



Southern and Hills
Local Government
Association
Annual Report
2022/23



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Southern and Hills Local Government Association – Snapshot

6
Councils

SIZE
8,656
Square Kilometres

\$5.36b
GROSS
REGIONAL
PRODUCT

63,519
EMPLOYED
RESIDENTS

5,539
KILOMETERS OF
LOCAL ROADS

132,206
REGIONS
POPULATION

TOURISM
Destination

Councils Total
Revenue
\$192 MILLION

OCEAN COASTLINE OF
652
Kilometres

Largest Industry
Employment
**Health Care and
Social Assistance**



About the Southern & Hills Local Government Association region

The Southern & Hills Local Government Association was first formed in July 1969 and is now constituted as a Regional Subsidiary under Section 43 and Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 1999. Consisting of six (6) local government Councils:

- Adelaide Hills Council
- Alexandrina Council
- Kangaroo Island Council
- Mt Barker District Council
- City of Victor Harbor
- District Council of Yankalilla

Collectively these six (6) Councils have:

- ☑ More than 131,000 people as of 30th June 2022.
- ☑ 5,539 kilometres of local roads
- ☑ Area consists of 8,656 square kilometres.
- ☑ An ocean coastline of 652 Km.
- ☑ The River Murray and lakes form the southeast boundary of the region.
- ☑ The region has extreme diversity from the foothill suburbs of Adelaide to the isolation of the inaccessible west coast of Flinders Chase National Park.
- ☑ Significant areas within the region are under primary production include highly productive farm, horticulture, viticulture, forestry, fishing and intensive animal keeping enterprises and in the more undulating parts sheep farming, cereal growing and dairying.
- ☑ The region contributed nearly \$6 billion in gross value to the State economy
- ☑ Much of the area has, (by South Australian standards) a high rainfall.
- ☑ A large part of the area is within the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide.
- ☑ Significant growth pockets both in population and development, placing demands on infrastructure and the natural environment.
- ☑ Projected change in the population to 2026 by approximately 25%.
- ☑ Within the region, Victor Harbor and Goolwa are key retirement destinations.
- ☑ Within the region, The Adelaide Hills, The Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island are all major tourism destinations.
- ☑ Kangaroo Island is a major component of the Australian and SA tourism plan with tourist numbers targeted to double over the next decade.

President's Report

It has been my pleasure to serve as S&HLGA president during 2023 as we have emerged from Covid and the 2022 Local Government elections.

This has been a year of consolidation and continuing the positive work of our key programs concerned with Transport, Public Health and Community Wellbeing and Climate Change impacts in our region. These programs and activities are all designed to drive and improve the wellbeing of our communities.

We have commenced collecting and analysing data and evidence to populate the Community Wellbeing Indicators. We are doing the same for our Climate Change impacts and tracking how we are doing against the model projections of our Regional Climate Adaptation Plan. We will persist with this exercise for some time.

I draw your attention to our key project during 2023 which was the Commonwealth funded (via the Preparing Australian Communities) "Bushfire and Biodiversity – Building balanced long term regional resilience". This project identified and showcased projects and case studies to map effective strategies and pathways to improve both bushfire resilience and biodiversity management for landholders and landscapes in our region.

The S&HLGA Board commissioned Jeff Tate Consulting to undertake a strategic review of the 2021-2025 Business Plan and the organisation. The Board is digesting the recommendations from this review and will seek to adopt and implement them during the following year.

We have continued to cement our many very valuable regional stakeholder and partner relationships, as well as maintaining and reviewing key performance and governance documents such as the Annual Key Action Plan and Annual Budget.

I also take this opportunity to thank outgoing President Mayor Keith Parkes for his leadership over the past years.

Thank you to our Executive Officer, Graeme Martin for his co-ordination and management and drive in supporting the body. He has been ably supported during 2022-2023 by Jen St Jack and Olivia Davies as co-ordinators of the Regional Climate Adaption Plan and associated projects.

In closing, I acknowledge and thank all the member councils for their support during the year and acknowledge the ongoing contribution of member Mayors and CEOs and nominated representatives to the S&HLGA Board.

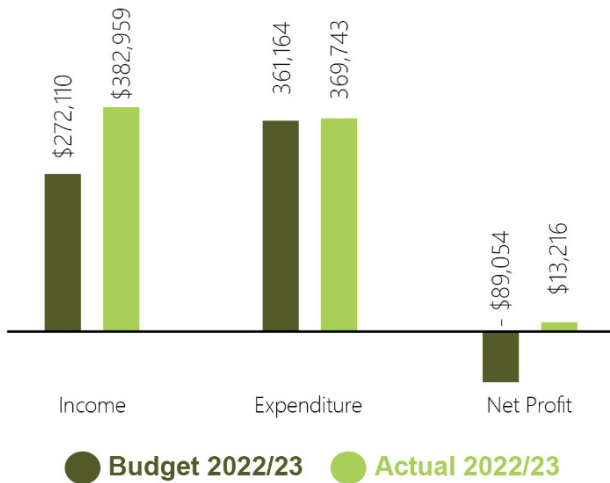
**Mayor Moira Jenkins
President**



2022/23 Dashboard

Financial Performance:

2022/23 Budget vs Actual



2022/23 Key Project:



Bushfire and Biodiversity – Building balanced long term regional resilience

The Commonwealth’s Preparing Australian Communities Program funded the ‘Bushfire and Biodiversity - Building balanced long term regional resilience’ program.

This program identified and showcased projects and case studies to map effective strategies and pathways to improve both bushfire resilience and biodiversity management for landholders and landscapes within our region.

Key Program Achievements:



Transport

- \$2.2 million funding for roads through the Special Local Roads Program
- Migration to QGIS digital mapping



Public Health

- Endorsed the new Southern and Hills LGA 2022-2027 Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Collecting data and evidence for Community Wellbeing indicators



Climate Change Adaptation

- Collected and presented preliminary evidence of actual tracking vs model projections of Regional Climate Change impacts
- Continued implementing and monitoring the Regional Hills and Coasts 2020-2025 Regional Action Plan



Strategy and Governance

- Undertook a comprehensive strategic review of the Southern and Hills LGA (organisation) and our 2021-2025 Business Plan

ORGANISATION

S&HLGA Organisation and its Board structure,
members and office bearers

The Southern and Hills Local Government Association Board

July 2022

Council	Elected Member Representative	Council Staff Representative
Adelaide Hills	Mayor Jan – Claire Wisdom	CEO Andrew Aitken A/CEO David Waters (Nov 2022)
Alexandrina Council	Mayor Keith Parkes	CEO Nigel Morris
Kangaroo Island Council	Mayor Michael Pengilly	CEO Greg Georgopoulos
Mt Barker District Council	Mayor Ann Ferguson	CEO Andrew Stuart
City of Victor Harbor	Mayor Moira Jenkins	CEO Victoria MacKirdy
District Council of Yankalilla	Mayor Simon Rothwell Mayor Darryl Houston	CEO Nathan Cunningham

Council	Proxy Representative	Role
Adelaide Hills	Cr Kirsty Parkin Natalie Armstrong	Councillor
Alexandrina Council		
Kangaroo Island Council	Bob Teasdale	Deputy Mayor
Mt Barker District Council	Samantha Jones	Councillor
City of Victor Harbor	Cr David Kemp	Deputy Mayor
District Council of Yankalilla		Deputy Mayor

Office Bearers 2022 – 2023

President	Mayor Keith Parkes*, Alexandrina Mayor Moira Jenkins#, City of Victor Harbor * resigned February 2023, # appointed February 2023
Deputy President	Mayor Jan-Claire Wisdom, Adelaide Hills Council

Executive Officer	Mr Graeme Martin
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Auditor	Ms Itisha Anand, Luke Bollmeyer – Accru+ Harris Orchard
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Elected under the provisions of the Constitution of the Local Government Association:

Delegates to LGA Board	Mayor Keith Parkes (resigned Feb 2023) Mayor Moira Jenkins Mayor Jan – Claire Wisdom (via Metro/GAROC)
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Delegates to SAROC	Mayor Darryl Houston	District Council of Yankalilla
	Mayor Moira Jenkins	City of Victor Harbor

**Southern & Hills Local Government Association
Past Presidents and Secretaries / Executive Officers**

Years	President	Council	Secretary / EO
2022 - 2023	Mayor Moira Jenkins ^H	City of Victor Harbor	Graeme Martin
2021 - 2022	Mayor Keith Parkes	Alexandrina Council	Graeme Martin
2020 - 2021	Mayor Keith Parkes	Alexandrina Council	Graeme Martin
2019 – 2020	Mayor Keith Parkes	Alexandrina Council	Graeme Martin
2018 - 2019	Mayor Keith Parkes	Alexandrina Council	Graeme Martin
2017 – 2018	Mayor Keith Parkes ^g	Alexandrina Council	Graeme Martin
2016 - 2017	Mayor Bill Spragg	Adelaide Hills Council	Graeme Martin
2015 - 2016	Mayor Bill Spragg	Adelaide Hills Council	Graeme Martin
2014 - 2015	Mayor Bill Spragg ^f Mayor Ann Ferguson	Adelaide Hills Council DC Mount Barker	Graeme Martin
2013 - 2014	Mayor Ann Ferguson	DC Mount Barker	Graeme Martin
2012 - 2013	Mayor Ann Ferguson	DC Mount Barker	Graeme Martin
2011 - 2012	Mayor Ann Ferguson	DC Mount Barker	Fred Pedler ^d Graeme Martin ^e
2010 - 2011	Mayor Ann Ferguson ^c Mayor Brian Hurn OAM	DC Mount Barker The Barossa Council	Fred Pedler ^b
2009 - 2010	Mayor Brian Hurn OAM	The Barossa Council	Fred Pedler ^b
2008 - 2009	Mayor Brian Hurn OAM	The Barossa Council	Fred Pedler ^b
2007 - 2008	Mayor Brian Hurn OAM	The Barossa Council	Fred Pedler ^b
2006 - 2007	Mayor Brian Hurn OAM	The Barossa Council	Fred Pedler ^b
2005 - 2006	Mayor Brian Hurn OAM	The Barossa Council	Fred Pedler ^b
2004 - 2005	Mayor Kym McHugh	Alexandrina Council	Fred Pedler ^b
2003 - 2004	Mayor Kym McHugh	Alexandrina Council	Fred Pedler ^b
2002 - 2003	Mayor John Crompton ^a	City of Victor Harbor	Fred Pedler ^b
2001 - 2002	Mayor John Crompton	City of Victor Harbor	Fred Pedler ^b
1999 - 2000	Mayor Bernie Eglinton APM	DC Mt Barker	Fred Pedler ^b
1998 - 1999	Mayor Bernie Eglinton APM	DC Mt Barker	Dean Gollan
1997 - 1998	Mayor Janice Kelly	Kangaroo Island Council	Barry Hurst
1996 - 1997	Mayor Janice Kelly	Kangaroo Island Council	Barry Hurst
1995 - 1996	Mayor Anita Aspinall	DC Stirling	Peter Vlatko
1993 - 1994	Cr GR Mayfield	DC Yankalilla	Malcolm Davis
1991 - 1992	Mayor Val Ball	DC Strathalbyn	John Coombe
1989 - 1990	Cr Val Bonython	DC East Torrens	Eric March
1987 - 1988	Cr PD Secker	DC Mt Barker	Dean Gollan
1985 - 1986	Mayor Leon O'Driscoll	DC Strathalbyn	Vernon Cotton
1984 - 1985	Cr CA Phieffer	DC Onkaparinga	David Seaman
1982 - 1983	Cr Brian Pym	DC Mt Pleasant	Adrian Hamiester
1980 - 1981	Cr Roy Galpin	DC Port Elliot and Goolwa	Ron Wellington
1979	Mayor M Checker	DC Gumeracha	Malcolm Anderson
1978	Mayor M Checker	DC Gumeracha	John Grosvenor
1976 - 1977	Mayor A Davidson	DC Strathalbyn	Vernon Cotton
1975	Cr Ray Orr	DC Mt Barker	Reginald Walters
1974	Cr L Hughes	DC Meadows	Wally Richards
1969-1973	No minutes available		
30 th July 1969	First Constitution for S&HLGA Adopted		

^a Until 12th May 2003 ^b Executive Officer ^c From February 2011 ^d To December 2011 ^e From January 2012

^f From February 2015 ^g From December 2017 ^h From February 2023

REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

S&HLGA Reporting flow and performance monitoring

S&HLGA Administration - Flow



The Board

The Board held 6 ordinary bi-monthly meetings during the year. Board Members are generally the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer of each Council. To provide the opportunity for Board Members to gain firsthand knowledge of regional issues, meetings are hosted by Member Councils on a rotational basis and were held at:

Date	Host
26 August 2022	Mt Barker
21 October 2022	Yankalilla
9 December 2022	Alexandrina
24 February 2023	Kangaroo Island
28 April 2023	Adelaide Hills
23 June 2023	Alexandrina

Key Issues acted on by the Board included:

- o Updating and maintaining of the S&HLGA Website to the LGA Squiz platform
- o Finalising and implementing the new 2022-2027 S&HLGA Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
- o Implementing and monitoring the S&HLGA Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan and 2020-25 Regional Action Plan
- o Success with grant funding and commencing the “Bushfire & Biodiversity Project- Building balanced, long term regional resilience”.
- o Strategic review of S&HLGA organisation with a focus on a mid-term review of the organisation’s Business Plan 2021 – 2025.
- o Continued to work closely with the Adelaide Hills Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island Regional Development Australia Board and with RDA officers to implement the 2019 Regional Public Transport study, develop the regional Infrastructure Priority Plan, and the South East Transport Corridor review
- o **The South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC)** is a Committee of the LGA that focuses on key issues affecting country Councils. The S&HLGA continues to support the Governance process by attending the meetings, contributing to agenda items for SAROC meetings, the distribution of Key Outcomes Statements and/or Minutes of meetings to S&HLGA Board meetings and collegiate support to prepare submissions on behalf of country Councils.
- o Implementing the new 2030 Regional Transport Plan, Special Local Roads Program applications as well as the advocacy of the South Coast Freight Corridor and Public Transport in the region.
- o Having input into and supporting the LGA in developing and highlighting Local Government reform issues and advocacy with the State Government
- o 8 various speakers addressed meetings of the Board over the period 2022-2023.

The Board reviewed its achievements to date via the 2022-2023 Key Action Plan, tracked the Actual performance against Budget and developed a new Budget and Action Plan for 2023-2024.

In addition the Board conducted a Strategic Review of the organisation with a focus on its 2021-2025 Business Plan and preparing for its successor plan.

At the commencement of 2022-2023 the Board completed a review of its Annual Key Actions, the EO performance and its Annual Budget performance covering the previous period.

S&HLGA Value proposition

The S&HLGA provided a report back to its Council members on the estimated value of their membership. This is based on the same methodology utilised by the LGA in determining its membership value.

The value from membership in a regional organisation can be summarised in the following key categories; advocacy and representing the region, establishing and implementing high level regional partnerships and links, developing and strengthening regional capacity.

The Table 1 below summarises and compares the S&HLGA membership subscriptions and levies total with the value per S&HLGA member Councils as measured in the value proposition over the past years.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Av Council membership	\$12,529	\$12,279	\$13,536	\$15,202	\$21,570
Value per Council	\$427,871	\$430,953	\$401,809	\$390,087	\$403,357
Return on Investment	3,375%	3,385%	2,968%	2,466%	1,870%

Table 1

COMMITTEES, PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

S&HLGA Committees, work groups and the programs
and projects undertaken during 2022-2023

Committees and Working/Task Groups

The S&HLGA EO was a member of the following Committees and Working Groups during the course of the year:

	Committee	S&HLGA Executive Officer Role	Meeting Frequency	Comment
1	Regional Public Health	Secretarial/Administration	Every 2 months	ongoing
2	Resilient Hills & Coast - Climate change Adaptation	Committee member	Every 2 months	ongoing
3	Regional Economic Development Officers	Committee member	Every 2 months	ongoing
4	Regional EO Management Group	Secretarial/Administration	Every 2 months	Precedes SAROC
5	S&HLGA Advisory Group	Secretarial/Administration	As necessary	Precedes S&HLGA Board
6	S&HLGA Roads Works Group	Secretarial/Administration	at least 3 times per annum	ongoing
7	S&HLGA CWMS User Group	Secretarial/Administration	As necessary	ongoing
8	SAROC	Advisor/Observer	Every 2 months	ongoing
9	SACCA	Observer	As necessary	ongoing



S&HLGA Roads Working Group

The Roads Working Party (RWP) has its membership drawn from directors /managers of technical services of Councils and as required regional managers and infrastructure planners of the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

The RWP held meetings on:

Date	Host
20 September 2022	HDS (Aust) Pty Ltd offices
16 March 2023	On Line

Key achievements and outcomes:

- Co-ordinated the application process of Councils to the SLRP.
- Made recommendations for the SLRP 2023 – 2024 based on the new 2030 Transport Plan critical Roads database.
- Further input into the South Coast Freight Corridor concept and SE Freeway issues.
- QGIS software licence and Roads Hierarchy Mapping support finalised

The following projects were recommended, based on the methodology of the Plan and proposed funding under the Special Local Roads Program for 2023 – 2024.

Project	Council	Total Project Cost for this stage	SLRP request	Council contribution	comment
Range Road	Yankalilla	\$1,200,000	\$800,000	\$400,000	Stage 1 of 1
Spring Road	Kangaroo Island	\$2,100,000	\$1,400,000	\$700,000	Stage 1 of 3
Total		\$3,300,000	\$2,200,000	\$1,100,000	



S&HLGA Regional Public Health Plan

S&HLGA Regional Public Health Committee (RPHC) has its membership drawn from Health, Environment and social planning officers of the member Councils

The S&HLGA RPHC held meetings on:

Date	Host
12 August 2022	On line
29 November 2022	On line
28 February 2023	On line
19 May 2023	Strathalbyn

Primary tasks and focus for this committee:

- Attendance at Committee meetings to implement and monitor the Wellbeing in Our Community- Regional Public Health Plan
- Liaise with LGA officers responsible for Public Health Programs
- Liaise with SA Public Health Office
- Represent the region at Forums and workshops
- Liaise with Public Health Researchers
- Prepare funding submissions for regional Public Health projects

Key achievements and outcomes:

- The Ministerial endorsement and commencement of the new 2022-27 S&HLGA Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.
- Commenced partnership with LGA to advance investigation into Hoarding and Squalor
- Commenced population of the regional Community Wellbeing Indicators dataset
- Partnered with LGA to modify Squiz web platform to incorporate inclusion communications



S&HLGA Regional Climate Change Adaptation Committee (Resilient Hills and Coasts)

Resilient Hills and Coasts has its membership drawn from Environmental officers of the member Councils, RDA, Department of Water and Environment, Green Adelaide and Landscapes Board

The S&HLGA Regional Climate Change Adaptation Committee (Resilient Hills & Coast) held meetings on:

Date	Host
11 August 2022	District Council of Yankalilla
14 October 2022	Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
8 December 2022	Mt Barker District Council
30 March 2023	Adelaide Hills, Stirling
1 June 2023	Mt Barker District Council

Primary tasks and focus for this committee:

- Attendance at Committee meetings to implementation and Monitoring of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan for S&HLGA:
- S&HLGA presentations as required
- Implement and monitor the 2020-2025 Regional Action Plan
- Represent the region at forums and workshops
- Liaise with various “Climate Change” State Government agencies and authorities

Key achievements and outcomes:

- Successful appointment of Nature Conservation Society of SA to undertake a federally funded regional and community Resilience study – Balancing Bushfire & Biodiversity
- Successful Council & partner funding for the continuance of the Resilient Hill & Coasts project co-ordinator
- Collected and presented preliminary evidence of actual tracking v model projections of Regional Climate Change impacts
- Approved migration to stand alone Resilient Hills and Coasts website
- Rolled out a series of outreach sustainable homes webinar series



Regional Economic Development Network Committee

The S&HLGA has strongly supported the activities and research of the Adelaide Hills Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island Regional Development Australia Board and worked closely with RDA officers to partner with the organisation in the general Economic Development of the region.

This Committee has been formed with the Economic Development Officers from the S&HLGA Member Councils under the guidance of the RDA.

The RDA Economic Development Network Committee held meetings on:

Date	Host
8 August 2022	Mount Compass
7 November 2022	Langhorne Creek
13 February 2023	City of Victor Harbor
8 May 2023	Adelaide Hills Council, Stirling

Primary tasks and focus for this committee:

- To share information, achieve procurement and resource sharing efficiencies and develop a regional infrastructure Plan
- Identify and collating infrastructure projects from Council plans
- Generally, identify and develop regional economic growth strategies and opportunities

Key achievements and outcomes:

- Worked through the meeting Action items
- Shared information and knowledge about individual Council projects and programs
- Received Key speakers and presentations on Small Business, Hydrogen opportunity, Community Wealth building, RAA EV charging network
- Developed and reviewed a list of Private, public and Policy projects



The Regional LGA EO group has its membership drawn from each of the Executive Officers of the respective regional LGA organisations

The Regional LGA Organisations EO Management Group held meetings on:

Date	Host
24 August 2022	On line
3 November 2022	Adelaide Hills
16 February 2023	Mintaro
18 April 2023	LGFA offices
27 June 2022	On Line

Primary tasks and focus for this committee:

- To provide input into the sector, develop capacity, share knowledge and develop co-operation between the regions:
- Develop a working relationship with the LGA Management team
- Have input into sector issues
- Advocate on behalf of the regions
- Share information and provide collegiate support

Key achievements and outcomes:
○ Guidance and assistance with the regional road mapping exercise. Formed working task group (QGIS)
○ Assisted Legatus Group in funding and developing Regional Local Government Workforce and careers project
○ Worked with LGA to define the role and responsibility of regional organisation Executive Officers and SAROC/LGA
○ Continued to advocate on regional CWMS and Waste issues
○ Advocacy on the regional housing crisis, regional workforce development and regional mental health services



S&HLGA Advisory Group

The S&HLGA Advisory Group consists of the respective S&HLGA President and Deputy President and CEOs of the President and Deputy President Councils.

The S&HLGA Advisory Group held meetings on:

Date	Host
4 August 2022	Alexandrina
16 May 2023	City of Victor Harbor

Primary tasks and focus for this committee:

- Support the Southern & Hills LGA Executive Officer in reviewing the progress of the Southern & Hills Regional Key Action plan and Business Plan.
- To provide strategic advice to the Southern & Hills LGA and its Executive Officer.
- Provide a forum for, support and exchange of ideas around local government.
- Undertake the performance review of the Executive Officer of the Southern & Hills LGA in accordance with relevant contract requirements.
- Report back to the Southern & Hills LGA Board on projects and tasks as required.

Key achievements and outcomes:

- Developed a briefing paper for Minister for Transport visit to the region
- Revised the S&HLGA Board meeting Agenda format
- Reviewed and recommended the S&HLGA 2022-2023 Draft Budget
- Made recommendations with respect to the Jeff Tate S&HLGA Strategic Review Report



SAROC

The South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) is a Committee of the LGA that focuses on key issues affecting country Councils.

The S&HLGA supports the Governance process by contributing to agenda items for SAROC meetings, the distribution of Key Outcomes Statements and/or Minutes of meetings for S&HLGA Board meetings and collegiate support to prepare submissions on behalf of regional Councils.



MP Relationships

The EO S&HLGA met regularly with the regions State government Members of Parliament (Finniss, Mawson, Kavel and Heysen) to discuss key priorities and policy impact for the region.

Federal MP Rebekha Sharkie (Mayo) and/or members of her team were regular attendees at S&HLGA Board meetings along with the regions State government MPs

Regional Research Papers and Submissions

The following Papers and Submissions have been prepared on behalf of Member Councils during the course of the year:

- LGA Building Capacity progress report
- LGA Building Capacity final report 2022-2023
- Bushfire and Biodiversity final report and acquittal.
- SAROC delegate report
- ESCOSA Council Oversight Fee structure

LGA Board

Mayor Jan – Claire Wisdom (Adelaide Hills Council), Mayor Keith Parkes (Alexandrina Council) and Mayor Moira Jenkins (City of Victor Harbor) have represented the Southern and Hills Region at the Local Government Association State Board meetings during 2022-2023.

Resources

The continuation of the *capacity building grant from the Local Government Research and Development Scheme* has improved the capacity of the Executive Officer that has been applied across a range of Association projects and programs during the year.

Part of the additional capacity has supported the processes and program and project outcomes from the S&HLGA Roads Working Party and the applications to the Local Government Transport Advisory Panel, S&HLGA Regional Public Health Committee and S&HLGA 2022-2027 Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, RH&C Committee Regional Action Plan, involvement with LGA and SAROC, the regional EO group, the remaining regional committees and various reports, submissions and forums throughout the year.

Mr Graeme Martin has provided Executive Officer services to the Association.

Jen St Jack and *Olivia Davies* have provided under contract, project oversight and co-ordination of the work program of the Resilience Hills and Coasts, S&HLGA's Climate Change Committee.

2022-2023 KEY ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

S&HLGA Key Annual Action Plan report for 2022-2023



2022-23 S&HLGA ANNUAL KEY ACTION PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

KEY CATEGORIES & THEMES

THE 2021-2025 S&HLGA BUSINESS PLAN





KEY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES
1. Advocate and Assist – Provide leadership and advocacy for its member Councils on regional and state issues
2. Promote and Partner - To market & promote the Southern & Hills Local Government Association as a credible and capable advocate on behalf of its member Councils. Partner with relevant organisations and regional drivers
3. Research and Recommend - To conduct research and communicate on important or emerging issues for Councils and their communities
4. Capacity and Capability – Build the capacity of its member Councils. Provide valuable information. Explore opportunities both external and internal to build capacity and capability in our region
5. Good Governance - Provide sound financial management. Ensure compliance with all regulatory obligations. Continually review, evaluate and mitigate risks










2022-2023 Annual Key Action Plan - Key Strategic Themes












Funding & Sustainability	Natural Environment	Built Environment	Healthy Communities	Profile & Relationships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have input into LG reform via the LGA Explore S&HLGA Membership via a new Peri Urban region and continually seek External Funding for projects and programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Resilient Hills & Coast Climate adaptation Plan and 2020-2025 Priority Action Plan Tender & complete PAC Bushfire & Diversity Project Overabundant species (Little Corella) Strategy and Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate new 2030 S&HLGA Transport Plan and SLRP applications, Advocate South Coast Freight Corridor continue development of a Regional Infrastructure Plan (with RDA) Highlight and advocate for complete regional coverage of mobileTelecommunications and/or 5G 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise S&HLGA 2022-2027 Regional Public Health Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue relationship building with Government MPs Website information & maintenance

THE 2022-2023 S&HLGA ANNUAL KEY ACTION PLAN

Role	Items & Actions
General Administration (sound financial and compliance management, Good governance)	Budget, Board meetings, Subscriptions and Levies, Key Actions, Audit, Annual Report, Grant reporting & acquittals.
Projects and support (capacity and capability, research and recommend)	Finalise S&HLGA 2022-2027 Regional Public Health Plan, Resilient Hills & Coast Climate adaptation Plan and 2020-2025 Priority Action Plan, Tender & complete PAC Bushfire & Diversity Project, Advocate new 2030 S&HLGA Transport Plan and SLRP applications, South Coast Freight Corridor
Leadership, advocacy and marketing	LG reform, Continue relationship building with Government MPs, Website information & maintenance, Peri-Urban grouping Overabundant species (Little Corella) Strategy and Management,
Opportunities (capacity and capability, promote and partner)	CWMS, Waste, Regional Infrastructure Plan, Membership and External Funding, Telecommunications and 5G

Key		Not on track/overdue / yet to commence
		Past due date but some minor action commenced
		Past due date / action commenced and on track
		completed / no further action required

Theme	Items & Actions	Item	Status	Comment
General Administration (sound financial and compliance management, Good Governance)	Budget, Board meetings, Committee meetings, Subscriptions and Levies, Key Actions, Audit, Annual Report, Grant reporting & acquittals,	Budget		2022-23 Adopted
		Subscriptions & levies		Finalised and invoices submitted
		Audit		Completed Aug 2022
		Annual Report		Completed Sept 2022
		LGA Grants		2021-2022 Regional Capacity Grant acquitted. 2022-2023 application submitted for approval by the LGA. Received Sept 2022
		Website		Updated regularly
Projects and support (Capacity and Capability, Research and Recommend)	Regional Public Health Plan, Resilient Hills & Coast Climate adaptation Plan, Regional Transport Plan	Regional Public Health Plan		Final draft submitted to SA Health. Individual member Councils & Board have approved final draft
		Resilient Hills & Coast Climate adaptation Plan		Active and Regional Action 2020-2025 plan being executed
		Regional Transport Plan		2030 Plan adopted. New critical Roads database being developed. 2022-2023 SLRP funding

				approved by LGTAP. 2023-2024 SLRP applications in progress.
		Bushfire & Biodiversity		RFQ issued. Respondents evaluated and Consultant appointed. First draft of example cases studies developed
Leadership, advocacy and marketing	LGA Peri-Urban Governance review, New Government Policies and LG Reform, Relationship building with State Government MPs, Overabundant species	Peri Urban Regional Organisation Governance review		Peri-urban regional organisation yet to be investigated
		LG key issues		Continuing to work with the LGA/SAROC
		Relationship with MPs		Regularly meeting. Encouraging attendance at Board meetings
		Overabundant species(Little Corellas)		Working with Landscapes Board but slow progress. LGA awaiting pilot program results
Opportunities (Capacity and Capability, Research and Recommend, Promote and Partner)	CWMS, Regional Infrastructure Plan, External Funding, Digital Connectivity and telecommunications, Regional Business/Workstation hubs	CWMS		Committee to meet regularly. Liaise with Legatus and LGA CWMS management Committee. Workshop completed 4 Nov
		Infrastructure Plan		Recent RDA priority project forum/ Committee meeting regularly
		External funding		Project based – Bushfire & Biodiversity successfully funded
		Telecommunications		Working with RDA. Seek funding opportunities as presented
		SA Coastal Councils Alliance		Constant relationship with SACCA. Delegates nominated Feb 2023
		Regional Govt.Business Hubs		Commenced research with Alexandrina as a partner

Category	S&HLGA Role	Item	Comment/Description
Administration	Active/Lead	EO KPIs	Agreed in June 2022. Progress report Feb 2023
	Active/Lead	Budget 2022-2023	Adopted in June 2022
	Active/Lead	Key Action 2022-2023	Adopted in June 2022
	Active/Lead	Regional Capacity grant acquittal 2021-2022	Acquited July 2022. Progress report Jan 2023
	Active/Lead	Audit 2021-2022	Commenced July 2022. Completed Sept 2022
	Active/Lead	Annual Report 2021-2022	Commenced August 2022. Completed Sept 2022
	Active/Lead	Website maintenance	Ongoing
Projects – Lead/S&HLGA Committee	Active/Lead	S&HLGA 2022-2027 Regional Public Health Plan/Committee	Ongoing meetings 12/8/22, 29/11/22,28/02/2023,19/05/2023
	Active/Lead	Resilient Hills & Coast	Ongoing meetings 11/8/22,14/10/22,8/12/22,30/03/2023,1/06/2023
	Active/Lead	S&HLGA Advisory Group	Ongoing meetings 4/8/22,16/05/2023
	Active/Lead	2030 Transport Plan/ Road Works Party	Ongoing meetings 20/9/22,16/03/2023
	Active/Influence	CWMS	Legatus Group now leading sector review. Update 24/8/22. Workshop 4 Nov, Conference 8 June 2023
Projects – Lead	Active/Lead	Bushfire and Diversity Project	Tenders issued, Consultant appointed. Commenced Aug 2022. Case studies developed
	Lead/Partner/Influence	Regional LGA Management Group	Regular meeting of the LGA EOs and development of priority projects, key issues in conjunction with SAROC. Meeting 24/8/22,7/11/22,16/02/2023,18/04/2023, 18/04/2023
Projects - Partner	Partner/Influence	SA Coastal Councils Alliance	Maintaining relationship and support for Strategic and Business Plans
	Partner/Advocate	Telecommunications	Advocating for regional black spot funding and ready for 5G. Partner with RDA. Attended NBN Business satellite expo 17/8/22
	Partner/Influence	Economic Development Network Forum	RDA lead but focus on Regional Infrastructure plan, Federal stimulus opportunities and Public Transport. Meeting 8/8/22,7/11/22,13/02/2023, 8/05/2023
	Partner/Advocate	Northern Freight Bypass	Continue to advocate road upgrades with MRLGA
	Facilitator/Advocate	South Coast Freight Corridor	Finalise route. Develop Business Case. Advocate with State and Federal Govt. Seek funding. Minister attended S&HLGA Board meeting 26/8/22
	Partner/Influence	Overabundant Species	S&HLGA/LGA/Landscapes Board working on collaborative project for managing Little Corellas

Category	S&HLGA Role	Item	Comment/Description
	Partner/Influence	Regional Government Business Hubs	Inform on criteria. Investigate potential. Partnering with Alexandrina
Relationships	Active/Lead/Influence	State MPs/Federal MP	Continue regular catch ups during 2022-2023
	Active/Lead/Influence	Peri –Urban Group	Advocate and seek input from potential expanded Council members into a larger peri – urban Regional Organisation.

Acronyms

AICD.....	Australian Institute of Company Directors
CEO.....	Chief Executive Officer
CWMS.....	Community Wastewater Management Systems
DEW.....	Department of Environment and Water
EO.....	Executive Officer
ESCOSA.....	Essential Services Commission of South Australia
GAROC.....	Greater Adelaide Region of Councils
LGA.....	Local Government Association
MP.....	Members of Parliament
MDBA.....	Murray Darling Basin Authority
MOU.....	Memorandum of Understanding
NBN.....	National Broadband Network
NRM.....	Natural Resources Management
OLG.....	Office of Local Government
PIRSA.....	Primary Industries & Regions SA
RH&C.....	Resilient Hills and Coasts Committee
RDA.....	Regional Development Australia
RPHC.....	Regional Public Health Committee
RWP.....	Roads Works Party
SA.....	South Australia
SAROC.....	South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils
S&HLGA.....	Southern and Hills Local Government Association
SLRP.....	Special Local Roads Program

FINANCIALS

S&HLGA Audited Financial statement for 2022-2023

SOUTHERN & HILLS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 30th June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Income			
Subscriptions	1.8	132,680	129,423
Operating Grants	2.2	40,000	42,783
Investment Income	1.7	7,094	665
Other		203,185	115,694
Total Income		<u>382,959</u>	<u>288,565</u>
Expenditure			
Employee Costs		157,309	150,733
Materials, Contracts and other expenses	3	206,431	218,354
Finance Charges		6,003	5,536
Total Expenditure		<u>369,743</u>	<u>374,623</u>
Surplus (Deficit) from Operations		<u>13,216</u>	<u>(86,058)</u>

The above Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

SOUTHERN & HILLS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
		\$	\$
Current Assets			
Investments		155,291	218,876
Debtors		8,834	0
Total Current Assets		164,125	218,876
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable		0	2,673
Grants in Advance		27,000	81,818
GST		(24,802)	(1,808)
PAYG Payable		10,304	5,152
Employee provisions		36,169	36,169
Rounding		(14)	(15)
Superannuation payable		1,502	0
Wages payable		5,264	(599)
Total Current Liabilities		55,423	123,390
Net Current Assets		108,702	95,486
Net Assets		108,702	95,486
Equity			
Accumulated Surplus		108,702	95,486
Total Equity		108,702	95,486

The above Balance Sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

SOUTHERN & HILLS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 30th June 2023

	2023	2022
Notes	\$	\$
Accumulated Surplus		
Balance at beginning of period	95,486	181,544
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	13,216	(86,058)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at end of period	108,702	95,486
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Equity	108,702	95,486
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The above Statement of Change in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

SOUTHERN & HILLS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 30th June 2023

	2023	2022
Notes	\$	\$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Receipts	294,181	406,690
Payments	(382,893)	(382,437)
GST Paid (received)	0	(2,205)
Finance Costs	0	(5,537)
Interest Receipts	25,125	665
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	(63,687)	17,176
Net increase/(decrease) in Cash Held	(63,587)	17,176
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period	218,876	201,700
Cash at the end of the reporting period	155,290	218,876

Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from operating activities

	2023	2022
		\$
Net Surplus	13,216	(86,058)
Decrease / (Increase) in Provisions	12,517	8,063
Decrease / (Increase) in Debtors	(8,834)	0
(Decrease) / Increase in Accounts Payable	(2,673)	13,353
(Decrease) / Increase in Grants in Advance	(54,819)	81,818
Increase / (Decrease) in GST	(22,994)	0
Net Cash provided by Operating Activities	(63,587)	17,176

SOUTHERN & HILLS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 30th June 2023

	2023	2022
Notes	\$	\$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Receipts	294,181	406,690
Payments	(382,893)	(382,437)
GST Paid (received)	-	(2,205)
Finance Costs	-	(5,537)
Interest Receipts	25,125	665
	(63,687)	17,176
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities		
	(63,587)	17,176
	218,876	201,700
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period		
	155,290	218,876
Cash at the end of the reporting period		

Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from operating activities

	2023	2022
		\$
Net Surplus	13,216	(86,058)
Decrease / (Increase) in Provisions	12,517	8,063
Decrease / (Increase) in Debtors	(8,834)	0
(Decrease) / Increase in Accounts Payable	(2,673)	13,353
(Decrease) / Increase in Grants in Advance	(54,819)	81,818
Increase / (Decrease) in GST	(22,994)	-
Net Cash provided by Operating Activities	(63,587)	17,176

The above Statement of cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

SOUTHERN & HILLS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2023

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.

The financial report was authorised for issue by certificate under regulation 14 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* dated 24 August 2023

1 Basis of Preparation

1.1 Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards

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 Southern & Hills Local Government Association is a Regional Subsidiary under Section 43 and Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 1999. The Constituent Councils are the Adelaide Hills Council, Alexandrina Council, Kangaroo Island Council, Mt Barker District Council, City of Victor Harbor and District Council of Yankalilla.

All funds received and expended by the Association have been included in the financial statements forming part of this financial report.

1.2 Historical Cost Convention

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

1.3 Critical Accounting Estimates

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 Authority'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.

1.4 Rounding

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar

1.5 Non-Current Assets and Non-Current Liabilities

The Association has nil non-current assets or non-current liabilities.

1.6 Employees

The Association has one employee having converted the CEO from contractor to employee in February 2019.

1.7 Investments

Investments are valued at cost. Interest revenues are recognised as they accrue.

SOUTHERN & HILLS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1.8 Subscriptions

Clause 6 of the Charter of the Association prescribes that subscriptions (not levies) by Constituent Councils are equal. The Charter has since been amended in January 2022 allowing flexible subscriptions.

Constituent Council Subscription 2023	\$20,500
Constituent Council Subscription 2022	\$20,000

1.9 Income recognition

The Association recognises revenue under AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (AASB 1058) or AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (AASB 15) when appropriate. In cases where there is an 'enforceable' contract with a customer with 'sufficiently specific' performance obligations, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15 where income is recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied (i.e. when it transfers control of a product or service to a customer). Revenue is measured based on the consideration to which the Association expects to be entitled in a contract with a customer. In other cases, AASB 1058 applies when the Association enters into transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than the fair value of the asset principally to enable the entity to further its objectives. The excess of the asset recognised (at fair value) over any 'related amounts' is recognised as income immediately, except in the case where a financial asset has been received to enable the council to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset that is to be controlled by the Association.

1.10 Cash

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash deposits which are readily convertible to cash on hand and which are used in the cash management function on a day to day basis.

1.11 New accounting standards for application in future periods

The Australian Accounting Standards Board has issued new and amended Accounting Standards and interpretations that have mandatory application dates for future periods. The organisation has assessed that it is not expected to be materially impacted by those changes.

2 Functions / Activities of the Association

2.1 Revenues and expenses have been attributed to the following functions / activities, descriptions of which are set out in Note 2.2.

2.2 The activities of the Association are categorised into the following broad functions:

Administration: The operation of the Office of the Association and its decision making forums.

Special projects: The research into and implementation of projects prescribed by Acts or regulations or approved by Board decision.

SOUTHERN & HILLS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 2.2 Functions / Activities of the Southern & Hills Local Government Association

Administration

Year	Revenue			%	Expenses		Surplus (Deficit)
	Grants	Other	Total Revenue		Expenses Total	%	
2023	0	140,249	148,430	38.8%	194,640	52.6%	(54,391)
2022	0	131,295	131,295	45.5%	196,452	52.4%	(65,157)
Projects							
2023	129,849	104,680	234,529	61.2%	175,103	47.4%	86,426
2022	157,270	0	157,270	54.5%	178,171	47.6%	(20,901)
Total							
2023	129,849	244,929	382,959	100%	369,743	100%	32,035
2022	157,270	131,295	288,565	100%	374,623	100%	(86,058)

SOUTHERN & HILLS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. Contractual Services

Contractual Services involve payments or liabilities for the external provision of services and include (net of GST):

	2023	2022
Consultants:		
Jeanette Pope	\$0	\$13,723
URPS	\$0	\$2,443
HDS Australia Pty Ltd	\$16,533	\$33,025
Centre for Inclusive design	\$0	\$23,850
Nature Conservation Society SA	\$79,567	\$0
Jack Jensen	\$84,100	\$33,000
Penny Worland Consulting	\$	\$21,944
Jeff Tate Consulting	\$7,862	\$0
AHC	\$0	\$10,000
<hr/>		
Total	\$188,062	\$137,985
Materials and other expenses	\$18,369	\$80,369
<hr/>		
Total	\$206,431	\$218,354

4. Comparison of Budget and Actual Results

	2023		2022	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue				
Administration	137,180	140,249	131,281	131,295
Projects	219,757	261,529	144,270	157,270
<hr/>				
Total Revenue	356,937	401,778	275,551	288,565
Expenditure				
Administration	195,284	194,640	186,028	196,452
Projects	172,880	175,103	171,424	178,171
<hr/>				
Total Expenditure	368,164	369,743	357,452	374,623
<hr/>				
Surplus (Deficit)	(11,227)	32,035	(81,901)	(86,058)

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been authorised by the Southern & Hills Local Government Association to certify the financial statements in their final form. In our opinion:

- o the accompanying financial statements comply with the *Local Government Act 1999, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* and Australian Accounting Standards.
- o the financial statements present a true and fair view of the Association's financial position at 30 June 2023 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the financial year.
- o internal controls implemented by the Authority provide a reasonable assurance that the Association's financial records are complete, accurate and reliable and were effective throughout the financial year.
- o the financial statements accurately reflect the Association's accounting and other records.

Dated 29 August 2023



Graeme Martin
EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Mayor Moira Jenkins
PRESIDENT

CERTIFICATION OF AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE

To the best of our knowledge and belief, we confirm that, for the purpose of the audit of the Southern & Hills Local Government Association for the year ended 30 June 2023, the Association's Auditor, Accru Harris Orchard, 172 Fullarton Rd, Adelaide, 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*.

Dated 29 August 2023



Graeme Martin
EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Mayor Moira Jenkins
PRESIDENT

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

To the Board Members of Southern & Hills Local Government Association

As lead auditor for the audit of Southern & Hills Local Government Association for the financial year ended 30 June 2023:

I confirm that, for the audit of the financial statements of Southern & Hills Local Government Association for the year ended 30 June 2023, I have maintained my independence in accordance with the requirements of APES 110 – Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, Section 290, published by the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board, in accordance with 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(5) Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011.



ACCRU+ HARRIS ORCHARD



**LUKE BOLLMEYER
DIRECTOR**

Dulwich, 29 August 2023

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTHERN & HILLS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

Opinion

We have audited the special purpose financial report of Southern & Hills Local Government Association (the "Association"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and director's declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2023 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and *Local Government Act 1999* and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- + Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- + Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- + Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board.
- + Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- + Evaluate the overall presentation, structure, and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



ACCRU⁺ HARRIS ORCHARD



**LUKE BOLLMEYER
DIRECTOR**

Dulwich, 29 August 2023

SOUTHERN & HILLS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE REPORT

Qualified Opinion

We have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the design and the operating effectiveness of controls established by Southern and Hills Local Government Association ('Association') in relation to financial transactions relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities, throughout the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 relevant to ensuring such transactions have been conducted properly and in accordance with law.

In our opinion, except for the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, in all material respects:

- (a) The controls established by the Association in relation to financial transactions relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities were suitably designed to ensure such transactions have been conducted properly and in accordance with law; and
- (b) The controls operated effectively as designed throughout the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The Association sought exemption from the requirement in clause 30 of Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 1999. The Minister granted the exemption on the basis that the Association would periodically review and update its internal controls and encouraged the use of the practical and contemporary guidance material on internal controls issued by the Local Government Association's 'Better Practice Model – Internal Financial Controls'.

The Association's 'Operations Manual – Finance Policy' is available on the Association's website and was last updated in October 2014.

We conducted our engagement in accordance with applicable Australian Standards on Assurance Engagement ASAE 3000 Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information and ASAE 3150 Assurance Engagement on Controls, issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, in order to state whether, in all material respects. ASAE 3000 also requires us to comply with the relevant ethical requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

The Associations Responsibility for Internal Control

The Association is responsible for:

- a) The receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities;
- b) Identifying the control objectives
- c) Identifying the risks that threaten achievement of the control objectives

- d) Designing controls to mitigate those risks, so that those risks will not prevent achievement of the identified control objectives; and
- e) Operating effectively the controls as designed throughout the period.

Our Independence and Quality Control

We have complied with the independence and other relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements, and applied Auditing Standard ASQC 1 Quality Control for Firms that Performs Audits and Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, and Other Assurance Engagements in undertaking this assurance engagement.

Auditor's Responsibilities

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Authority's compliance with Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999 in relation only to the internal controls established by the Authority to ensure that financial transactions relating to receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities, based on our procedures. Our engagement has been conducted in accordance with applicable Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3000 Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Information and ASAE 3150 Assurance Engagements on Controls, issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, in order to state whether, in all material respects, the Authority has complied with Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999 in relation only to the internal controls specified above for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. ASAE 3000 also requires us to comply with the relevant ethical requirements for the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Limitations of Controls

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure it is possible that, even if the controls are suitably designed and operating effectively, the control objectives may not be achieved so that fraud, error, or non-compliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected. An assurance engagement on controls is not designed to detect all instances of controls operating ineffectively as it is not performed continuously throughout the period and the tests performed are on a sample basis. Any projection of the outcome of the evaluation of controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with them may deteriorate.

Limitations of Use

This report has been prepared for the members of the Authority in Accordance with Section 129 of the Local Government Act 1999 in relation to the Internal Controls Specified above. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report to any persons or users other than the members of the Authority, or for any purpose other than which it was prepared.



ACCRU⁺ HARRIS ORCHARD



**LUKE BOLLMEYER
DIRECTOR**

Dulwich, 29 August 2023