



Annual Report 2012-2013

South East Local Government Association

South East Local Government
Association Inc.

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Introduction

This document is the Annual Report of the South East Local Government Association Inc. for the period 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013. This report is prepared pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1999* to report to Constituent Councils on the work and operation of the Association for the preceding financial year.

This Report details the activities of the Association to represent and serve our Constituent Councils and to advance the Limestone Coast communities through effective advocacy, facilitation and innovation.

Our Association

The South East Local Government Association (SELGA) was established as a regional body on 6th October 1885.

SELGA is a regional subsidiary representing its Constituent Councils and is established pursuant to Section 43 of the *Local Government Act 1999* by the Constituent Councils. Under its Charter, SELGA's objects are to:

- Work in association with both the Local Government Association of South Australia and the Australian Local Government Association to assist in the achievement of their aims and objectives.
- Undertake co-ordinating, advocacy and representational roles on behalf of its Constituent Councils at a regional level.
- Facilitate and co-ordinate activities of local government at a regional level related to social, environmental and community development with the object of achieving improvement for the benefit of the communities of its Constituent Councils.
- Develop, encourage, promote, foster and maintain consultation and co-operation and to strengthen the representation and status of local government when dealing with other governments, private enterprise and the community.
- Develop further co-operation between its Constituent Councils for the benefit of the communities of its region.
- Develop and manage policies which guide the conduct of programs and projects in its region with the objective of securing the best outcomes for the communities of the region.
- Undertake projects and activities that benefit its region and its communities.
- Associate, collaborate and work in conjunction with other regional local government bodies for the advancement of matters of common interest.
- Implement programs that seek to deliver local government services on a regional basis.

SELGA Constituent Councils

The Association is comprised of the following Constituent Councils:

- City of Mount Gambier
- District Council of Grant
- Kingston District Council
- Naracoorte Lucindale Council
- District Council of Robe
- Tatiara District Council
- Wattle Range Council

Office Bearers 2012-2013

President	Mayor Richard Vickery
Vice President	Mayor Evan Flint
Executive Officer	Mr Rob Forgan (to 08/02/13) Ms Ann Aldersey (from 20/05/13)
Auditor	Galpins

Our Staff 2012-2013

Executive Officer	Mr Rob Forgan (to 08/02/13) Ms Ann Aldersey (from 20/05/13)
Acting Executive Officer	Mr Frank Brennan (from 12/02/13 to 24/04/13)
SELGA STARCLUB Field Officer	Ms Josephine Duigan

Constituent Council Delegates to the Association

Council	Delegate	Proxy Delegate
City of Mount Gambier	Mayor Steve Perryman	Cr Merv White Cr Ian Von Stanke (from 01/02/13)
District Council of Grant	Mayor Richard Sage	Cr Brian Collins Cr Bruce Bain
Wattle Range Council	Mayor Peter Gandolfi	Cr Rob Dycer
District Council of Robe	Mayor Peter Riseley	Cr Harvey Nolan
Kingston District Council	Mayor Evan Flint	Cr Chris England Cr Sid Frankling
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	Mayor Erika Vickery	Cr Ann Bell (to 31/01/13) Cr John Flynn (from 01/02/13)
Tatiara District Council	Mayor Richard Vickery	Cr Graham Excell Cr John Ross

Coorong District Council attends SELGA meetings as observers. The Coorong District Council is represented by Mayor Roger Strother (with Cr. Neville Jaensch as proxy) and the Chief Executive Officer Mr Michael Boyd, with Mr Timothy Tol as proxy.

SELGA Delegates to the Local Government Association of South Australia

The following representatives are elected under the provisions of the Constitution of the Local Government Association:

- Delegate to the State Executive (SE Zone) Mayor Richard Vickery, Tatiara District Council
- Proxy Delegate to the LGA State Executive Mayor Evan Flint, Kingston District Council

Delegates (2) to the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils

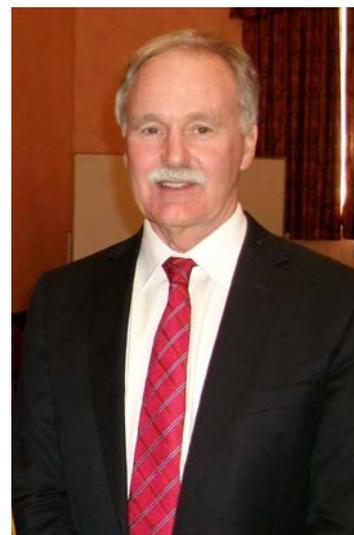
- Mayor Richard Vickery
- Mayor Evan Flint (Proxy)
- Mr Rob Forgan (to 08/02/13)
- Ms Ann Aldersey (from 20/05/13)

The South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) is an important LGA committee for non-metropolitan Councils. Membership is drawn from each of the six non-metropolitan Regional Local Government Associations with members meeting bi-monthly to discuss the key issues affecting non-metropolitan Councils.

Presidents Report 2012-13

During the last twelve months, SELGA has continued its strong advocacy role for the South East on a range of issues at regional, state and national levels.

Following the forward sale of Forestry SA's South East plantations, we initiated extensive interaction with the State Government on enhancing the economic diversity and growth here in the region. Ultimately the Premier convened the Limestone Coast Economic Diversification Forum in September. Following the Forum, which brought together visionary industry, government and local leadership, SELGA convened the Limestone Coast Economic Diversification Reference Group in order to progress the recommendations of the Forum. In conjunction with Primary Industry and Regions SA, we engaged the Forum convenor, Mr Dennis Mutton, who with his extensive networks and knowledge of government, research and development, innovation and primary industries has been very effective in engaging government agencies, the research and education sectors and private companies. One of the main objectives for the reference group is to take up the offer to present to the State Government's Growing Advanced Manufacturing and Premium Food and Wine from our Clean Environment Cabinet Taskforces, with presentations having already been made to the Senior Officers Groups that inform the taskforces. One of the first results of this work was the extensive Cellulose Fibre Chain Study conducted by renowned Finnish research institute VTT. Significant grant funds have also flowed to the forestry products sector during this time. Some of the many initiatives of the Reference Group are highlighted later in the report.



Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast has worked closely with SELGA during this process and provides two members to the Reference Group. While RDA is going to be significantly challenged by the cessation of operational funding from the State Government from July 2013, their continued viability is crucial for the region's economic progress.

Recognising the potential competitive advantage of access to high-speed broadband, SELGA promoted strongly for the entire South East, not just Keith, Bordertown and Kingston, to be in round one of the rollout of the NBN fibre optic network and were particularly pleased when the Federal government announced that this would be the case. This will mean that the whole of our region will be serviced by either satellite, radio or fibre optic high-speed broadband by 2016.

At the SAROC and State Executive levels we have continued to have strong input into the formulation of local government and state government policies that affect both our region and the operations of our councils. The regional perspective and influence of SAROC is well respected within the South Australian Local Government Association.

We appreciate the attendance at SELGA meetings by key Coorong District Council representatives and value their collaboration on matters where we have mutual interests.

Between our meetings the SELGA CEOs group continues to work with great effect to enhance the ability of councils to work productively for our mutual benefit. I would like to thank Mr Mark McShane for his work in chairing this group.

In February our Executive Officer Mr Rob Forgan retired from his role. Rob contributed five valuable years to SELGA and his work was characterised by a genuine passion for and understanding of the region. He demonstrated absolute integrity and was highly regarded within the region, and more broadly at local government and State government levels. His

commitment to the region and his abilities were perhaps best demonstrated by his management of an extensive process which led to the Federal government changing the rules for access by students in Mount Gambier and some other areas of rural Australia which were deemed to be Inner Regional, to levels of Youth Allowance commensurate to that received by other students in regional Australia. We wish Rob and his family all the best in his retirement.

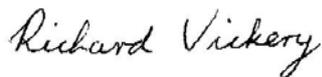
Local government also lost the services of long serving CEO of Wattle Range Council Mr Frank Brennan. Frank's contribution to local government over several decades has been outstanding and he has been a mentor for both employees and elected members involved in local government.

In late May we welcomed Miss Ann Aldersey to the role of SELGA Executive Officer. Ann brings a broad range of skills to the organisation and is a committed resident of our region.

Josephine Duigan, Biddie Shearing and Julie Scott complete the small but highly effective SELGA team and I congratulate them on their contribution to our important work.

SELGA is very well served by many elected members and council staff who make themselves available for our various committees and representing local government on outside organisations.

I would like to thank board members for their collective knowledge and their dedication to the South East, and particularly thank Mayor Evan Flint for his support as SELGA Deputy President.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Vickery".

Mayor Richard Vickery
SELGA President

Our Board

The Board held six ordinary bi-monthly General Meetings, two Special Meetings and the Annual General Meeting (February 2013) during 2012-13. The SELGA Board comprises the seven Mayors of the Constituent Councils, and is chaired by the SELGA President Mayor Richard Vickery. Meetings are also attended by Council CEOs. Meetings are hosted by Constituent Councils on a rotational basis, with every second meeting held at the central location of Naracoorte.

Initiatives and issues acted on by the Board during 2012-13 included:

- Response to the South East Drainage System Operation and Management Bill 2012, including the proposal for a landholder levy to fund the maintenance of the drainage network
- Consultation on the proposed South East Flows Restoration Project, including the process for community and landowner input
- The Limestone Coast Economic Diversification Forum, including the formation of a Reference Group to implement resulting actions
- The forward sale of the harvesting rights of the Forestry SA plantation estate
- Advocating for State Government funding to Regional Development Australia Boards, and the renewal of the funding agreement with Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast
- The investigation of potential for a regional Development Assessment Panel, and a regional approach to development planning and approval
- The over-abundance of kangaroos in the Lower South East
- The need for further State funding of Council-run Visitor Information Centres
- The security of Telstra exchanges and reliability of communications in the Limestone Coast
- The reduction of funding for the South East Veterans Information Centre
- Mental health and anxiety disorder services in regional South Australia, including the 'Great Step Forward Program'
- Development of a safe and well communicated process for the disposal of marine flares
- Funding for the engagement of a Regional Road Safety Officer in the South East
- Promotion of the responsible use of South Australian Parks and Reserves for four-wheel driving, and the investigation of appropriate four-wheel drive opportunities in the region
- The schedule and priority of the NBN Rollout in the Limestone Coast
- The continuation of State Government funding for Regional Development Australia committees beyond 30 June 2013
- Attracting funding to the region via the Regional Development Australia Fund

- The closure of Zero Waste SA, and the quantum and use of the Solid Waste Levy
- The approval of projects submitted to the Special Local Roads Program
- The development of a project to write a Regional Trails Master Plan
- The risk to biosecurity and the potato industry from potentially diseased imported potatoes, and the importance of appropriate quarantine measures
- The loss of local WIN TV news service, and the need for local television content

Guest Speakers

In order to ensure SELGA is well briefed on current issues and initiatives in the region, a wide range of presentations were provided at SELGA General Meetings during 2012-13. Guest speakers included:

- Ms Elaine Carbines, CEO, Geelong Regional Alliance G21
- Mr Duncan Bremner and Mr Chris Gregory, Regional Stakeholder Relations, NBN Co
- Mr Tim Collins, Regional Manager, Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources
- Mr Andrew Johnson, Executive Director and Dr Glenn Shimmin, Manager South East Water, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
- Mr Tim Bond, Manager Planning and Evaluation, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
- Mr David Walshaw, CEO of Medicare Local
- Mr Dennis Mutton, Convener of the Limestone Coast Economic Diversification Forum
- Mr Jason Drewitt, Operations Manager Region 5, Country Fire Service
- Mr Nick Jones, Ms Emma Fletcher and Mr Peter Cahalan, South Australian Tourism Commission
- Mr Mark Bolton and Mr John Bannister, Telstra
- Mr Richard Bingham, South Australian Ombudsman
- Ms Jean Kerlake, Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia
- Ms Lois Rose-Smith, Life without Borders and Sergeant Rick Grimes of SAPOL

Association Committees & Working Parties

To undertake specific projects or fulfil areas of operational responsibility, SELGA convenes a number of committees and working parties. SELGA acknowledges the work of all who have contributed to the following committees and working parties throughout 2012-13.

Committee / Working Party	Representative	Council
SELGA Roads and Transport Working Group	Cr Robert Mock (Chair)	Tatiara District Council
SELGA SE Road Safety Strategy Steering Group	Mr Rob Forgan (Convenor)	SELGA
SELGA Recreation and Sport Steering Committee	Mr Frank Brennan	Wattle Range Council
	Mr Rob Forgan	SELGA
	<i>From 01/02/13, the SELGA CEOs Group has assumed the role of Recreation and Sport Steering Committee.</i>	
SE Local Government Inspectorate Group (SELGIG)	Mr John Best (Convenor)	Wattle Range Council
SELGA Building Fire Safety Committee	Mayor Erika Vickery	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
	Cr Brian Collins	District Council of Grant
	Cr Dave Moreland (to 31/01/13)	Kingston District Council
	Mr Milan Hodak (from 01/02/13)	Kingston District Council
Coorong and Limestone Coast Coastal Management Committee	Cr Robert Mock	Tatiara District Council
Limestone Coast Economic Diversification Reference Group	Mayor Richard Vickery (Chair)	Tatiara District Council
	Dr Helen Macdonald	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
	Mr Mark McShane	City of Mount Gambier
	Mr Rob Forgan Ms Ann Aldersey	SELGA

Committee / Working Party	Representative	Council
SELGA – RDA Limestone Coast Funding Agreement Working Party (from 01/02/13 to 28/06/13)	Mayor Richard Vickery (Chair)	Tatiara District Council
	Mayor Richard Sage	Grant District Council
	Dr Helen Macdonald	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
	Mr Mark McShane	City of Mount Gambier
	Mr Trevor Smart	District Council of Grant
	Mr Frank Brennan Ms Ann Aldersey	SELGA
SELGA Development Assessment Panel Working Party	Mayor Richard Vickery (Chair)	Tatiara District Council
	Mayor Erika Vickery	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
	Mayor Peter Riseley	District Council of Robe
	Mr Trevor Smart	Grant District Council
	Mr Peter Harriott	Wattle Range Council

Association Representation – Other Bodies

SELGA has numerous representatives on working parties, boards and committees including State Government boards, cross border bodies and regional boards and committees. This representation allows SELGA to keep in touch with communities, and have input to new and existing initiatives.

During 2012-13, SELGA made or continued the following appointments to other bodies.

Board / Committee	Representative	Council
Anglicare Community Care	Mr Glenn Brown	Wattle Range Council
Limestone Coast Tourism	Cr Penny Richardson	City of Mount Gambier
	Cr Erika Vickery	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
	<i>Limestone Coast Tourism was disbanded in late 2012</i>	
Limestone Coast Community Services Roundtable	Mr Rob Forgan	SELGA
Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast	Mayor Richard Vickery	Tatiara District Council
	Mayor Erika Vickery	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
	Cr Harvey Nolan	District Council of Robe
	Cr Darren O'Halloran	Wattle Range Council
South East Natural Resources Management Board	Dr Helen Macdonald	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
SE Regional Bush Fire Prevention Committee	Mr David Hood	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
SE Resource Information Centre (SERIC)	Mr Tom Krieger	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
Green Triangle Freight Action Plan Implementation Group	Mr Rob Forgan	SELGA
	Proxy Cr Merv White	City of Mount Gambier
Group Training Employment (GTE)	Cr Julie Reis	District Council of Grant
South East Zone Emergency Management Committee	Mr Rob Forgan (Local Government Controller)	SELGA
	Mr Ken Stratton (Deputy Local Government Controller)	Grant District Council
Limestone Coast Strategic Youth Coalition	Mr Rob Forgan	SELGA

SELGA CEO's Forum

During 2012-13, the SELGA Council CEO's and the SELGA Executive Officer held bi-monthly forums, hosted by the Naracoorte Lucindale Council.

The purpose of the CEO Forum is to provide coordination and alignment on high priority operational issues between Councils.

Meetings explore opportunities for regional policy alignment, knowledge sharing, and coordinated approaches to common issues and operations. SELGA acknowledges the work of Mr Mark McShane (CEO, City of Mount Gambier) as the convener of the Forum, and Mrs Lynne Dowling (Team Leader Executive Support, City of Mount Gambier) for executive support to the group.

Topics of discussion and briefings included:

- The NBN Rollout schedule and regional priority
- Regional training needs, including support from the LGA with identification of training opportunities
- The Limestone Coast Economic Diversification Forum, including regional approaches and representation
- Internal audit requirements and processes
- Regional disaster resilience and council planning for disaster resilience
- Opportunities for collaboration on Local Government procurement methods
- The opportunity for a regional project for submission under the Biodiversity Fund
- Fire and emergency management
- Regional Planning
- Road Safety partnerships
- SE Resource Information Centre
- Shared Services Projects
- Waste Management
- Tourism Industry Development Project Plan 2012-13

STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES 2012-2013

The reporting of the Association's activities during 2012-13 is grouped under the five strategic priorities of: infrastructure; economy; environment; social well being; and leadership, governance and financial sustainability.

Our Infrastructure

“Working together to ensure that Regional Infrastructure is fit for purpose and has the capacity to meet member Councils’ and the respective communities expectations.”

Infrastructure is a constant and priority issue for all SELGA Constituent Councils. The requirement for new and replacement infrastructure is critical for regional Australia. SELGA works closely with Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast to identify priority infrastructure projects and seek funding for key projects.

SELGA continues to advocate for improved infrastructure in critical areas of transport, health, education, communications and recreation.

Our Association was supportive of a number of Regional Development Australia funding projects providing evidence to support the submissions developed by member Councils.

In August 2012, the SELGA Executive Officer Rob Forgan presented to the 20th Local Government Roads and Works Conference on the infrastructure needs and challenges in the Limestone Coast.

Airports

The SELGA-initiated study into the existing and future infrastructure needs for airports owned and operated by Regional Councils was completed in June 2012. SELGA continues to work with the Constituent Councils with responsibilities for airports to further the recommendations of the report, as well as the LGA.

As the owner and operator of the Mount Gambier Airport, Grant District Council was awarded significant State Government funding in 2012-13 to undertake a runway lighting upgrade, and to develop a long term secure car park, which includes the development of a paid, secure car park for the increasing number of Fly In Fly Out employees.

SELGA Roads and Transport Working Group

The SELGA Roads and Transport Working Group focused on two priority projects for 2012-13: the process for identifying, evaluating and ranking roads projects that qualify for Special Local Roads Program (SLRP) Grant funding; and the development of the 2030 Regional Transport Plan.

Special Local Roads Program

\$1.405 million in roads funding was awarded to the region in 2012-13 under the Special Local Roads Program (Refer to Table 1).

Table 1: SELGA Special Local Roads Program Allocation 2012-13

Ranking	Project	Council	Stage	Purpose	SLRP (\$)
R1	Emu Flat Road 5 km of 21.3 km	Tatiara District Council	Year 2/4	Freight	325,000
R2	Border Road South 1.8 km of 3 km	District Council of Grant	Year 2/2	Social	100,000
R3	Mundulla-Padthaway Road 4.8 km	Tatiara District Council	Year 1/1	Freight	336,000
R4	Wrights Bay Road 1.75 km of 5.35	District Council of Robe	Year 1/3	Freight	204,400
R5	Old Coorong Road 10 km	Kingston District Council	Year 2/2	Tourism	80,000
R6	Mount Charles Road 9.6 km	Tatiara District Council	Year 1/1	Social	150,000
R7	Meyers Road 3 km of 10.6 km	District Council of Grant	Year 1/4	Tourism	210,000
TOTAL					1,405,000

In April 2013, SELGA endorsed eight road funding applications for consideration in the 2013-14 SLRP round, comprising five freight roads, two tourism roads and one community road for a total of \$2.11 million.

All submissions acknowledged Local Government Transport Advisory Panel requirements for financially sustaining the whole of life maintenance of the roads with each application undergoing an independent analysis and assessment.

These submissions sought 50% of total project costs for much needed road infrastructure work in the Limestone Coast.

SELGA 2030 Transport Plan

In June 2012, HDS Australia was engaged by SELGA to prepare its 2030 Transport Plan. The 2030 Transport Plan is a strategic level assessment of transport needs and priorities within the Limestone Coast region for the period from 2012 to 2030. It officially replaces the 2020 Transport Strategy, which has reached the end of its period of operation.

Overall, the project entailed three distinct stages, namely:

- Identification of land use and regional transport demands
- Development of updated Regionally Significant Routes for the South East, for freight, tourism and community demand; and
- Preparation of a Final Report.

The project was overseen by the SELGA Roads and Transport Working Group, who provided significant input into the planning process.

The Final Report is a study of the future requirements for the Limestone Coast region based on current and predicted demands for road, rail, sea and air transport for current and emerging industries, tourism and domestic vehicle movements.

The Plan provides a blueprint and a practical implementation plan to meet the transport infrastructure and transport service needs of the Limestone Coast that will enhance the economic development of the region.

The Final SELGA 2030 Regional Transport Plan will be considered for adoption at the October 2013 SELGA General Meeting.

Integrated Land Use and Transport Strategy

As part of the development of the South Australia Integrated Land Use and Transport Strategy, representatives from the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure met with SELGA Delegates and Constituent Council representatives in June 2013. SELGA provided input on the key regional issues for integrating land use and transport planning in the region. The draft Integrated Land Use and Transport Strategy is due for release at the end of September 2013.

South East Drainage Infrastructure

SELGA has long supported the work of the South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board in maintaining and operating the regional drainage network, which delivers significant agriculture, transport and environmental benefits to the region. During the year, SELGA considered the proposed South East Flows Restoration Project, and worked with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources to consult with the South East community on the project.

The SELGA Board and SELGA Constituent Councils also considered the South East Drainage System Operation and Management Bill (the SEDSOM Bill). In particular, SELGA strongly advocated against the introduction of a drainage levy on landowners.

SELGA continues to advocate at the regional, state and federal level for a well-maintained drainage and bridge network in the region, and seeks opportunities to attract ongoing government investment.

The Green Triangle Freight Action Plan

SELGA has an ongoing involvement in the Green Triangle Freight Action Plan (GTFAP) which was launched by the South Australian and Victorian Government Transport Ministers in April 2009. GTFAP includes the South East and the Western Districts of Victoria and sets out a range of key strategic investments needed to accommodate the current freight task, address capacity constraints, and manage the significant increase in freight due in part to the growth in the plantation timber industry.

SELGA in close collaboration with Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast and the South Australian Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure is a member of the GTFAP Implementation Management Group.

Together with Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast, SELGA supported an application by the Glenelg Shire Council to upgrade the Condah-Hotspur Road, an action identified in the Plan.

Telecommunications

SELGA continues to monitor changes and opportunities to Government policy and funding at Commonwealth and State Government levels by maintaining contact with Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology, the Department for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, NBNCO, TELSTRA and Industry.

Heritage Advisory Services

The Heritage Advisory Service provides for the proper care and management of heritage assets within the Local Government areas of the City of Mount Gambier, Grant, Kingston, Naracoorte Lucindale, Tatiara and Wattle Range.

On 1st July 2012, the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) withdrew funding for the State Heritage Advisory Service. SELGA corresponded with the DEWNR Chief Executive regarding its concerns over the loss of this valuable service. SELGA raised concerns through SAROC and the LGA Board, resulting in correspondence with the Treasurer and the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation highlighting the impact of the removal of the State Heritage Advisory Service.

In 2012-13, SELGA engaged Habitable Places Architects to provide Heritage Advisory Services, with bi-monthly visits to the region. The cost of this service was met by participating SELGA Councils. This service was subject to a 6-month review. Following the review, it was decided to continue the Heritage Advisory Service by Agreement with Habitable Places Architects during 2012-13.

A copy of the Heritage Adviser's Annual Report for 2012-13 is available from participating Councils or from SELGA.

Waste Management

Waste Management remains a critical regional infrastructure issue for all Member Councils and is a significant budget expense.

Opportunities continue to be sought for regional solutions and for shared services and facilities within our region and remains on the agenda.

Issues that received attention in 2012-13 included the Solid Waste Levy, e-Waste collection, the handling and disposal of green waste and the high cost of freighting recycled material from regional areas to metropolitan processing centres. During 2012-13, several councils and many townships have had to close landfills, which have been replaced by Waste Transfer Stations. Substantial costs have been incurred by those councils to export their waste to accredited landfill sites north of the River Murray.

Community Wastewater Management Schemes (CWMS)

SELGA rural Councils have been active in CWMS construction projects during the year. Work is continuing in this field with projects that utilise remote control systems. SELGA recognises the work of the SELGA CWMS Users Group.

Zero Waste SA

It was announced that the South Australian Government will wind up Zero Waste SA in 2015/2016. SELGA raised concerns regarding the increase in the Solid Waste Levy, and the continual inability of Local Government to access appropriate funding from the resulting Waste to Resources Fund. This issue was raised by SELGA in SAROC, which then furthered the matter with the Minister.

In May 2013, SELGA submitted a project application for funding under ZWSA's Regional Implementation Program for a Regional Waste Management Coordinator for the South East. If successful, the Coordinator would support SELGA Councils to further a number of initiatives, including regional waste management contracts, community engagement programs, compliance, and a regional waste management strategy.

Our Economy

“Working together to create a thriving and sustainable economy capitalising on our diverse assets, sustaining growth, prosperity and employment throughout the region.”

Limestone Coast Economic Diversification Forum and Reference Group

A key priority for SELGA in 2012-13 has been strong involvement in the Limestone Coast Economic Diversification Forum process.

To assist the Limestone Coast region identify opportunities for growth, The Premier convened the Limestone Coast Economic Diversification Forum (Forum) in September 2012. The event brought together twenty three visionary leaders with an understanding of the region’s challenges and ability to think innovatively around emerging and future economic development opportunities.

The final report *Limestone Coast Economic Diversification – Building a more prosperous future, Nov 2012* provided a blueprint for future actions for economic diversification in the region. It was intended that the outcome from the Forum would inform the work of the Premium Food and Wine from our Clean Environment and the Growing Advanced Manufacturing Cabinet Taskforces.

Following the release of the report, SELGA convened the Limestone Coast Economic Diversification Reference Group, in order to further the recommendations of the Forum in consultation with community and industry leaders, and finalise submissions to the Cabinet Taskforces.

The Limestone Coast Economic Diversification Reference Group (Reference Group) is chaired by SELGA President Richard Vickery. The Reference Group includes representatives from SELGA, Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast Board member Mr Alan Richardson and CEO Mr Mike Ryan, and works with Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA) Regional Manager Limestone Coast Ms Peta Crewe, and representatives from the Department of Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy. SELGA has engaged Mr Dennis Mutton, the Forum’s convener, to form part of the Reference Group. SELGA has developed the Terms of Reference for the Reference Group.

The group meets monthly and continues to work with funding support from PIRSA and SELGA.

The Reference Group has provided submissions to the cross-agency Senior Officers Groups for Growing Advanced Manufacturing, and Premium Food and Wine from our Clean Environment.

Growing Advanced Manufacturing

The outcomes of the Forum called for value adding and diversification for existing industries in the region, specifically forestry and timber. To deliver these objectives, the South Australian Government has engaged VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, as part of a \$1.08 million project to undertake a Cellulose Fibre Chain Value Study to identify a sustainable roadmap and achievable market opportunity for higher value activity in the forestry section.

The results of the Forum also highlighted opportunities for growth in renewable and alternative energy, a regional innovation hub, and the need to mobilise regional leaders. The Reference Group presented a series of recommendations for specific future actions to the Growing Advanced Manufacturing Senior Officer's Group.

Premium Food and Wine from our Clean Environment

To realise the outcomes of the Forum, the Reference Group has worked with the opportunities and challenges as detailed, and developed a number of proposals relating to: the beef/sheep meat industry, horticulture, wine, a Limestone Coast Innovation Hub, and mobilising regional leaders. Representatives of the Reference Group presented these recommendations to the Senior Officers Group in May 2013.

The recommendations to both of these groups have been to forward the proposals to the relevant Cabinet Taskforces to inform their priority setting, as intended by The Premier when the Forum was convened.

Since its formation in 2012, the Reference Group has undertaken the following actions:

- Provided a submission during the public consultation on the *Premium Food and Wine from our Clean Environment Concept Statement* to ensure the priorities for the Limestone Coast region fed into opportunities for successful delivery of this strategic document.
- The City of Mt Gambier Mayor and CEO met with the Minister Agriculture, Food & Fisheries, Regional Development & Forestry to provide an update on the work of the Reference Group.
- Conducted a Livestock Focus Group discussion with significant support from DEWNR Regional Landcare Facilitators.
- Reference Group members met with the Chief Executive of PIRSA.
- Participated in Cellulose Fibre Value Chain Study. Two members of the Reference Group sit on the Steering Committee for this project.
- Chaired two public briefing sessions on the VTT project, at the request of DMITRE.
- Engaged with University of South Australia regarding an Innovation Hub.
- Met with Professor Goran Roos, Chair of VTT Steering Committee and Chair of the Advanced Manufacturing Council.
- Provided updates at SELGA meetings in April and June.

PIRSA Regional Manager Peta Crewe has provided considerable time and expertise to the Reference Group, and has been instrumental in furthering a wide range of actions.

Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast (RDALC)

Regional Development Australia is a partnership between three levels of Government to support the development of regional Australia.

SELGA is a partner in a Funding Agreement 2010 - 2013 with the Minister for Regional Development and RDALC. This Agreement forms a tripartite commitment to economic development in the Limestone Coast region.

Local Government is represented on RDALC by four SELGA Constituent Council representatives.

In September 2012, Mr Mark Braes resigned as Chair of RDALC. SELGA recognises the strong leadership role that Mark performed during his time as Chair, and welcomes Dr Ruth Schubert to the position of Chair.

The State Government signalled during 2012 that it would no longer fund RDA organisations after 30 June 2013. SELGA strongly advocated for the retention of State funding for RDAs, highlighting the value in the tripartite relationship and the importance of State funding for the sustainability of the RDA model. As part of this advocacy, SELGA wrote to the Independent Member for Mt Gambier and Member for MacKillop to lobby for Members of State Parliament to secure the continuation of State Government operational funding for RDAs post 30 June 2013.

Despite the impact on the sustainability of RDAs without State funding, the State Government confirmed its intention to cease funding provision. Throughout 2012-13, SELGA worked with RDALC to put in place a funding agreement for post 30 June 2013, including the development of alignment of strategic objectives and key performance indicators. In June 2013, SELGA endorsed the establishment of a Funding Agreement with RDALC for two years, to 30 June 2015.

SELGA and RDALC continue to collaborate on various issues, and in particular on actions arising from the Economic Diversification Forum.

SELGA has provided significant input into RDALC Roadmap and Business Planning documents. RDALC provide regular updates to delegates at SELGA General Meetings and the RDALC monthly and quarterly reports are distributed to Constituent Councils via SELGA's Executive Officer.

For a copy of the Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast 2012-2013 Annual Report visit: www.rdalimestonecoast.org.au

Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF)

The Regional Development Australia Fund is providing almost \$1 billion over five years to finance projects that will boost economic and community development in regional Australia.

The Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) represents an opportunity to address infrastructure needs in regional communities. Applications must be endorsed by local Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committees and align with the Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast "*Regional Roadmap*".

The RDAF was rolled out over five rounds. In 2012-13, SELGA Constituent Councils submitted a number of applications for Rounds Three, Four and Five.

- RDAF Round Three was worth \$50 million and provided grants of between \$50,000 and \$500,000 for projects located in towns with a population of 30,000 or less. Two applications were submitted from SELGA Constituent Councils, from the Robe District Council, and the Tatiara District Council. The Tatiara District Council was awarded \$115,600 for the upgrade of the Mundulla Bowling Club Green.
- RDAF Round Four will allocate \$175 million through grants of between \$500,000 and \$15 million for priority regional infrastructure projects that also leverage funding from state and local governments and the private sector. Three Councils submitted applications in Round Four in June 2013, and it was announced that the District Council of Grant will be awarded \$726,127 for the upgrade of the Port MacDonnell marina; however this contract is yet to be finalised.
- RDAF Round 5 will provide \$953,405 for Local Government across the region, however it is yet to be confirmed.

Regional Tourism

SELGA Consistent Councils continue to support tourism industry development across the Limestone Coast. SELGA, together with the Coorong District Council, are partners in a Funding Agreement with RDALC to engage a Tourism Development Officer for the Limestone Coast.

This long standing partnership enabled the forward planning and implementation of marketing strategies that would maintain and increase visitor numbers to our Limestone Coast region.

As in 2011-12, the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) investment in regional tourism was redirected to pooling marketing dollars in a drive to generate greater impact and to concentrate on reversing the trend of falling intrastate visitors.

In late 2012-13, SATC announced that it was increasing its allocation to regions in 2012-13 and 2013-14. SELGA welcomed the \$30,000 per year contribution of SATC to support the provision of a local tourism contact person in the region, and the implementation of priority actions.

Employed by RDALC, the Tourism Development Officer Biddie Shearing continues to drive tourism development in the region with a focus on access, on-line distribution, events, experiences and accommodation and tourism infrastructure. The tourism program for the region continues to deliver a number of actions from the Limestone Coast Destination Action Plan, including a focus on facilitating an increase in four star accommodation, and preparation to host cruise ships in Robe.

South Australian Centre for Economic Studies

The LGA, in conjunction with RDA SA commissioned the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies (SACES) to conduct an independent review of the seven Regional Development Australia Boards in South Australia, and provide recommendations on business structure, role and future service delivery on behalf of local, state and federal government agencies.

SELGA Consistent Councils, and SELGA via SAROC, provided information toward the review, including an assessment of the performance of RDA Limestone Coast.

The review made a number of key recommendations, including the need for the State Government to reinstate core funding to RDAs, as well as the improved collaboration of State Government with RDA Board Chairs and CEOs.

South East Resource Information Centre (SERIC)

SELGA is a funding partner of the South East Resource Information Centre, a non-profit organisation established in 2003 by a group of partners from government and non-government organisations including agencies, local government and industry.

SERIC has assisted Constituent Councils and SELGA in their decision making and management by employing spatial technologies and utilising data and products held and developed by SERIC. During 2012-13, SERIC provided key information to support the development of the 2030 Regional Transport Plan, as well as a number of council specific projects.

Industry

Throughout 2012-13, SELGA continued to advocate on behalf of the region's industries, in particular the forestry, horticulture and livestock industries. In October 2012, the Select Committee on Sustainable Farming Practices visited the South East region. SELGA supported the visit by providing links to industry innovators, relevant industry groups, as well as making a submission to the Committee.

Bio-security for the Potato Industry

In response to concerns regarding the bio-security threat posed to the State's potato industry by the import of whole potatoes to Australia, SELGA led a State-wide campaign with other regional LGAs for the strengthening of quarantine restrictions. In particular, the threat of imported potatoes introducing 'zebra stripe' to Australia poses a considerable risk to industry and communities in the region. SELGA wrote to:

- the Member for Barker expressing our fear for the Limestone Coast and the Australian potato industry with a recent Federal Government report suggesting reversing an import ban on NZ potatoes; and
- Independent South Australian Senator Nick Xenophon supporting his continued efforts that call for both sides of politics to amend the Quarantine Act, amendments that will prevent risks to Australian Bio-Security and protect Australian primary industries and regional communities.; and further to the recommendation write to;
- All South Australian Senators and the Hon Joe Ludwig, Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries & the Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, John Cobb, MP

The SELGA Executive Officer coordinated a joint submission from the Presidents of the South East, the Murray and Mallee, Southern and Hills, and the Central Local Government Associations on this issue.

Live Animal Export Trade

In late 2012 the City of Port Adelaide Enfield passed a motion to advocate for the phasing out of the live animal export trade. In order to raise awareness regarding the negative impact of this motion on the economy of the South East, and other regional areas of South Australia, SELGA brought the matter to SAROC. Further, SELGA representatives met with the LGA to discuss the need for a common Local Government approach to this issue, as well as meeting with the Mayor of the City of Port Adelaide Enfield.

Our Environment

“Working together, to responsibly manage our natural environment and resources, ensuring its sustainability and diversity”.

South East Natural Resources Management (SENRM) Board

The SENRM Board plays an active role in the management of the region’s soil, water, ecosystems, coast and marine environments.

The SENRM Board Presiding Member, the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources Regional Manager and other NRM staff addressed SELGA Delegates throughout 2012-13 on various issues, including the Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan, the NRM levy, community programs, pest plant and animal control and the Board’s Strategic and annual business plans.

SELGA provided input into the SENRM draft Business Plan for 2013-14.

Frank Brennan, former CEO of Wattle Range Council is the Presiding Member of the NRM Board. SELGA is currently represented on the SENRM Board by Dr Helen Macdonald of Naracoorte Lucindale Council.

In April 2013, SELGA submitted an application for funding under the Australian Government’s Biodiversity Fund for the ‘Improving Strategic Biodiversity Conservation on Community Land – Limestone Coast’.

Native Vegetation

SELGA and SELGA Constituent Councils continued to provide input to the Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) and the Native Vegetation Council on the issue of providing safer road infrastructure and in particular road side vegetation. This matter was also addressed through comment provided on the Native Vegetation (Road Verges) Amendment Bill 2012.

Coast and Marine

Marine Parks

Nineteen South Australian Marine Parks were proclaimed in 2012, including the Upper South East and Lower South East Marine Parks. SELGA maintained its position on Marine Parks acknowledging the intent of the Marine Park legislation and the importance of protecting our marine environment, and the need to balance regional economic and community interests.

SELGA remained supportive of our coastal Councils and their communities and the position taken by the SE Professional Fisherman’s Association and the SE Recreational Fisherman’s Association.

Limestone Coast and Coorong Coastal Management Group (LCCCMG)

The commitment shown by members of the Limestone Coast and Coorong Coastal Management Group (LCCCMG) helps manage our region’s coastal environment in a balanced and sustainable manner.

The LCCCMG is a sub-committee of SELGA and was formed in 2003 to implement the Limestone Coast and Coorong Action Plan. SELGA coastal Councils are represented on the LCCCMG alongside State Government environment, water and tourism bodies. The Group was involved with a number of projects throughout the year including Connecting People to the Coast, Caring for our Country Community Grants, the Biodiversity Fund and the Coastal Gardens Demonstration project.

With the support of the Group, SELGA submitted a successful application to the Australian Government Caring for Our Country Target Area Grants 2013-14 for the Limestone Coastwatchers project.

Implementing the Limestone Coast and Coorong Coastal Action Plan (LCCCAP) Project

The Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities has granted \$2.312m over 6 years for key projects in the Limestone Coast (SE) region.

The “Implementing the Limestone Coast and Coorong Coastal Action Plan” project is a collaboration between SELGA and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) and is designed to advance the priority issues detailed in the Caring for Country funded Limestone Coast and Coorong Coastal Action Plan (LCCCAP).

The LCCCAP identified 53 core conservation actions for the 427km, 124,568 ha section of the South Australian Coast and aims to address the identified key bio diversity actions particularly:

- Managing threats to biodiversity from introduced weeds, animals and erosion
- Improving habitat resilience
- Conserving valuable habitats and species.

The project commenced during 2012-13, and delivered a number of key activities, including:

- Formation of a Project Steering Committee which met a number of times during the year.
- Development of a Ranger Program with Burrendies Aboriginal Corporation, to provide opportunities for Indigenous Rangers to be involved with on-ground activities.
- School coastal activity days, including shorebird monitoring and controlling marine debris.
- A Coastal Community Group forum was held in August, and a range of community group representatives travelled to Torquay to view on-ground activities of similar volunteer groups.
- An information session for Coastal Landholders.
- Community information material in regional publications (for example, in *From the Ground Up*), and the development of posters for the identification of Spiny Rush for distribution to chemical re-sellers, community groups and within affected communities.
- Three rounds of fox control in coastal habitat.

Our Social Wellbeing

“Working together to enhance the quality of life and the vitality of our regional community”.

SELGA Regional Recreation and Sport STARCLUB Program

Following application for funding to the Office for Sport and Recreation (ORS), SELGA was awarded \$50,000 per annum for three years to engage a STARCLUB Field Officer in the region. SELGA Constituent Councils provide matching funding to the program. The SELGA STARCLUB Field Officer Josephine Duigan works with sport and recreation clubs across the Limestone Coast region to become STARCLUBS. A STARCLUB is a well-run club where quality coaches and officials work alongside valued volunteers in a safe and welcoming environment. All clubs in the Limestone Coast are eligible to participate.

During 2012-13, 96 sporting clubs in the region became registered STARCLUBs, which represents approximately 40 percent of sporting clubs in the region.

The STARCLUB Field Officer maintains ongoing communication regarding recreation and sport activities in the region via the Sports SE e-News, direct mail outs, Sports Network meetings and the regular fortnightly segment on ABC SE Local Radio. This also includes communication to clubs to access sports and recreational funding.

During 2012-13, a total of \$466,293 grants were awarded in the region, including:

- Active Club Grants (2 rounds) \$104,293 for 24 clubs
- Community Recreation and Sports Facilities Program \$362,000 for 11 clubs

SELGA applied for a number of grants for regional recreation and sport initiatives, including:

- Office for Recreation and Sport Grant - Regional Trails Master Plan.
- Australian Sports Commission - Multicultural Youth Sports Partnership Program in conjunction with the Soccer United Program at Tenison Woods College

The STARCLUB Field Officer maintains an active communication network for all sports clubs in the region, which includes a Website, E News, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, as well as a comprehensive and up to date email distribution list for clubs / associations in the Limestone Coast. In the last six months, the regional distribution list has doubled in size to contain over 400 contacts. In addition, the Field Officer provides one-on-one consultation with individual STARCLUBs regularly.

As part of the STARCLUB Program, numerous sports network meetings were held across the Limestone Coast throughout the year and timed with the release of Office and Sport Recreation Grants.

Various courses were conducted throughout the region over the previous 12 months, including:

- Child Safe Officer training
- Strategic Planning
- Essentials for Coaching Children
- Promotion of other training opportunities including Sports Medicine Australia training sessions via 'special event' Enews.

sportSE Sports Star Awards Program

Following its approval by SELGA in March 2012, planning is well underway to host the inaugural sportSE Sports Star of the Year Awards in September 2013. The event attracted significant sponsors, a panel of well-regarded judges and a local media partner in the ABC. There are five categories of Athlete, Coach, Club, Volunteer/Official and Event of the Year. Monthly winners were presented with certificates from September 2012, and the annual winners will be announced at the Awards event in September.



Special Olympics Limestone Coast

The STARCLUB Field Officer commenced working with interested community members to provide sport and recreation opportunities and pathways for people with disabilities. The Field Officer is the secretary and media liaison for the Special Olympics Limestone Coast (SOLC). The annual Regional Games – incorporating soccer, basketball, ten pin bowling, mixed netball and Riding for the Disabled are held annually in September at various locations in Mount Gambier. The Field Officer manages all meeting agendas and minutes, program planning, and WHS requirements.

Every Generation – Celebrate Seniors - October

The STARCLUB Field Officer provided support for Every Generation - Celebrate Seniors Month in October. This included attending regular planning meetings at The City of Mount Gambier over a 6 month period in the lead up to the celebration, participating in the Every Generation - Celebrate Seniors Expo held in Mount Gambier, promoting Council of the Aging grant opportunities throughout the region and managing the nominations for two (winning) Recreation Senior of the Year awards.

Active Community Team Challenge – November

In partnership with Life Be in it, OPAL and the City of Mount Gambier, Naracoorte Lucindale Council and the Wattle Range Council, the Active Community Team Challenge was held in Naracoorte, Mount Gambier and Millicent over an 8 week period in the Spring of 2012.

Heart Foundation Walking Groups Limestone Coast

In collaboration with the Heart Foundation, walking group leaders were trained in preparation for a new program of social walks. The walking program is conducted by 14 different groups at different locations around the South East including Mount Gambier, Bordertown, Frances, Robe, Kingston and Naracoorte.

Indigenous Games - March

In conjunction with The Office for Recreation and Sport Indigenous Field Officer and Pangula Mannamurna, sport based activities were conducted during Reconciliation Week.

Health

SELGA advocated for the improved delivery of regional mental health services and the introduction of specialist mental health programs such as “Headspace” and “Streetlink”. Our Local Members provided support to SELGA’s campaign for mental health services and the introduction of a regional sexual assault response service to assist victims.

The Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health (GGTUDRH) is one of eleven Australian UDRHs and is part of the Australian Rural Health Education network and has a strong presence in the region with offices in Mount Gambier, Hamilton and Warrnambool. The GGTUDRH was established in 2000 and has a dispersed network of multi disciplinary student support, teaching and research sites embedded throughout the region and in metropolitan Victoria and South Australia. City of Mount Gambier Councillor Jim Maher is a member of the GGTUDRH Board.

Throughout the year, SELGA advocated for the State Government to maintain the Drug and Alcohol Service in the Limestone Coast, highlighting the importance of this service as part of integrated health services in the region. SELGA received a briefing from the Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia to further understand and advocate for this issue.

Education

SELGA undertakes a range of advocacy actions to promote lifelong education opportunities in the region. The Association also continues to advocate to address issues that discriminate against regional students.

Educational organisations that received SELGA’s support during the year include, the Education Partnership Broker program, UniSA, Deakin University, the Service to Youth Council and Group Training Employment. A number of SELGA representatives attended the Partnership Broker’s Dinner at Coonawarra in June, which aims to facilitate relationships between local government, employers and schools.

SELGA continues its role on the Strategic Youth Council.

SELGA continues as a key stakeholder in the Australian Government’s Regional Educational, Skills and Jobs Plan for the Limestone Coast 2012-2014, and is involved in the implementation of a number of strategies promoting a regional approach to overcome barriers to education, training and workforce development.

South East Road Safety Strategy

The SE Road Safety Strategy was launched in February 2008 as a result of our community’s desire to stem the devastating impact of road trauma.

The SE Road Safety Strategy Steering Group meets regularly and comprises members from four active Community Road Safety Groups and the Emergency Services network in the Limestone Coast and is convened by SELGA’s Executive Officer. The Group continues to introduce a number of regional initiatives that support and complement the work of the dedicated Community Road Safety Groups.

A key initiative in 2012-13 was the application for funds to engage a Regional Road Safety Officer for the Limestone Coast, in order to further a number of actions from the Strategy. Following discussions with the Motor Accident Commission, an application was submitted for a three year project to engage an officer to work with the community road safety groups on a range of regional projects. The outcome of this application is still pending.

Some of the initiatives and achievements of 2012-13 include:

- At appropriate times of the year, screen successful television campaigns such as “Lights On, see and be seen” “Fatigue” and “Wildlife on our Roads’ on the WIN TV Network.
- Community Vehicle Safety Check. The SE Road Safety Steering group facilitated the coordination of free safety checks in collaboration with Rotary Clubs in Mount Gambier, Millicent and Naracoorte. These free safety checks generated an overwhelming response in the three regional centres and the past year has seen this initiative expanded to Bordertown and Western Victoria. SELGA acknowledges the tremendous support of Rotary in making this a resounding success.
- Country Football Road Safety promotion. SELGA promoted the road safety message at the Kowree Naracoorte Tatiara, Mid South East and Western Border Football and Netball League final series in 2012.
- SELGA updated weekly their innovative road safety message “No Winners Here” on the Country Footy SA website throughout season 2012.
- Development of advertisements for placement in regional media that address regional road safety issues.

SELGA acknowledges the dedication and the commitment of the volunteer members of the SE Road Safety Strategy Steering Group, Regional Community Road Safety Groups and the initial seed funding from the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) and the cooperation of our regional Television and Radio network.

NO WINNERS HERE
2012 SEASON

	ROAD FATALITIES	SERIOUS INJURIES
COUNTRY	46	313
vs.		
METRO	23	264

RESULT: Drivers 37, Passenger 14, Pedestrians 8, Motor Cyclists 7, Cyclist 3

YOU KNOW THE SCORE DRIVE RESPONSIBLY

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SE ROAD SAFETY GROUP

South East Road Safety Strategy
2008-2010

Safer Roads. Safer Speeds. Safer Road Users. Safer Vehicles.

50

SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE KEEPING SA SAFE

Government of South Australia
Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

SE Zone Emergency Management Committee

At a regional level Local Government continues to take on an integral role within the South East Zone Emergency Management Committee.

The SE Zone Emergency Management Committee (ZEMC) is responsible for the local planning to support the State Emergency Plan. SELGA's Executive Officer is a member of the Zone Emergency Centre Committee (ZECC). The ZECC is formed to ensure that the coordinated resources within Zone Emergency Centres are activated swiftly to support the Control Agency resolve an emergency.

During 2012-13 there were no activations of the Zone Emergency Centre Committee in response to regional emergencies that called upon SELGA.

SELGA Council representatives participated in Risk Assessment Workshops for flood, earthquake, extreme weather, extreme storm and extreme heat, animal and plant disease and bushfire.

Rural property addressing across the Limestone Coast has been successfully implemented, providing all occupied rural properties, homes and businesses, with a numbered property address. This will be consistent with the national standards for Australia and New Zealand.

The Regional Commander for CFS Region 5 addressed SELGA at the December 2012 meeting and provided a briefing on the summer bushfire threat to our region.

Our Leadership, Governance and Financial Sustainability

“Working together, providing leadership to our region and ensuring efficient, effective and sustainable management of the community’s resources”.

Local Excellence Expert Panel

Chaired by former Minister, the Hon Greg Crafter, the Expert Panel is working on the development of a blueprint for the ‘Council of the Future’. The Panel comprises Mr Crafter, former Justice Christine Trenorden and Professor Graham Sansom. The Panel is considering issues including: services delivery and shared services; State and Commonwealth Government expectations of Local Government; governance and integrity; responsibility to communities; infrastructure responsibilities; over-regulation; and opportunities and partnerships.

In November 2012, SELGA hosted the Expert Panel in Naracoorte to provide regional feedback. The meeting was attended by all Panel members, and Mayors, Elected Members, CEOs and staff of SELGA Constituent Councils. SELGA was the only regional LGA to host the Expert Panel in South Australia.

The Expert Panel has sought responses from regional representatives for a regional view on the challenges and opportunities facing local government over the next 20-30 years, and has engaged with Council staff and Elected Members, State and Commonwealth Ministers and Members of Parliament, as well as public hearings, independent experts and industry associations.

The Panel is expected to report its findings in October 2013.

Charter Review and Change of Name

In October 2012, SELGA resolved to investigate the process required to change the Association’s name to the Limestone Coast Local Government Association. Legal advice was sought on the process to undertake the change. Concurrently, it was resolved to undertake a review of the SELGA Charter, to ensure its currency and appropriateness for the future. This work continued throughout the remainder of the year, and will progress into 2013-14.

Shared Services

SELGA has established a state wide reputation for cooperation between its Constituent Councils. This cooperation exists at multiple levels that include SELGA delegates, Chief Executive Officers, Senior Officer and operational staff. Forums attended by Delegates, CEO’s and staff result in the identification of further opportunities for the sharing of services that are likely to capture efficiencies and cost savings by pooling resources and expertise.

This year, examples of SELGA’s long history in shared services continue in areas such as CWMS, Corporate Services and Waste Management. The Wattle Range Council has led the establishment of a group to further the development of a Regional Public Health Plan, which will continue into 2013-14.

SELGA continues to explore opportunities for further shared services that will increase the sustainability of councils and build capacity within our region.

Regional Development Assessment Panel Working Party

In 2009-10 SELGA engaged planning consultants Connor Holmes to undertake a strategic Regional Planning Review in accordance with section 30 of the *Development Act 1993* on behalf of SELGA Councils. The final SELGA Section 30 Report was completed in May 2010 and included a number of strategic recommendations for a regional model for development planning and assessment.

In April 2013, SELGA resolved to form a Working Party to investigate the formation of a Regional Development Assessment Panel, or Panels, for the South East. Building on the direction of the Connor Holmes Report, the Working Party met in April 2013 to discuss a number of components of a potential regional model, including streamlined regional processes for Development Plan Amendment approvals, Regional Development Plans and Development Assessment Panels. The Working Group, with support of the LGA, will continue its work into 2013-14 to assess the feasibility and options for a regional model, and will report back to SELGA Constituent Councils in October 2013.

Limestone Coast Regional Planning Framework

This Planning Strategy provides a physical and policy framework to assist in reaching the various targets outlined in South Australia's Strategic Plan and was released by the Hon John Rau, Minister for Urban Development, Planning in late August 2011.

The Planning Strategy is applicable to all member Councils; and

- Provides a framework for development based on principles of ecologically sustainable development and management of regional South Australia; and
- Promotes an environment of certainty for investors, State agencies, Local Government and the community by providing a clear indication of the State Government's policy directions for the physical development of regional South Australia.

South Australian Strategic Plan (SASP)

SELGA is an Alliance Member of the Community Engagement Board supporting the strategic objectives in the Regional South Australian Strategic Plan. The SELGA Strategic Plan is aligned to the priorities of the South Australian Strategic Plan.

Regional Communities Consultative Committee (RCCC)

The RCCC is an independent advisory body chaired by Mr Peter Blacker with the ability to make recommendations to the Minister for Regional Development on matters of importance that will strengthen the capacity of regional communities. SELGA delivered their presentation "Opportunities, Issues and Local Solutions" to members of the RCCC on the occasion of their SE regional visit in June 2012.

SELGA Policies

In April 2013, SELGA formally adopted:

- A Risk Management Policy to protect SELGA employees, assets, liabilities and community against potential losses and to minimize uncertainty in achieving SELGA goals and objectives;
- A General Ledger Policy to outline the procedures for the management of SELGA's Chart of Accounts and General Ledger by staff/contractors involved in financial transactions and management reporting; and
- A Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy to protect SELGA's revenue, expenditure and property from any attempt, either by its members, the community, contractors or its own employees to gain by deceit, financial or other benefits.

Representations and Submissions

Throughout the year, SELGA made a number of submissions to advocate on key regional issues. Submissions were made to:

- The Australian Sports Foundation regarding ASF Sports Incentive Program Grant (July 2012).
- Regional Development Australia to support their submission to seek funding for a Business Advisory Officer to be based in the mid-upper South East, including correspondence to Don Pegler MP and Member for Mackillop Mitch Williams (August 2012).
- Ms Jane Jeffreys, Chair and CEO of SATC, to invite SATC to address SELGA Delegates on SATC marketing activities in the Limestone Coast (August 2012).
- The Parliamentary Select Committee on Sustainable Farming Practices (September 2012).
- The Member for Barker expressing our fear for the Limestone Coast and the Australian potato industry with a recent Federal Government report suggesting reversing an import ban on NZ potatoes (September 2012).
- Independent South Australian Senator Nick Xenophon supporting his continued efforts that call for both sides of politics to amend the Quarantine Act, amendments that will prevent risks to Australian Bio-Security and protect Australian primary industries and regional communities.; and further recommend to write to all South Australian Senators and the Hon Joe Ludwig, Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries & the Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, John Cobb MP (September 2012).
- The Minister for Veterans Affairs, the Hon Warren Snowden MP, and Member for Barker, Patrick Secker MP, expressing concern at the decision to reduce funding for SE Veterans Information Centre (October 2012).
- The Treasurer, Hon Jack Snelling MP, the Minister for Forests, Hon Gail Gago MLC, and the Minister for State/Local Government Relations, Hon Russell Wortley MLC seeking clarification on the operation of the South Australian Forestry Corporation Act 2000 (October 2012).
- The Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities Tony Burke MP regarding the potential impacts on fish stocks, fishery operations and regional communities of permitting super trawlers to operate in Australian waters (October 2012).

- The Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Conservation Hon Paul Caica MP regarding action on the over abundance of kangaroos in the Lower South East, and seeking support for a cull (October 2012).
- The South Australian Tourism Commission regarding the importance of Council-run Visitor Information Centres to the State's tourism industry (October 2012).
- NBN Co Stakeholder Manager for Rural Australia Duncan Bremner regarding delay in connection and interim wireless points (October 2012).
- District Council of Grant to support the 'Geared 2 Drive' program submission (October 2012).
- The Glenelg Shire Council to support its funding application under Round Four of the Regional Development Australia Fund for the upgrading of the Condah-Hotspur Upper Road (April 2013).
- WIN Television expressing concerns over their cutting of the local WIN TV news and requesting they reinstate the service (April 2013).
- Senator Nick Xenophon expressing support for his draft legislation to protect regional South Australia from cuts to its local news services (April 2013).
- Patrick Secker MP, Member for Barker, expressing concern over the cuts to the local WIN TV news and requesting his support to have it reinstated (April 2013).
- The Hon Michael O'Brien, Minister for Road Safety, to seek clarification on the timing and process of the review of rural speed limits in South Australia (June 2013).

Financial Management

Financial Statements to 30th June, 2013

Regular financial reports are presented at each SELGA General Meeting. The Audited Financial Statements for 2012-13 are included at the rear of this report.

Into 2013-2014

General meetings will continue to be held on the first Friday of the months of August, October, December, February, April and June. The Annual General Meeting will be held on the first Friday in February in Naracoorte.

Program for 2013-2014

October 2013	Naracoorte Town Hall
December 2013	Hosted by Wattle Range Council
February 2014	AGM and GM Hosted by Naracoorte Lucindale Council
April 2014	Hosted by Kingston District Council
June 2014	Naracoorte Town Hall
August 2014	Hosted by the District Council of Grant

Acknowledgements

SELGA members, delegates, past and present are recognised for their dedication and commitment, many of whom have provided local government representation on internal and external committees and working parties, and who have been well supported by Constituent Council CEO's and staff.

Our People



Rob Forgan

Rob Forgan served in the role of Executive Officer to 8th February 2013. Rob's dedication, integrity and considerable expertise was highly valued by SELGA Delegates and Council staff, as well as the range of community and agency representatives he worked with to advocate for SELGA Councils and the region.



Josephine Duigan

As the SELGA STARCLUB Field Officer, Josephine (left) brings dedication and commitment to engaging and supporting the region's sporting clubs, as well as going to great lengths to support regional sporting events such as the Limestone Coast Special Olympics.



Ann Aldersey

Ann Aldersey (right) commenced in the role of Executive Officer on 20 May 2013.

Local Government Association of South Australia

The Local Government Association of South Australia has continued to provide support to SELGA and its members. We acknowledge the contributions from SAROC President Kym McHugh, CEO Wendy Campana and the many LGA staff that have supported SELGA during the year.

Local Government Research and Development Scheme

The annual capacity building grant from the Local Government R&D Scheme supporting SELGA activities in 2012-13 that has been applied across a range of Association activities building regional capacity, e.g. Limestone Coast Economic Diversification Reference Group, and development of the SELGA 2030 Regional Transport Plan.

Office of State and Local Government Relations (OSLGR)

Representatives from the OSLGR subject to availability attended SELGA General Meetings in 2012-13 providing briefings of relevance on matters that their Office is addressing. SELGA welcomed a number of OSLGR representatives during 2012-13.

Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast

Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast continues to provide significant administrative support to SELGA on a daily basis. SELGA acknowledges the substantial and professional support provided by the Board and in particular the administrative and accounting services provided by Julie Scott, Dani McKinnon and Jan Shanahan.

The SE Natural Resources Management (SENRM) Board and the Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR)

SELGA and the SENRM Board continue to work together to strengthen their relationship and communication in order to improve coordination of service delivery to enhance regional natural resource management initiatives.

SELGA has developed a close working relationship with staff from the South East Coastal team of DEWNR responsible for the ongoing delivery of the Implementing the Limestone Coast and Coorong Coastal Action Plan Project.

Limestone Coast Regional Media

SELGA acknowledges the role of the regional media and thanks them for their support in 2012-13 and the contribution made by Mr Fred Smith.

Ann Aldersey

Executive Officer

SELGA

10 September 2013



Accountants, Auditors
& Business Consultants

Laurie Galpin FCPA
David Chant FCPA
Simon Smith FCPA
David Sullivan CPA
Jason Seidel CA
Renaë Nicholson CA
Tim Muhlhauser CA
Aaron Coonan CA
Luke Williams CPA

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTH EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION INC

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of South East Local Government Association Inc, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30th June 2013, and the income statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by the members of the committee.

The Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (SA) and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial report that presents fairly in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the entity, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

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Independence

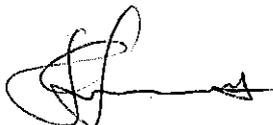
In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of South East Local Government Association Inc as at 30 June 2013, and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (SA).

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist South East Local Government Association Inc to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (SA). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

GALPINS ACCOUNTANTS, AUDITORS & BUSINESS CONSULTANTS

Simon Smith FCPA, Registered Company Auditor
Partner

233 Commercial Street West, Mount Gambier. SA 5290

Dated this 29th day of August 2013

SOUTH EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a special purpose financial prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (SA). The Committee has determined that the organisation is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (SA). There is no requirement to apply accounting standards, UIG Consensus Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board in the preparation of the financial report.

The statements are prepared on an accruals basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

SOUTH EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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Balance Sheet [Last Year Analysis]**June 2013**

	This Year	Last Year
Assets		
Cheque Account	\$10,866.71	\$8,048.89
Business Access Saver Account	\$206,445.43	\$179,415.55
Total Assets	<u>\$217,312.14</u>	<u>\$187,464.44</u>
Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	\$2,467.72	\$4,251.78
Unspent Funds (RR&S)	\$32,106.14	\$25,044.07
Funds Rec in Advance	\$30,000.00	\$0.00
GST Liabilities		
GST Control Account	\$3,941.00	\$912.00
GST Paid	-\$133.43	-\$250.00
Total GST Liabilities	<u>\$3,807.57</u>	<u>\$661.91</u>
Payroll Liabilities		
PAYG Payable	\$6,272.00	\$4,061.00
Superannuation Payable	\$1,090.35	\$0.00
Workcover Payable	-\$360.00	\$296.53
Accrued A/Leave	\$2,532.65	\$6,388.80
Total Payroll Liabilities	<u>\$9,526.00</u>	<u>\$10,746.13</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$77,907.43</u>	<u>\$40,703.89</u>
Net Assets	<u>\$139,404.71</u>	<u>\$146,760.55</u>
Equity		
Retained Earnings	\$146,760.55	\$131,552.60
Current Year Earnings	-\$7,355.84	\$15,207.95
Total Equity	<u>\$139,404.71</u>	<u>\$146,760.55</u>

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Profit & Loss [Last Year Analysis]**July 2012 through June 2013**

	This Year	Last Year
INCOME		
SUBSCRIPTIONS-MEMBER COUNCILS		
City of Mount Gambier	\$43,614.00	\$42,344.00
District Council of Grant	\$21,239.00	\$20,620.00
Kingston District Council	\$10,647.00	\$10,337.00
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	\$23,870.00	\$23,175.00
District Council of Robe	\$9,413.00	\$9,139.00
District Council of Tatiara	\$20,596.00	\$19,996.00
Wattle Range Council	\$34,954.00	\$33,936.00
Total SUBSCRIPTIONS-MEMBER COUNCIL	\$164,333.00	\$159,547.00
CONTRIBUTIONS		
RDA Limestone Coast	\$80,666.00	\$79,106.00
Tourism Development Officer	\$256,420.00	\$240,501.50
SE Resource Info Centre	\$48,970.00	\$48,970.00
Total CONTRIBUTIONS	\$386,056.00	\$368,577.50
PROJECTS		
REG REC & SPORT		
Rec & Sport Funding	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Council Funding	\$41,027.00	\$37,204.00
C/Over Funds/Workshops/Sundry	\$27,264.71	\$38,556.30
Total REG REC & SPORT	\$118,291.71	\$125,760.30
LGR&DS Regional Capacity Build	\$36,424.00	\$35,780.00
Heritage Services	\$30,573.00	\$49,429.00
Review 2030 Transport Strategy	\$45,000.00	\$0.00
Review SELGA Charter	\$8,000.00	\$0.00
LCCSRT	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
DTEI-Workplaces	\$0.00	\$25,492.98
DTEI-Car Pooling	\$0.00	\$9,108.01
Total PROJECTS	\$248,288.71	\$245,570.29
OTHER INCOME		
Interest	\$17,936.09	\$24,829.37
SLRP Consultancy	\$9,700.00	\$8,600.00
Sundry	\$0.00	\$1,501.37
Total OTHER INCOME	\$27,636.09	\$34,930.74
Total INCOME	\$826,313.80	\$808,625.53
EXPENSES		
EXEC OFFICER/OFFICE EXPENSES		
Executive Officer Salary Costs		
EO Salary/Costs	\$85,361.05	\$104,402.76
FBT	\$524.11	\$882.87
Contract - Acting EO	\$14,708.13	\$0.00
Total Executive Officer Salary Costs	\$100,593.29	\$105,285.63
Vehicle & Travel		
Vehicle Lease	\$12,384.95	\$14,337.44
Fuel	\$2,617.32	\$2,386.54
Travel/Accommodation	\$2,771.64	\$3,065.68
Total Vehicle & Travel	\$17,773.91	\$19,789.66
Office Expenses		
Financial/Administration	\$16,000.00	\$15,500.00
Advertising	\$5,709.50	\$660.00
Printing/Stationery	\$4,066.98	\$2,554.03
Postage	\$140.04	\$258.31
Audit Fees	\$1,780.00	\$2,000.00
Bank Fees	\$509.87	\$555.55
Insurance	\$6,131.72	\$5,809.67
Seminars	\$1,333.18	\$2,041.72
Review Internal Controls S43	\$733.64	\$10,250.00
Consultancy	\$9,700.00	\$0.00

SOUTH EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Profit & Loss [Last Year Analysis]

July 2012 through June 2013

	This Year	Last Year
Legal Costs	\$1,763.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$11,524.18	\$1,066.19
Meeting Expenses	\$6,689.30	\$3,648.96
Executive Expenses	\$4,341.15	\$834.10
President Allowance	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Telephone	\$1,170.56	\$1,339.76
Computing & IT	\$2,946.12	\$1,675.46
Total Office Expenses	\$80,539.24	\$54,193.75
CONTRIBUTIONS		
RDA Limestone Coast	\$81,084.49	\$79,106.75
Tourism Development Officer	\$258,420.00	\$240,501.50
SE Resource Information Centre	\$48,970.00	\$48,970.00
Total CONTRIBUTIONS	\$388,474.49	\$368,578.25
PROJECTS		
REG REC & SPORT		
RR&S Salary/costs	\$58,358.32	\$63,152.33
Office Expenses	\$5,792.77	\$4,127.07
Vehicle Expenses	\$11,478.71	\$16,504.27
Admin/Rent	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Programs	\$40,665.91	\$39,978.63
Total REG REC & SPORT	\$118,291.71	\$125,760.30
LGR&DS Regional Capacity Build	\$36,424.00	\$35,780.00
Heritage Services	\$30,573.00	\$49,429.00
Review 2030 Transport Strategy	\$45,000.00	\$0.00
Review SELGA Charter	\$8,000.00	\$0.00
LCCSRT	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
DTEI Workplaces	\$0.00	\$25,492.88
DTEI Car Pooling	\$0.00	\$9,108.01
Total PROJECTS	\$248,288.71	\$245,570.29
Total EXPENSES	\$833,669.64	\$793,417.58
Net Profit / (Loss)	-\$7,355.84	\$15,207.95



South East Local Government Association Inc.

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