

Expression of Interest to participate in the Joint Planning Arrangements Pilot Project (Proposal Form – nominations due 12 May 2017)

WHAT ARE JOINT PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS?

The *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (the PDI Act) allows groups of Councils to enter into Planning Agreements with the Minister. A planning agreement is a long-term arrangement that allows for planning functions to be delegated to regional groupings of Councils, subject to agreed performance measures and targets. Where relevant, other entities may be party to an agreement.

Each Planning Agreement is to be delivered by establishing a Joint Planning Board (with between three and seven members) to perform agreed functions (for example, regional planning or assessment). The process of establishing a board has been flexibly designed to allow for parties to determine the arrangements that suit them best.

In addition to allowing for planning powers to be delegated to Joint Planning Boards, Planning Agreements may also include other matters that may be agreed on by other Ministers (e.g. regional development or natural resource management).

Additional information about joint planning arrangements, including a fact sheet on how they operate, is available at www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au.

WHY A PILOT PROJECT?

The Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (the Department) is running a pilot program to assist Councils in identifying the benefits of this new approach to regional planning. It is acknowledged that Councils already have a series of tools available to them that are in many cases working well and should be continued.

However, we are looking for Councils that are interested in trying a new approach that will assist in cost sharing, improve coordination across a region and achieve greater community benefit. The learnings from the pilot program will be documented and used to create a toolkit for future Councils in preparing future planning agreements.

WHY GET INVOLVED?

To help support Councils with this new approach, the Department intends to engage a specialist in the area of governance and local government to work with Councils in identifying the benefits for them.

The Department has agreed to fund the coordinator and provide up to \$50,000 (on the basis that councils co-contribute dollar for dollar) to assist regions to develop business cases for the pilot program, and will also provide in-kind support to ensure a smooth and transparent process.

The program offers an opportunity for interested parties to obtain advice about the business elements that can be regionalised, costing and governance arrangements associated with their pilot project as part of the evaluation process headed by the Project Coordinator.

PILOT PROJECT SELECTION

Project nominations will be considered based on responses to the questions contained in the Proposal Form. The responses should be kept relatively short (a paragraph or two), and should endeavour to highlight the level of commitment from the council and what benefits are likely to stem from the project and commitment to seeing the pilot project through to completion.

Regions are expected to co-contribute a minimum of 50% of the cost of preparing business cases.

GOVERNANCE AND PROJECT COMMENCEMENT

The selection pilot projects that may be eligible for support funding will follow an evaluation process involving the Project Coordinator and DPTI Department staff. A decision about project nominations is expected to be made in the second quarter of 2017.

Once appointed, the Project Coordinator will be the primary contact for each successful pilot project proponent. The Department will inform successful pilot project proponents about the appointment in due course.

HOW TO APPLY?

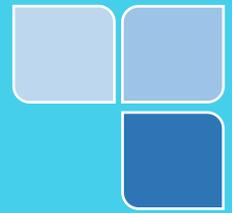
It will be essential for pilot project proponents to provide background information as per the attached **PROPOSAL FORM**.

Nominations for the pilot project will be accepted any time prior to the closing date for the Expression of Interest (EOI) by the Planning Reform Team, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure via:

Email	Post	In person
Attention: Anita Allen, Manager, Planning Reform C/- sharon.underwood@sa.gov.au	Attention: Anita Allen, Manager, Planning Reform Level 1, 211 Victoria Square Adelaide SA 5000 GPO Box 1815 Adelaide SA 5001	Attention: Anita Allen, Manager, Planning Reform Level 2, 211 Victoria Square Adelaide SA 5000

Nominations and preliminary information should be received no later than 5.00 pm on 12 May 2017

PROPOSAL FORM



Project Proponent Details

Council/other Entity

Name:	Spencer Gulf Cities Inc.
Address:	PO Box 677, PORT PIRIE SA 5540
Postal address:	PO Box 677, PORT PIRIE SA 5540

Primary contact *(this is the person that we will send all formal correspondence to)*

Name:	Anita Crisp
Position / title:	Executive Officer
Phone:	0427 609 404
Email:	ceo@upperspencergulf.com.au

Secondary contact *(if relevant)*

Name:	
Position / title:	
Phone:	
Email:	



1. Please provide the list of Councils that are proposing to be involved in the joint planning arrangements pilot study?

Council Name:	Contact:
Port Augusta City Council	Mr John Banks – CEO (ceo@portaugusta.sa.gov.au) Mr Tung Pham – Community Planner (Tung.Pham@portaugusta.sa.gov.au)
Port Pirie Regional Council	Dr Andrew Johnson – CEO; ceo@pirie.sa.gov.au Mr Grant McKenzie – Director Development & Regulation (gmckenzie@pirie.sa.gov.au)
City of Whyalla	Mr Chris Cowley – CEO (chris.cowley@whyalla.sa.gov.au) Ms Jodie Perone – A/Planning Manager (jodie.perone@whyalla.sa.gov.au)

2. What experience have these councils had in working cooperatively?

Port Pirie, Port Augusta and Whyalla Councils are the founding partners and continued financial members of Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group (trading as 'Spencer Gulf Cities') since its inception in 1997.

The alliance recognises the three districts have numerous similarities, with each based around a large, coastal city containing the bulk of the population of the relevant Council area. Each city also has strategic transport and intermodal facilities, primarily facilitating the export of commodities and manufactured goods. The economies of the three cities have historically been linked to a heavy industrial base linked to the resources industry and have, over many decades, been subject to sectoral and industry restructuring that has had a significant impact on the local workforce, alternating periods of economic growth and stagnation and extended periods of uncertainty.

The economy and social structure of the three cities is again undergoing substantial transformation as they move away from a traditional single industry manufacturing base and towards growth in renewable energy, arid agriculture and innovation, advanced manufacturing and mineral processing, defence industries and; event, marine and cultural tourism.

To help achieve this transition, the three Councils have recognised the importance of consolidating focus and effort by agencies on the specific future needs of the three cities, recognising their commonality of land-use, economy and social structure and their strong reliance on the marine environment of the Upper Spencer Gulf.

Over its 20-year history, the three Councils, through Spencer Gulf Cities, have already undertaken extensive collaboration in economic development, political advocacy, capacity building, environment and sustainability and land use planning, including the following initiatives:

- 2016 – Spencer Gulf Cities Federal Election Strategy
- 2016 – 'Transforming the Upper Spencer Gulf' synthesis report and strategic initiatives
- 2015 – Establishment of Spencer Gulf Cities Procurement Working Group
- 2015 – Business Case for Upper Spencer Gulf Higher Education and Research Centre
- 2015 – 'Opportunities for Growth' in Renewable Energy and CleanTech Sectors
- 2015 – Regional Biodiversity Management Plan (Adelaide University Environment Institute)
- 2015 – Upper Spencer Gulf Local Government Climate Change and Hazard Reduction Strategy (URPS)
- 2014 – Establishment of Upper Spencer Gulf Mayors and MPs Forum
- 2014 – Upper Spencer Gulf Residents, Employment and Socio-Economic Connections (Strategic Economic Solutions)
- 2014 – Upper Spencer Gulf Study Tour to Newcastle and Wollongong
- 2013 – Business Case for the Duplication of the Northern Gas Pipeline (CQ Partners)
- 2012 - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Local, State and Commonwealth Government provides strategic framework for coordinating effort to support economic diversification, prosperity and sustainable communities.
- 2012 – 'The Common Purpose': Advancing the Economic and Social Development of the Upper Spencer Gulf (SACES)
- 2006 – Investment Strategies for Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Whyalla

- 2004 – Enterprising Upper Spencer Gulf – Partners in Investment, Innovation and Employment (Outlook Management)
- 2003 – Innovation Activity in Business in the Upper Spencer Gulf (Outlook Management)
- 1999 – Transition of the Upper Spencer Gulf, National Rail Reform Program
- 1999 – Impact of Electricity Market Reform on the Upper Spencer Gulf

Two recent initiatives by the Councils of particular relevance to land use and development planning are:

“Upper Spencer Gulf Planning and Development Framework Feasibility Project” (Master plan, 2014)

This project evolved from a proposal by the three Councils to investigate a pilot for a regional service-sharing scheme arrangement to achieve consistent planning outcomes for the three Spencer Gulf cities. The report reviews current planning policy and investigates options for regional resource-sharing, with recommendations to provide a more coordinated, outcome focussed provisions of planning assessment services for industrial, commercial and other non-residential development within the region.

Whilst this report was undertaken prior to the finalisation of the South Australian Government's planning reform, the Masterplan report did note “... by taking an early collaborative approach, the three cities can position themselves to be at the forefront of reform processes, leading to an earlier realisation of benefits for local communities and economies....”.

“Upper Spencer Gulf Model Planning Provisions” (Donna Ferretti and Associates, 2015)

This project was undertaken as part of a Commonwealth-funded initiative to support better integration of economic, environmental and community values in the Upper Spencer Gulf. The report recognised that despite the common purpose and strong links between the three cities of Whyalla, Port Augusta and Port Pirie, they fall into different planning, natural resource management and economic development regions, hampering their ability to take a more strategic view of land use across the USG region and to implement consistent planning policy which recognise and optimise these commonalities.

In the context of the South Australian Government's planning reform, the Ferretti report specifically recommended that “..the Upper Spencer Gulf Councils work with the South Australian Government to develop a regional approach to planning which focuses on a single USG region and a single Region Plan as a volume of the South Australian Planning Strategy...”

3. What level of support has been gained by participating councils (eg Council EM endorsement)?

As a result of the recommendations in the Masterplan and Ferretti reports, the following consideration and action by the Port Pirie, Port Augusta and Whyalla Councils in relation to regional planning collaboration has occurred:

- 1) Spencer Gulf Cities workshop of Mayors and CEO's held Tuesday 25th August 2015 with Officers from the Local Government Association and Office of Local Government/Expert Panel on Planning Reform to consider opportunities and priorities for Council collaboration through the 'Council of the Future' report and the report by the Expert Panel on Planning Reform.
- 2) The 'Spencer Gulf Cities' Regional Planners Working Group was established in September 2015 to progress identified opportunities in relation to establishment of a joint planning board and regional development assessment panel by the Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Whyalla Councils.
- 3) Through this Working Group, an initial report into the “Opportunities for Regional Planning Arrangements” was prepared by Spencer Gulf Cities in February 2016 and tabled at the Whyalla, Port Augusta, Port Pirie Councils at their April/May 2016 Council meetings.

- 4) The three Councils considered and endorsed the recommendation in the report that: "...the Port Pirie, Whyalla and Port Augusta Councils agree in principle to investigate the establishment of a Regional Assessment Panel and Joint Planning Board..." Port Pirie Regional Council (27/04/2016); Port Augusta City Council (26/04/2016); City of Whyalla (23/05/2016)
- 5) The three Council Mayors and CEO's reinforced the decision by the three Councils and resolved through Spencer Gulf Cities to "Investigate establishment of a 'Spencer Gulf Cities' regional planning board" as a priority for 2016/17 and endorsed a budget allocation of \$30,000 to help progress this.
- 6) A follow up Scoping Paper "Planning Reforms and Opportunity for Upper Spencer Gulf Councils" was subsequently by Spencer Gulf Cities for Council information in August 2016.
- 7) With the introduction of the new *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* on 1 April 2017, a combined elected member workshop to commence this joint investigation has been scheduled for 8 June 2017. This will be the first of a series of elected member/staff workshops for the three Councils:
 - Workshop 1 (confirmed 8 June 2017) – introduction to joint planning boards: Planning Agreements, Joint Planning Boards, Regional Plans,
 - Workshop 2 (approx Nov 2017) – options for joint planning board boundaries, membership including state agencies, resourcing functions and delegations, regional DAP
 - Workshop 3 (Qtr 1, 2018) – further refinement of preferred option for planning board boundaries, membership, resourcing, functions and delegations
 - Workshop 4 (Qtr 2, 2018) – overview of regional planning including initial feedback on long-term vision for the region, overarching principals regarding land use, transport, infrastructure and the public realm, potential for 3 city structure/master plans.

4. What types of functions would the councils like to consider in the joint planning arrangements?

- 1) Land use planning
- 2) Other functions are expected to be determined through the scoping workshops, but indicatively may include development planning related functions, economic development, roads and transport, waste management, public health and parts of natural resource management

5. What resources have been or will be allocated to the project from the participating councils? (outline both monetary and in-kind resourcing)

The Port Pirie, Port Augusta and Whyalla Councils have each contributed \$30,000 this financial year to support the progress of collaboration initiatives being led through Spencer Gulf Cities, with approximately one third of this allocated specifically to planning reform.

In addition, the following resources have already been committed:

- Council Planning Managers – participation in bi-monthly 'Upper Spencer Gulf Planning Reform Working Group'
- Elected member participation in joint workshops
- Spencer Gulf Cities Executive Officer time and coordination
- Venue hire and engagement of external facilitator for elected member workshop 1 being held 08/06/17.

6. What funding support is being sought for business case development?

\$30,000 funding from DPTI, to be matched by Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Whyalla Councils through Spencer Gulf Cities.

This allocation has been endorsed and budgeted by the Spencer Gulf Cities board.