



Briefing Paper for regional engagement on proposed ancillary documents to the recently adopted LGA Constitution

The Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA) is currently undertaking consultation with its Member Councils seeking feedback on the following draft documents:

- Membership Proposition.
- SAROC and GAROC Terms of Reference.
- Audit Committee Terms of Reference.
- CEO Advisory Committee.
- Meeting Procedures.

The LGA has contracted local Government engagement specialists URPS to assist with the consultation through a series of preliminary meetings with regional groupings of Councils. These meetings to be held during June will result in a Preliminary Briefing Paper to be considered by the LGA Board at its meeting on 16 July.

These meetings will have a primary focus on the:

- Identification of regions for inclusion as a schedule to the Membership Proposition.
- Membership rights and obligations.
- Nominations and election processes to the Board of Directors and to the South Australian Region of Councils (SAROC) and Greater Adelaide Region of Councils (GAROC) and the CEO Advisory Group.
- Strategic and annual business planning and budgeting for SAROC and GAROC.

There will be time during the workshop for Councils to raise any other relevant matters for consideration.

Identification of Regions

Two draft options have been developed for the purpose of consultation with member Councils. These are illustrated in the attached maps.

Option A is based on geographic groupings. It divides metropolitan Adelaide into 4 regions – north, south, east and west. Councils such as Adelaide Plains, Barossa and Light are proposed to join the Metro North region and Mount Barker is proposed to join the Metro East region.

These changes affect the Southern and Hills regional grouping (loss of one member) and Legatus regional grouping (loss of three members).

No changes are proposed for the Eyre Peninsula, Limestone Coast and Murraylands and Riverland regional groupings.

Option A proposes the addition of Coober Pedy, Roxby Downs and the Outback Communities to the Upper Spencer Gulf regional group.

Option B seeks to equalise the population distribution between regions by introducing a new regional category of peri-urban. The Peri-urban regional group is proposed to include Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, Barossa, Light, Gawler, Kangaroo Island, Mount Barker, Victor Harbor and Yankalilla.

While the other metro regions of north, west and south still have higher populations of 331,000; 334, 000 and 326,000 respectively, there is greater parity with Metro East at 201,000 and Peri-urban at 196,000.

The region most affected by Option B is the Southern and Hills which is dissolved and absorbed into the new Peri-urban regional group. Under this option, Adelaide Hills and Gawler moved from metropolitan to peri-urban and Adelaide Plains, Barossa and Light Councils move from Legatus to the Peri-urban regional group.

Option B does not result in any change for the Eyre Peninsula, Limestone Coast, Murraylands and Riverland regional groupings.

As in Option A, the Councils of Roxby Downs and Coober Pedy and the Outback Communities are proposed to be added to the Upper Spencer Gulf Region.

Questions for Discussion

What are the relative advantages and disadvantages of the existing model, Option A and Option B?

Do you have an alternative proposal for any of the regional groupings?

Which model best supports your needs as a Council and the interests of your region, as you define it?

Why do the regional groupings matter?

The new constitution strengthens the roles of SAROC and GAROC in the areas of regional advocacy, policy initiation and review, leadership, engagement and capacity building.

Only SAROC, GAROC or the Board of Directors may decide to place an item of business on the agenda of a General Meeting of Members. SAROC and GAROC report directly to the Board of Directors. The Board must consider and respond to any report or recommendations provided by SAROC and GAROC. The Board may refer matters to SAROC and/or GAROC for their consideration and response.

A Director Member of SAROC and GAROC will provide a verbal report to meetings of the Board of Directors.

How does the election process work?

Each regional grouping (as identified in the schedule to the Membership Proposition) will elect two (2) members to SAROC or GAROC, providing they are from different Councils. Each Council Member of a regional grouping may nominate a candidate for election to SAROC or GAROC.

SAROC and GAROC will elect their own chairperson who becomes a Director of the LGA Board. In addition, SAROC and GAROC will each elect three members to serve as Directors on the Board.

Questions for Discussion

What are your views on the election process for SAROC and GAROC?

Does the proposed election process for membership on the LGA Board provide for effective regional representation?

What do you see as the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed approach?

Member Proposition

This document sets out the rights and obligations of Members and the LGA. It provides details of the membership benefits Councils can expect to receive from the LGA and the nature of their contribution. The rights of members established under the constitution are detailed as are the obligations of members with respect to conduct, payment of fees and revocation of membership.

Funding and Resourcing SAROC and GAROC

The Terms of Reference for SAROC and GAROC clearly spell out the membership model for these groups and their relationship to the LGA Board. It specifies the requirement for SAROC and GAROC to develop a four year Strategic Plan and an Annual Business Plan and Budget. The manner of resourcing SAROC and GAROC is covered with the "Chief Executive will ensure that administrative support and other resources are made available ... as included in the approved annual business plan and budget."

Questions for Discussion

- Membership rights and obligations and the LGA responsibilities – does the Member Proposition clearly articulate these? Do you have any comments you would like to make?
- How should SAROC and GAROC be funded and resourced?
- What role should member Councils play in developing the four year Strategic Plans and Annual Business Plans for SAROC and GAROC?