Murraylands and Riverland
Local Government Association

Draft Minutes

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Date Thursday 30 July 2026
Venue Waikerie Riverfront Community Hub Pavilion
Leonard Norman Drive, Waikerie SA 5330

Annual General Board Meeting

PROGRAM

10:30am	**Annual General Meeting Open**
12:00 – 12:30	**Conversation with Member for Chaffey, Tim Whetstone MP**
2:30pm	**Annual General Meeting Close**

Information about each item can be found in the Agenda.
The Draft Minutes are condensed to capture the decisions from the meeting.

Being a unified local government sector
working in the best interest of the region and our communities.

DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MURRAYLANDS & RIVERLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

CONTENTS

ATTACHMENTS

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ATTACHMENT 14	MRLGA Committee Members
ATTACHMENT 15	Data Centres - Short Report
ATTACHMENT 16	Letter from Coorong District Council

During the meeting, requests were made for additional attachments, which are set out below:

ATTACHMENT 17	MRLGA Charter
ATTACHMENT 18	MRLGA Charter – Review -Draft Amendments
ATTACHMENT 19	Copy of draft hand out regarding subscription model information

1 WELCOME

Acknowledgment of Country

Presidents Welcome

Mayor Caroline Phillips was an apology for the meeting.
Mayor Paul Simmons is on leave and Acting Mayor Jonathan Pietzsch is performing mayoral duties and joins the Board representing Coorong District Council.

2 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None stated.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A copy of the General Board Meeting Minutes was provided at Attachment 1 (including attendance register) with the Agenda.

Motion

"Minutes from the MRLGA General Board Meeting held at the Southern Mallee District Council Offices in Lameroo on Friday 24 April 2026 be taken as read and confirmed."

Moved ***Mayor Norton (DCLW)*** *Seconded* ***Mayor Hunter (RPC)***

Carried

4 ACTIONS REGISTER

- There were 26 board actions from 23/24 and 1 item remains pending.

	20 October 2023 - General Meeting	
	Action:	
1	**Charter Review** Carry out a review and any draft amendments to be abled with Ceo Network and Board before a legal review and adoption.	This was temporarily on hold until the LGA constitutional review was completed. Councils voted at the LGA AGM November Minutes. AGM-2024-Minutes-22-November-2024.pdf This item is now pending the outcome of Item. 5.2 – Process to appoint LGA President.

- 1 item remains pending from 24/25 board actions including:

	7 August 2024 – Annual General Meeting	
	Action(s)	
2	**Regional Drought Resilience Plan** The MRLGA re-engage PIRSA and Ministers (Scriven's) Office regarding MRLGA's role in relation to MR Plan, Drought Resilience and Drought Response.	– The Consortium requested a meeting in January with PIRSA. It said its earliest availability was March, but later rescheduled our meeting to 7 May 2026. – Next steps for this action are outlined and to be discussed at Item 10.5.

- There were 32 board actions emerging from 25/26 meetings. 12 items are active and pending.

	31 July 2025	
	Action(s)	
3	**Item of Business to LGA AGM re: Collection of Landscape Levy** The MRLGA Board support the MRLGA Ceo to liaise with Mayor Thorley on a potential motion to the LGA AGM (from Rural City of Murray Bridge) about advocacy towards the withdrawal of	– Completed

	Council collecting State levy charges, and the concept of an alternative rate notice format for the sector that separates charges.	
4	**SAROC Groupings** MRLGA Ceo to confirm the groupings representation clauses (including change in regional lga president, vice president and proxy (either specific or flexible nomination).	– Completed. Regional LGA's cannot conduct voting (it must be done by LGA and SAROC Reps cannot have proxy's).
5	**Procedure for items of business to National Ministerial Meetings** LGA to advise of the process to achieve item(s) of business for Minsters Meetings (such as the ones highlighted below). • Local Government Ministers' Forum • Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting	– Completed. LGA responded on 21/10 and the information was disseminated.
6	**Letter to LGA in support of Mayor Simmons being a nominated representative on the SA Drought Advisory Group** The MRLGA Board agree to co-sign a letter from MRLGA to LGA in support of Mayor Simmons as nominee for the role LGA representative on the SA Drought Advisory Working Group.	– Completed
7	**Invite new Landscape Board Ceo** MRLGA Ceo to invite the new Landscape Board Ceo (when known) to an MRLGA meeting, and inform them of a desire to discuss the region having the States highest landscape levy.	– Completed. New Ceo will visit Councils separately.
	Invite new Landscape Board Ceo MRLGA Ceo to extend a new invite to Ceo to present at next meeting.	– Completed. – LB Ceo had a prior commitment on 30 July and is now invited for October meeting.
8	**RDRP** That the MRLGA Board: Support the MRLGA Ceo to pursue an agreement with consortium partners that establish a 12 month shared role for drought resilience coordination using the $140k Implementation Funding.	– Completed
9	**RDRP** That the MRLGA Board support the MRLGA Ceo to negotiate for equal division of delivery funding to each three consortium partners, and for it to progress drought resilience initiatives and report back to the Board on its progress".	– Next steps for this action are outlined and to be discussed at Item 10.5
10	**RDRP** The Board support the MRLGA Ceo as the signing officer on funding proposals associated with RDRP funding."	– Completed
11	**Personnel Changes** The Board approve for its banking systems and forms to remove Mayor Phillips and add Mayor Bailey to the Banks SA and BBO system in line with President and Vice President appointments following the AGM.	– Bank could not receive new user paper work until the organisation could be 'ID'. – Paperwork lodged (mid-late '25) – BankSA emailed 20 July '26 stating it received the paperwork but is pending review.
12	**Flood Funding** MRLGA Ceo to liaise with Mid Murray Council about the financials of flood funding and if it can write to the crarp to access the remaining funds.	– MRLGA Ceo met with MMC Ceo 13 Jan. MMC will review more of the financials and be in touch if further advocacy is needed. – Completed
13	**MMC requested** MRLGA Ceo to invite Hon Kirsty McBain to tour the Murraylands and Riverland.	– Not yet commenced.
14	**RPC requested**: The need to list an agenda item for the Adelaide Freight Bypass (and risks/ potential impacts from the delivery stages of this project)	– Item raised with Ceo Network on 6 Nov '25 during its meeting with Senior Executives of DIT. While early concept design work is progressing, the State seeks 80/20 funding arrangements with Feds before further design work. – Completed

	30 October 2025	
	Action(s)	
15	**SAROC Reps Attendance**	– Completed.

	The MRLGA Board temporarily suspend having delegates attend SAROC meetings until LGA can demonstrate confidence in governance, democratic process, value and outcomes back to the regional grouping, and ask SAROC Chair to speak with regional grouping about solutions for improvement.	
16	**One Basin CRC** Ceo to inquire about CRC's acting arrangements.	– Avril Hogan Chief Operating Officer One Basin CRC Email | avril.hogan@onebasin.com.au Ph | 0400 628 257 Web | www.onebasin.com.au – Completed
17	Ceo to see if more updates/information on CRC can be shared with the Board.	– MRLGA Ceo met with One Basin CRC Coo on 3 Feb – action limited while Ceo role is vacant. No further next available on this action.
18	**Sustainable Communities Program** The MRLGA Board support the MRLGA Ceo to prepare a submission to the SCP in accordance with the scope parameters outlined in agenda Item 8.4.	– MRLGA has identified an alternative partnership pathway outside of the grant program and it therefore did not make a submission.
19	**Administration fees for regional delivery on behalf of PIRSA** That the MRLGA Ceo liaise with PIRSA Ceo about agenda Items 8.5 with a view to structuring an arrangement that supports regional local government associations to participate in drought prepared opportunities, but not at the expense of the councils operational and regional priorities that support the sustainability of local government.	– Next steps for this action are outlined and to be discussed at Item 10.5.

	5 February 2026	–
	Action(s)	–
20	**Feedback to LGA** The MRLGA Ceo to provide feedback to the LGA about the process for advocacy in the lead up to future (State and Federal) Elections	– Completed
21	**Reinstatement of SAROC Reps** The MRLGA Board support SAROC representatives to attend meetings at times when items are pertinent to regional priorities. It supports the MRLGA Ceo, President and SAROC Representatives to continue dialogue with the LGA Ceo and President to advocate for improved engagement and advocacy frameworks with all Councils.	– Completed MRLGA (President, Ceo and Saroc Rep) met with LGA (President, Ceo and SAROC Chair) on 25 March accordingly.
22	**Call for there to be a SA Commissioner for Agriculture** The MRLGA Board, support (in-principle) the LCLGA proposal to investigate a Commissioner for Agriculture in South Australia, amidst growing challenges facing the regional and rural areas and the need for an expert, independent role to act in the best interest of South Australian Agriculture. Further support would be subject to the scope, powers and functions of the role.	– Completed
23	**States withdrawal to prepare a Digital Connectivity Plan** The MRLGA support the MRLGA Ceo to refer the regional digital connectivity matter to relevant state and federal members	– Temporarily on hold while the SA State Election was underway. – Item to be delivered in Q1 26/27.
24	**Audit Committee Exemption** The MRLGA Board support the continuation of the exemption for MRLGA from having a risk and audit committee, given the subsidiary is externally and independently audited each year to the same standard as Councils.	– Completed. Minister approved the exemption on 29 June 2026 (26MLG0034)
25	**Storage of Records** The MRLGA Board support the Ceo to release an EOI to (constituent) Councils who can perform records management services to scan all documents and register them in Sharepoint, as well as organise all documents pre-1980 in categories for MRLGA Ceo and President to determine their value for long term archival and report back to the Board (before any permanent documents are destroyed). If a Council is unable to deliver the service, the MRLGA will seek an external provider.	– Underway : EOI has been sent to all 8 Councils. – Next steps will be taken in August

	24 April 2026	
	Action(s)	
26	**Letter of Advocacy** The MRLGA Ceo prepare a letter for signing by the President to LGA asking if it would invite the Chair of the Committee, Mrs Fiona Phillips to an online webinar after the committee has finalised the inquiry to discuss the findings and be open to queries	– On hold until after the public hearings, Adelaide 25 August. – A request to speak at the hearing was lodged and later accepted on 17 July.
27	**Meeting Request** The MRLGA Ceo write to the respective Federal Ministers to seek meetings on Housing and Planning and a separate meeting for Roads and LG Sustainability and that the MRLGA Ceo consider attending ALGA in Canberra to support advocacy	– Completed. – MRLGA President and Vice President met with King's advisor in June in Canberra. A mutual time with McBain's advisor was unable to be reached.
28	**Inquiry – National state of the Assets Report** MRLGA Ceo will write to ALGA to seek advice if/when a 2025 National State of the Assets Report will be released to support ongoing advocacy	– Completed. ALGA advised it would release the report at NGA, Canberra which it did.
29	**Letter of Advocacy** The MRLGA Ceo prepare a letter for signing by the President to Ministers King and McBain (cc LGA and SA Grants Commission) outlining strong support of the LGA's supplementary road funding advocacy and that the need is critical."	– A successful funding announcement was made prior to a letter being drafted.
30	**Energy from Waste Presentation** MRLGA Ceo to organise an online presentation about energy from waste technologies, including an overview of the various energy products that can be derived from selected waste streams and its potential role towards Green Urea, Synthetic Fuels, AdBlue and others in light of the State's objectives.	– To be organised.
31	**Letter of Advocacy** The MRLGA Ceo prepare a letter for signing by the President to the LGA outlining the valid reasons why regional councils should be provided with an appropriate level of funding and support to deliver regional public health plan reviews and updates."	– To be organised.
32	**Pursuit of Regional Partnership with GISA** The MRLGA Ceo undertake liaison with GISA and appropriate stakeholders to ascertain interest from partners for a joint approach to a single strategy, pursuant to the conditions outlined in Item 9.2 of the Agenda and report back to the board before next steps	– Underway.
33	**Delegation** The MRLGA Board issue delegation to the Ceo to sign and execute the grant funding agreement with PIRSA (to receive approximately $100,000 income) to deliver projects in the region under the Regional Drought Resilience Program	– Completed.
34	**RDRP Coordinator** Provide the Board with a list of the opportunities and risks if MRLGA was to put forward itself as Regional Coordinator for the fRRR Community Impact Program.	– Not delivered. fRRR moved forward with an EOI via a separate online platform that MRLGA did not observe. Whilst we initially considered the income, it remains a function that others may be best to perform with their resources.
35	**Letter of Advocacy** That MRLGA write to relevant Ministers and the Premier about community transport and the impacts of heavy vehicles on Council impacted roads	– Item Underway MRLGA Ceo met with CDC reps online on 20 May to understand the 'asks'. MRLGA liaised with TBCC on 21 May to better understand the issues and 'asks'. A draft letter has been prepared but not yet issued. – ETA August '26

Item 1 The Board agreed that the Charter review should proceed to completion, notwithstanding the significant time that has elapsed and the constitutional issues within the LGA that remain somewhat unresolved. Acting Mayor Jonathan Pietzsch asked a copy of the MRLGA Charter and the draft proposed amendments be attached with the draft minutes.

Item 13 The Board agreed to remove the action noting it was not undertaken/delivered.

Motion

"That the MRLGA Board note the actions completed and those underway from the previous meetings.

Moved, ***Mayor Valentine (SMDC)*** *Seconded* ***Mayor Thorely (RCMB)***

Carried

5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS

5.1 ALGA

- **National General Assembly (Canberra) : 23 to 25 June 2026**

Meeting with Minister King's Advisor
Mayor Winnall and Mayor Bailey provided a verbal update from their discussion with Minister King's advisor at ALGA, including the +/- tied/loosely-tied and untied funding, including the enablers and how a path forward could be towards loosely tied funding as an alternative to competitive grants, with a particular focus on infrastructure.

Other Comments
Those who attended the event provided mixed feedback, with some expressing concerns about the approach taken to advocate for the return of 1% FA Grants and questioning the value for money, while others placed greater value on pre-scheduled meetings than panel speakers.

A motion was moved on the day, asking MRLGA to prepare written feedback as follows:

Motion

"That the MRLGA Ceo prepare a letter to the (A)LGA President (for signing by the MRLGA President and Vice President) providing feedback about NGA Conference. A draft letter is to be circulated to the Board prior to sending."

Moved ***Acting Mayor Pietzsch (CDC)*** *Seconded* ***Mayor Valentine (SMDC)***

Carried

2026 National State of the Assets Summary Report

Motion

"That the MRLGA Ceo prepare a letter to the Minister for Local Government, Rhiannon Pearce (for signing by the MRLGA President and Vice President) outlining the urgent need to respond to the widening gap and underinvestment in local government public assets and ask the item be discussed - as a matter of urgency at the next Local Government Ministers Forum with all States, as a call action for Ministers work together and facilitate change.

Moved, ***Mayor Bailey (MMC)*** *Seconded* ***Mayor Valentine (SMDC)***

Carried

Acting Mayor Pietzsch left the meeting at 11:12am and returned at 11:21am.

5.2 LGA of SA

LGA Representatives

Welcome Delfina Lanzilli (Executive Director Member Services) and Leanne Schmidt

(Manager Emergency Support) from the LGA to provide an LGA update and answer questions.

A link to the written ‘topical update’ was included in the agenda.
A verbal update from representatives included:

- Reported on the Saroc, Garoc and LGA Board meetings recently held.
- Reported successful advocacy on:
- supplementary local road funding but is still seeking a catch up payment for the yeas not indexed.
- Public library
- Ceo Renumeration
- Coastal Management and Jetties
- Collection of Landscape (Board) Levy being assigned to State for collection (not LG).
- Project on Financial Sustainability has guidance, templates and tools, with more to come.
- Project on Leadership and Behavioural standards following the Flinders University work.
- It’s preparing update training ahead of the LG Election.
- Work is also being done on Climate Adaptation and its long term strategies.
- Consultation is out on personal mobility devices.
- It’s working with PIRSA on its Bird Flu preparedness (as more incidents being reported), including a meeting with the waste industry about deceased birds, updating the website and a Guideline is coming out for Councils.

Other items tabled included:

- Mayor Bailey thanked LGA for its support to advocate the State collect its own State Landscape (Board) Levy (not councils).
- Jetties - Mayor Norton reiterated a request that the LGA’s advocacy for jetties extend beyond coastal facilities and include river wharfs and jetties.
- “Meet the Candidates” - Mayor Winnall asked if the sector has/will be consulted with regarding the guidelines. The process may encounter risks, and some for Ceo’s.
- Liaison during the Amendment Bill to reschedule Local Government Elections - Acting Mayor Pietzsch asked LGA for its definition of consultation, noting media reported there was close engagement happening with the sector, but none was experienced at its Councill.
- A need to understand issues for rural Councils - Mayor Valentine expressed that during his term he has advocated strongly to outline the risks and needs for rural Councils to be sustainable, but more needs to be done to listed to elected bodies.

LGA AGM	**Thursday 3 and Friday 4 December 2026** AGM Event Details	
Items of Business Close:	**5pm, Monday 24 August**	(ie 3 weeks)

Process to appoint LGA President

Motion

“That the MRLGA Board supports Coorong District Council Council to submit an Item of Business to the LGA AGM (due 24 August) calling on the LGA to develop and implement a revised election process before November 2031 that removes the ongoing governance conflict and reputational risk created by local government elections occurring one year into each two-year term of the (saroc) LGA President role, and by default placing unfair disadvantage to all regional members.

Moved ***Mayor Norton (DCLW)*** *Seconded* ***Mayor Hunter (RPC)***

Carried

The meeting agenda was running behind.

Item 5.3 was deferred.

Item 9.0 was brought forward and Member for Chaffey, Mr Whetstone MP was invited to the table to speak with the Board.

9.0 Conversation with Member for Chaffey

Member for Chaffey, Mr Tim Whetstone MP was welcomed.

Shadow Minister for Police
Shadow Minister for Correctional Services
Shadow Minister for Emergency Services

Items from Mr Whetstone covered / blended across:

- *Wine Downturn for the Riverland – commented not enough has happened to support, recover and transition from the economic impacts that have and still are occurring for wine grape growers. His office receives several calls about the impacts from this economic changes and wants to see more being done.*
- *Intention to set-up an Economic Development Board – that would have experienced business people with a strong acumen for how economic conditions could be restored.*
- *Riverland Think Tank with PIRSA and Housing – expressed disappointment that housing is being the strongest priority being tabled.*
- *Commonwealth Water Buy Backs – concern this (ie riverland/sa) the approach the government is having to water buy backs is supporting large corporate parcels instead of small (family) options.*
- *Bees and Locusts problems*
- *We need to support the Fruit Fly Eradication program, examples across the borders show what it's like for producers with no eradication program and we must retain the biosecurity conditions for farm businesses.*
- *Vineyard Waste – concern about the increasing risk for illegal burning and dumping of cca posts at the moment as vines are being ripped out and asked Councils to stockpile them. Councils advised that EPA regulations are a barrier to this at the moment, and that without a more likely re-use pathway of the posts, there are challenges.*
- *Regional Growth Strategies – commented that these will be good for Councils to have in place and that buffer zones will be important moving forward for farmers.*

From the Board, Mr Whetstone was asked:

- *Does he support and can he join advocacy for the State to collect its own tax – being the Landscape Levy ?*
  Agreed with the principle.
- *Does he support and can he join advocacy for Councils to rate electricity generating facilities ?*
  Agreed with the principle and that there should be a transition out from the current exemption and towards a rating environment.
- *Does he support subdivisions that allow a new house to be built on the balance of subdivided land? Not generally, due to the greater need to protect land for agricultural uses, and in particular intense horticulture.*
- *SMDC advocated for the need to have greater response to agricultural waste (as well as vineyard waste) and that bulker bags and plastics are a problem and opportunity for regions as well.*

Some topics for discussion in the Agenda referenced:

- Water Recovery - Sustainable Communities Program –.
- Data Centres & Ai –
- Economic Partnership Accord (State & Local Government) –
- Rural Industry Adjustment and Development Fund ($28M)
- Disaster Ready Funding Agreement (DRFA) Reform
- Council Rates, Electricity Generator Bill
- Future Drougt Fund – Regional Drought Resilience Program
- Revenue from Ai Road Cameras (NSW $400M)

Mayor Bailey left the room at 12:23pm and returned at 12:25pm.

5.3 **SAROC**

SAROC Representatives - Update
SAROC representative Mayor Simone Bailey stated both her and Mayor Phillips were an apology for the last meeting.

SAROC Nominations

<u>Motion</u>
"MRLGA Board support Mayor Norton and Mayor Bailey (MMC) in their process to submit a SAROC Nomination to LGA."

Moved ***Mayor Valentine (SMDC)*** *Seconded* ***Acting Mayor Pietzsch (CDC)***

Carried

Board Direction
MRLGA Ceo will advise Council Ceo's that Mayor Norton (of DC Loxton Waikerie) and Mayor Bailey (of Mid Murray Council) intend to nominate for SAROC (for Dec 2026 to Dec 2028 – noting LG Elections are in April '27).

SAROC Elections

<u>Motion</u>
"MRLGA Board has determined the subsidiary will not run or conduct elections on-behalf of LGA for SAROC if there are more than 2 nominations from the regional grouping. MRLGA Ceo will inform the LGA in writing of the Boards decision accordingly."

Moved ***Mayor Bailey (MMC)*** *Seconded* ***Mayor Valentine (SMDC)***

Carried

- **DROUGHT INFORMATION**

Written updates were included in the agenda covering the following items on drought:
- Future Drought Fund - Framework
- State Government Support Package
- SA Drought Loan Scheme - Open
- Rural Industry Adjustment and Development Fund
- SA Drought Advisory Group Meeting
- Grant - Geographical Information – included in the Agenda at Attachment 2
- Future Drought Fund - Community Impact Program -*Delivered by fRRR*
- Extreme sand drift


Photos: July 2026, Kunlara Road, Extreme Sand Drift on road reserve >2.5m

The motion was not moved.

Motion

"That the MRLGA Ceo prepare a letter for signing by MRLGA President and Vice President to the Board of the Landscape Board - Murraylands and Riverland seeking a:

- *list of steps and actions it performs to monitor and undertake early engagement with landowners to prevent extreme land degradation / sand drift, so we can understand the work happening,*
- *how it undertakes this with regards to any focus or priority for protecting public roads – critical for regional and local freight and transport lines - using the outcome at Kunlara Road as an example.*
- *An understanding if the Landscape Board has identified any process improvements where extreme outcomes can be avoided.*

Moved, *Seconded*

- **FUEL SUPPLY**

Level 2 : Keeping Australia Moving Link to Information about Level 1, 2, 3 and 4

Written updates on this item were included in the agenda.

6 REGION WIDE AGENCY UPDATES

Reports from region-wide organisations, partners and stakeholders were included in the agenda:

6.1 Zone Emergency Management Committee (ZEMC)
6.2 Murray Darling Association
6.3 SA Drought Hub
6.4 One Basin CRC (Loxton)

Board Direction – RSVP Pending
EOI for two tickets to attend the event were tabled. No rsvp, but the Board advised it will confirm and ensure the tickets are utilised.

6.5 PIRSA
6.6 RDA, MURRAYLANDS & RIVERLAND
6.7 LANDSCAPE BOARD, MURRAYLANDS & RIVERLAND
6.8 RURAL BUSINESS SUPPORT
RBS did not provide a report.
6.9 SAPOL
6.10 SA Cross Border Commissioner
6.11 Coorong District Council – Matters for discussion
On 19 May 2026, Coorong District Council resolved at its ordinary Council meeting to request the following matters be raised at the next meeting of the Murraylands & Riverland Local Government Association (MRLGA):

- Impact of wild dogs in South Australia
- Rating of power generation facilities (refer to Item 7.2)

A copy of Coorong District Council's letter was included in the Agenda at Attachment 16. A report on both items was included in the Agenda.

> **<u>Motion Option A</u>**
> *"That the MRLGA Ceo liaise with Livestock Ceo on next steps including community education (to confirm the issue) and report back to the Board."*
>
> *Moved* ***Acting Mayor Pietzsch (CDC)*** *Seconded* ***Mayor Valentine, (SMDC)***
> ***Carried***
>
> **<u>Motion Option B</u>**
> *"That the MRLGA Ceo prepare a letter for signing by the President and Vice president seeking a forum twice yearly in region with PIRSA Executives and Senior Representatives from Landscape Board, Local Government (at a minimum) to discuss and address regional issues, and invest in strengthening relationships "in-region" to more effectively address issues and exchange information in a timely and efficient manner.*
>
> ***Not Moved***

A new motion was moved in regards to (Item 7.2) Councils ability to rate energy producing facilities.

> ***<u>Motion</u>***
> *"That the MRLGA Ceo conduct State Government advocacy outlining the importance of this bill and ask for support to see it regain priority to get it passed."*
>
> *Moved* ***Mayor Bailey (MMC)*** *Seconded* ***Acting Mayor Pietzsch (CDC)***
>
> *RCMB Against*
> *DCLW Against*
>
> ***Carried*** *(5/2)*

7 STATE NEWS & STRATEGY'S

An overview of State Government strategy's, plans or news was included in the Agenda.

7.1 SA Government 2026 Parliamentary sitting calendar
7.2 Council Rates, Electricity Generator Bill

The motion was not moved.
Refer to Item 6.11 when a motion was moved earlier in the agenda.

> **<u>Motion</u>**
> *"That the MRLGA Ceo write to all five State Members outlining the importance of this bill and ask for support to see it regain priority to get it passed."*
>
> *Moved,* *Seconded*

7.3 State & Local Government - Economic Partnership Accord Priority Projects – Early Thinking
7.1 Data Centres in SA

An error was detected in the Agenda and requires correction.

The agenda referred to centres / facilities emerging in the Murraylands and Riverland as Firmus (Tailem Bend) and Skylab (Brinkley). The reference to SkyLab at Brinkley is incorrect - it should have stated SkyLab at Cooke Plains.

Acting Mayor Jonathan Pietzsch provided a verbal report on its experiences with the facilities emerging in Tailem Bend and asked for item 2 below to be undertaken.

Board Direction

Would the Board like a:

- ~~*Presentation from CSIRO chief research consultant and AI advisor Stefan Hajkowicz to understand the realities of water use and data centres?*~~
- *State Development invited to next meeting to present ? Yes*
- ~~*Presentation from Landscape Board Ceo on how Water Allocation Plans are considering Data Centres in the region?*~~
- ~~*Could a research paper on the + /- data centres be an option in RDR initiative.*~~
- ~~*No action needed.*~~

7.2 Expand Together Infrastructure & Equipment Grant – Multicultural Affairs
7.3 State Public Health Plan

8 FEDERAL NEWS & STRATEGY'S

For Information

- **Department of Infrastructure, Transport Regional Development, Communication, Sport and the Arts**

8.1 Federal Inquiry : Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability

Motion
"The MRLGA Board support a supplementary submission (and any amendment(s) by President and Vice President) to be lodged to the Committee prior to 7 August 2026 to support responses and advocacy at the public hearing."

Moved ***Mayor Valentine (SMDC)*** *Seconded* ***Mayor Hunter (RPC)***

Carried

8.2 Employee costs reach $41.6 Billion
8.3 New – Fair Work Court
8.4 Regional Roads Australia Mobile Program – Consultation on grant guidelines
8.5 Australia's 2035 emission reduction target (62-70%)

9 CONVERSATION WITH MEMBER FOR CHAFFEY

Refer to information provided prior to Item 5.3.

10 MRLGA : Quarterly reflections and/or current and emerging items

Information on the following items were included in the Agenda.

10.1 Adopt 2026 / 27 Annual Business Plan & Budget

Motion

"The Board note the feedback from Councils and accept the 26/27 draft Annual Business Plan & Budget as the final version for adoption."

Moved ***Mayor Norton (DCLW)*** *Seconded* ***Mayor Hunter (RPC)***

Carried

10.2 MRLGA Ceo Network Forum
10.3 MRLGA Website
10.4 Regional Transport & Assets

10.5 Future Drought Fund - Regional Drought Resilience Program (MR Plan)

MRLGA Ceo reported risks and challenges with participating in the program, with particular emphasis on significant in-kind time (with no cost recovery),

No questions asked. MRLGA Ceo advised it would continue participation until the end of the current stage. When a regional 'Consortium' is to be re-established for the next stage(s), it will return to the Board so it can assess / direct sector resources for participation in this program moving forward.

Board Direction
The MRLGA Ceo is open for questions to support the Board in determining the priority and importance rating for this program.

10.6 MRLGA Policy Updates

This item was deferred by the Board so consultation with Council's could be undertaken and more time allowed to review the updates.

<u>**Motion**</u>	
"The MRLGA Board note an adopt updated Policies 1 - 15 as provided in Attachment 10."	
Moved,	*Seconded*

10.7 Murray Bridge Life Saving Club

<u>**Board Direction**</u>

Yes, the Board would like:

- *An online meet and greet with Erin Scammell, President of Murray Bridge Life Saving Club to understand the model and how collaborative growth could look moving forward. The meeting will be optional for all.*
- ~~*No action needed or*~~
- ~~*Other*~~

10.8 Items Underway

Noted.

10.9 Motion moved on the day

An additional motion was moved on the day by Acting Mayor Jonathan Pietzsch.

<u>**Motion**</u>

"The draft hand out on MRLGA subscriptions is attached with the AGM Draft Minutes (Part 1 and 2), this will inform future policy."

Moved ***Mayor Norton (DCLW)*** *Seconded* ***Mayor Pietzsch (CDC)***

Carried

11 FINANCIAL

11.1 Quarterly Financial Statements

The Quarterly Financial Statements were withdrawn citing a numerical error on the LGFS interest line item.

Motion

"That the MRLGA Board accept the financial statements submitted for the quarter ending 30 June 2026.

Moved, *Seconded*

MRLGA Ceo apologized for the error and agreed to circulate the statements with the draft Minutes.

A request was made to include the Q3 2025/26 Quarterly Financial Statements with the July draft Minutes, noting they had not previously been circulated.
The Q3 2025/26 Quarterly Financial Statements were included with the draft Minutes circulated on 29 April 2026 by email but were inadvertently omitted from Attachment 1 herewith. Attachment 1 (24 April 2026 Minutes) has now been updated to include the Q3 2025/26 Quarterly Financial Statements as previously circulated by email.

12 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

10.1 Confidential Item

Pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act 1999 its recommended the Board considers the Ceo Performance Review item as confidential pursuant to Section 90(3) (d)(i), (d)(ii), (h), (j)(i) and (j)(ii) of the Local Government Act 1999, and that the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to agenda item is:
(a) information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).

The President withdraw this item from the agenda and advised it would be tabled at a follow up Special Meeting.

Motion

"The Board accept the item be treated as confidential.

Moved, *Seconded*

13 APPOINTMENT FOR THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT

Mayor Winnall stepped down as Chairperson.
MRLGA Ceo took position as Chairperson.
Position as MRLGA President was declared vacant.
Nominations for position of President was called.
Mayor Bailey nominated Mayor Winnall as President.
Mayor Winnall accepted the nomination.
No other nominations were stated.
Chair announced the sole nomination and asked a Member to move a motion.

Motion

"Mayor Winnall is appointed as President of the Subsidiary.

Moved ***Mayor Bailey (MMC)*** *Seconded* ***Mayor Norton (DCLW)***

Carried

MRLGA CEO stepped aside as Chairperson the 26/27 MRLGA President was invited back as Chair to conduct the remainder of the meeting.

14 APPOINTMENT FOR THE POSITION OF VICE PRESIDENT

The Chair calls for nominations for position of Vice President.
Mayor Norton nominated Mayor Bailey.
Mayor Bailey accepted the nomination.
No other nominations were stated.
Chair announces the sole nomination and asked a Member to move a motion.

Motion

"Mayor Bailey is appointed as Vice President of the Subsidiary.

Moved ***Mayor Valentine (SMDC)*** *Seconded* ***Mayor Hunter (RPC)***

Carried

15 ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S & MEMBERSHIP FOR 2026/27

Pursuant to the Charter, Clause 3.8.1.4 and Clause 7.10.2, Advisory Committee Membership.
A member of a committee established under this Clause holds office at the pleasure of the Board.
A list of committees and membership is provided at **Attachment 14**.

Acting Mayor Pietzsch asked that names be removed, citing that personnel changes would require it to be updated on each new person and the motion be amended.

Motion

~~*"The MRLGA Board note and endorse the MRLGA Committees and Members as declared in Attachment 14."*~~

~~*Moved Seconded*~~

Motion

"The MRLGA Board note the MRLGA Committees and endorse the committee structure as shown in Attachment 14."

Moved ***Mayor Valentine (SMDC)*** *Seconded* ***Mayor Hunter (RPC)***

Carried

Mayor Thorley left the meeting at 2:40pm and returned at 2:54pm.

16 ROUND TABLE

16.1 Berri Barmera Council

No items from Mayor Ella Winnall.

Past items included:

- The Riverland ThinkTank was a good meeting and are hopeful that the issues were understood in order to see improved responses.
- BBC is developing wording for its rates notice to expressly reference the Landscape Levy as a State Government tax that they are required to collect on their behalf and may possibly refer inquiries to their State Member or Landscape Board for questions about the tax. SMDC asked if they would circulate their final wording with the group.
- RLGF: Letter from Minister for Infrastructure and Transport regarding the maintenance of a navigable channel on the River Murray.
- Update post visit with RDA Murraylands & Riverland Board on 23 October 2025.
- RLGF has issued a letter to Minister(s) if the River Murray is 'navigable' and are waiting a reply. The reply will be shared with the group.
- The background to this issue relates to obstructions in the river and responsibility.
- Office of Small and Family Business
- Asked the MRLGA Ceo inquire with Office of Small and Family Business if it would

consider altering its (closed) delivery partner program to other
- Bank stabilisation learnings for Ski Club
- Asked if others have had success with bank stabilisation to pass back on to its ski club (in terms of products, design, specification or contacts). MRLGA offered to email the Infrastructure committee on their behalf and advise.

16.2 Coorong District Council

Acting Mayor Jonathan Pietzsch said:

- It had received a letter back from the Premier on freight but was disappointed there was not more acknowledgement of the issue(s) Council has raised.
- Reported that many rate deferrals (provided during drought) have been paid back in full, and this financial measure is important to note about the agricultural sector.

Past items included:

- The impact to Council roads from heavier (and larger) freight vehicles is becoming an issue (at scale) and seek support to cover the increase in costs and seek MRLGA to help advocate.
- Tailem Bend Community Centre and its associated State contract to deliver community transport services in the region and its need for state funding (one example being to support council fleet that they have access too) and
- Wild dog impacts and the high numbers coming across the border.
  Due to the Board having no information on the issue relating to wild dogs, Acting Mayor Pietzsch offered to withdraw this item and return to the group with information for the Board to consider and vote on.
  CDC reported they have also:
- had their Health Committee meet as part of pursuing better regional health outcomes for its communities.
- Released its draft ABP and Budget
- Update on SA Water partnership at Wellington East
- Reviewing how to fund jetty upgrades
- Impacts from Drought
- Delivering "Unbreakable Farmer" sessions
- Liaising with the PHN on local issues
- CDC has reviewed its hardship policy
- Impacts of Little Corellas are ongoing and growing, including that on mental health.
- Further work and advocacy is being led by Council in light of the withdrawal of health services, and the following challenges and impacts that ensue. 40 submissions from community have been received to support Councils advocacy

16.3 District Council of Loxton Waikerie

Mayor Trevor Norton said:

- Council is interested to understand the data on Houseless People, as observations would indicate there is a rise in numbers.
- Promoted SkyWhale visiting Loxton Sunday 16 August 2026

Past items included:

- The Riverland ThinkTank was a good session and a lot of representation and a good facilitator.
- That Council had a briefing from Alex Zimmerman as Drought Commissioner. Noted this role is ending this month.
- Rural Aid has reached out and Council may put them on contact with local providers to assess need in the area (as it relates to their support products).
- Councils levels of support and/or facilitation of Justice of the Peace services
- Spoke to the outcome of the South Australian Boating Facility Advisory Committee (SABFAC) panel recruitment
- LGA Visit
  LGA Ceo, Clinton Jury and a bus of visitors came to DCLW to see a stormwater / cwms project of theirs.
- Changing Places Public Toilet
  Promoted a recent project of Council to build a changing places toilet facility. Stated there are only 20 in SA but that they were able to receive 50% funding to build it.

16.4 District Council of Karoonda East Murray

NA.

Past items included:

- Council has been continuing advocacy regarding Sand-Drift with its State MP and is hopeful there is some funding support on the horizon to keep roads open.
- Council is reviewing its road and assets with particular focus on sporting facilities.
- Council has completed the Murraylands Drought Survey and will be available in May
- She has advised chambers that she will not be standing for Mayor in the upcoming LG election and feels that proving this notice will support the election process come October/November.
- Recent events (like Mindarie races drew 3000 people and it is having a Kick off Your Boots visit, that are all helpful for community spirit during drought).
- DCKEM is initiating a local Murraylands Drought Survey (12 months on) and invited others to express interest if they wish to undertake it in unison
- Murraylands Drought Survey - It consulted with Preventive Health about the drought survey and it was a productive conversation around community comments in public surveys. They were supportive of the survey work Council(s) had done.
- 40 Year Anniversary for Farm Fair
  Proud to have a farm fair that's been going on for so long, although they may consider scaling it back to 1 day.
- General Practitioner
  A Doctor may be coming in April.

16.5 Mid Murray Council

Mayor Simone Bailey said:

- she was accepted to the Murry Darling Basin Leadership Program. It has more than 22 people across Australia and has proved to be a wonderful program. Small groups within the program are currently working on an idea/project that will be presented at Canberra later in the program. She encouraged others to look at the program and promote the opportunity across the region for others,
- the Council continues to advocate for the responsibility to collect the State's) Landscape Levy be returned back to State for collection, and
- the Council continues to advocate for legislative reform so Councils can rate energy producing facilities.

Past items included:

- Council is pursuing a lot of advocacy at the moment including:
  - Safety of towns located on the High Productivity Vehicle Network and adequate funding for maintenance, upgrades and safety improvements
  - Advocating to the Federal Government for a fairer distribution of Federal Assistance Grants
  - Advocating to the State Government for a review of rating arrangements for energy-producing infrastructure
  - Advocating to the State Government for reform of Landscape Levies.
- Referenced the EPLGA Annual Conference that hosts all EM's, Gov Rep, Staff and could be a consideration for MRLGA after the elections as a method to connect everyone and begin the next 4 year term.
- Financial Sustainability Round Table
- River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve
- Rating pressure – a story was shared about rate rise pressures to community's and vulnerable (agricultural) areas.
- Foundation SA
- Standpipes Funding
  It is anticipating success via a strengthening industry grant program for funding associated with 14 standpipes and getting them automated.
- Regional Partnership Funding
  They hope some good news is coming soon.
- LGA OGM

Reiterated that MMC is advocating for adjustments to the FA Grants formula and will be looking forward to the discussion at the upcoming LGA OGM.

16.6 Renmark Paringa Council

No items from Mayor Peter Hunter.

Past items included:

- The Riverland ThinkTank was a good session and hopes there will be outcomes from it.
- Council has had great progress with land release for rural living area.
- Renmark Club has new riverfront features and welcomes everyone down to enjoy the area.
- Council continues to keep private levies on the State Government's radar, including maintenance rules and responsibilities, as the condition of the levies located on private land is integral to the town's flood protection measures.
- Council has reviewed its rating model between rural and township
- Council has reviewed the resources it needs to deliver the services required and finds this is well beyond their ability having regard for financial sustainability limits and ESCOSA outcomes.
- RPC presented to the RDA Murraylands and Riverland Board on 23 October about its Jane Eliza development.
- It will sit on the Flood Warning Committee.
- It hosted the last SAROC meetings and LGA Board meetings in Renmark and included a local river cruise to show its recently completed wharf redevelopment and highlights other initiatives of RPC
- Cr Howie advised she is a representative on the SA Recreation and Boating Safety Committee. It has recently released its Strategy (2025-2030) https://www.marinesafety.sa.gov.au/south-australia-recreational-boating-safetystrategy
- Mayor Hunter met with the SA Mental Health Commissioner in January 2025.
- Navigation of the River will table at the next Riverland Forum for discussion.
- Awareness about limitations of Mental Health Services in regional, rural and remote areas.
- Murray, Mallee and Riverland - Local Health Network
  They are seeking an update from Wayne Champion / LHN on the status of the 30 recommendation made in the Mental Health Services review.
- Insurances
  They remain disappointed in the insurance support and process post flood.

16.7 Rural City of Muray Bridge

Mayor Wayne Thorley invited everyone to attend a ½ day workshop to begin steps towards a regional tourism model for the river murray.
Details will be in their email inbox or at councils.

Past items included:

- The Labor Package announced for Murray Bridge in February was well received and will bring good outcomes for the community
- Attended the LGA elected members workshop and was disappointed at the low numbers, advocating that we need to create good conditions to that invite people to want to put their hand up to be an elected member.
- Confirmed it has/will be making a submission to the renumeration tribunal
- It noted the recent article about State Government Board Member renumeration (adding up to circa > $12m)
- Advised that the sector needs more training for elected members as the content provided at the beginning of his mayoral role did not suffice.
- Boating Safety. What groups currently exist and how can be more work be done to improve river safety (particularly in light of events from Australia Day long weekend).
- Seeking to do more that supports the River Murray to be a tourism icon, and subsequently see more tourism products come to market (such as the possibility of river cruising and connecting with Journey Beyond).
- Grants. Concerns expressed about the outlay Councils have to do as part of the process of applying for grants, and the time it is taking to receive outcomes and

subsequent funding.
- Expressed interest in having more online sessions.
- Police Commissioner
  A recent meeting with the Police Commissioner went very well. Some items discussed included a strategy for river safety and change for the better. This was timely given recent incidents on the river over the public holiday long weekend.
- Federal Grants
  They are experiencing long time frames with federal grant programs at the moment.
- MDBA Conference
  Promoted the next MDBA conference on 29 and 30 July will be held at Murray Bridge and invited everyone to get their tickets and come along.

16.8 Southern Mallee District Council

Mayor Ron Valentine said:
- Council has to go out to market for a 2nd time for waste management services as no one expressed interest.
- Asked if MMC has considered a Corporate Good Citizen approach to electricity producing facilities, where large corporates can donate to host communities (in spite of legislation exempting them). MMC said it has a policy for this.

Past items included:
- Council has public consultation on a proposal to transition the Council from 2 > 1 Offices, however it was not well supported by community.
- SafeCom withdrew its offer to purchase the building pre-election
- Sent letters (post election) to Premier, LG Minister and Minister King about the outcome of the State Election. It has received a reply from all, except Minister King at this time.
- Reported the Councils main focus remains on financial sustainability and there will be more news emerging in 6 weeks to share with the subsidiary.
- Financial Sustainability – still the main focus for the Council
- Decommissioning Assets
- Dentist closed

17 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

Note: A date for October had not originally been set due to the unknown dates for caretaker period, however since the Elections Bill has now been amended and elections deferred to April 2026, we can schedule the next meeting date(s).

2026 Meeting Schedule :

Meeting Type	Month	Venues (tba)
Board Meeting	October 2026	TBA The provisions for caretaker period will be reviewed before this meeting is scheduled.
	November	
	December	*LGA AGM*

2027 Meeting Schedule – Open for Input

Meeting Type	Month	Venues (tba)
	January	
Board Meeting	February	*Monarto Zoo / Swan Hill Hotel* *28 Feb LGA – Items of Business Due*
	March	
	7-10 April	*Election Outcome*
Board Meeting	May	*Renmark* *LGA OGM*
	June	
Board Meeting	July	*Karoonda*
	August	*24 Aug LGA – Items of Business Due*
	September	

Board Meeting	October	*Tailem Bend / Mannum*
	November	*LGA AGM*
	December	

Attendance Register

31 July 2026

MRLGA BOARD MEMBERS

Berri Barmera Council (BBC)	Mayor Ella Winnall, President and Chair
Coorong District Council (CDC)	Acting Mayor Jonathan Pietzsch
District Council Karoonda East Murray (DCKEM)	-
District Council Loxton Waikerie (DCLW)	Mayor Trevor Norton
Mid Murray Council (MMC)	Mayor Simone Bailey
Renmark Paringa Council (RPC)	Mayor Peter Hunter
Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB)	Mayor Wayne Thorley
Southern Mallee District Council (SMDC)	Mayor Ron Valentine

MRLGA

Ceo	Carron McLeod

CEO NETWORK

David Beaton	District Council Loxton Waikerie

Deputy Mayors

Cr Margaet Howie	Renmark Paringa Council

ATTENDING & INVITED GUESTS

Tim Whetsone MP	Member for Chaffey
Delfina Lanzilli	LGA of SA
Leanne Schmidt	LGA of SA
Jedda Morgan	PIRSA

APOLOGIES

Mayor Caroline Phillips	District Council Karoonda East Murray
Mayor Paul Simmons	Coorong District Council

Attachment 11 A

Quarterly Financial Statements for Q4 / 2025/26

Executive Summary

Murray and Mallee LGA
For the 3 months ended 30 June 2026

	APR-JUNE 2026
Cash	
Cash received	172,307.88
Cash spent	115,015.68
Cash surplus (deficit)	57,292.20
Closing bank balance	91,920.05
Profitability	
Income	129,421.00
Direct costs	-
Gross profit (loss)	129,421.00
Other income	26,000.00
Expenses	86,019.49
Profit (loss)	69,401.51
Balance Sheet	
Debtors	-
Creditors	-
Net assets	1,067,027.24
Sales	
Number of invoices issued	13.00
Average value of invoices	11,076.35
Performance	
Gross profit margin (%)	100.00
Net profit margin (%)	53.62
Return on investment (p.a.) (%)	26.02
Position	
Average debtor days	-
Average creditor days	-
Short term cash forecast	-
Current assets to liabilities	16.40
Term assets to liabilities	-

Cash Summary

Murray and Mallee LGA
For the 3 months ended 30 June 2026

	APR-JUNE 2026
Income	
Berri Barmera Council	12,651.00
Coorong District Council	10,692.50
DC of Karoonda East Murray	5,981.00
DC of Loxton Waikerie	14,361.00
FDF Regional Drought Resilience Grant	26,000.00
Interest Income	15,519.41
Mid Murray Council	13,929.50
Renmark Paringa Council	11,804.50
Rural City of Murray Bridge	22,622.00
SLRP Surcharge	(4,090.91)
Southern Mallee DC	6,977.00
Waste Contract Management Levy	31,625.00
Total Income	**168,072.00**
Less Expenses	
Accounting Services (Payroll, BAS and General Accounting)	1,450.00
Accruals	(5,471.66)
Accrued Interest Revenue	3,983.09
Bank Fees	30.00
Employee Leave Provision Movement	1,173.36
Insurance	3,095.10
Interest Expense	162.26
LGFA Investment Deposits	11,536.32
M365/SharePoint IT and Support	1,057.23
Meeting Expenses	2,490.49
Office Expenses	868.08
PAYG Withholdings Payable	8,852.00
Provision for Employee Leave	(1,173.36)
Regional Public Health Plan	18,181.82
Regional Waste Management Initiatives	1,596.00
Superannuation	5,682.00
Superannuation Payable	9,574.72
Vice President (Allowance)	1,083.00
Wages and Salaries	47,350.15
Website Maintenance	1,800.00
Total Expenses	**113,320.60**
Surplus (Deficit)	**54,751.40**
Plus Tax Movements	
Tax Collected	15,664.38

	APR-JUNE 2026
Tax Paid	(13,123.58)
Net Tax Movements	**2,540.80**
Net Cash Movement	**57,292.20**

Summary

Opening Balance	34,627.85
Plus Net Cash Movement	57,292.20
Cash Balance	91,920.05

Profit and Loss

Murray and Mallee LGA
For the 3 months ended 30 June 2026

	QUARTER	YEAR TO DATE	25/26 ANNUAL BUDGET	VARIANCE %	-
Council Subscriptions					
Berri Barmera Council	-	25,302.00	25,302.00	-	
Coorong District Council	10,692.50	21,385.00	21,385.00	-	
DC of Karoonda East Murray	5,981.00	11,962.00	11,962.00	-	
DC of Loxton Waikerie	14,361.00	28,722.00	28,722.00	-	
Mid Murray Council	13,929.50	27,859.00	27,859.00	-	
Renmark Paringa Council	11,804.50	23,609.00	23,609.00	-	
Rural City of Murray Bridge	22,622.00	45,244.00	45,244.00	-	
Southern Mallee DC	6,977.00	13,954.00	13,954.00	-	
Total Council Subscriptions	**86,367.50**	**198,037.00**	**198,037.00**	**-**	
Other Income					
Regional Capacity Building	-	-	40,000.00	-100.00%	
SLRP Surcharge	(4,090.91)	17,459.09	25,000.00	-30.16%	
Interest Income	15,519.41	45,718.61	47,956.00	-4.67%	
Waste Education Levy	-	-	100,000.00	-100.00%	
Waste Contract Management Levy	31,625.00	31,625.00	65,000.00	-51.35%	
Total Other Income	**43,053.50**	**94,802.70**	**277,956.00**	**-65.89%**	
Gross Profit	**129,421.00**	**292,839.70**	**475,993.00**	**-38.48%**	
Other Income					
FDF Regional Drought Resilience Grant	26,000.00	26,000.00	-	-	
Total Other Income	**26,000.00**	**26,000.00**	**-**	**-**	
Expenses					
Administration Expenses					
Allowance (President)	-	5,300.00	5,300.00	-	
Audit and Accounting Fees	-	4,560.00	7,500.00	-39.20%	
Bank Fees	30.00	100.00	120.00	-16.67%	
Insurance	3,095.10	14,067.37	12,000.00	17.23%	
Interest Expense	162.26	317.13	-	-	
Legal expenses	-	-	5,000.00	-100.00%	
Meeting Expenses	2,490.49	8,074.17	6,000.00	34.57%	
Office Expenses	868.08	3,723.22	4,400.00	-15.38%	

	QUARTER	YEAR TO DATE	25/26 ANNUAL BUDGET	VARIANCE %	-
M365/SharePoint IT and Support	1,057.23	3,090.51	2,751.00	12.34%	↑
Sundry Expenses	-	100.00	3,000.00	-96.67%	↓
Travel & Accommodation	-	-	6,500.00	-100.00%	↓
Website Maintenance	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,000.00	80.00%	↑
Total Administration Expenses	**9,503.16**	**41,132.40**	**53,571.00**	**-23.22%**	
Operational Expenses					
Accounting Services (Payroll, BAS and General Accounting)	1,450.00	2,250.00	2,500.00	-10.00%	↓
Superannuation	5,682.00	34,704.87	-	-	—
Wages and Salaries	47,350.15	291,883.34	455,834.00	-35.97%	↓
Office Equipment	-	-	5,140.00	-100.00%	↓
Employee Leave Provision Movement	1,173.36	1,173.36	-	-	—
Admin Support	-	-	25,000.00	-100.00%	↓
Total Operational Expenses	**55,655.51**	**330,011.57**	**488,474.00**	**-32.44%**	
Project Expenses					
Regional Public Health Plan	18,181.82	18,181.82	30,000.00	-39.39%	↓
Regional Road Hierarchy Plan	-	-	5,000.00	-100.00%	↓
Regional Waste Management Initiatives	1,596.00	9,773.45	10,000.00	-2.27%	↓
MR (Drought Resilience) Plan	-	180.00	-	-	—
Roads Database	-	-	5,000.00	-100.00%	↓
Total Project Expenses	**19,777.82**	**28,135.27**	**50,000.00**	**-43.73%**	
New Initiative for Sustainability	-	-	10,000.00	-100.00%	↓
MRLGA Strategic Planning	-	-	5,000.00	-100.00%	↓
Regional Road Action Plans	-	-	5,000.00	-100.00%	↓
Vice President (Allowance)	1,083.00	1,083.00	1,280.00	-15.39%	↓
Regional Capacity Building Construction Roads Training	-	-	8,000.00	-100.00%	↓
Regional Transport Plan	-	-	40,000.00	-100.00%	↓
New Initiative for Shared Services	-	-	5,000.00	-100.00%	↓
Fleet	-	-	35,000.00	-100.00%	↓
Total Expenses	**86,019.49**	**400,362.24**	**701,325.00**	**-42.91%**	
Net Profit	**69,401.51**	**(81,522.54)**	**(225,332.00)**	**63.82%**	

Balance Sheet

Murray and Mallee LGA
As at 30 June 2026

	30 JUNE 2026	30 JUNE 2025
Assets		
Bank		
Murray and Mallee LGA	91,920.05	177,436.06
Total Bank	**91,920.05**	**177,436.06**
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	-	25,198.80
Accrued Interest Revenue	3,983.09	1,389.46
LGFA Investment Deposits	1,042,163.13	1,017,038.15
Petty Cash	100.00	100.00
Total Current Assets	**1,046,246.22**	**1,043,726.41**
Total Assets	**1,138,166.27**	**1,221,162.47**
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accruals	5,471.66	-
GST	12,771.01	11,742.55
PAYG Withholdings Payable	12,376.00	11,312.00
Provision for Employee Leave	38,926.36	37,753.00
Superannuation Payable	-	10,081.14
Wages Payable - Payroll	(130.00)	-
Total Current Liabilities	**69,415.03**	**70,888.69**
Non-current Liabilities		
Provision for Long Service Leave	1,724.00	1,724.00
Total Non-current Liabilities	**1,724.00**	**1,724.00**
Total Liabilities	**71,139.03**	**72,612.69**
Net Assets	**1,067,027.24**	**1,148,549.78**
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	(81,522.54)	129,421.92
Retained Earnings	1,148,549.78	1,019,127.86
Total Equity	**1,067,027.24**	**1,148,549.78**

Aged Receivables Summary

Murray and Mallee LGA
As at 30 June 2026
Ageing by due date

Aged Payables Summary

Murray and Mallee LGA
As at 30 June 2026
Ageing by due date

Attachment 17

MRLGA Charter

The Murraylands and Riverland
Local Government Association

CHARTER

OF THE

MURRAYLANDS AND RIVERLAND

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (REGIONAL SUBSIDIARY)

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1999.

MURRAYLANDS AND RIVERLAND LOCAL ASSOCIATION

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1999

CHARTER

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Name

The name of the subsidiary is the Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association (referred to as 'the Subsidiary' in this Charter).

1.2 Definitions

'**absolute majority**" means a majority of the whole number of the Board Members;

'**the Act**' means the *Local Government Act 1999* and includes all regulations made thereunder;

'**Annual General Meeting**' means the annual general meeting of the Subsidiary held in accordance with Clause 3.8;

'**Board**' means the Board established under Clause 3;

'**Board Member**' means a person who has been appointed to the Board by a Constituent Council in accordance with Clause 3.4;

'**Budget**' means the annual budget adopted by the Subsidiary pursuant to Clause 5.1;

'**Annual Business Plan**' means the business plan adopted by the Subsidiary pursuant to Clause 6.2;

'**Chairperson**' means the member of the Board appointed pursuant to Clause 3.6 and referred to as the President;

'**Chief Executive Officer**' means the person appointed pursuant to Clause 4 as the Chief Executive Officer of the Subsidiary;

'**Constituent Councils**' means those Councils identified at Clause 1.4;

'**Council**' means a Council constituted under the Act;

'**Financial Statements**' has the same meaning as in the Act;

'**Financial Year**' means 1 July in each year to 30 June in the subsequent year;

'**Long Term Financial Plan**' means the long term financial plan prepared by the Subsidiary and approved by the Constituent Councils pursuant to Clause 5.3;

'**Principal Members**' means the principal member of each Constituent Council under the Act.

'**Region**' means the collective geographical areas of the Constituent Councils;

'**MRLGA CEO Network Group**' means the group established pursuant to Clause 7.11;

'**Special Resolution**' means a resolution passed by a two thirds majority of all Board Members present at a meeting and entitled to vote on the issue;

'**Strategic Plan**' means the strategic plan adopted by the Subsidiary pursuant to Clause 6.1.

1.3 **Interpretation**

In this Charter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1.3.1 headings do not affect interpretation;

1.3.2 singular includes plural and plural includes singular;

1.3.3 words of one gender include any gender;

1.3.4 a reference to a person includes a partnership, corporation, association, government body and any other entity;

1.3.5 a reference to legislation includes any amendment to it, any legislation substituted for it, and any subordinate legislation made under it;

1.3.6 an unenforceable provision or part of a provision of this Charter may be severed, and the remainder of this Charter continues in force, unless this would materially change the intended effect of this Charter;

1.3.7 the meaning of general words is not limited by specific examples introduced by 'including', 'for example' or similar expressions; and

1.3.8 a reference to a 'Clause' means a Clause of this Charter.

1.4 **Establishment**

The Subsidiary is a regional subsidiary established by the following Councils pursuant to section 43 and Schedule 2 of the Act:

1.4.1 The Berri Barmera Council,

1.4.2 The Coorong District Council,

1.4.3 The District Council of Karoonda East Murray, 1.4.4 District Council of Loxton Waikerie,

1.4.5 The Mid Murray Council,

1.4.6 The Rural City of Murray Bridge,

1.4.7 The Renmark Paringa Council, and

1.4.8 The Southern Mallee District Council,

Together the councils are known as the Constituent Councils.

The Subsidiary is subject to the direction of the Constituent Councils

1.5 **Local Government Act 1999**

This Charter must be read in conjunction with the Act. The Subsidiary must conduct its affairs in accordance with the Act except as modified by this Charter as permitted by the Act including in a manner permitted by Schedule 2 of the Act.

1.6 **Objects and Purposes**

The Subsidiary is established to:

1.6.1 work with the Local Government Association of South Australia in achieving its aims and objectives;

1.6.2 provide strong advocacy speaking with one voice on what matters most to the communities of the Constituent Councils;

1.6.3 work together to make the best use of available resources;

1.6.4 build partnerships with those who can contribute to stronger and more sustainable communities;

1.6.5 develop and implement a robust Annual Business Plan consistent with the intent of the Startegic Plan;

1.6.6 to undertake coordinating, advocacy and representational roles for its Constituent Councils at a regional level;

1.6.7 to facilitate and coordinate activities of local government at a regional level on behalf of our Constituent Councils;

1.6.8 to develop, encourage, promote, foster and maintain consultation and cooperation and to strengthen the representation and status of local government;

1.6.9 to develop further cooperation between its Constituent Councils for the benefit of the communities in the region;

1.6.10 to develop and manage policies which guide the conduct of programs and projects in the region;

1.6.11 to undertake projects that benefit the region and its communities;

1.6.12 to facilitate and coordinate collaborative procurement activities for the collective benefit of the Constituent Councils [*and other non-Constituent Councils*];

1.6.13 to maximize the benefits of collaborative procurement through developing and implementing procurement policies and procedures; and

1.6.14 to improve financial sustainability of the Constituent Councils by improvement of operational efficiency in procurement and process management.

2. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

The powers, functions and duties of the Subsidiary are to be exercised in the performance of the Subsidiary's objects and purposes, comprise:

2.1 Functions and Powers

In addition to those specified in the Act, the functions and powers of the Subsidiary are:

2.1.1 subject to Clause 2.4 becoming a member of or co-operating or contracting with any other association or organisation, which shares similar objects and purposes to those of the Subsidiary

2.1.2 subject to Clause 2.4 entering into contracts or arrangements with any Government agency or authority;

2.1.3 subject to Clause 2.4 appointing, employing, remunerating, removing or suspending the Chief Executive Officer;

2.1.4 subject to Clause 2.4 entering into contracts with any person for the acquisition and/or supply of goods and services;

2.1.5 raising revenue through subscriptions and levies from Constituent Councils, by arrangements with sponsor organisations, by arrangement or contract with any other person and by any other means not inconsistent with the objects and purposes of the Subsidiary;

2.1.6 printing and publishing any newspapers, periodicals, books, leaflets, or other like writing;

2.1.7 appointing persons or committees to oversee the management of the Subsidiary, to steer projects or to pursue geographic or functional interests of Constituent Councils or specific groups of Constituent Councils;

2.1.8 subject to Clause 2.4 employing staff of, and employing, engaging or retaining professional advisors to, the Subsidiary;

2.1.9 subject to Clause 2.4 instituting, initiating and carrying on legal proceedings;

2.1.10 making submissions for and accepting grants, subsidies and contributions to further its objects and purposes;

2.1.11 subject to Clause 2.4 acquiring, holding, dealing with and disposing of any real or personal property;

2.1.12 with the prior approval of the Constituent Councils purchasing, selling or otherwise acquiring, disposing of or encumbering any real property or interests therein;

2.1.13 opening and operating bank accounts;

2.1.14 accumulating surplus funds for investment purposes;

2.1.15 investing any of the funds of the Subsidiary in any investment provided that:

2.1.15.1 in exercising this power of investment the Subsidiary must exercise the care, diligence and skill that a prudent person of business would exercise in managing the affairs of other persons; and

2.1.15.2 the Subsidiary must avoid investments that are speculative or hazardous in nature;

2.1.16 borrowing money and incurring expenditure in accordance with an approved Annual Business Plan;

2.1.17 giving security for the discharge of liabilitiesof the Subsidiary; and

2.1.18 doing all other things that are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects and purposes of the Subsidiary.

2.2 Duties

The Subsidiary has the following duties:

2.2.1 to exercise the functions and powers of the Subsidiary only in the performance and furtherance of the Subsidiary's objects and purposes;

2.2.2 to comply with this Charter, the Act, all other applicable law and any lawful direction of the Constituent Councils.

2.3 Other Powers, Functions and Duties

The Subsidiary may exercise such other functions, powers and duties as are delegated to the Subsidiary or authorised by the Constituent Councils from time to time.

2.4 **Borrowings and Expenditure**

2.4.1 The Subsidiary has the power to incur expenditure as follows:

2.4.1.1 in accordance with an Annual Business Plan adopted by the Subsidiary and approved by the Constituent Councils as required by the Act or this Charter; or

2.4.1.2 with the prior approval of the Constituent Councils; or

2.4.1.3 in accordance with the Act, in respect of expenditure not contained in a budget adopted by the Subsidiary for a purpose of genuine emergency or hardship.

2.4.2 The Subsidiary has the power to borrow up to $100,000 in order to manage projected cash flow shortages from time to time either: :

2.4.2.1 in accordance with a Annual Business Plan adopted by the Subsidiary as required by the Act or this Charter; or

2.4.2.2 in accordance with a Budget (or amended Budget) adopted by the Subsidiary.

2.5 **Property**

2.5.1 All property held by the Subsidiary is held by it on behalf of the Constituent Councils.

2.5.2 No person may sell, encumber or otherwise deal with any property of the Subsidiary without the prior approval of the Constituent Councils and the approval of the Subsidiary by resolution of the Board.

2.6 **Delegation by the Subsidiary**

2.6.1 The Subsidiary may in accordance with this Charter and the Act by resolution delegate to a committee of the Subsidiary, an employee of the Subsidiary, a Constituent Council or to a person for the time being occupying a particular office or position with the Subsidiary any of its powers and functions under this Charter or the Act but may not delegate:

2.6.1.1 the power to impose charges;

2.6.1.2 the power to borrow money or obtain any other form of financial accommodation not contained in a Budget adopted by the Subsidiary;

2.6.1.3 the power to approve expenditure of money on the works, services or operations of the Subsidiary not contained in a Budget adopted by the Subsidiary and approved by the Constituent Councils;

2.6.1.4 the power to approve the reimbursement of expenses or payment of allowances to Board Members;

2.6.1.5 the power to adopt or revise a Budget, Annual Business Plan, Strategic Plan or Long Term Financial Plan of the Subsidiary;

2.6.1.6 the power to adopt or revise financial estimates and reports.

2.6.2 A delegation is revocable at will and does not prevent the Subsidiary from acting in a matter.

2.6.3 Where a power or function is delegated to an employee, or a person occupying a particular office or position, that employee or person is responsible to the Chief Executive Officer for the efficient and effective exercise or performance of that power or function.

3. BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

3.1 Structure

3.1.1 The Subsidiary is a body corporate and is governed by the Act and this Charter.

3.1.2 The Board is the Subsidiary's governing body and has the responsibility for the administration of the affairs of the Subsidiary ensuring that the Subsidiary acts in accordance with this Charter and all relevant legislation including the Act.

3.2 Functions of the Board

3.2.1 In addition to the functions of the Board set out in the Act, the functions of the Board include:

3.2.1.1 the formulation of strategic plans and strategies aimed at achieving the objects and purposes of the Subsidiary;

3.2.1.2 the preparation and development of an Annual Business Plan to be considered in consultation with the Constituent Councils;

3.2.1.3 providing effective governance and developing such policies and procedures as give effect to good governance and administrative practices;

3.2.1.4 to providing input and policy direction to the Subsidiary;

3.2.1.5 monitoring, overseeing and evaluating the performance of the Chief Executive Officer of the Subsidiary;

3.2.1.6 ensuring that ethical behaviour and integrity is established and maintained by the Subsidiary, the Board and Board Members in all activities undertaken by the Subsidiary;

3.2.1.7 subject to Clause 3.7 ensuring that the activities of the Subsidiary are undertaken in an open and transparent manner; and

3.2.1.8 exercising the care, diligence and skill that a prudent person of business would exercise in managing the affairs of other persons.

3.3 **Propriety of Members of the Board**

3.3.1 The principles regarding conflict of interest prescribed in the Act apply to all Board Members in the same manner as if they were elected members of a Council.

3.3.2 The Board Members are required to submit returns in compliance with Division 2, Chapter 5 (Register of Interests) of the Act.

3.3.3 The Board Members will at all times act in accordance with their duties of confidence and confidentiality and individual fiduciary duties including honesty and the exercise of reasonable care and diligence with respect to the performance and discharge of official functions and duties as required by Part 4, Division 1, Chapter 5 of the Act and Clause 23 of Part 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act.

3.4 **Membership of the Board**

3.4.1 The Board shall consist of all of the Principal Members of the Constituent Councils.

3.4.2 Each Constituent Council may appoint two persons, who must be elected members, to act as deputy Board Members. A deputy Board Member will act for a Constituent Council when the Principal Member is not present at a meeting of the Board

3.4.3 Each Constituent Council shall, following every periodic Local Government election and as necessary , give notice in writing to the Chief Executive Officer of the Subsidiary, of those persons who are its Board Members and deputy Board Members. .

3.5 **Termination of Membership of the Board**

3.5.1 The appointment of Board Members or deputy Board Members shall terminate upon any of the grounds set out at Clause 20(3) of Schedule 2 to the Act arising, or otherwise;

(a) upon the Council which appointed him/her ceasing to be a Constituent Council;

(b) if the Board are elected members of a Constituent Council, upon ceasing to be an elected member; or

(c) in respect of any Board appointment, upon the happening of any other event through which the Board Members would become ineligible to remain as a member of the Board.

3.5.2 The Board may, by special resolution, make a recommendation to the Constituent Council which appointed Board Members under Clause 3.4 requesting the Constituent Council to terminate the appointment of Board Members for:

3.5.2.1 any behaviour of the Board Members which in the opinion of the Board amounts to impropriety;

3.5.2.2 serious neglect of duty in attending to his/her responsibilities as Board Members;

3.5.2.3 breach of fiduciary duties to the Subsidiary or the Constituent Council(s);

3.5.2.4 breach of the duty of confidentiality to the Subsidiary and the Constituent Council(s);

3.5.2.5 breach of the conflict of interest provisions; or

3.5.2.6 any other behaviour which may discredit the Subsidiary or the Constituent Councils.

3.5.3 Notwithstanding any other Clause of this Charter, Board Members may be removed from office as Board Members by special resolution of the Board prior to the expiration of a term of appointment.

3.5.4 If any vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board it must be filled by either:

3.5.4.1 a deputy Board Member (appointed under Clause 3.4.2) of the Board Member removed from office; or

3.5.4.2 if the Board Member removed from office is no longer the Principal Member of the releavnt Constituent Council, the incoming or acting

Presding Member of the relevant Consitutent Council.

3.5.5 The person appointed to the Board to fill a vacancy will be appointed for the balance of the term of the original appointment and at the expiry of that term, subject to satisfying the requirements of this Charter, shall be eligible for re-appointment.

3.6 **Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Board**

3.6.1 The Chairperson of the Board shall be appointed by the Board at its Annual General Meeting from amongst its members and subject to Clause 3.6.4 shall hold office for a term of one year, unless he/she resigns or is removed from office pursuant to a resolution of the Board or until he/she is no longer eligible to act as a Board Member. The Chairperson shall be referred to as President of the Subsidiary;

3.6.2 There shall also be a Deputy Chairperson of the Board appointed by the Board from amongst its members who subject to Clause 3.6.4 shall hold office for a term of one year unless he/she resigns or is removed from office pursuant to a resolution of the Board or until he/she is no longer eligible to act as a Board Member. The Deputy Chairperson shall be referred to as Vice President of the Subsidiary;

3.6.3 The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson shall be eligible for re-appointment upon their term of office expiring;

3.6.4 The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson elected in a year immediately preceding the year in which a periodic Local Government election is to be held shall hold office until the conclusion of the next ordinary meeting that is held immediately following the conclusion of the periodic election, at which meeting both the positions of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Board shall become vacant and be elected afresh in accordance with Clauses 3.6.1 and 3.8.1.5;

3.6.5 If the Chairperson either resigns or is no longer eligible to act as a Board Member prior to the expiry of his/her term as Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson shall act in that office. In the event of the Deputy Chairperson refusing or being unable to act, the Board shall elect from amongst their own number a new Chairperson who shall hold office until the conclusion of the original term.

3.6.6 The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board and, in the event of the Chairperson being absent from a meeting, the Deputy Chairperson shall preside and in the event of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson being absent from a meeting, the Board Members present shall appoint a Board Member from amongst them, who shall preside for that meeting or until the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson is present.

3.7 **Proceedings of the Board**

<u>Board Meetings</u>

3.7.1 Meetings of the Board shall take place at such times and places as may be fixed by the Subsidiary.

3.7.2 A meeting of the Board will constitute a meeting of the Subsidiary. The Board shall administer the business of the Subsidiary at the meetings.

3.7.3 For the purposes of this subclause, the contemporary linking together by telephone, audio-visual or other instantaneous means ('telecommunications meeting') of the Board Members provided that at least a quorum is present, is deemed to constitute a meeting of the Board. Each of the Board Members taking part in the telecommunications meeting, must at all times during the telecommunications meeting be able to hear and be heard by each of the other Board Members present. At the commencement of the meeting, each Board Member must announce his/her presence to all other Board Members taking part in the meeting. A Board Member must not leave a telecommunications meeting by disconnecting his/her telephone, audio-visual or other communication equipment, unless that Board Member has previously notified the Chairperson of the meeting.

3.7.4 A proposed resolution in writing and given to all Board Members in accordance with procedures determined by the Board will be a valid decision of the Board and will constitute a valid decision of the Subsidiary where a majority of Board Members vote in favour of the resolution by signing and returning the resolution to the Chief Executive Officer or otherwise giving written notice of their consent and setting out the terms of the resolution to the Chief Executive Officer. The resolution will be deemed a resolution of the Board and will be as valid and effective as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Board duly convened and held.

3.7.5 Meetings of the Board will be open to the public unless the Board resolves to exclude the public pursuant to section 90 of the Act. Chapter 6 Part 3 of the Act extends to the Subsidiary as if the Subsidiary were a Council and the Board Members were members of the Council.

Notice of Meetings

3.7.6 Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, notice of meetings will be forwarded by the Chief Executive Officer of the Subsidiary to the Board Members at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting by email.

3.7.7 The Chief Executive Officer must, in relation to a notice of a meeting of the Board for the purpose of considering the making of a recommendation to the Constituent Councils to wind up the Subsidiary, provide the notice to all Board Members at least four (4) months before the date of the meeting.

3.7.8 Notice of a meeting of the Board must:

3.7.8.1 be in writing; and

3.7.8.2 set out the date, time and place of the meeting.

3.7.9 A special meeting of the Board may be held at any time and may be called at the request of the Chairperson or three (3) Board Members made by delivering a written request to the Chief Executive Officer.The request to the Chief Executive Officer requiring a special meeting to be held must be accompanied by the agenda for the meeting and any written reports intended to be considered at the meeting and if an agenda is not provided the request is of no effect.

3.7.10 On receipt of the request pursuant to Clause 3.7.9 the Chief Executive Officer must send a notice of the special meeting to all Board Members at least twenty four (24) hours prior to the commencement of the special meeting.

3.7.11 The Chief Executive Officer must, insofar as is reasonably practicable:

3.7.11.1 supply to Board Members at least 7 days prior to a meeting an agenda for the meeting and a copy of any documents or reports that are to be considered at the meeting (so far as this is practicable).

3.7.11.2 ensure that items on an agenda given to Board Members are described with reasonable particularity and accuracy; and

3.7.12 A notice that is not given in accordance with this Charter is taken to have been validly given if the Chief Executive Officer considers it impracticable to give the notice in accordance with this Charter and takes action the Chief Executive Officer considers reasonably practicable in the circumstances to bring the notice to the attention of the Board Member.

3.7.13 The Chief Executive Officer must give notice to the public of the times and places of meetings of the Board at least five (5) clear business days prior to the holding of the meeting by causing the notice and agenda for the meeting to be placed on public view on the Subsidiary's website.

3.7.14 Subject to Clause 3.7.16, the Chief Executive Officer must also ensure that any document or report supplied to Board Members for consideration at a meeting of the Board are available for inspection by members of the public:

3.7.14.1 at the principal office of the Subsidiary and on a website determined by the Chief Executive Officer as soon as practicable after the time when the document or report is supplied to Board Members; or

3.7.14.2 in the case of a document or report supplied to Board Members at the Board Meeting, at the meeting as soon as practicable after the time when the document or report is supplied to Board Members.

3.7.15 The Chief Executive Officer may indicate on a document or report provided to Board Members under Clause 3.7.14.2 any information or matter contained in or arising from a document or report that may, if the Board determines, be considered in confidence in accordance with Clause 3.7.5 provided that the Chief Executive Officer at the same time specifies the basis on which an order could be made pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 6 Part 3 of the Act.

3.7.16 Clause 3.7.14 does not apply to a document or report:

3.7.16.1 that is subject to the operation of Clause 3.7.15; or

3.7.16.2 that relates to a matter dealt with by the Board on a confidential basis in accordance with Clause 3.7.5 and Chapter 6 Part 3 of the Act.

3.7.17 The Chief Executive Officer must maintain a record of all notices of Board meetings given Board Members.

Quorum

3.7.18 A meeting of the Board must not commence until a quorum is present and a meeting must not continue if there is not a quorum of Board Members present. A quorum of Board Members will comprise one half of the Board Members in office, ignoring any fraction, plus one. If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time of a meeting of a Board, that meeting is cancelled.

Voting

3.7.19 Unless otherwise required at law or this Charter, all matters for decision of a meeting of the Board shall be decided by a simple majority of the Board Members present and entitled to vote. All Board Members, including the Chairperson are entitled and required to vote . All Board Members including the Chairperson are entitled to a deliberative vote and if the votes are equal the Chairperson or other Board Member presiding does not have a second or casting vote and the matter will be deemed to have lapsed and may be considered at some later time.

3.7.20 Subject to Chapter 5, Part 4 of the Act, each Board Member validly present at a meeting must vote on a question arising for a decision at the meeting.

3.7.21 Subject to any express contrary provision in this Charter, the Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013 Parts 1, 2 and 4, will apply to all meetings of the Board. Procedures not specifically addressed by those Regulations or by this Charter will be as determined by the Board.

Confidentiality

3.7.22 All Board Members must keep confidential all documents and any information provided to them for their consideration prior to a meeting of the Board that is provided to them in confidence and is subject to the operation of Clause 3.7.15 or that relates to a matter dealt with by the Board on a confidential basis in accordance with Clause 3.7.5 and Chapter 6, Part 3 of the Act;

Minutes

3.7.23 The Chief Executive Officer must cause accurate minutes to be kept of the proceedings at every meeting of the Board and ensure that the minutes are presented at the next ordinary meeting of the Board for verification. Where the Chief Executive Officer is absent or excluded from attendance at a meeting of the Board, the person presiding at the meeting shall cause the minutes to be kept.

3.7.24 Subject to the Act, a copy of the minutes of a meeting of the Board must be placed on public display on the Subsidiary's website within five (5) business days after the meeting.

3.7.25 Subject to the Act, a person is entitled, on payment of a fee fixed by the Board, to obtain a copy of any documents placed on public display.

3.7.26 Subject to this Charter and to any direction of the Constituent Councils the Board may determine its own procedures to apply to proceedings at and conduct of meetings of which must be fair and contribute to free and open decision making where the Board has not determined a procedure and the procedure is not specified in this Charter, the procedures specified in Part 2 of the Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013 will apply.

3.8 **Annual General Meeting**

3.8.1 The Annual General Meeting will:

3.8.1.1 be held not later than 30 September in each calendar year;

3.8.1.2 receive the Annual Business Plan and Budget and acknowledge the appointment of Board Members;

3.8.1.3 elect the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson in accordance with Clause 3.6;

3.8.1.4 appoint representatives to other organisations; and

3.8.1.5 consider any other business requiring consideration by the Board Members.

4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

4.1 The Board shall appoint a Chief Executive Officer of the Subsidiary to manage the affairs of the Subsidiary on terms agreed between the Chief Executive Officer and the Board.

4.2 The Chief Executive Officer is responsible to the Subsidiary for the implementation of the decisions of the Subsidiary and will work collaboratively with the Subsidiary's CEO Network Group.

4.3 The terms and conditions of the engagement and remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer shall be reviewed annually according to any employment agreement that may be in place with the Chief Executive Officer.

4.4 The Chief Executive Officer shall cause records to be kept of all activities and financial affairs of the Subsidiary in accordance with this Charter.

4.5 In the absence of the Chief Executive Officer of the Subsidiary for any period exceeding four weeks a suitable person to act in the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Subsidiary must be appointed by the Board.

4.6 The Board shall delegate responsibility for the day to day management of the Subsidiary to the Chief Executive Officer, who will ensure that sound business and human resource management practices are applied in the efficient and effective management of the operations of the Subsidiary.

4.7 The functions of the Chief Executive Officer shall be specified in the terms and conditions of appointment and shall include but are not limited to:

4.7.1 attending at all meetings of the Board unless excluded by resolution of the Board;

4.7.2 ensuring that the decisions of the Board are implemented in a timely and efficient manner;

4.7.3 providing information to assist the Board to assess the Subsidiary's performance against its Strategic and Business Plans;

4.7.4 appointing, managing, suspending and dismissing employees of the Subsidiary;

4.7.5 determining the conditions of employment of employees of the Subsidiary, within budgetary constraints set by the Board;

4.7.6 providing advice and reports to the Board on the exercise and performance of its powers and functions under this Charter or any Act;

4.7.7 ensuring that the Subsidiary is at all times complying with the Act;

4.7.8 co-ordinating and initiating proposals for consideration of the Board including but not limited to continuing improvement of the operations of the Subsidiary;

4.7.9 ensuring that the assets and resources of the Subsidiary are properly managed and maintained;

4.7.10 ensuring that records required under the Act or any other legislation are properly kept and maintained;

4.7.11 ensuring that the Subsidiary's Annual Report is distributed to the Constituent Councils in time to be incorporated in their annual reports;

4.7.12 exercising, performing or discharging other powers, functions or duties conferred on the Chief Executive Officer by or under the Act or any other Act, and performing other functions lawfully directed by the Board; and

4.7.13 achieving financial outcomes in accordance with adopted plans and budgets of the Subsidiary.

4.8 The Chief Executive Officer may delegate or sub-delegate to:

4.8.1 a committee;

4.8.2 an employee of the Subsidiary;

4.8.3 an employee of a Constituent Council; or

4.8.4 a person for the time being occupying a particular office or position of a Constituent Council,

any power or function vested in the Chief Executive Officer. Such delegation or sub-delegation may be subject to any conditions or limitations as determined by the Chief Executive Officer is revocable at will and does not prevent the Chief Executive Officer from acting in relation to a matter.

4.9 A written record of all delegations and sub-delegations must be kept by the Chief Executive Officer at all times.

5. FINANCIALS

5.1 Budget

5.1.1 The Subsidiary must before 31 May of each year prepare and submit a draft Budget to the Board of the Subsidiary for the ensuing Financial Year (or, if appropriate, part Financial Year) in accordance with the Act.

5.1.2 The Subsidiary must adopt after 31 May but before 30 September, a Budget in accordance with the Act for the ensuing Financial Year.

5.1.3 The Subsidiary may in a Financial Year, after consultation with the Constituent Councils, incur spending before adoption of its Budget for the year, but the spending must be provided for in the appropriate Budget for the year.

5.1.4 The Subsidiary must each Financial Year provide a copy of its adopted Budget to the Constituent Councils within five (5) business days after the adoption of the Budget by the Subsidiary.

5.1.5 Quarterly reports summarising the financial position and performance of the Subsidiary against the Budget must be prepared and presented to the Board at each ordinary meeting of the Board and copies provided to the Constituent Councils.

5.1.6 The Subsidiary must reconsider its Budget in accordance with the Act in a manner consistent with the Act and may with the approval of the Constituent Councils amend its Budget for a Financial Year at any time before the year ends.

5.1.7 The contents of the Budget must be in accordance with the Act.

5.1.8 The Subsidiary must submit to each Constituent Council for approval, any proposed amendment to the budget that provides for an additional contribution by the Constituent Councils.

5.2 **Financial Standards and Reporting**

5.2.1 The Subsidiary must ensure that the Financial Statements of the Subsidiary for each Financial Year are audited by the Subsidiary's auditor.

5.2.2 The Financial Statements must be finalised and audited in sufficient time to be included in the Annual Report to be provided to the Constituent Councils pursuant to Clause 6.3.3.

5.3 **Long Term Financial Plan**

5.3.1 The Subsidiary must prepare and submit to the Constituent Councils for their approval, prior to its adoption, a Long Term Financial Plan covering a period of at least five (5) years in a form and including such matters which, as relevant, is consistent with Section 122 of the Act and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011 as if the Subsidiary were a Council.

5.3.2 The Subsidiary may at any time review the Long Term Financial Plan but must undertake a review of the Long Term Financial Plan as soon as practicable after the annual review of its Business Plan and concurrently with any review of its Strategic Plan.

5.3.3 In any event, the Subsidiary must undertake a comprehensive review of its Long Term Financial Plan every five (5) years.

5.3.4 The Long Term Financial Plan will be taken to form part of the Subsidiary's Strategic Plan.

5.4 **Financial Management**

5.4.1 The Subsidiary shall keep proper books of accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Act and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999.

5.4.2 The Subsidiary must establish and maintain a bank account with such banking facilities and at a bank to be determined by the Board.

5.4.3 The Subsidiary will develop and maintain appropriate policies and procedures for all financial transactions including in relation to signing cheques and electronic funds transfer.

5.4.4 The Chief Executive Officer must act prudently in the handling of all financial transactions for the Subsidiary.

5.5 **Levies**

5.5.1 The Subsidiary may levy Constituent Councils or any of them for a specified purpose or purposes.

5.5.2 A levy must be imposed at a meeting of the Board.

5.5.3 The Chief Executive Officer must give notice of the levy to all affected Constituent Councils.

5.5.4 A levy will not be binding on Constituent Councils until the expiration of one calendar month from the date of the notice.

5.5.5 A Constituent Council which objects in writing to the imposition of the levy within one month of the date of the notice shall be exempt from payment of the levy until its objection is considered at a meeting of the Board.

5.5.6 The Subsidiary must, after consideration of the objection of one or more Constituent Councils to a levy, confirm or vary the levy on that Council or exempt that Council from payment of the levy.

5.5.7 The Chairperson may convene an urgent meeting to consider an objection to a levy.

6. **MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

6.1 **Strategic Plan**

Consistent with the Long Term Financial Plan set out above, the Subsidiary must:

6.1.1 prepare and adopt a Strategic Plan with a minimum operational period of five (5) years which sets out the goals, objectives, strategies and priorities of the Subsidiary over the period of the Strategic Plan;

6.1.2 submit the Strategic Plan to the Constituent Councils for their approval prior to its adoption.

6.2 **Annual Business Plan**

The Subsidiary shall:

6.2.1 prepare an Annual Business Plan linking the core activities of the Subsidiary to strategic, operational and organisational requirements with supporting financial projections setting out the estimates of revenue and expenditure as necessary for the period;

6.2.2 consult with the Constituent Councils prior to adopting or amending the Annual Business Plan; and

6.2.3 ensure contents of the Annual Business Plan is in accordance with the Act.

6.3 **Annual Report**

6.3.1 The Subsidiary must each year, produce an Annual Report summarising the activities, achievements and financial performance of the Subsidiary for the preceding Financial Year.

6.3.2 The Annual Report must incorporate the audited financial statements of Subsidiary for the relevant Financial Year.

6.3.3 The Annual Report must be provided to the Constituent Councils by 31 October each year.

6.4 **Audit**

6.4.1 The Subsidiary must cause adequate and proper books of account to be kept in relation to all the affairs of the Subsidiary and must establish and maintain effective auditing of its operations.

6.4.2 The Subsidiary must appoint an Auditor in accordance with the Act and on such terms and conditions as determined by the Subsidiary.

6.4.3 The audited Financial Statements of the Subsidiary, together with the accompanying report from the Auditor, shall be submitted to both the Board and the Constituent Councils before 30 September in each year.

6.5 **Audit Committee**

6.5.1 Pursuant to Regulation 18 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011, the Minister for Local Government has granted the Subsidiary an exemption from the requirement to establish an audit committee until 30 June 2021.

7. **MISCELLANEOUS**

7.1 **New Members**

7.1.1 Subject to the provisions of the Act, a council may become a Constituent Council by the unanimous agreement of the Constituent Councils and this Charter may be amended to provide for the admission of a new Constituent Council or Councils, with or without conditions of membership.

7.2 **Subscription**

7.2.1 Every Constituent Council shall be liable to contribute monies to the Subsidiary each financial year.

7.2.2 The amount of each Constituent Council's subscription will be decided at the Annual General Meeting and will be due and payable within one month of a written request from the Chief Executive Officer for payment.

7.2.3 If Constituent Council status is granted to a Council after the first day of July in any year the Subsidiary may, with the approval of the Constituent Councils, amend its budget to provide for the contribution of funds by that Council, and shall be calculated on a pro-rata basis according to the number of full months remaining in the financial year.

7.3 **Disqualification**

7.3.1 Subject to any legislative requirements, a Council which fails to pay its subscription or any other monies due to the Subsidiary within six months from the date upon which the subscription or other monies become due and payable shall cease to be a Constituent Council or, as the case may be, an Affiliate.

7.3.2 The Chief Executive Officer will give notice in writing to the Council that its status as a Constituent Council or, as the case may be, an Affiliate, has been terminated.

7.4 **Withdrawal**

7.4.1 Subject to the Act and this Charter, a Constituent Council may cease to be a Constituent Council by giving not less than thirty six (36) months' notice in writing of such withdrawal to the Chief Executive Officer provided that its subscription of the current year and other monies outstanding prior to the date of its giving notice of withdrawal have been paid to the Subsidiary.

7.4.2 The withdrawal of any Constituent Council does not extinguish the liability of that Constituent Council to contribute to any loss or liability incurred by the Subsidiary at any time before or after such withdrawal in respect of any act or omission by the Subsidiary prior to such withdrawal.

7.5 **Insurance and Superannuation Requirements**

7.5.1 The Subsidiary shall register with the Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme and Local Government Workers Compensation Scheme and comply with the rules of those Schemes.

7.5.2 The Subsidiary shall advise the Local Government Risk Management Services of its insurance requirements relating to Local Government

Special Risks including buildings, structures, vehicles and equipment under the management, care and control of the Subsidiary.

7.6 **Subsidiary Winding Up**

7.6.1 The Subsidiary may be wound up in accordance with the Act by unanimous resolution of the Constituent Councils.

7.6.2 In the event of a winding up, any surplus assets after payment of all expenses shall be returned to each Constituent Councils in proportion to the subscription paid by each Constituent Council in the financial year prior to the passing of the resolution wind up.

7.6.3 If there are insufficient funds to pay all expenses due by the Subsidiary on winding up, a levy shall be imposed on all Constituent Councils in proportion to the subscription paid by each Constituent Council in the financial year prior to the passing of the resolution to wind up.

7.7 **Non-derogation and Direction by Constituent Councils**

7.7.1 The establishment of the Subsidiary does not derogate from the power of any of the Constituent Councils to act independently or jointly in relation to a matter within the jurisdiction of the Subsidiary.

7.7.2 Where the Subsidiary is required pursuant to the Act or this Charter to obtain the approval of one or more of the Constituent Councils that approval must only be granted and must be evidenced by a resolution passed by either or all of the Constituent Councils granting such approval.

7.7.3 Unless otherwise stated in this Charter where the Subsidiary is required to obtain the consent or approval of the Constituent Councils this means the consent or approval of all of the Constituent Councils expressed in the same or similar terms.

7.7.4 For the purpose of Clause 7.7.1, any direction given by the Constituent Councils must be communicated by notice in writing provided to the Chief Executive Officer of the Subsidiary together with a copy of the relevant resolutions of the Constituent Councils.

7.8 **Alteration and Review of Charter**

7.8.1 This Charter will be reviewed by the Constituent Councils at least once in every four (4) years or in the event of amendments to the Act that may require earlier review.

7.8.2 This Charter may be amended by a resolution passed by a simple majority of the Constituent Councils.

7.8.3 Before the Constituent Councils vote on a proposal to alter this Charter they must take into account any recommendation of the Board.

7.9 Disputes

7.9.1 General

7.9.1.1 Where a dispute arises between the Constituent Councils or between a Constituent Council and the Authority (the parties to this Charter) which relates to this Charter or the Authority, ('the Dispute') the parties will use their best endeavours to resolve the Dispute and to act at all times in good faith.

7.9.2 Mediation

7.9.2.1 A party is not entitled to initiate arbitration or court proceedings (except proceedings seeking urgent equitable or injunctive relief) in respect of a Dispute unless it has complied with this Clause 7.9.2.

7.9.2.2 If the parties are unable to resolve the Dispute within thirty (30) days, the parties must refer the Dispute for mediation in accordance with the Mediation Rules of the Law Society of South Australia Incorporated, within seven (7) days of a written request by any party to the other party that the Dispute be referred for mediation, to:

(a) a mediator agreed by the parties; or

(b) if the parties are unable to agree on a mediator at the time the Dispute is to be referred for mediation, a mediator nominated by the then President of the Law Society or the President's successor.

7.9.2.3 In the event the parties fail to refer the matter for mediation in accordance with Clause 7.9.2.2, one or more of the parties may refer the matter for mediation in accordance with the Mediation Rules of the Law Society of South Australia Incorporated to a mediator nominated by the then President of the Law Society or the President's successor.

7.9.2.4 The role of any mediator is to assist in negotiating a resolution of the dispute. A mediator may not make a decision that is binding on a party unless that party has so agreed in writing.

7.9.2.5 If mediation does not resolve the Dispute within 28 days of referral of the Dispute for mediation or such longer period agreed unanimously by the parties as evidenced by resolutions of each of the parties, any party may then refer the Dispute to Arbitration in accordance with Clause 7.9.3.

7.9.3 **Arbitration**

7.9.3.1 An arbitrator may be appointed by agreement between the parties.

7.9.3.2 Failing agreement as to an arbitrator the then Chairperson of the South Australian Chapter of the Institute of Arbitrators or his successor shall nominate an Arbitrator pursuant to these conditions.

7.9.3.3 A submission to arbitration shall be deemed to be a submission to arbitration within the meaning of the Commercial Arbitration Act 1985 (South Australia).

7.9.3.4 Upon serving a notice of arbitration the party serving the notice shall lodge with the arbitrator a deposit by way of security for the cost of the arbitration proceedings.

7.9.3.5 Upon each submission to arbitration, the costs of and incidental to the submission and award shall be at the discretion of the arbitrator who may in his or her sole discretion determine the amount of costs, how costs are to be proportioned and by whom they are to be paid.

7.9.3.6 Whenever reasonably possible performance of the obligations of the parties pursuant to this Charter shall continue during the mediation or arbitration proceedings and no payment by or to a party shall be withheld on account of the mediation and arbitration proceedings.

7.10 **Committees**

7.10.1 The Board may establish a committee of Board Members and/or other persons for the purpose of:

7.10.1.1 enquiring into and reporting to the Board on any matter within the Subsidiary's functions and powers and as detailed in the terms of reference given by the Board to the Committee; or

7.10.1.2 exercising, performing or discharging delegated powers, functions or duties.

7.10.2 A member of a committee established under this Clause holds office at the pleasure of the Board.

7.10.3 The Board may establish advisory committees consisting of or including persons who are not Board Members for enquiring into and reporting to the Board on any matter within the Subsidiary's functions and powers and as detailed in the terms of reference determined by the Board.

7.10.4 A member of an advisory committee established under this Clause holds office at the pleasure of the Board.

7.10.5 The Chairperson of the Board is an *ex-officio* a member of any committee or advisory committee established by the Board.

7.11 **MRLGA CEO Network Group**

7.11.1 The MRLGA CEO Network shall comprise the Chief Executive Officers of the Constituent Councils.

7.11.2 A Consistuent Council Chief Executive Officer who is a member of the committee may appoint a proxy to attend a meeting of the committee in his/her place, provided the proxy is a member of the relevant Council's executive staff.

7.11.3 The MRLGA CEO Network Group will provide high level strategic advice to the Subsidiary about its identified priority issues.

7.11.4 The MRLGA CEO Network Group shall assist and advise the Chief Executive Officer in governance and project delivery matters on behalf of the Board.

7.11.5 The MRLGA CEO Network Group shall assist and advise the Chief Executive Officer in the development and implementation of the Subsidiary's Annual Business Plan and other plans.

7.11.6 The MRLGA CEO Network Group shall share operational information and expertise amongst the Group members.

7.11.7 The Chief Executive Officer shall be the convenor. The role of Chairperson shall be allocated to the host Council for each meeting.

7.11.8 The MRLGA CEO Network Group will operate on an informal basis, and will not therefore be subject to formal meeting procedures.

7.11.9 The Chief Executive Officer will provide executive support to the Group.

7.11.10 In addition, the MRLGA CEO Network Group may from time to time establish working groups or appoint individual members to consider and advance work on a particular issue or issues.

7.11.11 Pursuant to the Local Government Act 1999 Schedule 2 Clause 36(2)(a) the MRLGA Board may delegate tasks to the committee for action.

7.11.12 The MRLGA CEO Network Group may sub-delegate to the established working groups or newly established working groups as deemed necessary.

7.11.13 The MRLGA CEO Network Group will be responsible for reporting outcomes from its own operations and the working groups to the MRLGA Board.

7.12 Subsidiary Common Seal

7.12.1 The Subsidiary shall have a common seal upon which its corporate name shall appear in legible characters.

7.12.2 The common seal shall not be used without the express authorisation of a resolution of the Subsidiary and every use of the common seal shall be recorded in the minute book of the Subsidiary.

7.12.3 The affixing of the common seal shall be witnessed by the Chairperson or a Deputy Chairperson and the Chief Executive Officer or such other person as the Subsidiary may appoint for the purpose.

7.12.4 The common seal shall be kept in the custody of the Chief Executive Officer or such other person as the Subsidiary may from time to time decide.

7.13 Circumstances Not Provided For

7.13.1 If any circumstance arises about which this Charter is silent, incapable of taking effect or being implemented according to its strict provisions, the Chairperson may decide the action to be taken to ensure achievement of the objects of the Subsidiary and its effective administration.

7.13.2 The Chairperson shall report any such decision at the next meeting.

Attachment 18

MRLGA Charter – Review – Draft Amendments

MRLGA Charter – Review – Draft Amendments

Cl	Item	Current wording	Propose change	Reason/Comment
1.6	**Objects and Purposes**	The Subsidiary is established to: work with the Local Government Association of South Australia in achieving **its** aims and objectives;	The Subsidiary is established to: - work with the Local Government Association of South Australia in achieving shared aims and objectives;	*Change the objective from working with LGA to deliver its objectives to shared objectives.*
1.6.5		develop and implement a robust Annual Business Plan consistent with the intent of the Startegic Plan	develop and implement a robust Annual Business Plan consistent with the intent of the Strategic Plan	*Typo*
3.4	**Membership of Board**	3.4.1 The Board shall consist of all of the Principal Members of the Constituent Councils.		*MRLGA CEO Network agreed to continue with the wording "Principal Members"?*
3.6.4	**Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Board**	The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson elected in a year immediately preceding the year in which a periodic Local Government election is to be held shall hold office until the conclusion of the next ordinary meeting that is held immediately following the conclusion of the periodic election, at which meeting both the positions of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Board shall become vacant and be elected afresh in accordance with Clauses 3.6.1 and 3.8.1.5;		*Should this requirement be removed if the Chairperson or Deputy is removed from office (ie not successful in the election)?*
3.7.19	**Voting**	Unless otherwise required at law or this Charter, all matters for decision of a meeting of the Board shall be decided by a simple majority of the Board Members present and entitled to vote. All Board Members, including the Chairperson are entitled and required to vote. All Board Members including the Chairperson are entitled to a deliberative vote and if the votes are equal the Chairperson or other Board Member presiding does not have a second or casting vote and the matter will be deemed to have lapsed and may be considered at some later time.		*Discuss:* - *voting for Chair/Deputy (due to allowance)* - *procedure for lapsed vote (and timing for next vote)* *Could this be an internal procedure/ policy, and each new board can determine its own procedures.*
5.1.5	**Budget**	Quarterly reports summarising the financial position and performance of the Subsidiary against the Budget must be prepared and presented to the		*Discuss copies being issued to Councils.*

		Board at each ordinary meeting of the Board and copies provided to the Constituent Councils.		
6.5.1	**Audit Committee**	Pursuant to Regulation 18 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011, the Minister for Local Government has granted the Subsidiary an exemption from the requirement to establish an audit committee until 30 June 2021.		*Update the date, or alter the wording to reflect the current exemption.*
7.5	**Insurance and Superannuation requirements**	7.5.1 The Subsidiary shall register with the Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme and Local Government Workers Compensation Scheme and comply with the rules of those Schemes.		*Could it include "or equal equivalent" ?* *CEO Network agreed.*
		7.5.2 The Subsidiary shall advise the Local Government Risk Management Services of its insurance requirements relating to Local Government Special Risks including buildings, structures, vehicles and equipment under the management, care and control of the Subsidiary.		*Review if this clause is needed.*

Attachment 19

Copy of the draft hand out regarding subscription model information

Draft Hand-Out

Note: All data and information is this paper is under devleopment ~~and not suitable to be forwarded, shared or released~~.

Summary

This briefing will provide an overview of MRLGA's:

- **Subscription Model**
- **Financial Model and**

Background

This briefing has arisen from an inquiry about the financial model used at MRLGA, and it provides an oportunity to delvier a 'refresh' from the original presenation made at the beginning of the term in Berri in May 2023 and also review the benefits that the model has delivered to date and consider the future trajectory.

It also enables us to look at the MRLGA model and financial position, juxtaposed with State Government financial models. Having more information with reagrds to State budget may help inform a strategic position if/when rate capping becomes topical or proposed.

1. MRLGA Subscription Model

Each year the Draft Annual Business Plan includes a one-page overview of the history and method of its subscription model as follows:

Background
In 2019/20 the MRLGA Business Plan set a new direction for setting subscriptions for the Association.

The plan followed a decision of the Board and consultation with constituent councils to align subscriptions to those charged by LGA SA. The decision of the Board endorsed the method for a 3 year subscription period, which then expired in 2021/22.

In light of dwindling income from other sources, including the ceased Rubble Royalty Scheme and LGA SA Outreach Program, a further review of MRLGA subscriptions then was overseen by the Association's CEO Network in April 2022. The review considered the longer term sustainability of the following options:

1. Raising subscriptions using annual Local Government Price Indexes,
2. Aligning to the LGA SA subscriptions paid in the previous 12 months by constituent councils and reviewing the model within 3 years
3. Using the model (20% flat rate and 80% weighting against population and revenue) employed by LGA to set subscriptions (establishing budgeted total operating expenses as the cost recovery baseline) and using a three year period to phase in the new system.

On 6 May 2022 at the General Meeting, the Board supported the recommendation of the CEO Network and endorsed Option 2. This was applied in 22/23 (Yr 1) and 23/24 (Yr 2).

2024 / 2025
In preparing the 24/25 budget, the subscriptions charged by LGA to its Councils was reviewed and would (on average) be a 6.2% increase to MRLGA constituent Councils.
MRLGA has been reducing its operational costs over time, and as part of running a more efficient model it was able to offer its constituent Council's a 1.9% increase, thus creating a **4.3% savings** for Councils and the 24/25 budget was adjusted accordingly.

2025 / 2026
In preparing the 25/26 budget, the subscriptions charged by LGA to its Councils was reviewed and would (on average) be a 7.58% increase to MRLGA constituent Councils.
MRLGA has been reducing its operational costs over time, and as part of running a more efficient model it was able to offer its constituent Council's a 1.9% increase, thus creating a **5.68% savings** for Councils and the 25/26 budget was adjusted accordingly.

The combined costs from 24/25 and 25/26 (of 4.3% and 5.68%) offers a **9.98% savings** back to Councils over the two financial years.

2025 Annual General Meeting
At the General Meeting on 10 April 2025, the Board advised a subscription review will not be required every three years **if annual increases remain under inflation**.

2026 / 2027
In preparing the 26/27 budget, the subscriptions charged by LGA to its constituent Councils was reviewed and, on average would be a 4.04% increase (the highest being 7.6% and the lowest being -0.5%). Pursuant to the above, MRLGA can provide constituent Council's a 2.5% increase, thus creating a **1.54% overall savings** to Councils and the draft 26/27 budget was adjusted accordingly.

The combined savings from 24/25, 25/26 and 26/27 (of 4.3% and 5.68% and 1.54%) offers a **cumulative savings of 11.52%** back to Councils over the three financial years.

5 Year Budget
The Draft 2026/27 Annual Business Plan included a 5 Year Budget from 2026/27 to 2030/31 demonstrating it can set a limit to annual subscription increases at:
- **2.5%** (Yr 1 & Yr 2) and
- **2.0%** (Yr 3, 4 and 5)

This has 90-$95% confidence to withstand any CPI, war or a critical supply chain interruption.

The rate guarantee offered to Councils is considered **extremely** competitive.

Projected Savings by 2030 / 31
Using the current financial model, the cumulative savings from 24/25 are currently at 11.52% for Councils, and the projected savings by 2030/31 for Councils is estimated to be **17.52 %** (conservatively).

Original Subscription Model versus Actual

	Past Subscriptions and 26/27 Comparison between LGA and MRLGA											*Current Trajectory*
	LGA 22 / 23		**LGA** 23 / 24		**LGA** 24 / 25		**LGA** 25 / 26		**LGA** 26 / 27	**MRLGA** 26 / 27		**MRLGA** 30 / 31
Berri Barmera Council	$24,540	*5.40%*	$25,865	*8.31%*	$28,014	*3.31%*	$28,942	*5.04%*	$30,401	$25,935	>>	$28,209
Coorong District Council	$20,480	*6.74%*	$21,861	*6.07%*	$23,189	*4.52%*	$24,238	*3.83%*	$25,166	$21,920	>>	$23,842
DC of Karoonda East Murray	$11,328	*7.95%*	$12,229	*6.45%*	$13,018	*-0.52%*	$12,950	*2.07%*	$13,218	$12,261	>>	$13,335
DC of Loxton Waikerie	$27,815	*5.56%*	$29,361	*6.67%*	$31,318	*3.06%*	$32,276	*4.42%*	$33,704	$29,440	>>	$32,021
Mid Murray Council	$26,828	*6.16%*	$28,480	*8.02%*	$30,764	*7.61%*	$33,104	*8.63%*	$35,962	$28,555	>>	$31,059
Renmark Paringa Dist Council	$23,231	*5.86%*	$24,593	*9.30%*	$26,879	*4.42%*	$28,067	*10.41%*	$30,988	$46,375	>>	$26,320
Rural City of Murray Bridge	$43,527	*6.26%*	$46,250	*8.02%*	$49,958	*6.25%*	$53,081	*7.30%*	$56,954	$24,199	>>	$50,442
Southern Mallee DC	$13,757	*5.66%*	$14,536	*6.22%*	$15,440	*3.69%*	$16,010	*6.70%*	$17,082	$14,403	>>	$15,666
		49.59%		*59.06%*		*32.34%*	$228,668	*48.40%*	$243,475	$203,088		$220,894
		6.20%		**7.38%**		**4.04%**		**6.05%**				
		Av.Increase		*Av.Increase*		*Av.Increase*		*Av.Increase*				
							$25,580		*$40,387*			

NOTES:

- There is a current savings of **$25,000 - $40,000** being passed onto Councils through subscription that MRLGA has secured from its operating model.
- A projected savings to be passed to Councils by 30/31 through subscriptions is (conservatively) **$67,000** if the model remains in its current structure.

Benchmarking with other Regional LGA's

Regional LGA Benchmark 25 / 26 Data

LCLGA	25-26	N&YLGA	25-26	EPLGA	25-26	MRLGA	25-26	SHLGA	25-26	SGC Inc Body	24-25
										No ABP	
Citry of Mt Gambier	$95,017	Adelaide Plains		DC Ceduna	$19,127	Berri Barmera Council	$25,302	Adelaide Hills		Annual Report	
Dsitrict Counilof Grant	$46,420	Barossa		DC Cleve	$16,302	Coorong District Council	$21,385	Mt Barker			
Watle Range		Barunga West		DC Elliston	$15,157	DC of Karoonda East Murray	$11,962	Alexandrina		Port Pirie	$38,000
Naracorte Lucindale	$52,167	Clare & Gilbert Valleys		DC Franklin Harbour	$14,771	DC of Loxton Waikerie	$28,722	Victor Harbour		Port Augusta	$38,000
DC Robe	$20,455	Copper Coast		DC Kimba	$14,873	Mid Murray Council	$27,859	Yankalilla		Whyalla	$38,000
Tatiara DC	$45,019	DC Mt Remarkable		DC Lower Eyre	$22,260	Renmark Paringa Council	$23,609	Kangaroo Island			
Kingston DC	$23,262	DC Orroroo Carrieton		DC Port Lincoln	$35,332	Rural City of Murray Bridge	$45,244				
		Flinders Ranges		DC Streaky bay	$17,273	Southern Mallee DC	$13,954				
		Goyder		DC Tumby Bay	$18,039						
		Light Regional		City of Whyalla	$41,479						
		Northern Areas		Wudinna DC	$15,161						
		Peterborough									
		Port Pirie									
		Wakefield									
		Yorke Peninsula									
								Subs + Levys	$135,000		
	$282,340		$261,135		$229,774		$198,037	Subs + Levys	$177,380		$114,000
		Average									
		15 Councils	$17,409					Per Council	$29,563		
		Levies - tbc	$47,000								
Councils	6	Councils	15	Councils	11	Councils	8	Councils	6	Councils	3

Observations from benchmarking:

- MRLGA has the state's lowest subscription charge for subsidiaries with a full-time Ceo.
- MRLGA has all Councils from its Regional Grouping (pursuant to LGA)
- Spencer Gulf Cities is an Incorporated Body and is therefore not a Regional LGA but is regional grouping under LGA.
- Port Augusta Council does not sit with EPLGA or N&YLGA – whereas Port Pirie sits with N&Y and Whyalla sits with EP

Council Rates Increases

Council Rates were increased across the region for 2026/27 as follows

Council	2026/27 Average Rate Increase*
Berri Barmera Council	**8.7%** Adelaide Now
District Council of Loxton Waikerie	**3.9%** engagement.lw...
Renmark Paringa Council	**5.3%** (approximately **6.0%** including the fixed charge changes) engagement.ren...
District Council of Karoonda East Murray	**4.9%** dckem.sa.gov.au
Mid Murray Council	**5.95%** engagement.mi...
Southern Mallee District Council	**6.5%**
Coorong District Council	**6.9%**
Rural City of Murray Bridge	**5.37%** murraybridge.sa... +1

This table was generated using ChatGPT and therefore may contain errors and is subject to review.

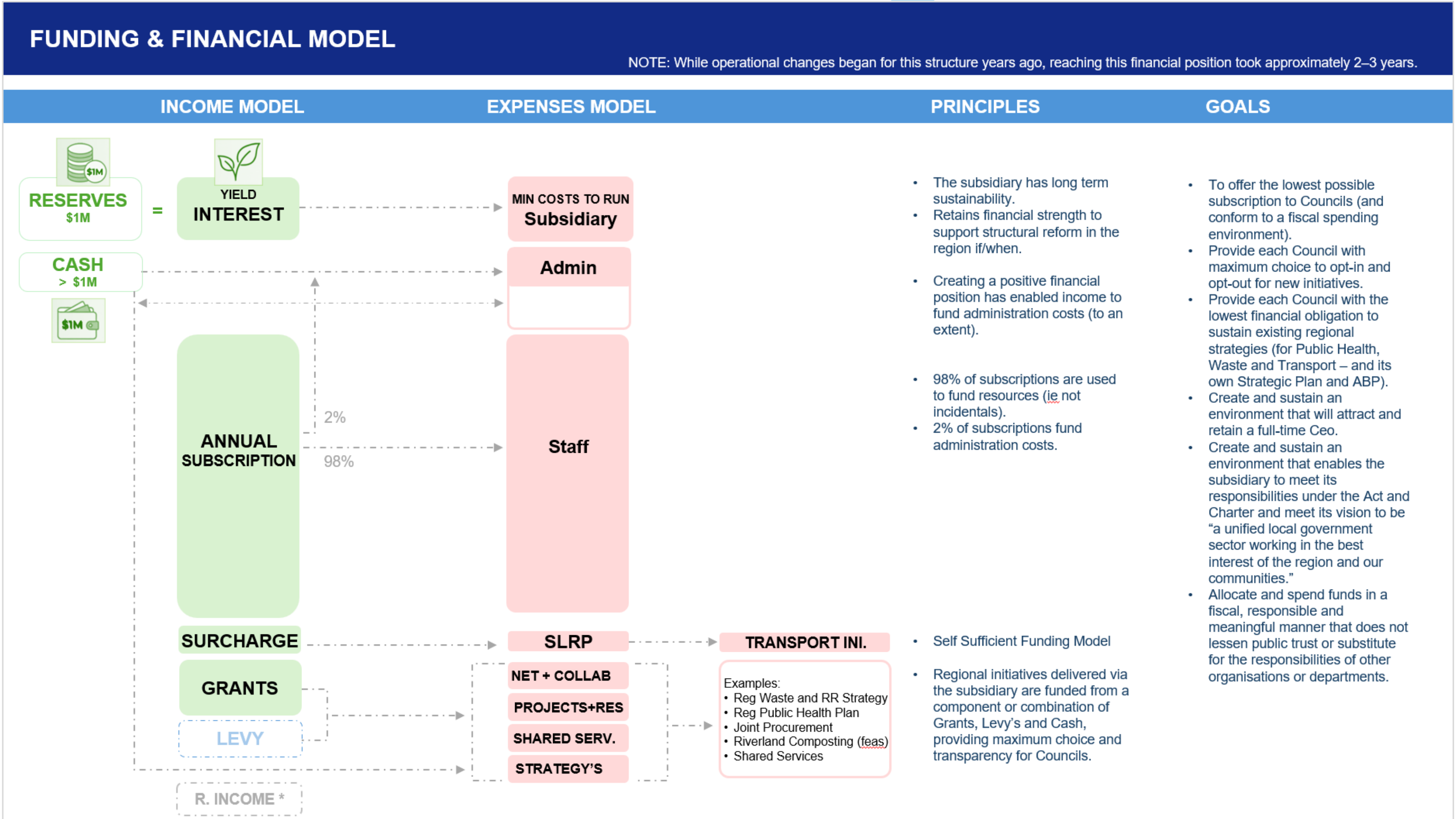
Did the subsidiary accumulate the wealth through higher-than-average subscriptions? *No*

A Summary of the Subscription Model is:

Subscriptions from 24/25 are the foundational milestone and an equal increase it applied across all eight constituent councils.

2. MRLGA Financial Model

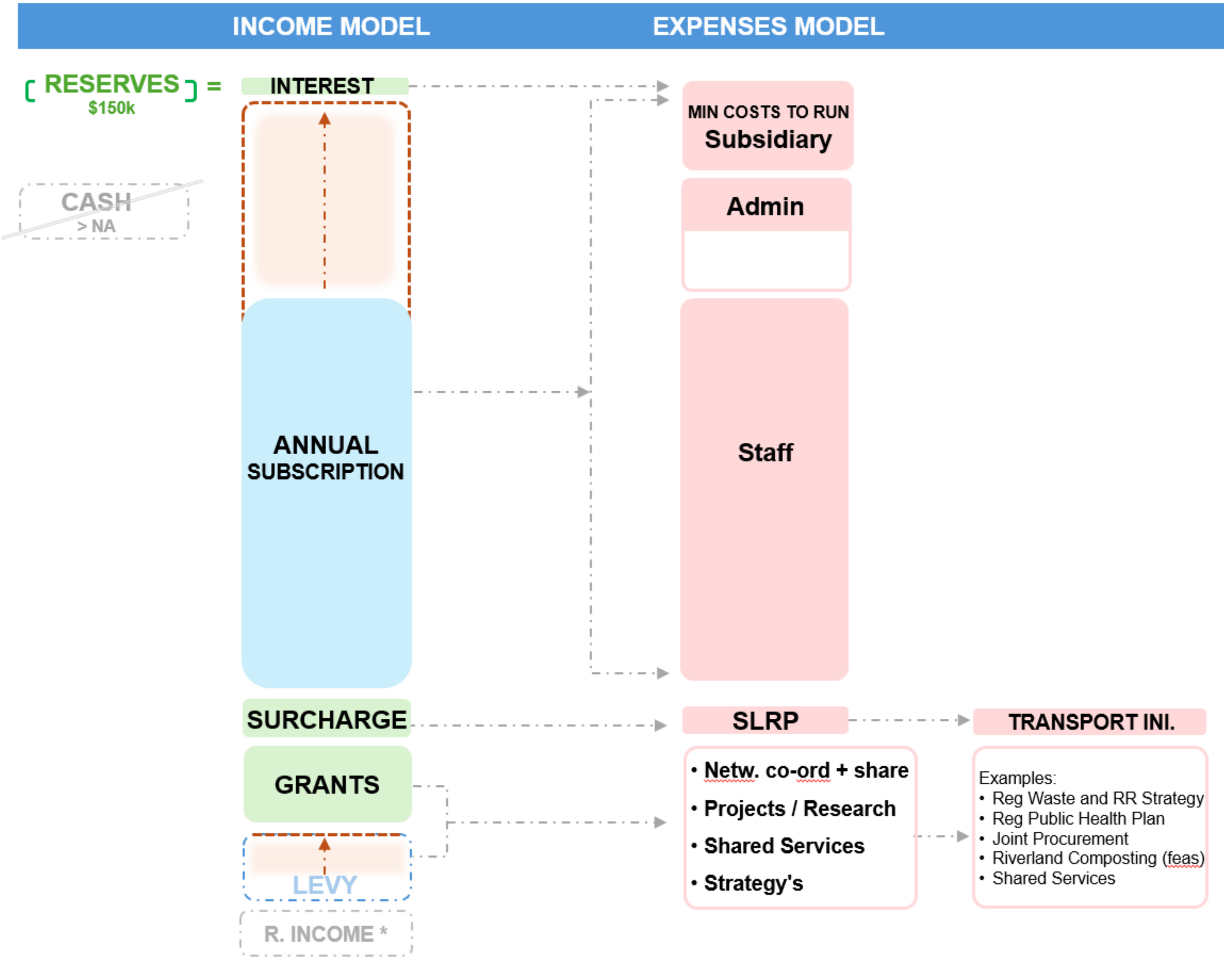
The diagrams below were developed to visually show how money is generated and allocated to fund the operations, subscriptions and long term financial position of the subsidiary in order to achieve its financial principles and goals.



The diagram below shows where increases will result f we move away from the current model and lower our reserves and annual interest.

FUNDING & FINANCIAL MODEL

NOTE: Altering the structure will alter the 5 year forecast for annual subscriptions.



RISKS / CONSIDERATIONS

- The subsidiary will not have a sufficiency component.
- The **cashflow environment will be high-risk**. Subscriptions may need to be paid in advance or upfront by Councils. Now, Councils are invoiced half yearly and predominantly hold cash longer.
- 31% of subscriptions would go to running the subsidiary and funding administration costs.
- 62% of subscriptions would be used to fund resources.
- **An increase to annual subscription charges will occur.** This has unlikely been accounted for in Council budgets and would be an important communication step for MRLGA to begin.
- Running a lean bank balance limits the subsidiary's ability to take on large initiatives with out **substantial prior planning and assembling of funding** either via levies that require notice and/or integrating it with Draft ABP where subscription charges will be higher to defend.
- Its **likely Councils will play a larger role in funding** regional initiatives. Regional initiatives require funding through a component or combination of Grants and Levy's (if access to cash is unavailable).

Moving away from the model will increase the dependency on Councils as follows:

This dependency will be financially felt through :

- Subscription Increases
- Levy Increases and
- SLRP Surcharge is reinstated or increased

This dependency will be felt through :

- Higher exposure to CPI and
- Higher exposure to world economic influences

<u>Subscription Increase</u>
Initially, the subsidiary would need to cover the loss of income (ie LGFA interest) circa $50k per annum.

This would be approached as either:

- An equal formula based) increase:
  - of **$6,250 increase** per constituent council / per annum.
- An equity (formula based) increase:
  - ranging from 6% to 22.8% (ie **$3,000 to $11,400)** per constituent council / per annum.

<u>Levy Increase</u>
A levy increase would not be felt in the short term, as the reserve can be used to fund strategic plans, however impact to would likely hit constituent Councils around 2031 when renewed strategic planning will be needed and/or the delivery of projects in the strategic plans. This could vary from $20,000 to $100,000, that could be charged incrementally over time in the lead up to planning, or charged the same year of undertaking.

<u>SLRP Surcharge reinstatement to 1% or Increase</u>
The reinstate of the 1% surcharge (currently reduced to 0.5%) would be implemented or an increase from 1%.

More financial modelling would need to be undertaken to elaborate on this advice further.

2026/27 Subscription Increase in ($)

A 2.5% increase to subscriptions was proposed in the draft 2026/27 MRLGA Budget.

The table below shows this in $ per year.

Berri Barmera Council	$ 633
Coorong District Council	$ 535
DC of Karoonda East Murray	$ 299
DC of Loxton Waikerie	$ 718
Mid Murray Council	$ 696
Renmark Paringa DC	$ 590
Rural City of Murray Bridge	$ 1,131
Southern Mallee DC	$ 499

The proposed 2.5% increase is based on the financial principles of the model. If the board decided to not apply the annual increase, it is inconsequential to the current year budget or long term financial position (when done in isolation) but if repeated or a consistent practice, this will have more impact to the long erm subscriptions as proposed in the 5 year budget.

Items we have not budgeted for but could arise include :
Rise of Insurance(s)
Ceo Recruitment

Increase in expectations and/or output requirements that in-turn increase administration and operating costs
Legislation changes that increase operating costs (ie Accounting, Auditing, Record Management, Cyber Security, Banking etc)

- These types of activities could have a direct impact on subscriptions and would cause a greater uplift if we don't provide a small buffer through bau.
- The subsidiary will carry less financial exposure to withstand a crisis in the future if it retains the financial model it has at present.

Strategic Planning for 2031

The future subscription and financial model is proposed to be integrated with the new Strategic Plan guiding the subsidiary to 2031.

The model(s) would be consulted on as part of the strategic planning process before a version being adopted.