



# SSROC

## Annual Report 2022

Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils



The Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) acknowledges the traditional custodians of our region – the peoples of the Darug, Dharawal and Eora Nations.

# ABOUT SSROC

The Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) is an association of 11 councils spanning Sydney's southern suburbs, eastern suburbs, CBD, and inner west and covering a third of Greater Sydney's population, or 1.8m people.

SSROC provides a forum through which our member councils can interact, exchange ideas and work collaboratively to solve regional issues and contribute to the future sustainability of the region.

We advocate on behalf of our region to ensure that the major issues are addressed by all levels of government.

We work to deliver shared services, contracts and procurement to reduce the cost to councils of delivering vital community services.

As the level of government that is closest to the community, member councils aim to keep the "local" in local government, while fully utilising the benefits of regional cooperation through SSROC.

Member councils are: Bayside, Burwood, Canada Bay, Canterbury Bankstown, Georges River, Inner West, Randwick, Sutherland, Sydney, Waverley and Woollahra.

To find out more about our current work visit [www.ssroc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ssroc.nsw.gov.au) or call 02 8396 3800.



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Overview

I continue to be impressed as, year after year, our collaboration as Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC), delivers such substantial achievements for all our member councils. I have been President of the ROC for nine years now, and can attest to the effectiveness of our collegiate, cooperative approach. The combined resident population represented by our eleven councils is now close to 1.8 million, over one third of the population of Sydney.

Throughout 2021/22, SSROC has continued to achieve financial savings, beneficial outcomes, and effective advocacy. I would like to thank everyone who has made our successful alliance work so well.

Firstly, thanks to all member councils, especially the Delegates, for their support of SSROC. Thanks to my fellow Executive members, Mayor of Canterbury Bankstown, Cr Khal Asfour and Mayor of Woollahra, Cr Susan Wynne, who have demonstrated their commitment throughout this year. Thanks also to our Secretary and Treasurer, Matthew Stewart, General Manager of Canterbury Bankstown, for his valuable contribution.

SSROC's Secretariat coordinates, facilitates, and delivers many services and projects for our councils, achieving excellent results. This year I was pleased to appoint Helen Sloan as Chief Executive Officer, following almost two years as Acting General Manager, capably managing continuing services through the pandemic. I thank Helen for her key role in ensuring that the work of SSROC delivers excellent value to us all.

Thanks also to the council CEOs and General Managers for their collaborative leadership, and the many council officers who work together in the strong and mutually beneficial collaboration that is SSROC.

I thank all the SSROC staff, who achieve results so effectively and efficiently well beyond what might be expected of a small team. They have continued to deliver support, joint procurements and several excellent new projects for our member councils.

### Highlights of the Year

As local councils we have continued to serve our communities, in the face of significant challenges including the lingering effects of the pandemic, a rate-cap that was much lower than expected, forcing us all to rethink our financial plans and many of us to seek variations, and some major damage to infrastructure resulting from severe weather events. These challenges make our collaborative work even more valuable, as we share resources and efficiencies to achieve regional results. Despite all the disruptions, we have had a productive year.

Affordable housing has long been a priority throughout our region, and many of our communities are finding housing unaffordable, and buying a home is not a real prospect for an increasing proportion. This year we have strengthened our advocacy by actively supporting Resilient Sydney, part of the global Resilient Cities program, in its efforts to find ways to deliver more affordable homes, by whatever means we can. That could mean building it, supplying land for housing, or working with a Community Housing Provider to enable them to deliver it – our focus is on delivery, across the whole metropolitan area. As SSROC we are helping by taking on project management, administration and organisation. With Resilient Sydney, the Department of Planning and Environment, and the Greater Cities Commissions, we are working to develop tools to help councils, and to establish a robust data base for reliable evidence-based decision-making.

Street lighting is one of many council services that go largely unnoticed – until something goes wrong, when we are reminded that it is one of the most effective measures for road safety at night. Our Street Lighting Improvement Program is continuing to deliver better lighting, with almost all the lights on residential roads upgraded to more efficient and effective LEDs. The program to upgrade lights on main roads kicked off this year, as SSROC agreed terms with Ausgrid, and offers have been made to councils. There are clear financial savings for all the participating councils, as well as improved lighting and controls, so I hope to be able to report good progress next year.

The main road lighting upgrade will also be an important enabler for smart city technology: main road streetlights are regularly positioned, secure, powered, and in a great location for many smart city sensing tasks and communications. A new international standard from the global Zhaga Consortium provides specifications that permit any compliant sensor to plug into any compliant streetlight. So, the latest upgrade will also open up a tremendous opportunity for all kinds of smart city applications for our communities.

All SSROC streetlights will also be powered by renewable energy, with the conclusion this year of phase 3 of the Program for Energy and Environmental Solutions (PEERS 3). This latest contract commenced on 1 July 2022 and means that all member councils' operations will be powered by renewables by this coming January. The new contract has been agreed with ZEN Retail, runs for up to nine years, and includes potential for community projects too. We will be examining possibilities for renewables in the community in the coming year.

This year has been a very turbulent one for the energy sector, affected by events in Europe as well as locally. We were able to respond very rapidly for those councils whose gas contracts were affected, ensuring that prices did not escalate dramatically.

Resource recovery from waste has been a major focus for the ROC for many years, with a shift in recent years towards preferencing recycled materials in our procurement, with the Procure Recycled initiative last year. This year has delivered the first year of operation of the contract for asphalt with recycled crushed glass as a substitute for sand. Despite the first year being transitional and comprising capital works programs beset with extreme weather events and COVID, the cost benefit analysis shows a slightly positive benefit. This is expected to improve further as the last few councils transition, and works programs get back on track.

With the NSW Government mandate for councils to make food organics and garden organics collection services available, we have been informing ourselves with several regional studies. These have looked at the feasibility of different on-site technologies for processing organic waste and examined the costs and benefits of the services. The latter project highlighted the significant cost of implementation, enabling us to advocate for more funding and to make informed decisions.

Our advocacy has continued throughout the year, with some twenty formal submissions. The major ones have covered areas as diverse as domestic waste management charges, infrastructure contributions, public lighting, and housing.

Next year will bring more changes and challenges, with a new federal Government and a NSW state election in March 2023. As councils we will continue to serve our communities. I look forward to that, and to continuing our regional partnership through the ROC. By acting regionally, we can achieve better results and save money on our procurement; our advocacy is multiplied, strengthened and respected; our joint projects deliver lasting benefits to us all. I look forward to our continuing cooperation through SSROC.

Councillor John Faker  
PRESIDENT

## 2022 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

### INTRODUCTION TO SSROC

The Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) is an incorporated association of 11 local councils, originally established in 1986. SSROC is a forum for the councils to work together to solve common problems, cooperate in policy development, and advocate to other levels of government.

The Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) Inc recognises that we work on Aboriginal land, and acknowledges the peoples of the Darug, Dharawal and Eora Nations as the traditional custodians of our region.

#### The 2022 member Councils are:

- Bayside Council
- Burwood Council
- City of Canada Bay
- Canterbury Bankstown Council
- City of Sydney
- Georges River Council
- Inner West Council
- Randwick City Council
- Sutherland Shire Council
- Waverley Council
- Woollahra Municipal Council



### THE ORGANISATION

#### Delegates

SSROC comprises two councillors delegated from each of our member councils:

Bayside Council, Burwood Council, Canterbury Bankstown Council, City of Canada Bay, City of Sydney, Georges River Council, Inner West Council, Randwick City Council, Sutherland Shire Council, Waverley Council, Woollahra Municipal Council.

The councils are also entitled to nominate two additional councillors as alternate delegates.

## EXECUTIVE

Each year at the Annual General Meeting, the Delegates elect three of their number to fill the Executive positions of President, Senior Vice President and Junior Vice President. Executive members for 2021-2022 are:

President - Councillor John Faker (Burwood)

Senior Vice President - Councillor Khal Asfour (Canterbury Bankstown)

Junior Vice President - Councillor Susan Wynne (Woollahra)



Cr John Faker  
President



Cr Khal Asfour  
Snr Vice President



Cr Susan Wynne  
Jnr Vice President

## SSROC COMMITTEES

Under its constitution, SSROC can appoint any number of Committees in connection with any of its work, activity or objects, and can co-opt any person to a Committee. No Committees were appointed this year.

## DELEGATES

### Bayside Council

Post Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor Christina Curry (Mayor)

Councillor Scott Morrissey (Deputy Mayor)

Councillor Ed McDougall (Alternate)

Councillor Greta Werner (Alternate)

Pre Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor Bill Saravinovski (Mayor) from 29 September 2021

Councillor Joe Awada (Mayor) to 29 September 2021

Councillor Michael Nagi (Deputy Mayor) from 29 September 2021

Councillor James Macdonald (Deputy Mayor) to 29 September 2021

Councillor Liz Barlow (Alternate)

Councillor Ed McDougall (Alternate)

### Burwood Council

Post Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor John Faker (Mayor, SSROC President)

Councillor Heather Crichton

Councillor Ned Cutcher (Alternate)

Councillor George Mannah (Deputy Mayor) (Alternate)

### **Burwood Council (cont'd)**

Pre Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor John Faker (Mayor, SSROC President)

Councillor Ernest Chan (Deputy Mayor to 28 September 2021)

Councillor George Mannah (Alternate)

Councillor Heather Crichton (Deputy Mayor from 28 September 2021) (Alternate)

### **Canterbury Bankstown Council**

Post Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor Khal Asfour (Mayor, SSROC Senior Vice President)

Councillor Clare Raffan

Councillor Bilal El-Hayek (Alternate)

Councillor Rachelle Harika (Alternate)

Pre Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor Khal Asfour (Mayor, SSROC Senior Vice President)

Councillor Clare Raffan

Councillor Nadia Saleh (Alternate)

Councillor Linda Eisler (Alternate)

### **City of Canada Bay Council**

Post Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor Angelo Tsirekas (Mayor)

Councillor Michael Megna

Councillor Stephanie Di Pasqua (Deputy Mayor) (Alternate)

Councillor Charles Jago (Alternate)

Pre Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor Angelo Tsirekas (Mayor)

Councillor Marian Parnaby (Deputy Mayor from 28 September 2021)

Councillor Michael Megna (Alternate)

Councillor Charles Jago (Alternate)

### **City of Sydney Council**

Post Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor Linda Scott

Councillor Yvonne Weldon

Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore (Alternate)

Councillor Shauna Jarrett (Alternate)

Pre Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor Jess Miller

Councillor Christine Forster

Councillor Robert Kok (Alternate)

Councillor Craig Chung (Alternate)

### **Georges River Council**

Post Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor Nick Katris (Mayor)

Councillor Kathryn Landsberry (Deputy Mayor)

Councillor Colleen Symington (Alternate)

Councillor Benjamin Wang (Alternate)

### **Georges River Council (cont'd)**

Pre Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor Kevin Greene (Mayor)  
Councillor Stephen Agius (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillor Nick Katris (Alternate)  
Councillor Vince Badalati (Alternate)  
Councillor Rita Kastanias (Alternate)  
Councillor Con Hindi (Alternate)

### **Inner West Council**

Post Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor Darcy Byrne (Mayor)  
Councillor Jessica D'Arienzo (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillor Marghanita Da Cruz (Alternate)  
Councillor Pauline Lockie (Alternate)

Pre Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor Rochelle Porteous (Mayor from 7 September 2021)  
Councillor Darcy Byrne (Mayor to 7 September 2021)  
Councillor Lucille McKenna (Alternate)  
Councillor John Stamolis (Alternate)

### **Randwick City Council**

Post Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor Philipa Veitch  
Councillor Alexandra Luxford  
Councillor Dylan Parker (Mayor) (Alternate)  
Councillor Christie Hamilton (Alternate)

Pre Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor Dylan Parker (Mayor) from 30 September 2021  
Councillor Danny Said (Mayor) to 30 September 2021  
Councillor Alexandra Luxford  
Councillor Anthony Andrews (Alternate)  
Councillor Christie Hamilton (Alternate)

### **Sutherland Shire Council**

Post Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor Carmelo Pesce (Mayor)  
Councillor Hassan Awada  
Councillor Kent Johns (Alternate)  
Councillor Carol Provan (Deputy Mayor) (Alternate)

Pre Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor Steve Simpson (Mayor)  
Councillor Jack Boyd  
Councillor Michael Forshaw (Deputy Mayor to 4 September 2021) (Alternate)

### **Waverley Council**

Post Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor Paula Masselos (Mayor)  
Councillor Elaine Keenan (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillor Ludovico Fabiano (Alternate)  
Councillor Tim Murray (Alternate)

**Waverley Council (cont'd)**

Pre Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor Paula Masselos (Mayor)

Councillor Elaine Keenan (Deputy Mayor)

Councillor George Copeland (Alternate)

**Woollahra Municipal Council**

Post Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor Susan Wynne (Mayor, SSROC Junior Vice President)

Councillor Sean Carmichael

Pre Local Government elections in December 2021

Councillor Susan Wynne (Mayor, SSROC Junior Vice President)

Councillor Mark Silcocks

## STAFF

SSROC employs staff to undertake the organisation's day-to-day work. The key positions are:

**Chief Executive Officer**

Helen Sloan

**Program Manager - Environment, Waste, Planning and Transport**

Vincent Ogu

**Strategic Planning Manager**

Mark Nutting

**Regional Procurement and Contracts Manager**

Cathy Dizon

**Strategic Regional Procurement Project Officer**

Roger Bramble

**Regional Procurement Officer**

Emily Pu

**Communications and Government Affairs Lead**

Kate Toohey

**Office Manager**

Natasha Anderson

**Executive Assistant**

Colleen Stretton

**Strategic Lead Regional Coordinator – Resource Recovery & Waste (EPA Funded)**

Justin Bonsey

**Strategic Regional Coordinator – Resource Recovery & Waste (EPA Funded)**

David Kuhn

The staff team is complemented from time to time by project personnel, engaged to carry out special projects funded by grant income or council contributions.

## **WORKING GROUPS**

Working groups of council officers work with the staff team to develop and implement SSROC programs.

The groups are a key component of the success of SSROC and they are periodically reviewed by the Chief Executive Officers and General Managers to ensure that they continue to reflect councils' needs and priorities.

The current working groups operating are:

- Chief Executive Officers and General Managers
- Sustainability and Environmental Management
- Smart Communities
- Strategic Planning
- Strategic Procurement
- Waste Network
- Waste Strategy Steering

## 2021-2022 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

### PROGRAM AND PROJECTS

#### RESILIENT SYDNEY DIVERSE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM

The 100 Resilient Cities Initiative has long recognised that affordable housing is a foundation of successful communities and placemaking for our global cities. All 33 Sydney Councils are active members of Resilient Sydney, with the City of Sydney facilitating.

A steering committee of council officers, representatives of Resilient Sydney, SSROC Secretariat, the Greater Sydney Commission and the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) was formed in 2020-2021 to develop a forward program of work to help councils support the delivery of local affordable housing projects. The steering committee seeks to help metropolitan Sydney councils work together to deliver diverse, affordable rental housing in perpetuity. SSROC is coordinating this work, with the support of WSROC, NSROC and the Western Parkland Councils.

#### SEPP 70 Workshop

In 2021/22, eighty-one participants from nearly all metropolitan councils examined practical issues facing councils seeking to establish affordable housing contribution schemes. The workshop shared practical insights and resources to help overcome the procedural barriers to getting contribution schemes established. There was consensus that there was need for further work, and the steering committee agreed to work in close collaboration with DPIE, in accordance with the actions of the NSW Housing Strategy.

#### An Enabling Consultancy Project

Planning consultancy Urbanista Australia was engaged by the SSROC Secretariat, on behalf of the steering committee, to produce practical tools and information for local councils and find ways of streamlining the process for establishing local schemes. This project aims to help councils to work together across metropolitan Sydney towards the common goal of delivering more diverse affordable rental housing. The project is being funded by contributions from Resilient Sydney, Department of Planning and Environment (Housing Policy), the Community Housing Industry Association NSW and SSROC.

This project, commenced in late 2021, and will produce the practical tools and information for councils to help them to implement their own affordable housing contribution schemes under the Housing SEPP (formerly SEPP 70). The overall project is due to be completed in the second half of 2022.

#### Partnering with Community Housing Providers

On 22 October 2021, an online forum was held as part of the Resilient Sydney Affordable and Diverse Housing project. It focussed on metropolitan councils working with community housing providers (CHPs), and how CHPs can assist councils to provide and manage affordable housing through the planning system.

The forum was facilitated by Ms Barone, CEO, City of Sydney and co-hosted by Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA) NSW. The 86 participants included senior officers from 28 metropolitan councils, and 19 CHPs, including CEOs. Several affordable housing projects were presented, where CHPs have attracted millions of dollars of low-cost finance through the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation to local affordable housing and other housing projects.

## **Affordable Housing Data**

This project to address the paucity of data required for decision-making established a project team including the Housing Evidence Centre and DPIE, SSROC, and Resilient Sydney. The Group developed a set of affordable data definitions to support council information needs. These will drive the proposed data collection approach, drawing from sources including the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Corelogic, the Rental Bonds Board, the Community Housing Registrar and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The project will continue in 2022-2023, with councils consulted throughout to ensure that information is appropriate to their needs.

## **WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY**

### **Procure Recycled: Paving the Way**

Procure Recycled is a program that aims to leverage joint council procurement to expand and create new markets for products with recycled content. In phase 1, SSROC led a 16-council procurement of asphalt with recycled crushed glass as a substitute for natural sand. This contract launched on 1 July 2021 with 24 suppliers and is now being used by 13 councils in metropolitan Sydney.

Despite major delays due to COVID-19, climate events, and alignment with expiring contracts, councils have used the equivalent of about 7 million glass bottles in the first year. This is expected to increase to about 38 million per year. Cost-benefit analysis after one year is slightly positive and will rise as councils increasingly use the contract.

Phase 2, in partnership with Tyre Stewardship Australia (TSA), and technical support from the Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA), SSROC plans a 12-month 12-council demonstration of locally processed crumb rubber in bitumen. The project aims to establish a market for used tyres, using a proven material to improve the life of road assets. The project is underpinned by memoranda of understanding with Transport for NSW, AfPA and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA) for strategic collaboration.

### **Textiles Action Plan for Sydney Councils**

SSROC, WSROC and NSROC published the Textiles Action Plan for Sydney councils, outlining actions for the next five years to reduce textile waste in council operations and through council-coordinated collection services. SSROC also collated information on the used clothing recovery market; barriers to improving textile recovery; and priority messages for residents to improve the quality of donations.

### **Food and Garden Organics**

This qualitative research targets building managers, strata agents, owners corporations and cleaners to provide their points of view about organics collection services in their apartment buildings. This cohort is rarely involved in service design yet is critical to implementing and maintaining the amenity and efficiency of food collection in bins, cleanliness of bin rooms, and resident participation and attitudes. This research is due to be complete in December 2022.

### **Onsite organics processing technologies**

SSROC engaged Talis Consultants to explore the benefits and risks, utilities requirements, output profile and licensing needs for current and emerging technologies for on-site organics processing. The project developed a full technical comparison for each technology, and a decision tool to assess suitability for high, medium and precinct densities, a graphic brochure for communities and developers, and site visits. SSROC will take forward a 3–5-year programme to assist councils in joint procurement for long term FOGO and FO processing, secure their organics transfer arrangements, support their collections grants and community education programmes.

## **Contestability training for waste procurement and contracts**

SSROC and WSROC partnered with the NSW EPA to develop and deliver training for council staff that examines how commercial factors can affect waste service tenders and contracts. Clayton Utz was engaged to run full day training sessions for SSROC councils, with a second to be delivered in October 2022. The aim of the project is to help councils use their purchasing power to improve resource recovery outcomes while re-thinking their commercial relationships using collaborative contracting methods.

## **Veolia Advanced Waste Disposal Project**

SSROC continues to work with Veolia, council contract superintendents, and our technical adviser to improve diversion from landfill after the 2018 regulatory change that prohibited the application of mixed waste organic outputs to land. Services to councils have continued uninterrupted throughout the year, except for a few anxious hours when flooding caused a landslide to block the rail connection to the Sydney transfer stations. Councils and Veolia managed the disruption with minimal impact on residents, and services were quickly restored.

Mixed waste processing has continued throughout the year, with most of the organic output being applied to the former tailings dam of the old mine at the site, in a trial being monitored for the EPA. The remainder is used for daily cover at the bioreactor landfill, where a gas capture system generates power for the site.

## **STREET LIGHTING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

In late 2021, SSROC reached a provisional agreement with Ausgrid to extend the accelerated LED replacement program to main roads (as well as the remaining non-LED lights on residential roads). The proposal to replace a further 92,000 lights with LEDs includes co-deployment with smart controls on main roads and provision for each light to accept future smart city sensors. The three-year program will take total LED deployments to more than 90% of all Ausgrid lighting by 2024 (currently at 147,463 LEDs out of 260,000 lights on the Ausgrid network as of early June 2022). The approach being taken will be one of the most advanced lighting deployments of its type in the world.

Ausgrid made a formal proposal to all councils on 4 March 2022. SSROC has subsequently held three webinars for councils to brief them on the proposal and answer questions, prepared a template report for councils and has held meetings and calls about the proposal with most program participants. Overall, while the details vary by council, the \$70m+ project will reduce energy consumption by an average of 56%, maintenance by 39% and total costs by 16% compared to the lights being removed (including having accounted for the full capital costs of the upgrade).

As of early June, 21 of 33 councils served by Ausgrid and encompassing more than 67% of the lights to be replaced have formally accepted the proposal. This excellent response rate more than exceeds the delivery capacity of Ausgrid in the first year of this three-year program.

More than 150,000 energy efficient lights have been deployed in residential roads saving councils over \$55 million in the next decade compared to the lights they replace. The \$5.5 million annual saving will continue to climb as more LEDs are installed.

The Street Lighting Improvement (SLI) Program has been one of the most successful and effective examples of joint regional cooperation by local government. Councils in metropolitan Sydney, the Central Coast and Hunter have been working closely together under the SLI Program to challenge proposed price increases and to secure technological and service level improvements in Ausgrid's provision of public lighting. The 29 councils now participating in the program collectively encompass over 230,000 streetlights or more than 90% of Ausgrid's streetlights.

This highly efficient, value for money investment by councils has a benefit cost ratio easily exceeding 100:1. The Program will continue next year, with another round of upgrades anticipated for main roads.

## ADVOCACY

### Planning Reforms

During 2021/22 the NSW Government proposed several important planning reforms including:

- new infrastructure contribution arrangements
- the introduction of a new Design and Place SEPP (including higher BASIX standards for buildings to achieve improved environmental performance)
- Rezoning reforms and a further discussion paper: *A New Approach to Rezonings*.

SSROC prepared detailed submissions on each of these proposed reforms, supporting improvements while raising some significant concerns about those changes that created new obligations and constraints on councils that would adversely affect councils' ability to deliver good place outcomes for communities.

### Waste and Resource Recovery

- SSROC led a state-wide, evidence-based response to IPART's local government domestic waste management charge (DWMC) review draft report, which led to IPART withdrawing its proposal to benchmark and peg waste service costs and for councils. SSROC modelled the financial impact of IPART's proposal on member councils. Findings were shared with multiple government agencies, industry groups, and all NSW councils in order to maximise alignment of council submissions to the draft report consultation.
- Participation in the NSW EPA Local Government Advisory Group has continued throughout the year.
- Advocacy for legislative and regulatory reforms for achieving a circular economy, has also continued, particularly in the NSW resource recovery framework review and product stewardship schemes.

### The Greater Cities Commission

The Greater Cities Commission Act 2022<sup>1</sup> was assented to on 13 April 2022. The Act constitutes and confers functions on the Greater Cities Commission, amends the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to make provision for strategic planning and repeals the Greater Sydney Commission Act of 2015. SSROC is actively monitoring and engaging with these new policy directions as they emerge, noting that some SSROC member councils now form part of the Eastern Harbour City and others the Central River City.

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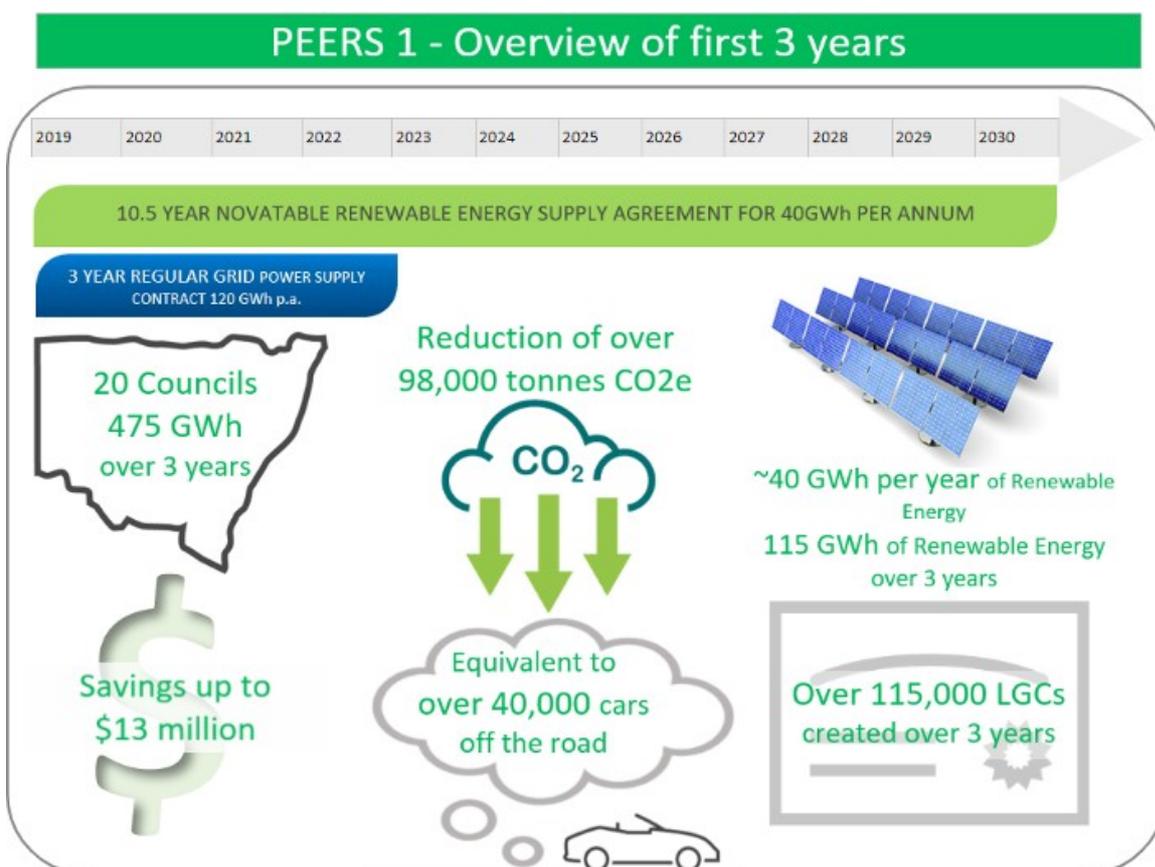
<sup>1</sup> <https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2022-008>

## PROCUREMENT

SSROC manages some 40 contracts, covering a wide variety of member councils' needs. The Procurement and Contracts Management team has an extensive work program for the next year, including multiple contract renewals, new and replacement tenders as well as an on-going series of supplier performance reviews with councils.

### Program for Environmental and Energy Risk Solutions (PEERS)

PEERS 1 Renewable Electricity Contract is a landmark, award-winning agreement to supply approximately 40 gigawatt hours per annum of renewable energy to 20 councils in NSW until 2030. It has continued to deliver financial and carbon savings to councils with its fixed price for renewable electricity steady as market prices have risen. PEERS 1 non-renewable contract expired on 30 June 2022, and participating councils will transfer to PEERS 3. The outstanding performance is illustrated in the infographic below:



### PEERS 3: Making a Difference in NSW

This project is the first in NSW to secure a renewable electricity contract of this magnitude. Twenty-five participating councils with a total combined load of 214 GWh of electricity per year. Nineteen of those Councils are opting for 100 per cent renewable and 83 per cent of the total electricity on average will come from solar farms. This electricity contract with ZEN Energy (ZEN stands for Renewable Energy Now) will supply electricity to over 300 major council facilities, lighting more than 210,000 streetlights and more than 3000 small sites managed by the participating councils. The participating councils represent more than 3 million people, almost 38 per cent of NSW's population.

The environmental benefit of this contract equates to 150,000 tonnes of Co2 reduction, over 2.4 million trees for 10 years.

All SSROC member councils will be running on 100 per cent renewable energy by January 2023, with most transitioning to the new contract on 1 July 2022.

### **Sustainable Procurement Guidelines, Recommendations and Training**

Embedding sustainability in procurement and changing the focus from price alone is a change management challenge all around the world. With climate change, shortage of resources, increasing waste and corporate social responsibility, procurement is one tool to address these issues and achieve sustainable outcomes. To assist us and our councils to deliver sustainable procurement outcomes, SSROC with Edge Environmental facilitated a gap analysis and rolled out a simple and modular “Guide to Sustainable Procurement”.

### **Other Contracts and Initiatives**

**Parks Assets Maintenance:** contract involves inspection both visual and structural, maintenance, and audit of park assets for a period of 3 years with an option to extend for further 2 years subject to satisfactory performance.

**Code of Conduct Review Panel:** the scope of services includes investigations, attendance at mediation or legal proceedings, preliminary assessments, training, auditing, and other related services as required by councils for a period of 2 years with an option to extend for further 2 years subject to satisfactory performance.

**Supply of Aquatic Chemicals:** this contract includes the supply and delivery of all chemicals related to maintenance and upkeep of swimming pools for a period of 3 years with an option to extend for further 2 years subject to satisfactory performance.

**Supply of Agricultural Products, Equipment and Associated Services:** this contract includes the supply and delivery of fertilisers, pesticides for parks, sports grounds and other related products as required. It also includes the supply of equipment to manage playing fields and golf fairways as well as provision of training, assessment and auditing and other related services as required for a period of 3 years with an option to extend for further 2 years subject to satisfactory performance.

**Tree Maintenance Services:** this contract includes tree tidying, reporting and arborist services, tree and stump removal for a period of 3 years with an option to extend for further 2 years subject to satisfactory performance.

**Collection and Disposal of Asbestos:** this contract includes asbestos removal, call-out, initial investigation, verification and containment, collection, transport, lawful disposal, testing, reporting and provision of other related services for illegally dumped and/or suspected asbestos and/or similarly presented materials on Council owned or managed buildings, premises, structures and public lands for period of 3 years with an option to extend for further 2 years subject to satisfactory performance.

## SUBMISSIONS

- 6 July 2021 – submission to Director, Employment Zones, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on the Proposed Employment Zones Framework.
- 13 July 2021 – submission to General Manager, Consumers and Marks, Australian Energy Regulator on Draft Ring-fencing Guideline – Electricity Distribution version 3, May 2021.
- 16 July 2021 – submission to The Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, Treasurer on Environmental Planning & Assessment Amendment (Infrastructure Contributions) Bill.
- 13 August 2021 – submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry of the Community Services Committee: Options to improve access to existing and alternate accommodation to address the social housing shortage.
- 25 August 2021 – letter to Mr Paul Scully, MP, Shadow Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, on Environmental Planning & Assessment Amendment (Infrastructure Contributions) Bill.
- 9 September 2021 – submission to the Housing Policy Team, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, commenting on the proposed Housing SEPP.
- 10 September 2021 – letter to the Hon Rob Stokes, MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, on the proposed reforms of Infrastructure Contributions.
- 28 September 2021 – letter to Ms Kiersten Fishburn, Coordinator, General Planning Delivery & Local Government, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, on proposed reforms of Infrastructure Contributions.
- 30 September 2021 – submission to Head of Regulation, Customer & Strategy, Ausgrid, on NSW/ACT/TASNT Electricity Distributors Consultation Paper 1: Service Classification.
- 28 October 2021 – submission to Australian Energy Market Commission Review of the Regulatory Framework for Metering Services.
- 30 November 2021 – submission to Australian Energy Regulator (AER) on the Framework and Approach Consultation to be used in the forthcoming 2024-29 pricing review.
- 10 December 2021 – submission to Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) on IPART Reviews of the Essential Works List, Nexus, Efficient Design and Benchmark Costs for Local Infrastructure.
- 16 December 2021 – online submission to the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment on the Minister’s Product Stewardship Priority List Nominations.
- 17 December 2021 – submission to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) regarding the Infrastructure Contributions Reforms on exhibition.
- 11 February 2022 – online submission to Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) Energy Regulations Committee on review of electricity network operators’ licences: Issues Paper and Draft Report.
- 28 February 2022 – submission to NSW Environment Protection Authority on the *Joint Procurement of Waste Services Options Paper*.
- 28 February 2022 – submission to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on the BASIX Higher Standards Exhibition.
- 25 March 2022 – submission to Department of Planning & Environment in response to the draft *Design and Place State Environmental Planning Policy*.
- 25 March 2022 – submission to Department of Planning & Environment to *A New Approach to Rezoning Discussion Paper Effect*.

- 29 April 2022 – submission to Tribunal for the Review of Domestic Waste Management Charges (IPART) on the *Review of Domestic Waste Management Charges Draft Report*.
- 6 May 2022 – submission to the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) on *NSW Resource Recovery Framework Issues Paper*.
- 14 May 2022 – submission to Office of Energy and Climate Change on the Peak Demand Reduction Scheme: Consultation Paper for Rule 1.
- 12 June 2022 – submission to Standing Committee on Social Issues on the Inquiry into homelessness amongst older people aged over 55 in New South Wales.