

Annual Summary 2017-18



Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group Board

USGCPG Board Operations

- Board membership streamlined - three Mayors and CEO's.
- New logo adopted.
- New trading name adopted – "Spencer Gulf Cities".
- Council contributions in 2017/18 of \$30,000 each has leveraged additional grants and support.

Local Government Collaboration

LGA Grant Funding

- \$108,000 Local Government Association 'Outreach Services' and 'Regional Capacity Building' grants.

Joint Planning Board Investigation

- Participation in DPTI statewide Joint Planning Board pilot project.
- Preparation of Spencer Gulf Cities Joint Planning Board business case.
- Establishment of Spencer Gulf Cities Planning Reform Working Group.
- Hosted Spencer Gulf Cities Joint Planning Board workshop.
- Formalised Council objectives and functions for collaboration.

Local Government Forums and Initiatives

- SGC representation at LGA board and SAROC meetings.
- Participation in Local Government Sustainability Network forums.
- Partner in Local Government R&D project into rating of renewable energy facilities.
- Coordinated proposal for formation of Coastal Councils Alliance.

Intra-Regional Collaboration

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

Joint Procurement

- Coordinated Spencer Gulf Cities Procurement Working Group.
- Supported preparation of joint roadworks tender.
- Drafted Council CEO procurement collaboration Memorandum of Understanding.
- Supported discussion on opportunities for joint approach for waste, asset management, procurement.

Spencer Gulf Cities Transport Strategy

- Development of 'Spencer Gulf Cities' transport infrastructure plan

Economic Transition

Economic Transition Plan

- Finalised and launched 'Transforming the Upper Spencer Gulf' report – growth sectors and priority actions.

Conferences and Events

- Hosted national 'Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia' (SEGRA) conference.
- Supported Australian Rangelands national conference.
- Supported Global Maintenance USG annual trade and resources conference.
- Secured SA Local Government Association board meeting in the USG.
- Submitted bid to host the SA Tourism Industry Council conference.
- Purchased portable conference partitions and lecterns for use across the three cities.

Higher Education

- Commonwealth Regional Jobs and Investment Package (RJIP) grant funding of \$1.1 million secured to establish the Upper Spencer Gulf Community Owned Tertiary Education Centre (COTEC) - three university partners engaged.
- Five Bachelor degrees and one Masters degree to commence in Port Pirie campus February 2019 followed by Port Augusta. Discussions with Whyalla will continue.
- Lodgment of Commonwealth 'Study Hub' funding application – pending.
- Progressed discussion with university researchers to strengthen local research presence.
- Co-hosted technology forum with Australian Technological Science and Engineering Academy as part of the GMUSG conference.
- Submission to Federal Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education.

Decentralisation

- 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.
- Supported study tour for USG businesses/contractors to meet with the major Defence contractors, suppliers and supply chain businesses in Northern Adelaide

Government Procurement

- Advocated 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 (former) 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

- Participated in follow-up 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.
- Progressed Northern Adelaide – USG Collaboration on economic transition and workforce.
- Participation in SA Government USG Forum and Economic Transition Planning.
- Project Support - Solar Reserve, ZEN, Oz Minerals, Peat Soils, Goat Hill Pumped Hydro, Whyalla Foreshore, St Marks College STEM project, Whyalla Safer Communities project, Port Pirie Economic Planning Forum.

Regional Advocacy and Promotions

State 2018 Election Strategy

- Coordinated and hosted SAROC 'Growing our Regions' election strategy forum with Professor Dean Jaensch and representatives from Regional Australia Institute, Charles Darwin University.
- Coordinated 2018 'Growing our Regions' decentralization state election campaign with all other regional LGA's.

Networking and Promotional Events

- Supported SA Council of Social Services (SACOSS) Regional Workshop.
- Coordinated and hosted regional visit by the State Planning Commission regarding development planning for renewable energy facilities.

Ministerial Meetings

- 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.
- State Education Minister Susan Close, Manufacturing and Industry Minister Kyam Maher
- Copy of Transforming Upper Spencer Gulf report to all new Liberal Government Ministers
- Meetings with new Liberal Treasurer Lucas, Tourism Minister David Ridgway and Energy Minister Dan van Holst Pellekaan.

USG Mayors & MPs

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

Media

- Spencer Gulf Cities website update.
- Monthly media releases.
- Upper Spencer Gulf twitter feeds.

Presentations

Coordinated presentations to Spencer Gulf Cities from:

- Solar Reserve, Louise Foote
- South Australian Regional Showcase Brand SA CEO, Karen Raffan
- 57-Films Executive Producers, Paul Ryan Chef Exchange TV Series
- South Australian Planning Commission, Chair of the State Planning Commission, Tim Anderson QC, and Mr David Lake (Senior Planner, DPT) provided an overview of the State Planning Commission
- Public Health Review, Mr Danny Broderick, Public Health Manager with the Local Government Association
- Ian Nightingale, South Australian Industry Advocate