid Murray	05/11/2013	June 2020–October 2021
Mitcham	12/11/2013	June 2020–October 2021
Mount Remarkable	29/11/2013	June 2020–October 2021
Murray Bridge	8/07/2013	June 2020–October 2021
Robe	18/09/2013	June 2020–October 2021
Unley	19/08/2013	June 2020–October 2021
Elliston	14/11/2013	October 2020–October 2021
Franklin Harbour	9/07/2013	October 2020–October 2021
Gawler	26/11/2013	October 2020–October 2021
Holdfast Bay	5/11/2013	October 2020–October 2021
Mount Barker	26/08/2013	October 2020–October 2021
Port Pirie	05/11/2013	October 2020–October 2021
Prospect	28/11/2013	October 2020–October 2021
Streaky Bay	28/11/2013	October 2020–October 2021
Tatiara	05/11/2013	October 2020–October 2021
Tumby Bay	12/11/2013	October 2020–October 2021
Wakefield Regional	26/11/2013	October 2020–October 2021
Wattle Range	26/08/2013	October 2020–October 2021
West Torrens	06/11/2013	October 2020–October 2021
Wudinna	26/08/2013	October 2020–October 2021
Yorke Peninsula	19/11/2013	October 2020–October 2021
Adelaide Hills	30/11/2017	April 2024–April 2025
Barossa	1/05/2017	April 2024–April 2025
Berri Barmera	29/06/2017	April 2024–April 2025
Campbelltown	1/05/2017	April 2024–April 2025
Clare & Gilbert Valleys	7/07/2017	April 2024–April 2025
Grant	8/05/2017	April 2024–April 2025
Kangaroo Island	14/02/2017	April 2024–April 2025
Kimba	5/06/2017	April 2024–April 2025
Mount Gambier	1/05/2017	April 2024–April 2025
Northern Areas	21/08/2017	April 2024–April 2025
Norwood, Payneham & St Peters	31/08/2017	April 2024–April 2025
Onkaparinga	7/12/2017	April 2024–April 2025
Playford	16/10/2017	April 2024–April 2025
Port Adelaide Enfield	3/07/2017	April 2024–April 2025
Port Lincoln	6/04/2017	April 2024–April 2025
Salisbury	21/11/2017	April 2024–April 2025
Southern Mallee	1/06/2017	April 2024–April 2025
Victor Harbor	27/07/2017	April 2024–April 2025
Yankalilla	27/07/2017	April 2024–April 2025
Barunga West	31/07/2017	October 2024–October 2025
Ceduna	5/10/2017	October 2024–October 2025
Cleve	26/10/2017	October 2024–October 2025
Cooper Pedy	21/11/2017	October 2024–October 2025
Copper Coast	3/10/2017	October 2024–October 2025
Karoonda East Murray	6/11/2017	October 2024–October 2025
Kingston	4/09/2017	October 2024–October 2025
Lower Eyre Peninsula	26/10/2017	October 2024–October 2025
Loxton Waikerie	31/07/2017	October 2024–October 2025
Naracoorte Lucindale	4/09/2017	October 2024–October 2025
Orroroo Carrieton	6/11/2017	October 2024–October 2025
Peterborough	15/12/2017	October 2024–October 2025
Port Augusta	3/10/2017	October 2024–October 2025
Renmark Paringa	3/10/2017	October 2024–October 2025
Tea Tree Gully	28/11/2017	October 2024–October 2025
Walkerville	26/10/2017	October 2024–October 2025
Whyalla	21/11/2017	October 2024–October 2025

Dated: 7 July 2020

HON STEPHAN KNOLL MP
Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government
Minister for Planning

Kelley Jones

APPENDIX 2

2024/178

**8.1.2 ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2024-25
24/29279**

There is strong public interest in enabling members of the public to observe Council's transparent and informed decision-making. This helps to ensure accountability, maintain transparency of public expenditure, facilitate public participation, assist public awareness and allow for the scrutiny of information. Attendance at a Council meeting is one means of satisfying this interest. The public will only be excluded from a Council meeting when the need for confidentiality pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Act outweighs the public interest of open decision-making.

In this matter, the reasons that receipt, consideration or discussion of the information or matter in a meeting open to the public would be contrary to the public interest so as to appoint a qualified consultant to undertake the Representation Review 2024-25 on behalf of Council and that it assess and appoint the consultant who will be appointed under the quotation processes issued to the market requiring maintenance of confidential tender pricing information.

On balance, the above reason which supports the need for confidentiality pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Act outweighs the factors in favour of the public interest of open decision-making.

MOVED Cr Preece

That Council:

- (1) Under the provisions of Section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, make an order that the public be excluded from the meeting with the exception of the Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate Services and Business Innovation, Director Development and Community Services, Director Infrastructure and Environmental Service and the Minute Secretary, in order to consider in confidence a report relating to being information that must be considered in confidence pursuant to:

Section 90(3)(k) of the Local Government Act 1999:

- tenders for the supply of goods, the provision of services or the carrying out of works;

- (2) Accordingly, on this basis, Council is satisfied that public interest in conducting meetings in a place open to the public has been outweighed by the need to keep the information and discussion confidential so as to appoint a qualified consultant to undertake the Representation Review 2024-25 on behalf of Council and that it assess and appoint the consultant who will be appointed under the quotation processes issued to the market requiring maintenance of confidential tender pricing information.

SECONDED Cr de Vries**CARRIED 2022-26/404**

The meeting moved into confidence at 7.08pm

2024/179

MOVED Cr de Vries

That Council:

- (1) Council Resolution
- (2) Council Resolution
- (3) Council Resolution
- (4) Having considered this matter in confidence under Sections 90(2) and 90(3)(h) and (i) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, makes an order pursuant to Section 91(7), that the minutes, agenda report and attachments and minutes relating to this confidentiality order of the Confidential Council Meeting held on 19 March 2024 in relation to item 8.1.2 - Elector Representation Review 2024-25 be kept confidential and not available for public inspection and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to review and revoke the order.

SECONDDED Cr Hurn**CARRIED CO 2022-26/405***Resumption of open council meeting at 7.09pm***8.2 Infrastructure and Environment Services****8.2.1 NURIOOTPA CWMS TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE - TENDER**
24/28861

There is strong public interest in enabling members of the public to observe Council's transparent and informed decision-making. This helps to ensure accountability, maintain transparency of public expenditure, facilitate public participation, assist public awareness and allow for the scrutiny of information. Attendance at a Council meeting is one means of satisfying this interest. The public will only be excluded from a Council meeting when the need for confidentiality pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Act outweighs the public interest of open decision-making.

In this matter, the reasons that receipt, consideration or discussion of the information or matter in a meeting open to the public would be contrary to the public interest are that the disclosure would unreasonably expose commercial in confidence information provided by tenderers through the tender process for the Tender T0235/2023 - Nuriootpa CWMS Treatment Plant Upgrade-and the Council Report, attachments and associated documentation; and the disclosure would give an unfair advantage to a person with whom Council proposes to do business.

On balance, the above reason which supports the need for confidentiality pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Act outweighs the factors in favour of the public interest of open decision-making.

DEBATE REPORT

7.1 Office of the Mayor and CEO

7.1.2 ANNUAL CLOSURE OF COUNCIL OFFICES, LIBRARIES, BAROSSA VISITOR CENTRE AND DEPOT OVER THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR PERIOD

**Author: Executive Business Partner
24/89014**

PURPOSE

Each year Council endorses a limited closure period and skeleton service provision for the Nuriootpa Office, Nuriootpa Library and Branch Office/Libraries, Barossa Visitor Centre and Council Depots over the Christmas/New year period.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the operations of Council in accordance with the table provided at Attachment 1 over the 2024/25 Christmas/New Year period noting that the relevant services will be closed during the outlined periods but that arrangements for urgent, emergency and other after-hours support will be in place and that all services shall reopen with normal operating hours on Tuesday 2 January 2025, and;
- (2) Instructs the Chief Executive Officer to publish the amended operating hours in the local papers, relevant Council Facebook sites and on the website.

REPORT

In accordance with Council's historical policy position, Council operates basic services between Christmas and New Year, with staff taking accrued leave during this period. The table at Attachment 1 outlines the management of services during the holiday period.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Office Opening Hours over the proposed shut down period 2024-2025 [!\[\]\(274fd520e03b61c1b9ffc861754cacdc_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(cd41623988aee99b5b915fa19a633d9e_img.jpg\)](#)

Supporting references

Nil

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Corporate Plan

BS7 Governance - Provision of governance advice and support in the discharge of legislative responsibilities for policy development, delegations and

- authorisations, internal review of Council decisions, delegations and authorisations, Native Title claims
- CS16 Library - Provision of public library services across multiple physical branches, online and via outreach programs. This includes providing access to a physical and online collection
- CS9 Customers - Provision of customer services walk in (front counter and Library, Barossa Visitor Centre, Branches, Barossa Regional Gallery) . Customers of Council have a positive experience, where contact is convenient, they are attended to promptly, staff are courteous and requests are correctly recorded and actioned

Legislative Requirements

Local Government Act 1999

FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Financial and Resource

Resources will be maintained to ensure continuity of services for Council's Barossa Visitor Centre, Libraries and Council Depot services. The resources required for the existing service levels during the Christmas to New Year period are within the adopted budget. Any significant events that Council needs to respond to and provide support, resources and rectify any assets, will be reported to Council as per previous incidents/events.

Risk Management

Council provides services on standby as required for essential services, ensuring any risk issues are considered as appropriate for each service provided.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Appropriate notices will be published in the local papers advising of the closures together with notices on Council's website, d'Vine advertisement, eNewsletter, social media platforms, messages on hold and Council noticeboards and offices.

Office/Sites Opening Hours over the proposed shut down period 2024/2025								
Council Operations – Daily Service Provision:		Nuriootpa Office	Nuriootpa Library	Tanunda Library	Lyndoch & Mt Pleasant Library / Office	Works Depots	Barossa Visitor Centre	Barossa Regional Gallery
24/12/2024	Tuesday Christmas Eve: 7pm to midnight	Close at 3pm	Close at 3pm	Close at 3pm	Close at 3pm	Emergencies & essential maintenance available. Out of hours service provided	Close at 3pm	Close at 3pm
25/12/2024	Wednesday Public Holiday	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed. Out of hours service provided	Closed	Closed
26/12/2024	Thursday Public Holiday	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed. Out of hours service provided	Open 10am - 4pm	Closed
27/12/2024	Friday	Closed	Open 9am - 5pm	Closed	Closed	Emergencies & essential maintenance available. Out of hours service provided	Open 9am - 5pm	Closed
28/12/2024	Saturday	Closed	Open 9.30am-12.30pm	Closed	Closed	Closed. Out of hours service provided	Open 9am - 4pm	Closed
29/12/2024	Sunday	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed. Out of hours service provided	Open 10am - 4pm	Closed
30/12/2024	Monday	Closed	Open 9am-5pm	Closed	Closed	Emergencies & essential maintenance available. Out of hours service provided	Open 9am - 5pm	Closed
31/12/2024	Tuesday	Closed	Open 9am-5pm	Closed	Closed	Emergencies & essential maintenance available. Out of hours service provided	Open 9am - 5pm	Closed
1/01/2025	Wednesday Public Holiday	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed. Out of hours service provided	Open 10am - 4pm	Closed
2/01/2025	Thursday - Back to normal opening hours	Open	Open normal hours	Open normal hours	Open normal hours	Open		Open normal hours

DEBATE REPORT

7.2 Corporate Services, Strategy and Innovation

7.2.1 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

**Author: Senior Accountant
24/89093**

PURPOSE

The monthly finance report provides information on the financial performance and position of Council, including information on material financial transactions.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Monthly Finance Report as at 30 September 2024 as provided at Attachment 1.

REPORT

The Monthly Finance Report as at 30 September 2024 is attached. The report has been prepared comparing actuals to the original adopted budget for 2024-25.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Monthly Finance Report Council September 2024  

Supporting references

Nil

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Corporate Plan

BS6 Finance - Transparency and accountability regarding Council activity and expenditure. Provision of organisational performance report (outcomes), activity report (outputs), a range of statutory reporting (e.g. public health, tax, superannuation), financial reporting

Legislative Requirements

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011, Regulation 9(1)(b) LGA information paper no.25 – Monitoring Council Budget Performance.

FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

To enable Council to make effective and strategic financial decisions, a monthly high level financial report is provided.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community consultation was part of the original budget adoption process in June 2024, as per legislation. This report is advising Council of the monthly finance position compared to that budget.

MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

AS AT 30 September 2024

For Year Ending 30 June 2025

	Notes	% Actual Expenditure to Original Budget	Original Budget (Full-Year) \$'000	Actual Result (Year-to-Date) \$'000
Uniform Presentation of Finances				
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:				
		Operating		
Operating Income			49,517	42,679
				0
Less Operating Expenses		23.72%	(49,954)	(11,849)
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)			(437)	30,830
CAPITAL ACTIVITIES:				
Net Outlays on Existing Assets				
		Capital		
Capital Expenditure on Renewal and Replacement of Existing Assets	2	8.95%	(11,202)	(1,003)
Add back Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment			10,816	2,705
				0
Add back Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets			368	43
Subtotal			(18)	1,745
Net Outlays on New and Upgraded Assets				
Capital Expenditure on New and Upgraded Assets	2	47.10%	(29,484)	(13,887)
Add back Amounts Received Specifically for New and Upgraded Assets	1		6,725	5,622
Add back Proceeds from Sale of Surplus Assets			0	0
Subtotal			(22,759)	(8,265)
Net Lending/(Borrowing) for the Financial Year				
			(23,214)	24,310
Total % Capital Budget Spent		36.60%		

NOTES

- 1) State Government funding towards Lyndoch development
- 2) 2024/25 Capital Expenditure to end of September includes:
 - The Big Project -Barossa Rugby Park - \$64k
 - Drainage \$55k
 - Footpaths & Kerbing \$152k
 - Sealed Roads \$221k
 - Lyndoch Rec Park Redevelopment - \$12.9M
 - Nuriootpa Soccer - \$692k

DEBATE REPORT

7.2 Corporate Services, Strategy and Innovation

7.2.2 EVENT MANAGEMENT POLICY - POST CONSULTATION - DRAFT FOR ADOPTION

**Author: Deputy CEO and Director Corporate Services, Strategy and Innovation
24/89373**

PURPOSE

To seek endorsement from Council on the post consultation version of the Event Management Policy.

RECOMMENDATION 1

That Council:

- (1) Note the receipt of six written submissions during the formal public consultation period from 28 August to 18 September 2024; and
- (2) Endorse the proposed amendments and adopt the Event Management Policy.

REPORT

Background

Council's current Event Management Policy was first adopted in 2014 and minor amendments were further adopted in 2019.

Introduction

At its meeting of 20 August 2024, Council endorsed a phase of public consultation in relation to the draft Event Management Policy, in accordance with Council's Public Consultation Policy. Council also required Officers to bring the draft policy back to Council following the conclusion of public consultation for consideration and adoption subject to any written submissions being received.

Discussion

To facilitate formal consultation in accordance with requirements under the *Local Government Act 1999*, a period of formal public consultation was held from 28 August to 18 September. A raft of opportunities was made available for the provision of feedback including the Policy being made available at Council's Principal Office and on Council's website, and advertisements being placed in local papers inviting community feedback during the 21-day period.

During the formal consultation period, six written submissions were received with the key themes of the submission and Officer's responses summarised at Attachment 1. The full submissions provided are provided at Attachment 2.

Based on the formal submissions received, along with further feedback from staff the following changes have been made to the draft policy:

Policy Reference	Change
Paragraph 3.5.1	Inclusion of the terms roads and footpaths
Paragraph 3.5.2	Amendment of clause to include the orange font clarifications: For open spaces and oval events, following consultation with Event Organisers and the conduct of pre and post event inspections (see also section 3.10), Council Officers will require event organisers to fund proactive pre-event measures and post event remediation (e.g. re-turfing and top dressing) if the anticipated use cannot be reasonably accommodated within existing approved levels of service or based on latent conditions at the time of the event, or damage is expected to affect the required ongoing level of service for other approved uses.
Paragraph 3.5.3	Inclusion of additional clause to split content from original paragraph 3.5.2 and inclusion of orange font clarifications: The Chief Executive Officer or Deputy Chief Executive Officer, at their sole discretion, based on advice received regarding ground conditions, inclement weather and/or the safety of patrons, may cancel or vary an event approval if it is assessed that the grounds may be damaged or rendered unsafe during or following an event. Event cancellation or varying of an event approval will not occur without prior consultation with the Event Organiser.
Paragraph 3.10.1	Inclusion of proactive pre-event measures to be agreed via pre-event inspection process.
Section 9	Inclusion of additional definition of Council Officer as follows: Any Officer employed by the Council pursuant to Chapter 7 of the Local Government Act with a designated responsibility for the management of events or associated services and functions, and who is authorised to act and make decisions in accordance with delegations approved by Council.

The Policy will be supported by a suite of documents including detailed event classification guidelines, event application and approval forms and formal terms and conditions agreements, providing granular detail on specific conditions of use, roles and responsibilities, financial obligations, event planning requirements, and marketing and promotion parameters.

The final proposed policy is provided for Council consideration at Attachment 3.

Summary and Conclusion

Following a period of formal public consultation, in which six formal submissions were received, the *Event Management Policy* has been amended and is presented for Council adoption.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

- Attachment 1 Consultation Summary of Submissions - Draft Event Management Policy [↓](#) 
- Attachment 2 Draft Event Management Policy - Full Submissions [↓](#) 
- Attachment 3 Event Management Policy - Post Consultation Revised Draft for Council Adoption [↓](#) 

Supporting references

Nil

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTSCommunity Plan

Community and Culture

Legislative Requirements

Nil

FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed policy seeks to manage both organisational and stakeholder risks associated with the planning and delivery of events in public places, along with the use of Council infrastructure and assets, whilst providing a framework for fairness, equity and transparency.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A summary of community engagement undertaken in relation to the Event Management Policy is provided in the body of this report.



Summary of Submissions

Draft Event Management Policy Consultation

Response Number	Submission Type	HPE Reference	Name/Organisation	Feedback	Response
1.	Letter	24/86772	Tanunda A H & F Society (Tanunda Show)	Summary below – please see attachment two for full details 1) Expressed general concerns with Section 3.5.2, which addresses Community Asset Protection Conditions. 2) Sought Clarification on the following: a. Specific examples of proactive pre-event measures as it would be fair to assume that facilities are, within reason, fit or purpose prior to any event taking place.	1) Noted – detailed responses provided below. 2) a. Event guidelines are being developed for each event classification level which will contain details regarding the types of measures council may require eg (e.g. re-turfing and top dressing) if the anticipated use cannot be reasonably accommodated within existing approved levels of service or based on latent conditions at the time of the event (drought conditions, excessive rain, upgrade or improvement works and associated implementation times etc), or damage is expected to affect the required ongoing level of service for other approved uses. The proposed settings have been designed to be applicable to a broad range of event types and event organisers and are not designed to modify existing arrangements or levels of service for open space/oval maintenance in preparation for events or activities at recreation parks and broader open spaces which could be reasonably expected (eg tree trimming, mowing, watering and general upkeep) as part of Council's core business. Proactive pre-event measures would be



Summary of Submissions

Response Number	Submission Type	HPE Reference	Name/Organisation	Feedback	Response
				b. Who are the Council Officers referred to in this section? At what level of council management do they operate. c. Section 9 does not provide a definition of these officers. 3) Expressed strong objection to the provision granting Council Officers sole discretion to cancel or modify an event without prior consultation and agreement with the event organiser. 4) Requested clearer guidelines for pre-event measures to ensure mutual understanding and fairness to all facility users.	an exceptional requirement rather than the norm. b. Noted – Policy updated to clarify decision maker as the CEO or Deputy CEO for event cancellations and approval amendments and also require that consultation occurs with the Event Organiser prior to a decision being made. The gravity of any decision to cancel or modify an event is deeply understood and will only be made in contemplation of Council Officers (including its Executive Leaders) obligation to sustainably, ethically and safely manage Council assets and resources whilst also protecting the safety of the community and mitigating known risks in accordance with Council's approved risk appetite. c. Noted – Definition of Council Officer included in Section 9 to clarify the authority of Officers to act in accordance with delegations in the implementation of the policy more broadly. 3) Noted – See above response at (b) and policy amendments and would also involve engagement in any case which will be covered by guidelines. 4) Noted – Detailed event guidelines are being developed which will provide clarity regarding the application of the settings, roles and responsibilities and processes for navigating event applications, approvals, inspections etc



Summary of Submissions

Response Number	Submission Type	HPE Reference	Name/Organisation	Feedback	Response
2.	Email	24/86979	Angaston Show	Summary below – please see attachment two for full details 1) Sought further insight into Section 3.5.2, in terms of what Council deems proactive pre-event measures and a better explanation of how the Council Officer cancellation would work. 2) Provided context relevant to Angaston Show and questioned whether it is the responsibility of the Council to continually maintain the grounds? Thus, making the pre-event measures point confusing. 3) Expressed concerns regarding the provision granting Council Officers sole discretion to cancel or modify an event without prior consultation and agreement with the event organiser.	1) Noted – detailed event guidelines are being developed for each event classification level which will contain details regarding the types of measures council may require eg (e.g. re-turfing and top dressing) if the anticipated use cannot be reasonably accommodated within existing approved levels of service or based on latent conditions at the time of the event (drought conditions, excessive rain, upgrade or improvement works and associated implementation times etc), or damage is expected to affect the required ongoing level of service for other approved uses. 2) Noted - The proposed settings have been designed to be applicable to a broad range of event types and event organisers and are not designed to modify existing arrangements or levels of service for open space/oval maintenance in preparation for events or activities at recreation parks and broader open spaces which could be reasonably expected (eg tree trimming, mowing, watering and general upkeep) as part of Council's core business. Proactive pre-event measures would be an exceptional requirement rather than the norm. 3) Noted – Policy updated to clarify decision maker as the CEO or Deputy CEO and require that consultation occurs with the Event Organiser prior to a decision being made. The gravity of



Summary of Submissions

Response Number	Submission Type	HPE Reference	Name/Organisation	Feedback	Response
				4) Provided context to the impacts of their interpretation of the proposed settings and confusion as to its application. 5) Agree that 3.5.3 relating to cost of remediation is a fair condition but questioned whether this clause should be linked to section 3.10 pre and post event inspections. 6) Additional context provided in terms of the application of these clauses in relation to Angaston Show.	any decision to cancel or modify an event is deeply understood and will only be made in contemplation of Council Officers (including its Executive Leaders) obligation to sustainably, ethically and safely manage Council assets and resources whilst also protecting the safety of the community and mitigating known risks in accordance with Council's approved risk appetite. 4) Noted – Detailed event guidelines are being developed which will provide clarity regarding the application of the settings, roles and responsibilities and processes for navigating event applications, approvals, inspections etc. 5) Agreed – Policy updated accordingly. 6) Noted – The suitability and compliance of Council Assets available for hire, lease or licence whether in connection with an event application or otherwise will be subject to ongoing inspection and review. Upon receipt of an event application Officers will work with event organisers to understand asset needs and determine any limitations on usage based on the condition of the asset.



Summary of Submissions

Response Number	Submission Type	HPE Reference	Name/Organisation	Feedback	Response
3.	Email	24/86979	Council Officer	1) Policy accessibility feedback provided – readability of images and active navigation improvements identified. 2) Section 1.3 spelling suggestion 3) Section 1.3 – Accessible and Inclusive Events – suggestion to include supporting information for Event Organisers.	1) Noted – adjustments will be made where practicable. 2) Actioned 3) Agreed – additional information will be provided in the detailed event guidelines along with supporting resources and tools in a newly developed Event Toolkit to be made available via Council's website.



Summary of Submissions

Response Number	Submission Type	HPE Reference	Name/Organisation	Feedback	Response
4.	Letter	24/87091	Mount Pleasant AH&F Society Inc (Mt Pleasant Show Society)	Summary below – please see attachment two for full details 1) Find the policy by and large acceptable and particularly appreciate the retention of an amended section 2.5, which clarifies the region's local shows as approved events. 2) Expressed a view that Section 3.5.2, which addresses Community Asset Protection Conditions requires further clarification and refinement. 3) Sought Clarification on the following: a. Types of pre-event measures envisaged by Council as it would be fair to assume that facilities are, within reason, maintained to an appropriate standard for legacy events such as Shows and weekend sports. b. Noting also that Shows have always been accountable for any post-event remediation and to date this has not been an issue.	1) Noted 2) Noted – detailed responses provided below. 3) a. Event guidelines are being developed for each event classification level which will contain details regarding the types of measures council may require eg (e.g. re-turfing and top dressing) if the anticipated use cannot be reasonably accommodated within existing approved levels of service or based on latent conditions at the time of the event (drought conditions, excessive rain, upgrade or improvement works and associated implementation times etc), or damage is expected to affect the required ongoing level of service for other approved uses. The proposed settings have been designed to be applicable to a broad range of event types and event organisers and are not designed to modify existing arrangements or levels of service for open space/oval maintenance in preparation for events



Summary of Submissions

Response Number	Submission Type	HPE Reference	Name/Organisation	Feedback	Response
				or activities at recreation parks and broader open spaces which could be reasonably expected (eg tree trimming, mowing, watering and general upkeep) as part of Council's core business. Proactive pre-event measures would be an exceptional requirement rather than the norm. b. Agreed 4) Expressed strong objection to the provision granting Council Officers sole discretion to cancel or modify an event without prior consultation and agreement with the event organisers. Further maintained that such decisions should be signed off by both the CEO and Mayor, as the elected body's representative. 5) Stated that the policy does not provide a definition of these officers, therefore clarification sought on who the officers referred to in this section may be and what level they operate.	4) Noted – Policy updated to clarify decision maker as the CEO or Deputy CEO for event cancellations and approval amendments and also require that consultation occurs with the Event Organiser prior to a decision being made. The gravity of any decision to cancel or modify an event is deeply understood and will only be made in contemplation of Council Officers (including its Executive Leaders) obligation to sustainably, ethically and safely manage Council assets and resources whilst also protecting the safety of the community and mitigating known risks in accordance with Council's approved risk appetite. 5) Noted – Definition of Council Officer included in Section 9 to clarify the authority of Officers to act in accordance with delegations in the implementation of the policy more broadly.



Summary of Submissions

Response Number	Submission Type	HPE Reference	Name/Organisation	Feedback	Response
5.	Letter	24/87163	Central Districts Show Association	Summary below – please see attachment two for full details 1) Expressed Concerns with Section 3.5.2, which addresses Community Asset Protection Conditions. 2) Expressed a view that the provision granting Council Officers sole discretion to cancel or modify an event approval needs a definition stating which Council Officers have sole discretion as follows: a. Their official position and role within the Barossa Council and qualification to make the decision b. What considerations are taken to determine when/if an event is cancelled c. How such a decision will be communicated to the event organiser d. How will the individual Show be compensated for any loss financially by the Barossa Council.	1) Noted – detailed responses provided below. 2) a. Policy updated to clarify decision maker as the CEO or Deputy CEO for event cancellations and approval amendments and also require that consultation occurs with the Event Organiser prior to a decision being made. Definition of Council Officer also included in Section 9 to clarify the authority of Officers to act in accordance with delegations in the implementation of the policy more broadly. b. The gravity of any decision to cancel or modify an event is deeply understood and will only be made in contemplation of Council Officers (including its Executive Leaders) obligation to sustainably, ethically and safely manage Council assets and resources whilst also protecting the safety of the community and mitigating known risks in accordance with Council's approved risk appetite. c. Council's event management team will communicate directly with the Event Organiser and as per policy wording

Summary of Submissions



Response Number	Submission Type	HPE Reference	Name/Organisation	Feedback	Response
				3) Requested clearer guidelines for pre-event measures to ensure mutual understanding between all parties.	update consultation will be required prior to any decision being made. d. Compensatory mechanisms are not contemplated in the policy. 3) Noted – Detailed event guidelines are being developed which will provide clarity regarding the application of the settings, roles and responsibilities and processes for navigating event applications, approvals, inspections etc



Summary of Submissions

Response Number	Submission Type	HPE Reference	Name/Organisation	Feedback	Response
6.	Your Say Barossa Submission	24/87214	Anonymous	1) Section 3.2.2 council events team determine the classification of an event and can adjust the classification as necessary. How is conflict of interest dealt with? What recourse/ process is there should an event manager disagree with the events team classification? What reasons would be used to adjust the reclassification of an event. 2) Require more transparency and accountability for the Councils event team in making decisions. 3) Sections 3.5.2 & 3.5.3 council officers will require organisers to fund a pre-event measure and post event remediations if anticipated use or damage is expected. As with previous section this lacks transparency in how council officers make this decision and what recourse does an organiser have if they disagree with these measures.	1) Noted - Council Officers do not inherently have a conflict of interest as they are not authorised to assess their own application as a private event organiser. If the question relates to a disagreement between the Event Organiser and Officer who has determined the event classification and the matter cannot be resolved as a result of liaison between authorised staff and the event organiser, Council's standard Complaint Handling Process would be utilised to manage concerns raised. 2) Noted – the policy sets out core settings for the management of events to which Council's events team must abide. Detailed event guidelines are also being developed which will provide clarity regarding the application of the settings, roles and responsibilities and processes for navigating event applications, approvals, inspections etc. 3) Noted - As per response above, detailed event guidelines will set out the inputs into decision making and ultimately the policy allows for discretionary decisions to be made in accordance with relevant delegations, legislation and Council strategic objectives. Event Organisers are required to make an informed decision regarding the risks of proceeding with an event on community land noting these provisions apply to protect the community's interests. The gravity of any decision to cancel or modify an event is deeply understood and will only be made



Summary of Submissions

Response Number	Submission Type	HPE Reference	Name/Organisation	Feedback	Response
				4) How is conflict of interest dealt with (if personal relationships are declared good or bad?) 5) Section 3.11.2 costs incurred by council will be deducted from bond. Please ensure that before deducting any costs from bond this is discussed with organiser outlining why as the damage may be from a third party which organiser may be able to get payment of cost for the damage they caused. 6) Policy needs to include what is the method which conflict of interests and issues with decisions and disputes are dealt with.	in contemplation of Council Officers (including its Executive Leaders) obligation to sustainably, ethically and safely manage Council assets and resources whilst also protecting the safety of the community and mitigating known risks in accordance with Council's approved risk appetite. 4) Intent of this question is unclear – a conflict does not arise because of a personal relationship. There are already legislative processes in place to manage such disclosures. The point is irrelevant to the policy. 5) Agreed. 6) Noted – Council's Complaint Handling Process provides mechanisms for the handling of customer complaints.

MT PLEASANT SHOW SOCIETY

PO Box 141
 Mt Pleasant SA 5235
 Phone: (08) 8568 2303
 Fax: (08) 8568 1760
 E-mail: mtpleasantshow@bigpond.com



Dear Mr McCarthy

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Council's draft Event Management Policy.

As a volunteer organisation which has been operating an established, well-loved and important community event for over 160 years, the Mount Pleasant Agricultural, Horticultural and Floricultural Society Inc fully understands and appreciates the need for responsible and sustainable event management practices.

We have taken the time to peruse the proposed policy and find it, by and large, acceptable. We particularly appreciate the retention of an amended section 2.5, which clarifies our region's local Shows as approved events, including the horses-in-action program components.

In relation to this, we would like to note that we feel the current policy's wording more accurately reflects the sentiment that was intended by including this paragraph, particularly the highlighted words: *"The Policy applies to our community Agricultural, Horticultural and Floricultural Shows at Angaston, Mount Pleasant and Tanunda and for the avoidance of doubt they are an approved event including the continuation of horse-in-action events on all open spaces available at the respective locations. These events shall be managed in accordance with the Policy and general risk management requirements."*

The new section 2.5 refers to Shows being managed in accordance with section 3.5. It is section 3.5.2 which we feel requires further clarification and refinement as follows:

- *"...require event organisers to fund proactive pre-event measures and post event remediation"*
 - We seek clarification on the types of pre-event measures which are envisaged by Council, as we would fairly assume that, within reason, open spaces and ovals are maintained to an appropriate standard for legacy events such as Shows and weekend sports to be held.
 - It is also worth noting that, as Council is aware, our local Shows have always been accountable for any post-event remediation and, to date, this has not been an issue for these events.
- *"Council Officers, at their sole discretion ... may cancel or vary an event approval"*
 - We are unable to find a definition for Council Officers and as such, this directive is quite open-ended. We seek clarification on who the officers

referred to in this section may be and at what management level they operate.

- We strongly object to any officer being given sole discretion to cancel or vary an event without prior consultation and agreement with the event organisers.
- Any decision to cancel or to significantly vary an event should be made in direct consultation and collaboration with the organisers. Further, it should require sign-off from both the CEO and the Mayor, as the elected body's representative.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this feedback and look forward to your considered response and appropriate policy amendments. We would also welcome further discussion with Council regarding section 3.14 (Partnership, Sponsorship & Funding) and in particular, the Mt Pleasant Show's alignment with the points made in section 3.14.3.

We look forward to continuing to work with Council to ensure our Show continues for at least another 160 years - and more!

Kind regards



Neil Kroehn
President
Mt Pleasant Agricultural, Horticultural and Floricultural Society Inc

**CENTRAL DISTRICTS SHOWS ASSOCIATION**

E: cdsashows@gmail.com

To: Barossa Council CEO

Subject: Feedback on Draft Event Management Policy – Section 3.5.2

On behalf of the Central Districts Shows Association, after having read through the draft Event Management Policy we have concerns for the local Shows in our Association, namely Angaston, Tanunda and Mt Pleasant with section 3.5.2 regarding the Community Asset Protection conditions.

The policy states that event organisers are required to finance proactive pre-event measures and post-event remediation, such as re-turfing and top-dressing, if the anticipated use or potential damage is expected to impact the ongoing level of service.

After discussions with Angaston, Tanunda and Mt Pleasant Shows they have never had an issue with pre or post events with their individual ovals. How is it to be determined and what proactive measures are required and who will make these decisions. We would like to see clearer guidelines regarding pre-event measures to ensure there is a mutual understanding between all parties.

Also, the policy states that Council Officers, at their sole discretion, have the authority to cancel or alter event approvals based on their assessment of ground conditions, inclement weather, or safety concerns, if such measures are deemed necessary to prevent damage or ensure safety during or after an event.

We believe this term in the policy needs a definition stating which Council Officers have sole discretion

- a. Their official position and role within the Barossa Council and qualification to make the decisions.
- b. What considerations are taken to determine when/if an event is cancelled
- c. How such a decision will be communicated to the event organiser
- d. How will the individual Show be compensated for any loss financially by the Barossa Council.

We believe that clearer guidelines are needed regarding pre-event measures to ensure mutual understanding with all parties.

Thank you for considering our feedback.

Rosie Schultz
CDSA President

TANUNDA SHOW**TANUNDA AH & F SOCIETY**www.tanundashow.org.au**SECRETARY**

Debbie Miles

Box 53, TANUNDA SA 5352

M: 0411 099101 | E: tanundashow@gmail.com

To: Barossa Council CEO

Subject: Feedback on Draft Event Management Policy – Section 3.5.2

Dear Martin McCarthy,

On behalf of the Tanunda Show Executive Committee, we would like to provide the following feedback on the draft Event Management Policy. Specifically, we have concerns regarding Section 3.5.2, which addresses Community Asset Protection Conditions.

The policy stipulates that for events held in open spaces and on ovals, event organisers are required to finance proactive pre-event measures and post-event remediation, such as re-turfing and top-dressing, if the anticipated use or potential damage is expected to impact the ongoing level of service.

Additionally, Council Officers, at their sole discretion, have the authority to cancel or alter event approvals based on their assessment of ground conditions, inclement weather, or safety concerns, if such measures are deemed necessary to prevent damage or ensure safety during or after an event.

The Tanunda Show Executive Committee seeks clarification on the following points:

1. Proactive Pre-Event Measures: The term "proactive pre-event measures" is currently very broad. We request specific examples of these measures to better understand the Council's expectations and intentions. It would be fair to assume that facilities are, within reason, fit for purpose prior to any event taking place.
2. Council Officers:
 - Who are the Council Officers referred to in this section?
 - At what level of council management do they operate?
 - Section 9 does not provide a definition for these officers.

The Tanunda Show Executive Committee strongly objects to the provision granting Council Officers sole discretion to cancel or modify an event without prior consultation and agreement with the event organiser. We believe that the decision to cancel or (substantially) modify an event should be in direct collaboration with the organisers, and should require sign-off from a senior officer/director in consultation with the CEO and Mayor.

Further, clearer guidelines are required regarding pre-event measures to ensure mutual understanding and fairness to all facility users. For example, we assume that the measures required to prepare an oval surface for use by shows and other community events would also be required for weekly sports events, and that this would be funded by those users.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this draft policy. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to your response and amendments to the draft policy where required.

Best regards,



Matt Stevens

President, Tanunda Show

From: angastonshowsecretary@gmail.com
To: [MBX Barossa](#); [Martin McCarthy](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback - Draft Event Management Policy, 2024
Date: Wednesday, 18 September 2024 10:02:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Dear Martin and Council Members

Thank you for the public invitation to offer feedback on the [Draft Event Management Policy](https://yoursay.barossa.sa.gov.au/draft-event-management-policy), <https://yoursay.barossa.sa.gov.au/draft-event-management-policy>

As such, is it possible to have further insight into what Council deems in [Policy item 3.5.2... proactive pre-event measures](#) and a better explanation of how the [Council Officer](#) cancelation would work?

- Given the Angaston Recreational Park is Council Owned land, wouldn't it be the responsibility of the Council to continually maintain the grounds? Thus, making this [pre-event measures](#) point confusing.
- In liaison with the Council each year in the lead up to the Show we do request some extra attention to the grounds for Show weekend and wonder if this is what the first part of item 3.5.2 refers to?
- It has been a long tradition that the park as a whole receives a clean-up around the tree areas and we request some extra watering. The clean up around the tree areas beautifies the park as a whole, lessens fire fuel and creates a safer environment for all park users during and then after the Show. The extra watering is requested to maintain the best outcome from the use of the ovals and beautifies the other park ground areas and lessens the dust to the neighbouring houses.
- Angaston Show pays increasing insurance premiums every year to cover issues that may arise over our Show weekend and as also mentioned in item 3.5.2, any post event remediation would be covered under that, but as a not-for-profit, we do not have the funds for pre-event repairs or maintenance to the grounds.

The second part of [Policy item 3.5.2](#) states that [Council Officers, at their sole discretion, based on ground conditions, inclement weather and/or the safety of patrons, may cancel or vary an event approval](#) if it is assessed that the grounds may be damaged or rendered unsafe during or following an event. We are concerned about how this reads.

- As part of the General Events Terms and Conditions, we already adhere to the appropriate insurances and wonder why this has to be outlined in 3.5?
- This is also confusing, given we note in [Policy item 2.5](#) that our Show is [an approved](#)

[event](#) and again, surely it is the sole responsibility of the Council to ensure at all times that the Angaston Recreational Park is kept to a high standard regardless of weather so the grounds are not easily damaged and one would hope are never in a state rendered unsafe.

- Given we start planning the following year's Show as soon as the current year's Show has finished, it would be devastating to everyone involved if any Council Officer at their sole discretion without consultation, decided to cancel our event without a considerable amount of notice.
- However, perhaps this clause has been included and therefore could become its own 'condition' item under 3.5, if it actually relates to 'new developments' and changes to grounds, that yes, could render an event unsafe? Or in the case of the new second oval and other modifications at the Angaston Recreation Park a couple years ago, we chose not to run with our usual Show because we needed to allow the oval setting time at the Council's request, and there were also the dangers around the club rooms. These scenarios are very different to how item 3.5.2 reads.

When looking at [Policy item 3.5.3](#), relating to the [cost of remediation of damage to Council buildings, open spaces, facilities, ovals, and infrastructure post event](#), this is a fair condition, but it should perhaps link to 3.10 where all of this will be inspected pre and post event for evidence and accountability of what damage has been sustained.

- Angaston Show find this specifically relevant to the ever-deteriorating Show Hall, the ladies toilet block by the Show Hall, and the lack of maintenance/water on the main oval in the lead up to our Show in February. As such, we do everything in our power and with Council's permission, to make all of these things present well to the public for our weekend event, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to do so for these three things.
- We recognise this is perhaps a discussion to be had at another time, but it should 'sit' somewhere in the policy to allude to some 'buildings and facilities' that are nearing their expiry date and should perhaps have a specific inspection on those to be sure they meet 'code' well in advance of the annual event.

All that said, may we seek clarification specifically on policy item [3.5.2](#) so we know how these two elements could/will impact, pre and post, our historic annual community weekend event?

With many thanks and kind regards

Darren Linke, President, 0477 244 220

Chris Linke, Secretary, 0429 998 921

Angaston Show, 22nd February 2025 | HIA Events, 21st – 23rd February 2025
PO Box 133, Angaston SA 5353 | Phone: +61429998921 (after hours)
Email: angastonshowsecretary@gmail.com

Website: www.angastonshow.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/angastonshow



From: [Your Say Barossa](#)
To: [Your Say Barossa](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Anonymous User completed Draft Event Management Policy
Date: Wednesday, 18 September 2024 1:16:36 PM

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Anonymous User just submitted the survey Draft Event Management Policy with the responses below.

Provide feedback on The Barossa Council's draft Event Management Policy

Section 3.2.2 council events team determine the classification of an event and can adjust the classification as necessary. How is conflict of interest dealt with? What recourse/ process is there should an event manager disagree with the events team classification? What reasons would be used to adjust the reclassification of an event. Require more transparency and accountability for the councils event team in making decisions. Sections 3.5.2 & 3.5.3 council officers will require organisers to fund a pre-event measure and post event remediations if anticipated use or damage is expected. As with previous section this lacks transparency in how council officers make this decision and what recourse does an organiser have if they disagree with these measures. How is conflict of interest dealt with (if personal relationships are declared good or bad?) Section 3.11.2 costs incurred by council will be deducted from bond. Please ensure that before deducting any costs from bond this is discussed with organiser outlining why as the damage may be from a third party which organiser may be able to get payment of cost for the damage they caused. Policy needs to include what is the method which conflict of interests and issues with decisions and disputes are dealt with.

THE BAROSSA COUNCIL EVENT MANAGEMENT POLICY



1 Purpose

- 1.1. The Barossa Council is committed to supporting and hosting events that align with community well-being outcomes, promote inclusivity, and celebrate connection while furthering economic growth and sustainability.
- 1.2. Ensure the implementation of responsible event management practices, including sustainable resource use, safety measures, fairness and equity, and adherence to ethical standards, to foster positive and well-managed events.
- 1.3. Foster community engagement and inclusivity by facilitating events that celebrate and reflect the diverse cultures, traditions, and identities within the community, promoting a sense of unity and shared celebration.
- 1.4. Promote economic growth and sustainability by facilitating events that support local businesses, and attract significant local, state, national, and international events that stimulate sustainable tourism, further driving economic growth through increased visitation and overnight stays.
- 1.5. To achieve its purpose, this Policy must be read and applied in conjunction with relevant *Event Guidelines*, and *Event Terms & Conditions*. The processes, procedures and requirements of these key supporting documents must be complied with.

2. Scope

- 2.1. This Policy applies to all events held within The Barossa Council region that are taking place on Council-owned land, within a Council building or building managed by the Council. This includes:
 - 2.1.1. Events organised by The Barossa Council that are attended by members of the public.
 - 2.1.2. Events organised by commercial/external organisations or individuals.
 - 2.1.3. Events conducted by or in partnership with Council.
 - 2.1.4. Events that have received sponsorship or in-kind support from Council.
- 2.2. This Policy does not apply to:
 - 2.2.1. Events on Private Property, and/or
 - 2.2.2. Internal Council events that involve Council employees and/or designated invitees only, including meetings, training sessions and networking forums.

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- 2.3. Council will not authorise, support, and deliver or host events that:
- 2.3.1. Are financially unsustainable.
 - 2.3.2. Promote tobacco or gambling.
 - 2.3.3. Do not comply with local, state, and federal laws and regulations, such as sound and noise, alcohol licensing, health and safety standards, and zoning restrictions.
 - 2.3.4. Do not have appropriate licenses and insurance coverage.
 - 2.3.5. Threaten the environment.
 - 2.3.6. Have the potential for an adverse impact on the brand of the Barossa and the broader region or the health and wellbeing of the community or event patrons.
 - 2.3.7. Are not consistent with the objectives outlined in The Barossa Council's Community and Corporate Plan.
 - 2.3.8. Are culturally and ethically insensitive: Events should respect cultural, ethical, and social sensitivities. This might restrict content, themes, or activities that could be considered offensive or inappropriate.
 - 2.3.9. Do not align with Council branding. If an event is sponsored, there may be restrictions on branding, promotion, or affiliations with specific companies or organisations.
 - 2.3.10. Pose an unacceptable risk to the community or Council workers.
- 2.4. Council will permit the hire of its facilities for political elections but will not actively deliver, host, promote or support such events.
- 2.5. Agricultural, Horticultural and Floricultural Shows at Angaston, Mount Pleasant, and Tanunda are approved events, including horse-in-action events on all open spaces available at the respective locations, and will be managed in accordance with section 3.5 of this policy.

3. Policy Statement

3.1. Core Principles

- 3.1.1. Council's framework for the planning, execution, and management of events aims to ensure responsible event management practices, foster community well-being and inclusivity, and promote economic growth and sustainability, guided by the following principles:

3.1.1.1. Responsible Event Management Practices:

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- a) Ensure consistent, clear expectations, requirements, and support for Event/Permit Applicants to guide event planning and execution, while also guaranteeing a transparent, fair, and accountable application process.
- b) Ensure Council preserves and protects community assets, ensuring responsible and sustainable use.
- c) Ensure community facilities are not used for activities that may discredit the Council or be discriminatory in nature as defined by relevant legislation.
- d) Ensure events minimise adverse impacts on the community and the environment, promoting sustainable and environmentally responsible practices.

3.1.1.2. Community Connection, Inclusivity, and Celebration:

- a) Prioritise events that align with and activate the destination brand and the unique identity and character of our region and the community, fostering a sense of place.
- b) Support events that connect the community, build community well-being, enable community expression, and offer positive benefits for all residents and welcoming people from all sections of the community.
- c) Promote events that provide inclusivity, enhance Aboriginal, heritage, artistic and cultural diversity and support local artists and artisans fostering a sense of belonging.

3.1.1.3. Economic Growth and Sustainability:

- a) Be strategic in our approach to attract significant regional events that contribute to sustainable tourism and visitor spend, further driving economic growth through increased visitation and overnight stays, whilst giving reference to the economic and social outcomes of the proposed event and alignment with the Barossa Destination Action Plan and other strategic drivers.
- b) Activate the night-time economy filling gaps strategically for enhanced visitor economy without displacing peak season activities.
- c) Disperse visitation with multi-day events for sustained community engagement and economic benefits.
- d) Support and activate events in our region whilst promoting and marketing our facilities.

3.1.2. In line with the principles outlined above, events should primarily facilitate activities that promote community development outcomes and benefits for The Barossa Council ratepayers, residents, businesses, and visitors. Council acknowledges its responsibility to be responsive to the needs, interests, and

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aspirations of individuals and groups and so provides a balanced approach towards the use of community land for event purposes, in accordance with legislative provisions set out in the *Local Government Act 1999*.

3.2. **Event Classifications**

3.2.1. Council's Event Classifications are based on an assessment of impacts on Staff resources, the community and environment, compliance with relevant policies, and Council's legislative and governance obligations as summarised below.

3.2.2.

Event Classifications

 LOW IMPACT	 MEDIUM IMPACT	 HIGH IMPACT	 SIGNIFICANT
Any event that involves ALL of the following: - No more than 200 patrons or participants - Does not involve the sale of food or drinks - Does not involve any traffic or parking changes - No amplified sound, or appropriate minimal/low-level amplification only - Has little or no impact on Council operations, including indoor/outdoor requirements	Any event that involves any of the following: - No more than 1,000 patrons or participants - Minimal impact on Council operations requiring a small change in operation and/or additional resources - Involves appropriate low or moderate amplification only - The sale of food and/or non-alcoholic drinks	Any event that involves any of the following: 500 to 2,500 patrons or participants - Alcohol is sold - High-level amplified sound, music, entertainment, or activities are present - Substantial impacts on Council Operations and residents - Minor traffic or parking changes	Any event that involves any of the following: - More than 2,500 participants - The sale or provision of alcoholic beverages - Finishes after 10 p.m. (Outdoor Event) - Significant infrastructure footprint on Council operations - Involves high-level amplified sound - Requires substantial road closures or otherwise significant impacts on the normal use of roads/parking and residents

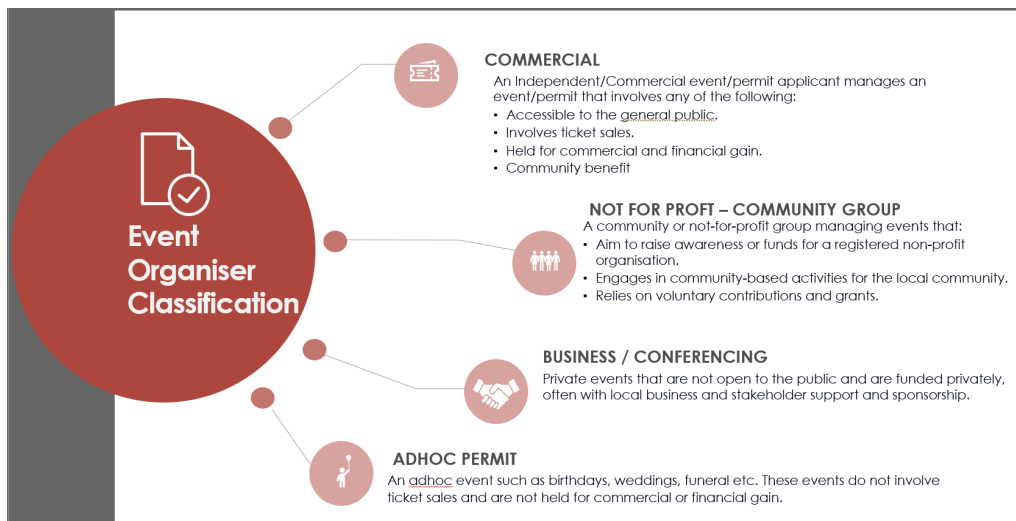
3.2.3. Council's Events Team is responsible for determining the classification of each event, and retain the authority to adjust classifications as necessary, based on their professional discretion and evaluation of the event's characteristics.

3.3. **Event Categories**

3.3.1. Events are further classified into Event Categories to create a fair and equitable approach to sponsorship and financial arrangements.

3.3.2. Detailed terms and conditions for each Event Category are contained within Council's Event Guidelines and summarised below.

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3.4. General Event Terms and Conditions

- 3.4.1. All Event Organisers will be required to enter into an agreement with Council in the appropriate form and to comply with the terms and conditions of that agreement for the duration of the event including the punctual payment of associated fees and charges.
- 3.4.2. Council's community facilities are not to be used for the purpose of holding any events that may be deemed discriminatory as defined by relevant legislation including the Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (SA), Age Discrimination Act 2004 (Commonwealth), Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Commonwealth), Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Commonwealth) and Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Commonwealth) or in any way discrediting to Council.
- 3.4.3. All Event Organisers are required to hold a current public liability insurance policy to cover against all actions, costs, claims, damages, and expenses which may be brought or made or claimed against them in relation to the activity for the event duration.
- 3.4.4. Evidence of the policy must be provided via a Certificate of Currency at the time of submitting the Event Agreement and whenever requested.
- 3.4.5. The Event Organiser must ensure that the insurance provides coverage for the specific event location.
- 3.4.6. Detailed terms and conditions for each occupancy agreement type are contained within the relevant Event Guidelines, however general conditions for each agreement type are summarised below.

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Conditions

			
LOW IMPACT	MEDIUM IMPACT	HIGH IMPACT	SIGNIFICANT
Exclusive use for approved event time	Exclusive use for approved event time	Exclusive use for approved event time	Exclusive use for approved event time
Conditions	Conditions	Conditions	Conditions
Will need to provide Council with: Completed Hire Permit Application	Will need to provide Council with: Completed Hire Permit Application	Will need to provide Council with: Completed Event Permit Application.	Will need to provide Council with: Completed Event Permit Application.
May need to provide - Compliant Food Business Certificates - Detailed Site Plan - Public Liability Insurance - Signed Terms and Conditions	Will need to provide supporting documents: - Public Liability Insurance - Risk Management Assessment - Detailed Site Plan - Compliant Food Business Certificates - Signed Terms and Conditions	Will need to provide supporting documents: - Public Liability Insurance - Risk Management Assessment - Detailed Site Plan - Compliant Liquor Licence and Food Business Certificates - Public notification - Pre/Post Site Inspection - Signed Terms and Conditions.	Will need to provide supporting documents: - Public Liability Insurance - Event Management Plan - Risk Management & Emergency Management Plan - Detailed Site Plan - Compliant Liquor Licence and Food Business Certificates - Traffic Management Plan - Public Notification - Pre/post site inspection - Signed Terms and Conditions

3.5. Community Asset Protection conditions

- 3.5.1. Council aims to limit the potential for any damage to Council buildings, open spaces, facilities, ovals, and road and footpath infrastructure during events. Events must not adversely impact on the environment, public infrastructure, or other community assets.
- 3.5.2. For open spaces and oval events, following consultation with Event Organisers and the conduct of pre and post event inspections (see also section 3.10), Council Officers will require event organisers to fund proactive pre-event measures and post event remediation (e.g. re-turfing and top dressing) if the anticipated use cannot be reasonably accommodated within existing approved levels of service or based on latent conditions at the time of the event, or damage is expected to affect the required ongoing level of service for other approved uses.
- 3.5.3. The Chief Executive Officer or Deputy Chief Executive Officer, at their sole discretion, based on advice received regarding ground conditions, inclement weather and/or the safety of patrons, may cancel or vary an event approval if it is assessed that the grounds may be damaged or rendered unsafe during or following an event. Event cancellation or varying of an event approval will not occur without prior consultation with the Event Organiser.
- 3.5.4. Event Organisers, for all event types, will be required to meet the cost of remediation of damage to Council buildings, open spaces, facilities, ovals, and infrastructure post event.

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3.6. Roles and Responsibilities

3.6.1. The Event Organiser is responsible for:

- 3.6.1.1. The safety of event participants and spectators at all times. Council will not accept liability for any personal injury, loss or damage that may occur to participants or third parties or their property as a result of staging an event. The Event Organiser is responsible for ensuring all conditions are met by staff, contractors and/or any other party.
- 3.6.1.2. The Event Organiser will be responsible for submitting an Event Agreement with supporting documents within the specified timeframes as mentioned in the relevant Event Guidelines.

3.6.2. Council will be responsible for:

- 3.6.2.1. Providing the Event Organiser with a point of contact within Council.
- 3.6.2.2. Responding to requests in a timely manner, providing advice on Council's policy, receiving Event Permit Applications, facilitating Council's approval process and payments, and assisting with event support as required.
- 3.6.2.3. Providing transparent decision making and communication with Event Organisers in relation to administrative matters, where necessary.

3.7. Event Application Assessment Criteria

- 3.7.1. Lodgement of the relevant Event Application must be submitted with supporting documents to conduct an event in a park, open space, street, or Council facility within The Barossa Council area.
- 3.7.2. The relevant Event Application must be received no later than the specified time in the relevant Event Guidelines.
- 3.7.3. The submission of an Event Application does not imply the booking is confirmed, it is a registration of interest only.
- 3.7.4. The Event Application will be assessed on the Event concept, dates, and facility availability.
- 3.7.5. For detailed assessment criteria pertaining to each Event Classification, please consult the relevant Event Guidelines

3.8. Fees and Charges

- 3.8.1. Fees contribute to the cost of maintaining Council facilities and are reviewed annually by Council as part of its Budget development process. Fees and charges, including facility hire and event fees, are required by law to be made available via a Register on Council's Website.
- 3.8.2. Fees and Charges will be applicable for the hire of community facilities in accordance with Council's fees and charges register ([link to Fees and](#)

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Charges to be inserted) and are to be paid before the event date for the Event Application and subsequent Agreement to be approved.

- 3.8.3. Applicable subsidy criteria set out below will be used by Council Officers to assess the level of subsidies (where applicable) applied to reduce the calculated hire permit fee.

Subsidy Criteria	%
Event Permit - Not Generating Profit	40%
Event Permit – Social Inclusion Benefits	20%
Event Permit – Community Activation Benefit	15%
Registered Charities or Registered Not for Profit fundraising event	100%

- 3.8.4. Commercial, business, and private adhoc (i.e., birthdays, weddings, funerals etc.) events are not eligible for fee subsidies, however fees may be waived or absorbed along with the supply of in-kind council support where a sponsorship approval is in place or Council is the event convenor or delivery partner.

3.9. Bonds

- 3.9.1. Bonds will be applied according to the following table and at Council's discretion as assessed via Event Classification and or on a case-by-case basis. There may be instances where Council requires a Bond outside of the following classifications.
- 3.9.2. Bonds may be reduced should risk mitigation controls be implemented for Large Impact, High Impact & Significant Hire Bookings as agreed with Council prior to approval of the event.
- 3.9.3. Bonds will generally be secured in the form of a bank hold against the Hirer's credit card (Pre-Authorisation) or by funds deposited by the Hirer and held in Council's Trust Account.

	Event Organiser Will Need to Pay		
Event Type	Nominated Fees	All remediation costs	Bond
Significant (more than 4,000 patrons)	√	√	\$5000
Significant (more than 2,500 patrons)	√	√	\$2000
High Impact	√	√	\$1500
Medium Impact	√	√	\$1000

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Low Impact	√	√	\$500
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3.10. Pre and Post-Event Site Inspections and Remediation

3.10.1. High Impact and Significant Events will require a pre-event site inspection and post-site inspection. Where deemed appropriate, Medium Impact Events may also require site inspection meetings. Council will invite the Event Organiser to pre-event and post-event site meetings so that all parties can make an assessment and agree on the condition of the site before and after the event. This will ensure a fair and reasonable calculation is made regarding the level of proactive pre-event measures or remediation work required. Any applicable charges will be payable by the Event Organiser, including, but not limited to:

- remediation of grounds and playing surfaces.
- cleaning, including cleaning of facility/waste removal; and
- any damages to Council equipment.

3.11. Bond Refunds

3.11.1. Bond refunds will be issued once Council is satisfied that the Facility or Site has been vacated and returned in its original condition. For most Event Organisers, a Bond will be returned within 14 days. High Impact & Significant events may require a longer timeframe due to heightened post-hire inspection requirements and will generally be returned within 30 days.

3.11.2. Costs incurred by Council for site damage and/or loss, will be deducted from the Bond monies, and if necessary, an invoice will be issued for any additional amount required.

3.12. Accessible and Inclusive Events

3.12.1. Council is committed to fostering a community where all individuals, regardless of ability or background, can fully participate in and enjoy public events held within our region.

3.12.2. Event Organisers should ensure that events are accessible to individuals with disabilities and comply with accessibility standards and guidelines. This includes providing ramps, accessible restrooms, signage, and other necessary accommodations to facilitate participation for all community members.

3.12.3. Events should be inclusive, accommodating the needs of all community members. This includes but is not limited to disability, age, and cultural diversity inclusivity. Events should be designed to be welcoming and accessible to everyone.

3.12.4. Event Organisers should respect and acknowledge the cultural practices, traditions, and values of the local community. Events should be culturally responsive and appropriate, recognising and celebrating the diversity of our community.

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3.13. Waste Management and Sustainability

- 3.13.1. Council is dedicated to fostering environmentally sustainable practices. As part of this commitment, we encourage Event Organisers and Participants to prioritise sustainability in their event planning and execution. Event Organisers are encouraged to minimise waste generation through thoughtful planning and the use of sustainable materials and practices.
- 3.13.2. Event Organisers should prioritise the use of recyclable and compostable materials wherever possible. This includes but is not limited to packaging, beverage cups, serving plates, and utensils.
- 3.13.3. Council's Events Team will collaborate with Event Organisers to explore and implement strategies aimed at maximising the diversion of materials from landfill and into recycling and organic waste streams.
- 3.13.4. Event Organisers are expected to comply with the waste management and sustainability guidelines provided by Council. Non-compliance may result in penalties or restrictions on future event bookings.

3.14. Partnership, Sponsorship and Funding

- 3.14.1. To ensure equity in the provision of sponsorship funding and in-kind Council support for externally hosted events, all Event Organisers are requested to formally apply to Council for sponsorship.
- 3.14.2. Council welcomes sponsorship for Council events from entities and organisations whose values, products and services align with the mission, objectives, and ethical standards of the community. The Council will not solicit sponsorship from entities engaged in industries or activities deemed harmful to public health, safety, or environmental sustainability, including but not limited to tobacco, gambling, and adult entertainment.
- 3.14.3. Council may partner with or sponsor events that:
- Align with community well-being outcomes, promote inclusivity, and celebrate community connection.
 - Foster economic growth and celebrate the region's unique brand.
 - Support long-term economic prosperity by attracting regional, interstate, international and repeat visitors.
 - Bolster the event calendar and drive visitation in off peak periods" (e.g., mid-week, Feb, winter).through a mix of arts, culture, heritage, music, sport and food and wine events held throughout the year
 - Are financially viable, with sustainable management practices and succession plans.
 - Drive regional spend, stimulate the visitor economy, and promote business activation.
- 3.14.4. Please refer to Council's Sponsorship Policy and associated guidelines for more information.

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3.15. Signage

- 3.15.1. Temporary Event Signs may be displayed as per the Council [Signage Policy](#) and must comply with the Location Guidelines

4. Supporting Processes and Documents

Event Permit Guidelines
 Event permit Application
 Event Permit terms and Conditions
 Event Permit Approval
 Event and Festival Sponsorship Guidelines
 Fees and Charges Register

5. Related Policies

Asset Management Policy - 14/58754*
 Enterprise Risk Management Policy - 13/47307*
 Procurement Policy - 14/3706*
 Mobile Food Vendor Policy - CD/20/135*
 Waste Management Services Policy - 17/23580*
 Street Flags Policy
 Lease Licence and Hire Permit Policy – 23/12291*
 Public Consultation Policy - 13/1609
 Signage Policy - 23/72806*

6. Legislation and References

Liquor Licensing Act 1997
 Food Act 2001
 Work Health and Safety Act 2012 and Regulations 2012
 Community Titles Act 1996
 Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016
 Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations
 Disability Discrimination Act 1992
 Disability Inclusion Act 2018
 South Australian Public Health Act 2011 and Regulations 2013
 Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016

7. Review

- 7.1. This Policy will be reviewed by the Council in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, within four (4) years or more frequently if legislation or Council's need changes.

8. Further Information

- 8.1. This Policy is available on Council's website at www.barossa.sa.gov.au. It can also be viewed electronically at Council's principal office at 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa and all Council branches, during ordinary business hours. A copy of this Policy can be obtained at those venues upon payment of a fixed fee.
- 8.2. Complaints regarding this Policy or its application can be made to the Customer Service team on 8563 8444 or barossa@barossa.sa.gov.au at first instance, who will

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refer you to the most appropriate officer according to Council's *Customer Service Policy*

9. Definitions

Event Team	The Council officer, contractor, or volunteer responsible for the booking management of a Council Facility.
Event Organiser	The authorised individual or representative of the organisation conducting the event as nominated on the Significant and or High Impact Event Agreement
Event Participant/s	Stallholders - including but not limited to food, beverages or entertainment providers involved in events organised by Event Organisers. Event Participants will be required to take out Public Liability Insurance cover to \$10,000,000 (unless a higher value is determined by Officers via a risk assessment)
Low Impact Event	No more than 200 participants – no additional infrastructure e.g., Childrens birthdays, funerals, weddings etc
Medium Impact Event	No more than 1,000 participants / Patrons' minimal infrastructure footprint e.g., Fundraising bike rides, Markets, Birthdays (e.g., 21st)
High Impact Event	500 – 2,500 participants and or patrons with a moderate infrastructure footprint e.g., Specialised Sate Sport Championship events, Vintage Declaration, Town Shows
Significant Event	More than 2,500 participants / patrons with a significant infrastructure footprint e.g., Tour Down Under, Gather Round, Vintage Festival and State, National and International Events
Event Application	Document required to be completed by Event Organisers to conduct an Event in the Barossa Council region.
Event Approval	A document acknowledging all processes to conduct an event have been undertaken and Council has granted the Event Organiser to proceed with the staged event as per the Terms and Conditions.
Bond	A payment by the Event Organiser that provides a contingency fund set aside to mitigate the financial burden of damage to a Council Facility caused by the event.
Event Conditions	General conditions form part of the approval of use of Council facilities and are published on Council's website.
Commercial	An organisation, including incorporated body, co-operative society, partnership, or sole trader conducting activities for the purposes of deriving a financial return to the proprietors or shareholders
Community Facilities	Council owned or managed buildings (e.g., clubrooms, halls, community centres) and playing areas (such as an oval, pitch, court, bowling green) that are provided to benefit the community. It also includes community facilities located on Crown Land under the care, control, and management of Council
Council Land	Land which is either owned by Council or under Council's care and control, and includes council-maintained roads
Council Officers	Any Officer employed by the Council pursuant to Chapter 7 of the Local Government Act with a designated responsibility for the management of events or associated services and functions, and who is authorised to act and make decisions in accordance with delegations approved by Council.
Not for Profit and Community Organisations	Are incorporated associations whose primary objective is service to the community rather than profit. Organisations wishing to have their Not-for-Profit status recognised must be a registered

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	not for profit entity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)
Ad Hoc	Private, small bookings. e.g., Birthday parties, gatherings, Community committee / group meetings
Act	Local Government Act 1999
In Kind	In kind refers to an arrangement where Council forgoes revenue for which they normally would charge a fee, or allocate existing internal resources which would be used for other activities
Remediation	The action of fixing Council infrastructure, in particular the reversal of damage, which will be charged to the Event Organiser.

10. Document Control

Community Plan Link:		Community and Culture Infrastructure	
Document Owner:	Director Corporate Services and Business Innovation		
Document Control Officer:	Director Corporate Services and Business Innovation		
Audience:	Internal / External	Reference:	14/32852[V3]
Approval Date:	DD/MM/YYYY	Review Due:	DD/MM/YYYY
Version history			
Version No.	Date	Description of Change	
4.0	XXX	XXX	
3.0	20/9/2022	Amendment to clearly articulate management processes and approval of show applications at Tanunda, Mt Pleasant and Angaston.	
2.1	December 2019	Amendment of definition of Potential High Impact Event following community consultation on policy review.	
2.0	August 2019	Full Review, inclusion of section Events in Recreation Parks, Consecutive Events and Waste Management.	
1.0	19/08/2014	New Policy, August 2014	

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DEBATE REPORT

7.3 Infrastructure and Environment Services

7.3.1 TANUNDA CALLITRIS WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023

**Author: Senior Environmental Officer
24/47653**

PURPOSE

At its meeting held 20 June 2023, the Tanunda Callitris Woodland Management Plan 2023 was presented to Council seeking endorsement to undertake public consultation (refer Report 7.6.1). This resulted in five community members writing to express their support for Council to fully adopt, resource and implement the recommended Management Actions.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- (1) Adopt, resource, and implement the recommended Management Actions detailed in the Tanunda Callitris Woodland Management Plan 2023:
 - a. Increase specialist bushcare at the site to the value of \$2500 annually in addition to the current Trees for Life Bush for Life programme
 - b. Utilise Council Depot staff to mow/brushcut eastern side of the track to limit seed set of introduced grassy weeds
 - c. Set up two additional photo points
 - d. Monitor, protect and manage any natural regeneration (as a result of interventions)
 - e. Develop interpretation signage
 - f. Rename the site to recognise the cultural and remnant significance of the vegetation
 - g. Re-engage locals schools to reconnect through outdoor educational opportunities

REPORT

Background

The Tanunda Callitris Woodland Management Plan 2023 was written (as recommended by the Native Vegetation Council) as a tool to identify, define and prioritise management actions to further enhance and protect the native vegetation within the site.

Discussion

All five submissions were grateful to Council for recognising the vital importance of this site as one of the last surviving remnant pieces of Native pine woodland on the Valley floor and the commitment of Council to further protect and enhance the site.

Three of the five submissions strongly advocated for Council to purchase the adjacent block at the back of the Barossa Bowland and Mini Golf to further enhance the protection of the remnant vegetation present at this site, identifying there were several species present on this parcel that were not recorded at the Tanunda Callitris Woodland site.

A submission made by Adrian Shackley wanted historical records included by early explorers from as early as 1844 through to the early 1960's, to demonstrate the loss of native species from the area and to provide the basis for potential reintroduction of those species previously recorded on the site or nearby.

Summary and Conclusion

All of the submissions made by the community have been considered and the appropriate edits made to the Tanunda Callitris Woodland Management Plan 2023.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Draft Tanunda Callitris Woodland Management Plan December 2022 [!\[\]\(de95854c7ee024cfadc48187bbb781b2_img.jpg\)](#) 

Supporting references

Nil.

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Community Plan



Natural Environment and Built Heritage

Legislative Requirements

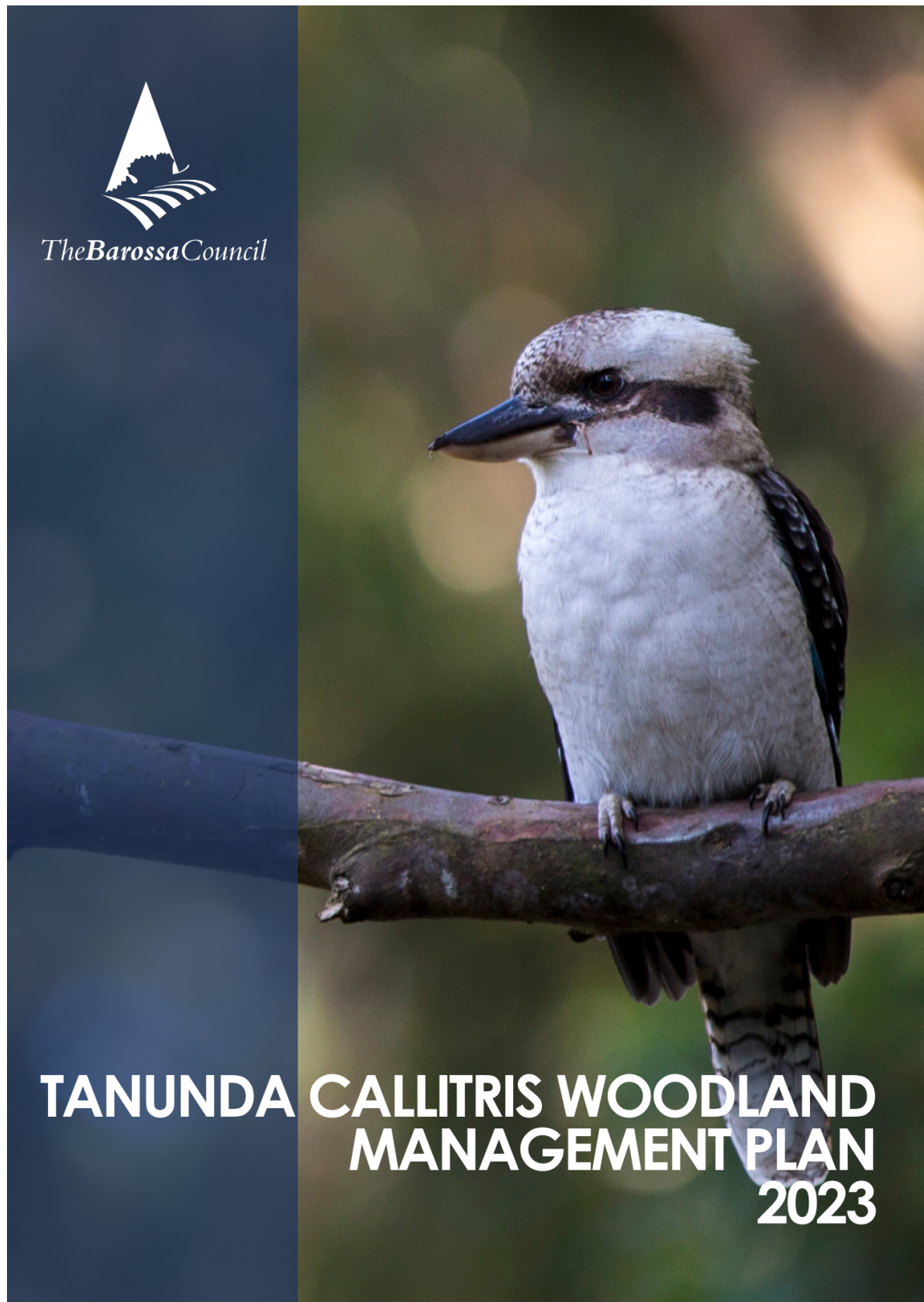
Nil.

FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Action plan outcomes will be funded from current budgets.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Public consultation occurred from 5 – 26 July 2023, resulting in the provision of feedback from five community members.



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Management actions to protect and enhance Allot 126 Menge Road, Tanunda (VGN 9671568001)

Heritage Agreement 1112 (HA1112).

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Barossa Council (Council) acknowledge that the lands upon which we work and live are the traditional lands for the Ngadjuri, Peramangk and Kaurna people. We highly respect their ongoing historical and spiritual connection with this country and recognise and honour the Elders of this land, past, present, and emerging.

Council recognises this plan refers to the traditional lands of the Ngadjuri people and we draw inspiration from their sustainable lifestyle that has maintained this area for tens of thousands of years.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Council acknowledges the funding received from the Nature Foundation under the Revitalising Private Conservation South Australia Grants Program (RPCSA), Round 3. As part of this project, a vegetation survey was undertaken by Peter Watton, Operations Manager, TFL in October 2022 and the findings are included in this plan.

Council recognises the contributions made by Sonia Croft (2005), Trees for Life (TFL) Bush for Life (BFL) staff and volunteers who currently manage part of the site on behalf of Council. Furthermore, Council recognises several local (and esteemed) environmentalists in Adrian Shackley, Terry & Greg Donovan, Don Helbig and Martin Kernich who have provided additional plant records not captured in other surveys. Additional recognition to Adrian Shackley for his work to collate the older records for inclusion in this plan and to Don Helbig for the photographs.

Council acknowledges and recognises the early botanical work in the area by Darrell N. Kraehenbuehl during the 1960's which include an additional 36 species (not included in our records), and the work of Dr. Hans Herman Behr and Dietrich von Schlechtendahl (1844-1849) who collected records in the general locality of the Tanunda Callitris Woodland. This work was published in the Journal of Adelaide Botanic Gardens Vol. 3. No. (29 April, 1981), pp. 101-123 and describes the site which has records demonstrative of a further 61 native plants collected during this time; considerably more than the 106 species currently recorded. These records are included as Appendices C and D for the purpose of demonstrating the declining diversity of native vegetation across the wider region and this specific site.

INTRODUCTION

This Management Plan refers to Allotment 126, Filed Plan 172387, Hundred of Moorrooroo, a total of 3.3 hectares. A Heritage Agreement (HA 1112) was registered on the title (CT 5613/370) in 1999, following an approved clearance of native vegetation in the adjoining closed road reserve in 1997, owned by the (then) District Council of Barossa.

Currently, under Council's Community Land Register, this Asset Number T20 102529 is held and managed under Council Reserves and Gardens – Undeveloped or with minor improvements, Management Plan 2. In March 2006, this site became part of Council's Trees for Life (TFL) Bush for Life (BFL) Programme (BR007 Magnolia Road Reserve), whereby TFL staff and volunteers manage the site at a cost of approximately \$1800 per annum. This program affords several site visits by a Field Officer to coordinate on ground works with volunteers on a bimonthly basis through Bush Action Teams (BAT).



Figure 1. Tanunda Callitris Reserve

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN

The aims of this Management Plan are to provide a document that can identify, define, and prioritise management actions to further enhance and protect the native vegetation within the site, pursuant to the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*. This plan will guide Council and interested stakeholders in day-to-day management and assist in decision making for on-ground works into the future.

The plan refers to information recorded in the Draft Heritage Agreement 1112: Botanical Survey and Suggested Action Plan August 2005 (Croft 2005) and will collate the historical information pertinent to the site, including the most recent data collected as part of the funding from Revitalising Private Conservation South Australia (RPCSA).

The plan identifies all native and exotic species records, including highlighting threatened species (Appendices A and B) and makes recommendations to improve biodiversity and wildlife habitat, reduce threats, monitor rated species, and undertake photo point monitoring. It is a dynamic document with provisions for all stakeholders to continue to add information as collected and/or observed. At the time of writing, it is noted the flora surveys are not exhaustive and there may be omissions to the data recorded, due to the timing of the surveys.

The intent of a Heritage Agreement (HA) is to protect native flora and fauna in perpetuity and prohibits any activity that impacts on the values of the native vegetation. It is expected that this Management Plan, when endorsed by Council, will define the budgetary requirements necessary to further enhance and protect the values on this site.

Background Information

Since 1999, Council staff, residents, teachers, and students from the local school communities, (Tanunda Primary School and Faith Lutheran College) and former Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management (AMLR NRM) staff have had an interest in this site due to its high conservation value.

In 2005, a private consultant, Sonia Croft was engaged to prepare a Botanical Survey and Suggested Action Plan to assist Council to manage the site. This plan made several recommendations to improve the long-term viability of the reserve, some of which have been implemented and some recommendations which will be reiterated in this updated plan.

Barossa Bushgardens staff have and continue to collect seed from this site to propagate species not common within the region.

Community Use, Access, and Issues

Given the proximity to houses and the township, the Tanunda Callitris Reserve is readily accessible by residents who access The Rex Centre and the nearby schools. In the past, this has been a contentious issue raised by locals who have been looking after the site. In an email record from (former) Mayor to (former) Director, Development and Environmental Services following a meeting with two community representatives, he notes their views are that access by members of the public should be prohibited (B Sloane 2015, personal communication 27 May).

A walking track provides access from Menge Road on the eastern boundary and meets another walking track with access from The Rex Centre carpark on the southern boundary (north south). These are well defined tracks, however, there is another informal path that traverses through the northwestern section of the Reserve as shown in Figure 2. Recommendations to discourage the use of this informal track have been made in the past by several stakeholders due to the impacts on the native vegetation.

Adjoining Land Tenures

The northern boundary adjoins CT/5702/279 owned by the Barossa Bowland and Mini Golf, which includes 1.3 Ha of remnant native pine (*Callitris gracilis*) contiguous with the Heritage Agreement. Currently, this area has several sheep grazing and consequently is devoid of any understorey vegetation. Communications with Council planners and the Director of Works and Engineering in 2008 discussed the potential use of this land with enquiries made by the owners on several occasions about development opportunities.

Due to zoning restrictions this was never progressed. However, if in the future, Council was interested in purchasing this area and re-aligning the boundaries, it would increase the conservation value of the Heritage Agreement site. A vegetation survey undertaken in 2001 by Terry Donovan identified several species present at this site that haven't been recorded at the Council site. This is discussed later in this plan.

The eastern boundary adjoins the Tanunda Primary School and has been buffered by a 6m wide area planted with native vegetation. The southern boundary adjoins the pedestrian/bike track which is used daily by students from the local school. This area supports a remnant strip of vegetation, in addition to tubestock planting in garden beds as part of The Rex's carpark facilities. The western boundary is adjacent Menge Road.



Figure 2. Walking tracks and pathways into Tanunda Reserve

Current Management practices

Council and Trees For Life (TFL) have been in partnership since 1997 through TFL's Bush For Life (BFL) program. The Bush For Life program recruits, trains, equips, and supports volunteers to undertake minimal disturbance bush regeneration activities on nominated BFL sites. This site is one of six included in Council's BFL program (Figure 3).

In March 2006 the Tanunda Callitris Reserve was included in this program and has a TFL Coordinator who facilitates activities. The focus of their work is on the western side of the main (north-south) track, in a small area south of the secondary path (west-east) where the greatest threat is perennial Veldt grass.

In addition to local volunteers, Bush Action Teams (BAT) are organised bi-annually, which bring bushcare trained TFL volunteers to the site for the whole day on a small minibus. The program contributes more than 180 hours annually of specialised bushcare, (using minimal disturbance) weed control across the site.



Figure 3. Trees for Life Bush For Life signage at entrance into Tanunda Reserve

The [Tanunda Urban Forest](#) Project buffers the core Tanunda Callitris Reserve and was driven by Council's former Catchment Care Officer and Natural Resource Management (NRM) Education Officer. This project enables the local schools and wider community to continue to add areas of native vegetation, further enhancing the conservation value of the site, in addition to recognising the important cooling effect in the context of a warming climate and the Urban Heat Island Effect (UHI). Figure 4 is a map showing the areas surrounding the site included in the Tanunda Urban Forest.

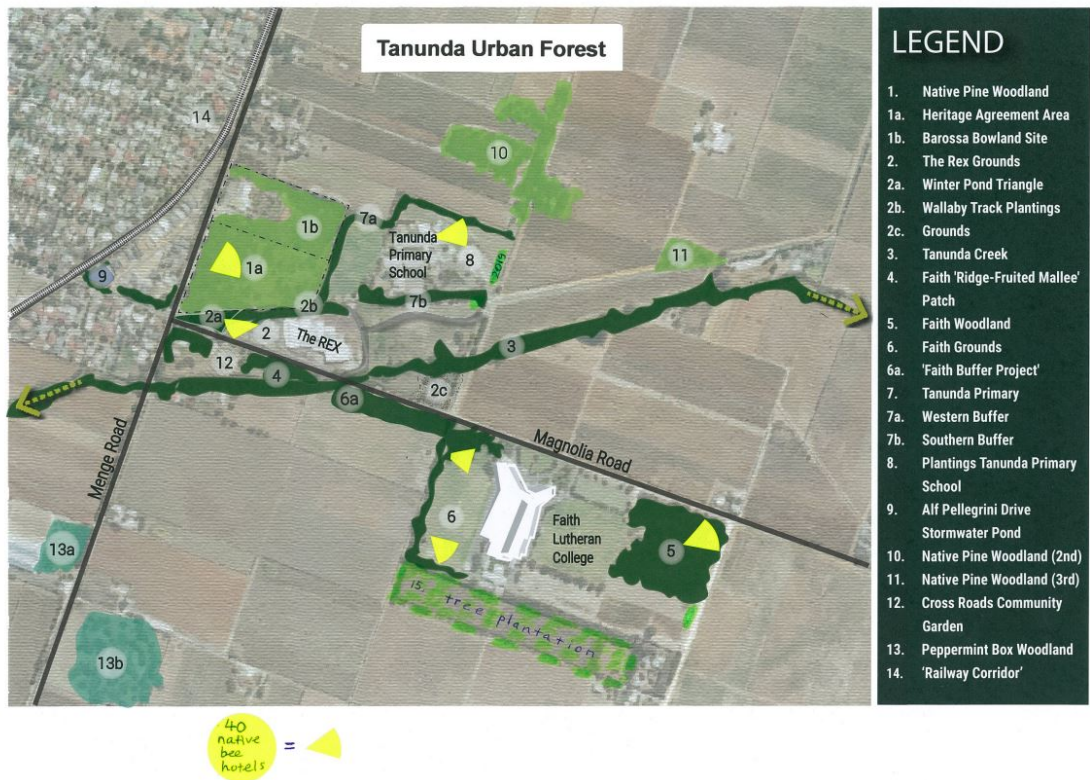


Figure 4. Tanunda Urban Forest

Fire Risk and Management

In the past, concerns have been raised by members of the public with regards to the long grass prevalent on the eastern side of the site (J Turley 2022, personal communication 27 October). In October 2022, Council staff met with Department of Environment and Water (DEW) Fire Ecologist, and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Fire Management Officer, to discuss the opportunity of undertaking a prescribed burn to reduce the biomass and potentially increase germination of native species currently being outcompeted by the exotic grass (perennial Veldt Grass, *Ehrharta calycina*).

Under the Native Vegetation Regulations 2017, approval to burn within a Heritage Agreement can be undertaken in compliance with NVC Guidelines for Ecological Restoration and Management of Vegetation. Regulation 11 (25) provides approval to clear increasing species that are dominating landscapes to the detriment of other native species.

Further work is required to progress this aspect of managing the high fire risk and engagement with the local Country Fire Service (CFS) will be necessary, however in the interim, Council will proceed to mow and/or brushcut either side of the track and around the boundary fences on the eastern side of the site.

Vegetation

This remnant piece of Cypress pine woodland (*Callitris gracilis*) is of high conservation value and is one of only very few cypress pine woodlands remaining on the Valley floor (C Hall 2018, personal communication 18 January). It is of moderate condition and protects over 106 native species. One species is Critically Endangered under the Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, three have a conservation rating under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 and several have a conservation rating for the region (Southern Mount Lofty Ranges, 2003).

In addition, the conservation value of the site is increased due to the presence of other native vegetation in the near vicinity (Croft, 2005). The diversity of the understorey species is quite extensive, particularly for a smaller parcel of native vegetation. Numerous bird species utilise the site with many hollows present that support breeding.

Vegetation Surveying

This patch of remnant vegetation has had many formal (data uploaded into the Biological Database of South Australia BDBSA) and informal flora surveys and all the data has been collated and identified in Appendix A. Due to the different times of the year, and seasonal variations that these (nine) surveys were undertaken, not all records show all the species present at any given time. For example, in 2023, when Jerry Smith and others attended the site, they only recorded the Critically Endangered Two-bristle orchid (*Pterostylis psammofila*) because that was the species of interest on the day.

Flora surveys were conducted in 1997 during the preparation for the Heritage Agreement application; 2004 by the Barossa Catchment Group; 2005 by Sonia Croft in preparing a draft action plan for Council; 2006 by Trees for Life's, Andrew Allanson, Kym Smith, and Megan Lock and in October 2022 by Peter Wotton (TFL), Kim Thompson and Pam Payne (The Barossa Council) utilising the Ramble* methodology. Surveys in 2004 and 2005 included the adjacent road reserve, however, in 2022 this area was not surveyed. Some records were only present in the road reserve and are identified in Appendix A.

The most recent survey included collection of spatial data for significant species (Orchids, Lilies and herbs, Grasses and Sedges, Groundcovers and Climbers, Small shrubs, Shrubs, Trees, and Weeds). Despite the small size and obvious invasion by perennial and annual grasses and weeds, 106 native plant species were recorded, and it is highly likely that additional surveys (late Spring early Summer) may reveal more native annuals (orchids), and perennials (native grasses) not evident at the time of the surveys.

* Ramble surveys are carried out to provide an inventory of the species and vegetation types and are conducted by walking through pre- or post-burn sites, and observing and recording flora; species lists/ photos/ specimens are collected during this process.

Details collected include:

- Species lists (Appendix A – Native; Appendix B – exotic)
- Distribution and abundance of rare or threatened plants (including the collection of spatial data represented in maps)
- Potential habitat for threatened species (e.g. Hollows)
- Distribution and abundance of significant weeds (specifically weeds declared under the Landscape SA Act 2019 (SA) and Weeds of National Significance)
- Specific threats to native vegetation

Table 1 represents the flora survey records collected from 1997 - 2022.

	1997, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2015 & 2022 & 2023 surveys
Total number of plant species:	157
Indigenous flora:	106
Introduced flora:	51
% Indigenous flora:	68%
% Introduced flora:	32%

Significant observations

Five species were identified in the adjacent scrub owned by Barossa Bowl Land during 2001 that have not been recorded in this site since, however, as with all vegetation surveys, variable weather conditions can influence what is visible and therefore recorded at the time.

Native pines (*Callitris gracilis*) are densest in the western half, (30-70% canopy cover) with several Blue gums (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon* sp. *pruinosa*) scattered throughout, some having partial canopy dieback from hosting a few mistletoe plants. Maps (Appendices E, F, G, H and I) show the diversity of understorey species that are well represented in the western half compared to the shrub and tree species recorded in the eastern half of the site (Appendices J and K).

The main weed threat, perennial Veldt grass (*Ehrharta calycina*) forms a dense thicket across the eastern part of the site, potentially limiting any opportunity for germinating native species. Other weed threats are shown in Appendix L. Perennial veldt grass is evident in the western part as well, particularly in areas where there has been disturbance (track edges, fence line, etc.), although this is the target weed under the TFL BFL programme.

In all previous surveys, no records of Plains Spider-orchids (*Caladenia campestris*) were detected, however, in 2022 and 2023 several hundred were located throughout the western half of the site (Figures 5 and 6).

In 2005, Croft recorded one specimen (approximately 1.5m tall) of Drooping Sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*). Figure 7 is that same tree, measuring at >6m in 2022 and in the 2022 survey, an additional nine trees were noted on both sides of the site (eastern and western).

One specimen of Pale Flax-lily (*Dianella longifolia* var. *grandis*) rated Rare – *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* was recorded in the adjacent road reserve in 2004, however, there were about 50 specimens (A Shackley 2023, personal communication 23 July) recorded in 2017. Unfortunately, these were removed by Council during minor earthworks to create a drainage pond for stormwater retention. This area was not surveyed in 2022 and there were no records collected in the Heritage Agreement site.

Rough-beard grass (*Echinopogon ovatus*) also rated Rare - *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* was recorded in 2004 in the adjacent road reserve, however, no records were collected in 2022.

Hairy-tails (*Ptilotus erubescens*) rated Rare (NPW Act 1972) was recorded in 2005, however, no records were collected in 2022.



Figure 5. Plains Spider-orchid (*Caladenia campestris*) Photo. P.Watton



Figure 6. Cluster of Plains Spider-orchid (*Caladenia campestris*) Photo. P.Watton



Figure 7. 2005 recorded 1.5m tall Drooping Sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*), >6m in 2022

Vegetation description

Western half

The western half is dominated by moderately to densely spaced Native Pines (*Callitris gracilis*) and several SA Blue gums (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon* sp. *pruinosa*) over a substantially intact native shrub and ground cover (Croft, 2005). The native understorey boasts a combination of heath plants, native grasses, tussocks and herbaceous species, with diversity the greatest within a 30-40 metre section from the western boundary inland. Common and widespread species throughout this western half include Flame Heath (*Astroloma conostephioides*) (Figure 8) and Cranberry Heath (*Austroloma humifusum*), Ridged Ground-berry (*Acrotriche affinis*), Variable Groundsel (*Senecio pinnatifolius*), Red Parrot-pea (*Dillwynia hispida*), Spider Flower (*Grevillea lavandulacea*) and Climbing Saltbush (*Einadia nutans* ssp. *nutans*).

Plains spider orchids (*Caladenia campestris*) were recorded in many areas with individuals estimated at over 200+ across the site.

Eastern half

Native shrubs and trees are scattered throughout the northern section of the eastern half with no understorey species recorded except introduced species including perennial Veldt grass (*Ehrharta calycina*) and Bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*), and a small population of Cape Tulip (*Moraea flaccida*). Native species present (albeit) in low numbers include Sticky hop-bush (*Dodonaea viscosa*), Slaty Sheoak (*Allocasuarina muelleriana*), Silver broombush (*Hysterobaeckea behrii*), Silver banksia (*Banksia marginata*), Wirilda (*Acacia retinodes*) and Quandong (*Santalum acuminatum*).

The height and density of the exotic grass has raised numerous concerns within the community about the risk of fire, which has been discussed in this document. Competition for resources may be influencing the lack of native species in this section and management actions to mitigate this will be made later in the document.



Figure 8. Flame Heath (*Astroloma conostephioides*) Photo D Helbig

Fauna

On a landscape scale, small patches of remnant vegetation scattered in a highly modified environment can support a variety of fauna species including birds, reptiles, insects, and mammals (Lindenmayer et.al 2016).

This site provides an important refuge for native fauna, and has suitable habitat features including hollow bearing trees, moderate plant diversity, an abundance of leaf and woody litter, open grassy and shrubby areas and food resources for birds include seeds, berries, nectar, and insects.

In 2020, students from Tanunda Primary School made and installed nine insect hotels across the site to improve habitat values (Figure 9).



Figure 9. Insect hotel

Surveying

Opportunistic bird sightings were recorded during the more recent surveys in 2022 and are listed below. In addition, students from TAFE Nuriootpa have been studying the site as part of their Diploma in Conservation and Land Management studies and one student, Brandon Jans has included his findings in this report. An Eastern Brown snake (*Pseudonaja textilis*) was also recorded on 29th October 2022. A Skink (*Eulamprus* sp.) and a Common Brush-tailed possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) were sighted by Brandon Jans during March 2024.

A pair of Musk lorikeets (*Glossopsitta concinna*) and a pair of Red Rumped parrots (*Psephotus haematonotus*) were sighted recently nesting in hollows (Figure 10).

Bird species recorded

Common Name	Species
Adelaide Rosella	<i>Platycercus adalaidae</i>
Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>
Crested pigeon	<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>
Eastern Brown snake	<i>Pseudonaja textilis</i>
Elegant Parrot	<i>Neophema elegans</i>
Fairy martin	<i>Petrochelidon ariel</i>
Galah	<i>Eolophus roseicapillus</i>
Grey fantail	<i>Rhipidura albiscapa</i>
Grey Shrike Thrush	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>
Laughing Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>
Little Raven	<i>Corvus mellori</i>
Little wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera chrysoptera</i>
Magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>
Musk Lorikeet (nesting)	<i>Glossopsitta concinna</i>
New Holland honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae</i>
Pacific Black duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>
Rainbow Bee-eater	<i>Merops ornatus</i>
Red Wattle bird	<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>
Red-rumped parrots (nesting)	<i>Psephotus haematonotus</i>
Rosella (Crimson)	<i>Platycercus elegans</i>
Tawny Frogmouth	<i>Podargus strigoides</i>
White-plumed honeyeater	<i>Ptilotula penicillata</i>



Figure 10. A Musk lorikeet was sighted entering this hollow 2022

Monitoring Methodology

Photo points

In November 2022, two photo points were established at the site on the western side of the track (PP1 and PP2) (Figures 11 and 12).

Using two 1.8m droppers 10m apart, with the camera (phone) resting on the top of the first post with the top of the second post in the middle frame, photos are taken at the same location, with the same camera direction angle. This enables easy, accurate and repeatable monitoring to track environmental change over time.



Figure 11. Photo point (PP1) 2022



Figure 12. Photo point (PP2)

Management Actions

Management actions focus on reducing threats to the remnant vegetation.

Action	Timing	Priority	Proposed budget \$	Comments
Increase specialist bushcare (minimum disturbance) in core zone on western side of site to push back the weed front	Spring	High	\$2000 per annum	Trees for Life (Bush for Life) programme contributes up to 180 hours of hand-weeding annually. This is not enabling adequate threat abatement across the whole site and is evident as the site condition (generally) is degrading. Increased competition from the exotic grasses continues to encroach the core zone.
Mow and/or brushcut exotic grassy weeds on eastern side of track bi-annually to limit seed set of Veldt grass	Autumn and Spring	High	Internal – Council (Depot)	As this side of the site has had no interventions for many years the exotic grass is dense. Perennial veldt grass doesn't tolerate hard grazing so mowing or brushcutting will impact its vigour. Reducing the opportunity for annual seeding will begin to impact the individual plants and start to influence the composition of the site with seeds only lasting in the soil for up to three years. http://www.herbiguide.com.au/Descriptions/hg_Annual_Veldtgrass.htm
Set up two additional photo points on eastern side of track (PP3 and PP4) Continue to monitor all photo points and add them to the management plan.	Anytime	High	Internal – Council (SEO)	Monitoring using photo points can be a useful tool for a permanent visual record of environmental change (NRM 2014).
Monitor for any natural regeneration of natives in the eastern half and water juveniles (if necessary), hand-weed seedlings and protect with tree guards	All year	Medium	Internal – Council (SEO)	One small native pine (<1m) was observed in October 2022 growing in an area (<5m ²) where the Veldt grass wasn't dominant or flourishing (maybe due to changes in soil).

Further progress Ecological burn (fire regime)	Anytime	Medium	Internal – Council (SEO)	Need approval to as per: https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation/clearing/ecological-restoration Send a submission (e.g. letter outlining proposal) and Management Plan to: NVC.HAProgram@sa.gov.au Include Heritage Agreement number and the land parcel details.
Monitor and control other weed threats using minimum disturbance methods	Anytime	Medium	\$500 per annum	Other threats include Olive, Boneseed, Blowfly Bush, Sour sob, Rice Millet, Scabiosa, Gazania, Ribwort and Broad-leaf Cotton bush. These weeds do have the potential to increase rapidly and ongoing monitoring is necessary.
Develop interpretation signage to be installed at the western and southern entrances	Anytime	Medium	\$1000 (one off)	Interpretation signs can provide relevant information and tell a story about the site using graphics and/or pictures. Signs could acknowledge the First Nations people, some of the endemic flora represented at the site and help raise awareness in the community. 
Rename the site to recognise the cultural and remnant significance of the vegetation eg. Tanunda Conservation Reserve and develop and install a new sign	Anytime	Medium	Internal – Council (Elected Members) \$500 (one off)	Croft (2005) and local community members and volunteers have made several requests to Council to rename the site as a way of recognising its significance and to reflect pride in the value of the reserve. This would also acknowledge the community and it's on ground contributions and raise the site's profile throughout the wider Council region.
Re-engage local schools to re-connect with the site (outdoor education)	Anytime	Medium	Internal – Council (SEO)	In 2000, a request was made and approved by the (former) Minister for the Environment and Heritage Department which granted permission for students from Faith Lutheran College to use the site for environmental education purposes. Specifically, consent was granted for groups of up to 20 persons to weed and to collect and propagate seed for growing and planting tubestock.

Remove access and discourage use of informal path in northwestern section	Anytime	Medium	Internal – Council (Depot)	Students have been utilising the informal path as a 'shortcut' to the northern boundary track. The associated soil disturbance creates an ideal environment for the expansion of weeds and further reduces the integrity of the site, Temporary signage and a physical barrier at the junction of the main track and the informal path could be installed.
Purchase the native vegetation section behind the Barossa Bowland and Mini Golf	Anytime	Medium	Internal – Council	This area is north of the site and contiguous with the Heritage Agreement. Growing the size of the HA would increase its conservation value.

SUMMARY

The intention of this plan is to provide Council and other interested stakeholders an overview of the site, vegetation type, and threats to the remnant vegetation. This document will be a useful resource for Council to refer, add information pertinent to the site (e.g., Update flora and fauna species lists, manage and maintain action lists) and to provide guidance (recommendations) for ongoing management to further enhance and protect the vegetation.

The focus of the management actions is to:

- reduce threats by controlling weeds
- monitor threatened species
- collect data on targeted species (i.e., number of seedlings, individual plants)
- take regular (at the change of seasons) photos at Photo Monitoring Points
- update and maintain species list for flora and fauna

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APPENDIX A – Native plant species list

Survey dates Historical records (Hans Herman Behr, Dietrich von Schlechtendahl & Darrell N. Kraehenbuehl) 1844-1960 (Appendix C)

Heritage Agreement 1112 survey 21st March 1997 (HA 1112);

Terry Donovan HA 2001 (TD HA);

Terry Donovan Bowl Land 2001 (TD Bow);

Barossa Catchment Group (BCG) 25th March 2004 and 1st April 2004;

Sonia Croft (SC) 14th June 2005;

Andrew Allanson, Kym Smith, Megan Lock (Trees For Life) (AA,KS,ML) 1/6/2006;

Peter Watton, Kim Thompson, Pam Payne (PW,KT,PP) 6th October 2022;

Jerry Smith, Don Helbig, Adrian Shackley, Peter Watton, Elisha Brunton, Megan Lock, Kim Thompson (JS,DH,AS,PW,EB,ML,KT) 10 October, 2023;

Don Helbig, Adrian Shackley (DH,AS) Collection of records and photographs over the past 25 years 1998-2023.

> Recorded on adjoining former closed road reserve

Name	Common Name		EPBC (AUS)	NPWSA (State)	IBRA MLR	IBRA ML sub region	1997	2001	Bowl 2001	2004	2005	2006	2015	2022 & 2023	1998 - 2023
<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>	Kangaroo Thorn	LEGUMINOSAE			LC	LC	X							x	
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle	LEGUMINOSAE			LC	LC	X	x		x	x			x	
<i>Acacia retinodes</i>	Wirilda	LEGUMINOSAE			RA	NT	X	x			x			x	
<i>Acacia spinescens</i>	Spiny Wattle	LEGUMINOSAE			LC	LC			x		x			x	x
<i>Acrotriche affinis</i>	Ridged Ground-berry	EPACRIDACEAE			RA	RA	X			x	x			x	
<i>Allocasuarina muelleriana</i> ssp. <i>muelleriana</i>	Common Oak-bush	CASUARINACEAE			LC	LC								x	x
<i>Allocasuarina pusilla</i>	Dwarf Oak-bush	CASUARINACEAE			RA	VU	X	x	x					x	x
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>	Drooping Sheoak	CASUARINACEAE			LC	LC	X			x	x			x	

<i>Amyema miquelii</i>	Box Mistletoe	LORANTHACEAE			LC	LC	X			x	x			x	
<i>Anthosachne scabra</i>	Native Wheat-grass	GRAMINEAE			LC	LC					x				
<i>Apodasmia brownii</i>	Coarse Twine-rush	RESTIONACEAE			RA	RA				x				x	
<i>Arthropodium fimbriatum</i>	Nodding Vanilla-lily	LILIACEAE			NT	LC						x	x		x
<i>Arthropodium strictum</i>	Common Vanilla-lily	LILIACEAE			LC	LC		x	x		x			x	
<i>Astroloma humifusum</i>	Cranberry Heath	EPACRIDACEAE			LC	LC									x
<i>Austrostipa elegantissima</i>	Feather Spear-grass	GRAMINEAE			LC	LC						x		x	x
<i>Austrostipa mollis</i>	Soft Spear-grass	GRAMINEAE			LC	LC					x				
<i>Austrostipa nodosa</i>	Tall Spear-grass	GRAMINEAE			LC	LC				x	x			x	
<i>Austrostipa semibarbata</i>	Fibrous Spear-grass	GRAMINEAE			LC	LC				x			x		
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia	PROTEACEAE			LC	LC							x	x	
<i>Brachyloma ericoides</i> ssp. <i>ericoides</i>	Brush Heath	EPACRIDACEAE			NT	NT		x	x		x			x	x
<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>	Bulbine-lily	LILIACEAE			NT	LC						x			x
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i> ssp. <i>Spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria	PITTOSPORACEAE			LC	LC	X	x		x	x			x	x
<i>Caesia calliantha</i>	Blue Grass-lily	LILIACEAE			LC	LC						x		x	x
<i>Caladenia carnea</i> var. <i>carnea</i>	Pink Fingers	ORCHIDACEAE			NT	LC									x
<i>Caladenia campestris</i>	King Spider-orchid	ORCHIDACEAE			NT	LC								x	x
<i>Calandrinia</i> sp.	Purslane	PORTULACACEAE						x				x			
<i>Callitris gracilis</i>	Southern Cypress Pine	CUPRESSACEAE			LC	LC	X	x	x	x	x			x	
<i>Calytrix tetragona</i>	Common Fringe-myrtle	MYRTACEAE			LC	LC	X	x			x			x	
<i>Carpobrotus rossii</i>	Native Pigface	AIZOACEAE			LC	LC								x	
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	Common Everlasting	COMPOSITAE			LC	LC	X	x	x		x			x	
<i>Clematis microphylla</i>	Old Man's Beard	RANUNCULACEAE			NE	NE	X				x			x	
<i>Craspedia variabilis</i>	Billy-buttons	COMPOSITAE			LC	LC						x			x

<i>Crassula colligata</i> ssp. <i>Colligate</i>	Stalked Crassula	CRASSULACEAE			LC	LC								x	x
<i>Crassula colorata</i> var. <i>colorata</i>	Dense Crassula	CRASSULACEAE			LC	LC								x	x
<i>Crassula decumbens</i> var. <i>decumbens</i>	Spreading Crassula	CRASSULACEAE			LC	LC								x	x
<i>Cryptandra hispidula</i>	Rough Cryptandra	RHAMNACEAE			RA	VU									x
<i>Cryptandra tomentosa</i>	Prickly Cryptandra	RHAMNACEAE			LC	LC			x						x
<i>Daucus glochidiatus</i>	Native Carrot	UMBELLIFERAE			LC	LC					x			x	
<i>Daviesia arenaria</i>	Sand Bitter-pea	LEGUMINOSAE			VU	VU	X				x				
<i>Daviesia brevifolia</i>	Leafless Bitter-pea	LEGUMINOSAE			LC	LC	X		x						
<i>Dianella longifolia</i> var. <i>grandis</i>	Pale Flax-lily	LILIACEAE		R	VU	VU				x					x
<i>Dianella revoluta</i> var. <i>revoluta</i>	Black-anther Flax-lily	LILIACEAE			LC	LC	X	x	x	x	x			x	
<i>Dillwynia hispida</i>	Red Parrot-pea	LEGUMINOSAE			LC	LC		x	x		x			x	x
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> ssp. <i>spatulata</i>	Sticky Hop-bush	SAPINDACEAE			LC	LC				x				x	
<i>Drosera whittakeri</i>	Scented Sundew	DROSERACEAE			LC	LC			x			x			
<i>Echinopogon ovatus</i>	Rough-beard Grass	GRAMINEAE		R	EN	VU					x				
<i>Einadia nutans</i> ssp. <i>Nutans</i>	Climbing Saltbush	CHENOPODIACEAE			LC	LC	x	x			x			x	x
<i>Eucalyptus incrassate</i>	Ridge-fruited Mallee	MYRTACEAE			RA	VU	x		x				x		
<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i> ssp. <i>Pruinose</i>	Inland South Australian Blue Gum	MYRTACEAE			VU	RA	x	x	x	x	x			x	
<i>Geranium solanderi</i>	Austral Geranium	GERANIACEAE			LC	LC								x	x
<i>Grevillea lavandulacea</i> ssp. <i>Lavandulacea</i>	Spider-flower	PROTEACEAE			LC	LC	x	x	x		x			x	x
<i>Hakea rostrata</i>	Beaked Hakea	PROTEACEAE			LC	LC	x		x				x		
<i>Hakea rugosa</i>	Dwarf Hakea	PROTEACEAE			NT	NT	x	x		x			x		
<i>Hibbertia riparia</i>	Bristly Guinea-flower	DILLENIACEAE			LC	LC	x							x	

<i>Hibbertia virgata</i>	Twiggy Guinea-flower	DILLENIACEAE			NT	NT	x								
<i>Hydrocotyle hirta</i>	Hairy Pennywort	UMBELLIFERAE			NT	NT								x	
<i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i>	Stinking Pennywort	UMBELLIFERAE			NT	LC		x							
<i>Hysterobaeckea behrii</i>	Silver Broombush	MYRTACEAE			RA	RA	x	x	x	x	x			x	x
<i>Juncus subsecundus</i>	Finger Rush	JUNCACEAE			LC	LC		x	x				x		
<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>	Scarlet Runner	LEGUMINOSAE			LC	LC		x				x			
<i>Kunzea pomifera</i>	Muntries	MYRTACEAE			RA	RA		x		x	x			x	x
<i>Lepidosperma carphoides</i>	Black Rapier-sedge	CYPERACEAE			LC	LC				x	x			x	
<i>Lepidosperma concavum</i>	Sandhill Sword-sedge	CYPERACEAE			NT	NT							x		
<i>Lepidosperma curtisiae</i>	Little Sword-sedge	CYPERACEAE			NT	NT				x	x				
<i>Lepidosperma hispidulum</i>	Spreading Sword-sedge	CYPERACEAE			?					x	x			x	
<i>Leptomeria aphylla</i>	Leafless Currant-bush	SANTALACEAE			VU	VU				x					
<i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i>	Heath Tea-tree	MYRTACEAE			LC	LC					x			x	
<i>Logania linifolia</i>	Flax-leaf Logania	LOGANIACEAE			VU	EN			x						
<i>Lomandra collina</i>	Sand Mat-rush	LILIACEAE			RA	RA				x				x	
<i>Lomandra densiflora</i>	Soft Tussock Mat-rush	LILIACEAE			LC	LC		x			x				
<i>Lomandra juncea</i>	Desert Mat-rush	LILIACEAE			RA	RA		x		x					x
<i>Lomandra micrantha</i> ssp. <i>Micrantha</i>	Small-flower Mat-rush	LILIACEAE			LC	LC					x			x	
<i>Lomandra multiflora</i> ssp. <i>Dura</i>	Hard Mat-rush	LILIACEAE			LC	LC		x		x	x			x	
<i>Lomandra nana</i>	Small Mat-rush	LILIACEAE			LC	LC					x			x	
<i>Lomandra sororia</i>	Sword Mat-rush	LILIACEAE			NT	LC				x				x	
<i>Lysiana exocarpi</i> ssp. <i>Exocarpi</i>	Harlequin Mistletoe	LORANTHACEAE			LC	LC				x	x				
<i>Microtis</i> sp.	Onion-orchid	ORCHIDACEAE										x		x	
<i>Panicum</i> sp.	Millet, Panic	GRAMINEAE									x				
<i>Panicum effusum</i>	Hairy Panic	GRAMINEAE			NT	RA							x		

<i>Pauridia glabella</i> var. <i>glabella</i>	Tiny Star	HYPOXIDACEAE			LC	LC			x						
<i>Pheladenia deformis</i>	Blue Beard	ORCHIDACEAE			NT	LC									x
<i>Pimelea humilis</i>	Low Riceflower	THYMELAEACEAE			VU	NT				x					
<i>Pittosporum angustifolium</i>	Native Apricot	PITTOSPORACEAE			NT	NT							x		
<i>Podolepis rugata</i>		COMPOSITAE			VU	VU			x						x
<i>Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum</i>	Jersey Everlasting	COMPOSITAE			LC	LC									x
<i>Pterostylis mutica</i>	Midget Greenhood	ORCHIDACEAE			LC	LC									x
<i>Pterostylis nana</i>	Dwarf Greenhood	ORCHIDACEAE			?	?									x
<i>Pterostylis nutans</i>	Nodding Greenhood	ORCHIDACEAE			LC	LC									x
<i>Pterostylis psammophila</i>	Two-bristle greenhood	ORCHIDACEAE	CR	EN	EN	EN							x (JS)		x
<i>Pterostylis</i> sp.	Greenhood-orchid	ORCHIDACEAE									x				
<i>Ptilotus erubescens</i>	Hairy-tails	AMARANTHACEAE		R	RA	RA					x				
<i>Pultenaea tenuifolia</i>	Narrow-leaf Bush-pea	LEGUMINOSAE			RA	RA		x			x				
<i>Rytidosperma fulvum</i>	Leafy Wallaby-grass	GRAMINEAE			VU	RA					x			x	
<i>Rytidosperma</i> sp.	Wallaby-grass	GRAMINEAE							x				x	x	
<i>Santalum acuminatum</i>	Quandong	SANTALACEAE			RA	RA	x	x	x	x	x			x	
<i>Senecio pinnatifolius</i> var. <i>lanceolatus</i>	Variable Groundsel	COMPOSITAE			LC	LC					x			x	x
<i>Senecio quadridentatus</i>	Cotton Groundsel	COMPOSITAE			LC	LC								x	x
<i>Senecio spanomerus</i>	Variable Groundsel	COMPOSITAE			NT	NT		x	x						x
<i>Spyridium thymifolium</i>		RHAMNACEAE			NT	RA			x						
<i>Stackhousia</i> sp.		CELASTRACEAE							x						
<i>Stenantha conostephioides</i>	Flame Heath	EPACRIDACEAE			LC	LC	x	x	x	x	x			x	
<i>Stylidium</i> sp.		STYLIDIACEAE							x						
<i>Styphelia humifusa</i>	Cranberry Heath	EPACRIDACEAE			LC	LC	x	x	x		x			x	
<i>Thysanotus baueri</i>	Mallee Fringe-lily	LILIACEAE			VU	EN							x		

Thysanotus patersonii	Twining Fringe-lily	LILIACEAE			LC	LC				x	x			x	x
Vittadinia sp.	New Holland Daisy	COMPOSITAE												x	

Code		Conservation rating
Number of species	106	10

APPENDIX B – *Exotic / *Not native to this area

Name	Common_Name	EPBC	NPWSA / Regional (Southern Lofly (SL))	HA1112	BCG	S Croft	AA, KS, ML	PW, KT, PP
* <i>Acacia baileyana</i>	Cootamundra Wattle							
* <i>Acacia iteaphylla</i>	Flinders Ranges Wattle		Rare					6/10/2022
* <i>Aira</i> sp.	Hair-grass				1/4/2004			6/10/2022
* <i>Arctotheca calendula</i>	Cape Weed							6/10/2022
* <i>Asparagus asparagoides</i> f. <i>asparagoides</i>	Bridal Creeper		Declared					6/10/2022
* <i>Briza maxima</i>	Large Quaking-grass				1/4/2004			6/10/2022
* <i>Bromus diandrus</i>	Great Brome				1/4/2004			6/10/2022
* <i>Catapodium rigidum</i>	Rigid Fescue							6/10/2022
* <i>Cenchrus clandestinus</i>	Kikuyu				1/4/2004			
* <i>Cenchrus longispinus</i>	Spiny Burr-grass		Declared					
* <i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i> ssp. <i>monilifera</i>	Boneseed		Declared		1/4/2004			
* <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> var. <i>dactylon</i>	Couch							
* <i>Cynosurus echinatus</i>	Rough Dog's-tail Grass							6/10/2022
* <i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Salvation Jane		Declared					6/10/2022
* <i>Ehrharta calycina</i>	Perennial Veldt Grass							6/10/2022
* <i>Ehrharta longiflora</i>	Annual Veldt Grass				1/4/2004			6/10/2022
* <i>Freesia leichtlinii</i>	Freesia							6/10/2022
* <i>Galium murale</i>	Small Bedstraw							6/10/2022
* <i>Gazania linearis</i>	Gazania							6/10/2022
* <i>Gomphocarpus cancellatus</i>	Broad-leaf Cotton-bush				1/4/2004			
* <i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	Smooth Cat's Ear							6/10/2022
* <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Rough Cat's Ear							6/10/2022
* <i>Iris albicans</i>	Flag Iris							
* <i>Lactuca serriola</i> f. <i>serriola</i>	Prickly Lettuce							6/10/2022
* <i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's Tail Grass				1/4/2004			6/10/2022
* <i>Lepidium africanum</i>	Common Peppergrass							6/10/2022
* <i>Lolium</i> sp.	Rye-grass							6/10/2022
* <i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Horehound		Declared					
* <i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	Burr-medic							6/10/2022
* <i>Moraea flaccida</i>	One-leaf Cape Tulip		Declared					6/10/2022
* <i>Oenothera stricta</i> ssp. <i>stricta</i>	Common Evening Primrose							
* <i>Olea europaea</i> ssp. <i>europaea</i>	Olive		Declared		1/4/2004			6/10/2022
* <i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Soursob				1/4/2004			6/10/2022
* <i>Phyllopodium cordatum</i>								6/10/2022
* <i>Piptatherum miliaceum</i>	Rice Millet				1/4/2004			6/10/2022

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* <i>Poa annua</i>	Winter Grass						6/10/2022
* <i>Poa bulbosa</i>	Bulbous Meadow-grass						6/10/2022
* <i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Blowfly Bush		Declared		1/4/2004		
* <i>Romulea rosea</i> var. <i>australis</i>	Common Onion-grass						
* <i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sorrel						
* <i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>	Pincushion				1/4/2004		
* <i>Silene nocturna</i>	Mediterranean Catchfly						6/10/2022
* <i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade						6/10/2022
* <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Common Sow-thistle						6/10/2022
* <i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Caltrop		Declared				
* <i>Trifolium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaf Clover				1/4/2004		6/10/2022
* <i>Trifolium arvense</i> var. <i>arvense</i>	Hare's-foot Clover						6/10/2022
* <i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Clover				1/4/2004		
* <i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover						6/10/2022
* <i>Vicia sativa</i> ssp. <i>sativa</i>	Common Vetch				1/4/2004		6/10/2022
* <i>Vulpia muralis</i>	Wall Fescue						6/10/2022

SUMMARY STATISTICS

Status Indigenous-*Alien Status

Code	*	Declared
Number of species	51	10

APPENDIX C – Records by Darryl N. Kraehenbuehl (1965-1966) not in current species lists.

36 species

Name	Common_Name	Family	EPBC (AUS)	NPWSA	IBRA MLR	IBRA ML sub region	Date	Collector	Locality Description
<i>Acaena echinata</i>	Sheep's Burr	ROSACEAE			LC	LC	23-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	c. 0.5 mile N of Tanunda
<i>Austrostipa tenuifolia</i>	Long-awn Spear-grass	GRAMINEAE		R	RA	RA	23-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	0.5 mile N of Tanunda
<i>Caladenia cardiochila</i>	Thick-lip Spider Orchid	ORCHIDACEAE			EN	EN	18-Sep-65	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	0.5 miles N of township, Tanunda
<i>Carpobrotus</i> sp. <i>Short Calyx</i> (S.T.Blake 20451)	Native Pigface	AIZOACEAE			LC	LC	22-Sep-62	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	Sand scrub, Tanunda
<i>Cassytha glabella</i> f. <i>dispar</i>	Slender Dodder-laurel	LAURACEAE			LC	LC	27-Nov-65	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	[c.] 0.5 mile N of Tanunda township
<i>Cassytha pubescens</i>	Devil's Twine	LAURACEAE			LC	LC	18-Sep-65	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	Tanunda sand scrub, approx[imately] [0.5 miles] N of township
<i>Centrolepis aristata</i>	Pointed Centrolepis	CENTROLEPIDACEAE			LC	LC	23-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	0.5 miles N of Tanunda
<i>Centrolepis strigosa</i> subsp. <i>strigosa</i>	Hairy Centrolepis	CENTROLEPIDACEAE			NT	LC	25-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	0.5 mile N of Tanunda
<i>Chrysocephalum baxteri</i>	Helichrysum	COMPOSITAE			LC	LC	27-Nov-65	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	c. 0.5 mile N of Tanunda
<i>Crassula closiana</i>	Stalked Crassula	CRASSULACEAE			LC	LC	23-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	0.5 miles N of Tanunda
<i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i>	Parson's Bands	ORCHIDACEAE			LC	LC	10-Apr-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	Approx[imately] 0.50 miles N of Tanunda
<i>Goodenia geniculata</i>	Bent Native-primrose	GOODENIACEAE			LC	LC	27-Nov-65	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	Tanunda, approx[imately] 0.5 mile N of township
<i>Hibbertia setifera</i>	Guinea-flower	DILLENIACEAE			nd	nd	22-Sep-62	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	Sand Scrub, Tanunda
<i>Hyalosperma demissum</i>	Moss Sunray	COMPOSITAE			LC	LC	25-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	c. 0.5 mile N of Tanunda, Barossa Valley

<i>Hydrocotyle callicarpa</i>	Tiny Pennywort	UMBELLIFERAE			LC	LC	23-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	0.5 mile N of Tanunda
<i>Isolepis marginata</i>	Coarse Club-rush	CYPERACEAE			?		23-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	0.5 mile N of Tanunda
<i>Lepidosperma viscidum</i>	Sticky Sword-sedge	CYPERACEAE			LC	LC	10-Apr-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	c. 0.50 miles N of Tanunda
<i>Levenhookia pusilla</i>	Midget Stylewort	STYLIDIACEAE			LC	LC	25-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	0.5 miles N of Tanunda (Barossa Valley)
<i>Millotia tenuifolia</i> var. <i>tenuifolia</i>	Soft Millotia	COMPOSITAE			LC	LC	18-Sep-65	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	Tanunda, approx[imately] 0.5 miles N of township
<i>Neurachne alopecuroidea</i>	Fox-tail Mulga-grass	GRAMINEAE			LC	LC	23-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	0.5 miles N of Tanunda
<i>Opercularia scabrida</i>	Rough Stinkweed	RUBIACEAE			NT	NT	23-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	0.5 mile N of Tanunda
<i>Oxalis perennans</i>	Native Sorrell	OXALIDACEAE			LC	LC	24-Oct-84	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	At sand scrub N of Tanunda. About 1 km N of town
<i>Panicum effusum</i>	Hairy Panic	GRAMINEAE			NT	RA	10-Apr-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	Tanunda. c. [0.5] mile N of township
<i>Prasophyllum odoratum</i>	Scented Leek Orchid	ORCHIDACEAE			RA	NT	23-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	0.5 miles N of Tanunda
<i>Quinetia urvillei</i>	Grey Zig-zag	COMPOSITAE			NT	LC	23-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	c. 1 km N of Tanunda
<i>Rytidosperma setaceum</i>	Small-flower Wallaby-grass	GRAMINEAE			LC	LC	23-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	c. 1 km N of Tanunda
<i>Schoenus nanus</i>	Tiny Bog-sedge	CYPERACEAE			RA	NT	23-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	0.50 mile N of Tanunda
<i>Siloxerus multiflorus</i>	Small Wrinklewort	COMPOSITAE			LC	LC	25-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	0.5 miles N of [Tanunda]
<i>Stenanthemum leucophractum</i>	White Cryptandra	RHAMNACEAE			VU	VU	27-Nov-65	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	0.5 miles N of Tanunda township
<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i>	Lemon-scented Sun Orchid	ORCHIDACEAE			LC	LC	23-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	c. 1 km N of Tanunda
<i>Thelymitra megalyptra</i>	Scented Sun Orchid	ORCHIDACEAE			DD		23-Sep-61	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	c. 0.5 miles N of town of Nuriootpa

<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass	GRAMINEAE			LC	LC	23-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	0.5 mile N of Tanunda. Barossa Valley
<i>Tricoryne elatior</i>	Yellow Rush Lily	LILIACEAE			NT	LC	10-Apr-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	c. 0.5 mile N of Tanunda township
<i>Triodia compacta</i>	Spinifex	GRAMINEAE			RE		27-Nov-65	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	Tanunda. Approx[imately] 0.5 miles N of township
<i>Velleia paradoxa</i>	Spur Velleia	GOODENIACEAE			RA	NT	25-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	0.5 mile N of Tanunda, Barossa Valley
<i>Wahlenbergia gracilentia</i>	Annual Bluebell	CAMPANULACEAE			LC	LC	23-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	0.5 miles N of Tanunda
Species recorded in current records									
<i>Allocasuarina muelleriana</i> subsp. <i>muelleriana</i>	Slaty Sheoak	CASUARINACEAE			LC	LC	30-Jun-61	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	Pine Scrub N of Tanunda
<i>Crassula decumbens</i> var. <i>decumbens</i>					LC	LC	23-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	c. 1 km N of Tanunda
<i>Lepidosperma concavum</i>	Sandhill Sword-sedge	CYPERACEAE			NT	NT	22-Sep-62	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	Tanunda
<i>Logania linifolia</i>	Flax-leaf Logania				VU	EN	27-Nov-65	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	C. 1 km N of Tanunda
<i>Lomandra collina</i>	Sand Mat-rush	LILIACEAE			RA	RA	23-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	0.5 mile N of Tanunda
<i>Lomandra sororia</i>	Small Mat-rush	LILIACEAE			NT	LC	23-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	0.5 mile N of Tanunda
<i>Pheladenia deformis</i>	Blue Beard	ORCHIDACEAE			NT	LC	18-Sep-65	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	Approx[imately] 0.5 mile N of Tanunda township
<i>Podolepis rugata</i> subsp. <i>glabrata</i>	Copper-wire Daisy	COMPOSITAE			VU	VU	23-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	0.5 mile N of Tanunda
<i>Senecio spanomerus</i>	Variable Groundsel	COMPOSITAE			LC	LC	18-Sep-65	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.	Tanunda. Approx[imately] 0.5 miles N of township

APPENDIX D – Records 1844 – 1962

A further 89 additional species recorded by Behr, H.H. (1844-45, 1848-49), Mueller, F. (1848-51), Osswald, R. (1848, 1851-56), Tepper, J.G.O. (1881, 1887), Kraehenbuehl, D.L. (1962) not in current species lists.

Some localities are close to the site, but not specific to the Tanunda Callitris Woodland (in the vicinity). Several species are found in and around watercourses, not specific to the Tanunda Callitris Woodland.

Scientific Name (interpreted)	Vernacular name	Family	EPBC (AUS)	NPWSA (State)	MLR	MLR sub region	Locality	event date	Collector – original
<i>Acacia acinacea</i>	Round-leaved Wattle	LEGUMINOSAE			RA	NT	Tanunda	18-Aug-1845	Riedel, W.
<i>Acacia acinacea</i>	Round-leaved Wattle	LEGUMINOSAE			RA	NT	Sandy scrub near Tanunda.	1851	Mueller, F.
<i>Acacia myrtifolia</i>	Myrtle Wattle	LEGUMINOSAE			LC	LC	Tanunda	19-Aug-1845	Riedel, W.
<i>Ajuga australis</i>	Austral Bugle	LABIATAE			VU	VU	Tanunda.	1848	Osswald, F.
<i>Argentipallium obtusifolium</i>	Blunt Everlasting	COMPOSITAE			VU	EN	Near the town of Tanunda.	1851-6	Osswald, F.
<i>Argentipallium obtusifolium</i>	Blunt Everlasting	COMPOSITAE			VU	EN	Tanunda.	1-Nov-1881	Tepper, J.G.O.
<i>Argentipallium obtusifolium</i>	Blunt Everlasting	COMPOSITAE			VU	EN	Tanunda. [0.5] mile SE of Town	20-Sep-58	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.
<i>Argentipallium obtusifolium</i>	Blunt Everlasting	COMPOSITAE			VU	EN	Tanunda	9-Sep-45	Riedel, W.
<i>Brachyscome (Paquerina) graminea</i>	Grass Daisy	COMPOSITAE		R	VU	none	in parched creeks at Bethany	Linnaea 20 1844-45	Behr, H.H.
<i>Brachyscome debilis</i>	Weak Daisy	COMPOSITAE		R	VU	VU	Tanunda.	c 1850	Mueller, F.

<i>Brunonia australis</i>	Blue Pincushion	GOODENIACEAE			LC	LC	Sandy areas	Linnaea 20 1844-45	Behr, H.H.
<i>Burchardia umbellata</i>	Milkmaids	LILIACEAE			LC	LC	Tanunda.	1848	Osswald, F.
<i>Caladenia latifolia</i>	Pink Fairies	ORCHIDACEAE			NT	NT	Tanunda	29-Sep-45	Riedel, W.
<i>Calocephalus lacteus</i>	Milky Beauty- heads	COMPOSITAE		E	no records		Bethaniae [=Bethany.]	4.1848	Mueller, F.
<i>Cardamine lineariloba</i>	Western Bitter- cress	CRUCIFERAE			RE	RE	Tanunda.	14.9.1848	Mueller, F.
<i>Cardamine microthrix</i>	Eastern Bitter-cress	CRUCIFERAE			VU	RA	Tanunda.	14.9.1848	Mueller, F.
<i>Chamaescilla corymbosa</i> var. <i>corymbosa</i>	Blue Stars	LILIACEAE			LC	LC	Tanunda	23-Sep-61	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.
<i>Chamaescilla corymbosa</i> var. <i>corymbosa</i>	Blue Stars	LILIACEAE			LC	LC	Tanunda	29-Sep-45	Riedel, W.
<i>Cheiranthra alternifolia</i>	Hand-flower	PITTOSPORACEAE			NT	NT	Tanunda.	1848	Osswald, F.
<i>Chrysocephalum semipapposum</i>	Yellow Buttons	COMPOSITAE			NT	NT	Tanunda, Nov. Holland. Austr.	c 1850	Mueller, F.
<i>Conospermum patens</i>	Slender Smoke- bush	PROTEACEAE			RA	RA	Towards district of Bethaniam [=Bethany].	1848	Osswald, F.
<i>Convolvulus erebescens</i>	Australian Convolvulus	CONVOLVULACEAE			NT	NT	Bethany	Linnaea 20 1844-45	Behr, H.H.
<i>Convolvulus remotus</i>	Grassy Convolvulus	CONVOLVULACEAE			LC	LC	Bethanien [= Bethany, Lofly Ranges].		Mueller, F.
<i>Correa aemula</i>	Hairy Correa	RUTACEAE			VU	EN	Tanunda.	1851	Mueller, F.
<i>Correa aemula</i>	Hairy Correa	RUTACEAE			VU	EN	Tanunda	19-Aug-45	Riedel, W.
<i>Crassula colorata</i> var. <i>acuminata</i>	Dense Crassula	CRASSULACEAE			LC	LC	Tanunda	22-Sep-62	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.

<i>Cullen parvum</i>	Small Scurf-pea	LEGUMINOSAE		V	EN	EN	Barossa, Bethanien	12.1848	Behr, H.H.
<i>Dampiera rosmarinifolia</i>	Rosemary Dampiera	GOODENIACEAE			NT	NT	Bethanien [=Bethany.]	4.1848	Mueller, F.
<i>Daviesia ulicifolia subsp. incarnata</i>	Gorse bitter-pea	LEGUMINOSAE			LC	LC	Tanunda	1-Sep-45	Riedel, W.
<i>Daviesia ulicifolia subsp. incarnata</i>	Gorse bitter-pea	LEGUMINOSAE			LC	LC	Bethanie [= Bethany, Lofly Ranges].	9.1848	Mueller, F.
<i>Dichelachne crinita</i>	Long-hair Plume- grass	GRAMINEAE			LC	LC	Bethany.	[1848-49 ALA]	Behr, H.H.
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Kidney Plant	CONVOLVULACEAE			LC	LC	Tanunda [=Tanunda].	[1848-49 ALA]	Behr, H.H.
<i>Drosera glanduligera</i>	Pimpernel Sundew	DROSERACEAE			LC	LC	Tanunda	22-Sep-62	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.
<i>Drosera hookeri</i>	Pale Sundew	DROSERACEAE			NE	NE	Bethanien [=Bethany].	1848	Mueller, F.
<i>Drosera macrantha subsp. planchonii</i>	Climbing Sundew	DROSERACEAE			LC	LC	Tanunda	25-Aug-45	Riedel, W.
<i>Eragrostis elongata</i>	Clustered Lovegrass	GRAMINEAE			RA		Tanunda.	1851	Mueller, F.
<i>Eryngium vesiculosum</i>	Prickfoot	UMBELLIFERAE		R	EN	EN	[No details given. Mueller was in the vicinity of Tanunda on this date. Lat/long is for Tanunda.]	14.4.1848	Mueller, F.
<i>Eryngium vesiculosum</i>	Prickfoot	UMBELLIFERAE		R	EN	EN	Bethanie [=Bethany].	Linnaea 20 1844-45	Behr, H.H.
<i>Euphrasia scabra</i>	Rough Eyebright	SCROPHULARIACEAE		¿EX	RE		Tanunda.	[1848-49 ALA]	Behr, H.H.
<i>Eutaxia microphylla</i>	Common Eutaxia	LEGUMINOSAE			LC	LC	Tanunda	30-Sep-45	Riedel, W.

<i>Eutaxia microphylla</i>	Common Eutaxia	LEGUMINOSAE			LC	LC	Bethanie [=Bethany].	Linnaea 20 1844-45	Behr, H.H.
<i>Festuca benthamiana</i>	Bentham's Fescue	GRAMINEAE		R	EN	EN	Tanunda.	11.1849	Behr, H.H.
<i>Geranium potentilloides</i>	Soft Crane's-bill	GERANIACEAE			LC	LC	[Bethany, Lofly Ranges].	13.4.1848	Mueller, F.
<i>Geranium retrorsum</i>	Grassland Crane's-bill	GERANIACEAE			LC	LC	Bethaniae [=Bethany], Nov. Holl. austr.	c 1848	Mueller, F.
<i>Glischrocaryon behrii</i>	Golden Pennants	HALORAGACEAE			NT	NT	Versus Bethanium [towards Bethany].	1848	Mueller, F.
<i>Glossodia major</i>	Parson-in-the-pulpit	ORCHIDACEAE			LC	LC	Tanunda	30-Sep-45	Riedel, W.
<i>Gonocarpus mezeianus</i>	Hairy Raspwort	HALORAGACEAE			LC	LC	[?]Bethaniae [?]Bethany].	1848	Behr, H.H.
<i>Goodenia blackiana</i>	Native Primrose	GOODENIACEAE			LC	LC	In sandy soil near Bethany and other places.	Linnaea 20 1844-45	Behr, H.H.
<i>Goodenia pinnatifida</i>	Cutleaf Goodenia	GOODENIACEAE			NT	NT	Bethaniae [=Bethany].	1848	Osswald, F.
<i>Haloragis aspera</i>	Rough Raspwort	HALORAGACEAE			VU	VU	[Locality indecipherable. given for Tanunda as collector was in this locality at the time.]	15.4.1848	Mueller, F.
<i>Haloragis aspera</i>	Rough Raspwort	HALORAGACEAE			VU	VU	Tanunda	1849	Behr, H.H.
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	Sarsaparilla	LEGUMINOSAE			NT	LC	Bethanie [=Bethany].	`1848	Osswald, F.

<i>Hibbertia glandulosa</i> NC <i>H.virgata</i>	Twiggy guinea flower	DILLENIACEAE			sp?		In the Scrub areas at Bethany	Linnaea 20 1844-45	Behr, H.H.
<i>Hibbertia incana</i> NC <i>H.crinita</i>	Guinea flower	DILLENIACEAE			sp?		Tanunda	8-Sep-45	Riedel, W.
<i>Hybanthus floribundus</i> subsp. <i>floribundus</i>	Shrub Violet	VIOLACEAE			LC	LC	Tanunda	18-Aug-45	Riedel, W.
<i>Lagenophora huegelii</i>	Coarse Bottle-daisy	COMPOSITAE			LC	LC	Tanunda.	9.1851	Mueller, F.
<i>Leptorhynchus tetrachaetus</i>	Beauty Buttons	COMPOSITAE			RA	none	Tanunda.	c 1848	Mueller, F.
<i>Leptorhynchus waitzia</i>	Button Immortelle	COMPOSITAE			DD	DD	Tanundae [=Tanunda].	1848	Osswald, F.
<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i>	Woolly Tea Tree	MYRTACEAE			RA	RA	Tanunda	19-Aug-45	Riedel, W.
<i>Leucopogon virgatus</i>	Common Beard-heath	EPACRIDACEAE			LC	LC	Bethaniae [=Bethany].	1848	Osswald, F.
<i>Levenhookia dubia</i>	Hairy Stylewort	STYLIDIACEAE			LC	LC	Tanunda	22-Sep-62	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.
<i>Lobelia gibbosa</i>	Native Lobelia	CAMPANULACEAE			NT	LC	Tanunda.	2.1851	Mueller, F.
<i>Lotus australis</i>	Australian Trefoil	LEGUMINOSAE			NT	NT	Bethanie [=Bethany].	1848	Osswald, F.
<i>Lotus australis</i>	Australian Trefoil	LEGUMINOSAE			NT	NT	Bethanie [=Bethany].	Linnaea 20 1844-45	Behr, H.H.
<i>Lotus cruentus</i>	Red-flowered Lotus	LEGUMINOSAE			VU	nd	Tanunda.	9.1848	Mueller, F.
<i>Lotus cruentus</i>	Red-flowered Lotus	LEGUMINOSAE			VU	nd	Bethanie [=Bethany].	Linnaea 20 1844-45	Behr, H.H.
<i>Malva preissiana</i>	Native Hollyhock	MALVACEAE			NT	NT	Tanunda	19-Aug-45	Riedel, W.
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	Rice Grass	GRAMINEAE			LC	LC	Tanunda.	2.1851	Mueller, F.

<i>Microseris lanceolata</i>	Murnong	COMPOSITAE			LC	LC	Tanunda	22-Sep-62	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.
<i>Opercularia turpis</i>	Grey Stinkweed	RUBIACEAE			NT	NT	Tanunda.	1.1849	Behr, H.H.
<i>Picris squarrosa</i>	Squat Picris	COMPOSITAE			EN	EN	Nova Hollandia austr. Tanunda.	15.4.1848	Mueller, F.
<i>Pimelea flava</i> subsp. <i>dichotoma</i>	Diosma Rice-flower	THYMELAEACEAE			RA	NT	On chalky sandy soil (Sandplaine) at Bethany	Linnaea 20 1844-45	Behr, H.H.
<i>Pimelea flava</i> subsp. <i>dichotoma</i>	Diosma Rice-flower	THYMELAEACEAE			RA	NT	Tanunda.	[1848-49 ALA]	Behr, H.H.
<i>Pimelea glauca</i>	Smooth Rice-flower	THYMELAEACEAE			NT	NT	Tanunda.	15.4.1848	Mueller, F.
<i>Pimelea octophylla</i>	Woolly Rice-flower	THYMELAEACEAE			LC	LC	Tanunda - c. 65 km NE of Adelaide.	22.9.1962	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.
<i>Pimelea octophylla</i> R.Br.	Woolly Rice-flower	THYMELAEACEAE			LC	LC	Bethanie sandplain	Linnaea 20 1844-45	Behr, H.H.
<i>Platylobium obtusangulum</i>	Common Flat-pea	LEGUMINOSAE			LC	LC	Tanunda	29-Sep-45	Riedel, W.
<i>Poa drummondiana</i>	Knotted Poa	GRAMINEAE		R	EN	?	Tanunda.	[1848-49 ALA]	Behr, H.H.
<i>Prostanthera behriana</i>	Behr's Mint Bush	LABIATAE			RA	NT	Tanunda	26-Aug-45	Riedel, W.
<i>Pterostylis robusta</i>	Sharp-leaf Greenhood	ORCHIDACEAE			RA	NT	1 mile N of Nuriootpa	20-Aug-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.
<i>Pultenaea laxiflora</i>	A Bush Pea	LEGUMINOSAE			RA	NT	near Tanunda.	9.1851	Mueller, F.
<i>Ranunculus sessiliflorus</i> var. <i>sessiliflorus</i>	Small-flowered Australian Buttercup	RANUNCULACEAE			LC	LC	On the plains near Tanunda.	9.1851	Mueller, F.
<i>Rhodanthe corymbiflora</i>	Small White Sunray	COMPOSITAE			DD	DD	In proximity of the town of Tanunda.	1848	Osswald, F.
<i>Roepera confluens</i>	Forked Twinleaf	ZYGOPHYLLACEAE			VU	VU	Tanunda	9-Sep-45	Riedel, W.

Tanunda Callitris Woodland Management Plan 2023

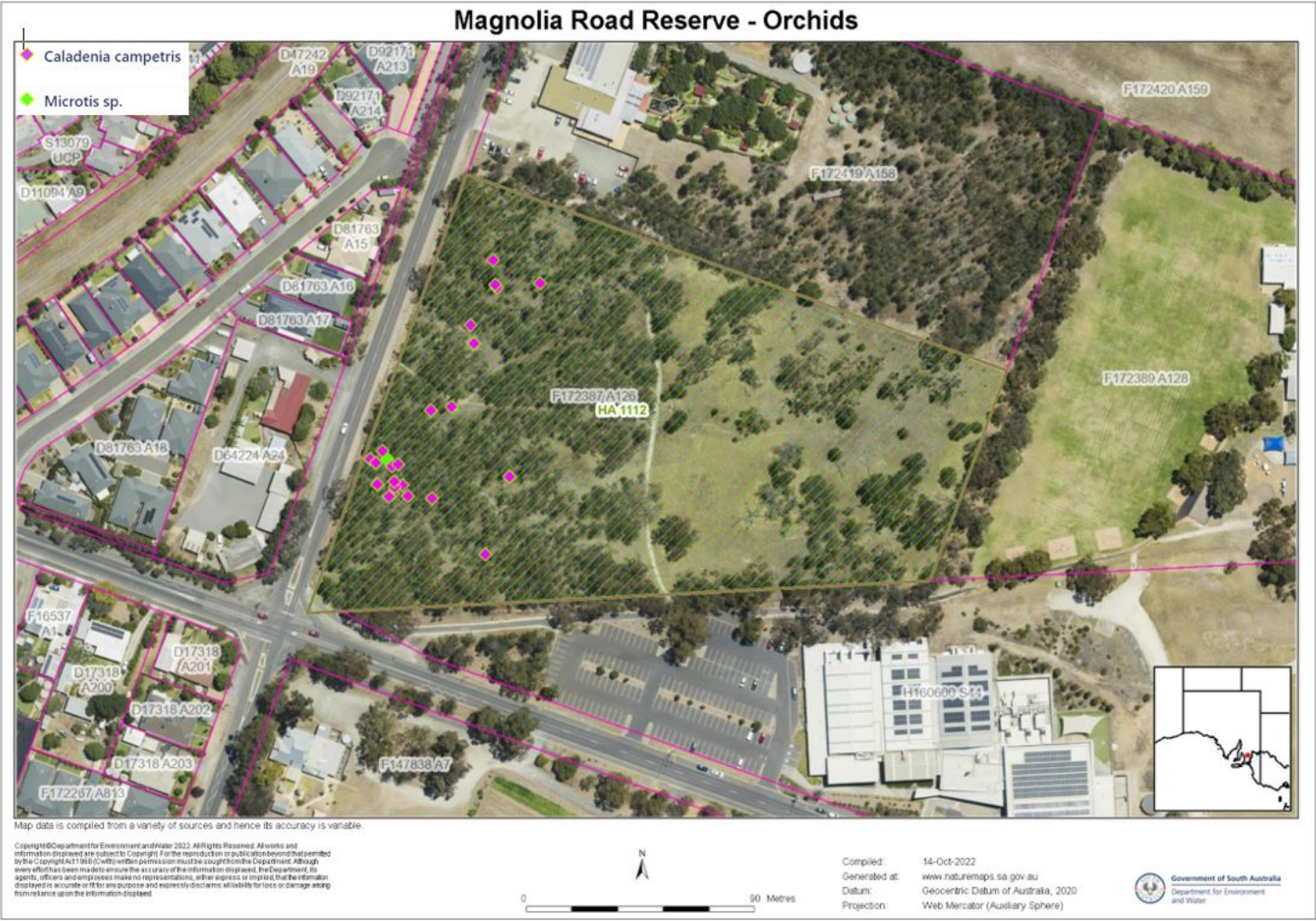
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<i>Rytidosperma caespitosa</i>	Common Wallaby-grass	GRAMINEAE			LC	LC	Tanunda	22-Sep-62	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.
<i>Rytidosperma caespitosum</i>	Common Wallaby-grass	GRAMINEAE			LC	LC	Bethaniae [= Bethany].	c 1849	Mueller, F.
<i>Scaevola albida</i>	Small-fruit Fan-flower	GOODENIACEAE			LC	LC	Tanunda	8-Sep-45	Riedel, W.
<i>Senecio odoratus</i> var. <i>odoratus</i>	Scented Groundsel	COMPOSITAE			NT	RA	Tanunda.	[1848-49 ALA]	Behr, H.H.
<i>Spergularia brevifolia</i>	Salt Sand-spurrey	CARYOPHYLLACEAE			NE		Tanunda.	4.1848	Mueller, F.
<i>Spyridium parvifolium</i>	Dusty Miller	RHAMNACEAE			NT	LC	Tanunda	1-Sep-45	Riedel, W.
<i>Stylidium despectum</i>	Small triggerplant	STYLIDIACEAE			NT	NT	Barossa.	[1848-49 ALA]	Behr, H.H.
<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>	Grass Trigger Plant	STYLIDIACEAE			NT	NT	Barossa.	[1848-49 ALA]	Behr, H.H.
<i>Thelymitra grandiflora</i>	Great Sun-orchid	ORCHIDACEAE			RA	RA	Tanunda.	[1848-49 ALA]	Behr, H.H.
<i>Triglochin nana</i>	Dwarf Arrowgrass	JUNCAGINACEAE			NT	NT	Tanunda	22-Sep-62	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.
<i>Triodia</i>	'Spinifex'	GRAMINEAE			?	?	Near the Gawler River. [North Para]	1848	Behr, H.H.
<i>Vittadinia cuneata</i> var. <i>murrayensis</i>	Murray New Holland Daisy	COMPOSITAE			NE		C. 1.5 km NE of Tanunda	8-Jan-67	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.
<i>Wahlenbergia gracilentia</i>	Annual Bluebell	CAMPANULACEAE			LC	LC	0.5 miles N of Tanunda	23-Oct-66	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.
<i>Wahlenbergia luteola</i>	Yellow-wash Bluebell	CAMPANULACEAE			RA	RA	Tanunda.	c 1849	Mueller, F.
<i>Wahlenbergia multicaulis</i>	Tadgell's Bluebell	CAMPANULACEAE			NE		Tanunda.	[1848-49 ALA]	Behr, H.H.
<i>Wahlenbergia stricta</i> subsp. <i>stricta</i>	Tall Bluebell	CAMPANULACEAE			LC	LC	Bethaniae [=Bethany].	1848	Mueller, F.

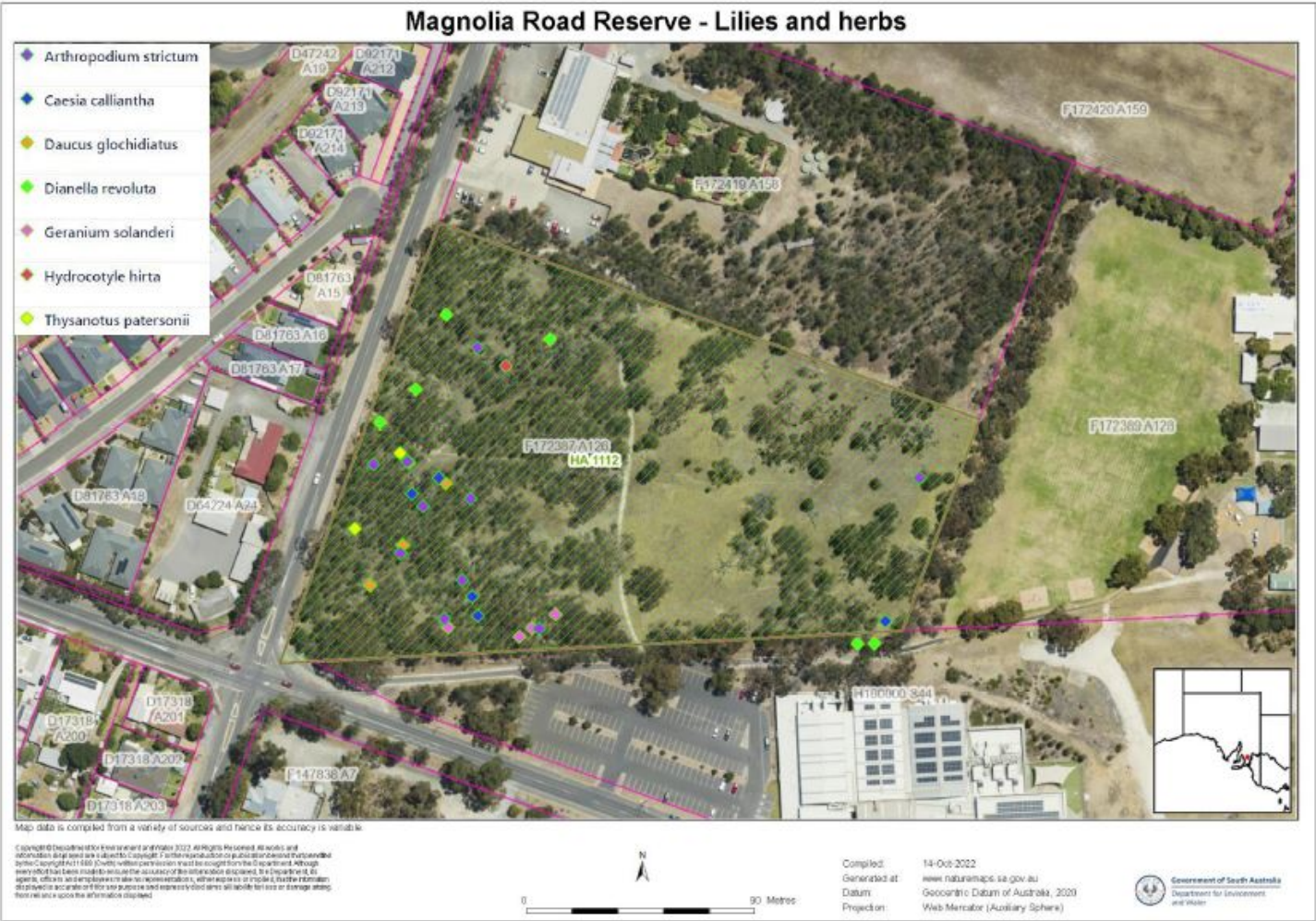
<i>Waitzia acuminata</i> var. <i>acuminata</i>	Orange Immortelle	COMPOSITAE			?		Adelaide, Pfeiffer's Section. [Tanunda]	[1848-49 ALA]	Behr, H.H.
<i>Wurmbea australis</i>	Inland Nancy	LILIACEAE			?	?	Tanunda.	9.1848	Mueller, F.
<i>Wurmbea dioica</i> subsp. <i>dioica</i>	Early Nancy	LILIACEAE			LC	LC	Tanunda.	15.9.1848	Mueller, F.
<i>Wurmbea latifolia</i> subsp. <i>vanessae</i>	Broad-leaf Nancy	LILIACEAE		R	LC	LC	Tanunda.	9.1848	Mueller, F.

Species recorded in current records									
<i>Caladenia carnea</i>	Pink Fingers	ORCHIDACEAE			NT	LC	Tanunda	29-Sep-45	Riedel, W.
<i>Crassula colligata</i> subsp. <i>colligata</i>	Stalked Crassula	Crassulaceae			LC	LC	Tanunda	22-Sep-62	Kraehenbuehl, D.N.
<i>Cryptandra tomentosa</i>	Prickly Cryptandra	RHAMNACEAE			LC	LC	Tanunda.	1848	Osswald, F.
<i>Cryptandra tomentosa</i>	Prickly Cryptandra	RHAMNACEAE			LC	LC	Tanunda Scrub	28 Oct 1887	Tepper, J.G.O.
<i>Pauridia glabella</i> var. <i>glabella</i>	Tiny Star	HYPOXIDACEAE			LC	LC	Tanunda	1-Sep-45	Riedel, W.

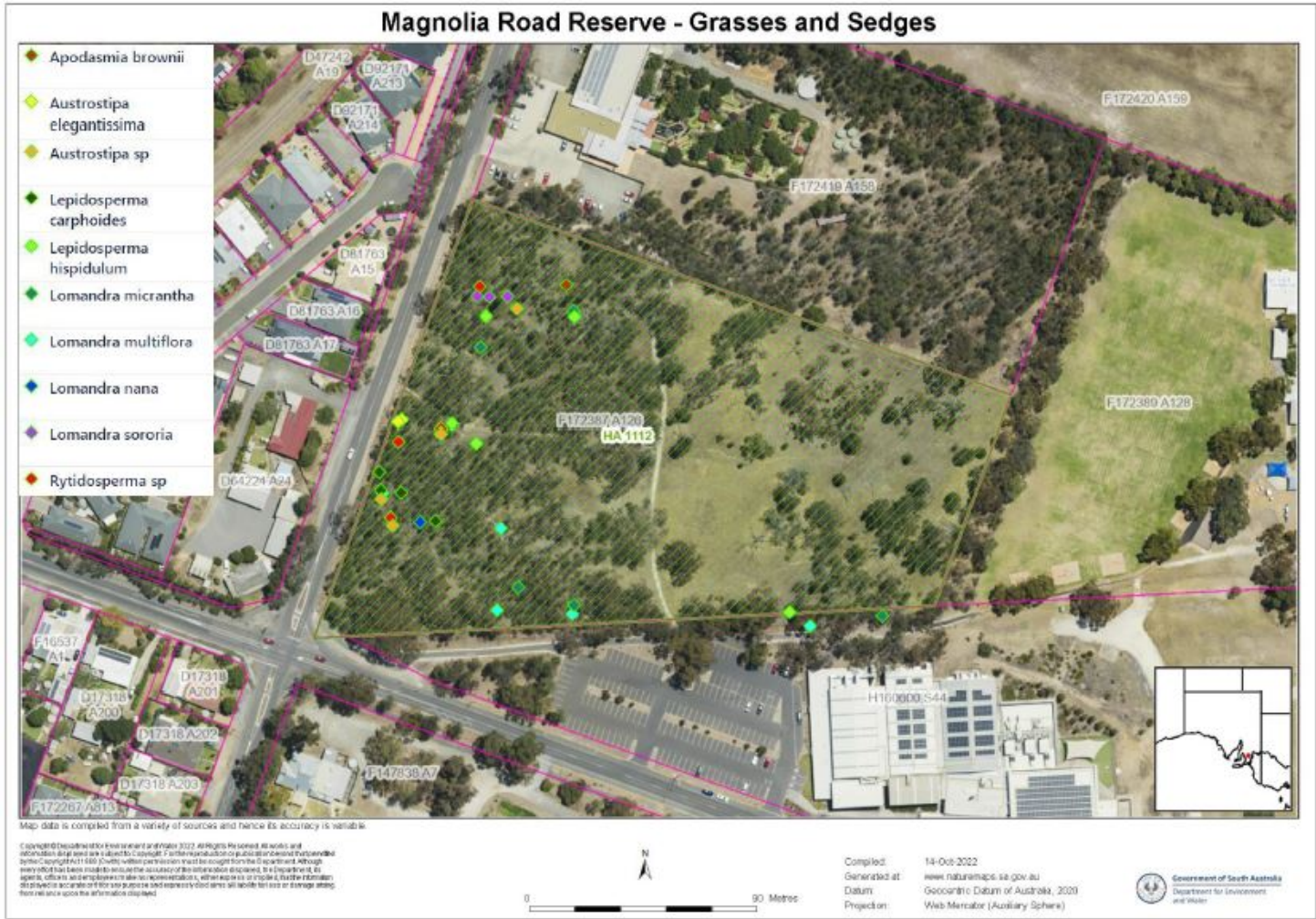
APPENDIX E



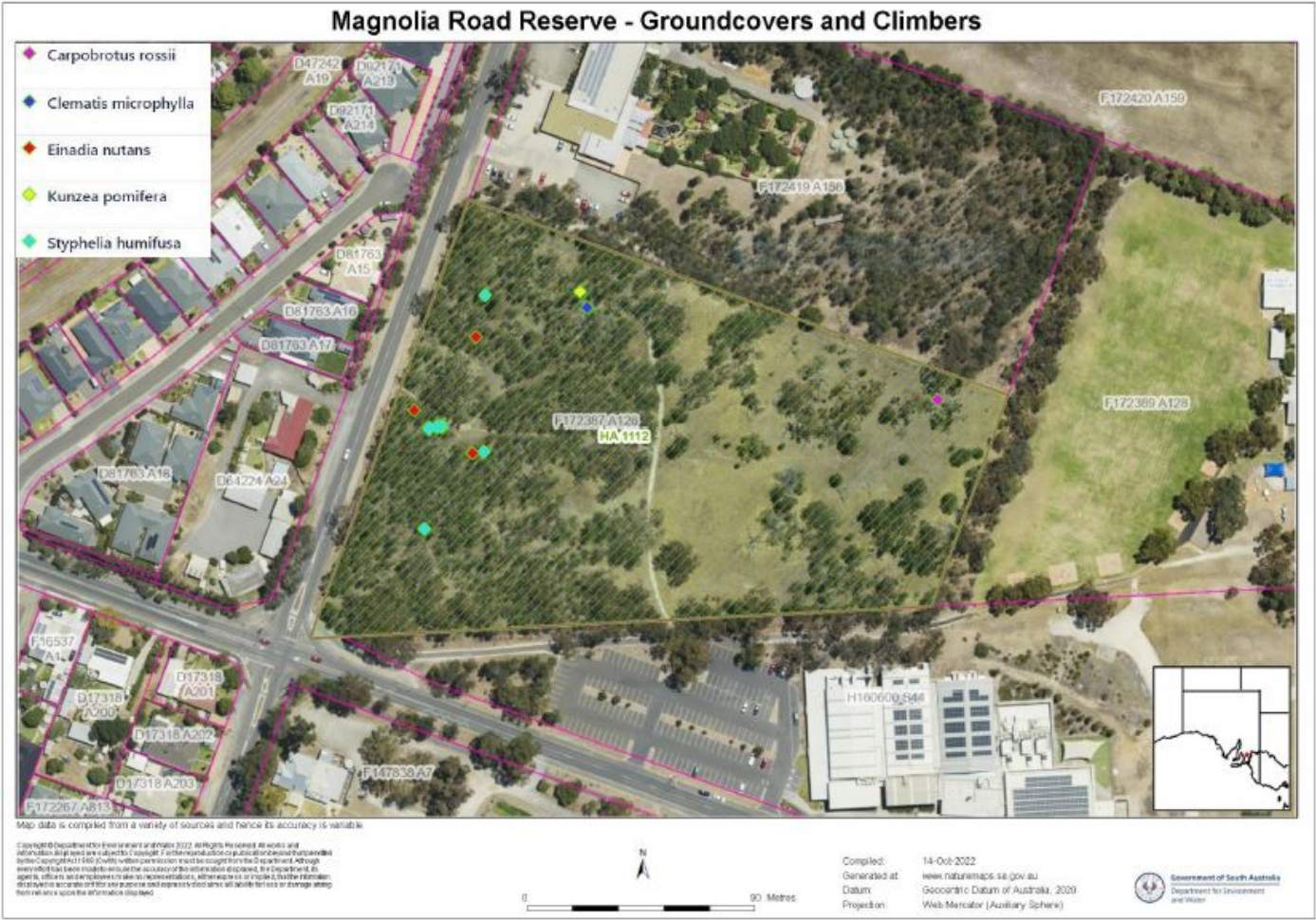
APPENDIX F



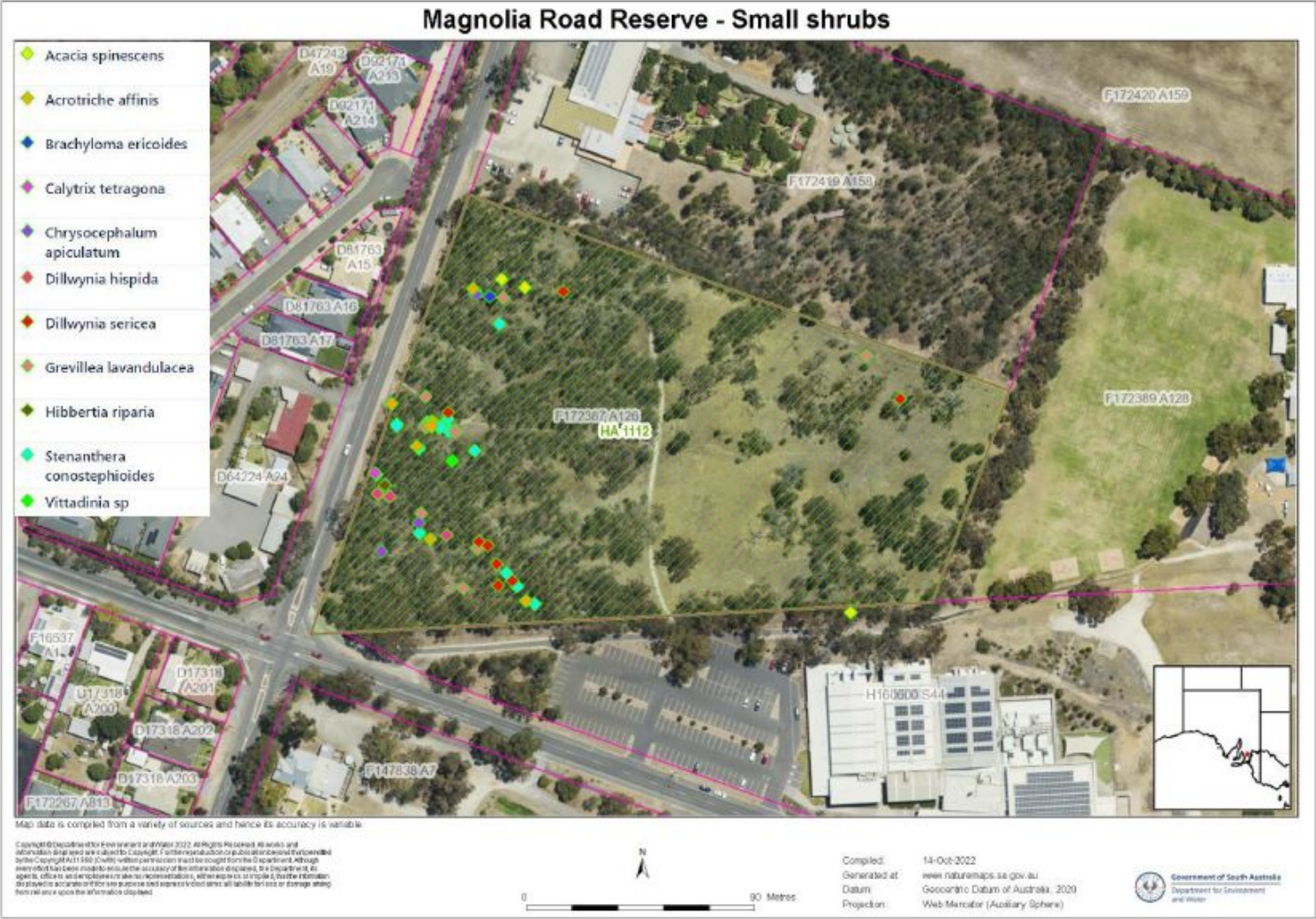
APPENDIX G



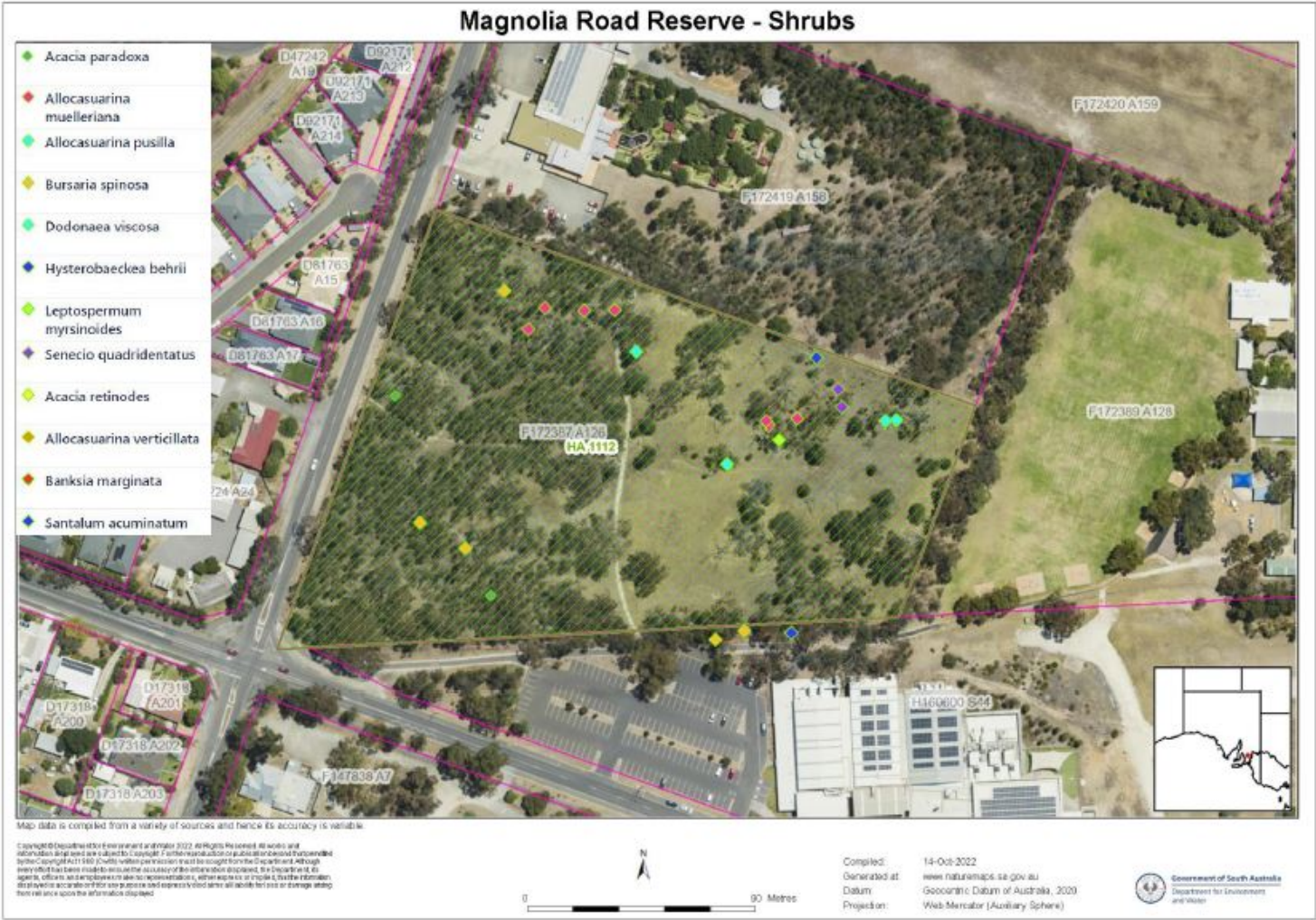
APPENDIX H



APPENDIX I



APPENDIX J



APPENDIX K



APPENDIX L



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Prepared by Kim Thompson, Senior Environmental Officer, The Barossa Council.

This project received grant funding from the Nature Foundation's, Revitalising Private Conservation in South (RPCSA), Round 3, 2022.



Disclaimer

While reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the contents of this publication are factually correct The Barossa Council makes no representations and accepts no responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or fitness for any particular purpose of the contents and shall not be liable for any loss or damage that may be occasioned directly or indirectly through the use of or reliance on the contents of this publication. This report is current at the date of writing only and The Barossa Council will not be responsible for informing of any future changes in circumstances which may affect the accuracy of the information contained in this report.

Certain assumptions have been made in the preparation of this report. We have assumed that all information and documents provided to us by other individuals or organisations, or as a result of a specific request or enquiry were complete, accurate and up to date. Where we have obtained information from a government register or database, we have assumed that the information is accurate. Where an assumption has been made, we have not made any independent investigations with respect to the matters the subject of that assumption. We are not aware of any reason why any of the assumptions are incorrect.

The Barossa Council

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DEBATE REPORT

7.3 Infrastructure and Environment Services

7.3.2 PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURES - 2025 SANTOS TOUR DOWN UNDER

**Author: Manager, Engineering Services
24/85377**

PURPOSE

The Health Partners Men's Stage 2 of the 2025 SANTOS Tour Down Under is being held on Wednesday 22 January 2025, and will start and finish in Tanunda. Road closures and parking restrictions are required for the safety of all participants and the public.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council advise the Commissioner of Police that The Barossa Council endorses the closure of:

- Murray Street, Tanunda from Fiedler Street to Bridge Street, and
- Elizabeth Street, Tanunda from Bilyara Road to William Street, and
- Bilyara Road, Tanunda between Murray Street and Park Street, and
- Basedow Road, Tanunda between Murray Street and MacDonnell Street, and
- John Street, Tanunda between Murray Street and William Street, and
- Julius Street, Tanunda between Murray Street and William Street, and
- Bushman Street, Tanunda between Murray Street and Edward Street, and
- Mill Street, Tanunda between Murray Street and Edward Street

on Wednesday 22 January 2025 from 5.00am to 7.00pm to stage to 2025 SANTOS Tour Down Under Health Partners Men's Stage 2 event.

REPORT

Background

The SANTOS Tour Down Under (TDU) was first staged in South Australia in 1999 and has grown to become the biggest cycling race in the Southern Hemisphere.

The TDU is held in January every year, making it the first event on the international cycling calendar and attracts many interstate and international visitors to the Barossa region.

Intoduction

The SANTOS TDU provides a significant contribution to the state's tourism industry and showcases the attractions of South Australia to the world through global television coverage.

Discussion

A request has been received from the organisers seeking The Barossa Council's authorisation to close roads and implement parking and speed restrictions on the Health Partners Men's Stage 2 race day on Wednesday 22 January 2025 and on the Men's Stage 1 Prospect to Gumeracha route when it passes thorough Williamstown on Tuesday 21 January 2025. Road Closures are required for the 22 January event, but not the 21 January event.

The Barossa Council has supported this event for many years by organising and implementing the required traffic management.

Organisers will also make application to SAPOL for 25km/h speed restrictions at several locations and for the removal of traffic infrastructure.

Summary and Conclusion

Council continues to support the community and work together to host a successful event in the Barossa.

The requested closure and restrictions are deemed necessary as a risk mitigation strategy to maintain the safety of participants and the public.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil

Supporting references

Nil

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTSLegislative Requirements

Local Government Act 1999

Road Traffic Act 1961

FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**Financial and Resources -**

The in-kind cost and implementation of the road closure is to be funded via Council's Road Closure Support/Tour Down Under budget.

Risk management –

Council officers deem the closure necessary as a risk mitigation strategy to maintain the safety of participants and the public.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The wider Barossa community will be advised of the proposal by public advertisements to be placed in The Advertiser by Events SA and via placement of the SAPOL Section 33 Notice on Council's website.

DEBATE REPORT

7.3 Infrastructure and Environmental Services

7.3.3 BAROSSA PARK - LYNDOKH RECREATION PARK - SEPTEMBER 2024 UPDATE

**Author: Chief Executive Officer
24/89491**

PURPOSE

To update Council on further material changes to the development of Barossa Park.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the update report and having reviewed the information and updated long term financial plan, lift the project budget to that identified as the upper estimate (\$45,757,940 noting the increase is funded from additional third party sources and Council allocation) outlined in the report conditional on achieving confirmation of third party sources totalling at least \$1M and that the specifications are not altered to increase the scope without Council approval and adopt the updated October 2024 Long Term Financial Plan.

REPORT

Background

The Big Project is Council's long term, intergenerational strategy for community infrastructure redevelopment. Its strategic vision extends for a target period of 35 years and touches upon four key areas of service:

- Sport and recreation
- Culture, the arts, heritage, and history
- Aquatics
- Cycling, adventure and leisure

The Lyndoch Recreation Park (LRP) redevelopment is one of the first phase priorities.

Introduction

As the project has been progressing at an extremely fast pace with detailed design being developed with input from our Managing Contractor (Built) and our design team consisting of iEDM, Dash, Walbridge & Gilbert, Lucid and Landskap there have been a number of updates and reviews made to the original approved design and associated budgets. We have finalised 95% of the tenders and have soft landscaping as the remaining tender to be completed.

Discussion

Scope and Design Changes

As the project is being delivered under a fast-tracked methodology with the engagement of a Managing Contractor, trade package detailed design is occurring in parallel at a fast pace. There has been no scope or design changes to report

however this month as contract variations are slowing due to the maturity of the project (approximately 60% build and 95% contracts issued), the trajectory of the current forecasts is higher and therefore some additional value management processes have taken place in the past month. The value management undertaken is summarised below:

Additional VM Opportunities		OUTCOME
	Delete all plants (retain all trees) and do further planting in future and or work with community and groups on programs for further plantings	-\$77,266.00
	Delete stone entry wall along south-east footpath	-\$10,000.00
	Delete 2 of 2 BBQs	-\$34,100.00
	Delete 2 of 3 drink fountains	-\$14,054.04
	Delete moveable planter boxes and integrated seating	-\$57,329.00
	Delete \$100k irrigation due to removal of plants	-\$50,000.00
	Delete stone finish to wing walls and entry gates	-\$15,000.00
	Basic statutory building signage in lieu of bespoke design	-\$10,000.00
	Retain existing pavers at Tennis Club	-\$25,000.00
	Retain existing asphalt surrounding tennis court	-\$12,000.00
	Delete stone entry wall footing	-\$5,000.00
	Retain asphalt and existing 'undesigned' surface along western boundary	-\$23,700.00
	Defer asphalt pavement removal and turf install adjacent bowls club until post gather round	-\$10,000.00
	Minor items identified but requiring further investigation	-\$50,000.00
	Reduction in associated MC OH&P with above VM items	-\$45,246.64
	Reduction in associated MC OH&P with initial \$350k soft landscaping VM items	-\$40,250.00
		-\$478,945.68

Budget Status

All trade packages are now complete, and the following table identifies the best-case scenario and best based risk scenario outcomes. Ultimately officers continue to work to the approved budget however to complete the work properly, including appropriate landscaping, it is estimated the range of cost will be from \$41.503M to \$45.758M. The upper limit assumes all remaining trade reserve and contingencies will be required, whereas the lower limit assumes none of these reserve and contingencies will be required. Additional revenues and contributions have been achieved to offset \$150,000 of this expenditure with discussions underway from a third party for a significant level of funding, which is the subject of a further report in this agenda. An additional grant application opportunity has also been identified for a further \$500,000 and that submission is underway. Council's application for Commonwealth funding is still pending and is currently under assessment.

Lyndoch Estimates September 2024				
	Remaining Contingencies / Trade Reserves Used			
	Lower Estimate			Upper Estimate
	25%	50%	75%	100%
Budget*	43,517,000	43,517,000	43,517,000	43,517,000
Additional Contributions				
- Other Possible Contributions	1,604,000	1,604,000	1,604,000	1,604,000
Total Budget With Additional Contributions	45,121,000	45,121,000	45,121,000	45,121,000
Forecast	41,981,835	45,020,264	45,544,247	46,236,395
Less Identified Value Management	478,455	478,455	478,455	478,455
Current Position (Deficit) / Surplus	(3,617,620)	(579,191)	(55,208)	636,940
Further Value Management Target	0	0	0	0
Revised Position (Deficit) / Surplus	(3,617,620)	(579,191)	(55,208)	636,940
Budget Funding Sources To Date				
State Contribution - DPC	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000
State Grant - Office for Rec and Sport	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Third Party Contributions	450,000	450,000	450,000	450,000
Released funding from LRCIP R4	891,075	891,075	891,075	891,075
Total Funding Sources	21,841,075	21,841,075	21,841,075	21,841,075
Net Council Contribution - With Additional Contributions from Third Parties	18,536,760	21,575,189	22,099,172	22,791,320
Revised Budget Range - September 2024	41,503,380	44,541,809	45,065,792	45,757,940
*As approved at the August 2024 meeting of Council				

Summary and Conclusion

The Lyndoch Recreation Park project continues to move at significant pace and has reached a level of reasonable final certainty as to cost and delivery timeframes. Design is practically complete, and all trade packages are issued. At this time, based on the full utilisation of reserves and contingencies, an increased cost of 5.15% is expected and should be provisioned for to ensure the completion of the facility to the target standard pending the realisation of possible additional third-party funding of at least \$1M.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Long Term Financial Plan Update October 2024 for 2024-25 to 2033-34 [!\[\]\(e3f8612927870f2e0f9f5989e6dd3064_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(a86c7d1c9cb81c81614634a31267440d_img.jpg\)](#)

Supporting references

Nil

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Legislative Requirements

Section 123 of the Local Government Act

FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Outlined in the report, the effective increase in funding based on the assumptions enclosed in the report is \$636,940.

The long-term financial plan has again been revised to reflect this position and is tabled at Attachment 1. All indicators continue to meet or exceed set performance standards. The two updates on the plan from that tabled and adopted in September 2024 are the estimates provided for Barossa Park and some deferral of costs of the Barossa Creative Industries Centre due to ongoing delays in the Commonwealth funding agreement. The budget for the BCIC over the two years remains unchanged. Borrowings marginally decrease over the two years but additional funds of \$1.35M are likely to be required in the 2024-25 year, however borrowings for 2025-2026 will be \$1.45M less than the latest September 2024-25 long term financial plan update. Ultimately the financial model continues to predict lower debt levels in 2024-25 than the original budget does. See the following table for the updated 2024-25 forecast.

2024-25 Budget	Original	Approved LTFP and Original Budget \$'000	Revised LTFP \$'000	Change – Positive / (Negative) \$'000	Indicator
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)		(437)	(254)	183	
Borrowings at 30 June 2025		40,605	39,949	656	
Net Cash at 30 June 2025		39	44	5	
Operating Surplus Ratio 3 Year rolling		0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	
Net Financial Liabilities		93.6%	91.1%	2.5%	
Asset Renewal Funding Ratio		129.4%	125.5%	(3.9%)	

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Extensive consultation and engagement have been undertaken since 2016 and most recently in the second half of 2023 and early 2024 and is ongoing with stakeholders through the construction phase.



Update October 2024

LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2024/25 - 2033/34

ASSUMPTIONS AND FINANCIAL INDICATORS

Under the *Local Government Act 1999*, Councils are required to have a **Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP)** (for a minimum period of 10 years). This Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) has been declared by The Barossa Council as a Strategic Management Plan pursuant to Section 122(8) of the *Local Government Act 1999*. This document subsequently reflects an annual review of Council's Long Term Financial Plan and acts as a starting reference point in the formulation of Council's Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/25.

The Long Term Financial Plan is designed as a 'high-level' document that summarises the future planning of Council's financial operations – particularly in relation to key components such as rate movements, service levels to our community, major infrastructure asset replacement/renewal, loan indebtedness and internal cash reserves.

On this basis and given the 'high-level' nature of the document, the Plan has been developed based on a number of key assumptions previously discussed and endorsed by Council. Further, Council has also previously endorsed a number of strategic financial policies which have also driven the formulation of the Plan.

Section 122 of the *Local Government Act 1999* also prescribes that Councils must have a Long Term Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan to guide the future replacement, renewal and maintenance of our significant fixed asset base. Council's Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan (IAMP) was adopted by Council in February 2023, with an ongoing review process to provide improved asset data and information.

Consequently, in recognition of this, it is appropriate that a cautious and conservative approach be undertaken with financial modelling as part of the update to the Long Term Financial Plan.

With a significant fixed asset base being predominantly comprised of major community infrastructure such as roads, footpaths, stormwater drainage and community wastewater management systems, it is imperative that there is an appropriate link and consistency between the Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan and the Long Term Financial Plan, towards ensuring that the Long Term Financial Plan provides for the necessary capital outlays (as identified in the Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan) for the renewal and replacement of existing community assets – herein referred to as 'non-discretionary' capital expenditure.

GENERAL ASSUMPTIONS

- Long term financial plans (LTFP) have been prepared to measure and check financial sustainability for Council and its component operations.
- The LTFP reflects existing recurrent service levels to our community being maintained. Council's budget process considers on-going service delivery and commitments and new expenditure items or initiatives.
- The LTFP does not include the long term operating and capital outcomes of the Concordia development other than current planning and operating costs for the development, this is currently being modelled and is estimated to be available when adopting of the 2024/25 financial year budget and associated LTFP update.
- 92% of the capital program is achieved (excluding Barossa Park Lyndoch is 100% achieved) and the remainder of 8% is carried forward as works in progress or not commenced, the cash flow estimates align to the 92% capital program spend, historically this is the upper performance outcome.

KEY AMENDMENTS SINCE ADOPTION JUNE 2024

- The revised long term financial plan has included:
 - Amendments approved by Council since the budget, business plan and long-term financial plan was adopted.
 - Anticipation of amendments related to sealing of Neldner Road, 10% budget increase and timing of expenditure for the Creative Industries Centre and the current upper limit cost estimate for Barossa Park – Lyndoch Recreation Park.
 - Anticipated costs for Concordia development in the future years to assist development and resource early stages of development, this is not inclusive of a full financial model for Concordia.

- Anticipated costs for the establishment of a Deputy CEO combined Director position, and foreshadowed future commitments for reforms of our economic development, event, strategy and planning future direction.
 - General and material changes arising from anticipated structural changes due to organisational vacancies and revision of roles and recently advised Financial Assistance Grants and Roads to Recovery Grants.
 - Update various assumptions given recent inflation expectations and forecast for the future predict lingering inflationary pressures of most note this reflected in salary and wage increases which were predicted to return to the mid level of 2.5% but have been increased to 3.5% for the next three years subject to negotiation.
 - Provisions to support Concordia development initial costs totalling a further \$1.468M, noting revenue streams should commence in 2028-2029 but have not been factored into the plan at this time until greater certainty is realised.
 - Final grant allocations that have been notified as at the end of September 2024.
- Forecast outcomes for the 2023-24 financial year.
 - Actual cash and borrowings position as at 30 June 2024.

KEY FINANCIAL RESULTS CHANGES

Estimated and Actual Outcomes for 2023-24, 2024-25 and the full long term financial plan – the following table provides key changes to the financial statements and financial indicators between the adopted long term financial plan and this revision. The 2023-24 forecast is significantly influenced by depreciation meeting budget, however the borrowings and cash position are actual results.

Indicators

Result meets or exceed positively the key performance indicator.	
Result is marginally at or below the performance indicator and is at risk of not being achieved.	
Result does not meet the key performance indicator.	

2023-24 Original Budget	Original Budget \$'000	Forecast \$'000	Change – Positive / (Negative) \$'000	Indicator
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	(2,345)	(364)	1,981	
Operating Surplus / (Deficit) Adjusted*	(261)	1,722	1,981	
Borrowings at 30 June 2024	24,057	15,399	8,658	
Net Cash at 30 June 2024	88	2,913	2,825	
Operating Surplus Ratio 3 Year rolling	1.0%	2.5%	1.5%	
Net Financial Liabilities	66.1%	37.4%	28.7%	
Asset Renewal Funding Ratio	116.8%	109.0%	(7.8%)	

2023-24 Estimated Results	Adopted LTFP \$'000	Forecast \$'000	Change – Positive / (Negative) \$'000	Indicator
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	(476)	(472)	4	
Operating Surplus / (Deficit) Adjusted*	1,608	1,612	4	
Borrowings at 30 June 2024	16,805	15,399	1,406	
Net Cash at 30 June 2024	183	2,913	2,730	
Operating Surplus Ratio 3 Year rolling	2.4%	2.4%	0.0%	
Net Financial Liabilities	46.2%	37.3%	8.9%	
Asset Renewal Funding Ratio	108.6%	109.0%	0.4%	

2024-25 Original Budget	Approved LTFP and Original Budget \$'000	Revised LTFP \$'000	Change – Positive / (Negative) \$'000	Indicator
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	(437)	(254)	183	
Borrowings at 30 June 2025	40,605	39,949	656	
Net Cash at 30 June 2025	39	44	5	
Operating Surplus Ratio 3 Year rolling	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	
Net Financial Liabilities	93.6%	91.1%	2.5%	
Asset Renewal Funding Ratio	129.4%	125.5%	(3.9%)	

10 Year Long Term Financial Plan	Approved LTFP \$'000	Revised LTFP \$'000	Change – Positive / (Negative) \$'000	Indicator
Operating Surplus / (Deficit) - Cumulative Result at 30 June 2034	11,188	11,763	575	
Borrowings at 30 June 2034	2,144	5,773	(3,629)	
Net Cash at 30 June 2034	29	61	46	
Operating Surplus Ratio 3 Year rolling at 30 June 2024	3.5%	3.5%	0.0%	
Net Financial Liabilities at 30 June 2034	11.8%	17.0%	(5.2%)	
Asset Renewal Funding Ratio – Ave	105.6%	108.8%	3.2%	

The revised long term financial plan shows either improvement in all critical areas and all key performance indicators continue to be achieved.

OPERATIONS

- General Rate Revenue and Service Charges increments have been reviewed to ensure funding and service level provision is maintained in line with sustainability requirements.
- Operating Costs for Employee, Contractors and Materials have been based on a recalculation of budgets based on current expenditure trends, contractual arrangements and estimates for inflation and other cost growth.
- Depreciation has been calculated on existing asset classes, structures, valuation, and condition rating; asset componentisation has been included as appropriate to selected asset types. A review of useful lives, asset condition and replacement cost of all assets and components is an ongoing task refining the data.
- The LTFP assumes that the Federal Government budget will continue to supplement South Australia road funding application through Supplementary Road Funding and reflect revenue of \$239K in the year 2024/25 and indexed into future years.
- The Roads to Recovery (RTR) grant funded program will continue in 2024/25, the Federal Government budget has announced an increase in the roads to recover payment additional funding is being used to increase footpath replacement over the long term financial plan.
- Full Cost Attribution - an allocation of internal services to relevant charge areas has been allocated in the LTFP. This allocation from internal to external service areas does not affect the overall net result.
- Provisions have been estimated for the forward years of salary growth due to increased population and support costs for growth infrastructure that is being built.

CAPITAL

- Asset Renewal and/or Replacement expenditure is provided for on various buildings, recreation, transport, stormwater, bridge, CWMS and plant & equipment assets and service level changes at \$105.208m providing for future needs and aligned to the Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans.

- The current Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans are currently on consultation and the above estimates meet the current required renewal and replacement program from the asset models.
- Infrastructure programs for new and upgraded roads, recreation and open space, bike path, bridges, carparks, footpath program, stormwater and the continuous improvement program \$52.531m.

LOAN PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST REPAYMENTS

- Council's loan debt is predicted to peak at \$41.91m in 2025/26. The net loan balance outstanding as at 30 June 2025 will be \$39.949m and a projected balance of \$5.773m by 30 June 2034.
- Financing cost will increase over the 2024/25 and 2025/26 years from the current interest rate percentage of 1.86% to 4.14% of operating revenue in support of growth infrastructure development and return to 0.36% by 30 June 2034.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

- KPI 1: Operating Surplus. A deficit for two years being 2024/25 to 2025/26; accumulative surplus by year 2033/34 of \$11.387m. The general rate increases for years for 2024/25 to 2026/27 at 4.3%, 3.0% for 2027/28 to 2029/30, 2.75% for 2030/31 to 2032/33 and 2.5% for the remaining years in the 10 year LTFP. Growth for the future is estimated at 0.86% average per annum excluding the Concordia development.
- KPI 2: Operating surplus ratios average 3 years. Council's forecast retrospective results range from (0.8%) to 3.5%; Annual ranges from (0.8%) to 3.7%.
- KPI 3: Net Financial Liabilities. The forecast is 91.1% in 2024/25 and peaks at 91.2% in 2025/26 and by year 2033/34 is projected to be at 17.0%.
- KPI 4: Asset Renewal Funding Ratio. The target is being met over the ten-year period, the average being 108.8%. Council has reviewed its financial parameters for the LTFP including the indexation used for forward projections on income and expenditure.
- In line with Council Policy a regular review of Council's treasury management is undertake to ensure a positive cash position is maintained.

It should be noted that one indicator for rolling 3-year retrospective average for the operating surplus ratio is in deficit at (0.8%) but within the target of no lower than (2%) in the 2025/26 financial year. This result is influenced by the prepayment of financial grants that would have been paid in 2023/24 financial but were paid in the 2022/23 financial year. The target ranges for all other indicators for all years attains a financially sustainable position over the 10-year period of the LTFP. Council has the capacity to undertake growth asset construction, operational costs and other minor additional projects along with consideration of other major works in future years.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Barossa Council is committed to the principles of financial sustainability. The importance of this is to ensure that each generation 'pays their way', rather than any generation 'living off their assets' and leaving it to future generations to address the issue of repairing worn out infrastructure. Such issues are frequently referred to as 'intergenerational equity'.

With community infrastructure such as recreation and sporting facilities, roads, footpaths and stormwater drainage comprising a major proportion of Council's balance sheet, it is important that Council implement appropriate strategies towards the effective maintenance and renewal of such assets to ensure it is fairly and equitably funded from current ratepayers (general rate income) and future ratepayers (long term loan borrowings).

Given the importance of ensuring financial sustainability of operations in the longer term, it is a legislative requirement that Council adopt Long Term Financial Management and Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans (minimum 10 years) as part of future planning.

The Long Term Financial Plan is designed as a 'high-level' summarised document towards the future planning of Council's financial operations; particularly in relation to key components such as rate movements, service levels to our community, major infrastructure asset replacement/renewal, loan financing and internal cash reserves. Council conducts an annual review of its Long Term Financial Plan each year.

The financial sustainability of Council is measured by the surplus/deficit (before capital revenues) disclosed in the Income Statement; with a consistent breakeven or operating surplus result indicative of a Council that is financially sustainable in the long term. Other financial sustainability indicators are separately included within this report.

FUNDING PLAN

Council uses a mix of service, user and statutory charges, grants, commercial, other income and loan financing as a means of funding both operating and capital expenditure. Refer to the appendix for funding the long term indexation, financial assumptions and estimates and the review of financial indicators.

To assist in keeping rates affordable, Council is limiting general rates income to an increase per annum to provide required service levels to the community over the life of this Plan, the general rate increases for years for 2024/25 to 2027/28 is 4.3%, 2027/28 to 2029/30 is 3.0%, 2030/31 to 2032/33 is 2.75% and the remainder of the 10 year LTFP is 2.5%. Council is estimating growth will be 0.86% average per annum over the forward estimates. Selected services areas use services charges and service rates to recover the cost, including - Waste services for Refuse, Recycling and Green Organic with 2024/25 at 3.75% and future years range from 2.5% to 3.75%; and CWMS with 2024/25 and all future years at 2.5%.

Council is planning to spend an average of \$15.77m per annum (including indexation and The Big Project) on capital projects and an average of \$44.13m per annum on day-to-day essential services (operational expenditure, excluding interest and depreciation but including indexation) over the next 10 years.

OUR FINANCIAL PRINCIPLES

As part of its commitment to financial sustainability, Council operates under the following key financial principles in preparing the Annual Business Plan:

- Ongoing education and training such that all Council Members and Staff understand and fulfil their financial governance responsibilities
- Policies and practices that support decision making and assessment of performance
- Budget and financial information is presented at a strategic level, succinct and easy to follow
- Budget and financial information is based on the Long Term Financial Plan
- The Asset Management Plans are maintained and reflect whole of life costs
- The Rating strategy is equitable and generates sufficient revenue to meet financial needs
- Financial performance is managed using suitable financial indicators and targets
- A robust audit and internal control process is in place to ensure effective financial and governance compliance
- Information provided to the community is open, transparent and relevant.



APPENDIX 1: KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND FINANCIAL PARAMETERS 2024/25 TO 2033/34

Consolidated Results: Key Performance Indicators and Financial Parameters		2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34
Draft Bud - next years draft; LTFF = Long Term Financial Plan		Q4 Forecast	Budget	LTFF	LTFF	LTFF	LTFF	LTFF	LTFF	LTFF	LTFF	LTFF
		\$'000 or %	\$'000 or %	\$'000 or %	\$'000 or %	\$'000 or %	\$'000 or %	\$'000 or %	\$'000 or %	\$'000 or %	\$'000 or %	\$'000 or %
Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) - Summary		Adopted target										
	Surplus year 10											
KPI 1 - Operating Surplus cumulative forward 10 year period	(472)	(254)	(670)	(495)	59	1,300	3,063	4,772	6,986	9,471	11,763	
KPI 2 - Operating Surplus Ratio - Rolling 3 year - retrospective average	(2%) to 10%	2.4%	0.1%	(0.8%)	(0.3%)	0.2%	1.1%	2.0%	2.6%	3.0%	3.3%	3.5%
KPI 2 - Operating Surplus Ratio - Rolling 5 year - retrospective average	(2%) to 10%	3.4%	2.5%	1.2%	(0.0%)	(0.2%)	0.4%	1.1%	1.8%	2.4%	3.0%	3.2%
KPI 2 - Operating Surplus Ratio - Annual	(1.0%)	(0.5%)	(0.8%)	0.3%	1.0%	2.1%	2.9%	2.7%	3.4%	3.7%	3.3%	
KPI 3 - Net Financial Liabilities ratio	0-100%	37.3%	91.1%	91.2%	81.6%	70.7%	60.4%	50.4%	41.1%	34.3%	25.6%	17.0%
KPI 4 - Asset Renewal Funding Ratio - Annual	80% to 110%	109.0%	125.5%	126.9%	112.3%	98.6%	94.7%	101.2%	105.6%	107.7%	108.0%	107.1%
Financial parameters - Indexation												
RATE REVENUE INCREASES												
General - Rate Revenue Net Increase (excl growth)				4.30%	4.30%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.50%
Growth-Development - General rates				1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	0.75%	0.75%	0.75%	0.75%	0.75%
CWMS - Service Charge & Rates Increase (+ growth 0.5-1.5%)				2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%
Refuse, Recycling and Green Organic Services Charge Net Increase (excl growth)				3.75%	3.75%	3.75%	2.75%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%
OPERATING REVENUE												
Operating Grants				3.0%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Statutory Charges				3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
User Charges				3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Investment Income				1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%
Reimbursements				3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Other Revenue				3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
OPERATING EXPENSES												
Service Cost Natural Growth				0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.5%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
Employee Costs				3.1%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Contracts, Materials & Other				2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Energy Costs				3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
Water Costs				3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
Debtenture & Cash Advance Loan interest rate				5.5%	5.0%	5.0%	4.5%	4.5%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
Insurance				4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
ASSET REVALUATION												
Land Assets				6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%
Building Assets				0.0%	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	0.0%
Recreation Assets				0.0%	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	0.0%
Infrastructure Assets				0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%
CWMS				0.0%	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	0.0%
Stormwater Assets				7.5%	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Equipment Assets				3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
ASSET RENEWAL EXPENDITURE												
Infrastructure renewal increments				3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Office fleet vehicles				3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%

Included in Budget Estimates

APPENDIX 2: LONG TERM PLAN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024/25 TO 2033/34

A2-1 Consolidated Results: Budgeted Statement of Comprehensive Income	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34
	Q4 Forecast \$'000	Budget \$'000	LTFP \$'000	LTFP \$'000	LTFP \$'000	LTFP \$'000	LTFP \$'000	LTFP \$'000	LTFP \$'000	LTFP \$'000	LTFP \$'000
REVENUES											
Rates	37,892	39,840	41,855	43,973	45,735	47,531	49,291	51,016	52,802	54,650	56,452
Statutory Charges	837	825	849	873	899	917	935	954	973	992	1,012
User Charges	3,927	3,991	4,109	4,231	4,357	4,475	4,596	4,721	4,849	4,981	5,116
Grants, subsidies and contributions	2,139	4,728	4,635	4,658	4,835	4,932	5,031	5,133	5,237	5,344	5,454
Investment Income	175	150	154	158	162	166	170	174	178	183	187
Reimbursements	62	74	69	61	52	44	36	29	23	18	12
Other Income	1,039	582	600	618	636	649	662	675	689	702	716
Net Gain - Joint Venture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL INCOME	46,071	50,190	52,271	54,572	56,676	58,714	60,721	62,702	64,751	66,870	68,949
EXPENSES											
Employee Costs	17,428	18,836	19,420	20,166	20,980	21,799	22,500	23,224	23,972	24,744	25,540
Materials, Contracts & Other expenses	17,671	19,047	19,369	20,297	20,709	21,453	22,215	23,040	23,745	24,705	25,537
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	10,674	10,816	11,741	12,108	12,823	12,981	13,195	13,976	14,186	14,482	15,346
Finance Costs	770	1,745	2,157	1,826	1,610	1,240	1,048	753	634	454	234
Net Gain - Joint Venture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	46,543	50,444	52,687	54,397	56,122	57,473	58,958	60,993	62,537	64,385	66,657
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(472)	(254)	(416)	175	554	1,241	1,763	1,709	2,214	2,485	2,292
Asset disposal & fair value adjustments	(668)	(889)	(674)	(785)	(976)	(1,077)	(1,129)	(1,164)	(1,226)	(1,281)	(1,343)
Amounts specifically for new or upgraded assets	193	5,915	4,527	70	70	70	343	711	70	70	70
Physical Resources received free of charge	1,371	2,203	2,433	2,525	2,609	2,103	2,140	2,216	2,283	2,333	2,416
Operating result from discontinued operations											
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	424	6,975	5,870	1,985	2,257	2,337	3,117	3,472	3,341	3,607	3,435
Transfer to Equity Statement / Adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Changes in revaluation surplus - infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	424	6,975	5,870	1,985	2,257	2,337	3,117	3,472	3,341	3,607	3,435

APPENDIX 2: LONG TERM PLAN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024/25 TO 2033/34 (CONTINUED)

A2-2 Consolidated Results: Budgeted Statement of Financial Position	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34
	Q4 Forecast \$'000	Budget \$'000	LTFP \$'000	LTFP \$'000	LTFP \$'000	LTFP \$'000	LTFP \$'000	LTFP \$'000	LTFP \$'000	LTFP \$'000	LTFP \$'000
ASSETS											
Current Assets											
Cash and cash equivalents	2,913	44	53	65	13	11	19	25	20	51	61
Trade & other receivables	2,960	2,966	2,972	2,967	2,952	2,952	2,951	2,957	2,947	2,933	2,871
Other financial assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inventories	245	245	245	245	245	245	245	245	245	245	245
	6,118	3,255	3,270	3,277	3,210	3,208	3,215	3,227	3,212	3,229	3,177
Non-Current Assets held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Current Assets	6,118	3,255	3,270	3,277	3,210	3,208	3,215	3,227	3,212	3,229	3,177
Non-Current Assets											
Financial Assets	1,106	985	859	737	630	524	418	307	205	118	92
Equity accounted investments in Council businesses	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	426,654	471,652	488,849	501,872	516,587	524,892	538,971	555,006	566,673	582,000	622,701
Other Non-Current Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Non-Current Assets	430,023	474,900	491,971	504,872	519,480	527,679	541,652	557,576	569,141	584,381	625,056
TOTAL ASSETS	436,141	478,155	495,241	508,149	522,690	530,887	544,867	560,803	572,353	587,610	628,233
LIABILITIES											
Current Liabilities											
Trade & Other Payables	5,074	5,077	5,081	5,084	5,088	5,092	5,096	5,100	5,104	5,108	5,112
Borrowings	13,024	37,041	39,718	37,104	33,116	28,934	24,267	19,511	16,056	11,070	5,692
Provisions	3,001	3,008	3,014	3,022	3,029	3,038	3,044	3,050	3,056	3,063	3,084
Total Current Liabilities	21,099	45,126	47,813	45,210	41,233	37,064	32,407	27,661	24,216	19,241	13,888
Non-Current Liabilities											
Borrowings (External)	2,375	2,908	2,192	1,664	1,129	703	487	381	270	169	81
Provisions	682	682	682	682	682	682	682	682	682	682	682
Total Non-Current Liabilities	3,057	3,590	2,874	2,346	1,811	1,385	1,169	1,063	952	851	763
TOTAL LIABILITIES	24,156	48,716	50,687	47,556	43,044	38,449	33,576	28,724	25,168	20,092	14,651
NET ASSETS	411,985	429,439	444,554	460,593	479,646	492,438	511,291	532,079	547,185	567,518	613,582
EQUITY											
Accumulated Surplus	105,977	112,254	118,076	118,871	120,653	122,631	125,473	128,688	131,941	135,313	138,482
Asset Revaluation Reserve	290,470	304,871	313,860	328,345	344,804	354,849	370,168	387,004	398,268	414,693	456,891
Other Reserves	15,538	12,314	12,618	13,377	14,189	14,958	15,650	16,387	16,976	17,512	18,209
TOTAL EQUITY	411,985	429,439	444,554	460,593	479,646	492,438	511,291	532,079	547,185	567,518	613,582

APPENDIX 2: LONG TERM PLAN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024/25 TO 2033/34 (CONTINUED)

A2-3 Consolidated Results: Budgeted Statement of Cash Flows											
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34
	Q4 Forecast	Budget	LTFP	LTFP	LTFP	LTFP	LTFP	LTFP	LTFP	LTFP	LTFP
	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES											
Receipts:											
Operating receipts	45,905	50,040	52,117	54,414	56,514	58,547	60,552	62,528	64,573	66,688	68,743
Investment receipts	175	150	154	158	162	166	170	174	178	183	187
Payments:											
Operating payments to suppliers & employees	(35,094)	(37,876)	(38,779)	(40,453)	(41,678)	(43,240)	(44,705)	(46,254)	(47,706)	(49,438)	(51,066)
Finance payments	(770)	(1,746)	(2,157)	(1,826)	(1,610)	(1,240)	(1,048)	(753)	(634)	(454)	(234)
Net cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities	10,216	10,568	11,335	12,293	13,388	14,233	14,969	15,695	16,411	16,979	17,650
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES											
Receipts:											
Amounts specifically for new or upgraded assets	193	5,915	4,527	70	70	70	343	711	70	70	70
Sale of replaced assets	206	368	505	366	377	389	402	414	427	441	455
Repayment of loans by community groups	101	115	120	127	122	107	106	106	111	101	87
Payments:											
Expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets	(9,331)	(10,257)	(10,067)	(7,810)	(8,951)	(9,623)	(10,474)	(11,319)	(11,476)	(11,861)	(12,300)
Expenditure on new/upgraded assets	(11,505)	(33,276)	(8,388)	(1,910)	(551)	(580)	(462)	(748)	(1,986)	(618)	(490)
Net cash provided by (or used in) Investment Activities	(20,336)	(37,135)	(13,303)	(9,157)	(8,933)	(9,637)	(10,085)	(10,836)	(12,854)	(11,867)	(12,178)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES											
Receipts:											
Proceeds from borrowings	6,844	27,350	2,700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Payments:											
Repayment of borrowings	(977)	(3,638)	(714)	(3,126)	(4,508)	(4,599)	(4,875)	(4,856)	(3,561)	(5,081)	(5,462)
Repayment of Lease	(49)	(14)	(7)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities	7,982	23,698	1,979	(3,126)	(4,508)	(4,599)	(4,875)	(4,856)	(3,561)	(5,081)	(5,462)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash held	(2,138)	(2,869)	11	10	(53)	(3)	9	3	(4)	31	10
Cash at beginning of period	5,052	2,913	44	53	65	13	11	19	25	20	51
CASH AT END OF PERIOD	2,913	44	53	65	13	11	19	25	20	51	61

APPENDIX 2: LONG TERM PLAN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024/25 TO 2033/34 (CONTINUED)

A2-4 Consolidated Results: Budgeted Uniform Presentation of Finances	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34
	Q4 Forecast \$ '000	Budget \$ '000	LTFF \$ '000	LTFF \$ '000	LTFF \$ '000	LTFF \$ '000	LTFF \$ '000	LTFF \$ '000	LTFF \$ '000	LTFF \$ '000	LTFF \$ '000
Operating Revenues	46,071	50,190	52,271	54,572	56,676	58,714	60,721	62,702	64,751	66,870	68,949
less Operating Expenses	(46,543)	(50,444)	(52,687)	(54,397)	(56,122)	(57,473)	(58,958)	(60,993)	(62,537)	(64,385)	(66,657)
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	(472)	(254)	(416)	175	554	1,241	1,763	1,709	2,214	2,485	2,292
less Net outlays on existing Assets											
Capital expenditure on renewal and replacement of existing assets	(9,331)	(10,257)	(10,067)	(7,810)	(8,951)	(9,623)	(10,474)	(11,319)	(11,476)	(11,861)	(12,300)
less Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	10,674	10,816	11,741	12,108	12,823	12,981	13,195	13,976	14,186	14,482	15,346
less Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets	206	368	505	366	377	389	402	414	427	441	455
	1,549	927	2,179	4,664	4,249	3,747	3,123	3,071	3,137	3,062	3,501
less Net outlays on New and Upgraded Assets											
Capital expenditure on New and Upgraded Assets	(11,505)	(33,276)	(8,388)	(1,910)	(551)	(580)	(462)	(748)	(1,986)	(618)	(490)
less Amounts received specifically for New and Upgraded Assets	193	5,915	4,527	70	70	70	343	711	70	70	70
less Proceeds from Sale of Surplus Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(11,312)	(27,361)	(3,861)	(1,840)	(481)	(510)	(119)	(37)	(1,916)	(548)	(420)
Net Lending / (Borrowing) for Financial Year	(10,235)	(26,688)	(2,098)	2,999	4,322	4,478	4,767	4,743	3,435	4,999	5,373

APPENDIX 3: CAPITAL EXPENDITURE 2024/25 TO 2033/34

A3 Consolidated Results: Budgeted Capital Expenditure												
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	
	Q4 Forecast \$' 000	Budget \$' 000	LTFF \$' 000	LTFF \$' 000	LTFF \$' 000	LTFF \$' 000	LTFF \$' 000	LTFF \$' 000	LTFF \$' 000	LTFF \$' 000	LTFF \$' 000	LTFF \$' 000
Renewal/Replacement Capital summary: Non-Discretionary												
Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buildings	1,664	4,794	3,603	963	1,175	1,187	1,197	1,699	1,368	1,379	1,389	
Recreation	1,665	85	120	329	326	336	347	358	369	380	392	
Transport - Roads & Footpaths	4,607	4,418	3,889	4,428	5,096	5,570	5,756	5,949	6,148	6,355	6,811	
Stormwater, Bridges & Floodplain	113	0	312	321	331	341	351	362	373	384	395	
CWMS	96	782	773	488	606	691	800	809	959	1,065	962	
Equipment - Plant & Vehicles	991	958	1,201	929	958	988	1,019	1,051	1,084	1,117	1,152	
Other Assets	195	112	152	154	557	568	1,079	1,166	1,189	1,213	1,237	
	9,331	11,149	10,050	7,612	9,049	9,681	10,549	11,394	11,490	11,893	12,338	
New/Upgrade Capital summary: Discretionary												
Land	1,556	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Buildings (includes TBP program)	3,613	5,236	7,506	187	0	0	0	341	0	0	0	
Recreation (includes TBP program)	4,084	22,015	182	296	187	190	193	196	1,803	203	206	
Transport - Roads & Footpaths	1,011	1,591	244	597	98	101	105	109	112	116	120	
Stormwater, Bridges & Floodplain	393	1,369	385	389	393	538	401	404	408	411	415	
CWMS	535	3,176	271	131	34	33	35	31	81	81	81	
Equipment - Plant & Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other	313	959	57	59	60	62	63	65	67	68	70	
	11,505	34,346	8,645	1,659	772	924	797	1,146	2,471	879	892	
Total Capital Expenditure	20,836	45,495	18,695	9,271	9,821	10,605	11,346	12,540	13,961	12,772	13,230	

DEBATE REPORT

7.4 Development and Community Services

7.4.1 GREATER ADELAIDE REGIONAL PLAN CONSULTATION

**Author: Manager Development Services
24/87993**

PURPOSE

To seek Council endorsement of the draft submission prepared in relation to the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan consultation.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the draft Greater Adelaide Regional Plan submission, contained within Attachment 1.

REPORT

Background

The State Planning Commission released the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (GARP) for consultation on 23 September 2024 for a six week period, closing on 4 November 2024.

The GARP incorporates 27 Local Government areas and extends from Cape Jervis in the south, to Murray Bridge in the east and the Barossa in the north.

The GARP will replace the current plan, known as the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide. The GARP is a 30 year vision for Greater Adelaide and will identify growth over a 15 to 30 year period by investigating and guiding:

- Where houses and employment land will go;
- How housing and population will be serviced;
- Which areas need conservation and protection; and
- What major infrastructure is needed and how it will be provided.

Prior to release of the GARP, a discussion paper was prepared and released for consultation in August 2023. Council prepared a submission, which was endorsed at the 21 November 2023 Council meeting and is contained in Attachment 2.

The State Planning Commission released a "What We Heard" summary of the feedback received during consultation which was presented to Council as an Information Report at the 20 February 2024 Council meeting.

The State Planning Commission has provided various materials to assist with the GARP consultation. The Summary of the GARP is contained in Attachment 3 and Frequently Asked Questions are contained in Attachment 4.

Discussion

Council's draft submission to the GARP is contained within Attachment 1.

The draft submission reinforces the six key recommendations made in Council's earlier submission from 21 November 2023 and makes four additional recommendations.

The 10 recommendations reflect the key priorities identified within Council's Growth and Character Planning agenda and identifies key issues and opportunities for The Barossa Council.

The draft submission provides explanatory detail in relation to each of the 10 recommendations, as follows:

- **Recommendation 1** – Retain the Barossa Character Preservation District Addendum within the GARP.
- **Recommendation 2** – Request the Ministerial Code Amendment to the Barossa Character Area Overlay be scheduled within the future SPC Planning Program.
- **Recommendation 3** – Seek to support Council in implementing the final recommendations under the Growth and Infrastructure Investment Strategy, acknowledging that Council is yet to endorse the final Strategy.
- **Recommendation 4** – Infrastructure investment for Concordia is identified and is delivered through an equitable funding arrangement and Council is engaged in all facets of structure planning and delivery and as the relevant authority land division and on land development assessment.
- **Recommendation 5** – Establish a peri-urban sub-region within the GARP.
- **Recommendation 6** – Significant State investment in trunk infrastructure is necessary to support the future growth planned for within the greater Gawler region inclusive of roads and rail, water, sewer, power, schools and hospitals. Investment planning for services are also required for essential and emergency services and transacting with the government.
- **Recommendation 7** – Review the housing targets set for The Barossa Council to ensure they are aligned with future planned growth and programming of land rezoning and land development (ie. Concordia).
- **Recommendation 8** – Request further engagement with staff at Planning & Land Use Services regarding expansion of regulated and significant tree protections to townships to support Council implementation.
- **Recommendation 9** - Consider future network for freight task through Adelaide Hills, noting the objective to promote bypass of freight via the Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass to minimise impact to townships, the Barossa and Concordia.
- **Recommendation 10** – Support for Sub-zone policy in Concordia to deliver housing diversity and new performance outcomes as outlined within the GARP.

Summary and Conclusion

The GARP is the key document guiding planning outcomes for Greater Adelaide for the next 30 years. Council's submission reflects the key priorities identified within Council's Growth and Character Planning agenda and identifies key issues and opportunities for The Barossa Council.

It is recommended that Council endorse the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan submission, contained within Attachment 1.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

- Attachment 1 Draft Submission to the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan [↓](#) 
- Attachment 2 Greater Adelaide Regional Plan Submission - The Barossa Council - 6 November 2023 - pdf [↓](#) 
- Attachment 3 Greater Adelaide Regional Plan -Summary [↓](#) 
- Attachment 4 Frequently Asked Questions - Greater Adelaide Regional Plan [↓](#) 

Supporting references

The Greater Adelaide Regional Plan, Summary and Fact Sheets can be viewed via the following link:

[Have your say on the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan | YourSAy](#)

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Community Plan



Natural Environment and Built Heritage



Infrastructure

Goal

- 1 The Barossa has sustainable farmland providing diverse and stable returns, while protecting the unique natural environment and biodiversity of the region.
- 2 The history of our region including aboriginal sites is reflected in our streetscapes and our historic buildings are maintained for future generations.
- 7 Community infrastructure planning is aligned to both current and the future needs of the community

Strategies

- 1.1 Ensure land use planning and resource use protects the quality of the natural environment, the existing character of rural landscapes, historic significance and the high value of agricultural land.
- 2.2 Ensure clearly defined townships are maintained to manage residential and commercial development that is sensitive to the natural environment and areas of historical significance.
- 7.2 Ensure both current and future infrastructure needs are met in a proactive rather than reactive way.

Legislative Requirements

Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016

FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial or resource implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The GARP is a state-led consultation and is open to everyone in the community. Therefore, the consultation did not trigger Council's Public Consultation Policy. Council however promoted the GARP Discussion Paper consultation through its facebook channels.

Reference: TRIM

15 October 2024

Planning and Land Use Services
Attention: Growth Management Team
Department for Housing and Urban Development
GPO Box 1815
ADELAIDE SA 5001

By email: PlanSAsubmissions@sa.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission: Greater Adelaide Regional Plan

The Barossa Council (Council) thanks the State Planning Commission (SPC) for the opportunity to make comment on the review of the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (GARP).

This submission seeks to:

- Reiterate key points made in Council's submission from 6 November 2023 in respect to the GARP Discussion Paper consultation;
- Identify additional recommendations that should be embedded within the finalised GARP.

Council submission to GARP Discussion Paper consultation

Council wishes to reiterate the following key points made in Council's submission from 6 November 2023 and provide an update in respect to Council's draft Growth and Infrastructure Investment Strategy.

Barossa Character Preservation District Addendum in 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide

The current 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide contains an addendum outlining the role of the Character Preservation Legislation, the special character of each district and focused policies under the below overarching headings. These headings align with the five key character values identified in *The Character Preservation (Barossa Valley) Act 2012*:

- The rural and natural landscape and visual amenity of the district;
- Heritage attributes;
- Built form of townships as they relate to the district.
- Viticulture, agriculture and associated industries;
- The scenic and tourism attributes of the district.

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The released GARP does not make mention of the addendum. This is considered to be a lost opportunity and does not embed the significant resources and effort made to develop the addendum under the current 30 Year Plan.

The addendum provides important and focused policy specific to the Barossa Character Preservation District. This policy provides the necessary policy direction for preservation of the unique character of the Barossa and should be adopted. This policy is very much still relevant to the Barossa and reflects the substantive previous effort of policy development and community engagement.

Council is requesting this addendum be retained and carried forward into the GARP.

Recommendation 1: Retain the Barossa Character Preservation District Addendum within the GARP.

Strengthening of Barossa Character Area Overlay

The Barossa Valley has a special and unique character. It is a world-renowned premium food, wine and agricultural region in South Australia that supports a vibrant tourism sector and successful agricultural industries. However, we face growing competition and challenges in an ever changing local, national and world market.

The GARP acknowledges the importance of Barossa and makes clear that the Barossa Character Preservation Area shall not be altered so as to ensure ongoing preservation of the important scenic landscapes, built form and heritage and important economic contribution through viticulture, agriculture, tourism and value adding.

Council acknowledges the in-principle support provided by the SPC in 2022 to lead a Code Amendment to provide a greater level of detail for guiding the assessment of development within the Overlay, particularly regarding value adding and design. Council also thanks PLUS for recent correspondence responding to Council's request to initiate the Code Amendment.

Council acknowledges the Ministerial Code Amendment is not identified within the SPC's priorities for the coming year, however, it would like to take opportunity to reiterate its support for the Code Amendment and requests that this be identified within the future work program of the SPC for the following year.

Council will also participate in future SPC Code Amendments in respect to Tourism Development and Interface Management and thanks PLUS for initiating initial discussions with Council staff in relation to these important matters. Council staff are also in initial discussions with ODASA in respect to the merits of a local design review panel and how this might be applied to the Barossa.

Recommendation 2: Request the Ministerial Code Amendment to the Barossa Character Area Overlay be scheduled within the future SPC Planning Program.

Council's Draft Growth and Infrastructure Investment Strategy

Following an early discussion paper that was released for community feedback in 2023 that attracted more than 700 pieces of feedback from this consultation, Council released a Draft Growth and Infrastructure Investment Strategy for consultation in early 2024. The consultation feedback was overwhelming and attracted in total 467 completed surveys and 88 written submissions.

Council received the Consultation Summary Report prepared by URPS and authorised its public release in August 2024, noting no policy decisions have been made and further work is to be undertaken. Council is now exploring how the strategy can respond to the extensive consultation feedback prior to a final decision made, which is expected by end of 2024.

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Council also acknowledges and appreciates the feedback received from government agencies including PLUS and DIT during the 2024 consultation. The agency feedback is being considered as part of the final adoption of the strategy.

The timing of release of the GARP provides further opportunity to align the Growth Strategy with the GARP. Key areas of implication within the GARP for the draft strategy are:

- An identified shortfall of future expected employment land in the "Northern Plains & Barossa Region" by 2051 in order of 123ha. The draft strategy seeks to identify opportunities for new employment land to address current and future employment needs;
- Water security for the Barossa and opportunities to increase water supply such as through The Barossa New Water project and recycled water schemes, which is a fundamental issue in furthering economic growth and prosperity within the region;
- Support for increased tourism development to leverage off the Barossa and Eden Valley Wine regions and significant investment in Barossa such as Barossa Park Project at Lyndoch and the Tanunda Creative Industries Centre;
- Importance of local area planning to consider how future housing can be provided to townships within the Character Preservation District to meet local housing targets suited to the unique character of individual townships.

The final Strategy is further considering these important matters.

Council will provide PLUS with further update regarding the outcomes of the growth strategy following adoption.

Recommendation 3: Seek Council support in implementing the final recommendations under the Growth and Infrastructure Investment Strategy, acknowledging that Council is yet to endorse the final Strategy.

Concordia Growth Area

Concordia is a significant growth area for Greater Adelaide within the growth area anticipated to accommodate in the order of at least 10,000 homes. The Concordia Growth Area will effectively double the population of the Council and represents the current largest planned growth area within Greater Metropolitan Adelaide.

The Concordia Growth Area is subject to a Code Amendment that was initiated by the Minister for Planning on 28 April 2023.

Council acknowledges the pivotal role played by the Housing, Infrastructure & Planning Development Unit (HIPDU) in coordinating the investigations necessary to underpin the structure plan for the growth area and the coordination of necessary infrastructure agencies to support the development.

Council appreciates the collaborative approach adopted by HIPDU and PLUS in working with Council to facilitate the successful planning for this significant new community.

Council has endorsed a vision, mission and principles for the Concordia growth area and has adopted policy positions in respect to Transport Investigations and Sport, Recreation and Open Space provisions which articulate Council's imperatives for development of this new community.

It is critical that Concordia is appropriately serviced by infrastructure with costs fairly apportioned by all stakeholders, including developers and state agencies including Department of Infrastructure and Transport, SA Water and SA Health, Education Services, Emergency Services and Community Safety.

Council wishes to reiterate the importance of resolving key infrastructure matters through the Code Amendment process including transport (both road and rail), water and sewer, smart city services and power supply. This includes two pieces of major infrastructure investment as follows:

- Planning and delivery of the north-east link road connection to connect Sturt Highway to Barossa Valley Way and to improve access to Southern Barossa, connect Concordia and Gawler East to Roseworthy and by-pass Gawler;
- A mass transit extension of the Gawler rail corridor to Concordia planned for within the alignment of the existing Barossa rail corridor with opportunity for future park and ride to service Concordia and surrounding communities in Gawler East, Springwood and southern Barossa.

Trunk infrastructure, especially water and sewer requires significant investment to bring forward investment in new housing in a timely manner. Growth needs to be sequenced in an affordable and orderly fashion and appropriate levels of and accessible social infrastructure need to be catered for.

Council also wishes to take this opportunity to reiterate its request for a Sub-Zone for Concordia that should be embedded within the Concordia Code Amendment. Council has drafted policy for a new Concordia Sub-Zone that has been presented to staff at PLUS for consideration.

Recommendation 4: Infrastructure investment for Concordia is identified and is delivered through an equitable funding arrangement and Council is engaged in all facets of structure planning and delivery.

Peri-Urban Planning

With 89% of the GARP region outside of the urban footprint, attention needs to be given to the importance of the peri-urban region. The region is a popular place to live, provides substantive employment and wealth creation for the state, is a major tourist attraction and main water catchment for metropolitan Adelaide.

A peri-urban sub-region within the GARP is supported to explicitly acknowledge the importance of this region within the Greater Adelaide Region and to provide an opportunity to set further strategic objectives for this important area. Key objectives are:

- Primary Production Priority Areas should be identified within the GARP;
- Major employment generators should be identified and protected;
- Strategic resources like major extractive industries and landfills protected from future land use encroachment;
- Tourism development and value adding promoted that is compatible with the character of the district;
- Buffers and interfaces between incompatible uses within the peri-urban region further considered and embedded within planning policy;
- Rural living areas offer a legitimate housing choice and the future for these areas need to be considered.

Recommendation 5: Establish a peri-urban sub-region within the GARP.

North-Eastern Spine

The GARP proposes support for urban growth in greenfield and satellite cities along four key transit corridors (spines). The north-eastern spine is the most pertinent to the Barossa as it is identified as a potential beneficiary from investment in Concordia. The GARP identifies significant growth along the north-eastern spine in the nature of future expansion of Roseworthy and Kudla and important opportunity for more local housing in townships such as Kapunda, at the edge of the Barossa.

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The expansion of Roseworthy and Kudla is substantial with 33,300 new homes identified in Roseworthy to 2051 and 13,400 dwellings in Kudla to 2051. When considered with future growth in Concordia and Gawler East (Springwood), this has potential to result in order of 60,000 new homes within the greater Gawler area and when considered with existing population, is expected to result in a regional city in order of 150,000 people by 2051.

While Council does not object in principle to the expansion of Roseworthy and Kudla as indicated within the GARP, significant state investment in infrastructure is needed to take account of the combined growth that will occur within the region. State investment is critical to support successful new communities within these areas and must include state road and rail investment, water, sewer, power, schools and hospitals.

It is further highlighted that in greenfield growth areas, adequate land is identified and set aside for regional scale social infrastructure early in the planning process, in order to generate significant savings on land costs. This requires early state investment prior to advanced development of growth areas.

Noting the significant growth within Greater Gawler, activity centres hierarchy is an important matter for consideration. The GARP notes the role of the Elizabeth Regional Centre s critical for the growth of northern Adelaide whilst also identifying the need for a new regional centre to support the growth of key areas such as Riverlea Park, Roseworthy and Two Wells in the next 30 years. The location for this new centre is not identified.

Another important matter is the future expansion of Roseworthy in terms of interface to the Barossa Character Preservation District. The planned expansion of Roseworthy abuts Sturt Highway and extends north of Gomersal Road. While acknowledging the capacity to align growth with this arterial spine, the interface with this expanded urban area to the Character Preservation District is clearly important and needs to be carefully designed to mitigate against land use conflict and to avoid impact upon the scenic beauty and character of the Barossa.

Recommendation 6: Significant State investment in trunk infrastructure is necessary to support the future growth planned for within the greater Gawler region inclusive of roads and rail, water, sewer, power, schools and hospitals.

Further Recommendations for GARP

We would like to take this opportunity to express the following additional recommendations that we would like considered as part of the finalised GARP:

Housing Targets

Housing Targets are identified for each Local Government Area. The housing target for Barossa is 1,100 dwellings between 2021-2031, 1,300 dwellings between 2031-2041 and 1,400 dwellings between 2041-2051. Thus, Barossa is set a target of 3,800 dwellings between 2021 – 2051.

Noting that Concordia is projected to accommodate between 10,000 and 12,000 dwellings, the target set for Barossa appears to be low.

While the build out time for Concordia is not yet known, it is expected that Concordia will be substantially completed by 2051. Therefore, it is expected that housing delivery in Barossa will well exceed the housing target set for Barossa. It is therefore questioned how the target has been determined.

Similarly, Light Regional Council is only set at a housing target of 900 dwellings for each 10 year period, or 2,700 dwellings in total up to 2051.

One of the implications of setting a low target for Barossa and Light is that land elsewhere may be rezoned (for example taken out of the EFPA) in order to achieve a more ambitious housing target set in another Local Government Area within the GARP. This may result in productive agricultural land being unnecessarily rezoned to achieve a target that may not be required because targets have been well exceeded in other local government areas that support overall housing supply.

This emphasises the importance of establishing realistic housing targets for Local Government Areas and aligning the housing targets with future planned growth and programming of land rezoning and land development.

Recommendation 7: Review the housing targets set for The Barossa Council to ensure they are aligned with future planned growth and programming of land rezoning and land development (ie. Concordia).

Expansion of Regulated and Significant Tree Protections to Townships

The GARP notes that the Minister for Planning has also requested the Commission undertake a program of tree and policy work which suggests "Extending regulated and significant tree protections to townships, capturing urban areas beyond metropolitan Adelaide".

Council acknowledges the importance of tree canopy to cooling the urban heat effect and the benefit of trees in providing important amenity and contributing to the positive character of Barossa townships.

Expansion of regulated and significant tree controls to townships is broadly supported. It is requested that there is opportunity for further engagement with staff at PLUS in relation to the timing and process for implementation of these changes, noting that such changes are likely to increase resourcing levels for our Council in terms of increased numbers of development applications.

In addition, there will need to be careful consideration given to the overlap/relationship with the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*, given that such controls currently apply to townships.

Recommendation 8: Request further engagement with staff at PLUS regarding expansion of regulated and significant tree protections to townships to support Council implementation.

Freight Bypass

The GARP suggests proposal for a new Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass (GAFB) to improve the efficiency and safety of the network and reduce conflicts with passenger vehicles. Reference is made to the GAFB which connects Sturt Highway and the South Eastern Freeway, via Murray Bridge to Sedan to divert heavy vehicles away from Adelaide and South Eastern Freeway.

Council broadly supports the intent to promote diversion of through freight task out of Concordia and townships. While the GAFB is an important strategic route to divert freight away from the Adelaide Hills, its limitation is that freight seeking to move through Adelaide Hills is required to divert a significant distance to the east.

While acknowledging the intent of the GARP to promote the GAFP, there is ongoing movement of freight task, most notably livestock and feed, comprising vehicles up to 19m long using the arterial network through the Barossa, connecting between Adelaide Plains through to Murray Bridge via Gawler and Williamstown.

As highlighted earlier in this submission, planning and delivery of the north-east link road connection to connect Sturt Highway to Barossa Valley Way and improve access to Southern Barossa, connect Concordia and Gawler East to Roseworthy and by-pass Gawler is a critical outcome.

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DIT should consider the future network for freight task through Adelaide Hills, noting the objective to promote bypass of freight via the GAFB to minimise impact to townships, the Barossa and Concordia.

Recommendation 9: Consider future network for freight task through Adelaide Hills, noting the objective to promote bypass of freight via the GAFB to minimise impact to townships, the Barossa and Concordia.

Housing diversity and new performance outcomes for master planned communities

The GARP notes that duplex housing, group or courtyard housing and other types such as townhouses and apartments only make up less than 1% of the housing supply in these areas. The GARP notes that A diverse mix of housing in new master planned communities can support more sustainable access to social infrastructure and services.

New performance measures are also proposed to be established in the Code to guide the planning and development of master planned communities which promote greater walkability, active and public transport, minimum housing density and diversity targets, affordable housing, a network of connected open spaces, tree canopy, employment uses and social infrastructure.

As mentioned earlier in this submission, Council has presented a draft Sub-zone policy for the Concordia Growth Area that supports all of the above-mentioned outcomes and addresses existing gaps within the Master Planned Neighbourhood Zone. Support for the drafted policies that seek to deliver these outcomes is requested as part of the Concordia Code Amendment.

Recommendation 10: Support for Sub-zone policy in Concordia to deliver housing diversity and new performance outcomes as outlined within the GARP.

Conclusion

The Barossa is an important region to all South Australians. Council is steadfast in protecting this unique region and what makes it important, whilst supporting sustainable growth.

Council wishes to continue working with the SPC and government agencies to achieve outcomes sought in this submission.

We thank you for the opportunity to make submission and we look forward to receiving feedback of how our submission will be considered in the final GARP.

Yours sincerely,

Martin McCarthy
Chief Executive Officer

Reference: 23/110117

6 November 2023

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Submission to the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan Discussion Paper – The Barossa Council

The Barossa Council (Council) thanks the State Planning Commission (SPC) for the opportunity to make comment on the review of the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (GARP).

Council thanks the Chair of the SPC, Mr Craig Holden and Acting Director, Growth Management, PLUS, Mr Brett Steiner for attending the Council Workshop to present to the GARP Discussion Paper (GARP Paper) on 6 September 2023.

Many of the GARP Paper's policy approaches contained within the GARP discussion paper are supported. This submission seeks to:

- Inform SPC of Council's community-based draft Growth and Infrastructure Investment Strategy and Character Area review that underpins Council's key policy program.
- Make key recommendations that should be taken into consideration for the region when preparing the GARP.
- Identify how Council's recommendations align with State Planning Policies and ideas contained within the GARP discussion paper.

The Barossa Council

The Council area (refer to figure 1) is a highly desirable place to live and work. It is a popular and internationally renowned tourist destination, extensive agricultural and viticultural sectors along with associated manufacturing and service industries are its current backbone. Councils Local Economic Development Plan clearly articulates the need for diversification of our economy in other sector growth including services, professional services, education, to name but a few. The plan also outlines growth in existing sectors including eco-tourism, events, and conferencing.

The location, economic, and community foundation, and accessibility to Adelaide continues to result in demand for growth. Our challenge with increasing population, commercial and industrial land needs, mix use land

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opportunities and assisting productive primary sector land uses, whilst ensuring our current attractions, landscapes and character are maintained cannot be understated. There are significant pressures on The Barossa Council area in our traditional growth townships to accommodate this growth; whilst Concordia is a partial solution to this matter as well as working with neighbouring Councils long term solutions to land supply need to be explored.

Our growth assists local economies, increases the range of services and contributes to township vibrancy, it must continue to be supported. This growth requires careful planning to ensure the region's celebrated attributes and character are protected and retained.

Central to this is Council's overarching vision:

"Enhancing our premium wine, food and tourism region and its unique lifestyle, heritage and community spirit".

Council's comments contained within this submission are provided within the context of this vision statement, the guiding principles of the Local Economic Development Plan, the current Council's Strategic Policy Platform along with some guidance of the draft findings of Council's Growth and Infrastructure Investment Strategy and Character Area review.

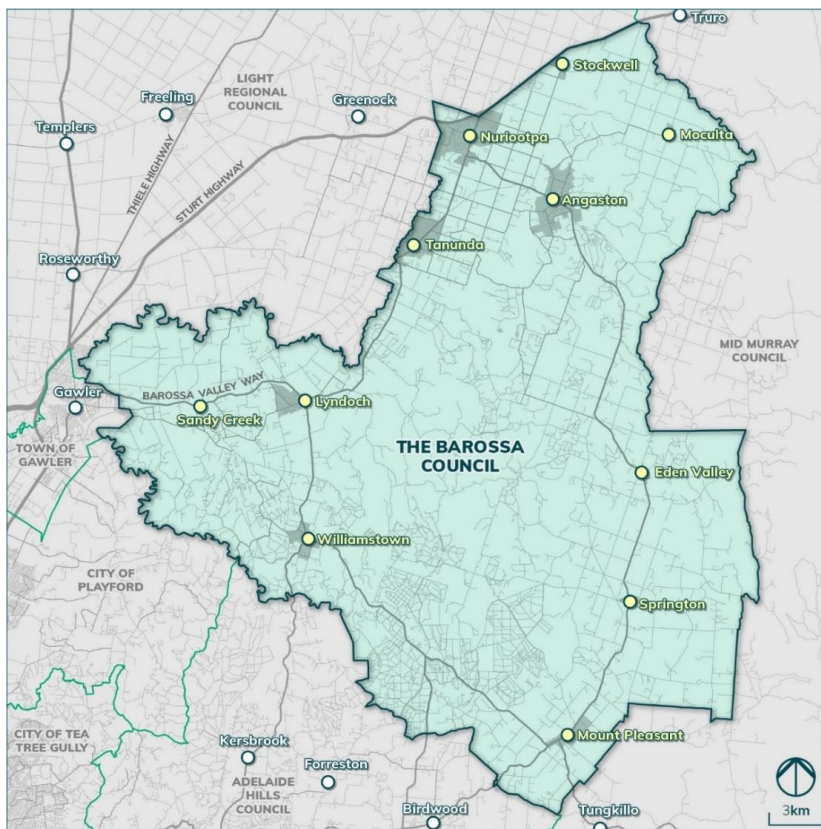


Figure 1: The Barossa Council LGA

Our Population Profile

The Council has experienced strong population growth in recent times, having increased by 6.27% between 2016 and 2021, equating to an annual growth rate of 1.25% per annum. Factors contributing to this growth, include:

- Completion of the Northern Expressway.

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- Covid lifestyle changes.
- Affordable lifestyle.
- Tree change.

Residential development within Nuriootpa has accounted for 25% of total dwellings built within the Northern Plains and Barossa Region between 2010 and 2019. Current projections estimate the Barossa's population will increase to 33,593 people by the year 2040. This translates to a growth rate of approximately 1.8% per annum. This does not account for growth in Concordia.

Growth and Infrastructure Investment Strategy

In light of increasing growth in the region, Council initiated a Growth and Infrastructure Investment Strategy in mid-2022 and this project has been developed with the following project objectives front of mind which also form the project's vision:

1. Provide strategic direction for land use and infrastructure planning.
2. Provide greater investment certainty about where the Barossa will grow, and what infrastructure is necessary to support this growth.
3. Enable Council to better target expenditure in infrastructure and align it with growth priorities.

A key indicator for success of the Strategy was to directly influence the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide.

This strategy has been developed over numerous stages and informed by detailed research and targeted and open community and stakeholder engagement.

Council commenced high level consultation during May and June 2023, to seek feedback from the community in respect to:

- Where can/should growth be accommodated and why?
- What type of development is required to support the existing and future population, including people?
- What infrastructure is required to support growth?
- Other considerations to be aware of?

An issues paper was prepared to stimulate feedback. Council received more than 700 pieces of feedback from this consultation. A copy of the issues paper and consultation summary are contained within Attachment 1.

Council is presently drafting the Growth and Infrastructure Investment Strategy. The directions contained within the Strategy are under formulation and are anticipated to be adopted early next year, with public consultation envisaged early in 2024.

Council acknowledges the Growth Strategy will need to have regard to the directions under the GARP but at the same time, is a vehicle to influence the shape and direction of the GARP itself.

What is clear from the work to date, the outlined issues of growth in this submission and the introduction above, that the GARP will need to provide support for smart design and use of existing land supply to cater for the growth upon us and predicted in the future. It is without doubt the main townships of The Barossa Council are under pressure in accommodating the long-term growth of the valley, policy development and intervention will be necessary. This need is notwithstanding the perceived view that there is sufficient long term supply of land in the Council area, the vast majority of which is not matched with demand for where people are living and wanting to live and that have

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the services available to them, this is against a backdrop of land in smaller townships which simply do not match demand needs nor have or are likely to garner the public or private investment needed to develop such land to the scale necessary. Further this issue is not in our view resolved wholly by the Concordia development area, whilst it is a part of the solution, the market offering in Concordia will be different to that of those wanting to develop in our traditional main townships.

Character Area Review

With the planning reforms introduced in early 2021, Development Plans were replaced by the Planning and Design Code. Due to concerns regarding loss of policy content through the code transition, in January 2022 the Wine Arts Food Tourism Local Government Cluster Group (WAFTL) initiated the Strategic Planning Review of the Barossa Character Area. The project sought to achieve an improved policy outcome for the Barossa Character Preservation District.

Based on the work of Council, with partners including Barossa Australia and Light Regional Council it presented a series of ideas to the SPC to improve planning policy and procedures within the Character Preservation District. Following a roundtable with members of the SPC, the SPC provided in principle support to initiating an amendment to the Character Preservation Overlay.

Council resolved to bring together the Growth and Infrastructure Investment Strategy and Character Area consultation concurrently, recognising the inter-relationship between growth and character preservation. A Strategic Directions Summary Paper was prepared to stimulate feedback and the community was asked to provide feedback in respect to:

- How important do you feel the Character Preservation District is in assisting to preserve what is special about the Barossa?
- Which land uses would you like to see permitted in the rural areas of the Character Preservation District?
- How important is controlling dwellings in rural areas of the Character Preservation District?
- How important is limiting land division to create residential allotments outside of townships and in rural areas?

A copy of the letter from SPC and Strategic Directions Summary Paper are contained in Attachment 2.

Council's Recommendations

Below is a list of key matters which Council wishes to see progressed through the subsequent stages of the draft GARP's development.

Barossa Character Preservation District addendum in 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide

The current 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide contains an addendum outlining the role of the Character Preservation Legislation, the special character of each district and focused policies under the below overarching headings. These headings align with the five key character values identified in *The Character Preservation (Barossa Valley) Act 2012*:

- The rural and natural landscape and visual amenity of the district.
- Heritage attributes.
- Built form of townships as they relate to the district.
- Viticulture, agriculture and associated industries.
- The scenic and tourism attributes of the district.

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This addendum provides important and focussed policy specific to the Barossa Character Preservation District. This policy provides the necessary policy direction for preservation of the unique character of the Barossa and needs to be adopted. This policy is very much still relevant to Council today, that has involved substantive effort of policy development and community engagement. As a result, Council is requesting this addendum be retained and carried forward into the updated GARP.

Recommendation 1: Retain the Barossa Character Preservation District Addendum within the GARP whilst being flexible with policy to accommodate growth and new opportunities and needs of the community.

Resolution of character area concerns/issues

The Barossa Valley has a special and unique character. It is mooted to as a world-renowned premium food, wine and agricultural region in South Australia, that supports a vibrant tourism sector and successful agricultural industries. However, we face growing competition and challenges in an ever changing local, national and world market.

The GARP Paper makes several references to the Barossa, with the overarching message being the SPC recognises the value of heritage and character areas and will not investigate growth opportunities in the Barossa and Character Preservation District, in this review period. We note the longer-term challenges for the future of the Barossa, outlined in this submission and assistance needed to address them through this review via design and utilisation of existing land supply.

In recognition of its special character, *The Character Preservation (Barossa Valley) Act 2012 (the legislation)* was introduced in 2013 which described the important character values to be protected for the Barossa Valley district. The area is shown in Figure 2.

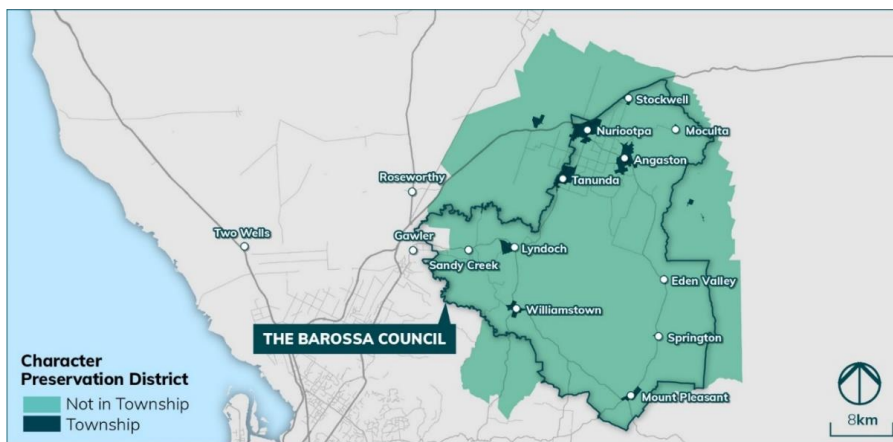


Figure 2: Character Preservation District

As mentioned above, Council prepared a Strategic Directions Summary and released the paper for community consultation for a two month period. The community feedback was positive and provided support for the proposal. The following key messages were received from feedback:

- Support for strengthening the Character Preservation Overlay.
- Focus on maintaining/enhancing local character and the natural environment.
- Desire to support reasonable scale tourist accommodation / sensitive tourism.
- Retain focus on viticulture and agriculture – value add to primary production.

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Following the consultation period, Council is preparing a final report outlining the recommendations to amend the Character Preservation Overlay and following endorsement of this paper by Council, would like to reengage with the SPC to initiate the Ministerial Code Amendment.

Recommendation 2: Facilitate a Ministerial Code Amendment to strengthen planning policies within the Character Preservation Overlay under the Planning & Design Code.

Council's Growth and Infrastructure Investment Strategy

As highlighted above, Council is in the final stages of preparing its draft growth and infrastructure strategy, which is planned to be released for public consultation in early 2024. The following feedback was received and is being considered in preparing the draft Strategy:

- Limited desire for growth outside boundaries of the Character Preservation District aligned to this review of the GARP.
- Desire for sensitive infill development and other density outcomes within townships.
- Desire for regeneration of main streets – increased vitality.
- Larger scale residential growth to be focused in Concordia.

Following the strategy's adoption, anticipated to be in 2024, its recommendations should be ultimately incorporated into the GARP.

Recommendation 3: Support Council in implementing the recommendations under the Growth and Infrastructure Investment Strategy.

Concordia Growth Area

The Concordia land development is identified as a significant growth area for Greater Adelaide, with the growth area anticipated to accommodate in the order of 10,000 homes.

The GARP Paper highlights the rezoning process and supporting investigations that are currently underway. Noting the State Government's new Housing and Planning Infrastructure and Development Unit (HIPDU) will play a pivotal role in planning for the necessary infrastructure to support the development. The application of an infrastructure scheme is also highlighted as a fundamental tool to support the development.

Further, the Concordia growth area is anticipated to support/encourage growth beyond its immediate boundaries with these areas leveraging infrastructure.

Council is supportive of the Concordia development and will work collaboratively with all stakeholders to achieve a desirable outcome and grow our community, with this development needing to be aligned to the Barossa character. Council has a desire that this development be a Barossa community and reflects the vision and values for the Barossa. Council is steadfast in ensuring the Concordia development is appropriately serviced by infrastructure with costs fairly apportioned by all stakeholders, including developers and state agencies including Department of Infrastructure and Transport, SA Water and SA Health, Emergency Services, and Community Safety.

An amendment to the Planning and Design Code has been initiated to rezone the Concordia development area. This amendment is being led by the Chief Executive of the Department for Trade and Investment. Council is supportive of this Code Amendment and shall collaborate with the Department for Trade and Investment in achieving a positive Barossa community for the future.

Council wishes to stress the importance of resolving key infrastructure matters through the Code Amendment process including transport (both road and rail), water, smart city services and power supply. Planning and delivery of the north-east link road connection and intersection as a freight

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capable link between Sturt Highway and Concordia is critical to the success of the development. This connection has potential to service both Concordia and Roseworthy and also provides opportunity to improve access from Sturt Highway to the southern Barossa and by-pass Gawler.

In addition, trunk infrastructure, especially water and sewer will need to be carefully managed to sequence growth in an affordable and orderly fashion and appropriate levels of and accessible social infrastructure need to be provided for (ie. schools, hospitals etc). Council is also undertaking internal community planning to ensure it is positioned to build this new community and its community spirit and one that is social cohesive.

Recommendation 4: Infrastructure investment for Concordia is identified and is delivered through an equitable funding arrangement and Council is engaged in all facets of structure planning and delivery.

Peri-Urban Planning

With 89% of the GARP region outside of the urban footprint, attention needs to be given to the importance of the peri-urban region. The region is a popular place to live, provides substantive employment and wealth creation for the state, is a major tourist attraction and main water catchment for metropolitan Adelaide.

Planning staff from Council's of the peri-urban region met to discuss peri-urban issues on 21st September. The following matters were discussed:

- Need for a peri-urban sub-region within the GARP;
- Primary Production Priority Areas need to be reviewed and identified within the GARP;
- The region supports a number of major businesses that generate significant employment for the State and need to be identified and protected;
- Strategic resources like major extractive industries and landfills need to be protected from future land use encroachment;
- Rural living areas offer a legitimate housing choice in the region and the future for these areas need to be considered.

Further, the Greater Adelaide Regional Organisation of Councils (GAROC) have also expressed this view that there is a need for a peri urban sub region.

Recommendation 5: Establish a peri-urban sub-region within the GARP.

North Eastern Spine

The GARP Paper proposes support for urban growth in greenfield and satellite cities along four key transit corridors (spines). The north-eastern spine is the most pertinent to the Barossa as it is identified as a potential beneficiary from investment in Concordia. The north-eastern spine doesn't have clearly defined boundaries, however, it begins from Kudla and continues north through Evanston Gardens, along the Northern Expressway, past Redbanks Road towards Roseworthy. Further the GARP Paper indicates the towns of Freeling and Kapunda will be investigated to support modest township growth. Growth in these existing nodes, in proximity to Barossa, provides opportunity to support worker demand in the Barossa region.

Subject to the views of Light Regional Council and the Town of Gawler, Council supports this position expressed in the Paper.

Recommendation 6: Support growth in existing nodes in proximity to the Barossa, including Freeling and Kapunda.

Justification

Each of Council's Recommendations outlined above will aid the Barossa Council in:

- Achieving appropriate growth outcomes.
- Protecting a world-renowned food, wine and agricultural region.
- Securing appropriate infrastructure.
- Facilitating better and more focused land use policy.

Alignment with State Planning Policies

State Planning Policies (SPP) represent the highest level of policy in the planning system, and address the economic, environmental and social planning priorities for South Australia. We have reviewed the priorities and directions of the Paper in relation to the matters we have raised through our submission and relevant SPP's specific to Council's desires. The table below summarises our review:

State Planning Policy (SPP)	Ideas for the GARP	Alignment with SPPs
State Planning Policy 1 – Integrated Planning To apply the principles of integrated planning to shape cities and regions in a way that enhances our liveability, economic prosperity and sustainable future. 1.1 An adequate supply of land (well serviced by infrastructure) is available that can accommodate housing and employment growth over the relevant forecast period. 1.3 Plan growth in areas of the state that is connected to and integrated with, existing and proposed public transport routes, infrastructure, services and employment lands.	• Prioritise and sequence the release of zoned land based on transparency of costs to the community of different forms of housing (including upfront development and ongoing living costs) • Prioritise strategic infill sites that are generally more economic to service than general infill • Focus infill supply in locations where there is capacity in infrastructure networks • Build on existing infrastructure capacity in townships where local councils identify growth opportunities.	The growth strategy will determine where and how urban growth can be accommodated to support anticipated population growth, support economic development and protect important agricultural lands. Whilst Concordia is the largest growth front in the Council area, Council's growth strategy identifies there is capacity to support further growth through infill development. Council is committed to supporting growth, however not at the detriment of local character and what makes the Barossa unique. Council's request to refine/strengthen policy under the Character Preservation Area Overlay will aid in facilitating development that is integrated with the character of existing townships.
State Planning Policy 2 – Design Quality To elevate the design quality of South Australia's	• Identify priority areas for investment in open space and	Council's request to refine/strengthen policy under the Character Preservation Area Overlay will support good design outcomes and recognise the unique character of the Barossa region.

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State Planning Policy (SPP)	Ideas for the GARP	Alignment with SPPs
built environment and public realm. 2.1 Promote best practice in the design of buildings, places and the public realm by applying the principles of Good Design (Figure 3). 2.4 Design advice should be obtained early in the planning process for complex developments, and utilise consistent and credible processes (such as Design Review) to ensure improved outcomes. 2.7 Promote a culture of good design to foster creative thinking, innovation and effective design processes within the planning industry, built environment professions and general public. 2.8 Recognise the unique character of areas by identifying their valued physical attributes in consultation with communities. 2.9 Respect the characteristics and identities of different neighbourhoods, suburbs and precincts by ensuring development considers existing and desired future context of a place.	public realm improvements - Identify areas to investigate for additional heritage and character protections - More targeted approach to infill development to preserve neighbourhoods of major historic or cultural significance - Ensure urban greening policies are applied equitably across all forms of housing supply (i.e. greenfield and infill). - Identify areas that will undergo changes to urban form and consider the complementary infrastructure and public realm improvements required.	Good design is essential to supporting growth in the Barossa. This is particularly the case in existing and established townships where growth can be accommodated via infill and built form outcomes will need to complement existing character.
State Planning Policy 6 – Housing Supply & Diversity Housing is an essential part of people's health and wellbeing. With the changing composition of our community and our desire to live more sustainably, our housing supply needs to become more diverse in both metropolitan Adelaide	- Identify housing opportunities in areas well-connected to services, employment and infrastructure. - Identify strategic infill sites to provide more housing choices in areas near public transport, services	Concordia is one of the largest urban growth areas in Greater Adelaide. With capacity to accommodate approximately 10,000 homes and 23,000 people, this development not only provides a significant supply but will accommodate a mixture of housing typologies to cater to our diverse and evolving community. Council's growth strategy also identifies there is capacity to support growth in existing townships largely through infill development.

State Planning Policy (SPP)	Ideas for the GARP	Alignment with SPPs
and regional township locations. 6.1 A well-designed, diverse and affordable housing supply that responds to population growth and projections and the evolving demographic, social, cultural and lifestyle needs of our current and future communities. 6.2 The timely supply of land for housing that is integrated with, and connected to, the range of services, facilities, public transport and infrastructure needed to support liveable and walkable neighbourhoods. 6.3 Develop healthy neighbourhoods that include diverse housing options; enable access to local shops, community facilities and infrastructure; promote active travel and public transport use; and provide quality open space, recreation and sporting facilities. 6.6 A diverse range of housing types within residential areas that provide choice for different household types, life stages and lifestyle choices. 6.7 Facilitate the provision of Affordable Housing through incentives such as planning policy bonuses or concessions (e.g. where major re-zonings are undertaken that increase development opportunities).	and employment options.	Council is committed to sustainable growth via supporting an increase in housing supply and diversity which assists local economies, increases viability for a range of services and contributes to township vibrancy, while not detrimentally impact on township character
State Planning Policy 8 – Primary Industry South Australia's agriculture, forestry,	Continue to enforce the McLaren Vale and Barossa	The Council supports the ongoing enforcement of the character preservation districts.

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State Planning Policy (SPP)	Ideas for the GARP	Alignment with SPPs
fisheries and aquaculture industries are fundamental to our prosperity and identity. Along with their associated tourism and service industries—and the infrastructure that supports their production and marketing—primary industry value chains are major generators of economic activity and employment in each of the regions of the state.	Character Preservation Districts.	Urban growth is to be focussed within existing townships and Concordia. The rural lands of the Barossa Valley have and continue to grow the world-renowned produce the region is famous for. It is fundamental to the region's future and a significant contributor to the State's economy.

Conclusion

The Barossa is an important region to all South Australians. Council is steadfast in protecting this unique region and what makes it important, whilst supporting sustainable growth.

Council wishes to continue working with the SPC and government agencies to achieve outcomes sought in this paper and outlined in our upcoming growth strategy.

We thank you for the opportunity to make submission and we look forward to receiving feedback of how our submission will be considered in drafting the GARP.

Yours sincerely



Martin McCarthy
Chief Executive Officer



GREATER ADELAIDE REGIONAL PLAN

Summary
September 2024



Source: Miravale Development - Lanser



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Front cover: Photograph by Sam Noonan

Introduction

Adelaide is internationally recognised as one of the most liveable cities in the world and is fortunate to have some of the country's premier beaches, agricultural and wine regions right on its doorstep. The natural environment surrounding the metropolitan area and its townships are major tourist attractions, resulting in a significant source of economic activity. Greater Adelaide is also a great sporting and festival state and the home of some of Australia's most-popular cultural events.

The Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (the Plan) maps the Government of South Australia's long-term planning vision for Greater Adelaide to 2051 and beyond. It provides governments, businesses, industry and not-for-profits with the data and direction to better plan for and respond to growth and change in our community and urban environment, whilst achieving our conservation goals. All within in an electronic platform that can be tailored to the user's requirements.



Source: Renewal SA

What is the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan?

The Plan will establish a new 30-year plan for the Greater Adelaide region, identifying where people will live and work, how they will move around, and where they will access services.

It will replace the current 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide and determine how our future urban growth will be managed by investigating and guiding:



Where **houses and employment** land will go



How **housing and population** will be serviced



Which areas need **conservation and protection**



What **major infrastructure** is needed and how it will be provided

The Plan also protects the features and characteristics that make the Greater Adelaide region so special including our premium food and wine areas, our scenic landscapes and natural environment, our cultural and built heritage, our world class beaches and our overall quality of life.

Greater Adelaide has a healthy supply of land for the next 15 years. The Plan includes long-term investigation areas to provide housing for the 16 to 30-year time period.

Snapshot

The Greater Adelaide Regional Plan delivers a planning vision for Greater Adelaide through to 2051.

It will determine where an additional 315,000 houses and 254,000 jobs will be located and what infrastructure is required to support an extra 670,000 people over the next 30 years - an increase of 46% on today's population.

- Land for approximately 215,000 homes is already zoned or currently being rezoned (i.e. Concordia, Sellick's Beach, Dry Creek). Much of this land is not yet serviced by infrastructure and will deliver housing over the next 15 years. Infrastructure and utility planning is occurring for these areas now.
- On this basis, the Plan ensures that there is ample supply in well located greenfield and infill locations to accommodate the long-term need for approximately 100,000 additional homes. Much of this land will not be needed for 15+ years but should be preserved from encroachment now, with detailed land use and infrastructure planning to occur in the future as more land is required.

Housing targets have been set for each of Greater Adelaide's Land Supply Regions. These targets have been established as a means to significantly increase housing supply based on the constraints and known capacity of infrastructure in each council area. These housing targets can be found in the Greater Adelaide Land Supply Regions section of the [Regional Planning Portal](#). A snapshot of local government targets is provided here.



1.5m
Population today
2.2m
2051 population projection
↑ 46%

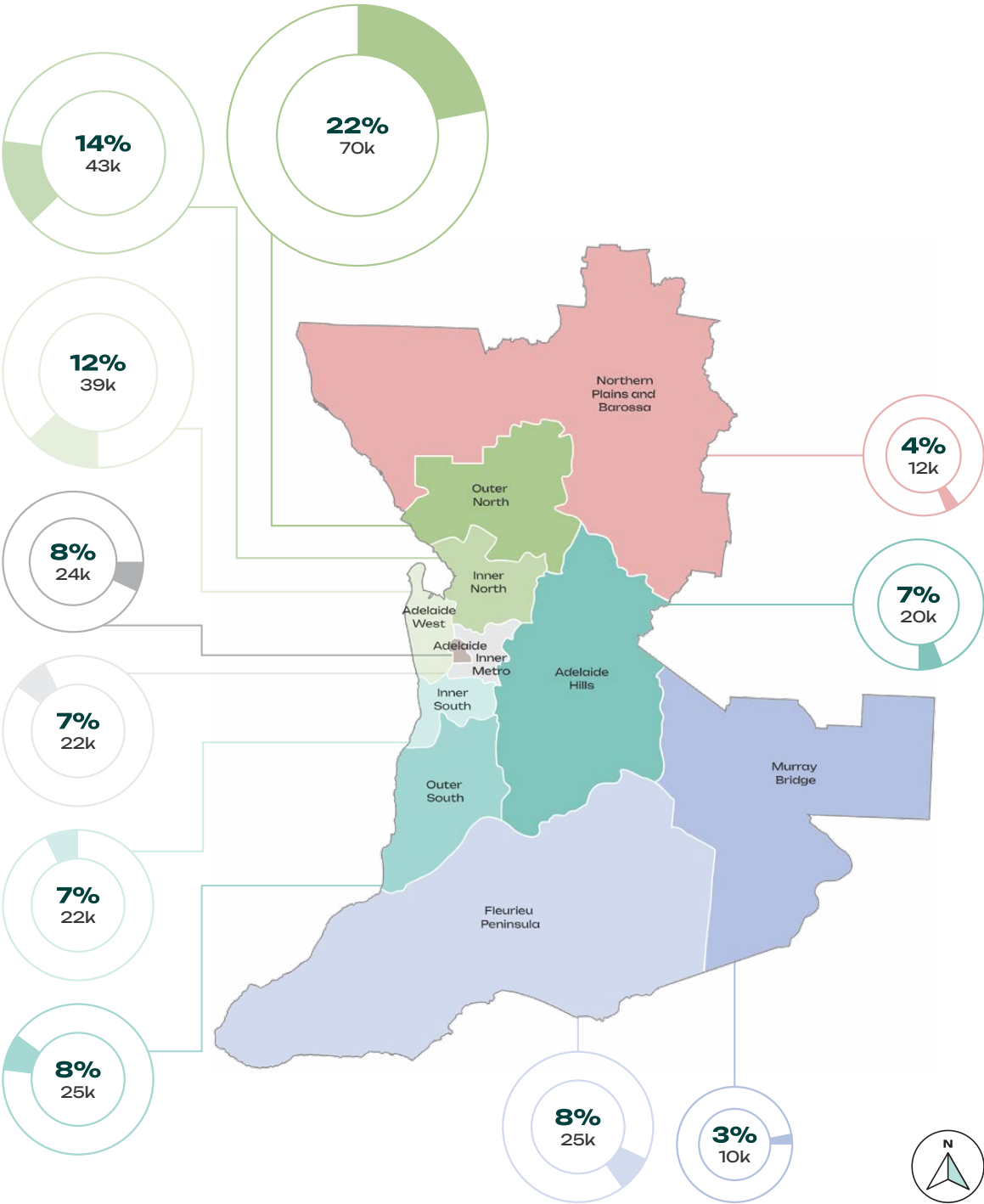


649k
Homes today
315k
2051 new homes required
↑ 49%



254k
2051 additional jobs created

Housing target growth
2021 - 2051



A planning vision for Greater Adelaide

A liveable, connected region, with world-leading industries, thriving communities and a cherished natural environment.

Greater Adelaide is synonymous with a great way of life. Integrated urban planning supports the aspiration to 'live locally' with equitable access for people to thriving natural environments and to the amenities and services they need for a healthy, prosperous life.

Living locally means locating housing, jobs and services closer together so people can meet most of their daily needs within a comfortable walk, ride or public transport journey from home. It aims to create connected, convenient, cohesive and climate-smart communities by reducing the need for long-distance car travel and increasing physically active travel to reduce carbon emissions and transition to a net-zero emissions future.

Living locally



Walkability and active travel



Affordable living



Open space and recreation



Housing choices at all stages of life



Everyday shopping and services



Public transport options



Local learning opportunities



Sense of community



Arts, culture and experiences



Safer streets and spaces



Local jobs options

More housing in the right places

Australia is facing a national housing crisis. Rising demand, constrained supply and escalating prices make the timely supply of well-located housing one of the greatest challenges for the Greater Adelaide region.

While the planning system can't build houses, it can establish an enabling environment for the faster delivery of more houses, through adequately zoned and serviced land and streamlined approval pathways.

A combination of greenfield, township and infill development, with appropriately timed infrastructure, has been identified to accommodate the next 30 years of housing need.



Source: Miravale Development - Lanser



Unlike previous plans, a target split for future greenfield and infill development is not required as the investigations have identified that there is ample land supply in well located greenfield and infill sites to provide community with a range of housing choices.

Target 1:



Requires the state to maintain a rolling supply of zoned land for 15 years, and of this 5 years must be development ready land, which means land that houses can be built on now.

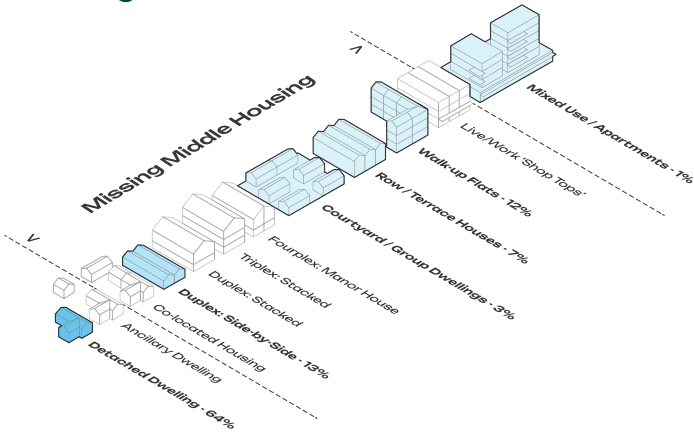
To achieve this, housing supply targets for each local council area have been prescribed over 10-year increments, based on the constraints and known capacity of infrastructure in each area. Councils will lead this work as the entities responsible for planning their local area. Communities will be consulted on this work.

The Government of South Australia will lead the planning for major growth areas such as Concordia and Roseworthy, coordinating infrastructure provision, and prioritising state strategic infill sites and urban corridors. The CBD can accommodate many more people and the state and the City of Adelaide will work together to achieve this.



As our population ages and our households change, greater diversity of housing type and dwelling size is needed. The predominant housing form is currently detached housing across the majority of suburbs (except the CBD). The Plan encourages more retirement living options, co-located housing, duplexes, triplexes, manor houses, courtyard housing, terraces, small-scale apartment buildings and 'build to rent' homes to meet different housing needs, affordability, and lifestyle choices.

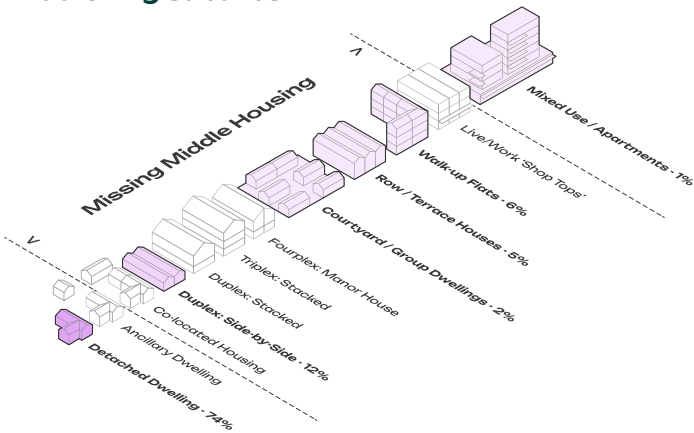
Inner ring suburbs



Current housing across inner Adelaide

- Detached dwellings represent 67% of housing stock
- Dwellings not coloured represent <1% of housing stock
- 67% of dwellings are 3 bedroom or more
- 37,000 excess bedrooms after allowing 1 spare room per household

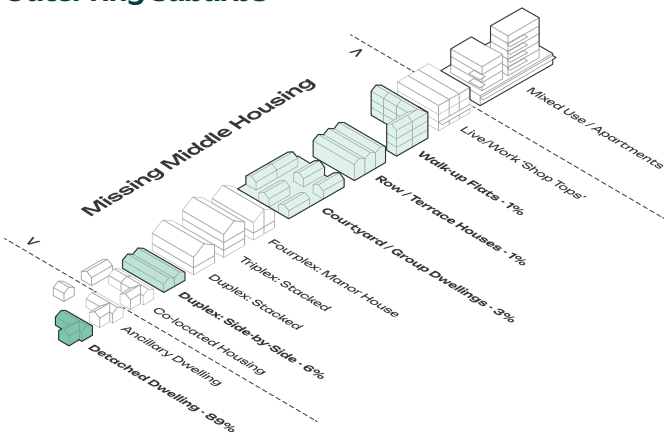
Middle ring suburbs



Current housing across middle Adelaide

- Detached dwellings represent 74% of housing stock
- Dwellings not coloured represent <1% of housing stock
- 79% of dwellings are 3 bedroom or more
- 145,000 excess bedrooms after allowing 1 spare room per household

Outer ring suburbs



Current housing across outer Adelaide

- Detached dwellings represent 89% of housing stock
- Dwellings not coloured represent <1% of housing stock
- 87% of dwellings are 3 bedroom or more
- 109,000 excess bedrooms after allowing 1 spare room per household



Infill development

No new general infill development areas have been planned or identified for future growth. Where land already supports this type of development, the focus will be on improving development outcomes to support more tree canopy protection, improved design outcomes, and in protecting areas that have character or historic value.

Larger strategic infill sites that allow for a master planned approach of new housing are prioritised in the Plan especially in established areas.

There are 14 state-significant infill areas identified and 60 local infill investigation areas. However, determining the housing type and density of each and their infrastructure requirements will take time and coordination between landowners, councils, the community, and government.

In addition, urban corridor development and denser housing forms close to vibrant activity centres will play a key role in ensuring the ongoing delivery of housing supply and choice near existing jobs, services, and transport in inner and middle metropolitan areas.



Source: Renewal SA



A range of new strategic infill investigation areas have been identified that will require further detailed planning. The planning for the state-significant sites will be led by the Department for Housing and Urban Development and includes:

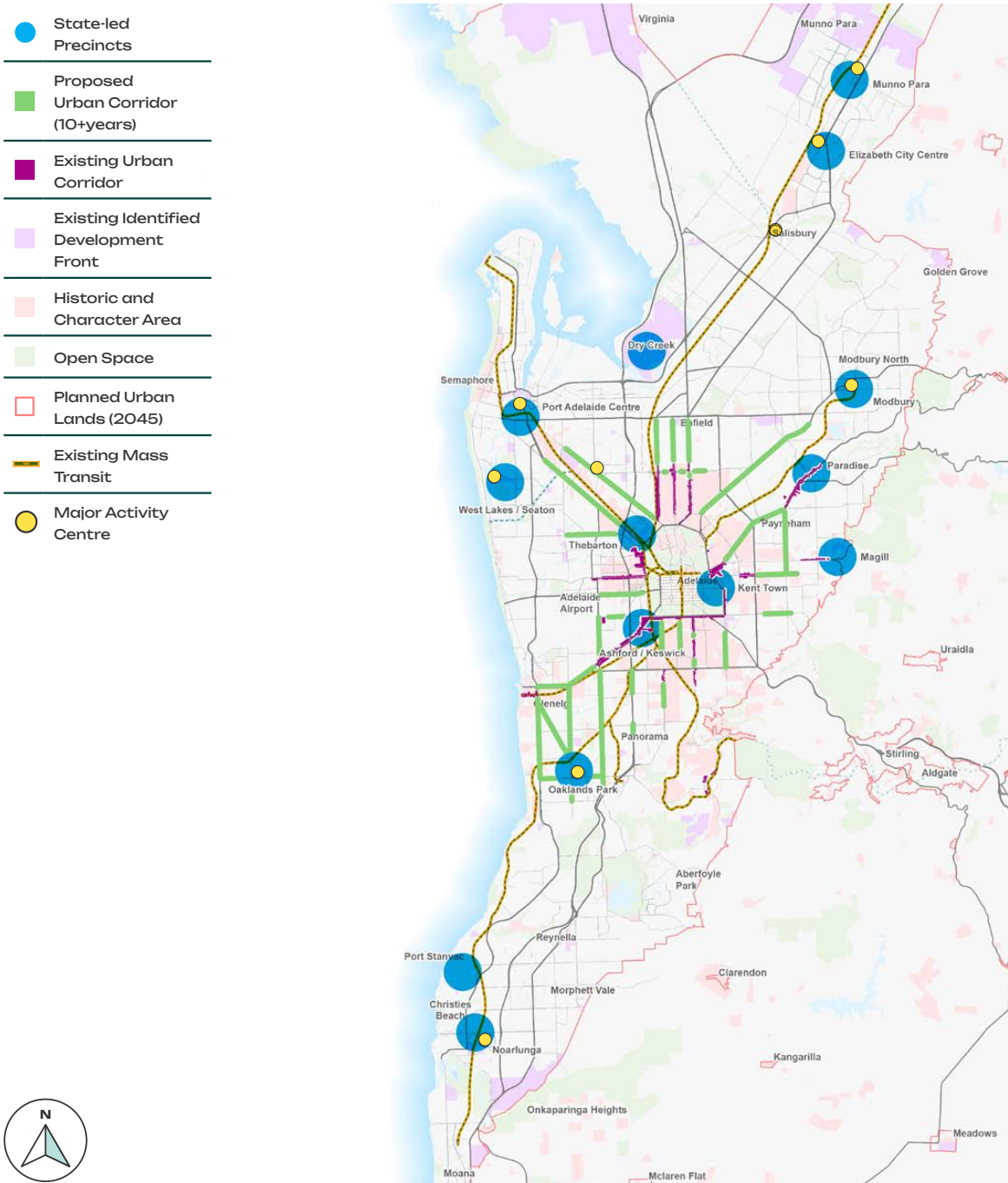
- State significant precincts that typically involved the redevelopment of former industrial land that can be redeveloped for higher community benefit through increased employment opportunities and new housing such as Thebarton/Hindmarsh, Keswick/Ashford and Kent Town/Stepney.
- Regional centres (and surrounds) that are well serviced by mass transit and significant employment and services such as Elizabeth City Centre, Port Adelaide and Noarlunga.
- Urban corridors that are well serviced by transport, employment and local amenities such as The Parade and Unley Road.
- Significant neighbourhood renewal precincts where the Government of South Australia owns significant amounts of land and/or there is significant state infrastructure such as Seaton, Magill Campus and Paradise Interchange.
- Adelaide CBD, led in collaboration with the City of Adelaide, is a key contributor to infill growth and it will play a more important role in delivering convenient and affordable housing opportunities.



Local area planning will be led by councils to contribute to delivering on housing targets set for each local government area. The Plan includes areas for further council investigation such as:

- Smaller scale activity centres and main streets (and surrounds) such as Salisbury City Centre, Burnside Village and Brighton Road that generally provide local employment, services and access to public transport.
- Regeneration areas that have ageing housing stock that is likely to be replaced by new housing and have good access to transport and services such as Findon, Plympton and Camden Park.
- Locations close to fixed mass transit infrastructure such as Greenfields Train Station and Klemzig Interchange.
- Brownfield sites where there are opportunities to replace underperforming employment land with new housing or mixed-use development.

Infill



Source: Churchill Road - image courtesy of Sweet Lime Photo



Greenfield and townships

Greenfield development is the urban development of broad hectare land. This often occurs on land on the edge of suburbia such as Angle Vale and Two Wells or regional cities like Murray Bridge.

While there is, at present, a strong supply of zoned residential greenfield land in Greater Adelaide, to ensure a sufficient land supply pipeline is maintained, the Plan identifies an additional 11,200 ha of suitable undeveloped, greenfield land spread across Greater Adelaide's four major growth spines.

The seven new growth areas can accommodate approximately 96,000 additional houses over the next 30 years.

The Plan recognises that the timely provision of essential infrastructure to these new growth areas is critical to the successful delivery of new housing. The high cost of developing new greenfield areas can no longer be funded by the development process alone and will need to be shared between the government, community, developer and homebuyer.



The Plan also identifies opportunities for the moderate expansion of smaller townships such as Strathalbyn, Kapunda, Normanville and Middleton where development is not restricted by high value environment or agricultural land. These townships can support more local housing, although may be limited by a lack of transport and social infrastructure.



After detailed investigations, new long-term development fronts have been identified along the following four growth spines:



Northwestern spine – connected by Port Wakefield Highway which identifies additional future growth in Two Wells and south of Riverlea to take advantage of existing and planned major infrastructure.



Northeastern spine – connected by the Northern Expressway and the Gawler rail line includes future growth at Kudla (taking advantage of the Gawler rail line) and Roseworthy, that can leverage extensive planned investment and may warrant future regional infrastructure including investigation of extensions to passenger rail services.

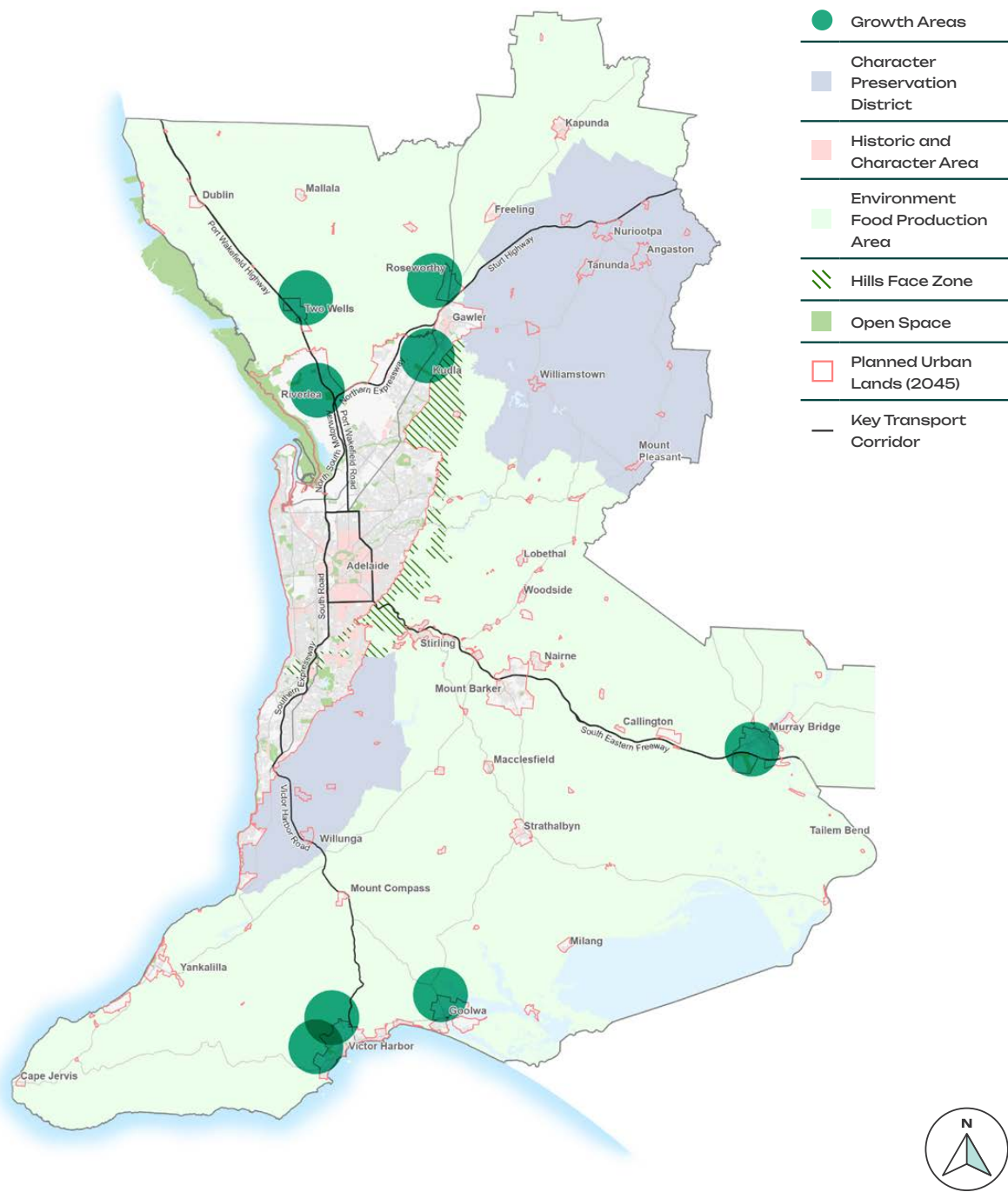


Southern spine – focusses growth around the coastal towns of Victor Harbor and Goolwa, taking advantage of the Fleurieu Connections Project and providing an attractive alternative to living in the urban area of metropolitan Adelaide.



Eastern spine – connected by the South Eastern Freeway, this spine includes Mount Barker and Murray Bridge. Mount Barker was identified as a significant growth area in the 2010 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide and has seen significant growth since. As there is still already existing growth capacity for the next 10 to 15 years, no additional growth is planned. Murray Bridge provides significant long-term growth opportunities, having the potential to establish it as one of Greater Adelaide's significant satellite cities.

Vision Map
Greenfield and township development



A strong economy built on a smarter cleaner future

The Government of South Australia is committed to developing a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy. There is a significant opportunity for Greater Adelaide to capitalise on the global green transition and build South Australia's talent with the construction of the AUKUS nuclear-powered submarines, alongside its continued production and export of premium food and wine and renewables industry.

Investors and businesses seek clarity, opportunity and security. One way to do this is through the identification and provision of strategically planned land supply that provides employment, economic growth and future industries.

Target 2:



No net loss of employment potential within inner-metropolitan land supply regions.



Maintain a 15 year rolling supply of zoned employment land within Greater Adelaide Region.



The aspirations of the South Australian Economic Statement to deliver a smart, sustainable and inclusive future is facilitated through the allocation of sufficient land for current and future industries. This is achieved by:

- Identifying and protecting national, state and prime industrial lands such as Greater Edinburgh Parks and Osbourne which support manufacturing, logistics and defence industries.
- Protecting the state's innovation places such as BioMed City and Lot 14, and establishing mixed-use strategic infill developments nearby (e.g. Stepney and Thebarton) to create attractive and well serviced communities for workers to live in.
- Promoting new rural and tourism development opportunities and growth in Greater Adelaide's wine regions such as Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale and Adelaide Hills.
- Reinforcing the role of the Elizabeth Regional Centre as critical for the growth of northern Adelaide whilst also identifying the need for a new regional centre to support the growth of key areas such as Riverlea Park, Roseworthy and Two Wells in the next 30 years.



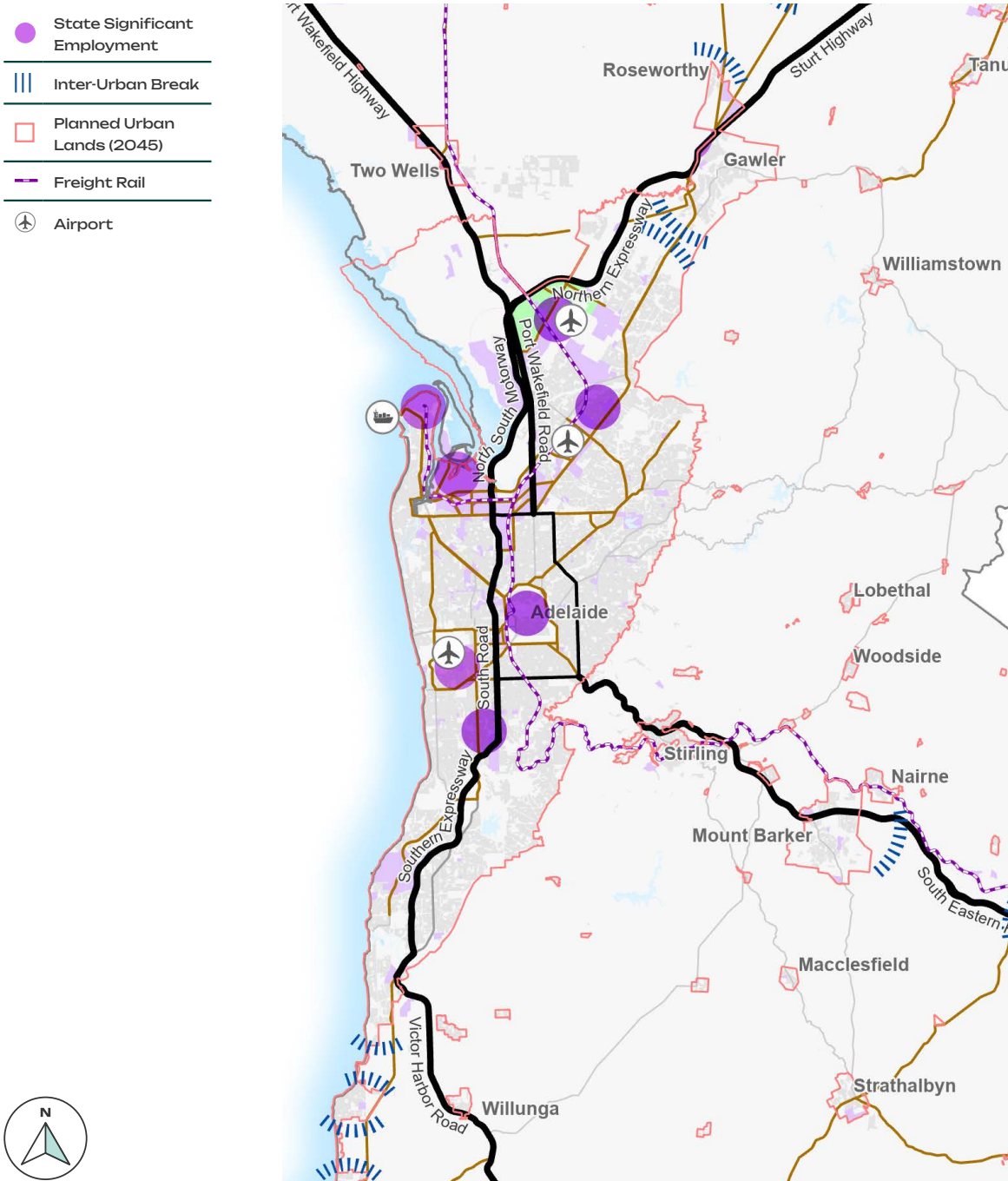
Additional employment land has also been identified to ensure new communities have conveniently located employment, as well as the preservation of state and federally significant sites.

Based on projected population growth and other economic trends, it is expected that there is demand for approximately 4,900 ha of employment land to 2051.

There is currently 1,945 ha of vacant zoned employment land in Greater Adelaide and an additional 1,700 ha future employment land. Most of this is within Greater Edinburgh Parks and requires significant trunk infrastructure to bring to market. Accounting for this, there is projected to be a shortfall of over 1,200 ha.

To cover the long-term shortfall, the Plan has identified an additional 3,000 ha with the majority located in both the Outer North and Murray Bridge regions, which will require significant infrastructure to be established. These new employment lands are located on major freight routes and in proximity to future residential growth areas to support local employment opportunities where possible.

Vision Map
State significant employment land





Source: Renewal SA

A greener, wilder and more climate resilient environment

Carefully planned neighbourhoods tend to be greener, safer, healthier, more prosperous, and better serviced. As our metropolitan areas and regional towns densify, the role and value of public open spaces will continue to increase in importance.

Not all residents in Greater Adelaide have equitable access to good quality urban green spaces and, in turn, the benefits they provide. Strategies to prioritise urban greening investment include measures that address biodiversity, climate change, urban greening and cooling, coastal environment, natural hazards, emissions and hazardous activities.

Our future prosperity, the liveability of our cities and towns, the health and wellbeing of our communities, and the resilience of our built and natural environment all depend on how well we adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Tree canopy retention and replacement is one way of reducing the impacts of climate change and builds on recent significant tree reforms by the Government of South Australia. New tree canopy targets are being explored through the draft plan.

Target 3:



Achieve 30% tree canopy cover (excluding industrial and infrastructure areas) across metropolitan Adelaide by 2051 (based on LiDAR captured in 2022).

The following four open space principles underpin the planning for growth in the Plan:



Connecting people with **nature and places**



Creating **open spaces** for everyone



Building on Greater Adelaide's **sense of place**

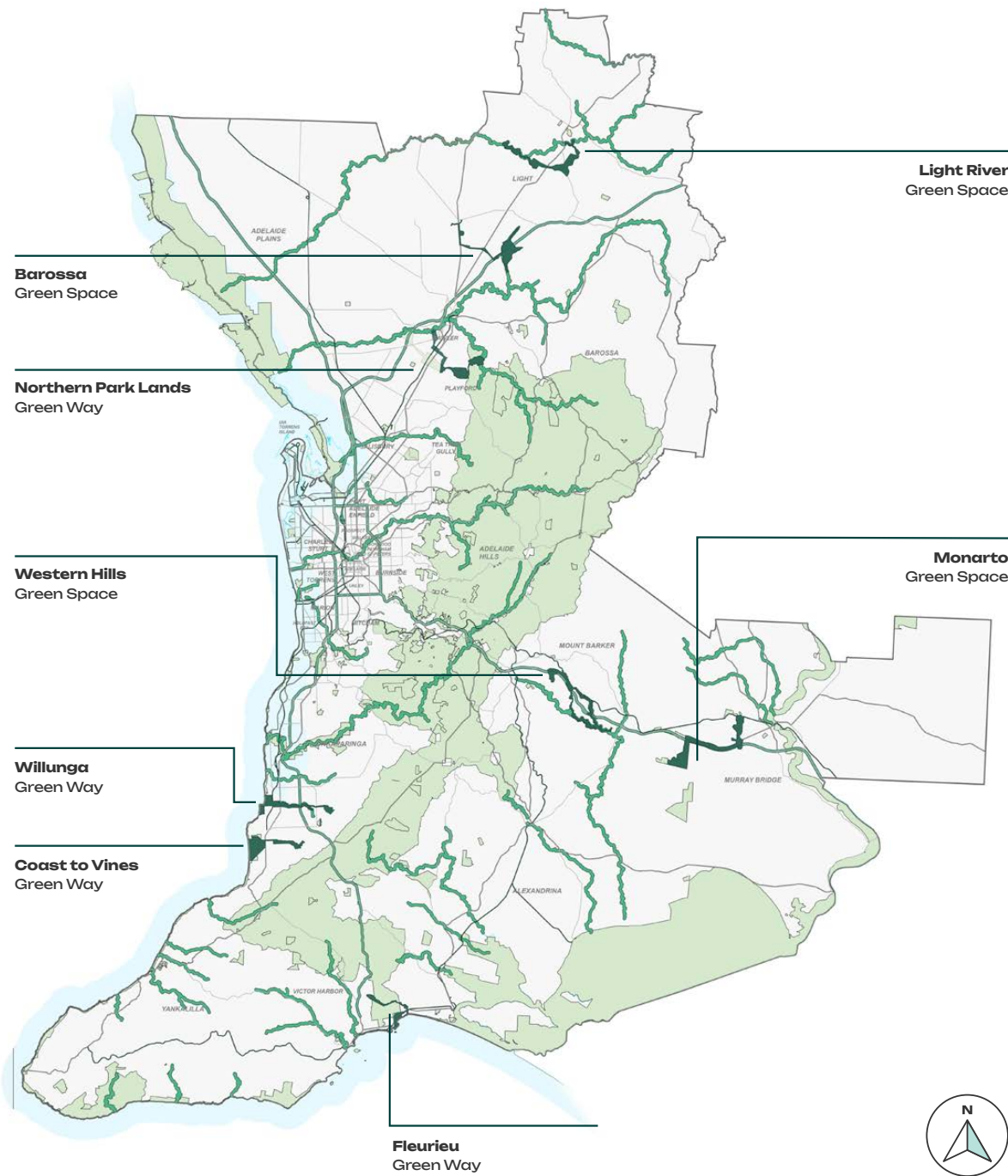


Increasing Greater Adelaide's **climate resilience**

Using these principles, the Plan supports the creation of a new Greater Adelaide Open Space System that lays out a hierarchy of well located high quality green public spaces and streetscapes.

Greater Adelaide Open Space System
Inter-Urban Breaks

- Green Space
- Green Ways
- Inter-Urban Break





An integrated and connected region

The core role of a regional plan is to coordinate land use planning and major infrastructure across a range of state government portfolios, e.g. transport, health and education. This helps plan for urban consolidation, renewal and the logical expansion of growth areas based on costs to service and other opportunities and constraints.



Source: Andre Gascoigne

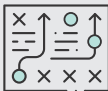
For the first time, the Plan will align with Infrastructure SA’s 20-Year State Infrastructure Strategy and the Department for Infrastructure and Transport’s State Transport Strategy, planned for release in 2025.



Effective alignment of land use and infrastructure planning will allow for a more integrated and accurate view of the infrastructure required to deliver better outcomes for growing communities. It will also provide for the prioritisation of growth.



Integrated planning will enable the timelier provision of services that communities expect and require for quality of life. It will also help avoid previous pitfalls where development was not supported by adequate infrastructure planning and financing and is now experiencing an infrastructure backlog, such as being experienced in the outer northern suburbs now.



Regional plans facilitate the identification and preservation of strategic land parcels to support staged infrastructure delivery of schools, health services and other essential services. This avoids land being rezoned, where in the past the state has been required to acquire land at residential land values. This can be avoided through the preservation of land for state infrastructure (and retaining the land in a lower value rural zoning).



The digital regional plan format can be easily updated as new infrastructure information becomes available. While infrastructure agencies and utility providers have generally provided the information they have available (i.e. SA Water planned networks), most will rely on the Plan to be settled before commencing detailed long term infrastructure planning to support growth. As this information becomes available, the Plan will be updated to help plan for prioritisation of growth, based on lowest cost infrastructure delivery.

Coordinated delivery of land use and infrastructure planning

The Plan has been prepared in an electronic platform, in line with South Australia's nation leading planning system. A hard-copy PDF will also be available for users to download and print. The electronic platform allows the Plan to be updated regularly as new data becomes available. Regular updates will be scheduled following the Plan's release by the Government of South Australia in March 2025. State agencies and local government can seek amendments to the Plan through the State Planning Commission and with the approval of the Minister for Planning.



How to get involved

Following a substantial three-month engagement process on the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan Discussion Paper in late 2023, the Plan has now been released for an additional six-week online engagement period from 23 September to 5:00pm 4 November 2024.

1

Feedback on the Plan will be collated, summarised and released via an engagement summary report on the PlanSA portal.

2

Following this engagement period, the Plan will be updated and provided to the State Planning Commission for endorsement.

3

Once endorsed, the finalised Plan will be submitted for approval to the Minister for Planning.

4

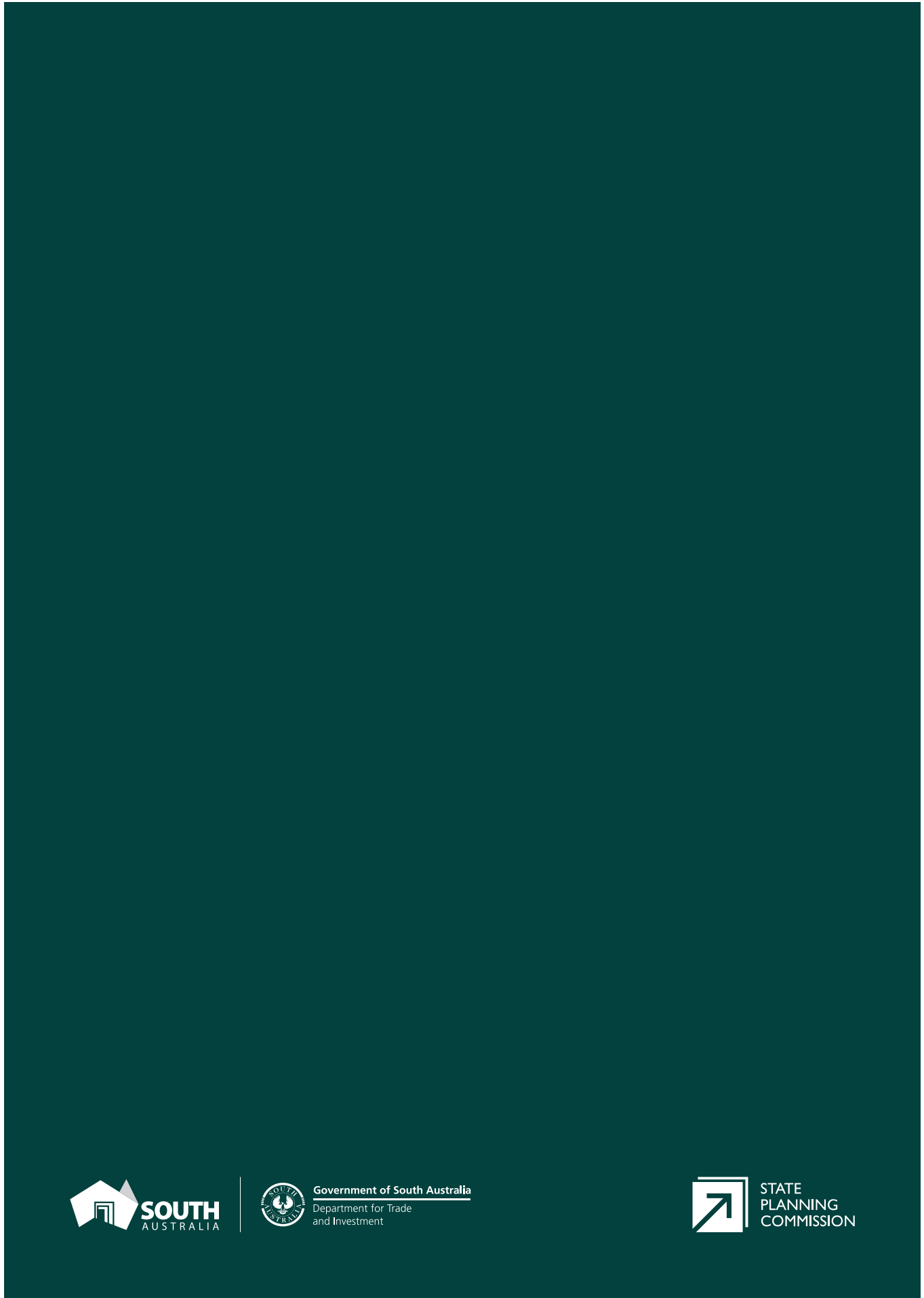
The finalised Plan is expected to be released in the first quarter of 2025 and will be fully digital and accessible via the Regional Planning Portal.

5

Councils and state agencies will have the opportunity to further evolve their own growth planning strategies for inclusion in the Plan via a scheduled amendment in late 2025.

Adelaide skyline - South Australia





Government of South Australia
Department for Trade
and Investment



STATE
PLANNING
COMMISSION



Frequently Asked Questions

Greater Adelaide Regional Plan

September 2024

Who is the State Planning Commission?

The State Planning Commission (the Commission) is the state's principal development assessment and planning advisory body.

The Commission provide independent advice and leadership on all aspects of planning and development throughout our state. The Commission are responsible for the preparation of the regional plans.

What is a regional plan?

A regional plan defines the long-term spatial vision for growth and change in a region. It focuses on the integration of land use, transport, and the public realm. Regional plans play a significant role in identifying land for housing and employment, and identifying long-term infrastructure needs to support sustainable growth.

Regional plans highlight how these important changes can be accommodated over a 15 to 30-year period.

The *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* requires a regional plan to be prepared for each planning region in the state. There are seven regions:

- Greater Adelaide
- Kangaroo Island
- Eyre and Western
- Far North
- Yorke Peninsula and Mid North
- Limestone Coast
- Murray Mallee

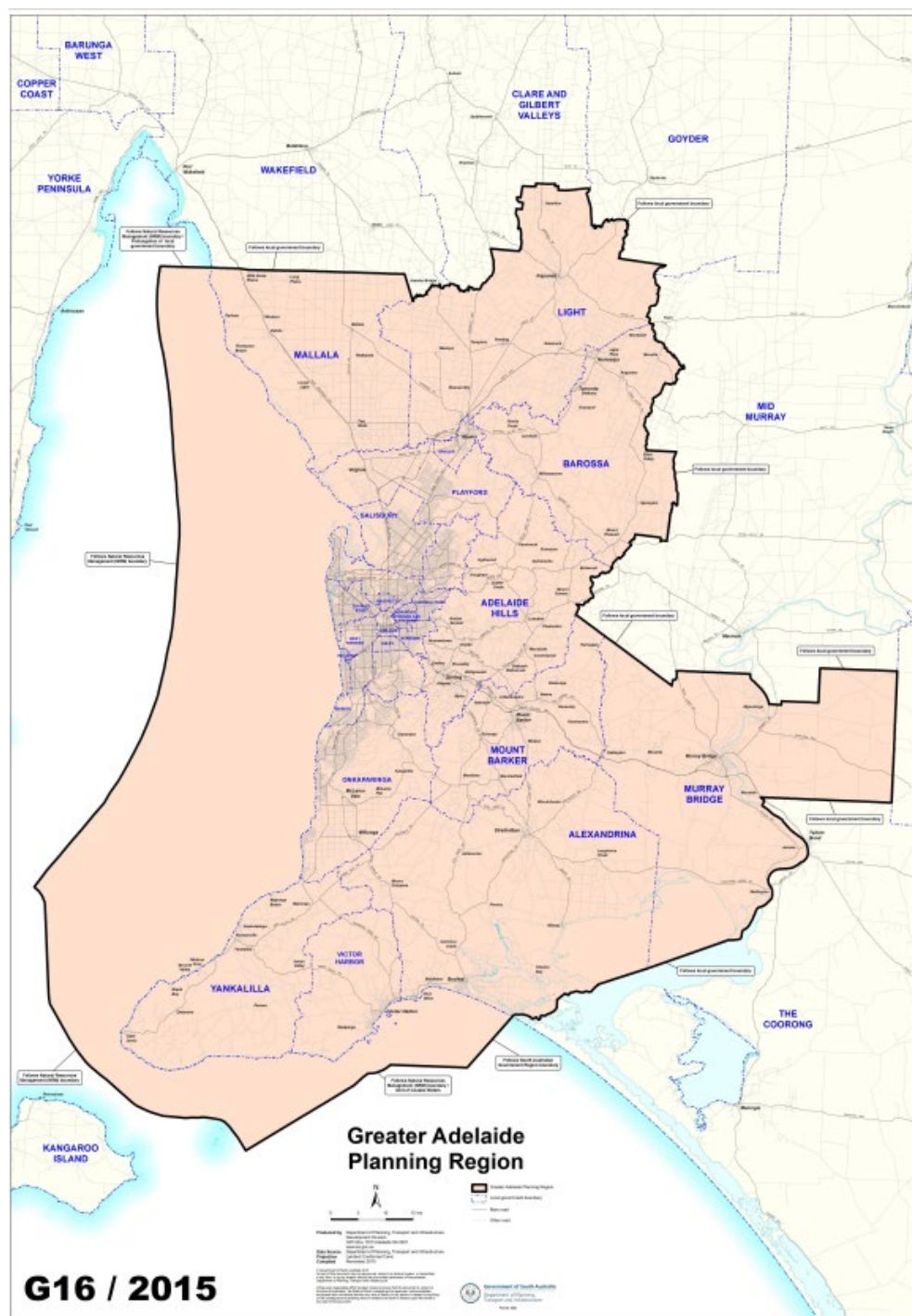
The regional plans must be consistent with the State Planning Policies which are the highest level of planning policy to address economic, environmental and social planning priorities and Special Legislative Schemes.

saplanningcommission.sa.gov.au
PlanSA@sa.gov.au
PlanSA Service Desk 1800 752 664



Government of South Australia
Department for Trade
and Investment

What is the Greater Adelaide Planning region?



saplanningcommission.sa.gov.au
PlanSA@sa.gov.au
PlanSA Service Desk 1800 752 664



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What is the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan and what happens to the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide?

The Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (the Plan) will replace the current 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide and determine how future urban growth will be managed by investigating and guiding:

- Where houses and employment land will go
- How housing and population will be serviced
- Which areas need conservation and protection
- What major infrastructure is needed and how it will be provided

The Plan plays a critical role in informing future zoning changes to the Planning and Design Code. It also facilitates a cross-government approach to integrated planning and coordinating the strategic use of land with necessary services and infrastructure.

Based on population projections, the draft Plan has identified land to accommodate 315,000 homes over the next 30-years, associated land for employment, open space and infrastructure. Land for approximately 215,000 homes is already zoned or currently being rezoned (i.e. Concordia, Sellick's Beach, Dry Creek). Infrastructure and utility planning is occurring for these areas now to deliver housing over the next 15-years.

The Plan will replace the *30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide*. Several economic and demographic changes have occurred since the inception of the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide in 2010. A significant portion of planned future growth areas have been developed or have commenced activity that will lead to future development.

What is the process to prepare the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan?

The *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (the Act) requires a regional plan to be prepared for each of the seven planning regions in the state.

In accordance with Section 73 of the Act, the Commission prepared a Proposal to Initiate document in October 2022, which outlines the scope of the plan, investigations and schedule. The Commission also prepared an engagement plan that meets the principles and performance outcomes of the Community Engagement Charter.

What land is being considered for future housing and employment growth?

The Greater Adelaide Regional Plan will identify the future long-term opportunities for growth including strategic infill, greenfield and township areas.

Unlike previous plans, a target split for future greenfield and infill development is not required as the investigations have identified that there is ample land supply in well located greenfield and infill sites to provide community with a range of housing choices.

The land identified for residential and employment growth has been based on extensive investigations, in close consultation with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport and utility providers. Social infrastructure agencies have also been consulted throughout the drafting process.

Other key considerations for where growth occurs have been based on avoiding sensitive areas such as good quality agricultural land, land affected by hazards, areas of environmental and scenic beauty and heritage areas to name a few.

The Commission recognises that not all of the Greater Adelaide region can or should be used for new housing and employment. As such, the following has not been considered for future growth:

- Barossa and McLaren Vale Character Preservation Districts
- Hills Face Zone
- Smaller townships such as Myponga and Carrickalinga - councils may wish to undertake investigations for logical township inclusions, through their own strategic planning work
- Hazardous areas like high-risk flood zones, landfill sites, polluting activities and gas facilities have not been considered
- Inter-urban breaks, better known as 'green belts' between townships.

When can I have my say?

Feedback on the Plan is open for 6-weeks from 23 September 2024 to 4 November 2024 (5:00 pm). To learn more about the Plan and how you can have your say, visit regional.plan.sa.gov.au.

How can I provide feedback and learn more?

A series of online briefing sessions and workshops have been planned for people to attend and learn more about what is proposed to meet the needs of South Australia's growing population.

Registration is essential for all briefing sessions and workshops and can be done at plansaevents.eventbrite.com.

To find out more visit regional.plan.sa.gov.au, email PlanSA@sa.gov.au or call the PlanSA Service Desk on 1800 752 664

How can I stay up to date on the Regional Planning Program?

If you would like to stay updated on the Regional Planning Program, including Greater Adelaide and the country regional plans, please register for the Planning Ahead Newsletter at plan.sa.gov.au.

When will the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan be implemented?

Feedback on the draft Plan will be collated, summarised and released via an engagement report on the PlanSA portal.

Following engagement, the Plan will consider feedback received and the finalised Plan will be released in the first quarter of 2025. It will be the first fully digital capital city regional plan in Australia.

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PlanSA Service Desk 1800 752 664



Government of South Australia
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DEBATE REPORT

7.4 Development and Community Services

7.4.2 REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

**Author: Manager Community Services
24/88670**

PURPOSE

To endorse the Report prepared on the implementation of the Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and subsequent submission to SA Health, as required by Section 52 of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*, on behalf of Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the biannual Public Health and Wellbeing Report and in association with the regional partners, submits the final report to the Chief Public Health Officer as required.

REPORT

Background

The Barossa Council adopted its first Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (the Plan) in 2016 in collaboration with Light Regional Council, Adelaide Plains Council and the Town of Gawler.

Introduction

Section 52 of the Act requires councils to report on Regional Public Health Plans. The report must contain a comprehensive assessment of the extent to which, during the reporting period, a council has progressed implementing its Plan. The reporting cycle is on a two yearly basis ending on 30 June this year. The report is for the period 1 July 2022 - 30 June 2024.

Discussion

The Report must be submitted to the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) prior to 30 September.

The report ([Attachment 1](#)) is created from the template supplied and was forwarded to the SA Health for initial consideration prior to 30 September 2024 to comply with the requested deadline.

Summary and Conclusion

The Constituent Councils are each submitting the Plan to their respective Councils for endorsement, after which time confirmation will be forwarded to the Chief Public Health Officer.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Report for the Regional Public Health Plan 2022-2024 - S52 - Barossa Light and Lower Northern Region [↓](#) 

Supporting references

Nil.

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Community Plan



Health and Wellbeing

Goal

9 Our community has fair and equitable access to the resources and services they need to lead a safe, healthy, inclusive and connected lifestyle

Strategies

9.2 Promote a healthy community through a planned approach to public health, and sustainable access to allied, primary and mental healthcare services and facilities.

Legislative Requirements

Section 52, South Australian Public Health Act 2011.

FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Nil

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Internal communication has occurred with relevant Council officers representing all the Directorates.

OFFICIAL

Section 1: STATUS OF RPHP COMMITMENT IMPLEMENTATION								
1. RPHP COMMITMENT (IE PRIORITY/OBJECTIVE/STRATEGY/ HIGH LEVEL ACTION)	2. STATE PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN STRATEGIC PRIORITY(S) ALIGNMENT				3. STATUS Please number according to one of the following	4. ACHIEVEMENTS (if deferred, or not commenced, please mark N/A)	5. PARTNERSHIP(S) ESTABLISHED OR SOUGHT TO ACHIEVE THIS COMMITMENT (if any) (if not applicable, please mark N/A)	6. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON STATUS (eg key enablers and challenges, unexpected benefits or impacts)
	TICK BOX - can be more than one				1. in progress			
	1 PROMOTE: build stronger communities and healthier environments.	2 PROTECT: against public and environmental health risks and responds to climate change.	3 PREVENT: chronic disease, communicable disease and injury.	4 PROGRESS: Strengthen the systems that support public health and community wellbeing	2. completed			
					3. ongoing			
					4. deferred			
5. will not be progressed								
Governance and delivery arrangements								
Establish Advisory Group	x			x	2	Regional Public Health Plan Advisory Group established, consisting of staff and council members from the partner Councils (Town of Gawler, The Barossa Council, Adelaide Plains Council and Light Regional Council). Meetings held on a regular basis, generally quarterly.	Town of Gawler, The Barossa Council, Adelaide Plains Council, Light Regional Council	Role of Advisory Group Chairperson to be held for a minimum of 12 months. Current chair is Craig Doyle, General Manager Strategy and Development (Light Regional Council)
Assign Lighthouse projects	x			x	2	Lighthouse Projects assigned - Lighthouse Project 1 - Community transport assigned to Light Regional Council. Lighthouse Project 2 - Mental Health and Suicide Prevention assigned to the Barossa Council. Lighthouse Project 3 - Community Participation assigned to Town of Gawler. In lieu of a Lighthouse Project, Adelaide Plains Council is responsible for the administration of the RPHP.	Town of Gawler, The Barossa Council, Adelaide Plains Council, Light Regional Council	High turnover of staff at all Councils was a significant challenge in the first 18 months, affecting the Lighthouse projects and the Advisory Group. The format of the Lighthouse Project structure was not working well, and is currently under review.
Liaise with SA Health	x			x	3	Staff from the Advisory Group liaised with SA Health regarding the implementation of the RPHP.	Town of Gawler, The Barossa Council, Adelaide Plains Council, Light Regional Council, SA Health	
Ongoing services and programs								
Lighthouse Project 1 - Community transport								
1.1 To improve health and wellbeing and access to community destinations through targeted improvements to local walking and cycling routes								
Identification of the pre-existing walking and cycling routes across the regions.	✓		✓		2	Early identification of pre-existing walking trails and cycling routes.	Town of Gawler, The Barossa Council, Adelaide Plains Council, Light Regional Council, Walking SA, Bicycle SA.	Opportunity: Mapping of the pre-existing walking and cycling trails across the four Council areas. Challenge: Funding of resources and/or software to map the detail across the region.
Kapunda Mine Site Path Upgrade	✓				2	The path that goes around the Kapunda Mine Site has been sealed making it more accessible for people walking, in wheelchairs or with prams. A small pump track has been added to the site, along with public toilets encouraging the community to utilise the space.	Light Regional Council, The Trail Collective	
Great Australian Wine Trail https://lightinvest.com.au/great-australian-wine-trail	✓	✓	✓	✓	4	N/A	Proposed partnership Light Regional Council, The Barossa Council, Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council, Adelaide Hills Council, City of Onkaparinga, State and Federal governments.	Challenges: Significant funding required for the project to proceed to next steps.
Discover the Light Trails App - continuation				✓	3	Addition of the Walk of Contemplation trail (from Kapunda through to the Clare Valley) to the app. The trail is approx. 127.7km and passes by 12 sites of former schools of Saint Mary MacKillop. It can be walked or cycled. Addition of the Wasleys Walk self guided tour approx. 3.7km in distance.	Light Regional Council, Wasleys Community Group	
Coulthard Reserve path upgrade	✓			✓	2	Upgrades to the walking paths at Coulthard Reserve were completed after various feedback from the community. The completed upgrades have had a beneficial effect on overall community wellbeing, establishing a safer and more inviting environment for all.	The Barossa Council, Nuriootpa Caravan Park	
Bike path connection	✓			✓	2	An upgrade to the existing bike path has been successfully completed, establishing a connection between Gawler and the Barossa region by integrating with the current bike path network. This pathway stretches from Sunnydale Avenue to Ann Milroy Lane, offering a safe and scenic route for walkers and cyclists. The project was made possible through joint funding with the Gawler council, further strengthening regional collaboration.	The Barossa Council, Town of Gawler	
Bicycle hire at the Gawler Visitor Information Centre	✓				3	Continuation of bicycle hire from the Gawler VIC, along with bicycle trail maps and a bicycle servicing hub to encourage cycling in Gawler and out to the Barossa.	Town of Gawler	

OFFICIAL							
Clonlea Reserve Bridge Refurbishment	✓				2	Refurbishment of a pedestrian bridge in Clonlea Reserve, enabling greater walking and cycling access to the reserve	Town of Gawler
Redbanks Road Pedestrian Shared Use Path	✓				2	Installation of new shared use paths and kerb ramp connections along Redbanks Road, introduction of a pedestrian crossing refuge facility on Redbanks Road, road reconstruction and new kerbing undertaken on Morgan Road to ensure optimal safety measures in place. This is a very busy area, with traffic entering and exiting the Northern Bypass, plus heavy school traffic (cars, buses and pedestrian) for the nearby Xavier College.	Town of Gawler, SA Government Community Infrastructure Grant Program
Construction of Reid Reserve Playground	✓				2	Construction of a new playground, along existing walking and cycling tracks.	Town of Gawler, SA Government Community Infrastructure Grant Program
New footpath program	✓				3	Continuation of Council's work to install a footpath on at least one side of every road where practicable. New footpaths are constructed progressively each year.	Town of Gawler
1.2 To improve transport to community centres and local services through exploring establishment of regional community passenger network and shared purchase of a community bus							
Community Passenger Network Expansion	✓			✓	1	The Town of Gawler are working to expand the City of Playford's Community Passenger Network (CPN) service into the Town of Gawler. The Barossa Council and Light Regional Council have continued their pre-existing partnership. Adelaide Plains Council are part of the Mid North Community Passenger Transport network.	Town of Gawler, City of Playford
Continued provision of Community Transport program	✓			✓	3	The Barossa Community Passenger Network (CPN) continue providing transport access for residents within the Barossa and Light Regional Council areas. Through the delivery of transport services via both cars and buses, the CPN ensures that residents have access to essential services, medical appointments, and social activities. This service not only promotes individual wellbeing by fostering greater independence and mitigating social isolation but also strengthens community bonds by facilitating social inclusion, allowing all residents to engage fully within their community. By addressing existing gaps in local transport options, the CPN contributes to a more interconnected and inclusive region.	The Barossa Council, Light Regional Council, Department of Human Services, Department of Health and Aged Care, Barossa Area Fundraisers for Cancer, Great Revival Shop
Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Hire	✓			✓	3	The Community Passenger Network (CPN) offers a wheelchair accessible vehicle for hire in the Barossa and Light Regional Council regions, providing an alternative transport option for individuals with mobility challenges. This service increases access to various services, social activities, and medical appointments, thereby reducing isolation and promoting independence. Furthermore, it supports inclusion by enabling comprehensive participation in the community for individuals with disabilities.	The Barossa Council, Light Regional Council
Community Bus Hire	✓			✓	3	The Community Passenger Network (CPN) provides two buses for hire to community groups within the Barossa and Light Regional Council regions. This offers transport support to local community groups, enabling them to participate in events, access services, and engage in activities that may otherwise be challenging to reach due to limited transport options. The buses play a crucial role in reducing social isolation, especially for seniors and individuals with disabilities, while also promoting community involvement.	The Barossa Council, Light Regional Council
Community Bus	✓			✓	3	Monthly Community bus services collect residents and transport them to the Elizabeth Shopping Centre, and then back to Adelaide Plains	Adelaide Plains Council
Series of Senior Moments	✓			✓	1	APC has received a grant from SA Health -- part of the program is to run a free bus service to transport seniors to activities delivered across the region - encouraging enjoyment, social connections and learning new skills - has not yet commenced.	
1.3 To advocate for improved public transport							
Joint submission for the Northern Adelaide Transport Study.				✓	2	The Regional Public Health Plan Advisory Group provided a submission raising concerns regarding the limitations with public transport across the region and the impact this has on the community.	Town of Gawler, The Barossa Council, Adelaide Plains Council, Light Regional Council
Investigate expansion of regional LinkSA bus services during school holiday period		✓		✓	1	Have been advised by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), via email, that they will be undertaking a regional transport review in late 2024.	LinkSA / Keolis Downer, Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), Town of Gawler, The Barossa Council, Adelaide Plains Council, Light Regional Council
							Challenges: DIT has a contract with LinkSA/Keolis Downer for the existing services. Councils are unable to provide a fee-for-service bus service as a solution if it was going to enter the metro boundary (which includes areas such as Roseworthy, Hewett, Gawler etc).

OFFICIAL								
LinkSA support and collaboration	✓			✓	3	In September 2022, representatives from Keolis Downer, the owner of the LinkSA transport service, met with The Barossa Council to explore collaborative efforts aimed at enhancing public transport services for the community. Following these discussions, The Barossa Council submitted recommendations to the Legislative Council of South Australia's Select Committee on Public and Active Transport, which included proposals to expand the service area and operating hours of Keoride, as well as to implement a door-to-door pick-up and drop-off service.	The Barossa Council, Keolis Downer	
Lighthouse Project 2 - Mental health and suicide prevention								
2.1 To support positive mental health outcomes and prevent suicide through providing information, connecting people with support and undertaking studies and further research to inform advocacy on related service needs in the region								
Lifechanger Immersion Program for Gawler Youth	✓			✓	2	One day immersion Program for Gawler Youth, aimed at developing their social, emotional and resilience skills (October 2023)	Town of Gawler, LifeChanger Foundation	
Mental health first aid training undertaken by Light Regional Council frontline staff and Health and Safety representatives.					3	22 staff at Light have received the Mental Health First Aid Training to date.	Light Regional Council	
Youth Mental Wellbeing Grant Success	✓			✓	1	Light Regional Council was successful in gaining a \$7200 Youth Mental Wellbeing Grant to go towards a series of activities and counselling support.	Light Regional Council, Belgravia Leisure	
Social Inclusion Library Programs	✓			✓	3	All four Councils provide socially inclusive library programs. For example, Light Regional Council holds monthly social inclusion activities at the Kapunda, Freeling and Greenock libraries, and outreach locations in Hewett, Roseworthy and Wasleys. The sessions provide opportunities for the community to make connections with each other and learn about other resources available to them, while participating in a craft activity.	Town of Gawler, The Barossa Council, Adelaide Plains Council, Light Regional Council	
Social Prescribing Project	✓			✓	1	The Barossa Council is a project partner providing in-kind contribution through Collaborative Project Officer, to explore the role of Local Government in Social Prescribing. Social prescribing promotes positive mental health by linking individuals to community-based activities such as exercise, art, and volunteering. These activities help to decrease feelings of isolation, enhance overall wellbeing, and cultivate a sense of belonging, while complementing traditional healthcare approaches aimed at alleviating anxiety, depression, and stress. Engagement with stakeholders through this project has confirmed that GPs and allied health professionals acknowledge the influence of social determinants on health and wellbeing and, therefore, support the principles of social prescribing. A draft model of social prescribing has been developed and there is commitment from stakeholders to participate in a pilot project to test the draft model.	The Barossa Council, Flinders University, Country SA Primary Health Network, Preventive Health SA	
The Wellbeing Project	✓			✓	1	The Barossa Council has partnered with Preventive Health SA to co-invest in the wellbeing of the Barossa community. Over six weeks, TBC surveyed community members, organisations, service providers, and community networks to gather thoughts and experiences about wellbeing. The findings will help develop a well-being plan, providing an evidence-based, actionable strategy to enhance community wellbeing. Please find more information at https://www.barossa.sa.gov.au/community-and-wellbeing/wellbeing-project	The Barossa Council, Preventive Health SA	
Ongoing collaboration with Enhance Barossa Mental Health	✓			✓	3	The Barossa Council continues to attend and support this group whose primary focus is to improve mental health and wellbeing. As part of this engagement, the group has collaborated with Lifeline to look at the possibility of establishing a Connect Centre in the Barossa region.	The Barossa Council, Enhance Barossa Mental Health	
Emergency Relief Flyer	✓				3	In response to community needs, The Barossa Council developed an emergency relief flyer designed to promote local services available to vulnerable residents in the Barossa region. This flyer is featured on the Barossa Cares website, shared on The Barossa Council's Facebook page, and distributed through various community networks.	The Barossa Council, Barossa Community Services Network	
Seeds of Hope Suicide Prevention Network	✓				3	Continuing activity around Barossa and wider region	Existing community-led group, The Barossa Council	
Red Room Project	✓				3	Continuation of an ongoing project/partnership to assist rough sleepers and address rough sleepign within the Town of Gawler	Salvation Army Riverside, Town of Gawler, SAPOL, SA Ambulance Service, and other local service providers.	
Lighthouse Project 3 - Community participation								

OFFICIAL							
3.1 To improve the wellbeing and capacity of people of all ages and abilities through the delivery and promotion of regional community participation programs							
Continued implementation of early childhood literacy programs in libraries.	✓			✓	3	All four Councils integrate early childhood literacy principals into their Library programs aimed at young children, such as Tiny Tales, Storytime, Toddler Tales etc. Sessions are aimed at developing early literacy skills, as well as encouraging parents to continue the development at home. All Councils offer a range of early literacy programs throughout the year. Council Libraries are also one of the major partners in the delivery of the new statewide early literacy campaign, Words Grow Minds.	Town of Gawler, The Barossa Council, Adelaide Plains Council, Light Regional Council. Raising Literacy Australia
Deaf storytime (12 month trial)	✓			✓	1	Gawler Libraries commenced a 12 month trial of a monthly deaf/Auslan storytime in June 2024, in partnership with Deaf Butterfly Effect following the request of a parent of a profoundly deaf child - there were no programs for deaf children anywhere in the region.	Town of Gawler, Deaf Butterfly Effect
Pirru Garden (storytime garden) at Evanston Gardens Library	✓	✓		✓	2	Gawler Libraries created an outdoor early literacy activity space, in the form of a garden at their Evanston Gardens Library. Named the Pirru Garden (Pirru being the Kurna word for story), the garden has a lawn area, and is full of native plants. Completed with funds from the Local Government Early Childhood Community Innovation Grant, the Pirru Garden and the programs run in it are designed to address vulnerabilities that were identified in the area in the latest Australian Early Development Census (AEDC).	Town of Gawler, Gawler Environment Centre
Playgroup at Evanston Gardens Library	✓			✓	3	A playgroup was established, in collaboration with Evanston Gardens Primary School, Gawler and District College and Gawler Libraries, to address the lack of early childhood programs in the area, and to address vulnerabilities identified in the latest AEDC.	Town of Gawler, Evanston Gardens Primary School, Gawler and District College B-12
Continued delivery of targeted youth programs, including skill development and employment focus	✓			✓	3	Continued delivery of youth development programs and activities. At Gawler, examples include a range of free online skill development courses such as Barista Basics, Prepare to Drive, RSA. Gawler has a Youth Advisory Committee, and an extensive range of programs delivered via the Youth Space.	Town of Gawler, The Barossa Council, Adelaide Plains Council, Light Regional Council
Youth Sponsorship Program	✓			✓	3	Gawler has a sponsorship program to recognise and encourage the achievements of young people in the community. Sponsorships awarded for sporting, artistic and community based achievements. Light Regional Council supports the annual Mayoral Awards issued to high performing Year 12 students at Kapunda High School and Xavier College. Light Regional Council provides an annual Youth Incentive Scheme for 12-18yo's selected to participate in State, National and International events.	Town of Gawler, Light Regional Council, Gawler and District College B-12, Trinity College, Xavier College, Kapunda High School
Tertiary Study hub trial at Gawler Civic Centre	✓			✓	3	Free 24-hour access to study spaces in the Gawler Civic Centre, for tertiary students who live within 20km of the Town of Gawler. Trial has been extended for a further 12 months. Access to student support services provided by the Barossa Campus which is administered by Regional	Town of Gawler, Barossa Campus, Regional Development Australia Barossa Gawler Light Adelaide Plains
"It Takes a Village" Program	✓			✓	2	Light Regional Council was the recipient of a \$7500 Early Childhood Community Innovation Grant to go towards developing and implementing the "It Takes a Village" program to improve connections between families and support services in the community in response to the AEDC data for the region. The program consisted of free family fun days at the Kapunda Library, playground and swimming pool, with nearly 400 people participating in the program.	Light Regional Council, Local Government Association SA, Department for Education, Lutheran Care Community Connections, Uniting Care Kapunda, Kapunda Kindergarten, Kapunda Primary School, Department for Human Services.
SKILL Workshops by Purple Orange						Light Regional Council supported Purple Orange to deliver the SKILL Program at the Hewett Centre in August and September 2023. The SKILL (Strengthening Knowledge, Ideas, Links and Leadership) program consists of six workshops designed to support people aged fifteen years and over living with disability to develop their personal capacity to take charge of their own life.	Light Regional Council, Purple Orange JFA, Belgravia Leisure
Ageing Well Advisory Group established	✓				3	Establishment of the Ageing Well Advisory Group, consisting of community members and Council Members from the Town of Gawler, supported by staff. The aim of the Group is to assist with the implementation of Council's Ageing Well Framework	Town of Gawler
GOLDIES (Growing Older Living Dynamically, Independently, Empowered, Savvy) Program	✓		✓	✓	2	Light Regional Council was successful in receiving an Age-Friendly SA grant to train Council staff and local seniors to deliver the Mindset for Life program. Seniors volunteer from the Kapunda Senior Citizens Club have assisted Council staff to deliver several 'taster' 3-hour workshops and one 3-session Mindset for Life program during 2022-2024. Several gardening-focused workshops were held including 'vege garden in a box', teacup gardens, and summer and winter pruning skills with Chris Day from EDL.	Light Regional Council, Kapunda Senior Citizens Club; Freeling Senior Citizens Club; Kapunda U3A; Kapunda Community Garden

OFFICIAL								
Child and Family Expo 2024	✓			✓	2	22 local Barossa allied health education organisations collaborated in an expo setting to provide families with children, particularly those aged 0-5, the opportunity to interact with practitioners. This event aimed to enhance child development support and offer better resources for parents.	Enhance Barossa Mental Health	
Science Expo 2023	✓			✓	2	Barossa Public Library Enhancing STEAM education for children aged 5 to 15 by offering a range of engaging activities, such as career booths, interactive exhibits, and science-centric presentations. These initiatives are crafted to inspire curiosity and promote a deeper understanding of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics, ultimately preparing young learners for future careers in these disciplines.		
Ongoing provision of digital literacy programs	✓			✓	3	All four Councils provide ongoing programs through their libraries designed to improve digital literacy in the region, including Tech Help, Tech Savvy Seniors, Talking Tech, virtual reality experiences, and information from the Legal Services Commission. All four Council libraries also provide access to the internet via public access computers.	Town of Gawler, The Barossa Council, Adelaide Plains Council, Light Regional Council, Public Libraries Services	
Ongoing provision of targeted programs for school-age children, emphasizing skill development and curriculum support.	✓			✓	3	All four Councils provide targeted programs for school aged children, through their libraries. For example, the Barossa Council continues providing ongoing childhood development programs and activities. Our libraries offer programs such as the STEAM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) to support learning and enhance children's well-being. Our Bushgardens also offer targeted wellness sessions for school students ranging from primary to high school age with experiences like sensory plant activites, grounding and nature journalling.	Town of Gawler, The Barossa Council, Adelaide Plains Council, Light Regional Council.	
Ongoing provision of targeted program for people living with dementia	✓			✓	3	The Barossa Council and Adelaide Plains Council provide targeted programs for people living with dementia. For example, the Barossa Council Bushgardens continues to provide the Nature and Natter Group for people living with dementia to socialise in a safe space with their carers or support workers and contribute to the Soul Community Garden. The Adelaide Plains Council provides a Lego Club to assist people living with dementia.	The Barossa Council, Adelaide Plains Council, Carer's and Disability Link, Department of Health and Aged Care	
Neurodiverse Young Adults Social Connections Project	✓			✓	1	Council engaged with a grant recipient and carer who had identified gaps in social programs for neurodiverse young adults during the post-school transition stage in the Barossa region. The Community Development team at The Barossa Council provided in-kind support with community connection, focus groups, venue and marketing and administrative support. The project provided the opportunity for local neurodivergent young adults to develop friendships and peer networks in a positive environment of acceptance and respect. We conducted a face-to-face focus group in May 2024 at which neurodivergent young adults were supported to describe their experience of social opportunities and brainstorm the kinds of activities and experiences that would help them build social connections.	The Barossa Council, Feros Care	
Dog breeder education programs 2023 and 2024	✓				2	The Barossa Council, Light Regional Council and Adelaide Plains Council have received grants from the Dog and Cat Management Board to run a Breeder Education Program with the objective of identifying and educating our local breeders, develop stronger relationships between council and breeders, provide consistent messaging and education on legislative obligations.	Adelaide Plains Council, The Barossa Council, Light Regional Council, Dog and Cat Management Board	
Facilitating Dog Foster Care Program				✓	1	Community Safety is currently formalising the Foster / Rehoming process. Council have been offering dog fostering and adoption opportunities for some time successfully, however due to external rehoming organisations being at capacity and unable to easily accept animals, this process will become a formalised option.	Light Regional Council, The Barossa Council, Adelaide Plains Council, Dog and Cat Management Board	
Bushfire Information Community Engagement	✓	✓		✓	3	Council have previously ran in conjunction with the CFS Community Engagement Officers, Bushfire Information Sessions with a bbq. These sessions are generally hosted at either a CFS shed or by a property owner within a high risk area where CFS will present information on property preparation and personal safety. We plan on working with CFS to host more sessions. CFS held bushfire ready sessions in collaboration with Light Regional Council-based community groups. Capacity of the CFS Community Engagement Officer for Region 2 (Mid North & Yorke) was limited. Adelaide Plains Council has also run its own Bushfire Information Community Engagement.	The Barossa Council, Adelaide Plains Council, CFS	
Community safety education sessions	✓	✓			3	The Barossa Council's Community Safety officers are hosting a community information stand in the local Nuriootpa mall where anyone can ask anything on Animal Management, Fire Prevention, Local Laws and Nuisance. This will promote awareness while also educating the public on key issues, fostering responsible behavior and encouraging adherence to community standards.	The Barossa Council, CFS, Dog and Cat Management Board	
Community Transport	✓			✓	3	APC is a member of the Mid North Community Passenger Network that continues to provide transport access for residents, mainlu for medical appointment and does includ a wheelchair access vehicle (if available)	Mid North Community Passenger Network	

COVER SHEET

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

15 October 2024

Council Meeting

8.1 Office of the Mayor and CEO

8.1.1 SUPREME COURT LEGAL CASE - QUARTER 2 OF 2024 UPDATE

There is strong public interest in enabling members of the public to observe Council's transparent and informed decision-making. This helps to ensure accountability, maintain transparency of public expenditure, facilitate public participation, assist public awareness and allow for the scrutiny of information. Attendance at a Council meeting is one means of satisfying this interest. The public will only be excluded from a Council meeting when the need for confidentiality pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Act outweighs the public interest of open decision-making.

In this matter, the reasons that receipt, consideration or discussion of the information or matter in a meeting open to the public would be contrary to the public interest are that it is receiving legally privileged information on the matter of TTEG vs Council and is ongoing.

On balance, the above reason which supports the need for confidentiality pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Act outweighs the factors in favour of the public interest of open decision-making.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- (1) Under the provisions of Section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, make an order that the public be excluded from the meeting with the exception of the Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate Services, Strategy and Innovation, Director Development and Community Services, Director

Infrastructure and Environmental Service and the Minute Secretary, in order to consider in confidence a report relating to being information that must be considered in confidence pursuant to:

Section 90(3)(i) of the *Local Government Act 1999*:

information relating to actual litigation, or litigation that the council or council committee believes on reasonable grounds will take place, involving the council or an employee of the council;

- (2) Accordingly, on this basis, Council is satisfied that public interest in conducting meetings in a place open to the public has been outweighed by the need to keep the information and discussion confidential in order that it is receiving legally privileged information on the matter of TTEG vs Council and is ongoing.

COVER SHEET

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT

15 October 2024

Council Meeting

8.1 Office of the Mayor and CEO Report

8.1.2 CONCORDIA - VISION AND POLICIES REVIEW

There is strong public interest in enabling members of the public to observe Council's transparent and informed decision-making. This helps to ensure accountability, maintain transparency of public expenditure, facilitate public participation, assist public awareness and allow for the scrutiny of information. Attendance at a Council meeting is one means of satisfying this interest. The public will only be excluded from a Council meeting when the need for confidentiality pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Act outweighs the public interest of open decision-making.

In this matter, the reasons that receipt, consideration or discussion of the information or matter in a meeting open to the public would be contrary to the public interest are that Inclusion of information that has been provided in confidence by State Government and for which Council and its officers are subject to a Non-Disclosure Deed with the State.

On balance, the above reason which supports the need for confidentiality pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Act outweighs the factors in favour of the public interest of open decision-making.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- (1) Under the provisions of Section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, make an order that the public be excluded from the meeting with the exception of

the Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate Services, Strategy and Innovation, Director Development and Community Services, Director Infrastructure and Environmental Service and the Minute Secretary, in order to consider in confidence a report relating to being information that must be considered in confidence pursuant to:

Section 90(3)(j) of the Local Government Act 1999:

information the disclosure of which-

- (i) would divulge information provided on a confidential basis by or to a Minister of the Crown, or another public authority or official (not being an employee of the council, or a person engaged by the council); and
 - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest;
- (2) Accordingly, on this basis, Council is satisfied that public interest in conducting meetings in a place open to the public has been outweighed by the need to keep the information and discussion confidential in order that Inclusion of information that has been provided in confidence by State Government and for which Council and its officers are subject to a Non-Disclosure Deed with the State.

COVER SHEET

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

15 October 2024

Council Meeting

8.1 Office of the Mayor and CEO

8.1.3 THIRD PARTY FUNDING OPPORTUNITY - BAROSSA PARK LYNDOKH

There is strong public interest in enabling members of the public to observe Council's transparent and informed decision-making. This helps to ensure accountability, maintain transparency of public expenditure, facilitate public participation, assist public awareness and allow for the scrutiny of information. Attendance at a Council meeting is one means of satisfying this interest. The public will only be excluded from a Council meeting when the need for confidentiality pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Act outweighs the public interest of open decision-making.

In this matter, the reasons that receipt, consideration or discussion of the information or matter in a meeting open to the public would be contrary to the public interest are that related to disclosures of State confidential information.

On balance, the above reason which supports the need for confidentiality pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Act outweighs the factors in favour of the public interest of open decision-making.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- (1) Under the provisions of Section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, make an order that the public be excluded from the meeting with the exception of the Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate Services Strategy and Innovation, Director Development and Community Services, Director Infrastructure and Environmental Service and the Minute Secretary, in order to

consider in confidence a report relating to being information that must be considered in confidence pursuant to:

Section 90(3)(j) of the *Local Government Act 1999*:

information the disclosure of which-

- (i) would divulge information provided on a confidential basis by or to a Minister of the Crown, or another public authority or official (not being an employee of the council, or a person engaged by the council); and
 - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest;
- (2) Accordingly, on this basis, Council is satisfied that public interest in conducting meetings in a place open to the public has been outweighed by the need to keep the information and discussion confidential in order that related to disclosures of State confidential information.