

Annual Summary 2016-17



USGCPG Board

USGCPG Restructure

- From 1 January 2017 significant restructure to focus effort on political advocacy for the three cities.
- Three Mayors as board members plus proxies, with Council CEO's as ex-officio members.
- RDA's and Education expertise involved in sub-committees as required.
- Executive support engaged as independent contractor to reduce overheads and focus on outcomes.
- Council contributions in 2016/17 of \$30,000 each has leveraged additional \$300,000.

Economic Transition

Guiding Documents

- Development of 'Transforming the Upper Spencer Gulf' report – identifies growth sectors and priority actions.
- Drafting of Upper Spencer Gulf Transport Strategy – consolidate strategic transport infrastructure needs across road, rail, sea and airports.

Conferences and Events

- Host national 'Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia' (SEGRA) conference.
- Support Australian Rangelands national conference.
- Support Global Maintenance USG annual trade and resources conference.
- Secure SA Local Government Association board meeting in the USG.
- Purchase portable conference partitions and lecterns for use across the three cities.

Higher Education

- Progress establishment of Upper Spencer Gulf 'Community Owned Tertiary Education Centre' – call for national EOI secured five higher education partners; funding applications lodged.
- Meetings with State Education Minister Susan Close and Federal Education Minister Simon Birmingham.
- Formative discussion with TAFE SA and university partners to establish the COTEC as a 'University Study Centre' under the Commonwealth 'Study Hub' initiative.
- Progress discussion with university researchers to strengthen local research presence in the USG.
- Co-host technology forum with Australian Technological Science and Engineering Academy as part of the GMUSG conference.
- Submission to Federal Government Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education.

Decentralisation

- Coordinate 2018 'Decentralisation' State Election Campaign with all other regional LGA's.
- Submission and presentation to Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into Decentralisation of Government Services.
- Submission to Federal Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee Inquiry into the Location of Corporate Commonwealth Entities.

Defence Industries

- Instigation, submission and presentation to Senate inquiry into the impact of Defence training activities and facilities on rural and regional communities.
- Attendance by USG delegates to Defence Teaming Centre annual dinner and awards.

Government Procurement

- Advocate for declaration of Upper Spencer Gulf as a 'Special Economic Zone' to attract 20% weighting for local business contracting for SA Government works.
- Meetings with State Manufacturing Minister Kyam Maher and Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis.
- Submission to Industry Advocacy Bill & New Industry Participation Policy.
- Submission to Productivity Commission Inquiry into Transitioning Regional Economies.

Fostering Economic Partnerships

- Coordinate visit by Australian High Commissioner to Cyprus to investigate trade and research collaboration.
- Attendance by USG delegates to SA Government's China Inbound Delegation dinner hosted by Adelaide City Council.
- Involvement in LGA China Engagement Strategy.
- Progress Northern Adelaide – USG Collaboration on economic transition and workforce needs.

- Participation in SA Government USG Forum and Economic Transition Planning.
- Project Support - Solar Reserve, ZEN, Oz Minerals, Peats Soils, Goat Hill Pumped Hydro, Whyalla Foreshore, St Marks College STEM project, Whyalla Safer Communities project, Port Pirie Economic Planning Forum.

Local Government Collaboration

LGA Board and SAROC Representation

- Appointment of Spencer Gulf Cities representative to Local Government Association board and SA Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC).
- SGC representation at LGA board and SAROC meetings.

Joint Planning Board Investigation

- Coordinate Spencer Gulf Cities Planning Reform Working Group.
- Convene combined Council Joint Planning Board workshop.
- Participation in DPTI statewide Joint Planning Board pilot project.

Elected Member Training

- Coordinate preliminary program for combined Spencer Gulf Cities elected member governance refresher training.

Intra-Regional Collaboration

- Coordinate meeting of South Australian Provincial Cities.
- Coordinate SGC delegation and study tour to Limestone Coast LGA.

Shared Procurement

- Coordinate Spencer Gulf Cities Procurement Working Group.
- Support preparation of joint roadworks tender.
- Support discussion on opportunities for joint approach for waste, asset management, procurement.
- Submission to LGA on Council procurement policy.

Local Government Forums and Submissions

- Hosted presentation by Essential Services Commission of SA.
- Participation in National Heavy Vehicle Regulator workshop.
- Participation Local Government Association Energy forum.
- Submission to Ombudsman's report into internal review of Council decisions and establishment of independent regional panels to assist with complex reviews.
- Representative on SA Power Networks Vegetation working group.
- Participation in Local Government Sustainability Network forums.
- Co-host regional consultation by SA Council of Social Services.
- Submission to LGA on Local Government Emergency Services Functional Support.

Advocacy

USG Mayors & MPs

- Convene quarterly meetings of Council Mayors, State and Federal Members of Parliament representing Port Pirie, Port Augusta and Whyalla.

Ministerial Meetings

- Canberra delegation December 2016 – meetings with Sen. Anne Ruston, Minister Matthew Canavan; Office of the Prime Minister, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce, Sen. David Fawcett, Sen. Don Farrell, Sen. Alex Gallacher, Minister Greg Hunt, Sen. Skye Kakoschke Moore, Minister Fiona Nash, Minister Simon Birmingham, Office of Minister Frydenberg, Rowan Ramsey.
- Canberra delegation August 2017 – meetings with Rowan Ramsey, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Hon Arthur Sinodinos, Deputy Prime Minister, Barnaby Joyce, Minister for Defence Industries, Christopher Pyne, Minister for Education, Simon Birmingham, Minister for Energy and Environment, Hon Josh Frydenberg, SA Senator Anne Ruston, Office of the Minister for Regional Development Fiona Nash, SA Labor Senator Alex Gallacher, Office of the Prime Minister, SA Independent Senator Lucy Gichuhi, Representatives of Nick Xenophon Team, Office of Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Darren Chester, Office of Minister for Health and Sport, Rowan Ramsey.

Media

- Create new Spencer Gulf Cities website.
- Monthly media releases.
- Upper Spencer Gulf twitter feeds.
- New logo !