

SSROC

Annual Report

2020



SSROC

CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
ORGANISATION STRUCTURE	4
DELEGATES	6
MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS 2019/2020	8
PROGRAM & PROJECTS	11
ADVOCACY	13
PROCUREMENT	16
SUBMISSIONS	19
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	21

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Overview

This year the estimated resident population of our area has passed 1.7 million. What a challenge that represents to all of us who serve those people. But also an immensely rewarding job, when we pause to reflect on the huge achievements that each council makes every year as well as when we act as a group through our regional organisation.

As President of the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) I am proud to lead our group of councils, which continue to demonstrate collaboration, cooperation and sharing. Working together on a range of projects and services, advocacy and joint procurement we can share the benefits and financial savings and continue to be effective leaders in our communities.

My thanks to all member councils, especially the Delegates, for their support of SSROC. My fellow Executive members, Mayor of Canterbury Bankstown, Cr Khal Asfour and Deputy Mayor of Georges River, Cr Con Hindi, who have demonstrated their commitment throughout this year, adjusting to online meetings and continuing their support through this challenging time. I also thank our Secretary and Treasurer, Matthew Stewart, General Manager of Canterbury Bankstown, for his input.

SSROC's Secretariat coordinates, facilitates, and delivers many services and projects for our councils, achieving excellent results. I thank our General Manager, Namoi Dougall, for her key role in 2019 and Helen Sloan for taking on the role as Acting General Manager in the second half of the 2019-2020 financial year.

Also, I thank SSROC's staff, who have continued so productively over this challenging time, adapting quickly and well to

working remotely. They have continued to deliver support, joint procurements and a number of excellent new projects for our member councils. Thanks also to the council CEOs and General Managers and the many council officers who work together in the strong and mutually beneficial collaboration that is SSROC.

Highlights of the Year

Reflecting on the past year, I believe it will be remembered as one of the most challenging periods in our recent history. In mid 2019 we were optimistically looking forward to the year ahead and striving to achieve great things for local government but also for our communities. Then we were faced with the drought, bushfires, storms and all followed immediately by the COVID-19 pandemic. All dreadful events, with everyone affected either directly or indirectly. These impacts are likely to continue for some time yet.

I am heartened by the collective resilience and kindness we have seen in our local communities and businesses and of course our member councils. Through our joint cooperation and positive actions, we can be justifiably proud that we are faring so well.

The past six months have been particularly challenging for our councils, as we have all had to embark on new ways of communicating and continuing to deliver services, keeping our staff safe and productive and keeping our communities informed.

In spite of all the challenges, the last year saw the conclusion of the second phase of our Program for Energy and Environmental Risk Solutions (PEERS2), and addition of gas supply to the program. Both electricity and gas procurements achieved significant savings compared to market prices. The PEERS Gas contract includes 11 NSW councils and has allowed a flexible wholesale purchase agreement from the Sydney hub, and will deliver significant savings in costs for gas. SSROC is already receiving enquiries from a number of additional councils looking to participate and enjoy the financial savings of buying wholesale.

Our Street Lighting Improvement Program continues to bring savings to councils as well as better lighting for our communities. Ausgrid delivers the street lighting that councils are responsible for throughout our region and beyond. With now 29 participating councils, our program covers almost all Ausgrid's area, and has developed into a strong and influential force in the very important service of public lighting. The LED lighting accelerated roll-out project is continuing, although interrupted by the unforeseen events of 2019/20.

In our continuing efforts to improve our recovery of resources and minimise our communities' waste, every SSROC member council agreed a memorandum of understanding to prioritise recycled content in our councils' procurement. This initiative, Procure Recycled, will trigger a number of projects aimed at growing the recycling industry by changing our procurement practices. The first project, Paving the Way, has already started with the agreement of standards for the use of recycled crushed glass in our roads.

Looking Forward

Thinking about the coming year, which I hope to be brighter for us all, I look forward to several exciting major new initiatives as well the continuing programs.

All our councils continue to work together on a wide range of waste-related projects, so I will highlight just a few particularly important ones. Our advocacy for the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to develop a plan for waste infrastructure has been heard, and a plan is to be developed. Our own infrastructure plan will focus on our region specifically and will be informed by DPIE's findings. Our review of the regulatory and legislative barriers to the development of circular economy. This year we will use the findings of the review to develop an advocacy plan for change. I hope to be able to report progress in the coming year.

Paving the Way will progress to seeking tenders for Recycled Crushed Glass (RCG) with 16 member and non-member councils having agreed to participate. This joint procurement will see recycled glass included in civil works materials. The use of RCG is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by avoiding the transport of virgin sand from distant quarries, and also the transport of glass interstate for recycling. The procurement's innovative contract model will track emissions and volumes of recycled materials to help councils report on sustainability targets.

PEERS 3 Electricity and Renewable Energy will begin, and will likely form a very large buying group with over fifty per cent of the total NSW local government electricity purchase. We have already made a submission to ACCC to ensure we have approval to proceed. We will next engage the services of an experienced energy advisor with capability and capacity to work with the Project Team throughout the whole process, to help us achieve the best solution possible and value for money for all participating councils.

The Street Lighting Improvement Program will continue in the coming year, with the completion of the LED roll-out for residential roads, Ausgrid's tender for new LEDs, and a review of the NSW Public Lighting Code.

Conclusion

The challenges of the year ahead should not be underestimated, and we must be mindful that so many others around the country and the world are suffering and facing even greater pressures. But there are huge opportunities ahead. Acting regionally will lay the foundations for our councils to deliver ever-better community services next year and into the future. I look forward to our continuing cooperation through SSROC.

Councillor John Faker
PRESIDENT

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE 2019/20

Introduction to SSROC

The Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils Inc (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 Local Government Areas of SSROC

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 2019/20 are:



Cr John Faker
(Burwood)
President



Cr Khal Asfour
(Canterbury Bankstown)
Senior Vice President



Cr Con Hindi
(Georges River)
Junior Vice President

DELEGATES

Bayside Council

Councillor Joe Awada (Mayor)
Councillor James Macdonald (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Liz Barlow (Alternate)
Councillor Ed McDougall (Alternate)

Burwood Council

Councillor John Faker (Mayor, SSROC President)
Councillor George Mannah (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Ernest Chan (Alternate)
Councillor Heather Crichton (Alternate)

Canterbury Bankstown Council

Councillor Khal Asfour (Mayor, SSROC Senior Vice President)
Councillor Clare Raffan
Councillor Nadia Saleh (Alternate)
Councillor Linda Eisler (Alternate)

City of Canada Bay Council

Councillor Angelo Tsirekas (Mayor)
Councillor Marian Parnaby
Councillor Michael Megna (Alternate)
Councillor Charles Jago (Alternate)

City of Sydney Council

Councillor Jess Miller
Councillor Christine Forster
Councillor Robert Kok (Alternate)
Councillor Craig Chung (Alternate)

Georges River Council

Councillor Kevin Greene (Mayor)
Councillor Con Hindi (Deputy Mayor, SSROC Junior Vice President)
Councillor Rita Kastanias (Alternate)
Councillor Vince Badalati (Alternate)
Councillor Nick Katris (Alternate)

Inner West Council

Councillor Darcy Byrne (Mayor)
Councillor Rochelle Porteous
Councillor Lucille McKenna (Alternate)
Councillor John Stamolis (Alternate)

Randwick City Council

Councillor Danny Said (Mayor)
Councillor Alexandra Luxford
Councillor Anthony Andrews (Alternate)
Councillor Christie Hamilton (Alternate)

Sutherland Shire Council

Councillor Jack Boyd
Councillor Daniel Nicholls
Councillor Michael Forshaw (Alternate)
Councillor Ray Plibersek (Alternate)

Waverley Council

Councillor Paula Masselos (Mayor)
Councillor Elaine Keenan (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor George Copeland (Alternate)
Councillor Marjorie O'Neill (Alternate)

Woollahra Municipal Council

Councillor Susan Wynne (Mayor)
Councillor Lucinda Regan
Councillor Mark Silcocks (Alternate)

SSROC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

There were no committees in 2019/20.

STAFF

SSROC employs staff to undertake the organisation's day-to-day work and there have been a number of staff changes during the year. The key positions are:

General Manager

Namoi Dougall (left SSROC on 31/1/2020)
Helen Sloan (Acting from 31/1/2020)

Program Manager - Environment, Waste, Planning and Transport

Helen Sloan (to 31 January 2020)
Helene Forsythe (Acting from 2/3/2020)

Strategic Planning Manager

Mark Nutting

Strategic Procurement and Contracts Manager

Cathy Dizon

Procurement Projects Officers

Yamini Agarwal (left SSROC on 8/8/2019)
Mala Manisegaran (started with SSROC on 23/9/2019)

Procurement Administration Support

Emily Pu (started with SSROC on 17/2/2020)

Program & Communications Officer

Kate Hannan

Office Manager

Natasha Anderson

Executive Assistant

Colleen Stretton

Regional Strategic Coordinator, Resource Recovery (EPA funded)

Justin Bonsey

Hazel Storey (left SSROC 1/5/2020)

Jennifer Gustafson (started with SSROC 10/4/2020)

Waste Educators – Better Waste Recycling Fund (EPA funded)

Louie Leung

Mei Li Quah

Senior Internal Auditors - engaged by councils

Bindu Mathew

Umayal Sivanandan

Our team is occasionally assisted by consultants and other project staff engaged to carry out special projects funded by grants 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 are:

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

Acknowledgement of Country

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

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS 2019/2020 PROGRAMS & PROJECTS



PROGRAM FOR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK SOLUTIONS (PEERS)

The Program for Energy and Environmental Risk Solutions (PEERS) phases 1 and 2 have delivered considerable savings for SSROC councils and a growing number of other NSW councils. The renewable energy component of PEERS 1 from the Moree Solar Farm is estimated to achieve financial savings of \$9.2 million and carbon emissions savings of 166,556 tonnes over the next ten years.

Eight more councils in PEERS 2 successfully completed procurement late in 2019, with very good grid electricity pricing. The contract has achieved combined savings of over \$500,000 for the first half of 2020 compared to their previous contract rates. Most councils are saving between 5% and 30% on electricity costs, depending on when their previous contract had been agreed. But the renewable offer received was significantly higher than regular grid power and was non-conforming. It was financially advantageous for councils to accept the competitive price for regular grid electricity and seek renewable energy when the market is expected to decline in price by 2022, and to combine with the larger group of PEERS1 councils. With a combined electricity load of over 200,000 MWh per annum, PEERS 3 is likely to attract

highly competitive offers from retailers. PEERS 3 approach to the market will begin in early in 2021 and all PEERS 2 councils will be invited to participate.

Two councils whose electricity costs did not fall nonetheless benefited on Large-scale Renewable Energy Target charges.

OUR ENERGY FUTURE

Our Energy Future was initiated by SSROC under the regional renewable energy master plan. Under the SSROC service agreement, the service to councils' residents in 2019/20 has been delivered by the Australian Energy Foundation, and was a finalist in the 2019 NSW Green Globe Climate Change Leadership Awards. The program provides reliable, independent advice to homeowners seeking to achieve greater energy efficiency and install solar power systems. By recommending reputable products and suppliers, this unique program empowers consumers to take energy-saving action, with ease and confidence.

Since 2017 the program has achieved:

- **557 residential solar installations, representing 2.5 mW of generating capacity with 43,973 Tonnes of CO2 abated**
- **13 residential battery installations with 133 kWh storage capacity**



- **80 home energy assessments and 11 home insulations completed**
- **2567 residents attended council information sessions**
- **1000 residents used the call-up information service**

THE STREET LIGHTING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The (SLI) Program 2019-2024 has 29 councils with approximately 90% of all streetlights with Ausgrid's distribution area and about 40% of streetlights in NSW.

The status of key activities is as follows:

1. Project to Replace Up To 104,000 Street Lights with LEDs

All SSROC member councils (and 25 councils in total encompassing more than 80% of the lighting on Ausgrid's network) have formally agreed to Ausgrid's residential road LED upgrade program that was negotiated by SSROC. Several other councils are currently considering it in their 20/21 budgeting process. Approximately 36,200 LED luminaires have been installed as of mid-June 2020.

After resolution in May of how new Electrical Safety Rules would apply to street lighting, Ausgrid has advised SSROC that it is progressively resuming live line work after a fatality on the network in 2019. This important breakthrough after many months of suspended work should again see larger volumes of LED luminaires being deployed initially in the Hunter and inner Sydney and then more widely by September.

Ausgrid has indicated that it will contact each council individually about the resumption of LED deployments in its area.

Ausgrid has recently made a proposal to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment seeking funding support for compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) replacements (which would otherwise be the last remaining non-LEDs on residential roads). SSROC will follow up next year.

2. Ausgrid Street Lighting Repairs

The backlog of repairs to streetlighting escalated dramatically this year, following an urgent and important safety review and a consequent reduction in rate of repairs, then a series of serious storms caused further damage to the network. General Managers, CEOs and council staff raised concerns about the large backlog of Ausgrid street lighting repairs, and SSROC has made a number of representations to Ausgrid about the backlog.

The backlog of Ausgrid street lighting repairs was at over 5,000 outages earlier in the year, multiples of historic levels. Additional resources are now allocated to clearing the backlog, and outages were down to about 4,200 by mid-June. Ausgrid has outlined its plan to reduce the backlog to a more typical 1000-2000 outages by September. SSROC will continue to liaise with Ausgrid on this issue.

Given the concerns about this issue, SSROC undertook a series of formal street lighting surveys on main roads. In total, 6,240 lights were surveyed across all 29 councils in the SLI Program. Outage rates were found to be 9.7% on average, almost double the maximum 5% allowed for in the Australian Standard and a significant public safety hazard. These have been reported to Ausgrid which now has a plan to address the large backlog early next year.

3. Ausgrid LED Tender & Smart Controls EOI

Ausgrid is currently seeking tenders for LED lighting, following extensive input from SLI Program councils and Transport for NSW. New and improved LED lighting choices, particularly for main roads and to support smart city projects, are expected early in 2020/21.

When new contracts with suppliers have been finalised, Ausgrid is expected to begin discussions with councils about a main road LED roll out. Ausgrid has recently made a proposal to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment seeking funding support for main road lighting replacements.

SSROC has also assisted Ausgrid with a recent proposal to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment seeking funding support for a smart controls deployment.

4. NSW Public Lighting Code

The Code came into effect on 1 July 2019, following years of advocacy by SSROC for the establishment of service levels for street lighting. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) has indicated that a formal review of the Public Lighting Code will commence in early 2020/21, SSROC intends to actively participate in this review in coordination with and on behalf of councils.

5. SSROC SLI Program Meetings with Council Staff

SLI Program has been affected by COVID-19, with the team planning to hold annual meetings with all participating councils online instead of the usual individual face-to-face meetings. At the time of writing this report, 20 of the 29 meetings have been completed. These meetings cover all aspects of the SLI Program's work on LEDs, smart controls, service levels and pricing.

WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY PROGRAM



REGIONAL KERBSIDE WASTE AUDIT

Image credit A. Prince Consulting

Waste audit sorting

The 2019 regional kerbside waste audit was the largest audit undertaken and completed in late 2019. Thirteen general audits and nine high-rise audits were conducted over nine months, providing a comprehensive composition analysis and longitudinal data as this is the seventh regional audit undertaken over a 20-year period. Results have been presented to the Waste Network Group.

Key findings of the 2019 waste audit are:

- An average household produces 8.8kg of general waste per week, down from 10kg/per week in 2015. The largest component of general waste continues to be food at 34%
- Recycling bin contamination is still high at 20.5%
- A full (100%) recovery of recycling, food and garden organics can only achieve a maximum of 66% diversion from landfill
- With current waste treatment options and regulations for residual waste, we will not be able to achieve the NSW Government target of 80% diversion from landfill by 2030 without options such as energy from waste or similar technologies
- The diversion from landfill was 37% overall.

With the longest-running consistent pattern of waste audits in NSW, the SSROC member councils' dataset is now widely considered to be the most comprehensive and robust in Australia. The audit data informs the design of SSROC and our member councils waste avoidance and resource recovery projects including targeted education programs.

Regional Waste & Resource Recovery Community Education Program

From July 2019 to March 2020, 85 face-to-face workshops were conducted on recycling, reducing food waste, reducing plastic and reuse. Workshops included 32 community organisations and a total of 1,344 participants.

SSROC Educators quickly responded to COVID-19 restrictions from mid-March 2020, adapting the workshop program to online, interactive webinars. Six webinars were piloted with 105 participants through the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Arc – Student Life and UNSW sustainability groups. The webinars included a variety of waste education activities such as game-based learning via the Kahoot! quiz platform, live discussion, presentations and videos.



Participants were encouraged to share learnings, and many reported that they did this with their family or household who were now taking new and multiple actions to reduce and avoid waste and recycle correctly.



Circular Economy Think Tank Series

SSROC partnered with NSW Circular and the University of New South Wales Sustainable Materials Research and Technology Centre (SMaRT Centre) on a series of three Circular Economy Think Tanks, to examine wastes commonly found in kerbside collections and identify opportunities to divert them from landfill. Two of three planned sessions have been delivered in 2019/20.

The first think tank focused on the pathways of materials from kerbside recycling streams, and examined opportunities to recover more materials. With 36 attendees from 28 different organisations, the session brought together experts from design, engineering, manufacturing, government and research fields.

The second think tank focused on the recovery of textiles and finding solutions to improve recoverability. SSROC councils, UNSW, State government and the design, manufacturing, resource and charity sectors examined collaborative ways of how to transition to a circular economy with a focus on specific materials.

A further, final session will be held next year, to examine plastic wastes.

Alternatives for Processing Residual Waste

Eight SSROC member councils have contracts service providers to collect and process residual (red-lid bin) waste through a treatment facility to produce a compost-like known as mixed waste organic output (MWOO). The application of MWOO to land was banned in late 2018 due to concerns over the cumulative effects on material resulting from sustained testing over several years. The ban effectively left these councils without a solution for the diversion of residual waste from landfill, so they began to examine alternatives.

In 2019/20, councils expressed interest in exploring a joint approach to contracts and infrastructural investment, provided any such decisions are evidence-based and supported by a robust business case. A concurrent SSROC project, Sydney Waste Data and Infrastructure Planning, will assess a food organics-garden organics (FOGO) or food organics (FO) collection service and a thermal processing solution for residual waste, which councils may explore individually and/or jointly.

SSROC is currently developing an application to NSW EPA for the AWT Local Council Transition Fund to FOGO/FO service options feasibility study, with priority given to AWT-affected councils. The study will also consider non-AWT affected councils and explore opportunities for joint procurement of collection and processing contracts. If the funding application is successful, this study is expected to be completed in mid-2021.



Procure Recycled: Paving The Way

The SSROC Paving the Way initiative aims to create a closed-loop local

market for waste glass from recycling bins by using derived products in pavements. Approximately one-third of council domestic glass collections (roughly 100 million glass bottles per year), will be crushed to produce recycled crushed glass (RCG) to natural

sand within asphalt, reducing the need for virgin materials, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and stimulating regional infrastructural development.



16 councils have agreed to participate in the contract for provision of materials and services, which is due to commence on 1 July 2021, including all SSROC members.

Sydney Waste Data & Infrastructure Planning

Inconsistent, unreliable data means that the evidence base for local governments to make informed strategic waste and resource recovery infrastructure and service planning decisions is not adequate.

This project will analyse material flows, infrastructure capacity and needs within the region, including innovative approaches to regional infrastructure and contracts to minimise waste and increase resource recovery over the next 20 years. The recommendations for a standardised waste data protocol, waste data gap analysis and a centrally coordinated waste data management system accessible to all necessary stakeholders. This report will be delivered in December 2020.

Legislative & Regulatory Reforms To Achieve A Circular Economy

SSROC is facilitating a project to consult a wide range of stakeholders across government, industry and peak environment groups on key legal and regulatory issues related to waste and resource recovery. The consultation identified 18 key issues, which

are the focus of a review spanning the breadth of the materials value chain, to identify barriers and opportunities under current legislation and regulation. Issues include the definition of waste, use of the waste levy, priority infrastructure, waste market diversification and planning controls.

Recommendations on reforms to address these key issues will be used to inform SSROC's legislative and regulatory reform advocacy positions. This project is due to report in September 2020.

NSW Waste Less Recycle More Funding Package

SSROC is pleased to acknowledge that this program is supported by NSW government's Waste Less, Recycle More initiative, funded from the waste levy.

Funding is provided for regional coordination and for the delivery of relevant projects, and enables SSROC to achieve beneficial outcomes for member councils and their residents that would not otherwise be possible. Many of the above projects have been wholly or partly delivered under this package.

ADVOCACY

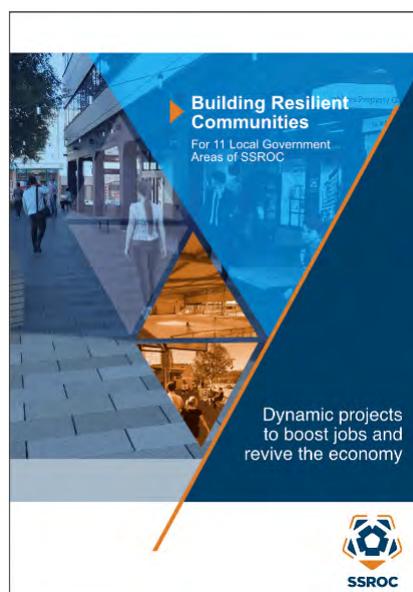
SSROC's advocacy work covers a broad range of issues. The associated tasks range from short submissions in response to consultations, to large projects in pursuit of a particular objective or objectives. Some larger initiatives, such as that related to waste legislation and regulation, are treated as projects and described above. This section highlights some other important initiatives of 2019/20.

Building Resilient Communities

This project aims to direct investment into projects in SSROC member council areas, providing economic stimulus to the region, creating and maintaining jobs during the

COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, while delivering long-lasting public benefit. It highlights the huge potential for benefit throughout southern Sydney, should councils be able to access NSW Government stimulus funding.

SSROC is currently gathering a long list of currently unfunded projects that meet the criterion of delivering long-lasting public benefit. The material will be used to produce a compelling argument for investment in member councils' infrastructure projects, to support an advocacy campaign.



Greater Sydney Place-Based Infrastructure Compacts

The Greater Sydney Commission tested its model of Place Based infrastructure Compacts (PIC) for infrastructure for localities undergoing rapid growth by developing a plan for Greater Parramatta and the Olympic Peninsula (GPOP). SSROC provided feedback on the GPOP pilot, suggesting improvements to the model and welcoming Australia's "first model for place-based growth and infrastructure alignment". The submission recommended its wider application to ensure that there is adequate infrastructure when significant development takes place, especially in precincts undergoing rapid growth

Building Industry Reforms

In consultation with member Councils, SSROC provided input to the discussion paper Building Stronger Foundations, proposing reforms to the Building Industry.

SSROC will continue to monitor these important reforms and to advocate for improved regulatory arrangements.

Boarding House Reforms

In June 2019, SSROC published the report *Occupant Survey of Recent Boarding House Developments in Central and Southern Sydney*, which it commissioned from the City Futures Research Centre, as an investigation into the outcomes of boarding house developments under Division 3 of the Affordable Rental Housing State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPP). The report demonstrated that the provision of affordable housing for marginal households, as originally intended by the introduction of the SEPP, has not been achieved, and the accommodation being delivered under the SEPP are not boarding houses as traditionally understood.

During 2019/20 SSROC used the report to advocate for a number of boarding housing planning policy and regulatory reforms with the NSW Government. A key focus was to ensure that the planning incentives offered under the SEPP delivered genuine affordable housing outcomes.

Following the report's release, the SSROC staff and the report's authors, met with the Department of Planning Industry and Environment and Commissioners from the Greater Sydney Commission in July 2019 to present the findings and discuss the report's implications. The recommendations were well received. The report was also featured on ABC Radio and ABC News online.

The NSW Government Housing Strategy Discussion paper in May 2020 acknowledged that private renting is long-term for a growing proportion of the population, and flagged the need for improved planning responses.



Review Of The Impounding Act

In March 2020, SSROC Secretariat made a submission to the Office of Local Government's review of the Impounding Act 1993. The submission sought to ensure that the Act continues to be effective for managing animals and items left in public spaces, to mitigate the impacts of abandoned items such as shopping trolleys, boat trailers, share bikes, cars, and e-scooters.

Recommendations include the need to update provisions in the Act and find a balance between the convenience of using new technologies and preserving amenity for different groups of people wanting to use and enjoy public spaces.

The NSW Government is currently considering all feedback provided to inform the next stages of the review.

Advocacy In Waste & Resource Recovery

SSROC delivered eight submissions on state and federal waste and resource recovery policies as well as the two major projects to inform our ongoing regional advocacy, the Sydney Waste Data and Infrastructure Planning and the Legislative and Regulatory Reforms for Achieving a Circular Economy.

Our councils provided particularly valuable input into submissions to key strategic consultations for NSW: including the NSW 20-Year Waste Strategy (20YWS) issues paper and the NSW Plastics Plan. Through these submissions, our projects and the continued advocacy of the chair of SSROC Waste Strategy Steering Group (City of Sydney CEO, Monica Barone) has meant that SSROC has been able to establish itself as a key participant in the development of the 20YWS.

PROCUREMENT

SSROC's priorities in procurement are driven by our member councils' strategic needs, channelled through the Strategic Procurement Working Group and other working groups. Member councils take advantage of process efficiency, procurement expertise, aggregated purchasing, and synergy through regional collaborations. Acting as an agent for participating councils, all procurements comply with Local Government regulations. We work together to ensure that our contracts incorporate environmental, economic and social benefits as well as financial savings to councils. Some highlights of the 18 contracts concluded this year are outlined in this section.

PROGRAM FOR ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL RISK SOLUTIONS (PEERS)

Review of PEERS 1

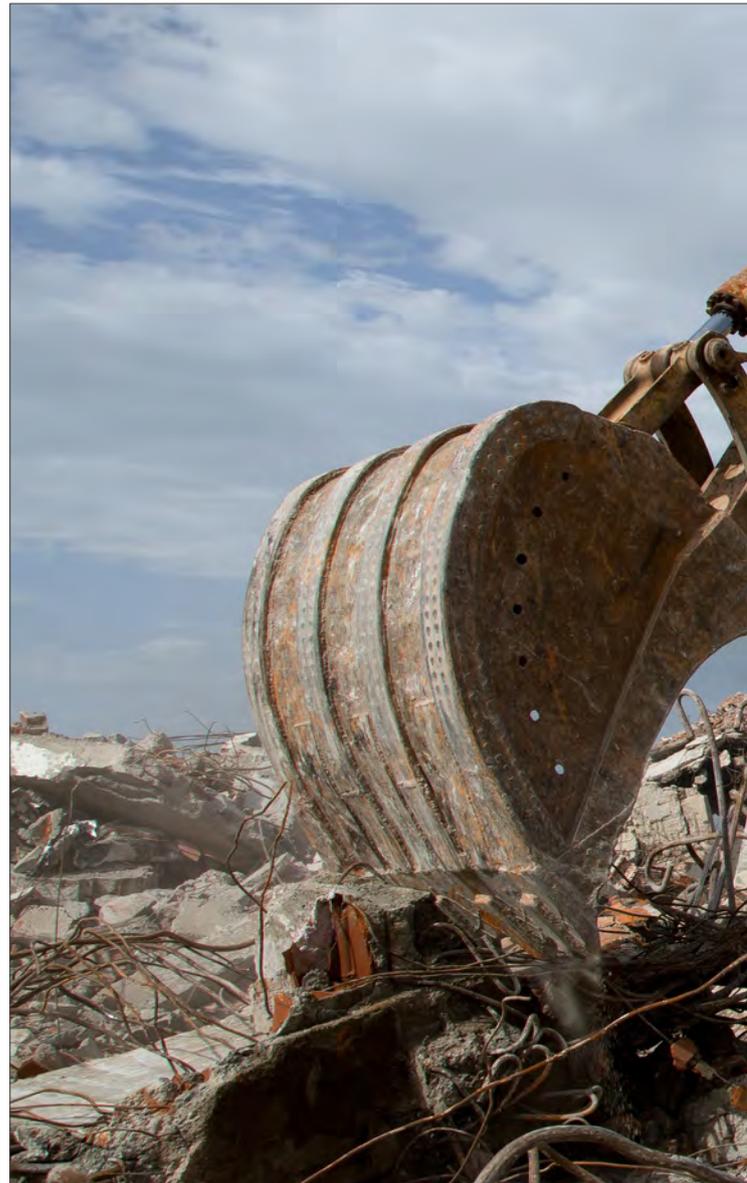
The 2019/20 PEERS 1 contract performance review has determined that the contract is performing extremely well against the current market, even when the wholesale market dropped to a 5-year low. The tradeable Large-scale Generations Certificates (LGCs) bundled into the renewable portion of the electricity supply are providing further value to participating councils.

PEERS 2

In spite of the disruption to the electricity market during the procurement of electricity which resulted in no offers of renewable electricity, most of the councils achieved up to 30% savings against their incumbent contract rates. When compared to other contracts available for councils, PEERS 2 achieved 20% lower unit rates for grid electricity. PEERS 2 contract value is \$46.7 over two years.

PEERS Supply Of Gas For Large & Small Sites

In an Australian first for local government, SSROC secured an innovative agreement to take advantage of a 5-year low in wholesale gas pricing to secure pricing approximately 25% cheaper than traditional retail



agreements, saving participating councils around \$3 million per year.

Additional gas production projects delivered a 10-15% increase in available domestic east coast gas over the next two years. This market change has enabled SSROC to enter into the agreement on behalf of 11 NSW councils, purchasing gas at a low wholesale price from the Sydney hub with a fixed retail margin. SSROC also negotiated strategic terms and conditions with the supplier to mitigate risks of buying gas from the wholesale market. The contract commenced 1 July 2020.



Excavated Civil Works Materials Disposal & Recycling Sites

This contract is for the collection of sorted excavated civil works materials from council sites to a suitably licensed site to be recycled into a road base. About 30% of excavated recycled materials is sold back for councils and the rest is retained or disposed of by the contractor. The service also includes the recycling of street-sweeper waste, with water drained from waste lowering transport and tipping costs to councils.

Resource recovery rates across the contracted facilities are: 77-99% concrete and concrete rubble; 80-100% asphalt and excavated soils; 50% mixed materials. This procurement demonstrates that aggregation can achieve a strategic and sustainable outcome, as well as a competitive price.

Mattress Collection And Recycling Contract

In total 71,596 mattresses and bed bases were collected which represents 1,647 tonnes of waste. Of this, the contractor recovered/recycled 1,235 tonnes or 75%, saving councils \$175,000 in landfill levies.

Gross Pollutant Traps and Stormwater Management Contract

Under this contract 2,353 tonnes of waste have been removed from gross pollutant traps, of which 90% was processed and recycled. Before this contract all of that material would have been landfilled, so in 2019/20 participating councils saved \$370,000 in avoided landfill levies.



Receival & Recovery Of Clean Up Materials

This new joint council procurement is the first targeting diversion from landfill of kerbside clean up collections. By diverting materials from landfill, participating councils will save \$2.3 million per annum, and aim to achieve a recovery rate of 75% for this waste stream.

Clean up materials, (including metals and white goods, e-waste, bulky green and potentially reusable household items), will be sorted for reuse, recycling and energy recovery. The contract also encourages innovation and continuous improvement over its term. This procurement has established a reliable, integrated, efficient and cost-effective processing service at the best value for the region.

Other Successfully Completed SSROC Contracts

In total 18 contracts have been achieved, reviewed and continued or initiated including:

- Feral Animal Control Services
- Supply, install and maintain signs and traffic control equipment
- Tree pruning services
- Response and disposal of illegally dumped asbestos services
- Ready-mixed concrete
- Hygiene products and services
- HVAC Heat, ventilation and Air Conditioning (EOI)



SSROC SUBMISSIONS

The following submissions have been made:

- 24 July 2019 – submission to Better Regulation Division, Department of Finance, Services and Innovation on the Building Stronger Foundations Discussion Paper.
- 2 August 2019 – letter to the Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP in support of maintaining cardiac surgical services at the Sydney Children’s Hospital, Randwick.
- 27 September 2019 – submission to NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) on the IPART Review of the Local Government Rating System.
- 2 October 2019 – submission to Legislative Council Standing Committee on Social Issues on the Inquiry into NSW Modern Slavery Act 2018 and associated matters.
- 8 October 2019 – submission to Review of the Boarding Houses Act Consultation on Statutory Review of the Boarding Houses Act 2012.
- 16 October 2019 – submission to Design and Building Practitioners Bill 2019 Consultation, Better Regulation Division on Draft Design and Building Practitioners Bill 2019 Consultation.
- 25 October 2019 – submission to IPART on the Review of reporting and compliance burdens on Local Government Final Report.
- 15 November 2019 – submission to IPART on Local Government Compliance and Enforcement Final Report.
- 15 November 2019 – submission to Office of the Secretary, Department of Customer Service on NSW Government’s Smart Infrastructure Policy.
- 21 November 2019 – submission to Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications on the Product Stewardship Amendment (Packaging and Plastics) Bill 2019.
- 3 December 2019 – submission to the National Waste and Recycling Taskforce, Department of the Environment and Energy on the proposed national ban put forward in the discussion paper banning exports of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres.
- 4 December 2019 – submission to the Office of the NSW Productivity Commissioner on NSW Productivity Discussion Paper.
- 9 December 2019 – submission to NSW Environment Protection Authority on Mixed Waste Organics Outputs Position Statement and Phase 2 Funding Package.
- 18 December 2019 – submission to the Greater Sydney Commission on ‘A city Supported by Infrastructure’ and ‘GPOP – Our true centre: the connected unifying heart’.
- 20 December 2019 – submission to Minister for Local Government on a New Risk Management and Internal Audit Framework for local councils in NSW.
- 28 January 2020 – letter to Minister for Energy and Environment on reforming electricity distribution pole access to support emerging smart cities.
- 19 February 2020 – letter to Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation on flammable dwellings.
- 25 February 2020 – submission to Sydney Airport on the Sydney Gateway Road Project Draft Major Development Plan.
- 23 March 2020 – letter to the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Shelley Hancock MP requesting the NSW Local Government Elections be delayed by 6-12 months.
- 27 March 2020 – submission to Office of Local Government providing feedback to the Review of the Impounding Act 1993.

- 27 March 2020 unsolicited submission to Group Deputy Secretary, Planning and Assessment, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on Local Character Areas and the Low-Rise Medium Density Code.
- 1 April 2020 – informal submission to Housing Policy Team, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, providing feedback on the Affordable Housing Viability Tool.
- 3 April 2020 – letter to Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP in relation to COVID-19 – Financial Assistance for NSW Councils.
- 3 April 2020 – letter to the Premier of NSW, Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, in relation to COVID-19 – Financial Assistance for NSW Councils.
- 17 April 2020 – submission to the independent review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.
- 15 May 2020 – submission to NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on the Issues Paper ‘Cleaning Up Our Act – The future for Waste and Recycling in NSW’.
- 15 May 2020 – submission to NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on ‘Cleaning Up Our Act – Redirecting the Future of Plastic in NSW’.
- 5 June 2020 – follow up letter to Secretary, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to SSROC’s 27 March 2020 submission to the Group Deputy Secretary, Planning and Assessment, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on Local Character Areas and the Low-Rise Medium Density Code
- 26 June 2020 – submission to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on the Discussion Paper Improving the review of local infrastructure contributions plans.
- 26 June 2020 – submission to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on the Draft Planning Agreements Policy Framework.
- 26 June 2020 – submission to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on the proposed amendments to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 (the EP&A Regulation).
- 26 June 2020 – submission to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on the Discussion Paper ‘Criteria to request a higher s7.12 percentage’.
- 26 June 2020 – submission to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on Draft special infrastructure contributions (SIC) guidelines.



SSROC

**Southern Sydney Regional
Organisation of Councils Inc.**

P: 02 8396 3811

W: ssroc.nsw.gov.au

PO Box 176

Campsie NSW 2194

