

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1999**SOUTHERN & HILLS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION***Notice of Alteration to the Charter*

PURSUANT to Clause 21 of the Charter and Clause 19, Part 2, Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 1999, the Charter published in the *Gazette* on 10 May 2007 at pages 1909 to 1915 was amended by unanimous resolution of the District Council of Mount Barker on 16 May 2011, City of Victor Harbor on 23 May 2011, District Council of Yankalilla on 19 May 2011, Adelaide Hills Council on 24 May 2011, Alexandrina Council on 1 August 2011, Kangaroo Island Council on 8 June 2011 and The Barossa Council on 17 May 2011.

The Charter, as amended, of the Southern & Hills Local Government Association is set out below:

1. INTERPRETATION

'absolute majority' means a majority of the whole number of the members.

'Act' means the Local Government Act 1999.

'Association' means the Southern & Hills Local Government Association.

'Council' means a Council as constituted under the Local Government Act 1999.

'LGA' means the Local Government Association of South Australia.

'S&HLGA' means the Southern & Hills Local Government Association.

2. ESTABLISHMENT

The S&HLGA is established by the Constituent Councils as a regional subsidiary pursuant to Section 43 and Schedule 2 ('the Schedule') of the Local Government Act 1999 ('the Act').

This Charter governs the affairs of the S&HLGA.

3. CONSTITUENT COUNCILS

The Authority is established by the District Council of Mount Barker, City of Victor Harbor, District Council of Yankalilla, Adelaide Hills Council, Alexandrina Council, Kangaroo Island Council and The Barossa Council ('the Constituent Councils').

The Authority is subject to the joint direction of the Constituent Councils.

4. PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

4.1 To work collaboratively with the LGA to achieve the aims and objectives of the LGA.

4.2 To encourage, promote, protect and foster an efficient and effective autonomous, democratic system of local government elected by and responsible to local communities.

4.3 To identify available resources within the region and to co-ordinate or assist in co-ordinating the management of these resources for the betterment of their region's community.

4.4 To encourage, assist, seek out, determine, assess and respond to the needs and aspirations of the region's constituents.

4.5 To develop, encourage, promote, foster and maintain consultation and co-operation between local government authorities, State and Commonwealth Governments and their instrumentalities.

4.6 To develop, encourage, promote, foster and maintain the financial and economic well-being and advancement of the region and if desirable for such purpose to undertake, establish, acquire, conduct or dispose of any business, enterprise, undertaking or venture which in the opinion of S&HLGA is necessary, desirable or convenient.

4.7 To effectively liaise and work with the State and Commonwealth Governments and their instrumentalities on a regional basis for the general enhancement of the region.

5. POWERS

S&HLGA will have the following powers (in addition to and without prejudice to any other powers herein expressed or implied or by virtue of any other legislation applicable):

5.1 To subscribe to, become a member of and/or co-operate with any other association or organisation whose objects are altogether or in part similar or complementary to those of S&HLGA and on such terms as S&HLGA deems appropriate.

5.2 To enter into any arrangements with any Government or authority that are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects and the exercise of the powers of S&HLGA.

5.3 To raise revenue through subscriptions or levies from Constituent Councils. To apply for grants from Government Agencies and to seek sponsorship from business enterprise.

5.4 To print or publish any newspapers, periodicals, books, leaflets, treatise, or other writing that S&HLGA may think desirable for the promotion of its objects.

- 5.5 To acquire, deal with and dispose of real and personal property (wherever situated) and rights in relation to real and personal property.
- 5.6 To enter into any kind of contract or arrangement.
- 5.7 To invest funds and in doing so to take into account Part 4 of Chapter 9 of the Act.
- 5.8 To establish committees for the following purposes:
 - 5.8.1 inquiring into and reporting on any matter within the terms of reference determined by the Board;
 - 5.8.2 exercising, performing and discharging delegated powers, functions or duties;
 - 5.8.3 investigating opportunities for resource sharing within the region and implementing strategies to take advantage of any such opportunities;
 - 5.8.4 a member of a committee established in accordance with Clause 10.8 holds office at the pleasure of the Board;
 - 5.8.5 the President of the S&HLGA shall be an *ex officio* member of all committees.
- 5.9 To delegate any function or duty except for any of the powers set out in Section 44 of the Local Government Act 1999, (where such powers are applicable to a Subsidiary).
- 5.10 To do anything else necessary or convenient for, or incidental to, the exercise, performance or discharge of its powers, functions or duties.

6. SOURCES OF REVENUE

The sources of revenue of the S&HLGA may include:

- 6.1 Subscriptions to be applied equally from Constituent Councils under such terms and conditions determined by the Board.
- 6.2 Service charges for services to Constituent Councils under such terms and conditions determined by the Board.
- 6.3 Grants from Government Agencies and the LGA.
- 6.4 Sponsorship from business enterprise.
- 6.5 Loan funds or overdraft, on such conditions as the S&HLGA sees fit for the purpose of the S&HLGA:
 - 6.5.1 A proposal for borrowing by the S&HLGA must be provided to each Constituent Council.
 - 6.5.2 The proposal to borrow must be approved by an absolute majority of the Constituent Councils in writing before it can be considered by the Board.
 - 6.5.3 An Order to Borrow must be approved an absolute majority of the Board.
- 6.6 Interest from the investment of funds.

7. THE BOARD—ROLE AND MEMBERSHIP

- 7.1 The S&HLGA will be governed by a Board.
- 7.2 The Board is responsible for the administration of the affairs of the S&HLGA. The Board must ensure insofar as it is practicable, that the Authority observes the objectives set out in this Charter, that information provided to the Constituent Councils is accurate and that Constituent Councils are kept informed of the solvency of the S&HLGA as well as any material developments which may affect the operating capacity and financial affairs of the S&HLGA.
- 7.3—
 - 7.3.1 Each of the Constituent Councils will appoint two persons to the Board. The Constituent Councils' appointees shall be not less than one elected member of the Constituent Council and the other appointee may be a Council Officer.
 - 7.3.2 Each Constituent Council may appoint either an Elected Member or a Council Officer as Deputy Board Member who may attend Board Meetings in the place of a Council Board Member who is absent.
 - 7.3.3 The Board may appoint observers to the Board. Such appointees will not be entitled to vote at meetings.
 - 7.3.4 Board members shall not be entitled to receive a sitting fee.
- 7.4 A certificate signed by the Chief Executive Officer of the appointing Constituent Council will be sufficient evidence of appointment.
- 7.5 The President shall preside over all meetings of the Board.
- 7.6 In the absence of the President, the Deputy President will preside over meetings of the Board.

7.7 In the absence of the President and Deputy President, the Board will elect a temporary Acting Chairperson from amongst their members.

8. TERM OF OFFICE—THE BOARD

8.1 Subject only to the following subclauses, the term of office of each member of the Board will be as determined by the Constituent Council responsible for the appointment of the member.

8.2 The Board may by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present (excluding the member subject to this Clause):

8.2.1 make a recommendation to the Constituent Council responsible for the appointment of the relevant member, seeking the appointing body's approval to terminate the appointment of the member.

8.3 The Constituent Council which appointed the member whose term of office has become vacant will be responsible to appoint the replacement member.

9. PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD

9.1 Subject only to the extent that they are modified by this Clause, the proceedings of the Board will be the same as those for committees of Council as defined in Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the Act and in accordance with the Regulations for 'Other Committees' comprised in Parts 1, 3 and 4 of the Local Government (Proceedings at Meetings) Regulations 2000.

References in Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the Act to 'the Chief Executive Officer' shall be read as if they were references to the Executive Officer of the Authority and references to 'the Council' or 'the committee' shall be read as if they were references to the Authority.

To the extent that this Charter and the Act and its associated Regulations are silent, the Board may determine its own meeting procedures.

9.2 Subject only to the special provisions of this Clause, no meeting of the Board will commence until a quorum of members is present and no meeting may continue unless there is a quorum of members present. A quorum of members will comprise half the members plus one. A time limit of 30 minutes shall apply from the advertised time of the meeting in which to reach a quorum. Failure to reach a quorum within this time limit shall result in a failed meeting.

9.3 At the commencement of a telecommunications meeting, each Board member must announce his/her presence to all other Board members taking part in the meeting. A Board member must not leave a telecommunication meeting by disconnecting his/her, audio-visual or other communication equipment, unless that Board member has previously notified the Chairperson of the meeting.

9.4 In the event that there is not a quorum present at two consecutive meetings of the Board, then an extraordinary meeting of the Board may be convened in the same manner as for a special meeting (see Clause 6.1), at which the business which was on the agendas for the two previous but failed meetings may be transacted at the extraordinary meeting of the Board where the requirement for a quorum is that there be at least one member representing each of the Constituent Councils in attendance. Decisions made at such a meeting will be binding on the subsidiary and all members of the Board and the Constituent Councils.

9.5 Subject only to any specific requirement of this Charter, all matters for decision at a meeting of the Board will be decided by a simple majority of the members present and entitled to vote on the matter. Both members from each Constituent Council present are entitled to vote on a matter. Voting members are entitled only to a deliberative vote. Board members may not vote by proxy.

9.6 In the event of equality of votes, the Chairperson will not have a casting vote and the matter will be deemed to have lapsed and may at some later time be reconsidered.

9.7 Meetings of the Board will be held at such time and such place as the Board decides subject only to the requirement that there will be at least one meeting in every two calendar months.

9.8 A special meeting of the Board may be held at any time and may be called at the request of the Chairperson or at the written request of eight members of the Board representing all of the Constituent Councils.

9.9 Notice of all meetings will be given in accordance with the provisions applicable to a committee meeting under Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the Act and the associated Regulations.

9.10 Meetings of the Board will be open to the public unless the Board so resolves to exclude the public pursuant to section 90 of the Act.

9.11 All members must keep confidential all documents and any information provided to them in confidence for their consideration prior to a meeting of the Board.

9.12 The Board must ensure that accurate written minutes of its proceedings are kept and are produced for verification at the subsequent meeting of the Board.

10. OFFICES OF THE BOARD

- 10.1 The Board shall elect, from the elected member Board members of different Constituent Councils, at the February meeting following the Local Government periodical elections and then every two years thereafter, the following offices for a period of two years:
- 10.1.1 President, who shall be the Chairperson of the Board;
 - 10.1.2 Deputy President, who shall be the Deputy Chairperson of the Board.
- 10.3 A Board member cannot be elected to the same office for more than two consecutive terms.

11. PROPRIETY OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

- 11.1 The principles regarding conflict of interest prescribed in the Act will apply to all members of the Board as if they were elected members of a Council.
- 11.2 The members of the Board will not be required to comply with Division 2, Chapter 5 (Register of Interests) of the Act.
- 11.3 The members of the Board will at all times act in accordance with their duties of confidence and confidentiality and individual fiduciary duties including honesty and the exercise of reasonable care and diligence with respect to the Board as required by Part 4, Division 1, Chapter 5 of the Act and Clause 23 of Part 2 of Schedule 2.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- 12.1 There will be an Executive Officer of the S&HLGA appointed by the Board on terms and conditions to be determined by the Board.
- 12.2 The Executive Officer will be responsible to the Board:
- 12.2.1 to ensure that the policies and lawful decisions of the S&HLGA are implemented in a timely manner;
 - 12.2.2 for the efficient and effective management of the operations and affairs of the S&HLGA;
 - 12.2.3 to provide advice and reports to the Board on the exercise and performance of the S&HLGA powers and functions; and
 - 12.2.4 to give effect to the principles of human resource management generally applicable within the local government industry.
- 12.3 The Executive Officer has such powers, functions and duties prescribed by this Clause and as determined necessary by the Board from time to time to ensure the efficient and effective management of the operations and affairs of the S&HLGA.
- 12.4 The Board may employ other officers and it may authorise the Executive Officer to employ such other officers on its behalf as are required for the efficient and effective management of the operations and affairs of the Authority.
- 12.5 The Board may engage professional consultants and it may authorise the Executive Officer to engage professional consultants to provide services to the S&HLGA to ensure the proper execution of its decisions, the efficient and effective management of the operations and affairs of the S&HLGA and for giving effect to the general management objectives and principles of personal management prescribed by this Charter.

13. BUSINESS PLAN

- 13.1 The S&HLGA shall have a rolling Business Plan in respect of the ensuing four years.
- 13.2 The Business Plan must:
- 13.2.1 state the services to be provided by the S&HLGA;
 - 13.2.2 identify how the S&HLGA intends to manage service delivery;
 - 13.2.3 identify the performance targets which the S&HLGA is to pursue;
 - 13.2.4 provide a statement of financial and other resources and internal processes that will be required to achieve the performance targets and objectives of the S&HLGA; and
 - 13.2.5 specify the performance measures that are to be used to monitor and assess performance against targets.
- 13.3 Prior to setting the draft budget each year the S&HLGA must review the Business Plan in conjunction with the Constituent Councils.

14. BUDGET

- 14.1 The S&HLGA must prepare a budget for the forthcoming financial year.
- 14.2 The budget must:
- 14.2.1 deal with each principal activity of the S&HLGA on a separate basis;

- 14.2.2 be consistent with and account for activities and circumstances referred to in the S&HLGA's business plan;
 - 14.2.3 identify the amount of surplus (deficit) brought forward from the previous year;
 - 14.2.4 identify the amount of subscription to be made by each Constituent Council;
 - 14.2.5 be submitted in draft form to each Constituent Council before 30 April for information of its proposed contribution for the ensuing year; and
 - 14.2.6 not be adopted by the Authority until after 31 May but before 30 September.
- 14.3 The adoption of the budget requires a two-thirds majority of the Board members present.
- 14.4 The S&HLGA must provide a copy of its budget to each Constituent Council within five business days after adoption.
- 14.5 The S&HLGA must reconsider its budget in accordance with Regulation 7 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999.
- 14.6 The S&HLGA must submit to each Constituent Council for approval, any proposed amendment to the budget that provides for an additional financial contribution by the Constituent Councils.

15. ACCOUNTING

The S&HLGA must ensure that its accounting records, accounts and financial statements are prepared and maintained in accordance with all relevant Australian Accounting Standards. See Regulations 8 and 9, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999, in relation to particular accounting practices.

16. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- 16.1 The S&HLGA shall maintain an operations bank account and such other accounts as it may determine from time to time. The operators of all bank accounts shall be the President and Executive Officer and not less than two members appointed at the AGM where any two of the bank operators are required to operate the accounts.
- 16.2 The Executive Officer shall cause adequate and proper books of account to be kept in relation to all affairs of the S&HLGA.
- 16.3 The Executive Officer shall prepare a draft Operations Manual for the Executive Committee and following any amendment, shall adopt the Operations Manual and make recommendations on the implementation of the manual.
- 16.4 The S&HLGA shall give due regard to Chapter 9, Part 4 of the Act when investing funds.
- 16.5 The financial year for the S&HLGA is from 1 July to 30 June.

17. AUDIT

- 17.1 The S&HLGA must appoint an Auditor.
- 17.2 The S&HLGA must provide its audited financial statements to the Chief Executive Officer of each Constituent Council by 30 September. See Part 5, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999, in relation to the S&HLGA's audit responsibilities.

18. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

- 18.1 The S&HLGA must submit its annual report on its work and operations including its audited financial statements, to each Constituent Council before 30 September.
- 18.2 Within two weeks following each ordinary meeting of the Board the Constituent Councils shall be provided with a Key Outcomes Summary of the meeting that shall include the Achievements Against the Business Plan Report for those meetings that it is received by the Board.
- 18.3 The Board shall report at any other time at the written request of a Constituent Council on matters being undertaken by the S&HLGA. Any such report shall be provided to all Constituent Councils.

19. THE SEAL

- 19.1 The S&HLGA will have a common seal which may be affixed to documents requiring execution under common seal and must be witnessed by the Chairperson of the Board and one other Board member present at the meeting.
- 19.2 The common seal must not be affixed to a document except to give effect to a resolution of the Board. The Executive Officer will maintain a register which records the resolutions of the Board giving authority to affix the common seal and details of the documents to which the common seal has been affixed with particulars of the persons who witnessed the fixing of the seal and the date.
- 19.3 The Board may by instrument under seal authorise a person to execute documents on behalf of the S&HLGA. The Executive Officer will maintain a register of such resolutions and details of any documents executed in this way, together with particulars of the person executing the document.

20. DISPUTES

- 20.1 In the event of any dispute or difference between one or more Constituent Councils and the S&HLGA concerning the operations or affairs of the Authority, the dispute process shall be initiated by a Constituent Council serving a notice of dispute on the S&HLGA with a contemporaneous copy being served on all other Constituent Councils. The Constituent Councils:
- 20.1.1 will attempt to settle the dispute or difference by negotiating in good faith;
 - 20.1.2 if good faith negotiations do not settle the dispute or difference within one month of the dispute arising then the dispute shall be referred to an expert for determination. The expert shall be a person with the skills and expertise necessary to resolve the dispute and shall be nominated by the President of the Local Government Association of South Australia. The expert is an expert and not an arbitrator. The expert's determination shall be final and binding on the Constituent Councils. The costs of the expert will be apportioned and payable in accordance with the expert's determination;
 - 20.1.3 if the dispute is unable to be resolved by the expert within six months then any Constituent Council may request the Minister to dissolve the S&HLGA; and
 - 20.1.4 notwithstanding the existence of a dispute or difference, the Constituent Councils will continue to meet their obligations to the S&HLGA.

21. ALTERATION TO THE CHARTER

- 21.1 This Charter may be amended by unanimous resolution of the Constituent Councils.
- 21.2 The Executive Officer of the S&HLGA must ensure that the amended Charter is published in the *Gazette*.
- 21.3 Before the Constituent Councils vote on a proposal to alter this Charter they must take into account any recommendations of the Board.

22. ADDITION OF NEW MEMBER

- 22.1 The Board may consider the addition of a new member to the S&HLGA.
- 22.2 The Constituent Councils must resolve unanimously to approve the addition of a new member to the S&HLGA and must obtain Ministerial approval.
- 22.3 The Charter shall be amended in accordance with the provisions of this Charter to address any new addition.

23. WITHDRAWAL OF A CONSTITUENT COUNCIL

- 23.1 Subject to the approval of the Minister, a Constituent Council may withdraw from the S&HLGA by giving not less than six months notice of its intention to do so to all other Constituent Councils and the Executive Officer.
- 23.2 In any event a withdrawal cannot become effective until 30 June following the expiry of the six months in the preceding subclause. Until withdrawal becomes effective, the Constituent Council proposing withdrawal from the Authority will remain liable for all financial contributions in the remaining period and through its members on the Board, the responsibility of ensuring the continued proper conduct of the affairs of the Authority.
- 23.3 A withdrawing Constituent Council is not entitled to any refunds of any contributions made.

24. CIRCUMSTANCES NOT PROVIDED FOR

- 24.1 If any circumstances arise to which this Charter is silent, incapable of taking effect or being implemented according to its strict provisions, S&HLGA will have the power to determine what action may be taken to ensure the effective administration and objectives of S&HLGA provided that such action will be determined at a meeting of S&HLGA.

25. WINDING UP

- 25.1 In addition to the provisions of Clause 33 of Schedule 2 of the Act, the S&HLGA may be wound up by the Constituent Councils.
- 25.2 In the event of dissolution and after payment of all expenses any surplus assets shall be returned to Constituent Councils in proportion to the subscription paid in the financial year prior to the passing of the resolution to dissolve.
- 25.3 In the event of dissolution where there are insufficient funds to pay all expenses due by S&HLGA a levy shall be struck to cover the deficiency, such levy being in proportion to the subscription payable in the financial year prior to dissolution.

26. INSOLVENCY

In the event of the insolvency of the S&HLGA each Constituent Council shall be responsible for the liabilities of the Association in proportion to the subscription payable in the financial year prior to its insolvency.