



**SSROC**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2022 / 2023**





# SSROC

## About SSROC

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

The Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) is an association of 12 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.

Our programs aim to deliver benefits in support of councils' programs, while managing risks and maximising the value of councils' investment. These programs comprise a range of projects that we manage and often require us to secure grant funding.

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

Member councils are: Bayside, Burwood, Canada Bay, Canterbury Bankstown, Georges River, Inner West, Randwick, Strathfield, 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

In my tenth year as President of Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC), I remain impressed at the achievements we have consistently delivered through our close collaboration and strong partnerships with our member councils, contractors and other stakeholders.

The combined resident population represented by our 12 councils is now around 1.8 million, over one third of the population of Sydney, which shows our strategic importance in this great city of ours.

Throughout 2022/23, SSROC has again delivered significant results, including financial savings, positive outcomes and effective advocacy. Many people have engaged in the

collaboration that is our ROC, and contributed to this success, and I sincerely thank you.

First of all, thanks should go to our member councils, especially the Delegates, for their support of SSROC. Thanks to my fellow Executive members, Mayor of Bayside, Cr Christina Curry and Mayor of Woollahra, Cr Susan Wynne, who have demonstrated their commitment throughout this year.

Special thanks also to Cr Khal Asfour, then Mayor of Canterbury Bankstown, who stepped down this year as Senior Vice-President, for his dedication to SSROC over the years. His contribution as a member of SSROC's Executive has been greatly valued.

Thanks also to our Secretary and Treasurer, Matthew Stewart, Chief Executive Officer of Canterbury Bankstown, for his valuable contribution.

And last but not least, I thank all the SSROC staff who work tirelessly to keep our small but high-achieving organisation at the forefront of local council advocacy. They have continued to deliver support, joint procurements and several excellent new projects for our member councils.

## Highlights of the Year

The 2022/23 financial year has been a very productive year indeed, with a host of notable achievements.

Our Street Lighting Improvement Program has almost completed its

# President's message

upgrade of residential roads, and will soon kick off the even more exciting main roads upgrade, with all the Smart City opportunities that will bring.

The Program for Energy and Environmental Risk Solutions (PEERS) continues to go from strength to strength. Councils are already saving 150,000 tonnes of CO2 annually.

A new gas contract is saving money, and the new battery initiative is being planned, to bring more savings.

With affordable housing an increasingly critical issue for thousands of our community members and across Sydney as a whole, our advocacy has continued in partnership with Resilient Sydney.

In October I was pleased to welcome mayors from across Greater Sydney to the Sydney Mayoral Summit, hosted by the Sydney Lord Mayor, to discuss councils' role in potential solutions.

Resource recovery from waste has been a major focus for SSROC for many years. Procure Recycled is a procurement initiative to preference recycled materials and grow the market for recycled products.

The year has seen the start of Paving the Way stage 2, *Reusing Rubber: Recycling Tyres for Roads*, to use asphalt using rubber recovered from used tyres.

I thank and congratulate our partners Tyre Stewardship Australia (TSA) and the Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA), as well as our participating councils, for coming together to make this important project a reality.

The largest coordinated waste audit project yet is well under way, and a new project, Comingled Recycling Sustainable Solutions (CRESS), aims to increase processing capacity for household recycled materials through joint procurement.

SSROC has also taken significant steps to strengthen resilience of the waste sector against natural disasters with funding from the NSW Reconstruction Authority. We aim to establish a permanent regional resilience liaison group for councils, service providers, and other stakeholders.

As councils, we will continue to serve our communities by acting regionally. We can achieve better results and save money.

I look forward to our continuing cooperation through SSROC into 2024 and beyond.

**Councillor John Faker**  
**PRESIDENT**

# 2023 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

## Introduction to SSROC



## Introduction to SSROC

The Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) is an incorporated association of 12 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.

## 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, Strathfield 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 2022-2023 are:

***President - Councillor John Faker (Burwood)***

***Senior Vice President - Councillor Christina Curry (Bayside)***

***Junior Vice President - Councillor Susan Wynne (Woollahra)***

## 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.



Cr John Faker



Cr Christina Curry



Cr Susan Wynne

## Delegates

### **Bayside Council**

Councillor Christina Curry (Mayor); Councillor Scott Morrissey (Deputy Mayor); Councillor Ed McDougall (Alternate); Councillor Greta Werner (Alternate).

### **Burwood Council**

Councillor John Faker (Mayor, SSROC President); Councillor Heather Crichton; Councillor Ned Cutcher (Alternate); Councillor George Mannah (Deputy Mayor) (Alternate).

### **Canterbury Bankstown Council**

Councillor Bilal El-Hayek (Mayor) (from 11 May 2023); Councillor Clare Raffan; Councillor Bilal El-Hayek (Alternate) (until 11 May 2023); Councillor Khal Asfour (Alternate) (from 11 May 2023); Councillor Rachelle Harika (Alternate).

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

Councillor Angelo Tsirekas (Mayor); Councillor Michael Megna; Councillor Stephanie Di Pasqua (Deputy Mayor) (Alternate); Councillor Charles Jago (Alternate).

### **City of Sydney Council**

Councillor Linda Scott; Councillor Yvonne Weldon; Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore (Deputy Lord Mayor) (Alternate); Councillor Shauna Jarrett (Alternate).

### **Georges River Council**

Councillor Nick Katris (Mayor); Councillor Kathryn Landsberry (Deputy Mayor); Councillor Colleen Symington (Alternate); Councillor Benjamin Wang (Alternate).

### **Inner West Council**

Councillor Darcy Byrne (Mayor)

Councillor Philippa Scott (Deputy Mayor); Councillor Marghanita Da Cruz (Alternate); Councillor Pauline Lockie (Alternate).

### **Randwick City Council**

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

### **Strathfield Council**

Councillor Karen Pensabene (Mayor) (from 2 March 2023); Councillor Matthew Blackmore (Mayor) (until 2 March 2023); Councillor Karen Pensabene (Alternate) (to 2 March 2023); Councillor Benjamin Cai (Deputy Mayor) (Alternate) (from 9 May 2023); Councillor Matthew Blackmore (Deputy Mayor) (Alternate) (from 2 March 2023-2 May 2023).

### **Sutherland Shire Council**

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

### **Waverley Council**

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

### **Woollahra Municipal Council**

Councillor Susan Wynne (Mayor, SSROC Junior Vice President); Councillor Sean Carmichael from 15 November 2022; Councillor Mark Silcocks (until 15 November 2022).

## Staff

SSROC employs staff to undertake the organisation's day-to-day work.

The key positions are:

**Chief Executive Officer**

Helen Sloan

**Program Manager**

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 (Concluded Employment on 2 June 2023)

**Strategic Regional Business Liaison Officer**

Helen Roth (Commenced Employment as Contractor on 11 April 2023)

**Communications and Government Affairs Lead**

Samuel Bartlett - Contractor - Maternity Leave cover

**Office Manager**

Natasha Anderson

**Executive Assistant**

Colleen Stretton

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

Justin Bonsey (Concluded Employment on 18 November 2022)

**Senior Coordinator, Circular Economy (EPA Funded)**

David Kuhn

**Senior Coordinator, Circular Economy (EPA Funded)**

Annie Walker (Commenced Employment on 6 January 2023)

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 Managers
- Smart Communities
- Strategic Planning
- Strategic Procurement
- Waste Strategy Steering Group

# Major Achievements 2022-23

## Programs and Projects

### STREET LIGHTING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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 last year, as SSROC agreed terms with Ausgrid, and now deployment over three years of the new lights across the Ausgrid area has begun.

There are clear financial savings for all the participating councils, as well as improved lighting and control.

And there are two additional features that make this deployment the largest

of its kind in Australia, and perhaps in the world – the exciting Smart City opportunities that this latest initiative will bring.

Each new light will have a smart control, enabling councils to tailor lighting to the environment. A sensor port on each light will give councils ready access to a network of points for connecting Smart City sensors for any number of purposes, such as traffic-counting and analysis, noise-monitoring, movement-sensing or pollution-detection.

SSROC was represented on the judging panel this year for a competition to find innovative, compliant sensors, bringing the project global attention. More work will be done on this Smart City aspect in the coming year.



**LIGHTING THE WAY:** The SSROC Street Lighting Improvement Program was initiated across metropolitan Sydney and parts of regional NSW in 2022-23.

# Major Achievements 2022-23

## **RESILIENT SYDNEY DIVERSE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM**

The global 100 Resilient Cities Initiative has long recognised that affordable housing is a foundation of successful communities and placemaking for our global cities.

All 33 greater Sydney Councils are active members of Resilient Sydney, with the City of Sydney hosting. A steering committee of council officers, representatives of Resilient Sydney, SSROC Secretariat, the then 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 Greater 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.

In October 2022, SSROC held the Sydney Mayoral Summit to discuss what councils can do to contribute to solving the housing crisis by increasing the amount of affordable housing in our communities. The summit heard from community housing providers (CHPs) about projects where councils have partnered with them to deliver affordable housing in their local areas. One of the biggest costs for CHPs in delivering affordable housing in Sydney is purchasing land.

The summit also discussed a program to help councils introduce affordable housing contribution schemes to increase the amount of affordable housing in their local areas.

The purpose of the project is to make the process for introducing contribution schemes easier for councils. A range of tools, including a template contribution scheme and a proposed optional standard clause for local environment plans was launched in late 2022.



**HOUSING PRESSURE:** SSROC ramped up its advocacy to ease housing affordability across Sydney during 2022-23.

# Major Achievements 2022-23

In March 2023, SSROC and Resilient Sydney held an online workshop, along with representatives from the other Greater Sydney regional organisations: WSROC, NSROC and Western Sydney Planning Partnership, to cooperate on strategies to improve housing affordability for low-income earners across Sydney. The workshop was attended by representatives of 32 Sydney councils.

The online workshop showcased SSROC’s new, practical tools and resources to help local council officers prepare Affordable Housing Contribution Schemes for their councils drawing together specialist affordable housing research. With the assistance of the tools, councils are now working towards their own affordable housing contributions schemes.

## ADVOCACY

SSROC has been proactively advocating on behalf of councils to help shape the new Greater Cities Commission Region and City Plans. SSROC held a workshop session with Planning Directors in September.

The resulting report of priorities was then used as the basis for a submission to the NSW Government and Greater Cities Commission consultations.

## PROCUREMENT

SSROC’s Procurement Team is focused on delivering real value for Councils, and is a leader in the development and delivery of innovative waste, power, and gas contracts.

These particular categories exhibit changeable market dynamics so require close strategic observation and ongoing scrutiny. They accommodate many variables relating to sustainability which is foremost, along with value, at the heart of all SSROC contracting.

In line with the focus on sustainability, the Sustainable Pavements Contract, providing a panel of suppliers for materials using recycled crushed glass, has received broad market and public acknowledgment for its many benefits, notably for the sustainable solution the scope provides.



**WORKING TOGETHER:** The October 2022 Housing Summit involving the 33 Sydney councils brought attention to the growing pressures on housing affordability across Sydney.

# Major Achievements 2022-23

The Procurement Team has undergone change with the recent introduction of a new position of Strategic Business Liaison in April. This role enables greater connection and continued regular engagement with more than 150 contractors. It is positioned to provide valuable feedback and insights, for both SSROC and the suppliers, after the introduction of contract performance reviews.

SSROC manages over 50 regional contracts, covering a wide variety of goods and services with many categories including in waste, engineering, environmental, and energy to name a few specifically created to meet councils' requirements. The team has an extensive work program including multiple contract renewals, new operational and project-related procurements, as well as on-going supplier performance reviews. Some examples of this year's new operational procurements follow.

## **Supply of Plants and Trees and Associated Services**

SSROC initiated a five-year contract for its member councils to supply plants and trees, which also includes plant installation services, tree planting program, design and plant watering services, nutrient supply for street trees and plants, and for gardens and reserves, supply of tube stocks and mature tree stock from established nurseries.

This contract enables councils to plan and program outdoor maintenance with suppliers from the panel. The contract includes two nurseries for stock supply and four plant and tree service suppliers.

## **Line-marking**

SSROC initiated a five-year contract for member councils for pavement line-marking installation, maintenance, removal, temporary markings and installation of raised pavement reflectors. Both reflectors and paints are made of recycled materials with recycled crushed glass content.

## **High-Pressure Cleaning Services**

SSROC initiated a five-year contract for member councils, with a panel of five suppliers, to deliver high-pressure cleaning services to carpark, road, sweeper, gully/enviro pit cleaning, asset cleaning and refresh.

## **WASTE, RESOURCE RECOVERY & CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

### **SSROC Waste Audits**

Every four years for the past 20 years, SSROC has coordinated audits of household kerbside bins for member councils providing our region with one of the best longitudinal data sets in the country.

In 2022-23 the audit program is the biggest yet and includes:

- 11 councils audited household red, yellow and green lidded bins, fieldwork has been completed and draft reports are being compiled.
- Bulky Waste Kerbside Audit: eight councils audited household clean up collection piles including Burwood, Canterbury Bankstown, Canada Bay, Georges River, Inner West, Randwick and Sutherland.
- Audits of council facilities have also been undertaken for four councils.

# Major Achievements 2022-23

- Audits of high-rise buildings audits will be occurring for six councils in 2023-2024.

Audits provide detailed data and analysis to councils on their communities' waste services. The data includes statistics and analysis of bin contents, weights, fullness/volume, separation issues, education opportunities, CDS containers opportunity, and historical trends. This is used by councils to assess and develop strategies to improve waste collection and processing contracts. It is important for community engagement and as a basis of further research into aspects of the waste supply chain and future collection or reuse, recycling and recovery requirements. It enables councils to identify contamination issues, craft appropriately targeted education messages and provide important insights into waste generation trends.

This very valuable information ultimately helps to improve materials recovery outcomes, and increase sustainability outcomes including knowledge of separation and recyclables factors. With data collection now complete, the project will continue into next year for data analysis and reporting for each council.

A regional report on the general kerbside audit results and the bulky waste audit will be available in late 2023 on SSROC's website.

All processes within the audits ensure the quality of collection, recording of data and reporting and the treatment of audit personnel, community and proper treatment of waste collected.

## Reusing Rubber: Recycling Tyres for Roads

The *Reusing Rubber: Recycling Tyres for Roads* is an initiative of SSROC,



**PAVING THE WAY:** The *Reusing Rubber: Recycling Tyres for Roads* initiative rolled out across Sydney during the 2022-23 financial year.

# Major Achievements 2022-23

part-funded by and in collaboration with Tyre Stewardship Australia (TSA), and with support from The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA).

The program targets the use of recycled rubber from recycled car and truck tyres. It aims to improve the sustainability of council roads, reduce net capital and operating expenditures by extending road life, and create a local market for end-of-life car and truck tyres by incorporating recycled rubber in bitumen.

It is demonstrating the performance, benefits and risks of reused rubber asphalt through a technical analysis and a 12-month multi-council demonstration of different asphalt mixes.

AfPA developed guidelines and monitoring parameters for crumb rubber in asphalt. The mixes incorporate varying levels of crumb rubber, and the performance in different conditions will be monitored against control sections for an initial 12 months.

Boral, State Asphalt Services and Fulton Hogan were the contractors for the 12-month demonstration project of recycled rubber asphalt. Councils fund the purchase of materials supplied under the existing SSROC Sustainable Pavements contract, as well as the cost of works. TSA funding of \$386,000 pays for consultancy to recommend demonstration mixes, develop demonstration guidelines, demonstration monitoring, testing, life-cycle assessments and trial evaluation.

Monitoring services, to be provided by IMG, will commence in July 2023. IMG is undertaking the laser profilometer assessment of all demonstration sites and measure and record roughness, rutting and macro-texture over a 12-month period.

In the long-term, councils are expected to benefit from increased asset life resulting from the more durable road surface. According to RMIT University experts, rubber asphalt, compared to standard asphalt, has 20 to 50 per cent extra longevity depending on factors such as mix design, thickness of the layer and quality of sub-layers.

## **CRESS (Comingled Recycling Sustainable Solutions) Joint Procurement**

SSROC is taking a joint procurement approach to challenging the waste industry to increase resource recovery through innovative processing of materials in the yellow bin.

The staged CRESS programming involves nine member councils who have agreed in principal to aggregate demand and promote competition and improve sustainability outcomes. As a result of the initial expression of interest (EOI), SSROC received five responses from major commercial recyclers.

SSROC will progress the procurement of services in 2023-24, allowing for flexibility of supply and a staggered start for councils coming out of their current contracts.

# Major Achievements 2022-23

## FOILs (Food Organics Innovations in Local Governments)

The NSW mandate for waste food organics services is approaching, and SSROC is helping councils to consider all service procurement options, regardless of councils' intended start date for food and garden organics (FOGO) or food only (FO) collections. The SSROC FOGO/FO Procurement Roadmap and associated workshops have built a picture of the processing and transfer facility landscape, service configuration and design, buy-back of recycled content, and other associated opportunities through an aggregation of demand. The Roadmap will provide a guideline for sourcing the way forward.

## Textiles Action Plan for Sydney Councils

SSROC coordinated four Sydney metro initiatives as part of implementing the Textile Action Plan including:

- Facilitating the Textiles Steering Group made up of representatives from interested Sydney councils,

ROCs and the NSW EPA Organics Team.

- SSROC coordinated three audits of textiles collections at council managed drop off points (community recycling centres and public drop off events). These audits helped capture some independent baseline data on the volumes, types and condition of textiles typically collected in council collections.
- Leading a Uniform Recycling Trial for eight Sydney councils to collect and recover council staff uniforms. This trial started in April 2023 and has already collected over 500kg of uniforms which will be processed in Australia for reuse and recycling by Upparel.
- Providing input into the design of a product stewardship scheme called Seamless.

## Whitegoods Recovery for Future Resilience

Of the many unwanted, bulky household items, whitegoods - especially refrigerators and freezers -



**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** SSROC assisted councils consider their procurement options for food organics in 2022-23.

# Major Achievements 2022-23

are among the most difficult to manage.

SSROC sought to understand the feasibility and value opportunity of collecting, bulking, de-gassing and recovering refrigerators and whitegoods. The study established a high-level material flow analysis for unwanted whitegoods, and investigated a range of interventions.

The study found that a collective effort is needed between waste service providers, manufacturers and brands, logistics companies, councils and consumers to establish the value chain for recovery and environmental compliance. SSROC will seek funding and advocacy opportunities to progress actions in 2023-24.

## **Capturing Apartment Management Teams' Perspectives about FOGO / FO services**

In all the social research across NSW and local government, little analysis existed of the attitudes and experiences of running FOGO and FO services from the perspective of apartment management teams such as building managers, cleaners, strata managers and body corporate.

Their roles being important in the success of FOGO and FO services in unit blocks, SSROC sought to examine the perceptions and experiences of the group.

Our waste team surveyed over 200 stakeholders located in member council LGAs which are running organics services in apartment buildings, and conducted interviews with 75 in December 2022. Key themes emerging included the need to make the service easy to manage,

communication and attitudinal change, appropriate infrastructure, and cleanliness. The findings will be used by councils in their planning for delivery of these services.

## **Waste Risk and Resilience**

In 2022, flooding in NSW put local waste management services at serious risk, and bushfires in earlier years had also presented risk to disposal services. In March 2022, some SSROC councils were within a day of being unable to collect kerbside waste.

Later in 2022, SSROC successfully sought funding from Resilience NSW (now NSW Reconstruction Authority) to develop a waste management continuity risk reduction and resilience plan. This followed up on a key recommendation of the SSROC 2016 report, after the Brisbane floods, to develop a disaster management plan, seeking to find mechanisms to join up the business continuity plans of councils, waste service providers, and other stakeholders, to ensure that the sector overall could continue to function in a disaster situation.

The project's governance structure, comprising the project team and the steering group has representatives from councils, waste services industry, state agencies, project consultants and SSROC secretariat, WSROC and NSROC.

The project is now in Phase 2, which covers risk identification, stakeholder engagement, risk analysis, risk mitigation action plan and council capacity building.

Major expected deliverables of the project that could lead to long-term outcomes are:

# Major Achievements 2022-23

- Better coordinated disaster responses for waste services embedded in business continuity plans, including Councils' Local Emergency Response Plans;
- An on-going Cross-Sectoral Liaison Group that will continually review the risks, mitigation and contingency measures, to ensure prompt and efficient responses to situations of emergency and the continuing relevance of response plans.

The project will enhance the resilience of waste services to disasters, so that they can continue to function through major disruption. The project is due for completion by June 2024.

## ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

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

In the third iteration of PEERS electricity procurement, SSROC brokered one of the largest renewable energy contracts for local government

with ZEN Energy, worth approximately \$180 million, and delivering over 214 gigawatt hours of electricity per year to 25 councils across NSW.

Twenty-one out of 25 participating councils across NSW are supplied with 100% renewable energy. ZEN will source the clean energy from the 132MW Nevertire and 56MW Moree solar farms in NSW's northwest, and the 120MW Hillston Solar Farm in the state's southwest.

Over 300 major council facilities, more than 210,000 streetlights and 3,000 small sites managed by the 25 councils will benefit from the agreement.

PEERS 3 is an innovative low risk deal that proves councils can secure a competitive renewable energy pricing and move close to their net zero emission target without entering into long-term agreements.

This agreement lasts for four-and-a-half years and can be extended for up



**SHINING EXAMPLE:** The 132MW Nevertire Solar Farm in North West NSW is among those included in the PPA.

# Major Achievements 2022-23

to four more years by the group of councils. The environmental benefit of this contract equates to 150,000 tonnes of CO2 reduction annually, equivalent to 2.4 million trees, for the duration of contract.

ZEN's Integration Initiative to fund batteries for council sites is included in PEERS 3. The initiative is designed to deliver on-site batteries to councils. It aims to provide direct benefits to all parties whilst transitioning councils towards a net zero energy system.

The ZEN batteries will be behind the meter, providing financial savings for the site over time by reducing network charges. So far, four participating Councils have signed the Memorandum of Understanding and to date, ZEN has inspected 15 sites that, if feasible, will have the batteries installed.

## **PEERS Gas - Large Sites**

The PEERS Program includes the supply of gas. SSROC, on behalf of three councils, entered a two-year contract with Alinta Energy Pty Ltd. Through this contract a financial saving of \$770k was achieved compared to the current market rates. The negotiated terms also delivered the benefits of no minimum take-or-pay and no CPI increase during the contract period.

## **Collaboration in Electric Vehicle (EV) charging Infrastructure**

EVs are increasing in Australia and expected to continue to increase for the foreseeable future, with 52 per cent of all new cars by 2030-31 forecast to be EVs in NSW.

In response to EV enquiries from the community and industry, SSROC

member councils are keen to implement EV policies or guides for their areas.

SSROC established a multi-professional EV Charging Working Group to promote regional collaboration on EV charging infrastructure for our community and local businesses.

The EV charging working group, including representatives from North Sydney and Ryde councils, has developed "Regional Approach to EV Charging Infrastructure" report.

The SSROC CEOs/GMs Group in June 2023 endorsed some key recommendations:

- Develop EV Charging Infrastructure Guidelines for the installation, management, maintenance and removal of EV charging infrastructure on public and private land;
- Develop EV model objectives and controls for incorporation into Council's DCPs for best practice;
- Develop a model council policy and procedure for unsolicited approaches by EV charging infrastructure providers;
- Work with Ausgrid to develop a "fast charging regional masterplan" that identifies electricity and capacity constraints across the SSROC region; and;
- Develop a regional procurement strategy to promote bulk procurement and lower the cost of the purchase and installation of EV infrastructure.

The SSROC Secretariat and sub-groups involving members of SSROC EV Working and SSROC Strategic Planning Groups will progress the recommendations.

# Major Achievements 2022-23

Meanwhile, SSROC continues to liaise with Resilient Sydney, particularly on advocacy with NSW Government agencies and matters that require metro wide solutions.

## Submissions

**19 August 2022** – *Submission to Energy Security Board providing a response to the Electric Vehicle Smart Charging Issues Paper – For Consultation.*

**30 August 2022** – *Letter to The Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning and Minister for Homes on the subject of Balancing Risk Mitigation with Housing Delivery and Affordability (Design and Place SEPP).*

**4 October 2022** – *Submission to Ausgrid commenting on Ausgrid Draft Plan 2024-29.*

**11 October 2022** – *Submission to Ausgrid commenting on Ausgrid Draft Plan 2024-29 - Public Lighting Services Consultation Paper.*

**17 October 2022** – *Submission to the NSW EPA on the Illegal Dumping Preventions Strategy 2022-27.*

**29 October 2022** – *Letter to CEO, Greater Cities Commission commenting on Six Cities Region Plan Discussion Paper.*

**4 November 2022** – *Submission to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal on the Review of the Rate Peg Methodology Issues Paper.*

**2 December 2022** – *Submission to NSW Environment Protection Authority on the Driving NSW's Circular Economy Discussion Paper – NSW Container Deposit Scheme Expansion.*

**22 December 2022** – *Letter to the Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning and Homes on higher BASIX targets for low rise apartment developments.*

**13 January 2023** – *Submission to Housing Policy Team, NSW Department of Planning and Environment on the Explanation of Intended Effect: Housing SEPP amendments.*

**13 January 2023** – *On behalf of Resilient Sydney, submission to NSW Department of Planning and Environment regarding Housing SEPP Explanation of Intended Effect.*

**14 February 2023** – *Submission to NSW Department of Planning and Environment on the Explanation of Intended Effect: Special Flood Considerations Clause.*

**16 February 2023** – *Submission to Australian Energy Markets Commission on Minor Energy Flow Metering, Unlocking CER benefits through flexible trading (Ref ERC0346).*

**22 February 2023** – *In conjunction with Prevention Partners NSW, submission to Office of Local Government on Procurement Guidelines Consultation.*

## Submissions

**2 March 2023** – *Submission on NSW 2022-23 Half-Year Review Fiscal Position and Outlook – Infrastructure Contributions Reform* to the:

- then Premier, the Hon Dominic Perrottet MP
- then Treasurer, the Hon Matt Kean MP
- then Minister for Planning and Minister for Homes, the Hon Anthony Roberts MP
- then Leader of the Opposition, Mr Chris Minns MP
- then Shadow Treasurer, the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC.

**7 March 2023** – *Submission to NSW Office of Energy and Climate Change – Going Circular in Clean Energy Issues Paper.*

**12 May 2023** – *Submission to Australian Energy Regulator on the Ausgrid Determination 2024-29 – Public Lighting Pricing.*

**7 June 2023** – *Submission to the Inquiry into the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Housing and Productivity Contributions) Bill 2023.*