

# Eastern Region [alliance]

## BUSINESS PLAN

*Adopted 5 November 2008*

### **Member Councils:**

City of Burnside  
City of Campbelltown  
City of Norwood Payneham St Peters  
City of Prospect  
City of Tea Tree Gully  
City of Unley  
Town of Walkerville

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## Introduction:

The Eastern Region Alliance (ERA) is a voluntary regional association of eastern metropolitan Councils. The Member Councils are City of Burnside, City of Campbelltown, City of Norwood Payneham St Peters, City of Prospect, City of Tea Tree Gully, City of Unley, and Town of Walkerville. These Councils have executed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to form ERA.

The magnificent eastern suburbs of Adelaide are areas of high-quality residential amenity, with proud communities that expect high standard facilities and services, and share interests in many issues including quality public transport, youth, and environmental sustainability.

## History:

ERA was formed on 5 November 2008. ERA existed in earlier days as Metropolitan Eastern Region Organisation (MERO), and later as Office of the East (OOTE). Our Councils in various combinations have a history of successful cross-border partnerships, resource sharing, co-operation and alliances. Existing areas of mutually beneficial joint-effort include waste management, environmental health, immunisation, purchasing, regional rates administration, emergency management planning, regional grants officer, and collective advocacy efforts.

## Statistics:

ERA represents a large and important part of the Adelaide Metropolitan Area:

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>Population (30/6/07)</b>	<b>Area (HA.)</b>	<b>Total Op. Expenditure \$M (30/6/07)</b>
Burnside	43,674	2,741	28,217
Campbelltown	47,527	2,428	26,148
Norwood Payneham St Peters	34,865	1,512	27,234
Prospect	19,814	778	14,079
Tea Tree Gully	99,327	9,507	56,844
Unley	37,305	1,437	28,831
Walkerville	7,202	356	5,445
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>289,714</b>	<b>18,759</b>	<b>\$186,798</b>

## Rationale:

By actively seeking opportunities to work collaboratively, the Eastern Region will benefit from increased sharing of knowledge and expertise, administrative efficiencies and opportunities to seek State and Commonwealth funding. This all adds up to better results for our communities and greater environmental benefits.

The Cossey Report into financial sustainability of SA Local Government specifically recommends regional or shared service provision, and use of purchasing agreements, as a way to realise improved economies scale and reduced service costs. Our Councils choose to work as partners to achieve agreed social, economic, environmental, cultural and other related priorities for our local communities and eastern metropolitan Adelaide as a whole.

We are committed to sharing information. We will work collaboratively to promote resource sharing and common delivery of services and programs.

The Alliance sets out to achieve benefits, without the negatives and losses that come with Council amalgamations. We retain local democracy, representation, proximity of service, local accountability, immediacy of response, and identity. We deliver economies of scale, and avoid duplication of individual effort.

The Eastern Suburbs are regarded as affluent but there are pockets of disadvantage and gaps in service delivery. Part of our role is regional advocacy to ensure that our communities receive a fair share of resources, services, and investment from State and Federal Governments.

We believe there is much capacity to standardise much of the behind the scenes legislative compliance and other governance requirements. It is possible to increase efficiency and quality by avoiding duplication of effort. This project will result in common forms, information sheets, common payment systems, registration systems, common call centre and so on. As part of this approach, ERA will pursue the removal or diminishing of red tape to ensure that both citizens and businesses achieve benefits.

Regional co-operation amongst councils is possible, provided there is the will, and a platform. The Eastern Region Alliance provides a platform that is both efficient and effective.

### **Budget:**

ERA has a commencing budget of \$45,000 pa (including \$10,000 from former MERO) . Each Council is contributing \$5,000 in 2008/09. City of Burnside has volunteered to provide the secretariat.

### **Vision:**

Adelaide's Eastern Metropolitan Councils co-operating to better serve their communities

### **Mission:**

Our mission is to secure (through research, lobbying, advocacy, cooperation, shared services, and partnerships, between our councils) a sustainable lifestyle, excellent services and facilities for our wonderful communities; and to advance the interests of Adelaide's Eastern Metropolitan Region.

### **Charter Objectives (MOA):**

- to identify opportunities to work in partnership for the purposes of progressing agreed social, economic, environmental, cultural and other related priority outcomes for the respective local communities and the eastern metropolitan region of Adelaide as a whole;
- to work together for the purposes of identifying specific initiatives for joint action in order to achieve improved service delivery arrangements at the regional and local level, including options to achieve more effective and efficient co-ordination of service delivery arrangements and to address gaps and opportunities in service delivery;
- to facilitate the identification and development of innovative approaches to working in partnership with Federal and State Government and their respective agencies, through the councils working collaboratively to promote new models of resource sharing and the delivery of services and programs which may have broader applicability across local government;
- to share information relevant to the attainment of the objectives of this Memorandum on an open and equitable basis;
- to promote an effective and efficient approach to funding and resource sharing issues, with the objective of achieving cost effective outcomes for the Councils and their respective communities; and
- to contribute reasonable resources and expertise to any agreed project or process.

## Business Plan:

This Business Plan sets out:

- Actions.
- Performance Targets.
- Performance Measures.
- Timeframes.
- Responsible Officers

Progress will be assessed on a monthly basis, and reported annually. 'Actual Achievements' will be part of the Annual Report.

ERA objectives have been segmented into the following areas and a CEO is responsible for initiating and reporting progress within that portfolio:

<i>Portfolio:</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
• Planning	Mario Barone
• Environment	Mark Goldstone
• Youth	TTG
• Ageing	Ray Pincombe
• Organisation Development	Paul Di Iulio.
• Corporate Services	Neil Jacobs.

<b>1: LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY ON KEY REGIONAL ISSUES.</b>					
<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Performance Targets:</b>	<b>Performance Measures:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>Progress</b>
1.1 Represent the views of member Councils & representation on appropriate external organisations as agreed	To present and represent views.	Number/quality of representations & submissions.  Number of consultations on regional Key Issues	Ongoing	Mayors	September 2008 – Planning Reforms Submission to Planning SA
1.2 Raise awareness of ERA in member Councils, community and with stakeholders.	Distribution of business plan to all key stakeholders.	Increased awareness.	Ongoing.	Secretariat	
1.3 Promote and support the availability of ERA information electronically.	Key documents online	Number of documents online.	December 2008	Secretariat	November 2008 – website established. Key documents and minutes available on line. <a href="http://www.burnside.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=1498">http://www.burnside.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=1498</a>
1.4 Brief and keep informed, LGA, Members of Parliament, media and Councils on key regional issues.	Key issues summary (KOS) to be circulated as necessary.	Frequency of issue.	Ongoing	Secretariat	
1.5 Strengthen Relationships with the LGA & MLGG	Review of MLGG issues.  Response to Adelaide Futures.	Quality of regional representations.	Bi-monthly.	All	
1.6 To examine opportunities for Partnerships outside of ERA Council membership, where it would compliment the achievement of ERA objectives and projects.	As needs arise.	Number of additional partnerships.	Ongoing.	All	

<b>2: STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR REGION.</b>					
<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Performance Targets:</b>	<b>Performance Measures:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	
2.1 Response to planning reforms.	Representation on ResCode. (Completed)  Response on dwelling, employment & TOD targets.  Inform the metropolitan plan as far as is possible from an eastern region perspective.	Preserve neighbourhood character and quality urban environments.	Nov 08 - Ongoing	Planning	Regional submission prepared to respond to planning reforms.  Participation in Eastern Region 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide Local Government Scoping Workshop at Payneham on 21/11/08.
2.2 Regional Transport Strategy – stage 1, scope & assess funding/resources required.	Improved public transport within and throughout the region and in particular across the region.  Improved environmental performance.	Improved public transport /increased patronage/ reduced vehicle emissions.	Feb 2009	Planning	
2.3 Nominate regional road funding priorities to LGA's Local Government Transport Advisory Panel (LGTAP).	Co-ordinate approach to regional priorities.	Quality submission.	To meet grant timeframes	CEO's (technical staff).	
<b>3: ENVIRONMENT &amp; CLIMATE CHANGE.</b>					
<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Performance Targets:</b>	<b>Performance Measures:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	
3.1 Implement Regional Environmental Plan	Endorse and implement the Regional Environmental Plan	Number of actions implemented	June 2009	Environment	

	2008 - 2013.				
3.2 Establish dialogue with AMLRNRM board, and recommend regional priority projects.	Meeting with Board Staff	Number of joint projects/ initiatives	Ongoing	Environment	
3.3 Waste Management – Monitor landfill diversion/recycling rates	Improve efficiencies and diversion performance in waste management.	Increased diversion from landfill	Ongoing	Environment	
3.4 Identify opportunities for regional approach to Environmental Management Systems.	Undertake an investigation into the feasibility of a regional EMS	Preliminary Investigation undertaken & reported.	June 2009	Environment	
3.5 Climate Change – Identify opportunities for regional action	Key staff informed about climate change risk and adaptation.	Attendance at regional seminar/ training / workshop.  Opportunities identified and reported.	Ongoing	Environment	
3.6 Public Lighting - Audit review	Current Public Lighting reviewed and findings considered for implementation.	Audit completed and dialogue established with ETSA Utilities.	June 2009	Environment	
<b>4: YOUTH.</b>					
<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Performance Targets:</b>	<b>Performance Measures:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	
4.1 Consider responses to regional youth plan and summit; identify priorities and explore funding opportunities.				Youth	
4.2 Provide training and development				Youth	

opportunities for young people to enhance employment prospects, raise civic awareness and community involvement.					
<b>5: AGEING.</b>					
<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Performance Targets:</b>	<b>Performance Measures:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	
5.1 Consider regional approaches to an increasingly aged community.				Ageing	
5.2 Scope and identify resources for regional ageing strategy.				Ageing	
<b>6: ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT</b>					
<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Performance Targets:</b>	<b>Performance Measures:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	
6.1 Template Risk Management Framework and Occupational Health Safety and Welfare approaches.	Coordinated approach and sharing of information and documentation.	Amount of information and documentation shared.	June 2009	Organisation Development.	
6.2 Regional staff & Elected member training and development initiatives.	No of training sessions conducted.	Quality and relevance of training sessions.	June 2009	Organisation Development.	
6.3 Region Emergency Management Plan implementation and management; processes for the deployment of staff, resources and co-	Development and implementation Regional Emergency Management Plan.	Plan Implemented.	June 2009	Organisation Development.	



ordination.					
<b>7: CORPORATE SERVICES</b>					
<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Performance Targets:</b>	<b>Performance Measures:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	
7.1 Red Tape Reduction - common forms, information sheets, common payment systems, registration systems, common call centre and others.	Identification and agreement on areas for common systems.	Five areas prioritised and scoped.	April 09	Corporate Services.	
7.2 Joint purchasing arrangements.	Identification of existing areas and new opportunities.	Five new areas prioritised.  Telecoms. Contract renewal.	Feb 09  Nov 08.	Corporate Services.	Renegotiation of Regional Telecommunications Contract.
7.3 Review the use of new technologies to improve service delivery & environmental outcomes.	Identification of opportunities.	Report to Councils  Consideration of biodiesel.	Jun 09  Nov 08.	Corporate Services.	
7.4 Consider opportunities for resource sharing.	Identification and agreement on areas.	Five areas prioritised and scoped.	June 09	Corporate Services.	

