

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Date Thursday 5 February 2026

Venue Murraylands Skills Centre, 12 Bridge Street, Murray Bridge

General Board Meeting PROGRAM

9:45am Arrival, Registration + Tea and coffee

10:00am Meeting Opens

2:00pm Meeting Close

Morning Tea & Light Lunch will be provided

The Board Meeting is open to the public and upon prior request a via MS Teams Video Conference link can be arranged. For online access please email ceo@mrlga.sa.gov.au prior to 12 noon 2 February 2026.

Part of the content of this agenda has been developed using ChatGPT.

Special Forum

2:00pm to 2:30pm Visit from Minister Joe Szakacs

Minister for Trade & Investment
Minister for Industry, Innovation & Science
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Veterans Affairs

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

AGENDA FOR THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE MURRAYLANDS & RIVERLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
--

CONTENTS

1	WELCOME.....	5
2	DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST	5
3	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS	5
4	ACTIONS REGISTER.....	5
5	LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS	9
5.1	ALGA	9
5.2	LGA of SA.....	12
5.3	SAROC	13
6	REGION WIDE AGENCY UPDATES	17
6.1	Landscape Board, Murraylands and Riverland	17
6.2	PIRSA.....	17
6.3	Regional Development Australia, Murraylands and Riverland.....	17
6.4	Zone Emergency Management Committee (ZEMC).....	17
6.5	Murray Darling Association	17
6.6	SA Drought Hub	18
6.7	One Basin CRC (Loxton).....	18
6.8	SAPOL.....	18
6.9	Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act.....	18
6.10	Country SAPHN.....	19
6.11	SA Cross Border Commissioner	19
6.12	Country Arts.....	19
7	STATE NEWS & STRATEGY'S	20
7.1	State Government Elections.....	20
7.2	Community Cabinet – Murray Bridge - Thursday 5 February	20
7.3	State & Local Government - Economic Partnership Accord	20
7.4	State Waste Strategy.....	20
7.5	State Public Health Plan.....	20
7.1	State 30 Year Public Transport Strategy.....	22
7.2	State 30 Year Transport Plan.....	22
7.3	Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan.....	22
7.4	Murray Mallee Regional Plan	22
7.5	State Development Coordination and Facilitation Office.....	22
7.6	Drought Response & Recovery Coordination Bill	22
7.7	Council Rates, Electricity Generator Bill	22
7.8	Standing Committee 22/23 River Murray Flood Event.....	23
8	FEDERAL NEWS & STRATEGY'S.....	24
8.1	Department of Infrastructure, Transport Regional Development, Communication , Sport and	

	the Arts.....	24
9	MRLGA : Quarterly reflections and/or current and emerging items	26
9.1	Strategic Planning Towards 2030 / 2031 – Research underway	26
9.2	Regional Public Health & Wellbeing.....	26
9.3	Regional Waste Management & Resource Recovery	27
9.4	Climate Ready Regions – Seeking 5 Yr commitment from Fed + State Governments	28
9.5	Regional Transport	28
9.6	Murray Darling Basin - Water Recovery – Grant Opens	28
9.7	Future Drought Fund - Regional Drought Resilience Program (MR Plan).....	29
9.8	Future Drought Fund - fRRR – Community Impact Program (\$900k in 26/27 + 27/28).....	31
9.9	Regional Digital Connectivity.....	32
10	FINANCIAL	33
10.1	Quarterly Financial Statements	33
11	MRLGA ARCHIVES.....	33
11.1	Records Management	33
12	ROUND TABLE	34
12.1	Berri Barmera Council	34
12.2	Coorong District Council	34
12.3	District Council of Loxton Waikerie.....	35
12.4	District Council of Karoonda East Murray	35
12.5	Mid Murray Council.....	35
12.6	Renmark Paringa Council	35
12.7	Rural City of Muray Bridge	36
12.8	Southern Mallee District Council	36
13	CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING	36

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1	Minutes from Previous Board Meeting
ATTACHMENT 2	Landscape Board, MR Regional Update
ATTACHMENT 3	PIRSA, Principal Regional Advisor Update
ATTACHMENT 4	RDA, MR Regional Update
ATTACHMENT 5	SA Drought Hub, 24/25 Summary of Achievements
ATTACHMENT 6	Cross Border Commissioner – Border Update
ATTACHMENT 7	MRLGA Regional Quarterly Waste Targets
ATTACHMENT 8	State Government reply to (abandoned) Digital Connectivity Plan
ATTACHMENT 9	Quarterly Financial Statements

1 WELCOME

Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Ngarrindjeri people as the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet and work. We extend our respect and acknowledge their spiritual connection to the land and that their cultural heritage beliefs are still important to the living people today.

Collective Stewardship

We recognise the living culture of the Ngarrindjeri people and the combined energies of First Nations Peoples, early settlers and community members today for their meaningful contributions to the life of our Region.

Presidents Welcome

Chairperson, Mayor Ella Winnall to open the meeting.

Welcome Board Members and invited guests. Apologies were registered from

- Mayor Wayne Thorley from Rural City of Murray Bridge
- Heather Barclay, Ceo from Rural City of Murray Bridge
- Mayor Simone Bailey from Mid Murray Council

Welcome new representatives to the Board:

- Acting Mayor Jonathan Pietzsch from Coorong District Council
- Cr Georga Warhurst from Mid Murray Council.

2 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Pursuant to Clause 3.3.1 of the Charter and Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1999 (SA), board members are required to declare any potential conflict of interest(s).

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A copy of the General Board Meeting Minutes is provided at [Attachment 1](#) (including attendance register).

Motion

"Minutes from the MRLGA General Board Meeting held at the Barmera Club on 30 October 2025 be taken as read and confirmed."

Moved,

Seconded

4 ACTIONS REGISTER

- There were 26 board actions from 23/24, of which the following 2 items remain pending.

20 October 2023 - General Meeting		
Action:		
1	Charter Review <i>It would be best to align the MRLGA voting processes with the sector</i> <i>MRLGA Ceo to research other lga's voting procedures.</i> <i>Agreed that the item is brought back to the Board Meeting in February 2024.</i> <i>That the MRLGA Board support the proposed changes to the Charter and ask the MRLGA CEO to have them reviewed legally and any feedback brought back to the board before proceeding.</i>	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 MRLGA will schedule a periodical review of the Charter in Q4 25/26.
18 April 2024 – General Meeting		
Action		

2	Ministerial Invite That the MRLGA Ceo write to the new Local Government Minister and invite him to meet with the board for a broader conversation about financial sustainability in the Local Government sector. If successful with a meeting MRLGA, Ceo will prepare and agenda and online meeting ahead of time to prepare.	- Invited early June for 25 July Meeting – unable to attend. - Invited to 9 August meeting – unable to attend. - Invited in late March and am working with the advisor on a suitable date. - Invited to 31 July Board Meeting. Unable to attend. - Invited for 5 Feb (MB) – Accepted.
---	--	---

- 3 items remain pending from 24/25 board actions including:

7 August 2024 – Annual General Meeting		
Action(s)		
3	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.	- A meeting with Deputy Ceo for PIRSA has been requested and a date is pending for the 'consortium' to meet with them.

10 April 2025		
Action		
4	RDRP Letter The MRLGA Board delegate its power to President, Vice President and Ceo to finalise a letter to Minister Scriven about future governance and delivery model associated with the Regional Drought Resilience Plan in light of additional funding coming from the State and Federal Government	- Pending
5	Query to OSFB The MRLGA Ceo inquire with OSFB if it would consider altering its closed delivery partner program to others.	- Inquiry made 19 Sept '25 - Inquiry made 22 Jan '26 - Received reply 27 Jan '26 - Completed
	Reply from OSFB: the Office for Small and Family Business (OSFB) programs are aimed at capability building for small and family businesses in South Australia. All of the programs delivered through our office align with <u>South Australia's Small Business Strategy 2023-2030</u> (Strategy) and providers for these programs are selected through a call for proposals followed by a competitive assessment process. Guidelines for each program differ but generally Councils would be eligible to put forward a proposal and be considered through a competitive assessment process. The best way to stay informed for any upcoming opportunities is to subscribe to our newsletter. Online tools and resources at business.sa.gov.au provide the most up to date information to help South Australian small businesses navigate grants, support programs and resources to help with successfully starting, running, and growing their business. Councils may wish to subscribe to the newsletter for the latest news and updates (including any upcoming calls for proposals) by scrolling to the bottom of the website: Website: https://business.sa.gov.au/ Information hotline: (08) 8429 3801 Email: diis.smallbusiness@sa.gov.au Please note emergency response programs will follow a different process and will differ depending on the circumstances/event. My contact details are below. I am happy to take further questions if any of the councils would like to discuss in more detail. Kind Regards Luke Temme (<i>he/him</i>) Team Leader Business Support, Office for Small and Family Business Industry, Innovation & Small Business P (08) 8429 3801 M 0439 705 774 E luke.temme@sa.gov.au	

- There are 17 board actions emerging from 25/26 meetings, of which the following 3 items remain pending.

31 July 2025		
Action(s)		
6	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	- Completed

	of Murray Bridge) about advocacy towards the withdrawal of Council collecting State levy charges, and the concept of an alternative rate notice format for the sector that separates charges.	
7	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).
8	Procedure for items of business to National Ministerial Meetings LGA to advise of the process to achieve item(s) of business for Ministers 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.
9	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
10	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.
11	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
12	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".	- Underway
13	RDRP The Board support the MRLGA Ceo as the signing officer on funding proposals associated with RDRP funding."	- Completed
14	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.	- Underway, but is currently stalled with BankSA.
15	Flood Funding MRLGA Ceo to liaise with Mid Murray Council about the financials of flood funding and if it can write to the carp 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.
16	MMC requested MRLGA Ceo to invite Hon Kirsty McBain to tour the Murraylands and Riverland.	- Not yet undertaken
17	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.

	30 October 2025	
	Action(s)	
18	SAROC Reps Attendance 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	- Underway. Refer to Item 5.3

	regional grouping about solutions for improvement.	
19	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
20	Ceo to see if more updates/information on CRC can be shared with the Board	- MRLGA Ceo has a meeting with One Basin CRC Co on 3 Feb to discuss query.
21	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.	- Research and investigation is underway. An application has not yet been confirmed.
22	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.	- In line with item 3 and 12 – this action is underway.

Motion

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

Moved,

Seconded

5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS

5.1 ALGA

FOR INFORMATION

- **Current Policy Work**
 - Local Government Financial Sustainability
 - Emergency Management
 - Housing and Planning
 - Roads & Infrastructure
 - Closing the gap
 - Jobs and Skills
 - Environment
 - Cyber Security
 - Climate Change
 - Intergovernmental relations
- **How 'we' represent local government**

ALGA represents and advocates for local government by participating in the following Ministerial Councils and Forums:

 - National Cabinet (once per year)
 - Council on Federal Financial Relations (once per year)
 - Local Government Ministers' Forum
 - Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting
 - National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting
 - Joint Council on Closing the Gap
 - Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council
 - Environment Ministers' Meeting
 - Building Ministers' Meeting
 - Water Ministers' Meeting
 - Planning Ministers' Meeting
 - Cultural Ministers' Meeting
 - Food Ministers' Meeting
 - Ministerial Migration Roundtable
- **Advocacy, Events & News**
 - o **ALGA President Updates**

President's Update – 13 January 2026 – ALGA

President's Update – 18 December 2025 – ALGA

President's Update – 9 December 2025 – ALGA

President's Update – 24 November 2025 – ALGA

President's Update – 10 November 2025 – ALGA
 - o **Submissions to:**
 - Draft National Environmental Standards: Matters of National Environmental Significance and Offset Costs
 - Draft public guidance for the Future Made in Australia Community Benefit Principles
 - Productivity Commission Inquiry into Heavy Vehicle Reform
 - Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport
 - Review of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992
 - Reducing Default Speed Limits on Roads
 - A link to the submission is Submissions – ALGA
 - o **National General Assembly (Canberra) – 23 to 25 June 2026**

"Stronger Together : Resilient. Productive. United."

A link to the Discussion Paper : NGA Discussion Paper

A link to the Program is: 2026 NGA Program

Motions are due by **Friday 27 February 2026** and must be lodged online

- **ALGA calls for urgent action on National Packaging Reform – ALGA**
Each year, Australia uses over 1.3 million tonnes of plastic packaging, but more than 1 million tonnes ends up in landfill or as litter.
The new report from the Australian Council of Recycling and the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation, *Securing Australia's Plastic Recycling Future*, presents a sobering picture of an industry in danger of collapse without urgent reform
 - **ALGA welcomes the national solar panel recycling pilot – ALGA**
The Government will invest \$24.7 million over three years, including establishing up to 100 pilot collection sites nationwide, to divert end-of-life solar panels from landfill.
- Note:** MRLGA has a line of inquiry to understand if it can be a pilot area for this program. It will report back to the Board if/when information arises.
- **Reinstatement of the national inquiry into local government sustainability – ALGA**
ALGA President Mayor Matt Burnett said: *"Reinstatement of the inquiry is a welcome first step in addressing financial sustainability – we simply can't afford to wait any longer."*

Earlier Submissions

A total of 287 submissions from across Australia were made to this Inquiry.

During the original inquiry, the following submissions were lodged by:

MRLGA	in May 2024
MMC	in May 2024
SMDC	in May 2024
CDC	in May 2024
DCLW	in May 2024

Current Submissions are due on [Tuesday 3 February 2026](#),

A link to the current inquiry is:

[Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability – Parliament of Australia](#)

A total of 4 submissions have been lodged to this Inquiry (as of 31 Jan 2026) : [Submissions – Parliament of Australia](#)

Upcoming Public Hearings:

Thursday 5 February 2026, Canberra - [program.pdf](#)

MRLGA has requested a link to the public hearing.

- **ALGA welcomes the passage of EPBC Act reforms – ALGA**
Reforms to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act will enable regional and strategic planning, helping to deliver national priorities like housing and renewables.
- **ALGA welcomes the National Climate Change Partnership – ALGA**
Energy and Climate Ministers today endorsed the first National Climate Change Partnership (NCCP) which sets out how governments will work together to address emissions and climate impacts.
The NCCP recognises partnership with local government as critical in achieving national climate goals, stating that local government contributions to climate action are nationally significant.

- **Webinar : National Rural Health Alliance**

“The Forgotten Spend – Health Care Report”

Susanne Tegen, Ceo for National Rural health Alliance is steering strong advocacy to Federal and State Governments to acknowledge the findings of underspend in rural areas and recorrect the inequality before the rising gap grows even more.

The webinar was a platform for them to receive data that Councils are collecting when they need to ‘fill’ the void as part of advocating for the re-correction of funds.

Figure 1 | Summary of expenditure gap between urban and non-urban populations



OPEN FOR DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

5.2 LGA of SA

FOR INFORMATION

News

For Information:

- **Topical Update**

A link to the LGA's January 2026 update is below:

[ECM 808925 v202 LGA Member Services Priority Projects Update - Bimonthly 2025](#)

- **LGA Strategic Plan**

A link to the Strategic Plan 2025 -2030 is below.

[LGA StrategicPlan.pdf](#)

- **LGA State Election Priorities**

A link to the LGA State Election Priorities is below:

[LGA's 2026 state election priorities | LGA South Australia](#)

- **LGA Road Advocacy**

LGA has reported successful interactions with Federal MPs and Senators, Ministers and their offices at the end of 2025 on the advocacy outlined in the paper, with feedback that it outlined the need for change.

[https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/resources/documents/members-only/news-and-events/Briefing-Note-SLRF-LGA-South-Australia-September-2025.pdf](#)

- **LGA Board Meetings**

A copy of the Agenda for the meeting on 22 January 2026 is below (minutes are yet not published) :

[LGA-Board-of-Directors-Public-Meeting-Agenda-22-January-2026-Redacted.pdf](#)

Minutes from the meeting on 4 December 2025 is below:

[ECM 858624 v3 LGA Board of Directors Meeting - Public Minutes - 4 December 2025](#)

- **Local Government Ministers Forum**

Last Meetings:

2024	November	Melbourne
2025	April	Online
2025	November (28)	Online

A link to the November communique is below:

[Joint Communiqué: Local Government Ministerial Forum #15 28 November 2025](#)

- Examining Financial Sustainability
- Accounting for Asset Depreciation
- Disaster Preparedness and Response

OPEN FOR DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

- **LGA Events**

FOR INFORMATION

2025 Events	
24 July 2025	Mayor & Ceo Networking Dinner
25 July 2025	Mayor & Ceo Forum
20 August 2025	Roads & Works Conference (Tailem Bend)
24 October 2025	Governance Network Forum
20 November 2025	Mayor Forum
21 November 2025	LGA AGM
11 December 2025	Webinar : Minister Hilyard on the findings of the Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence
12 December 2025	Webinar : Drought update

2026 events hosted by LGA:

Month	Event
January 15	Webinar : Future council rates levied on electricity generators
February 2	Webinar : People at increased risk in emergencies (PaIRE) - online workshop
February 5	GISA Multi-Unit Development Workshop
February 17	Webinar : LGFSF Council Emergency management arrangements
February 27	Webinar : LGA President to provide Ombudsman SA briefing
March to April	Coastal Resilience – Short Course
May 28 + 29	LGA OGM
September 2 - 4	Road & works Conference
November (early-mid)	Local Government Elections
November 19 - 20	LGA AGM

5.3 SAROC

FOR INFORMATION

Meetings, Agenda and Minutes

Meetings have been scheduled / held on:

23 January	2025	Adelaide
27 March	2025	Whyalla
24 July	2025	Adelaide
2 October	2025	Renmark
4 December	2025	Adelaide
22 January	2026	Adelaide
26 March	2026	Whyalla
14 May	2026	Adelaide
23 July	2026	Adelaide
1 October	2026	Adelaide
		<i>Local Government Elections (and Caretaker Period)</i>
3 December	2026	Adelaide

A link to the **December Agenda** is below:

[SAROC-Committee-Meeting-Agenda-and-Papers-4-December-2025.pdf](#)

A link to the **December Minutes** is below:

[SAROC Committee Meeting - Draft Minutes - 4 December 2025](#)

A link to the **January Agenda** is below:

[SAROC-Committee-Meeting-Public-Agenda-and-Papers-22-January-2026.pdf](#)

Minutes from the 22 January meeting have not been released yet.

Governance update

Mayor Simone Bailey is on planned leave (Feb to March). As one of the region's SAROC representatives, the position will become vacant during this time (as the Terms of Reference do not allow for a proxy). Mayor Caroline Phillips will be the sole Saroc Representative during this time.

MRLGA Board Meeting - Action Item 18

During the MRLGA Board Meeting on 30 October 2025, the following motion was carried:

"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."

Saroc representatives were therefore an apology for meetings on 4 December 2025 and 22 January 2026.

Liaison between MRLGA and LGA has been occurring since 30 October 2025 that led to a meeting on 30 January 2026.

In attendance was:

LGA President (Mayor Heather Holmes Ross)

MRLGA President (Mayor Ella Winnall),

SAROC Chair (Mayor Jo-Anne Quigley)

SAROC Representative (Mayor Caroline Phillips)

LGA Ceo (Karen Teaha)

MRLGA Ceo (Carron McLeod)

The outcome of this meeting will be reported below from the Saroc Representative.

○ SAROC Representatives Update

SAROC regional representative Mayor Caroline Phillips can :

- Report on Minster Joe Szakacs visit with SAROC on 4 December 2025 and
- Meeting with LGA on 30 January regarding Action Item 18

OPEN FOR DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

Motion

"The MRLGA Board support SAROC representatives to attend meetings at times when items are pertinent to regional priorities."

Moved,

Seconded

○ DROUGHT

FOR INFORMATION

State Government Support Package

A link to PIRSA's drought support initiatives is below:

https://pir.sa.gov.au/emergencies_and_recovery/drought/drought_support?shorturl_drought-support

Advocacy

Council rate deferral scheme

Led by LGA

LGA advocated for a Council Rate Deferral Scheme. The State Government advised in late October 2025 it would not fund the Scheme.

LGA hosted a webinar on 12 December 2025 to share updates and seek input on future advocacy.

SA Drought Advisory Group Meeting

Led by PIRSA

The last SA Drought Advisory Group meeting was held on 27 January 2026.

Local Government representatives are

- Mayor Bill Gebhardt (Goyder Shire Council)
- Mayor Paul Simmons (Coorong District Council)

Appointed by the Minister

- Mayor Stephen McCarthy (DC of Mount Remarkable)

Leanne Schmidt (LGA) is attending SA Drought Advisory Group meetings while Mayor Simmons is on apology.

Extreme sand drift

Led by Councils and MRLGA

MRLGA:

- has collected sites of extreme sand drift (predominantly occurring in DCKEM and DCLW) as well as photos, volumes and data from Councils
- held a Regional Transport Committee meeting with Council Representatives and Landscape Board representatives to discuss options and next steps
- is liaising with the SA Drought Commissioner and seeking a joint field trip and funding support for Councils (who are undertaking reactive road maintenance).
- secured funding to formally map the locations of extreme sand-drift across the region and identify solutions that could reduce the need for Council intervention and maintenance.

Grant Information

LGA is liaising with PIRSA to obtain information on the geographical disbursement of grant funding (to see when and where funding resulted). This was an action item from the online Webinar on 12 December 2025.

OPEN FOR DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

○ Limestone Coast Local Government Association

Invited Speaker

Charlotte Edmunds, LCLGA Ceo

Topic

Advocating for a Commissioner for Agriculture

Welcome Charlotte Edmunds, Ceo of LCLGA (online) to present to MRLGA about the merits of a Commissioner for Agriculture.

MRLGA Board may wish to offer feedback or encouragement on the item as a neighboring agricultural regional community in South Australia.

An example of how NSW has approached it can be read via the link below:

[NSW Agriculture Commissioner](#)

OPEN FOR DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

Motion A

“The MRLGA Board, support (in-principle) the proposal for 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 powers and functions of the role.”

Moved,

Seconded

○ **LGA BOARD NOMINATIONS INTERFACING WITH ELECTIONS**

FOR INFORMATION

The term for current LGA Board and SAROC Members will end November 2026.

Local Government Elections will be held in November 2026 and the appointment of new LGA Board and SAROC representatives will be advised by the LGA.

6 REGION WIDE AGENCY UPDATES

FOR INFORMATION

Reports from region-wide organisations, partners and stakeholders are below:

6.1 Landscape Board, Murraylands and Riverland

Ceo, Bryan McDonald

A copy of the update can be found in [Attachment 2](#).

6.2 PIRSA

Principal Regional Advisor, Barb Cowey

A copy of the update can be found in [Attachment 3](#).

6.3 Regional Development Australia, Murraylands and Riverland

Ceo, Julie Bates

A copy of the update can be found in [Attachment 4](#).

6.4 Zone Emergency Management Committee (ZEMC)

A copy of the regions Murray and Mallee Zone EM Plan can be visited via the link below:

https://resources-production.safecom.sa.gov.au/current/docs/murray_mallee_zone_emergency_management_plan.pdf

The meeting schedule is:

19 March	2025 (Murray Bridge)
14 May	2025 (Loxton)
9 July	2025 (Loxton)
13 August	2025 (Murray Bridge)
18 November	2025
8 December	2025 (online)
11 February	2026 (online)
13 May	2026
12 August	2026
11 November	2026

6.5 Murray Darling Association

Next Conference

82nd National Conference - "Working Together for our Basin Future"

[82nd National Conference — Murray Darling Association](#)

Greater Shepparton City Council, VIC

24 – 27 August 2026

Strategic Plan

A link to the 2025 – 2030 Strategic Plan is : [Strategic Plan 2025-30](#)

Region 5

Region 5 Chair is Cr Margaret Howie (RPC)

A copy of the last meeting minutes will be provided on the day.

Region 6

Region 6 Chair is Mayor Wayne Thorley (RCMB)

A copy of the last meeting minutes will be provided on the day.

6.6 SA Drought Hub

A 2024 / 2025 Achievements Summary can be found via [SA-Drought-Hub-2425-Achievements_FA.pdf](#) or in [Attachment 5](#).

A copy of the 2024 / 2025 Annual Report can be access via the link below:
[SA Drought Hub Annual Report](#)

The latest newsletter from December 2025 can be found below:
[SA Drought Hub Update – December 2025](#)

The hub has also started engagement webinars (50mins with updates):
[Regional Engagement webinar for SA Drought Hub partners \(Nov 2025\) - SA Drought Hub](#)

6.7 One Basin CRC (Loxton)

A link to the One Basin CRC's current projects can be found below:
[Projects - One Basin CRC](#)

- Future Basin Economies: Innovative Approaches to Design and Deliver Economic Investments Wanted by Basin Communities
- Decarbonising the Bains's irrigation regions
- Cyanobacteria toxin uptake in food crops and implications to humans
- Geospatial modelling of region-scale crop water use to forecast climate change
- Incentivising and investing in climate adaptation and the adoption of sustainable basin management practices
- Water banking for enhance drought resilience
- Predicting the impact of climate change on irrigation demand across One Basin
- Opportunities and challenges identifying, sourcing and treating brackish groundwater

6.8 SAPOL

Officer in Charge: Cynthia Healey.

Supt Cindy Healey
Officer in Charge
Murray Mallee Region
South Australia Police
58 Swanport Rd, Murray Bridge
T 08 853 56076 M 0410466384
E Cynthia.Healey@police.sa.gov.au
W www.police.sa.gov.au

Encouraged to follow its Facebook page for live updates and initiatives:
<https://www.facebook.com/SouthAustraliaPolice/>

6.9 Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act

River Murray listed as critically endangered

The River Murray (specifically the *lower River Murray downstream of the Darling River and its associated wetlands, floodplains and aquatic systems*) has been officially listed as critically endangered under Australia's national environment law, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

This listing is part of federal environmental protection and is not a state-level classification.

The Australian Government's Environment Minister accepted a recommendation from the

Threatened Species Scientific Committee (an independent scientific advisory body) to list the ecological community of the lower River Murray as critically endangered under the EPBC Act.

The listing recognises the ecosystem (not just the river as a waterway) is at severe risk and triggers stronger environmental assessment requirements for major developments that might affect it.

The listing makes the River Murray ecosystem a “matter of national environmental significance” and any major new development or action that could significantly impact the listed ecological community must be referred to the Australian Government for assessment and approval under the EPBC Act before proceeding.

6.10 Country SAPHN

A link to the December 2025 Newsletter is below:
[December 2025 Volume 11 Issue 11 - Country SA PHN](#)

Upcoming Grant– To Open 2 February 2025
[Rural Health Innovation Fund - Country SA PHN](#)

6.11 SA Cross Border Commissioner Kelly-Anne Saffin

A copy of the update can be found in [**Attachment 6.**](#)

6.12 Country Arts

A link to available grants is below:
[Grants - Country Arts](#)

OPEN FOR DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

Motion

“That the MRLGA Board note and accept the regional stakeholders written reports and/or minutes shared.”

Moved,

Seconded

7 STATE NEWS & STRATEGY'S

FOR INFORMATION

The following State Strategy's or Plans are under review, under development and/or out for consultation.

7.1 State Government Elections

The State Government will enter caretaker period on 21 February 2026, followed by State elections on 21 March 2026.

Electoral Boundaries are shown over page.

7.2 Community Cabinet – Murray Bridge - Thursday 5 February

DPC are visiting Murray Bridge on Thursday 5 February and hosting a community event open to the public to register :

[Community Cabinet to bring Murray Bridge community and government together | Department of the Premier and Cabinet](#)

7.3 State & Local Government - Economic Partnership Accord

In November 2025 an Accord was signed (link below) outlining a proposed Local Government Co-Ordinator. An extract from the Accord is :

- A Local Government Coordinator will be nominated within the Coordinator General's Office (CGO) to, in accordance with the *State Development Coordination and Facilitation Act 2025*:
 - Promote the opportunity for councils and local government bodies to submit initiatives to be considered as a Priority Project.
 - Develop guidelines for the identification and project management of local government initiatives declared as Priority Projects.
 - Receive and consider project and initiative proposals from councils and advise the CGO or the Minister on their designation as a Priority Project.
 - Facilitate engagement and coordinate resources within State Government organisations to accelerate the development and implementation of Priority Projects.
 - Develop, in collaboration with the LGA, a biannual report to the Premier and the Minister for Local Government on local government initiatives that have been progressed through the CGO.

[FINAL-State Local-Government-Economic-Partnership-Accord-SIGNED-13.11.20252.pdf](#)

LGA announced the signing during the Nov '25 AGM and published news on 16 January 2026: [New Accord formalises State and Local Government as economic partners | LGA South Australia](#)

7.4 State Waste Strategy

The State released its strategy (2025 - 2030) on 11 December 2025:

[Accelerating SA's transition to a circular economy: South Australia's waste strategy 2025–2030](#)

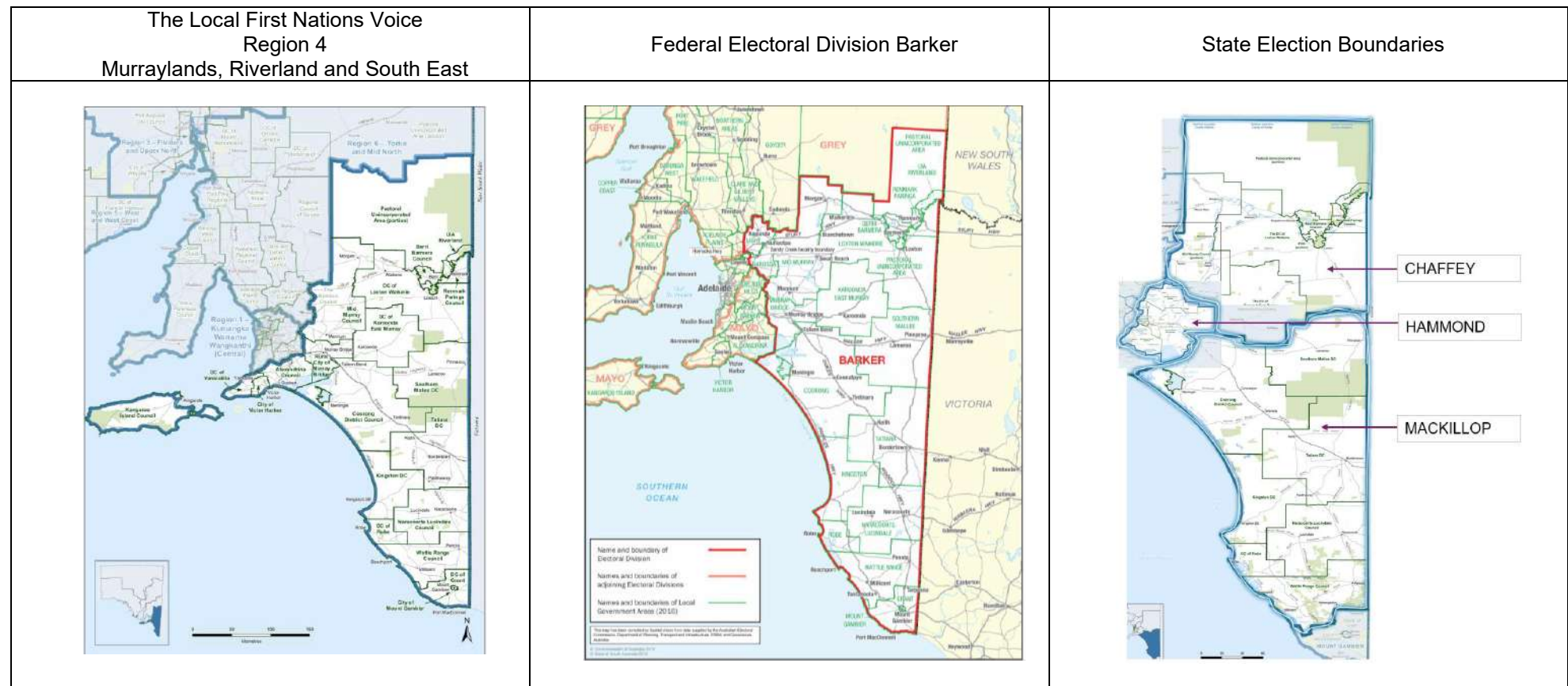
7.5 State Public Health Plan

Public Consultation closed 21 November 2025.

[State Public Health Plan | SA Health](#)

The final release date is tbc.

Electoral Boundaries as it relates to the Murraylands and Riverland region:



7.1 State 30 Year Public Transport Strategy

Consultation on the Draft Strategy closed 27 June 2025

[Future of Public Transport - Department for Infrastructure and Transport - South Australia](#)

The final release date is tbc.

7.2 State 30 Year Transport Plan

Released March 2025 [South Australia's Transport Strategy 2025](#)

7.3 Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan

Country SA PHN and the Department for Health and Wellbeing (SA Health) are working together to develop a Joint Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan 2026 – 2029 (Joint Regional Plan) for country South Australia.
Consultation closed 4 July 2025.

[Joint Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan 2026 – 2029 | YourSAy](#)

The final release date is tbc.

7.4 Murray Mallee Regional Plan

The Murray Mallee Regional Plan is now accessed digitally via [Digital Regional Plans](#).

7.5 State Development Coordination and Facilitation Office

The new Office is named the Coordinator Generals Office (CGO). The CGO is a body of 4 members nominated by the Minister responsible for the SDCF Act and appointed by the Governor.

[Introducing the 'Coordinator General's Office' • Norman Waterhouse
State Development Coordination and Facilitation Bill 2025](#)

In May / June 2025, the new Office was established under \$4m funding to “streamline government approval processes ... This new legislation anticipates creating a more efficient approach to handling significant projects that involve sectors such as housing and decarbonisation, alongside the AUKUS initiative. By establishing the role of Coordinator-General, the Bill looks to enhance coordination across these sectors, ultimately adding greater capacity to the existing infrastructure.”

7.6 Drought Response & Recovery Coordination Bill

The *Drought Response and Recovery Coordinator Bill 2025* has been debated in Parliament (including second reading), but the current government does not support it in its present form and has instead pursued drought coordination through appointment of a Commissioner for Drought Support and expanded drought assistance packages.

This item will be removed from the agenda moving forward (unless the Board seek it as a standing item).

7.7 Council Rates, Electricity Generator Bill

The bill was introduced by Hon. Frank Pangallo, and seeks to change how large electricity generators are rated for council rates in SA. It would address a long-standing anomaly under the Electricity Corporation Rates Deregulation (ECRD) Act that has effectively given some electricity generation assets a reduced or exempt rating status for about 25 years, which councils and the Local Government Association argue costs local government millions annually. Because it is not a government bill, its progress depends heavily on:

- Cross-bench support
- Government willingness to adopt or amend the proposal

As of the latest Hansard record (April 2025), it remains in progress, not yet enacted.
[Statutes Amendment \(Rates—Electricity Generation\) Bill 2025 | South Australian Legislation](#)

7.8 Standing Committee 22/23 River Murray Flood Event

A link to the Select Committee Report on the 2022-23 River Murray Flood Event is below.
The report details 23 recommendations.

<https://www.parliament.sa.gov.au/en/Committees/Committees-Detail>

This item will be removed from the agenda moving forward (unless the Board seek it as a standing item).

OPEN FOR DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

8 FEDERAL NEWS & STRATEGY'S

FOR INFORMATION

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

A list of the Federal Ministers with the Department is below:

[Ministers for the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts](#)

- **More than 280 road safety upgrades coming:**

The new projects include 84 black spot treatments in New South Wales and **20 in South Australia**, supported by an increase in the program's annual budget from \$110 million to \$150 million. Black Spot safety upgrades are estimated to reduce crashes causing death and injury by about 30 per cent at treated sites. Local Black Spot Consultative Panels – made up of local stakeholders – recommended the NSW and South Australia projects.

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/department/media/news/more-280-road-safety-upgrades-announced>

- **Brisbane 2032 Unveils Games Vision : “Believe Become Belong”**

The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organising Committee has chosen a vision that champions the following messages:

Believe: belief in the power of sport and the Australian spirit, which together unlock limitless potential, grit and heart to go further than ever imagined.

Belong: a vision in which everyone is welcome at the Games, with every person celebrated, creating a playing field that is fair and fun.

Become: a moment of opportunity for all Australians to harness the magic of the Games and become stronger moving into an exciting new era.

Every edition of the Games has a vision, a short statement that acts as a guiding principle for the event. Brisbane launched theirs following an extensive consultation process which included input from more than 6,000 Australians

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/department/media/news/brisbane-2032-unveils-games-vision-believe-belong-become>

- **Digital connectivity mapping tool indicators - Have Your Say**

“We” have created easy-to-use, interactive maps showing digital connectivity indicators across Australia. These maps let you explore broadband and mobile service availability in your area. The maps show connectivity levels (from 0% to 100%) for different technologies, including mobile coverage (4G and 5G) and NBN services (fixed line, fixed wireless and satellite). There's also data on services provided by non-NBN Statutory Infrastructure Providers (SIPs). We're releasing these maps as a BETA version to share this information widely and get your feedback.

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/department/media/news/have-your-say-digital-connectivity-indicators-mapping-tool>

- **“For the Good Of” campaign**

The campaign aims to raise awareness of the new law which from 10 December 2025, means you will need to be over 16 to access social media accounts.

[Launch of advertising campaign “For the Good Of” | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts](#)

- **Australia's 2035 emission reduction target (62-70%)**

To help drive the transition to net zero, the Australian Government has set a target to reduce emissions to 62-70% below 2005 levels by 2035.

[Net Zero - DCCEEW](#)

They have also developed 6 Sector Plans. One sector is: Agriculture & Land. A link to the plan is below as an example:

[Agriculture and Land Sector Plan - DAFF](#)

- **Federal Pre- Budget Submissions**

26/27 federal government pre-budget submissions portal closed 30 January 2026.

To see previous year's pre-budget submissions, click the link below for a range of submissions from 1 to 10 topic papers.

[2026–27 Pre-Budget Submissions - Consult hub](#)

- **For a link to other consultation items, please visit:**

[Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts](#)

OPEN FOR DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

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

The following items have been extracted from the Annual Business Plan for highlights, awareness, endorsement or discussion as part of progressing its identified initiatives.

9.1 Strategic Planning Towards 2030 / 2031 – Research underway

FOR INFORMATION

As several MRLGA strategies approach the end of their term in 2026, and with the State having released its 5 year position on Transport, Freight, Waste, Circular Economy, and Public Health, the organisation is well-positioned to undertake research, engagement, and analysis of regional priorities and opportunities.

In preparation for 2030, this initial research and analysis step will support the identification of key priorities and opportunities facing the region and local government over the coming years. The findings will directly inform the development of MRLGA's next strategic priorities.

9.2 Regional Public Health & Wellbeing

FOR INFORMATION

Regional Public Health & Wellbeing Plan – (Stage 1) Review commencing soon

Section 51(19) of Public Health Act 2011 requires Regional Public Health (& Wellbeing) Plans be reviewed every 5 years. Pursuant to this legislative requirement, MRLGA has developed a framework with the Committee to review the current regional plan. Centralising this work at MRLGA alleviates Councils from performing this work individually and (ie 8 times) and rather perform the review once at a region scale and determine (any) updates.

A project plan is under development that will identify key milestone dates for the Committee to inform steps in the process.

Office Recreation, Sport and Racing Partnership – Progressing well

The Connected & Active Communities partnership (between ORSR and Local Government) continues to progress well in the Riverland. The model is delivered in a collaboration with three Councils, hosted by District Council Loxton Waikerie (DCLW). The monetary value of the partnership attracts approximately \$375k funding.

MRLGA and a representative from the DCLW will liaise with ORSR on the Connected & Active Communities partnership, seeking a possible extension and widening of the program into other Council(s) based on the learnings from Riverland. This partnership model is intentionally structured directly between State and Councils (ie not MRLGA).

Preventive Health SA Partnership – Milestone reached to commence work plan

The Preventive Health SA partnership (between Preventive Health SA and Local Government) is progressing well. The monetary value of the partnership attracts approximately \$300k funding into the region.

Stage 1 – Research, analysis and mapping is now complete for both sub regions.
Stage 2 – Delivery will commence early 2026.

The partnerships were offered as an opt-in or opt-out model, that resulted in a Murraylands collaboration and a Riverland collaboration, ie 6 Councils in total.

Similar to the Connected & Active Communities partnership, we plan to see emerging initiatives begin that support uplift in prevention methods and principles as part of supporting healthy communities.

9.3 Regional Waste Management & Resource Recovery

FOR INFORMATION

Regional Quarterly Targets

The quarterly (written) update measuring waste data against strategic goals is provided at [Attachment 7](#).

Waste Services Kerbside Review – Draft Report Complete

A draft report has been completed and will be delivered to Council operational teams in the following sequential Stages.

Stage 1 - Riverland Councils
Stage 2 - Coorong District Council and
Stage 3 - Rural City of Murray Bridge.

This project was identified as part of the regional strategy and will provide Councils with information about:

- How much food waste and garden waste is being placed in the red lid bin
- Why landfills seek to avoid food waste and garden waste from going to landfill
- How these mechanisms influence the State Waste Levy
- Service cost projections
- Much more !

It is planned that Councils will receive the draft report through briefing(s) before it is made final.

For Councils on a 1 or 2 bin system, MRLGA is liaising separately with:

- Mid Murray Council and its waste team while it does an internal review of its 1 / 2-bin system and its future options.
- District Council of Karoonda East Murray on its EPA licence and alternative options.
- SMDC and remains available for support to them while it has reviewed its waste management model.

Waste Education – Underway by external provider while role is vacant

Waste Education is being provided in a shared service model for five participating Councils. The annual waste education program was developed in conjunction with five of the Councils participating in the joint waste contract. While the role is vacant, a waste education provider: AWARE ([HOME | AU Waste and Recycling Education](#)) is supporting delivery of this work in a small capacity. Some of the work includes:

- Joint COMS plan for the Riverland Councils to specifically to amplify the “which bin” campaign and promote food waste in the green-lid bin. MRLGA (with Councils) has been liaising with PIRSA to inform them of the progress of this work.
- Enhancing Councils websites with updated information and links
- Plan for 3-bin systems in Council buildings

Circular Economy – Early advocacy and exploring a partnership



MRLGA Ceo has met with Green Industries Ceo to discuss circular economy opportunities in the region. Currently the Murraylands and Riverland region spends approximately \$750,000 - \$800,000 on the Waste levy and it has initiated positive dialogue to see mechanism for part of this budget to support regional outcomes.

9.4 Climate Ready Regions – Seeking 5 Yr commitment from Fed + State Governments

FOR INFORMATION



On 27 January 2026 the “Climate Ready Regions” proposal was released. This proposal has been in development since early 2024 through a partnership between LGA, DEW and Green Adelaide.

Details of the design of the program, its purpose and projections can be found via the link [SA Climate Ready Alliances | LGA South Australia](#).

A brief summary is the program seeks co-investment of \$15M over 5 years – with a proposed split of \$7.5M federal, \$5M state, \$1.2M regional + in kind. Other arrangements may also be possible.

MRLGA has been participating in the process since inception and will keep the Board informed of future opportunities.

MRLGA will liaise with the Ceo Network on the program, as some Councils may wish to include funding in their budgets to be part of the program (that is conditional upon Federal and State support of the 5 year program).

9.5 Regional Transport

FOR INFORMATION

SA - Special Local Roads Program – Planning Underway

Following the completion of a supplementary round in December 2025, MRLGA commenced dialogue with Councils to assess regionally significant roads that are suitable for funding in 26/27 under the SLRP emerging round. Work is progressing well and tracking on time for lodgment in March.

9.6 Murray Darling Basin - Water Recovery – Grant Opens

OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

Commonwealth Water Reform - Resilient Rivers Framework

Resilient Rivers Infrastructure Program	\$494m	23/24 to 26/27 (4 Years)	NSW / VIC / SA
Sustainable Community's Program	\$300m	24/25 to 27/28 (4 Years)	NSW / VIC / SA

Background

Councils have been participating in working groups with PIRSA and regional stakeholders since April 2025 to inform a PIRSA Business Case of projects for this program.

Sustainable Communities Grant Program – Opened

The Sustainable Communities Program opened on 15 January 2026 and will close on Tuesday 31 March 2026 at 5 pm - [Sustainable Communities Program - PIRSA](#)

ROUND 1		Budget	Projects	
		\$14 M	Min	Max
Stream 1	Investment Feasibility	\$1 M	\$50k	\$275k
Stream 2	Investment Ready	\$13 M	\$50k	-

The program was announced as a \$20m program.

Regional Proposals

MRLGA Ceo:

- is meeting with Ceo's of DCLW, RPC, BBC and MMC on 4 February to discuss opportunities and
- met with Ceo RCMB 29 January to discuss opportunities

Motion

"That the MRLGA Ceo write to PIRSA seeking clarity on:

- *If the Program is \$20m or \$14m (since the public announcement) and*
- *If the program will be opened each year of SCP or just for Round 1 (if all funds get allocated).*
- *The value of administration fees the State has/will receive from the Federal Government to administer the program.*

Moved,

Seconded

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

OPEN FOR DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

Background

The Future Drought Fund has entered a new 4 year chapter of funding. The table below provides an overview of the FDF programs in regards to the RDR Program.

	2024 - 2028				2028-2032					
	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	FDF Investment Programs	Delivery Agent
\$28,000,000	1	2	Pending \$104,000,000						Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs.	SA Drought Hub
\$83,200,000	1	2	3	4	5				Farm Business Resilience program (incl Drought Resilience Scholarships).	
\$67,000,000		1	2	3	4				Regional Drought Resilience Planning program (4 Years)	Regional Consortia
\$60,300,000	1	2	3	4	5	6			Long-Term Trials program	
\$40,000,000	1	2	3	4	5	6			Resilient Landscapes program	
\$37,000,000		1	2	3					(New) Scaling Success program	
\$36,000,000	1	2	3	4					FDF Communities program	
\$20,000,000		1	2	3					Innovation Challenges Pilot	
\$17,200,000	1	2	3	4					Climate Services for Agriculture Program (and 'My Climate View').	
\$15,000,000	1	2	3	4					Place-based and First Nations-led activities (incl \$ for FN Advisory Group)	
\$11,400,000	1	2	3	4					Support monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL)	

Updates

As part of the RDR Program, each region has received the opportunity to apply for:

- o \$140k for Implementation Plan Funding

Murraylands & Riverland applied and received this funding in 2025 and have used it to employ a central Rural Resilience Coordinator.

Arkellah Irving commenced in the role late 2025 and has commenced "Implementation Plan" work that PIRSA require as an output from the funding. The "Implementation Plan Guidelines" set by PIRSA establish a process it seeks all 'consortium's' to use as a method to prioritise future RDRP investment funding.

- \$300k for Delivery

Landscape Board MR, RDA MR and MRLGA each applied for \$100k of the delivery funding late 2025.

MRLGA was successful in receiving \$100k for the following three grant applications.

- Circular economy opportunities for dryland agriculture: Turning Crop Waste into Value - A bio-char pathway in rural areas.
- Establish a community platform in the (south) Murraylands for community led drought preparedness.
- From Risk to Resilience: Managing Sand Drift on Rural Roads
Mapping extreme sand drift locations in rural areas (that risk road closures) and identify possible solutions

A copy of the RDA/MR and Landscape Board projects can be provided on request.

These are pilot projects before the main funding program is announced.

A link to the Federal Funding Agreement for FDF / RDRP is:

[SA - RDRP Phase 2 agreement_Signed 20250815.pdf](#)

	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Total
Federal Funding	\$1.7 M	\$1.8 M	\$1.6 M	\$1.5 M	\$6.8 M
State Funding	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc

There are 6 regions under the RDRP program, and under the assumption funding is dispersed equally, the future forecast would appear as:

	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Total
Per Region	\$296,423	\$310,585	\$271,391	\$263,762	\$1.1 M

Note: This excludes the State funding, as this is tbc.

Motion – (Action Underway)

At the October 2025 Board meeting, the following motion was carried:

"That the MRLGA CEO liaise with the PIRSA CEO to structure an arrangement that enables regional local government associations to participate in drought preparedness opportunities, without compromising councils' operational and regional priorities that support the sustainability of local government."

The MRLGA CEO wishes to report that, in January 2026 alone, 20 hours of in-kind time were spent supporting the RDRP work. The in-kind contribution has been accumulating each month since the program's inception in 2021. Continuing to participate in the program has become unsustainable unless a regional delivery partner agreement can be reached with PIRSA that formally recognises the administration, project management, resources, hard and soft infrastructure, and networks that Regional LGAs and their eight constituent councils provide as professional delivery partners.

Pursuant to the motion, a meeting is being scheduled to address this growing concern by MRLGA (and the Consortium). It's anticipated a meeting will be scheduled in mid-February 2026.

An alternative option may be the MRLGA opens an expression of interest to constituent Councils who wish to participate in the FDF Program to have a seat at the consortium. Councils can determine themselves if they wish to prioritise resources for this portfolio and be a delivery provider on ground (that is not an optimum role for MRLGA).

9.8 Future Drought Fund - fRRR – Community Impact Program (\$900k in 26/27 + 27/28)

OPEN FOR DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

The Community Impact Program is funded by the Future Drought Fund. The Murraylands & Riverland region is one of 12 across the Country who can participate in the 2-year program (which the RDA.MR led from 2023-25 delivering four projects).

More information about the program can be read via the link below :

[FDF Communities – Community Impact Program](#)

MRLGA is liaising with the Ceo Network and Public Health & Wellbeing Committee about the emerging opportunities and encouraging people to register for the workshop – likely to be held in March 2026. fRRR first step is to facilitate a workshop within region to bring organisations together and begin the process to identify and explore partnership for community impact projects.

fRRR will fund a Regional Coordinator to support the projects that are ultimately funded by the \$900k.

The organisation to 'host' the regional coordinator role is yet to be determined and will receive income for the position. Organisations can express interest now if they seek to be host.

Community Impact Program - Grants

(Delivered by fRRR)

- Locally-based NFPs collaborate to design projects that respond to local drought preparedness needs
- fRRR leads Project Design process with independent facilitator, and responds to RDRP/s.
- Projects documented in Regional Roadmap
- NFP Organisations apply to fRRR to deliver individual projects, and where approved, multi-year grant funding brings roadmap to life.
- 1 x Region Coordinator Organisation per region applies to fRRR to act as paid local contact and network convener
- Up to \$900,000 per region
- Up to \$150,000 per project
- 2 x 'Loops' of Project Design and Collaborations over multi year period to end Dec 2028.



Program element 1



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



Future
Drought
Fund



fRRR
Future Resilient
Regional Recovery



Australian
Rural Leadership
Foundation

9.9 Regional Digital Connectivity

OPEN FOR DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

In 23/24 the State Government made the following commitment:

DIGITAL INVESTMENT FUND19



\$200 million

OVER FIVE YEARS FROM 2023-24
(\$50 MILLION IN 2027-28)

to drive strategic and targeted investment in cyber security and digital initiatives across the South Australian public sector and provide opportunities for the digital industry through a commitment to a pipeline of digital projects.

Priority investments include:

CYBER SECURITY
Strengthening the state's cyber security profile.

REPLACEMENT OF JUSTICE SECTOR ICT SYSTEMS AND APPLICATIONS
To improve the exchange of real-time information across government, including justice agencies in relation to offender management, court outcomes, bail agreements and intervention orders.

REPLACEMENT OF THE CHILD PROTECTION CASE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM
To support the effective and efficient management of child protection reports, cases and policy.

HUMAN SERVICES SCREENING SYSTEMS UPGRADE
Improving system functionality and stability.

EMERGENCY SERVICES INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
To enhance compatibility with other operational agencies.

STATE CONNECTIVITY STRATEGY
To define the standard of internet connectivity across all areas of our state to align future initiatives and investment decisions.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION SYSTEM
To modernise the election system for the 2026 state election.

The webpage refers to the initiative as follows:

Statewide Digital Connectivity	This initiative aims to deliver a Statewide Digital Connectivity Plan, to inform strategic planning and whole-of-government decision-making for investment in digital connectivity for South Australia. This will ultimately help improve connectivity in areas within South Australia that do not have adequate coverage.	Office of the Chief Information Officer, Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF)
--------------------------------	--	---

[Digital Investment Fund | Department of Treasury and Finance](#)

MRLGA has been liaising with State Departments to understand the progress and anticipated date of release of the Plan.

In January 2024, the State advised the Plan would be released that week.

To date, the Strategy has not been released.

A formal inquiry was lodged on 13 January 2026 seeking another update.

Murraylands and Riverland LGA –General Meeting Agenda 5 February 2026

Page | 32

The State Government replied on 21 January 2026 stating the Plan was not developed and therefore will not be released, and they are doing “a ‘whole of government coordinating role to inform strategic planning and decision making”. A copy of the reply can be read at [Attachment 8](#).

Options

- i. Seek a meeting with the Government Chief Information Officer, Mr. Will Luker to discuss the decision not deliver a Statewide Digital Connectivity Strategy and how regional and rural areas are disadvantaged by not being able to understand ‘adequate service’ as well as the recipients of the investments.
- ii. Write to the Member for Chaffey, Member for Hammond, Member for Mackillop and Member for Barker asking if they are aware the promise to deliver a Statewide Digital Connectivity Plan is not being released and the proposed funding to deliver these benefits is being allocated and dispersed without a public strategy.
- iii. Write to Minister Kirsty McBain sharing a copy of the State’s response seeking her advocacy to ensure stronger systems are in place to ensure investment is happening for regional areas across Australia in a public manner for transparency.
- iv. No action.

Motion

“The MRLGA Board support the MRLGA Ceo to allocate time and meet the Government Chief Information Officer to discuss the issues resulting from not delivering a Statewide Digital Connectivity Strategy.”

Moved,

Seconded

10 FINANCIAL

10.1 Quarterly Financial Statements

Quarterly Financial Statements are provided at [Attachment 9](#).

Motion

“That the MRLGA Board accept the financial statements submitted for the quarter ending 30 December 2025.

Moved,

Seconded

11 MRLGA ARCHIVES

11.1 Records Management

OPEN FOR DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

MRLGA hold approximately 2 cubic square meters of records. These records have previously been held by the MRLGA Ceo as well as RDA.MR (at their old offices). Since the RDA.MR withdrew from having a shopfront office, these records have been stored by the MRLGA Ceo.

The documents range from original documents from 1939 to various committee meeting minutes and notes by previous MRLGA staff.

Many documents were converted into electronic items upon the establishment of a central online records storage management system (ie Sharepoint), however many hard copy documents remain in boxes (unsorted).

Options

- i. MRLGA engage the services of a records management company to scan all documents and register them in Sharepoint before they are permanently destroyed.
- ii. MRLGA engage the services of a records management company to scan all documents and register them in Sharepoint. All hard copy documents pre 1980 are organized by the records management company into a system where MRLGA Ceo, Preisident and Voce President can determine which hard copy records are kept or destroyed. Any future hard copy documents will need to be stored in a facility funded by MRLGA business plan and budget.
- iii. MRLGA release an EOI to Councils who have records staff who can perform records management services to scan all documents and register them in Sharepoint, and organise all documents pre-1980 in categories for MRLGA Ceo and President to determine their value for long term archival.

Motion

“That 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).

Moved,

Seconded

12 ROUND TABLE

OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

12.1 Berri Barmera Council

Any items from Mayor Ella Winnall

- Verbal update to Board regarding meeting with Minister Scriven on 28 January 2026.

Past items included:

- 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.

12.2 Coorong District Council

Any items from Acting Mayor Jonathan Pietzsch.

Past items included:

- 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

12.3 District Council of Loxton Waikerie

Any items from Mayor Trevor Norton.

Past items included:

- 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.

12.4 District Council of Karoonda East Murray

Any items from Mayor Caroline Philips.

Past items included:

- 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.

12.5 Mid Murray Council

Any items from Cr Georgia Warhurst.

Past items included:

- 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.

12.6 Renmark Paringa Council

Any items from Mayor Peter Hunter.

Past items included:

- 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.

12.7 Rural City of Murray Bridge

Any items from Mayor Wayne Thorley.

Past items included:

- 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.

12.8 Southern Mallee District Council

Any items from Mayor Ron Valentine

Past items included:

- 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

13 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

2026 Meeting Schedule :

Meeting Type	Month	Venues (tba)
Board Meeting	April 2026	TBA
Board Meeting	July 2026 (AGM)	TBA
Board Meeting	October 2026	TBA

Caretaker period in the lead up to the 2026 Local Government Elections may commence September / October 2026.

Previous General Board Meeting Minutes



Murraylands and Riverland
Local Government Association

DRAFT Minutes

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Date Thursday 30 October 2025

Venue Barmera Club, 149 Dean Drive, Barmera SA 5345

General Board Meeting PROGRAM

8:50am	Arrival, Registration + Tea and coffee
9:00am	General Meeting Opened
2:18pm	Meeting Closed
	Morning Tea and Light Lunch provided

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



AGENDA FOR THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE MURRAYLANDS & RIVERLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
--

CONTENTS

1	WELCOME.....	4
2	DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST	4
3	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS	4
4	ACTIONS REGISTER.....	4
5	LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS	7
5.1	ALGA	7
5.2	LGA of SA.....	7
5.3	SAROC Update	8
6	REGION WIDE AGENCY'S.....	10
6.1	Zone Emergency Management Committee (ZEMC).....	10
6.2	Standing Committee 22/23 River Murray Flood Event.....	10
6.3	Murray Darling Association	10
6.4	SA Drought Hub	10
6.5	One Basin CRC (Loxton).....	10
6.6	SAPOL.....	10
6.7	Department of Environment & Water	10
6.8	Country SAPHN.....	10
6.9	Country Arts.....	10
7	STATE STRATEGY'S	11
7.1	State Public Health Plan.....	11
7.2	State Waste Strategy.....	11
7.3	State 30 Year Public Transport Strategy.....	11
7.4	State 30 Year Transport Plan.....	11
7.5	Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan.....	11
7.6	Murray Mallee Regional Plan	11
7.7	State Development Coordination and Facilitation Office.....	11
7.8	Drought Response & Recovery Coordination Bill	11
7.9	Council Rates, Electricity Generator Bill	11
7.10	Federal News Items.....	11
8	MRLGA : Quarterly reflections and/or current and emerging items	12
8.1	Public Health & Wellbeing	12
8.2	Waste & Resource Recovery	12
8.3	Climate Ready Regions.....	13
8.4	Water Recovery	13
8.5	Regional Drought Resilience Program (MR Plan).....	13
8.6	MRLGA Strategic Plan	13
8.7	MRLGA Policy Reviews	13

9	FINANCIAL	13
9.1	Quarterly Financial Statements	13
9.2	Annual Report & Audit	13
10	ROUND TABLE	14
10.1	Berri Barmera Council	14
10.2	Coorong District Council	14
10.3	District Council of Loxton Waikerie	14
10.4	District Council of Karoonda East Murray	14
10.5	Mid Murray Council	15
10.6	Renmark Paringa Council	15
10.7	Rural City of Muray Bridge	15
10.8	Southern Mallee District Council	16
11	CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING	16

1 WELCOME

MRLGA Presidents Welcome

Chairperson, Mayor Ella Winnall to open the meeting.

Welcome Board Members and invited guests.

No apologies communicated.

Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the first peoples of the River Murray as the traditional custodians of the land upon which we are meeting and respect their spiritual relationship with their country and the importance of their cultural beliefs.

2 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Pursuant to Clause 3.3.1 of the Charter and Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1999 (SA), board members are required to declare any potential conflict of interest(s).

Mayor Winnall and Mayor Bailey declared themselves as board members of Country Arts SA and will step aside if a conflict of interest arises at Item 6.9 or other.

Mayor Bailey stated she is nominated as a candidate for the seat of Hammond in next year's State Election and there is no conflict of interest with the Agenda / meeting as presented.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

Motion

"The Confidential and Public Minutes from the MRLGA Annual General Board Meeting held at the Rural City of Murray Bridge Council Offices on 31 July 2025 be taken as read and confirmed."

Moved Mayor Bailey (MMC)

Seconded Mayor Phillips (DCKEM) **Carried**

4 ACTIONS REGISTER

There were 26 board actions from 23/24, of which the following 2 items remain pending.

20 October 2023 - General Meeting		
Action:		
1	Charter Review <i>It would be best to align the MRLGA voting processes with the sector MRLGA Ceo to research other lga's voting procedures. Agreed that the item is brought back to the Board Meeting in February 2024.</i> That the MRLGA Board support the proposed changes to the Charter and ask the MRLGA CEO to have them reviewed legally and any feedback brought back to the board before proceeding.	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 MRLGA will schedule a periodical review of the Charter in Q2 25/26.
18 April 2024 – General Meeting		
Action		
2	Ministerial Invite That the MRLGA Ceo write to the new Local Government Minister and invite him to meet with the board for a broader conversation about financial sustainability in the Local Government sector.	– Invited early June for 25 July Meeting – unable to

	If successful with a meeting MRLGA, Ceo will prepare and agenda and online meeting ahead of time to prepare.	attend. – Invited to 9 August meeting – unable to attend. – Invited in late March and am working with the advisor on a suitable date. – Invited to 31 July Board Meeting. Unable to attend.
--	--	--

There were 15 board actions from 24/25, of which the following 3 items remain pending.

7 August 2024 – Annual General Meeting		
Action(s)		
3	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.	– Follow up discussions have happened with PIRSA (not the Ministers office as yet).

10 April 2025		
Action		
4	RDRP Letter The MRLGA Board delegate its power to President, Vice President and Ceo to finalise a letter to Minister Scriven about future governance and delivery model associated with the Regional Drought Resilience Plan in light of additional funding coming from the State and Federal Government	– A draft letter is sitting with Ceo, President and VP, pending a final review and issuing.
5	The MRLGA Ceo inquire with OSFB if it would consider altering its closed delivery partner program to others.	– A phone call and email inquiry has been made. No reply received as yet.

31 July 2025		
Action(s)		
6	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 Council collecting State levy charges, and the concept of an alternative rate notice format for the sector that separates charges.	– Completed
7	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).
8	Procedure for items of business to National Ministerial Meetings LGA to advise of the process to achieve item(s) of business for Ministers Meetings (such as the ones highlighted below). - Local Government Ministers' Forum - Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting - National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting	– Inquiry made. Response from LGA received on 21/10
9	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
10	Invite new Landscape Board Ceo	– Completed. New Ceo will

	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.	visit Councils separately.
11	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
12	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".	- Underway
13	RDRP The Board support the MRLGA Ceo as the signing officer on funding proposals associated with RDRP funding."	- Part 1 Completed - Part 2 Underway
14	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.	- Underway, but is currently stalled with BankSA.
15	Flood Funding MRLGA Ceo to liaise with Mid Murray Council about the financials of flood funding and if it can write to the crap to access the remaining funds.	- Not yet commenced
16	MMC requested MRLGA Ceo to invite Hon Kirsty McBain to tour the Murraylands and Riverland	- Not yet undertaken
17	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)	- Underway

Motion

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

Moved Mayor Phillips (DCKEM)

Seconded Mayor Hunter

Carried

5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS

5.1 ALGA

- **Current Policy Work**
- **Ministerial Meetings**
- **General Items**
 - o ALGA President's October 2025 Update
President's Update – 13 October 2025 – ALGA
 - o ALGA – NGA 2025 Resolutions - Status
2025 NGA Resolutions – ALGA
 - o Submissions to:
Submissions – ALGA
DCCEEW's Implementing Australia's Strategy for Nature
Review part 5 of the Net Zero Economy Authority Act
Productivity Commission's Interim Report on clean energy and net zero
Climate Change Authority 2025 Issues Paper
Economic Reform Roundtable
 - o Webinar GenAI in Local Government
4 November 2025 (link below for more information and to register)
Practical AI for local government – ALGA
 - o 2025 Roads Congress in Bendigo
A friendly reminder to register for the 2025 National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress to be held in Bendigo, VIC - 11-12 November.

5.2 LGA of SA

- **Topical Update**
- **LGA Strategic Plan**
- **LGA Board Meeting** Minutes from 2 October 2025 was provided.
- **LGA Special Board Meeting** Minutes from 14 October 2025 was provided.
- **Local Government Minsters Forum**
- **Andrew Lamb from LGA is available to receive any questions.**

LGA Representative asked if the Board could motion into confidence to discuss a confidential item (relating to State Government communique on proposed Council rate deferral scheme).

Confidential Item

Pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act 1999 its recommended the Board considers the LGA communique on drought as confidential pursuant to Section 90(3) (g) of the Local Government Act 1999, and that the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to agenda item is:

- *matters that must be considered in confidence in order to ensure ... any duty of confidence, or other ... duty.*

Motion

"That the MRLGA Board accept the item be treated as confidential."

Moved Mayor Norton (DCLW)

Seconded Mayor Hunter (RPC) **Carried**

Invited guests and non-Board members left the room.

Motion

"That the MRLGA Board move out of confidence."

Moved Mayor Thorley (RCMB)

Seconded Mayor Hunter (RPC) **Carried**

Invited guests and non-Board members were invited back into the room.

Motion

"The MRLGA Board support LGA to advocate for the Council Rate Deferral Scheme as part of the State Government's drought response support."

Moved Mayor Norton (DCLW)

Seconded Mayor Bailey (MMC) Carried

○ **LGA Events**

Coming soon	
24 July 2025	Mayor & Ceo Networking Dinner
25 July 2025	Mayor & Ceo Forum
20 August 2025	Roads & Works Conference (Tailem Bend)
24 October 2025	Governance Network Forum
20 November 2025	Mayor Forum
21 November 2025	LGA AGM

5.3 **SAROC Update**

○ **SAROC Representatives**

Regional representatives Mayor Caroline Phillips and Mayor Simone Bailey provided a verbal update on meeting items. It was also reported:

- A motion from SAROC in July '25 that resolved to invite Minister Szakacs to speak with SAROC about the impacts of drought happening across regional SA Councils and communities had been later overturned by LGA, sighting that SAROC was not the right forum for the Ministers to address the issues. The LGA representative said that the governance error had been addressed internally and would not happen again.
- Meetings are not providing enough value, prompting some representatives to consider stepping aside.
- The time commitment is not proportionate to the value being achieved and this is producing a paradox as the grouping still needs representation SAROC.

To substantiate the first reported item, the following motions are provided.

The motion below is recorded in the minutes of SAROC meeting held on 4 December '24.

9. Any Other Business
9.1 Other Business
MOVED Mayor Reid
SECONDED Mayor Bailey
That the SAROC Committee send a letter of thanks to Minister Scriven and that the LGA Secretariat coordinate a Zoom meeting with regional councils and the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Small Business.
Carried

The following motion is recorded in the minutes of SAROC meeting held on 24 July '25.

3.5 Drought Update
9.26am - Mayor Moira Jenkins joined the meeting
9.42am - Mayor Roslyn Talbot left the meeting
MOVED Mayor Dean Johnson
SECONDED Mayor Leon Stephens
That the SAROC Committee:
1. Notes the verbal update from James Holyman, Manager Policy, LGA; and
2. Invites the Minister for Local Government to a SAROC Committee Meeting before the end of 2025 to discuss these matters.
Carried

The following motion is recorded in the minutes of SAROC meeting held on 6 October '25.

3.2 Resolutions and actions from previous meetings

MOVED Mayor Dean Johnson
SECONDED Mayor Rodney Reid

That the SAROC Committee:

1. Notes progress with resolutions resulting from the meeting of 24 July 2025 and outstanding resolutions from earlier meetings; and
2. Renews its call for an invitation to be sent to the Minister for Local Government inviting him to a future SAROC Committee meeting, and extends this invitation to the LGA Board, and that this invitation be sent within one month (before 2 November 2025).

Carried

Motion

"The MRLGA Board suspend having the regional representatives attend SAROC."

Moved Mayor Thorley (RCMB) Seconded Mayor Valentine (SMDC)

The motion was formally placed before the meeting for debate by the Chair.

A query was raised regarding the LGA Board's structure, noting that some regional groupings are underrepresented while others appear overrepresented, which may not fully support effective governance.

One board member expressed concern that the Murraylands and Riverland region currently lacks representation on the LGA Board, highlighting the impact on maintaining a democratic decision-making environment.

Andrew Lamb provided an overview of the value LGA delivers, including their contributions and ongoing support to Councils.

Another board member noted that Murraylands and Riverland remain best placed to ensure representation at SAROC, rather than having no presence at all.

Further discussion questioned whether the current LGA system and structures continue to be fit for purpose, and whether opportunities exist to enhance their relevance and effectiveness, noting that the previous constitutional review process did not result in meaningful reform.

Amended Motion

"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."

Moved Mayor Thorley (RCMB) Seconded Mayor Valentine (SMDC) Carried

○ **Drought Response and Recovery**

Updates discussed during Item 5.2.

Mayor Norton reported that there had been a drought fundraiser held in Loxton: Loxton longest lunch attended by 160 people (100 producers) and was a successful event. Also reported was the release of a health card (whilst not in connection with the drought support package) its release is timely.

○ **LGA Board Nominations interfacing with Elections**

6 REGION WIDE AGENCY'S

- 6.1 Zone Emergency Management Committee (ZEMC)
- 6.2 Standing Committee 22/23 River Murray Flood Event
- 6.3 Murray Darling Association
- 6.4 SA Drought Hub
- 6.5 One Basin CRC (Loxton)

Kym Walton is no longer working at One Basin CRC.

A questions was asked if any of the CRC projects are 'across' the region (or are they riverland focused)?

Action(s)

Ceo to inquire about CRC's acting arrangements.

Ceo to see if more updates/information on CRC can be shared with the Board.

- 6.6 SAPOL

- 6.7 Department of Environment & Water

Latest update on SA harmful algal bloom

Mayor Valentine reported they had a presentation from DEW about groundwater and the dropping levels were alarming. No action requested from MRLGA, but will be pursuing further discussions at a local level.

- 6.8 Country SAPHN

- 6.9 Country Arts

Motion

"That the MRLGA Board note and accept the regional stakeholders written reports and/or minutes shared."

Moved Mayor Simmons (CDC)

Seconded Mayor Phillips (DCKEM)

Carried

7 STATE STRATEGY'S

7.1 State Public Health Plan

A board member observed the State Plan seemed unusually late, given the current plan is to end in 2025, but a draft for 2026 has only been released now (Nov '25).

7.2 State Waste Strategy

7.3 State 30 Year Public Transport Strategy

7.4 State 30 Year Transport Plan

7.5 Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan

7.6 Murray Mallee Regional Plan

7.7 State Development Coordination and Facilitation Office

7.8 Drought Response & Recovery Coordination Bill

7.9 Council Rates, Electricity Generator Bill

7.10 Federal News Items

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

- As part of a Regulatory Impact Analysis a survey is open for feedback on the proposal to reduce the open road default speed limit.

This information has been provided to the MRLGA Regional Transport Committee.

[Regulatory Impact Analysis to reduce the open road default speed limit | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts](#)

Motion

"The MRGLA Board does not support the reduction of speed limits (as referred under <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/have-your-say/regulatory-impact-analysis-reduce-open-road-default-speed-limit>) without thorough consultation with local government."

Moved Mayor Norton (DCLW)

Seconded Mayor Hunter (RPC)

Carried

- "For the Good Of" campaign
The campaign aims to raise awareness of the new law which from 10 December 2025, means you will need to be over 16 to access social media accounts.
[Launch of advertising campaign "For the Good Of" | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts](#)
- Communications sector prepares for the 2025-26 Higher Risk Weather Season
"Exercise Disconnect & Reconnect"
[Communications sector prepares for the 2025-26 Higher Risk Weather Season | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts](#)
- Australia's 2035 emission reduction target (62-70%)
To help drive the transition to net zero, the Australian Government has set a target to reduce emissions to 62-70% below 2005 levels by 2035.
[Net Zero - DCCEEW](#)
They have also developed 6 Sector Plans. One sector is: Agriculture & Land. A link to the plan is below as an example:
[Agriculture and Land Sector Plan - DAFF](#)

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

8.1 Public Health & Wellbeing

Presentations

- **Emma Young** Country SAPHN, Executive Manager, Strategic Engagement
- **Amy Porcelli** Preventive Health SA
- **Danielle Crisci** Preventive Health Officer (Riverland Preventive Health Partnership)
- **Zara Male** Preventive Health Officer (Murraylands Preventive Health Partnership)
- **Professor Kirstin Ross** Flinders University, Environmental Health

For Information

- **An update on Preventive Health Partnership was provided**
- **Regional Public Health & Wellbeing Plan – (Stage 1) Review**
- **Office of Sport Recreation and Racing Partnership**
- **Communications – A connected network**

8.2 Waste & Resource Recovery

MRLGA Ceo offered everyone 1-1 information sessions for anyone seeking to understand more about the regional quarterly report or any other waste initiatives.

For Information

Quarterly Update

New Appointment, Samara Miller

Waste Facility Tour a success – 19 September

Waste Services Kerbside Review – Status

A draft report is nearing completion (ie 80%) for 5 of the Councils who are on a 3 Bin system. This project was identified as part of the regional strategy and will provide Councils with information about:

- How much food waste and garden waste is being placed in the red lid bin
- Why landfills seek to avoid food waste and garden waste from going to landfill
- Correlation between the red lid bin and the State Waste Levy
- Options around 'level of service' (ie the frequency of kerbside collections and
- Much more!

It is planned that Councils will receive the draft report through briefing(s) before it is made final.

For Councils on a 2 bins system, MRLGA is liaising separately with:

Mid Murray Council and its waste team while it does an internal review of the 2-bin system and its future options.

District Council of Karoonda East Murray on alternative options.

Southern Mallee District Council while it reviews its overarching model for waste management and kerbside services.

Waste Education (Annual program for the five participating councils)

An annual waste education program has been developed in conjunction with five of the Councils participating in the joint waste contract. Councils will receive this work soon through operational channels.

October news

- A **Sustainability Calendar** was provided at Attachment 4.
- “ **Which Bin** ” – Amplifying the State Campaign !
- **Set Your Clothes Free** – Textile Awareness and Recycling Event – Berri
[Set your clothes free | 1 November](#)
- **Safe Battery Disposal**

Kerbside Waste Audit Results

Green Industries SA's Circular Economy Opportunities

8.3 Climate Ready Regions

8.4 Water Recovery

Motion

"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."

Moved Mayor Thorley (RCMB)

Seconded Mayor Phillips (DCKEM) **Carried**

8.5 Regional Drought Resilience Program (MR Plan)

Administration Costs

Motion

"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."

Moved Mayor Thorley (RCMB)

Seconded Mayor Hunter (RPC) **Carried**

Drought preparedness and response activities during the last quarter

8.6 MRLGA Strategic Plan

8.7 MRLGA Policy Reviews

9 FINANCIAL

9.1 Quarterly Financial Statements

Quarterly Financial Statements were provided at Attachment 5.

Motion

"That the MRLGA Board accept the financial statements submitted for the quarter ending 30 September 2025."

Moved Mayor Valentine (SMDC)

Seconded Mayor Norton (DCLW) **Carried**

9.2 Annual Report & Audit

Motion

"That the MRLGA Board note the completion of the Model Financial Statements, release of the Annual Report and receipt of the audit report for the year ending 30 June 2025."

Moved Mayor Hunter (RPC)

Seconded Mayor Valentine (SMDC) **Carried**

10 ROUND TABLE

10.1 Berri Barmera Council

Mayor Ella Winnall provided an overview of:

- RLGF: Letter from Minister for Infrastructure and Transport regarding the maintenance of a navigable channel on the River Murray. A copy of the letter was provided at Attachment 7.
- MRLGA's President met with RDA Murraylands & Riverland Board on 23 October 2025 and provided a verbal report back to the group.

Past items included:

- 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.

10.2 Coorong District Council

Mayor Paul Simmons shared an update on SA Water partnership at Wellington East
Reviewing how to fund jetty upgrades.

Past items included:

- 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

10.3 District Council of Loxton Waikerie

Mayor Trevor Norton:

- asked about other Councils levels of support and/or facilitation of Justice of the Peace services (to which others detailed their levels of support or facilitation).
- reported on the process and outcome of the South Australian Boating Facility Advisory Committee (SABFAC) panel recruitment.

Past items included:

- 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.

10.4 District Council of Karoonda East Murray

Mayor Caroline Philips said that some 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 to initiate a local Murraylands Drought Survey (12 months on) and invited others to express interest if they wish to undertake it in unison.

Past items included:

- 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.

10.5 Mid Murray Council

No items reported from Mayor Simone Bailey.

Past items included:

- 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.

10.6 Renmark Paringa Council

Mayor Peter Hunter reported:

- RPC also met with and presented to the RDA Murraylands and Riverland Board on 23 October about its Jane Eliza development.
- The Jane Eliza development project (800 homes, 2000 jobs, marina) is moving forward. It has done a recent hydraulics report and will now commence a code amendment.
- 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.

Past items included:

- 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.

10.7 Rural City of Murray Bridge

No major items to report from Mayor Wayne Thorley.

Past items included:

- 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.

10.8 Southern Mallee District Council

Reported the Councils main focus remains on financial sustainability and there will be more news emerging in 6 weeks to share with the subsidiary.

Past items included:

- Financial Sustainability – still the main focus for the Council
- Decommissioning Assets
- Dentist closed

11 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

2026 Meeting Schedule :

Meeting Type	Month	Venues (tbc)
Board Meeting	5 February 2026	Lameroo
Board Meeting	April 2026	tbc
Board Meeting	July 2026 (AGM)	tbc

Caretaker period in the lead up to the 2026 Local Government Elections will likely commence September 2026.

Attendance Register

30 October 2025

MRLGA BOARD MEMBERS

Berri Barmera Council (BBC)	Mayor Ella Winnall, President and Chair
Coorong District Council (CDC)	Mayor Paul Simmons
District Council Karoonda East Murray (DCKEM)	Mayor Caroline Phillips
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
Circular Economy & Waste Lead	Samara Miller

CEO NETWORK

Ben Scales, Ceo	Mid Murray Council
Tim Pfeiffer, Ceo	Berri Barmera Council

Deputy Mayors

-	
---	--

ATTENDING & INVITED GUESTS

Emma Young	Country SA PHN
Amy Porcelli	Preventive Health SA
Danielle Crisci	Riverland Preventive Health Officer
Zara Male	Murraylands Preventive Health Officer
Professor Kirstin Ross	Flinders University
Andrew Lamb	LGA of SA
Monica (surname not recorded)	LGA of SA
Kelly-Anne Saffin	SA Cross Border Commissioner

APOLOGIES

-	
---	--

Riverland Mallee Coorong Region

Region Overview

The Riverland Mallee Coorong region includes the townships of Berri, Coonalpyn, Karoonda, Mannum, Murray Bridge, Meningie, Tailem Bend, and Renmark.

Country SA PHN is the Primary Health Network covering country regions of South Australia. The key goals of the Primary Health Networks, as defined by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, are to improve “the efficiency and effectiveness of health services for people, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes”; to improve “the coordination of health services”; and to increase “access and quality support for people.”

Key PHN Priority Areas

- Aboriginal Health
- Aged Care
- Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Digital Health
- Mental Health
- Population Health
- Workforce

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People’s Health Commissioned Services

Integrated Team Care (ITC)

Moorundi Aboriginal Health Service and FocusOne Health deliver the ITC program to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s access to high quality, culturally appropriate health care including care coordination.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

Alcohol and Other Drug Counselling

Aboriginal Sobriety Group delivers alcohol and other drug counselling services.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

Mental Health Services

Aboriginal Sobriety Group and Moorundi Aboriginal Health Service deliver mental health services to local Indigenous communities in the Riverland and Murray Mallee regions respectively.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

Chronic Disease Management

Moorundi Aboriginal Health Service delivers services for chronic and complex conditions and allied health services that meet the locally determined needs and priorities and support other established providers.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

Aged Care Commissioned Services

care finder

FocusOne Health and iREACH Rural Health deliver the care finder program, which provides specialist and intensive assistance to help vulnerable older people to understand and access aged care and connect with other relevant supports in the community.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

Housing and Homelessness Education Module

GPEX delivers an online interactive education module for the care finder cohort and other interested professionals on the homelessness sector in South Australia.

Country SA PHN region

Nightingale Nurse Program

Dementia Australia delivers the Nightingale Nurse Program, which provides specialist outreach nurse support for people living with dementia, their families, and carers around end-of-life choices.

Country SA PHN region

Alcohol and Other Drugs Commissioned Services

Alcohol and Other Drugs treatment services

Mission Australia delivers targeted, person-centred alcohol and other drugs (AOD) services for young people aged 10 to 25, as well as AOD service hubs.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

Alcohol and Other Drugs service

Baptist Care SA deliver the Tumbelin intervention aimed at reducing harms associated with alcohol and other drugs, particularly ice, in young people.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

Mental Health Commissioned Services

Youth Clinical Care & Coordination

iREACH Rural Health and FocusOne Health deliver the Youth Clinical Care & Coordination program to young people aged 12 – 25 years of age with, or at risk of, severe mental illness in Murray Bridge and the Riverland respectively.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

headspace

FocusOne Health and iREACH Rural Health deliver headspace services focused on early intervention mental health services for 12–25 year olds, in Berri and Murray Bridge respectively.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

Clinical Care and Coordination

FocusOne Health and iREACH Rural Health delivers clinical care and coordination of services for people experiencing severe and persistent mental illness, in the Riverland and Murray Mallee regions respectively.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

Psychological Therapies

iREACH Rural Health and FocusOne Health deliver evidence-based, short term psychological interventions to eligible people, including those with a diagnosable mild, moderate, or in some cases severe mental illness.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

Psychosocial Support

Mind Australia and Moorundi Aboriginal Health Service deliver psychosocial support services.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

Psychosocial and service navigation support

iREACH Rural Health delivers psychosocial and service navigation support to Aboriginal young people.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

Medicare Mental Health Phone Service

Neami National deliver Medicare Mental Health, a free confidential phone service to connect people with mental health support.

Country SA PHN region

Low Intensity Mental Health Services

FocusOne Health delivers additional low intensity mental health services, as an adjunct to the Psychological Therapies activity, and to contribute to progress toward a regionwide stepped care model.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

Regional Access

Lifeline Australia delivers Regional Access, which is a 24/7 telephone and online counselling service providing evidence-based low intensity interventions to people who are at risk of developing mental illness.

Country SA PHN region

Mental health support for mothers

iREACH Rural Health deliver mental health support to vulnerable mothers in the Riverland region.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

Suicide Prevention Training

MATES in Construction SA delivers an integrated program of community development and support using training as a tool to raise awareness about suicide and its contributing risk factors. Follow up support is provided through clear pathways of help.

Country SA PHN region

Population Health Commissioned Services

Extended Access to Dental Services

Australian Dental Foundation delivers emergency telephone triage, tele-dentistry where possible, and referral services.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

Extended Access to Dental Services

Dental Outreach deliver after hours dental services, including an emergency on-call service.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

Dementia Support Pharmacist

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia delivers outreach support and medication management to people living with dementia.

Country SA PHN region

Living Well with Chronic Pain

iREACH Rural Health delivers an early intervention chronic pain service using community education, GP referral lifestyle management, and other methodologies.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

Enhanced Integrated Primary Health Care Service Multi-Disciplinary Team program

FocusOne Health delivers this multi-disciplinary team program to improve management of heart diseases.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

Healthy Habits

FocusOne Health delivers a multi-faceted response to community members seeking weight management support.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

Integrating Primary Health Care Services

FocusOne Health delivers this service to provide allied health and other specialist nurse care to underserved and disadvantaged people with chronic conditions.

Riverland Mallee Coorong region

Gender Wellbeing Service

SHINE SA delivers an afterhours peer-led telephone information and support service to assist trans and gender diverse people and those who support them.

Country SA PHN region

Workforce Commissioned Services

Pharmacy Support Bundle

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia delivers the Pharmacy Support Bundle, which is tailored for regional pharmacists to support practitioner development.

Country SA PHN region

Investing in Doctors' Health

Doctors' Health SA delivers the Investing in Doctors' Health program, which provides specialised support for General Practitioners, Registrars and Medical Students to be aware of and maintain their own health and wellbeing.

Country SA PHN region

Workforce Education Services

South Australian Postgraduate Medical Education Association (SAPMEA) develops and delivers a continuing professional development training program and education activities to the primary health workforce.

Country SA PHN region

Bowel and Cervical Cancer Screening Workshops

SAPMEA deliver accredited best practice workshops for rural general practice staff around bowel and cervical cancer screening methods.

Country SA PHN region



Primary Care and Digital Support Team

The Primary Care and Digital Support Team engage with care providers to support the implementation of 'best practice' in practice management, information systems, clinical care and overall quality improvement so they can deliver high quality coordinated and integrated care to country South Australians.

- My Health Record
- Clinical coding for general practice
- GoShare Pneumococcal Program
- Workforce and Sustainability
- Workforce Incentive Program – registration and support

Primary Care and Digital Support team provides services and support with:

- Accreditation
- Digital Health
- Emergency Response Planning Tool (ERPT)
- GoShare Platform
- GoShare Palliative Care Program
- General Practice Aged Care Incentives, including registration and support
- MyMedicare Registration
- GoShare Healthy Weight Management Program
- Face to face practice visits
- Secure Messaging
- Professional Development
- Stakeholder engagement
- eReferrals
- Up to date health literacy
- Initial Assessment and Referral
- National Cancer Screening
- Quality Improvement
- Practice Health Profiles
- Practice Network Meetings
- Provider Connect
- Strengthening Medicare Grants
- ADHA webinars & resources



Ageing and Palliative Care Team

Ageing and Palliative Care Support team provides services and support with:

Residential Aged Care Support team activities

- RACH Network Meetings
- Telehealth support
- COVID-19 Vaccination support
- After-Hours Planning Assistance
- Support for Electronic National Residential Medication Charts (eNRMC)
- General Practice in Aged Care Incentive guidance – GPACI
- MyMedicare Registration Support
- Mental Health Services

Digital Health and Technology

- My Health Record Registration Assistance
- My Health App Support
- Access to ADHA Webinars & Resources

care finder Program

- Commissioning of care finder Services
- care finder Workforce Education
- care finder Community of Practice

Palliative and End-of-Life Care

- GoShare Palliative Care Program
- GoShare Aboriginal Palliative Care Resources
- GoShare Adult Attitude to Grief Scale
- Community Death Literacy Education
- Health Provider Palliative Care Education
- Palliative Medication Proficiency Training
- Advance Care Planning Support

Workforce Development

- Professional Development Opportunities
- Sector Updates and Newsletters
- Workforce Upskilling and Capacity Building

Strategic Initiatives

- Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration
- ACOP: Aged Care On-site Pharmacist Measure



Strategic Engagement Activities

Community Advisory Committees

Community Advisory Committees cover much of country South Australia. These Committees are essential to provide the community perspective to Country SA PHN and ensure that decisions, investments and innovations are patient centred, cost-effective, locally relevant and aligned to local care experiences and expectations.

The members of these committees bring a range of local, professional, governance and lived experience skills that contribute to an effective committee environment. Country SA PHN values the range of information these committees provide on local health, education, social and transport issues.

Clinical Council

The Clinical Council brings together key stakeholders with expertise in a clinical practice environment to work in partnership and contribute to ensuring that Country SA PHN's decisions, investments and innovations are clinically safe, patient centred, cost effective and local. Country SA PHN has established Clinical Councils to provide key links between primary health care providers and the Country SA PHN Board.

Relationships with Regional Health Advisory Councils

Country SA PHN engages with Regional Health Advisory Councils and values the range of information these councils provide on behalf of their communities on local health priorities and planning.

Relationships with Local Government (Councils)

Country SA PHN engages with local government (Councils) to provide advice and support on the development of Regional Public Health Plans.

Regional Preventive Health Partnerships

An introduction to Prevention and Preventive Health SA

Amy Porcelli, Manager, Partnerships



Government
of South Australia

Preventive Health SA

Preventive Health SA

Our Vision

Healthier South Australians, across generations.

Our Purpose

Leading evidence-informed, innovative and integrated action to prevent and reduce the burden of non-communicable health conditions and improve health equity across South Australia.

Our Commitment to Closing the Gap

Preventive Health SA acknowledges that **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a human right to enjoy life outcomes that are equal to all Australians.**

We are committed to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and recognise that partnering with the Aboriginal Community Controlled sector is essential to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples leading the design, delivery, and review of preventive health initiatives.

How we operate and make decisions

Evidence informed and impactful

We create and use the best available evidence in what we do, how we direct our efforts and how we demonstrate progress.

Influential and systems thinking

We vigorously pursue positive change, informing and advising government and the community.

Innovative and sustainable

We think differently to drive contemporary, innovative, and sustainable solutions to lead the preventive health agenda in South Australia.

Collaborative, connected and united

We harness and build capability and expertise, working collectively to improve the health and wellbeing of all South Australians.

How we behave

Respectful

We treat others with dignity, kindness and empathy

Transparent

We are open, accountable and trusted

Brave

We take up challenges and courageously pursue change

Inclusive

We embrace the diversity of all people and cultures

Ethical

We work and act responsibly and with integrity

Curious

We are willing to explore, try and learn

Prevention Priorities

Obesity Prevention

Tobacco and Vaping

Alcohol and Other Drugs

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Suicide Prevention

Determinants of Health

Aboriginal Health and Health Equity



Government of South Australia
Preventive Health SA

What is preventive health?

In the context of health, prevention includes taking measures to keep people healthy and well and to avoid the onset of illness, disease or injury.

- The goal of prevention is to **maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the entire population**, while simultaneously **reducing health disparities** between priority population groups and the general population.



2021-2030



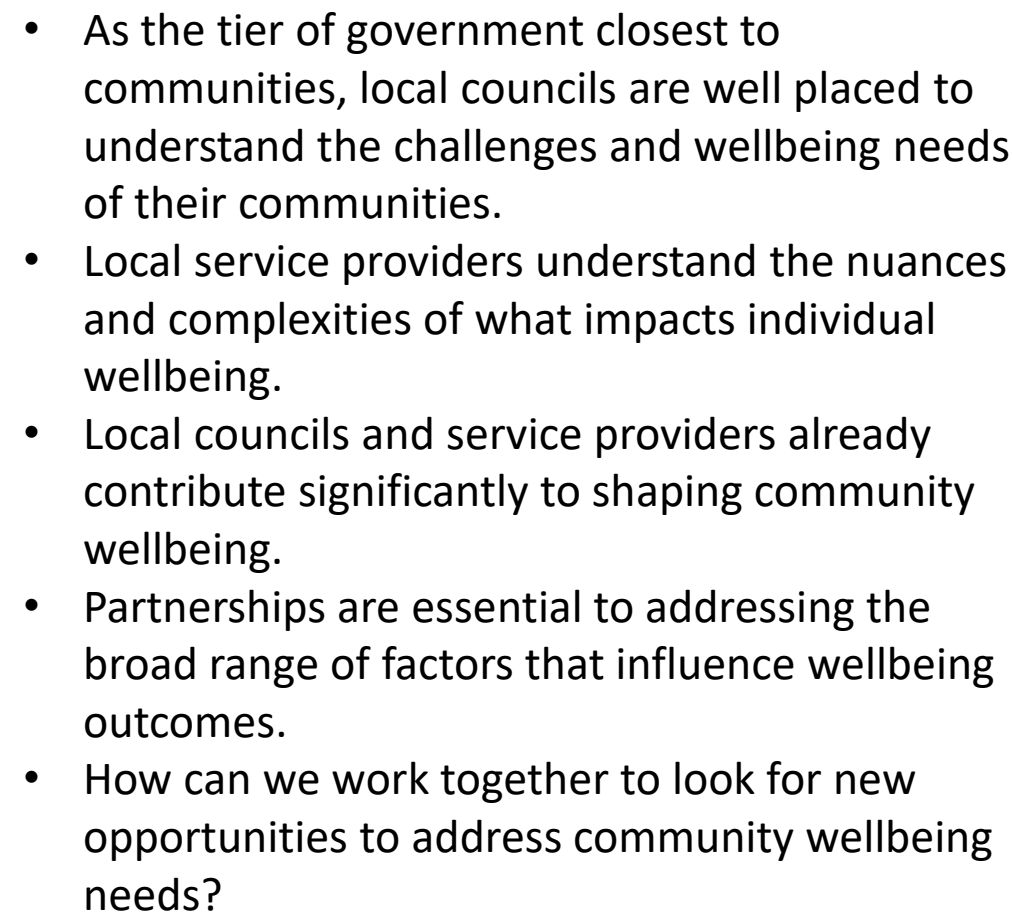
Why should we focus on prevention?

- Effective prevention decreases the risk of individuals experiencing a disease, condition or injury.
- **Health and wellbeing benefits:** Reduces morbidity and mortality associated with chronic conditions, contributing to people living not only longer, but being healthy longer.
- **Economic benefits:** Results in long-term cost savings by keeping people out of the (very expensive) hospital system AND supports people to participate in productivity and society more broadly.
- **Societal benefits:** It can include a whole of population approach, or interventions targeted towards specific population groups (i.e. legislation, public policy, health campaigns and programs).
- It enables a focus on equity by **addressing the “causes of the causes”**.



Upstream (primary and primordial) prevention





Creating healthy communities



Riverland Preventive Health Partnership Overview

Project purpose: to enhance the wellbeing of the Murraylands community through a combination of strategic prevention health action and local capacity building.

- **Partners:** Mid Murray Council (host), the District Council of Karoonda East Murray, the Rural City of Murray Bridge, Murraylands and Riverland LGA, and Preventive Health SA.
- **Resourcing:** co-funded role, in-kind support from partners, small implementation budget. Opportunity for new partnerships and leveraging existing commitments of partners and stakeholders.
- **Project duration:** 2 years of planning and implementation + sustainability planning



- For this project, we are interested in **enhancing the physical, social and mental wellbeing** of the Murraylands community by **shaping the environments and circumstances** in which people live, work, learn and play, and to provide the **resources and opportunities** for people to make healthy choices for themselves and their families.



Riverland Preventive Health Partnership Overview

Phase 1: Planning and scoping



- Establishment of partnership and formation of governance group
- Appointment of Project Coordinator Role
- Developing joint understanding of project purpose and potential scope

Phase 2: Evidence gathering – data analysis and stakeholder consultation

Phase 3: Planning

Phase 4: Implementation

Phase 5: Evaluation and sustainability planning



Environmental Health: Exploring cadetships and resource sharing in local government to address the shortage

Professor Kirstin Ross
College of Science and Engineering,
Flinders University, South Australia

What is an EHO?

- Previously known as “Health Inspector”
- Local government EHOs:
 - Food inspections
 - Wastewater treatment approvals
 - Tattooing and body piercing premises
 - Hoarding and squalor
 - Spa and pools and cooling towers
 - Meth contamination of housing
 - Public Health planning
 - Mosquito surveillance and control
 - Emergency preparedness
 - And more....



The 20 hardest to fill jobs in Australia

Rank	Job Title	% Share of jobs still open after 60 days
1	Environmental health officer	48.06
2	Veterinarian	42.62
3	Banker	41.67
4	Radiologist	36.22
5	General practitioner	35.74
6	Home care nurse	33.33
7	Exercise physiologist	31.55
8	Physiotherapist	30.08
9	Dentist	29.31
10	Practice manager	28.86
11	Marketing intern	28.07
12	Senior accountant	27.85
13	Real estate manager	27.6
14	Senior software engineer	27.53
15	Bookkeeper	27.18
16	Care worker	26.53
17	Recruitment consultant	26.5
18	Chef	26.38
19	Medical receptionist	26.22
20	Consultant	26.21



2022 Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey



 SHARE  PRINT

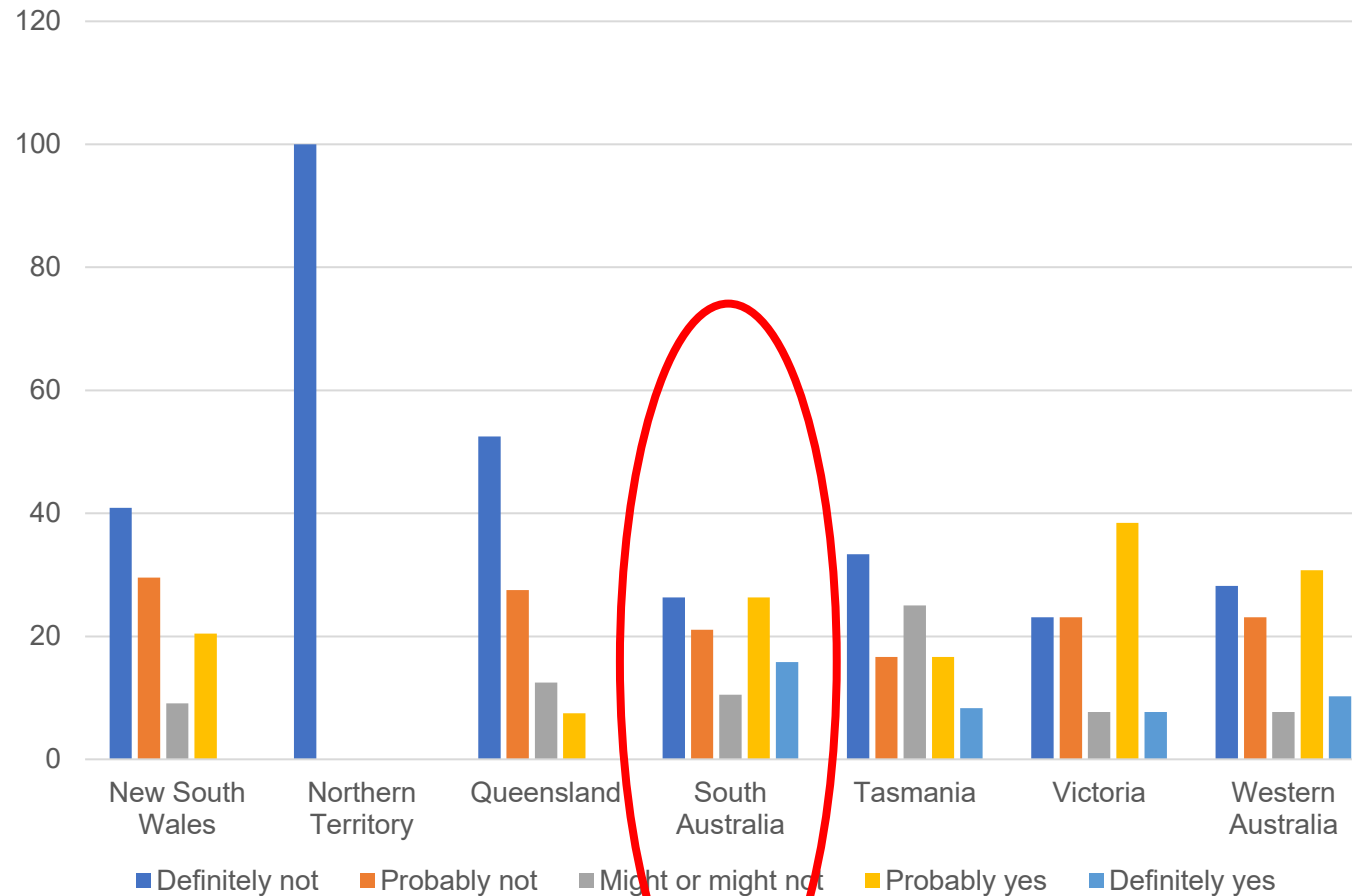
Several occupational skill shortages are becoming **critical**, including engineers, town planners, building surveyors, **environmental health officers** and accountants (2022).

Current state of environmental health across Australia

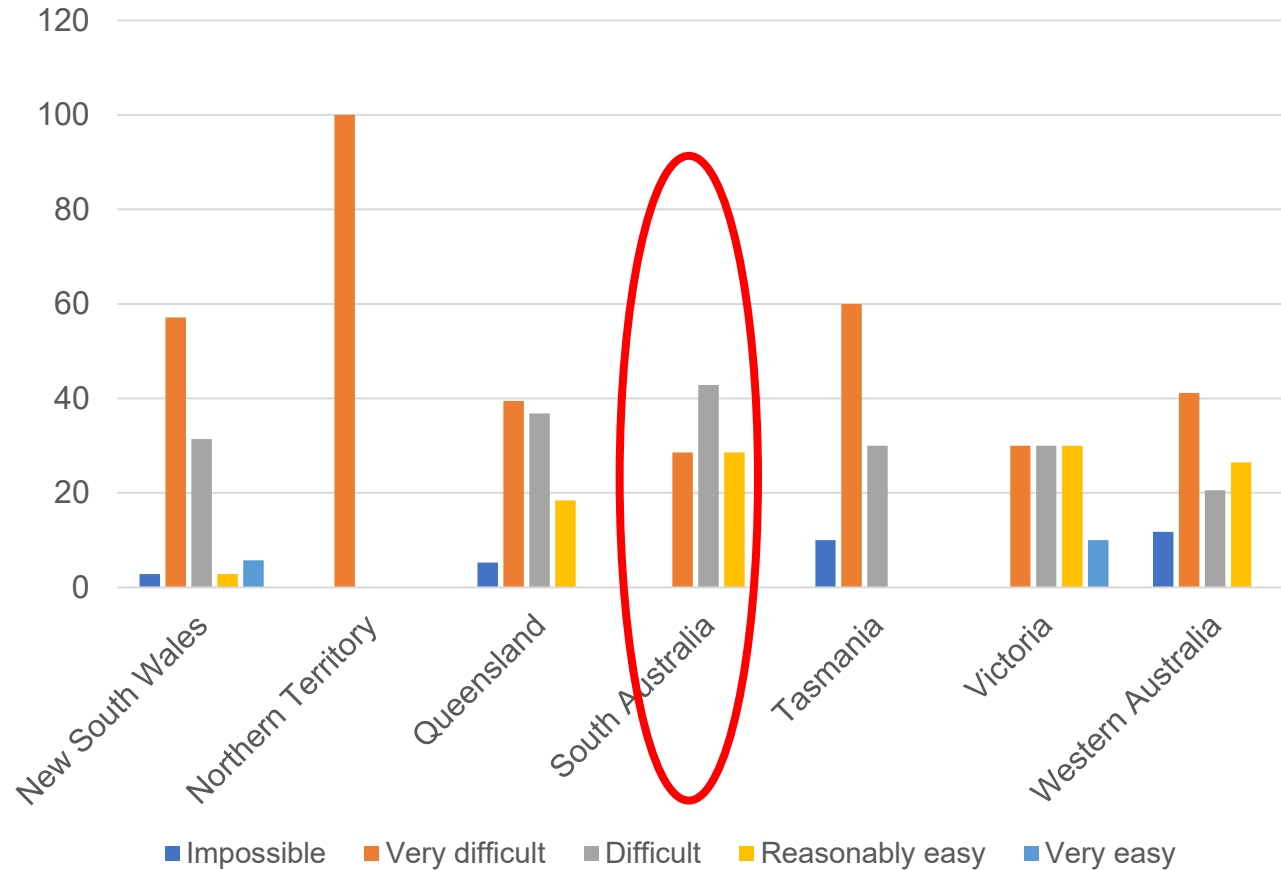
- Survey of councils for EHA last year...



Do you have enough EHOs to fulfil your regulatory responsibilities? (%)



How do you rate your difficulty to get suitable applicants?



Consultants?

- Many councils are using consultant EHOs to get the regulatory work done
- In the UK: a CIEH Workforce Survey that found 87% of local authorities rely on agency cover
- Is that a problem?



Why do we need EHOs?

- Do you remember Garibaldi?
- Twenty-three children developed haemolytic-uremic syndrome (HUS)
- One child died, and around 150 people fell ill
- The Coroner noted that councils lacked clear, standardized operating procedures for EHOs



Garibaldi smallgoods food poisoning legal fight ends after 16 years (ABC News)

abc.net.au/news/garibaldi-e-coli-contamination-legal-case...

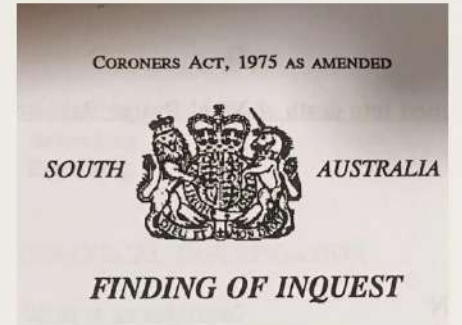


Share article



Inquest

- Total of 60 days
- 5788 pages of evidence
- Essential that Food Laws Enforced Effectively
- Health Enforcement Authorities MUST be adequately resourced to fulfil their roles



Pictures from David Cowell

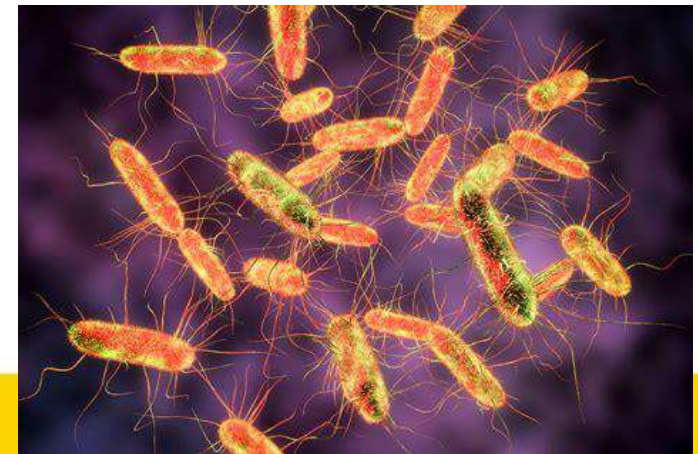
Why do we need locally-based EHOs?

- Kangaroo Island
- Fire staging ground – toilets and food service too close
- EHO inspection
- Potential for 400 cases of food poisoning
- Consultants cannot be in two places at one time



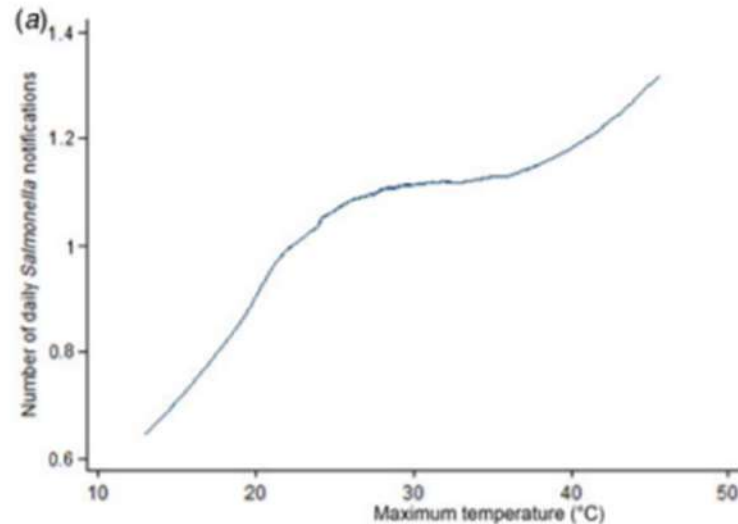
Why do we need locally-based EHOs?

- Easter 2023 – MVE case
- Mosquito monitoring
 - Massive impact on tourism
- Food poisoning
 - Outbreak in Mount Gambier - had to get in other EHOs
 - Cost?
 - Authorisation?
 - Data capture?
- Consultants are already max-ed out



What does the future for environmental health look like?

- Climate change
 - All the things
- Housing crisis = fast construction
 - Wastewater



Mulch now to protect your garden from the impending Adelaide Summer heat

Experienced gardeners are already taking action to protect their plants and gardens from the impending summer heat. One of the most effective ways of adding a layer of protection is mulch.

16 Sep 2023 / with Deb Tribe



In summary

- Reduced pipeline
- People leaving
- More responsibility for EHOs
 - More routine things e.g. Standard 3.2.2A
 - Emergency management
 - Public health planning
 - Climate change-related changes e.g. food safety
- Not enough people to do the even regulatory stuff



Cadetships



- Work + study
- The Flinders Uni GDEHP is one-year fulltime or two years PT
- Fully online
- Tasmania and NT are using this approach
- Can work “alone” with support



Cadetships in Environmental Health

Unlocking the Potential of Cadetships in Environmental Health

In today's competitive landscape, organisations across the public and private sectors are increasingly turning to cadetship programs to attract and retain top talent. As the demand for skilled Environmental Health Officers grows, local governments are recognizing the power of cadetships to address skill shortages, enhance recruitment efforts, and secure the future of their workforce. Join the movement and establish Environmental Health Officer Cadetship positions in your local government to reap the numerous benefits of this forward-thinking approach.



Practical considerations for taking on a cadet in Environmental Health

Prerequisites for entry into the Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health Practice are a science degree, or at least one semester of science (biology, chemistry, physics, maths)
<https://handbook.flinders.edu.au/courses/2023/GDEHP?year=2023>

Consider employing a local person that already holds these qualifications- they are more likely to stay long term.

Pay - consider half time employment combined with half time study (Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health Practice over two years). Cadet pay usually falls under a specific state award.

Consider offering to pay full or part of HECS - the Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health Practice is Commonwealth Supported (no upfront fees). Consider paying all or part of the fee, during, or on completion of, study.

Discuss employment expectations after study is completed - consider making payment contingent on some continuing service.



Consider linking Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health Practice topic content with work activities - students can provide employers with an overview of their assessments so that workplace activities can be planned to complement studies.

To discuss in greater detail, please feel free to contact Professor Kirstin Ross, kirstin.ross@flinders.edu.au or Associate Professor Harriet Whitley, harriet.whitley@flinders.edu.au

Why a cadet?

- ‘Grow your own’ e.g. a nurse or other health care professional
- Less likely to leave
- Know the local area
- Best done with a mentor



Practical considerations for taking on a cadet in Environmental Health

Prerequisites for entry into the Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health Practice are a science degree, or at least one semester of science (biology, chemistry, physics, maths) <https://handbook.flinders.edu.au/courses/2023/GDPEHP2year=2023>

Consider employing a local person that already holds these qualifications- they are more likely to stay long term.

Pay - consider half time employment combined with half time study (Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health Practice over two years). Cadet pay usually falls under a specific state award.

Consider offering to pay full or part of HECS - the Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health Practice is Commonwealth Supported (no upfront fees). Consider paying all or part of the fee, during, or on completion of, study.

Discuss employment expectations after study is completed - consider making payment contingent on some continuing service.



Consider linking Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health Practice topic content with work activities - students can provide employers with an overview of their assessments so that workplace activities can be planned to complement studies.

To discuss in greater detail, please feel free to contact Professor Kirstin Ross, kirstin.ross@flinders.edu.au or Associate Professor Harriet Whitley, harriet.whitley@flinders.edu.au



Cadetships in Environmental Health

Unlocking the Potential of Cadetships in Environmental Health

In today's competitive landscape, organisations across the public and private sectors are increasingly turning to cadetship programs to attract and retain top talent. As the demand for skilled Environmental Health Officers grows, local governments are recognizing the power of cadetships to address skill shortages, enhance recruitment efforts, and secure the future of their workforce. Join the movement and establish Environmental Health Officer Cadetship positions in your local government to reap the numerous benefits of this forward-thinking approach.



Resource sharing

- One cadet over two councils
- Cheaper
- But still local
- A few councils are already exploring this with an urban/country model
- LGA role?



Food Act 2001 (SA) & Public Health Act 2011 (SA): Council Responsibilities and Liability

Council Responsibilities

Under the Food Act 2001 (South Australia)

- Councils are designated enforcement agencies.
- Expected to conduct inspections, investigate complaints, and enforce compliance.
- Requires employing or contracting Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) with expertise in food safety law and practice.

Under the Public Health Act 2011 (South Australia)

- Councils act as authorised officers.
- Responsibilities include:
 - Monitoring public health standards.
 - Investigating complaints.
 - Issuing notices and orders.
 - Reporting significant risks to SA Health.
- Also requires EHOs with capacity to enforce legislation.

CEO Accountability

- The CEO is legally responsible for ensuring council compliance with both Acts.
- Failure to resource or employ EHOs may be seen as a failure to discharge statutory duty.
- If this results in serious harm (e.g. death from foodborne illness, public health outbreak), it may be considered maladministration or negligence.

Liability Considerations

- Primary liability lies with businesses, individuals, or organisations causing the risk.
- Councils are not usually liable unless there is clear evidence of:
 - Gross negligence.
 - Failure to act on known risks.
 - Inadequate resourcing (e.g. no EHOs employed).
- Civil liability is rare but possible if council inaction is directly linked to harm.

Key Point

While food businesses and individuals remain primarily liable, councils (and their CEOs) must ensure adequate EHO resourcing to fulfil statutory roles under both the Food Act 2001 (SA) and Public Health Act 2011 (SA).

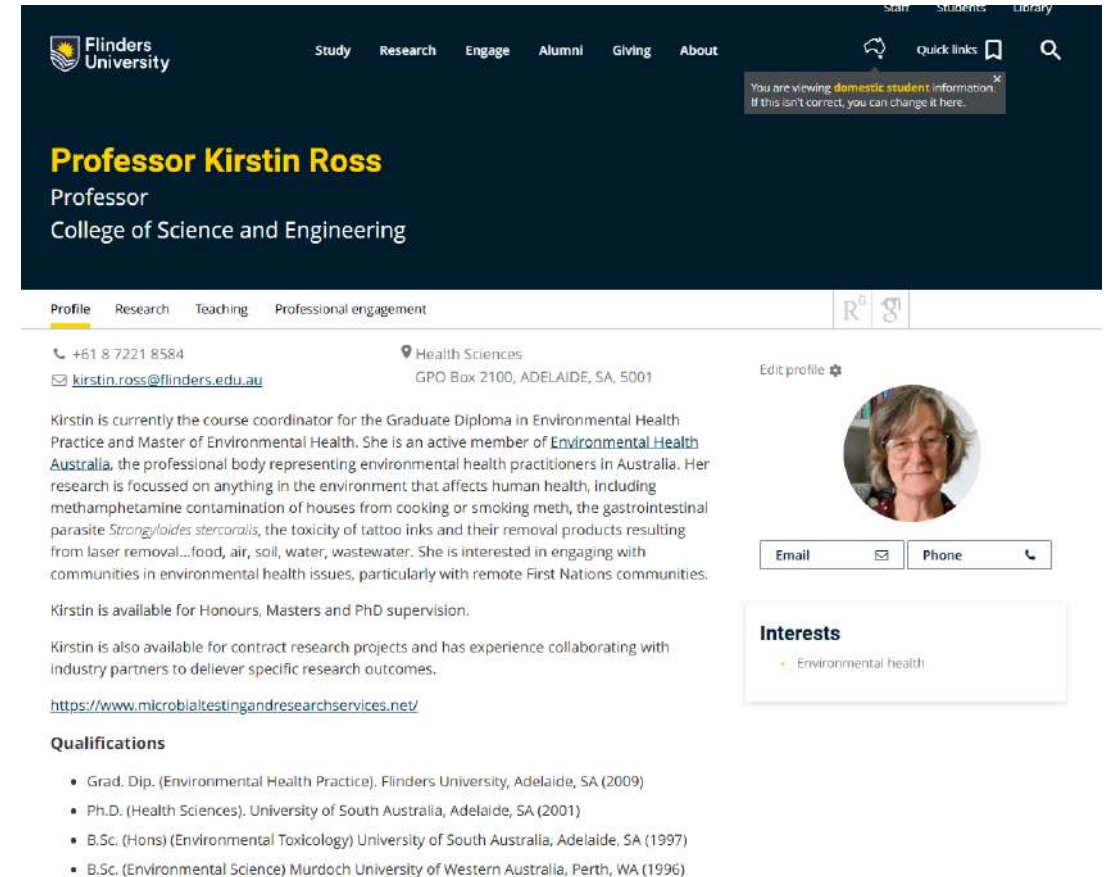
- Survey (3 minutes):



Thank you 😊

Contact

- Kirstin.ross@flinders.edu.au
- 08 7221 8584



The screenshot shows the Flinders University profile page for Professor Kirstin Ross. The header includes the Flinders University logo and navigation links: Study, Research, Engage, Alumni, Giving, About. A notification banner states: "You are viewing domestic student information. If this isn't correct, you can change it here." The profile section displays "Professor Kirstin Ross" and "College of Science and Engineering". Below this are tabs for Profile, Research, Teaching, and Professional engagement. The Profile tab is active, showing contact details: phone +61 8 7221 8584, email kirstin.ross@flinders.edu.au, and location Health Sciences, GPO Box 2100, ADELAIDE, SA, 5001. A bio paragraph describes her role as course coordinator for the Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health Practice and Master of Environmental Health, her membership in Environmental Health Australia, and her research focus on environmental health issues. It also mentions her availability for supervision and contract research. A link to <https://www.microbialtestingandresearchservices.net/> is provided. The Qualifications section lists her degrees: Grad. Dip. (Environmental Health Practice) from Flinders University (2009), Ph.D. (Health Sciences) from University of South Australia (2001), B.Sc. (Hons) (Environmental Toxicology) from University of South Australia (1997), and B.Sc. (Environmental Science) from Murdoch University (1996). On the right, there is a circular profile picture, an "Edit profile" link, and buttons for "Email" and "Phone". An "Interests" section lists "Environmental health".

Flinders University

Study Research Engage Alumni Giving About

You are viewing domestic student information. If this isn't correct, you can change it here.

Professor Kirstin Ross
Professor
College of Science and Engineering

Profile Research Teaching Professional engagement

+61 8 7221 8584
kirstin.ross@flinders.edu.au

Health Sciences
GPO Box 2100, ADELAIDE, SA, 5001

Kirstin is currently the course coordinator for the Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health Practice and Master of Environmental Health. She is an active member of [Environmental Health Australia](#), the professional body representing environmental health practitioners in Australia. Her research is focussed on anything in the environment that affects human health, including methamphetamine contamination of houses from cooking or smoking meth, the gastrointestinal parasite *Strongyloides stercoralis*, the toxicity of tattoo inks and their removal products resulting from laser removal...food, air, soil, water, wastewater. She is interested in engaging with communities in environmental health issues, particularly with remote First Nations communities.

Kirstin is available for Honours, Masters and PhD supervision.

Kirstin is also available for contract research projects and has experience collaborating with industry partners to deliver specific research outcomes.

<https://www.microbialtestingandresearchservices.net/>

Qualifications

- Grad. Dip. (Environmental Health Practice). Flinders University, Adelaide, SA (2009)
- Ph.D. (Health Sciences). University of South Australia, Adelaide, SA (2001)
- B.Sc. (Hons) (Environmental Toxicology) University of South Australia, Adelaide, SA (1997)
- B.Sc. (Environmental Science) Murdoch University of Western Australia, Perth, WA (1996)

Edit profile

Email Phone

Interests

- Environmental health

Landscape Board, Murryalands and Rivlerand - Update

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association Board Meeting – February 2026

Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board update

Draft 2026-2031 Regional Landscape Plan

The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board released its draft 2026-2031 Regional Landscape Plan on 12 January 2026 for public consultation. Feedback is invited until 5pm on 15 March 2026.

Local governments have been invited to review and comment on the draft plan. A media pack has also been provided to assist councils in promoting the plan within their communities.

The draft plan represents a targeted amendment to ensure it remains relevant and effective for the next 5 years. It will guide the work and investment of the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board, helping to deliver the best possible outcomes for the community and the environment.

The draft plan was developed in consultation with partners, including First Nations groups, local councils, industry representatives, and government and non-government organisations. These partners contributed valuable insights on what's working, what has changed, and what could be improved.

The draft 2026-2031 Regional Landscape Plan is available on the board's community engagement website:

[View the draft 2026-2031 Regional Landscape Plan](#)

Feedback on the draft plan is invited via:

Online: [Shaping the future of our region | FLOW](#)

Email: mr.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au

2025-2026 Quarter 1 Report

The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board's Quarterly Performance Highlights Report for the first quarter of 2025-26 provides a summary of key insights and significant achievements. The report tracks progress towards delivering the investment and priorities outlined in the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Annual Business Plan.

Quarter 1 indicates the board is predominately on track for the financial year, with many outcomes already achieved, including:

- **New demonstrations sites** established through the Climate Smart Agriculture project to support landholders to develop their on-farm adaptive capacity to respond to climate extremes.
- **Workshops to support the delivery of the Carbon Farming Outreach Program** were delivered with the grains and grazing sectors at Murray Bridge and Mannum in collaboration with Elders and Greening Australia.

- **Two working bees** were held in July and August at Mowantjie Willauwar Conservation Park, bringing together the Threatened Plant Action Group, Second Nature Conservancy, National Parks rangers and the threatened flora ecologist. As part of a broader threat abatement program, these efforts focused on restoring habitat for the endangered sandhill greenhood orchid and improving overall habitat quality.
- **Participation in National Science Week events** across Murray Bridge, Renmark and Berri, hosted by local councils. Events featured interactive displays, engaging talks, book readings, citizen science awards, and volunteer recognition.
- **South Australia's first woody meadow trial** has been successfully implemented in Murray Bridge. The project is the result of a partnership between the University of Melbourne, the Rural City of Murray Bridge, and Treenet.
- **District staff made the most of the Riverland Field Days**, engaging with the community and providing practical advice on pest animal control and Opuntia biocontrol. The display featured pest-control tools and an interactive grass-identification game, attracting marquee visitors and generating approximately 10 follow-up leads from people previously unaware of the landscape board and its services.

The full highlights report is available on the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board website: [QPR1-highlights-25-26.pdf](#)

For more detailed information, please refer to the full Quarterly Performance Report for the first quarter of 2025-26: [2025-26-Quarter-1-performance-report.pdf](#)

PIRSA Principal Regional Advisor, Regional Update

Prepared By: Barb Cowey
January 2026

For this report I would like to highlight to the MRLGA Board:

- **Sustainable Communities**
is now open with the first round being \$14m of the \$20 m fund
Applications close on March 31st
There are 2 streams – one for planning / feasibility and one for projects.
Co-contribution is required
Guidelines can be found on the PIRSA Sustainable Communities website
All enquires to either the hotline or Rachael Kelly
- **Drought conditions**
continue to be a concern in the Mallee region,
ongoing issue of Sand drift being raised
Community grants have now closed (Jan 31st)
FAB mentors and Rural Financial Councillors are available
Mental Health services including Starlight and Workbench of the mind training
Workbench for the Mind dates for the Riverland and Murraylands can be found @
<https://www.suzieevans.com/intensives-2025>
For all drought programs please continue to check out the PIRSA Website as it is updated accordingly.
Drought Support Team – Have recruited 4 out of the 5 positions filled with last position being advertised in near future, aiming to have greater localised representation at local events,
- **Thriving Regions Fund 2025** applications are going through final assessment phase with announcements hopefully in February
- **Consolidated Cooperative Winery – CCW**
Sanoop Varughese is progressing a number of transitional cropping options
Fact sheets have been developed for interested growers in:
High Density Olives
Agave
Growers wishing to transition out of grapes can contact Sanoop for other developing opportunities
- **South Australia Wine Recovery Fund** has been expanded with additional funding this was announced in January 2026
- 22 December 2025 Minister Scriven announced continuation **funding of \$13,750.000 for RDA's** across the state for a further 4 years (2026-20230).
- Regions is currently working with **DSD on an Agri Workforce Strategy**, currently interviews across the state are occurring in all industry sectors.
- All agencies are entering **Caretaker** Conventions leading into the **March election**.

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Murraylands and Riverland Quarterly Update



An Australian Government Initiative



MURRAYLANDS AND RIVERLAND

Quarterly Update to the MRLGA Board

RDAMR works alongside councils to strengthen regional capability, attract investment and deliver initiatives that drive sustainable regional growth.

January 2026

Leadership & Organisational Stability

I have now completed my first three months as Chief Executive of RDAMR. During this period, I have prioritised direct engagement with Council CEOs and Mayors across the Murraylands and Riverland, meeting with the majority of councils. I thank councils for the positive welcome and constructive discussions to date. Engagement with remaining councils will continue over the coming quarter, reinforcing RDAMR's commitment to strong, accessible regional leadership and collaboration.

National Recognition for Regional Leadership

On 5 November 2025, RDAMR was awarded the National Investing in People Award at the Regional Development Australia Annual Awards in Canberra, presented by The Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories.

The award recognises RDAMR's leadership in placing people at the centre of regional growth through its Resilience and Sustainability initiatives, supporting communities recovering from River Murray flooding, prolonged drought and broader social and personal challenges.

Project Delivery & Regional Impact (Completed / In Delivery)

- **Individualised Care for Mental Health and Wellbeing** and **Mental Health Flood Support programs** have been fully acquitted, delivering 50 group workshops and 109 individual sessions, supporting over 760 people across the Murraylands and Riverland.
- The **Regional Leadership Development Program (RLDP)** has completed delivery, supporting over 260 local participants, with final reporting underway. RDAs across South Australia continue to advocate collectively for RLDP Tranche 3 funding.

- **Drought Proof Futures – Small Business Fundamentals** continues delivery across the Murraylands and Riverland, supporting drought-impacted business build capability and resilience.
- The **Equip Program** continues delivery in the Riverland, designed to strengthen mental preparedness, resilience, and wellbeing in regional communities exposed to natural disasters.
- The **Early Childhood Education Supply Study** is underway across the Murraylands and Riverland, strengthening workforce planning, service sustainability and infrastructure needs.

Regional Investment Pipeline

The October–December 2025 Investment Pipeline Report has been submitted, identifying:

- Public investment pipeline: over \$810 million
- Private investment pipeline: over \$10.4 billion across the Murraylands and Riverland

The regional investment pipeline continues to increase in most quarters, with significant levels of private investment in renewable energy projects and housing, reinforcing the importance of coordinated planning, workforce readiness and infrastructure alignment across the region.

Forward-Looking Priorities (Next Quarter)

RDAMR's focus for the coming quarter is on region-wide delivery, strategic planning and continued council engagement:

Building Bright Futures – Flying Start Workforce Project

Delivery will commence from March 2026, focused on attracting, training and retaining early childhood education and care professionals. The project will operate across all council areas in the Murraylands and Riverland. The Project Lead will engage directly with councils regarding participation opportunities and implementation.

Connected Mallee Project

On-ground rollout will commence for the Connected Mallee Project, improving digital confidence, safety and skills for adult Mallee farmers across relevant council areas, supporting productivity, safety and digital inclusion.

RDAMR Strategic Direction 2026+

RDAMR will commence development of its Strategic Direction 2026+ Plan, setting priorities for regional advocacy, investment attraction, community building, business growth and partnership alignment. Councils will be engaged as key stakeholders in shaping this direction (likely mid 2026).

Ongoing Council Engagement

RDAMR will continue structured engagement with Council CEOs and Mayors to strengthen alignment between council priorities, regional needs and RDAMR's project and advocacy pipeline.

Contact

RDAMR welcomes ongoing communication and collaboration with councils.

Julie Bates, Chief Executive

📞 0458 505 169

RDAMR looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with councils to shape shared priorities, leverage regional opportunities and deliver lasting outcomes for the Murraylands and Riverland.

SA Drought Hub 2024/25 Summary of Achievements



This program received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund

2024/25 achievements

In our fourth year of operating, the SA Drought Hub continued to grow, delivering important projects, activities and outputs to support drought resilience and adoption across South Australia.

We delivered 126 learning events including

23

CROP
WALKS



19

FARM
VISITS



63

WORKSHOPS



5

BUS
TOURS



16

FIELD
DAYS



Total attendance:

3746

ATTENDANCE PROFILE: Farmers/producers: 2047 • Advisers/consultants: 521 • Government officers: 200
Non government group/network: 88 • Other (researchers, academic staff, students, industry): 890

Outputs

The SA Drought Hub delivered and/or supported

6



First Nations groups engaged, with 4 workshops including Yarning Circles

76

drought resilience resources, tools and products were developed (with 3,665 users)



168

communications activities and products were delivered to support SA Drought Hub projects



9

scholarship initiatives to support regional interns, students, conference attendees, and leadership program participants

57

on-farm demonstration and trials attended by 1,208 visitors, with 850 being producers/farmers

Social media followers

LINKEDIN

476

FOLLOWERS

FACEBOOK

1,116

FOLLOWERS

INSTAGRAM

305

FOLLOWERS

X

487

FOLLOWERS

Website

USERS

8,001

PAGE VIEWS

21,274

Sponsorships

The SA Drought Hub sponsorship program supports activities that align with drought resilience and preparedness for regional communities

This year we supported



48 sponsorships

for one off initiatives such as workshops, field trips, crop walks and more



\$205,732
distributed



32
organisations/groups supported

Hub regions



SA HUB REGIONS

1. Adelaide Plains, Mid-North & Yorke
2. Murraylands, Riverland & Mallee
3. Upper North & Flinders
4. Far North & Pastoral
5. Eyre Peninsula
6. Limestone Coast, Kangaroo Island, Hills and Fleurieu

Projects

The SA Drought Hub led a series of co-designed projects to increase drought resilience and preparedness, and strengthen decision-making.

42

projects

led by 20 organisations/groups,
in collaboration with 40 partners



The Hub also supported

10

conferences



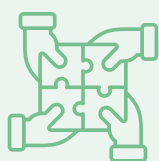
24

seminars and
forums



21

other extension activities,
including webinars, meetings,
community events,
presentations and tours



Collaborations

The Hub is currently engaged in **94 collaborations and partnerships** with a range of RDCs, industry bodies, CRCs, research organisations, and other FDF programs and Drought Hubs. This has expanded significantly over the years from 20 in 2022, 58 in 2023, to 83 in 2024.

Appendix 6

**Cross Border Commissioner
Border Update
January 2026**



Cross Border Commissioner Update- January 2026

This update covers activities undertaken during Q4 2025 and early 2026. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association members for their ongoing dialogue and cooperation in several of the following activities.

Economic Stocks and Flow

The Office of Cross Border Commissioner has recently completed a *Stocks and Flow* economic assessment between border LGAs. It is available at <https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/about-the-department/attached-offices/cross-border-commissioner> , we can provide a direct copy of the report to interested parties. It includes an assessment of the flow of goods and services, hospital admissions, TAFE admissions and journey to work across border LGAs.

Tri-State Health Border Forum

The third Tri-State Health Border Forum was held in October 2025 which New South Wales Health and NSW, Victorian and SA Cross Border Commissioner's co-hosted. Held in Wentworth it included representatives from SA Health, Limestone Coast Local Health Network and Murraylands and Riverland Local Health Network.

The SA CBC will now chair a working party to review how Patient Data and Information Systems (PDIS) can effectively flow across borders to support the care of those community members that may require hospitalisation interstate.

Tri-State Policing Forum

Following on from the inaugural Cross Border Police Ministers meeting, held in Sydney in November 2025 the tri-state Murray River policing forum was held in Mildura, hosted by NSW Police whereby the tri-state police and Cross Border Commissioners from NSW, Victoria and South Australia agreed on ways to strengthen relations, procedures and specific emergency management and police functions.

Submissions and Advocacy

Key recent engagement includes the Cross Border Industry Taskforce roundtable which includes SA, Victorian and New South Wales industry participation, Box Flat Wild Dog Committee, SA Skills Commission presentation, Jobs and Skills Australia Commission consultation, ElectraNet Consumer Advisory Panel representation and over 120 additional engagements in Quarter 4 of 2025.

In the latest period the Office of Cross Border Commissioner has also provided submissions to the Australian Productivity Commission on Heavy Vehicle Transport and the Select Committee on Productivity.



Government of South Australia

Cross Border Commissioner

My office has also recently completed a cross-jurisdictional review of skills and labour mobility, I am working through the implementation of those recommendations in relation to Fee Free TAFE, mutual recognition of skills and other skills and labour mobility actions.

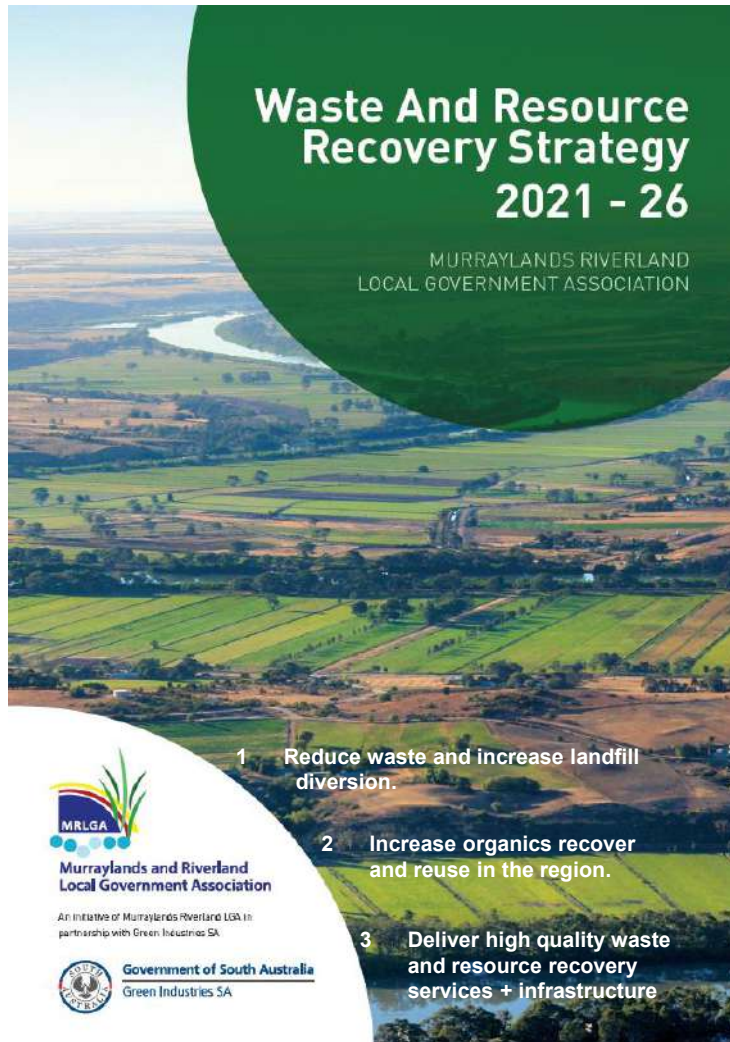
I look forward to working with you in 2026 and would be pleased to answer any questions in relation to this information, and/or any cross border matters.

Document Information

Date	Topic	Author
28/01/2026	Cross Border Commissioner Update- Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association	Kelly-Anne Saffin- Cross Border Commissioner (South Australia)

MRLGA Waste Manamenet & Resource Recoery Strategy Regional Quartlery Targets

MRLGA : Regional Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy (2021-2026) : **Regional Update**



Our Mission

To work together to deliver high quality, cost effective waste and resource recovery services that minimise contributions to landfill and create value through investigation, engagement, innovation and investment.

	Targets	Project Status
 Reduce per capita waste generation by 5% from '21 baseline	25.1 %	 Underway 1.1 Explore alternative and affordable kerbside collection services
 50 % diversion of materials collected from kerbside bins (regional av. based on LGA population).	35.1 %	
 65 % diversion across all materials managed by councils (kerbside + transfer stations - regional avg based on LGA pop). Data collection is pending.	Unreportable	 Completed 1.2 Collaborate through joint procurement to achieve increased environmental performance and financial savings.
 All councils provide a food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection kerbside collection. 5 of 8 Councils provide food and garden organics as kerbside service.	5 / 8	
 Increase the recovery of kerbside organics and achieve a food organics recovery efficiency 50 %.	21 %	 To Come 1.3 Develop best practice resource recovery infrastructure. Early conversations have begun as part of the kerbside review project.
 Use education + technology to reduce and control contamination in recycling streams (Comingled recycling <12%) (FOGO <2%)	Notes	
 Capture accurate data on waste and recycling services through increased technology use and report to MRLGA annually.	Notes	 Underway 1.4 Educate and engage with the community to achieve our goals.
 Develop quality infrastructure that encourages efficient and effective resource recovery and waste management.	Underway	
 Provide improved services within the current cost per household.	Underway	 Completed 1.5 1.5 Explore governance models to improve management of waste and recycling
 Establish a suitable regional or sub-regional governance structure that encourages effective and innovative waste and resource recovery services	100%	

Regional Strategic Objective 1 : Reduce waste and increase landfill diversion

Reduce per capita waste generation by 5% (from 2021 GISA baseline)											
5%	SA Metropolitan Avg.		SA Regional Avg.		MRLGA Target		MRLGA Actual				Score
	Per Person	Per Household	Per Person	Per Household	Per Person	Per Household	Total Annual Waste (kg)	Total No of Households	Per Person	Per Household	%
2021 / 2022 (Baseline)	418 kg/py	1019 kg/py	408 kg/py	937 kg/py	-	-			392.00 kg/py	886.00 kg/py	
(1% reduction) 2022	-	-	-	-	388.0 kg/py	877.1 kg/py			-	-	
(2% reduction) 2023	-	-	-	-	384.1 kg/py	868.2 kg/py	24,508,260	36,063	-	679.60 kg/py	27.75 %
(3% reduction) 2024	-	-	-	-	380.2 kg/py	859.4 kg/py	25,010,060	36,413	-	686.84 kg/py	25.12 %
(4% reduction) 2025					376.3 kg/py	850.5 kg/py	25,165,100	37,073		678.80 kg/py	
(5% reduction) 2026					372.4 kg/py	841.7 kg/py					

Individual Council Data	2023			2024			2025			Difference between 2024 and 2025		
	Total Annual Waste (kg)	Total No of Households	Per Household	Total Annual Waste (kg)	Total No of Households	Per Household	Total Annual Waste (kg)	Total No of Households	Per Household	Annual kg	Households	Kg/ph
BBC	3,777,110	5,422	696.63 kg/py	3,773,940	5,445	693.10 kg/py	3,753,270	5,472	685.90 kg/py ✓	- 20,670 kg	+ 27 h	- 7.2
CDC	1,297,520	2,268	572.09 kg/py	1,655,590	2,319	713.92 kg/py	1,651,960	2,356	701.17 kg/py ✓	- 3,630 kg	+ 37 h	- 12.75
DCKEM	212,080	298	711.67 kg/py	211,640	304	696.18 kg/py	211,130	304	694.51 kg/py ✓	- 510 kg	0 h	- 1.67
DCLW	3,688,480	5,411	681.66 kg/py	3,708,280	5,457	697.54 kg/py	3,728,030	5,522	675.12 kg/py ✓	+ 19,750 kg	+ 65 h	- 22.42
MMC	3,221,450	6,308	510.69 kg/py	3,306,180	6,322	522.98 kg/py	3,663,330	6,396	572.75 kg/py ✓	+357,150 kg	+ 74 h	+ 49.77
RCMB	8,297,120	11,749	706.19 kg/py	8,341,740	11,936	698.87 kg/py	8,210,830	12,348	664.95 kg/py ✓	- 130,910 kg	+412 h	- 33.92
RPC	3,322,290	3,804	873.36 kg/py	3,322,240	3,826	868.33 kg/py	3,268,270	3,875	843.42 kg/py ✓	- 53,970 kg	+ 49 h	- 24.91
SMDC	720,800	803	897.63 kg/yy	701,000	803	872.97 kg/py	678,280	800*	847.85 kg/py ✓	- 22,720 kg	-3 h	- 25.12

Notes:

- SA Reg Ave is taken from GISA Kerbside Waste Performance Report 21-22:
<https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/documents/GISA-StatewideKerbsideReport-2021-22.pdf>
- 2024 and 2025 figures are based on actual kerbside collection data only. Recorded weights are calculated against Service Entitled Property numbers to provide per person and per household averages .SA Outer Regional Average for number of persons per dwelling is 2.2 per household (ABS).
- * 800 households is to be confirmed.

- MRLGA Actual - No data currently available for calendar year 2022.
- MRLGA Baseline is (24500000KG / 73000) from the Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy
- GISA has not released a kerbside service report for 2023, 2024.
- CDC – Universal 3 bin system incorporating FOGO bin introduced in Oct. 2023

Regional Strategic Objective 1 : Reduce waste and increase landfill diversion

50 % diversion of materials collected from kerbside bin (regional average based on LGA population).																
↑50%	SA Metropolitan Avg.		SA Regional Avg.		MRLGA Diversion Goal		MRLGA Diversion Actual		BBC	CDC	DCKEM	DCLW	MMC	RCMB	RPC	SMDC
					Tonne / Per Yr	%	Tonne / Per Yr	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2021 / 2022 (Baseline)					-	-	8,500	35 %	39%	28%	13%	39%	10%	45%	36%	14%
2022					-	-			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2023					12,352	50	8,879	36.2	40.8	28.9	8.8	39.8	10.8	44.7	41.2	10.6
2024					12,505	50	8,971	35.9	38.9	40.6	7.9	37.3	11.1	43.9	39.9	10.4
2025					12,582	50	8,854	35.1	38.3	41.4	8.4	37.7	9.5	44.3	38.5	10.1
					Shortfall (to 50%)		3,728	- 14.9 %	- 11.7%	- 8.6%	- 41.6	- 12.3%	- 40.5	- 5.7%	-11.5	- 39.9
2026					-	50										

- Notes:
- 1. This 2025 data includes the entire calendar year, January to December 2025.
 - 2. Three Councils are not on a 3-Bin system (ie DCKEM, MMC and SMDC).

Regional Strategic Objective 1 : Reduce waste and increase landfill diversion

65% diversion across all materials managed by councils. (kerbside and transfer stations – regional average based on LGA population).																
↑65%	SA Metropolitan Avg.		SA Regional Avg.		MRLGA Diversion Goal		MRLGA Diversion Actual		BBC	CDC	DCKEM	DCLW	MMC	RCMB	RPC	SMDC
					Tonne / Per Yr	%	Tonne / Per Yr	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2021 / 2022 (Baseline)					-	-										
2024					-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

UPDATE :

Reporting on this target is currently unavailable due to the following challenges:

- There are over 26 infrastructure sites across that manage and control waste streams. The method, frequency and format for reporting 'all waste' is not consistent from current inquiries.
- Some of these sites are owned and operated by commercial or external organisations/contractors.
- The requirements for reporting to EPA are only activated for sites that manage over 10,000t.
- The complexity of this reporting also relates to how long material is stored at a site (ie the year it is received may not be the year it is re-used / recovered).

To accurately report on this target, the following waste streams will need to be recorded, reported and measured. MRLGA is working with stakeholders in the 'eco-system' to see if this can be overcome.

- Bulk residual waste
- Bulk Recyclable (cardboard, drums, timber, packaging)
- Bulk Greenwaste/Organics
- Scrap metal including whitegoods
- Mattresses
- E-wastes
- Commercial and Demolition waste (concrete and rubble, soil, fill, and mixed aggregates)
- Hazardous waste (tyres, batteries, paint, waste oil, septage, household chemicals, asbestos, CCA treated products)

MRLGA Waste infrastructure	Landfills	Transfer Stations	Hardwaste Services	Compost facilities
BBC	Nil	1 (CLWY)	Yes - collection	Nil
RPC	Nil	1	Yes - drop off	Nil
LWDC	Nil	2	Yes - drop off	Nil
MMC	1	10	Yes - drop off	Nil
CDC	Nil	4	Yes - drop off	Nil
RCMB	1 (AHRWMA)	1	Yes - collection + drop off	1 (PEATS)
DCKEM	1	1	Yes - drop off	Nil
SMDC	1	1	Yes - drop off	Nil

The table above shows the early research done to gather the number infrastructure sites/points that receiving waste (that would be used to measure and report on this target).

Regional Strategic Objective 2 : Increase organics recovery and reuse in the region

All councils provide a food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection kerbside collection.							
5 / 8	General Waste (weekly)	Recycling (f)	FOGO		Township SEP's	Rural SEP's	Estimated average FOGO going to landfill (applying a rate of 41%).
			Township (f)	Rural (f)			
BBC	✓	✓	FOGO	✗	3512	1944	
CDC	✓	✓	FOGO	FOGO	2167	169	
DCKEM	✓	✓ (m)	✗	✗	304 *		79.9 t
DCLW	✓	✓	FOGO	✗	2594	2883	
MMC	✓	✓	✗	✗	2139	4212	1,205 t
RCMB	✓	✓	FOGO	✗	9956	2073	
RPC	✓	✓	FOGO	✗	2780	1043	
SMDC	✓	✓	✗	✗	815 *		257.6 t
Total - 1,542 t							

Comparison to South Australian Councils	SA Metro Councils	SA Regional Councils	Total
1 Bin System	-	2	2
2 Bin System	-	15	15
3 Bin System	16	33	49
Unknown	-	2	2
Total	16	52	68

Definitions:

SEP	Service Entitled Premises (ie Dwelling)
FOGO	Food Organics & Garden Organics (ie food + garden scraps can go into this bin).
(f)	Fortnightly
(m)	Monthly
t	Tonnes

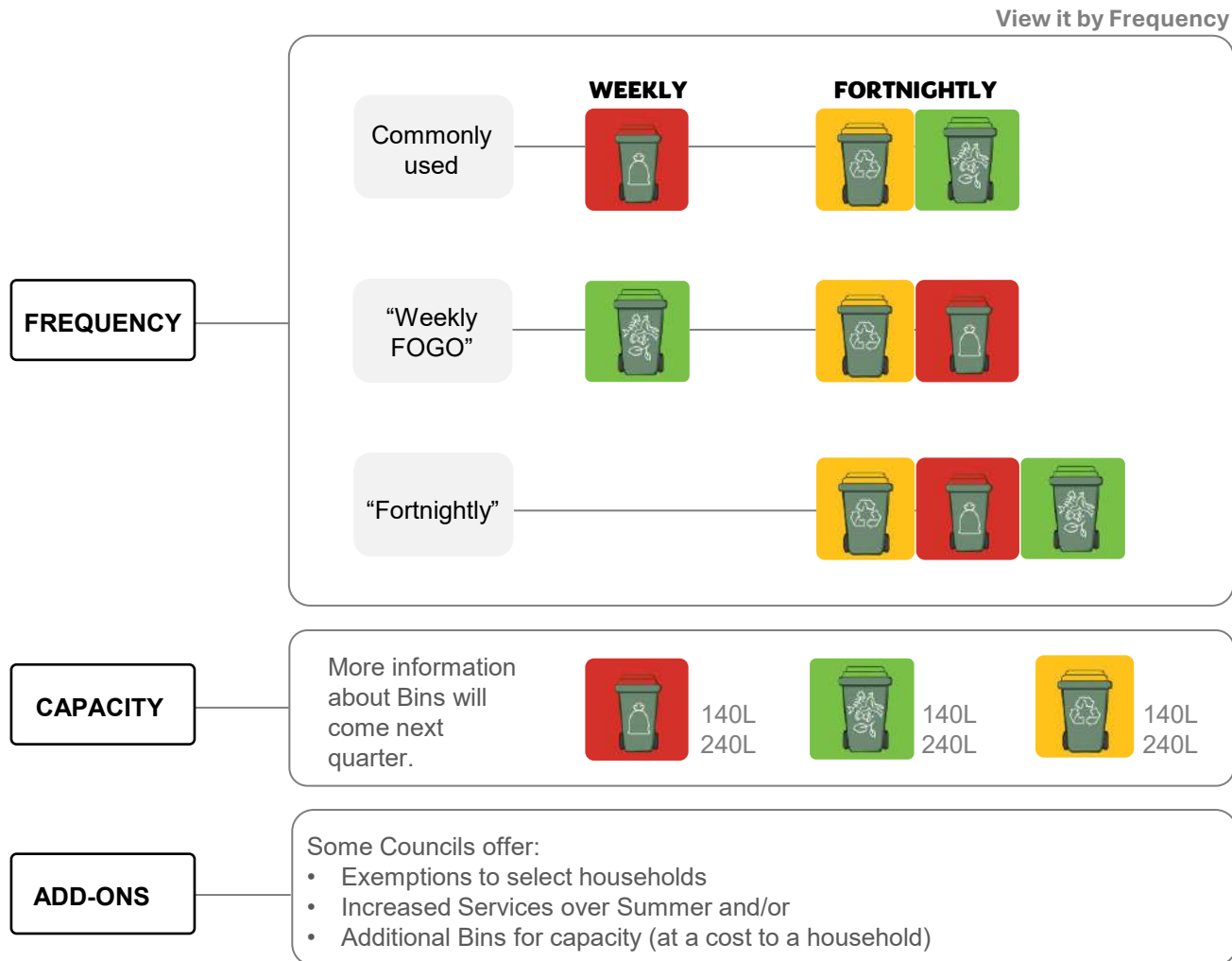
Notes:

- (*) indicates the number is not reported separately
- 3 Bin system status as of Jan 2025.
- Bin Composition audits were conducted across 6 MRLGA Council's in March/April 2025. The results will assist to identify further landfill diversion opportunities, as it relates to this target.

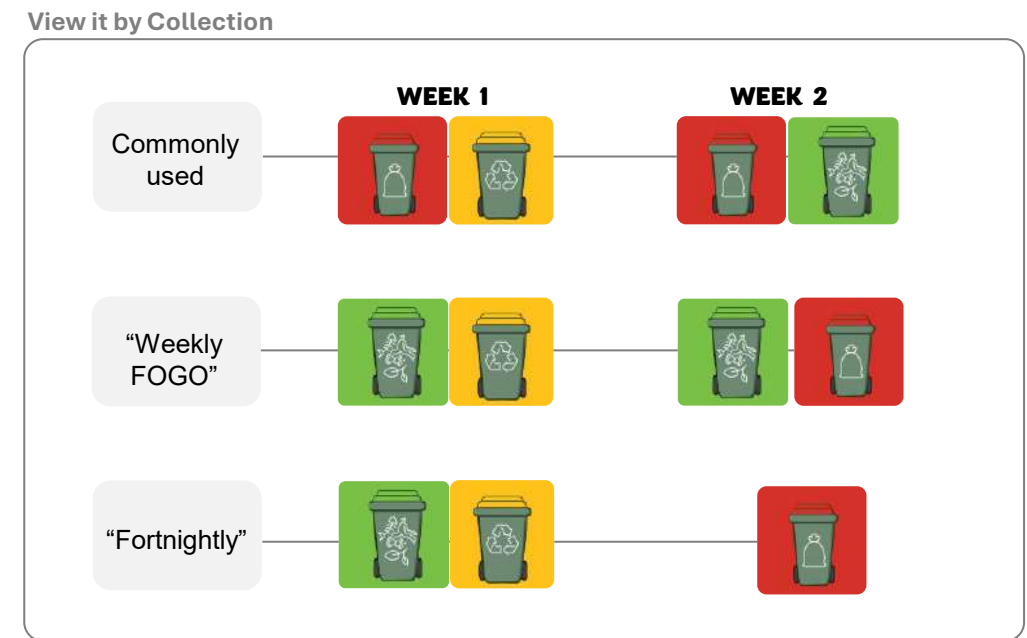
Regional Strategic Objective 2 : Increase organics recovery and reuse in the region

Information about Kerbside Waste Service Models:

The table below shows the 3 common kerbside waste service models in South Australia.



OR



Regional Strategic Objective 2 : Increase organics recovery and reuse in the region

Background

The table below shows the different kerbside waste service models across each regional South Australian Council for 2025.

SA Regional Councils	TOWNSHIP AREAS							Comment
	Weekly			Fomightly			Monthly	
	Garbage	Recycling	FOGO	Garbage	Recycling	FOGO		
Adelaide Plains Council				✓	✓	✓	PILOT Underway	
Alexandrina Council				✓	✓	✓		
Barunga West Council				✓	✓	✓		
Berri Barmera Council	✓				✓	✓		
City of Mount Gambier	✓				✓	✓		
City of Port Lincoln	✓				✓			
City of Victor Harbor				✓	✓	✓		
Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council				✓	✓	✓		
Coorong District Council	✓				✓	✓		
Copper Coast Council				✓	✓	✓		
Corporation of the City of Campbelltown	✓				✓	✓		
Corporation of the City of Port Augusta	✓				✓	✓		
Corporation of the City of Whyalla	✓				✓	✓		
Corporation of the Town of Walkerville	✓				✓	✓		
District Council of Ceduna	✓				✓			
District Council of Cleve	✓				✓			
District Council of Coober Pedy								
District Council of Elliston	✓				✓			
District Council of Franklin Harbour	✓							
District Council of Grant				✓	✓			
District Council of Karoonda East Murray	✓					✓		
District Council of Kimba	✓					✓		
District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula	✓				✓			
District Council of Loxton Waikerie	✓				✓	✓		
District Council of Mount Remarkable	✓				✓	✓		
District Council of Orroroo Carrieton	✓				✓			
District Council of Peterborough	✓				✓			
District Council of Robe	✓				✓	✓		
District Council of Streaky Bay	✓							
District Council of Tumby Bay								
District Council of Yankalilla				✓	✓	✓		
Kangaroo Island Council				✓	✓	✓		
Kangaroo Island Council		✓	✓	✓				
Kingston District Council	✓				✓			
Light Regional Council	✓				✓	✓		
Mid Murray Council	✓				✓			
District Council of Mount Barker	✓				✓	✓		
Municipal Council of Roxby Downs	✓				✓			
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	✓				✓	✓		
Northern Areas Council	✓				✓			
Port Pirie Regional Council			✓	✓	✓			

		TOWNSHIP AREAS						
		Weekly			Fortnightly			Monthly
		Garbage	Recycling	FOGO	Garbage	Recycling	FOGO	
Regional Council of Goyder					✓	✓	✓	
Renmark Paringa Council		✓				✓	✓	
Rural City of Murray Bridge		✓				✓	✓	
Southern Mallee District Council		✓				✓		
Tatiara District Council		✓				✓	✓	
The Barossa Council		✓				✓	✓	
The Flinders Ranges Council		✓				✓		
Town of Gawler		✓				✓	✓	
Wakefield Regional Council					✓	✓	✓	
Wattle Range Council		✓				✓	✓	
Wudinna District Council		✓						
Yorke Peninsula Council		✓				✓		✓

Note:

1. Port Pirie Council has been offering weekly FOGO, fortnightly garbage, fortnightly recycling for 12 months.
2. Port Lincoln City Council & Mt Barker City Council are/about to conduct a pilot trial for weekly FOGO, fortnightly garbage, fortnightly recycling.
3. Adelaide Hills has conducted three pilot trials across three towns on varying service levels.
4. City of Holdfast Bay has run weekly FOGO, fortnightly garbage, fortnightly recycling since Sept 2020.
5. Grey cells indicate either a) no service or b) no online information about the service.

Regional Strategic Objective 2 : Increase organics recovery and reuse in the region

Increase the recovery of kerbside organics and achieve a food organics recovery efficiency 50%.																		
50%	SA Metro Avg.		SA Regional Avg.		MRLGA Diversion Goal		MRLGA Diversion Actual		BBC		CDC		DCLW		RCMB		RPC	
					t / py	%	t	%	t	%	t	%	t	%	t	%	t	%
2021 / 2022 (Baseline)							-	16.32										
2022									-		-		-		-		-	
2023						50	4,585	18.71	770	20.4	101	7.8	698	18.9	2261	27.3	754	22.7
2024						50	4,624	18.48	713	18.9	395	23.9	632	17.0	2177	26.1	707	21.3
2025						50	4,571	21.00	694	18.5	404	24.5	657	17.6	2164	26.4	651	19.9
					Shortfall (to 50%)			29.0%		31.5%		25.5%		32.4%		23.6%		30.1%
2026						50												

- Notes:
- 1. The 2025 data includes the entire calendar year, January to December 2025.
 - 2. The table above only provides statistics for Councils that provide a third waste bin for FOGO.

Regional Strategic Objective 3 : Deliver high quality waste and resource recovery services and infrastructure

Use education and technology to reduce and control contamination in recycling streams:	Education The provision of waste education services has been under review following the departure of the MRLGA Waste Education Program Lead in September 2025. Since that time, MRLGA has engaged an experienced waste education provider to support the region. During 2025, an annual waste education program was developed for the five Councils. This included delivering waste facility tours to more than 70 participants to Brinkley Landfill and Peats Composting and Transfer Facilities. The MRLGA began delivering community education sessions, and undertook a five-Council kerbside waste bin audit. The audit was supported by detailed reports and data, with findings presented to Committees, the Board, Council Chambers and a community group. The MRLGA also supported the RCMB rollout of 30,000 waste bins and updated and modernised the “Which Bin?” education materials. The Waste Education Program is currently being delivered through the waste education and consulting business AWARE, which has been engaged to provide ongoing waste education support. MRLGA is facilitating a joint coms plan for the Riverland Councils to increase waste education through amplifying the “which bin” campaign and support food waste into the green bin. A draft coms plan is currently with Councils for feedback, and has a ‘pencil’ date to go live in March 2026. In addition, MRLGA has been liaising with PIRSA regarding food waste going into the green bin and how this interfaces with PIRSA’s management of fruit fly. This liaison with PIRSA is aimed at ensuring clear and consistent messaging in future waste education communications.			
	Baseline	2023	2024	2025
Comingled recycling < 12 per cent	13% GISA Kerbside Waste Performance Report 21-22	No data available	No data available. Note - state average is est. 15%	Audit results for the recycling stream documented in Kerbside Waste Audit Reports, March-April 2025 for BBC, CDC, DCLW, RCMB and RPC Councils.
FOGO <2 per cent	2% GISA Kerbside Waste Performance Report 21-22	No data available.	No data available.	Audit results for the organics stream documented in Kerbside Waste Audit Reports, March-April 2025 for BBC, CDC, DCLW, RCMB and RPC Councils.
Capture accurate data on waste and recycling services through increased technology use and report to MRLGA annually	Technology For those councils engaging Solo Resource Recovery as their waste services contractor, the waste collection vehicles use the industry standard Waste Track In Vehicle Monitoring System (IVMS) software. The system utilises live tracking of garbage trucks and collection services and stores footage for 30 days. Waste Track captures a range of information including the numbers of bins in specific collection zones, times that trucks leave the depot, as well as capturing images of contamination, service delivery dates, service delivery issues, service exemptions and identifying the number, type and history of bins assigned to properties. The Waste Services Contract encourages innovation that may improve service delivery, efficiency, cost-effectiveness and environmental performance. Technology is a standing agenda item on the Performance Management Working Groups to enable these Groups to take advantage of technological opportunities as they arise. Note: This technology should not be confused with "smart bin" technologies. Smart bin technologies are available to councils in the form of purpose-built public space bin enclosures which are fitted with solar powered compaction mechanisms linked to a central control via WIFI which asset in regulating efficient servicing frequencies. RFID technologies (also not smart bin technology) are available on new bin fleet. RFID technologies primarily asset with matching a bin to a property and asset managing bin inventory. Report to MRLGA Annual reporting may limit the Board’s ability to engage with this portfolio, so MRLGA is preparing this quarterly report to assist with monitoring progress against targets.			

Regional Strategic Objective 3 : Deliver high quality waste and resource recovery services and infrastructure

Develop quality infrastructure that encourages efficient and effective resource recovery and waste management.	Infrastructure Pursuant to the Strategy, MRLGA has commenced conversations with the three Riverland Councils (operations teams) in regards to regional waste infrastructure initiatives. This includes the proposed concept of a regional composting facility in the Riverland. The MRLGA met with representatives of the Swan Hill Rural City Council in September 2025 to discuss a recently launched composting facility using a relatively low volume of organic waste but with a potential larger scale expansion. Further research and exploration of feasibility is currently dependent on confirmation that the current contracts for the Monash Transfer Station would not impact a Riverland composting and /or landfill site.		
Provide improved services within the current cost per household	Improved Services for Households A review of Council kerbside collection services has commenced across the region. MRLGA is engaging with the operations side of Councils as the review progresses. SMDC is not currently having the review done while it considers its overall waste management service model and infrastructure longevity. Extensive data on regional waste management has been compiled to provide evidence-based approaches to proposals for system changes and improvements. Kerbside waste bin audits were completed in 2025 providing important information to support the review. Case studies from other regional councils have been considered. As part of this review, the MRLGA has modelled the financial impacts of proposed alternative kerbside collection that are aimed at improving landfill diversion rates. This modelling analysis compares the existing service with two alternative service models (i.e., “Weekly FOGO” or “Fortnightly All”). This information provides a means to assist councils to drill into service cost components and charges and manage forecasting processes. The MRLGA has reviewed current regional waste-stream flow logistics and identified aggregation and bulk handling aspects which feed into the modelling within the waste services contracts.		
Establish a suitable regional or sub-regional governance structure that encourages effective and innovative waste and resource recovery services	Purpose	Membership	Comment
	MRLGA Waste Management & Resource Recovery Committee <i>The Committee oversees the delivery of the Strategy.</i>	8 Regional Councils 1 x Representative from each Council (Director / General Manager)	Reports to MRLGA Board
	Joint Waste Service Contract	5 Regional Councils <i>(each who participated in the joint waste contract)</i>	
	(Riverland) Performance Management Working Group	- Berri Barmera Council - District Council of Loxton Waikerie - Renmark Paringa Council	MRLGA has a centralised model to: - Review Claims - Performance Management Reporting and Convening - Quarterly Reporting - Waste Audits - Waste Education
	(Murraylands) Performance Management Working Group	- Coorong District Council - Rural City of Murray Bridge	

State Government Reply to State Digital Connectivity Plan

From:
To:
Subject: Statewide Connectivity Program in South Australia - update
Date: Wednesday, 21 January 2026 11:54:56 AM
Attachments:

OFFICIAL

Good morning Carron,

Thank you for your enquiry into the ongoing work to strengthen digital connectivity in South Australia.

My name is _____ and I work for the recently appointed Government Chief Information Officer, Mr. Will Luker who has replaced _____ who left Government in January 2025.

Will is on leave at present. Your email to Steve Eatts has been sent to me as the person who is supporting Will in statewide connectivity matters.

I'm sorry it has taken me until today to get back to you,

The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) leads the Government of South Australia's technology, cyber security and digital government strategic policies and direction, and is the central service provider for whole-of-government technology and cyber security services and platforms. OCIO is also leading work to leverage investment in telecommunications and connectivity to help ensure South Australians can live and thrive in a digital world.

As I mentioned earlier, _____ departed the South Australian public sector at the beginning of 2025 to take up a position w _____. The Statewide Digital Connectivity Strategy foreshadowed by _____ was not made publicly available.

However, OCIO received funding under the Digital Investment Fund for a Statewide Digital Connectivity program, which enables OCIO to play a whole-of-government coordinating role that informs strategic planning and decision-making to improve investment in digital connectivity across the state, particularly in regional, rural and remote communities.

This program of work has contributed significantly to:

- advocate for the interests of South Australia in all matters relating to the Commonwealth Government's digital connectivity policy agenda, such as South Australia's submission to the 2024 Regional Telecommunications Review
- resource the facilitation of industry engagement with First Nations

community authorities under the auspices of the Commonwealth Government's First Nations Community Wi-Fi Program, which resulted in several applications to the grant program and the announcement in November 2025 that South Australian First Nations communities were among the 52 successful recipients of funding under the program

- development, in collaboration with other areas of government, of the grant opportunity under the Regional Roads Australia Mobile Program pilot to increase mobile telecommunications coverage on highways and roads, for which applications recently closed.

These efforts are just some of the examples of the work OCIO and the Government of South Australia are overseeing or supporting to ensure that South Australia maximises every opportunity to secure investment into connectivity uplift in the state.

Thank you again for your interest in this program of work.

Kind regards

| Director Internal Operations and Governance
Internal Operations and Governance | Office of the Chief Information Officer

Wakefield House, 30 Wakefield Street, Adelaide SA 5000 / Kaurna Country



| _____



|



treasury.sa.gov.au

Executive Assistant: -

|



| _____



The Department of Treasury and Finance acknowledges Aboriginal people as the state's first peoples, nations and Traditional Owners of South Australian land and waters. We recognise that their unique cultural heritage, customs, spiritual beliefs and relationship with the land are of ongoing importance today, and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging leaders of the future.

Information contained in this email message may be confidential and may also be the subject of legal professional privilege or public interest immunity. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, disclosure or copying of this document is unauthorised.



MRLGA Quarterly Financial Statements

Executive Summary

Murray and Mallee LGA

For the 3 months ended 31 December 2025

	OCT-DEC 2025	JUL-SEPT 2025	VARIANCE
Cash			
Cash received	950.76	25,198.80	-96.23% ↓
Cash spent	36,323.07	104,132.68	-65.12% ↓
Cash surplus (deficit)	(35,372.31)	(78,933.88)	55.19% ↑
Closing bank balance	63,129.87	98,502.18	-35.91% ↓
Profitability			
Income	120,568.50	10,193.00	1,082.86% ↑
Direct costs	-	-	- -
Gross profit (loss)	120,568.50	10,193.00	1,082.86% ↑
Other income	-	-	- -
Expenses	91,472.98	110,073.78	-16.90% ↓
Profit (loss)	29,095.52	(99,880.78)	129.13% ↑
Balance Sheet			
Debtors	143,837.68	11,212.30	1,182.86% ↑
Creditors	-	-	- -
Net assets	1,077,764.52	1,048,669.00	2.77% ↑
Sales			
Number of invoices issued	8.00	-	- -
Average value of invoices	15,071.06	-	- -
Performance			
Gross profit margin (%)	100.00	100.00	- -
Net profit margin (%)	24.13	(979.90)	102.46% ↑
Return on investment (p.a.) (%)	10.80	(38.10)	128.34% ↑
Position			
Average debtor days	109.76	101.20	8.45% ↑
Average creditor days	-	-	- -
Short term cash forecast	143,837.68	11,212.30	1,182.86% ↑
Current assets to liabilities	8.39	14.49	-42.09% ↓
Term assets to liabilities	-	-	- -

Cash Summary

Murray and Mallee LGA

For the 3 months ended 31 December 2025

	OCT-DEC 2025	QUARTERLY AVERAGE (YTD)	VARIANCE	
Income				
Berri Barmera Council	-	12,415.00	-100.00%	↓
Coorong District Council	-	10,793.00	-100.00%	↓
Sales	-	(300.00)	100.00%	↑
Total Income	-	22,908.00	-100.00%	
Less Expenses				
Accounting Services (Payroll, BAS and General Accounting)	-	450.00	-100.00%	↓
Audit and Accounting Fees	3,300.00	-	-	—
Bank Fees	-	10.00	-100.00%	↓
Insurance	4,145.75	-	-	—
M365/SharePoint IT and Support	504.12	512.52	-1.64%	↓
Meeting Expenses	3,977.13	1,827.18	117.66%	↑
Office Expenses	1,076.66	180.85	495.33%	↑
PAYG Withholdings Payable	(18,128.00)	(27,540.00)	34.18%	↑
Regional Waste Management Initiatives	750.00	959.50	-21.83%	↓
Sundry Expenses	-	100.00	-100.00%	↓
Superannuation	8,327.03	11,121.12	-25.12%	↓
Superannuation Payable	(9,277.79)	(1,039.98)	-792.11%	↓
Wages and Salaries	69,392.29	94,912.61	-26.89%	↓
Wages Payable - Payroll	(43,030.26)	-	-	—
Total Expenses	21,036.93	81,493.80	-74.19%	
Surplus (Deficit)	(21,036.93)	(58,585.80)	64.09%	
Plus Tax Movements				
Tax Collected	-	2,320.80	-100.00%	↓
Tax Paid	(14,335.38)	(22,668.88)	36.76%	↑
Net Tax Movements	(14,335.38)	(20,348.08)	29.55%	
Net Cash Movement	(35,372.31)	(78,933.88)	55.19%	
Summary				
Opening Balance	98,502.18	177,436.06	-44.49%	
Plus Net Cash Movement	(35,372.31)	(78,933.88)	55.19%	↑

	OCT-DEC 2025	QUARTERLY AVERAGE (YTD)	VARIANCE
Cash Balance	63,129.87	98,502.18	-35.91%

Profit and Loss

Murray and Mallee LGA

For the 6 months ended 31 December 2025

	QUARTER	YEAR TO DATE	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	25/26 ANNUAL BUDGET
Council Subscriptions					
Berri Barmera Council	12,651.00	12,651.00	-	12,651.00 ↑	25,302.00
Coorong District Council	11,407.50	21,900.50	-	21,900.50 ↑	21,385.00
DC of Karoonda East Murray	5,981.00	5,981.00	-	5,981.00 ↑	11,962.00
DC of Loxton Waikerie	14,361.00	14,361.00	-	14,361.00 ↑	28,722.00
Mid Murray Council	13,929.50	13,929.50	-	13,929.50 ↑	27,859.00
Renmark Paringa Council	11,804.50	11,804.50	-	11,804.50 ↑	23,609.00
Rural City of Murray Bridge	22,622.00	22,622.00	-	22,622.00 ↑	45,244.00
Southern Mallee DC	6,977.00	6,977.00	-	6,977.00 ↑	13,954.00
Total Council Subscriptions	99,733.50	110,226.50	-	110,226.50	198,037.00
Other Income					
Regional Capacity Building	-	-	-	- —	40,000.00
SLRP Surcharge	20,835.00	20,835.00	-	20,835.00 ↑	25,000.00
Interest Income	-	-	-	- —	47,956.00
Sales	-	(300.00)	-	(300.00) ↓	-
Waste Education Levy	-	-	-	- —	100,000.00
Waste Contract Management Levy	-	-	-	- —	65,000.00
Total Other Income	20,835.00	20,535.00	-	20,535.00	277,956.00
Gross Profit	120,568.50	130,761.50	-	130,761.50	475,993.00
Expenses					
Administration Expenses					
Allowance (President)	-	-	-	- —	5,300.00
Audit and Accounting Fees	3,300.00	3,300.00	-	3,300.00 ↑	7,500.00
Bank Fees	-	10.00	-	10.00 ↑	120.00
Insurance	4,145.75	4,145.75	-	4,145.75 ↑	12,000.00
Legal expenses	-	-	-	- —	5,000.00
Meeting Expenses	3,977.13	5,804.31	-	5,804.31 ↑	6,000.00
Office Expenses	1,076.66	1,257.51	-	1,257.51 ↑	4,400.00
M365/SharePoint IT and Support	504.12	1,016.64	-	1,016.64 ↑	2,751.00
Sundry Expenses	-	100.00	-	100.00 ↑	3,000.00

	QUARTER	YEAR TO DATE	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	25/26 ANNUAL BUDGET
Travel & Accommodation	-	-	-	- 	6,500.00
Website Maintenance	-	-	-	- 	1,000.00
Total Administration Expenses	13,003.66	15,634.21	-	15,634.21	53,571.00
Operational Expenses					
Accounting Services (Payroll, BAS and General Accounting)	-	450.00	-	450.00 	2,500.00
Superannuation	8,327.03	19,448.15	-	19,448.15 	-
Wages and Salaries	69,392.29	164,304.90	-	164,304.90 	455,834.00
Office Equipment	-	-	-	- 	5,140.00
Admin Support	-	-	-	- 	25,000.00
Total Operational Expenses	77,719.32	184,203.05	-	184,203.05	488,474.00
Project Expenses					
Regional Public Health Plan	-	-	-	- 	30,000.00
Regional Road Hierarchy Plan	-	-	-	- 	5,000.00
Regional Waste Management Initiatives	750.00	1,709.50	-	1,709.50 	10,000.00
Roads Database	-	-	-	- 	5,000.00
Total Project Expenses	750.00	1,709.50	-	1,709.50	50,000.00
New Initiative for Sustainability	-	-	-	- 	10,000.00
MRLGA Strategic Planning	-	-	-	- 	5,000.00
Regional Road Action Plans	-	-	-	- 	500.00
Vice President (Allowance)	-	-	-	- 	1,280.00
Regional Capacity Building Construction Roads Training	-	-	-	- 	8,000.00
Regional Transport Plan	-	-	-	- 	40,000.00
New Initiative for Shared Services	-	-	-	- 	5,000.00
Total Expenses	91,472.98	201,546.76	-	201,546.76	661,825.00
Net Profit	29,095.52	(70,785.26)	-	(70,785.26)	(185,832.00)

Balance Sheet

Murray and Mallee LGA As at 31 December 2025

	31 DEC 2025	31 DEC 2024
Assets		
Bank		
Murray and Mallee LGA	63,129.87	339,453.53
Total Bank	63,129.87	339,453.53
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	143,837.68	63,737.30
Accrued Interest Revenue	1,389.46	2,406.86
LGFA Investment Deposits	1,017,038.15	992,895.12
Petty Cash	100.00	100.00
Total Current Assets	1,162,365.29	1,059,139.28
Total Assets	1,225,495.16	1,398,592.81
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
GST	(12,155.53)	39,713.66
PAYG Withholdings Payable	56,980.00	16,142.00
Payments Received in Advance	-	40,000.00
Provision for Employee Leave	37,753.00	33,989.00
Superannuation Payable	20,398.91	10,412.86
Wages Payable - Payroll	43,030.26	-
Total Current Liabilities	146,006.64	140,257.52
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	147,730.64	141,981.52
Net Assets	1,077,764.52	1,256,611.29
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	(70,785.26)	237,483.43
Retained Earnings	1,148,549.78	1,019,127.86
Total Equity	1,077,764.52	1,256,611.29

Statement of Cash Flows

Murray and Mallee LGA

For the 3 months ended 31 December 2025

	OCT-DEC 2025	JUL-SEPT 2025
Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	-	25,198.80
Payments to suppliers and employees	(92,848.36)	(110,476.79)
Cash receipts from other operating activities	(12,960.00)	(22,235.87)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(105,808.36)	(107,513.86)
Financing Activities		
Other cash items from financing activities	70,436.05	28,579.98
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	70,436.05	28,579.98
Net Cash Flows	(35,372.31)	(78,933.88)
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	98,502.18	177,436.06
Net change in cash for period	(35,372.31)	(78,933.88)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	63,129.87	98,502.18

Aged Receivables Summary

Murray and Mallee LGA

As at 31 December 2025

Ageing by due date

CONTACT	CURRENT	< 1 MONTH	1 MONTH	2 MONTHS	3 MONTHS	OLDER	TOTAL
Berri Barmera Council	16,066.60	-	-	-	-	-	16,066.60
Coorong District Council	17,052.76	-	-	-	-	11,212.30	28,265.06
District Council of Karoonda East Murray	8,960.60	-	-	-	-	-	8,960.60
District Council of Loxton Waikerie	25,433.10	-	-	-	-	-	25,433.10
Mid Murray Council	18,479.46	-	-	-	-	-	18,479.46
Renmark Paringa Council	14,073.96	-	-	-	-	-	14,073.96
Rural City of Murray Bridge	24,884.20	-	-	-	-	-	24,884.20
Southern Mallee District Council	7,674.70	-	-	-	-	-	7,674.70
Total	132,625.38	-	-	-	-	11,212.30	143,837.68
Percentage of total	92.20%	-	-	-	-	7.80%	100.00%

Aged Payables Summary

Murray and Mallee LGA

As at 31 December 2025

Ageing by due date