

South Australian Local Government Financial Management Group Inc

MINUTES

2022 Annual General Meeting

Date: Friday 26 August 2022

Time: 2:20pm

Venue: Adelaide Zoo Sanctuary

1. Apologies

- David Hope
- Kate George
- Rob Adam
- Simon Zbierski
- Vikki Purtle

2. Confirmation of Minutes

Moved: Clive Hempel

Seconded: Alex Brown

Recommendation: *That the minutes of the SALGFMG AGM held on 2 September 2021 are confirmed as a true and correct record.*

CARRIED

3. Business Arising from Minutes

Nil

4. President's Report

I would like to start my report by thanking those who have helped make the last twelve months successful and supported me as President.

Firstly, our Executive Committee, which is made up of local government finance staff who, volunteer their time to steer the course of the FMG. Through the diversity of their expertise, and the councils they represent, we are able to share knowledge and find solutions to existing and emerging issues in our sector and support excellence in Local Government Finance in South Australia.

As has become tradition, I would like each of our Executive Committee Members to stand once I announce their name so that we can recognise and acknowledge the time, effort and contribution they have provided over the last 12 months:

- Vice President, Alex Oulianoff – Mount Barker District Council
- Treasurer, Samantha Grieve – City of Playford and David Harman – City of Marion
- Secretary, Clive Hempel – Mid Murray Council
- Alex Brown – City of Unley
- Angela Papatheodorakis – City of Port Adelaide Enfield
- Annette Martin – City of Charles Sturt
- Chris Birch – City of Prospect
- Grant Jennings – Whyalla City Council
- Julie Scoggins – City of Mount Gambier
- Kate George – City of Salisbury
- Kellie Knight-Stacey – City of Victor Harbor
- Kevin Carter – City of Onkaparinga
- Lisa Gilmartin – City of West Torrens
- Luke Harris – City of Mitcham
- Mark Lague – The Barossa Council
- Mike Carey – Adelaide Hills Council
- Rajith Udugampola (pron: you-do-gam-pola) – Adelaide Plains Council
- Rebecca Baines – City of Tea Tree Gully
- Simon Zbierski – City of Campbelltown

I would also like to thank each of their respective Councils who enable them to commit time and resources to the Group. Without this support we would not be able to do a lot of the things we currently do to help improve Local Government.

Can everyone please put their hands together to acknowledge the Executive Committee for 2021/2022.

I would also like to acknowledge Mark Lague, Angela Papatheodorakis and Samantha Grieve who won't be renominating this year due to work commitments, we appreciate your efforts on the Committee over the years and hope to see you renominate in the future.

I also would like to thank the following people who have worked with, assisted and supported the FMG:

- the LGA: Rebecca Muller
- the SA Local Government Auditors Group and its Chairperson, Tim Mulhausler
- our auditors from Creative Auditing, Ian McDonald and Nancy Tran
- our website co-ordinator, Irene Scales
- those Members who have contributed on one of our many FMG working groups
- and finally, Patricia Coonan from Think Purple Solutions for the outstanding efforts she has put into the secretariat and event management coordination roles.

A Review of the Year for 2021/2022 and main projects

I will now provide a summary of the key projects that our working groups have focussed on since the last AGM. Noting that several of our work groups have achieved their purpose and were placed in abeyance during 2021/22 including: Planning Portal; Fees and Charges; and Long Term Financial Plan, these work groups will be reactivated as required.

Events & Membership Workgroup

Again this year, the last 12 months has seen a number of our planned events rescheduled due to changing requirements, however we have continued to deliver a worthwhile program of speakers and events.

Our two day event due to be held in November 2021 was rescheduled to 26 & 27 May this year and was well attended. Titled 'Show Me The Data', it acknowledged the power and influence that data has in our lives and work.

Held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, our keynote speaker Dr James Muecke spoke about his career as an eye surgeon, humanitarian and social entrepreneur including his own resilience in the face of a career changing health issue.

Also featured was an update from LGA on Reform; ESCOSA on the new regulatory framework; Chris Nicolls inspiring us with his story of courage over comfort and choosing what's right over what's easy; how to use data; and an Economic Update from National Australia Bank.

This was in addition to occupation specific topics including: model financial statements; Councils in Focus website and Reports to Councils; fees and charges; reengagement with ratepayers; LGFA credit assessment process and ICAC on the psychology of workplace dishonesty.

A jammed packed couple of days! and at the conference dinner we were kept entertained with live music by 'All About Her'.

A lot of effort goes on behind the scenes to ensure that these events are of interest to attendees and also provide a range of networking and professional development opportunities. So, I would personally like to thank all members of this working group for their ongoing commitment and contributions.

Please note that the program for our next event is in progress and is tentatively booked for 24 & 25 November.

Marketing and Communication Workgroup

This work group, chaired by Kevin Carter, has reinvigorated our proposed new newsletter format to replace the traditional version. This communication will continue to support our members to be informed about topics of interest in our sector and provide a platform for sponsor engagement.

Financial Management Framework Workgroup

Chaired by Mark Lague, this group once again provided feedback to the LGA on the 2022 Model Financial Statements and now the Local Government Review Bill has passed, will work through the remaining LGA Information Papers to review and update.

This input enables Councils to provide feedback taking into account practical issues that affect Councils and ensure that the Model Financial Statements and Information Papers remain relevant and current.

Asset Management Workgroup

This work group, chaired by Grant Jennings has been engaging with LGA and IPWEA on an Asset Management Integration project, compiling a suite of high level resources to increase asset management capability and capacity across the sector.

A session was held earlier today focussing on the asset management papers that are being developed, available training, asset renewals and depreciation.

Costing Principles

The Costing Principles workgroup, chaired by Alex Oulianoff, have continued to considering issues relating to the cost of capital for CWMS and issues relating to ESCOSA requirements.

Local Government Prince Index Group

The LGPI Work Group is chaired by Chris Birch and has been involved in the regular updates to the LGPI maintaining this important comparative measure for the industry, inclusive LGPI forecasts.

This work group was also tasked with reviewing the Grants Commission Purpose Code data given the heightened interest with the launch of the Councils in Focus website, recommending a number of changes.

Rating & Valuation Workgroup

Thank you to Simon Zbierski for chairing this work group, which has representation from both the FMG and RPSA, and features a regular update from the Valuation Office Reform

This has been a particularly active area for FMG again during 2021/22. FMG Executive have engaged with LGA, Office of Local Government and ESCOSA on proposed reform initiatives as part of the Statutes Amendment (Local Government) Review Bill; Local Government Information Framework; and Local Government Advice Scheme (previously known as Local Government Rates Oversight Scheme).

FMG made a submission on the Local Government Advice Scheme – Framework and Approach focussing on: the scope of information requested; the time period for which historical data was requested; the costs of the scheme; assumptions around the budget and long term financial plan; and the process and format the Advice will take.

It is important for our membership to remain active in this area to ensure that any reforms are appropriate for the sector.

Student Placement Program

This relatively new work group formed in 2021 and chaired by Luke Harris, has established a Student Placement / Intern Program in collaboration with LGFA, LGA and UniSA.

This Program gives Councils the opportunity to apply for a one-off grant to assist in the attraction of finance graduate placements by subsidising the costs of student accommodation, travel and other barriers, particularly faced among regional councils.

The primary aim of the program is to attract high performing students to the local government sector to improve the strategic capabilities within local government across all council business areas.

This is an exciting collaboration and I encourage you to read more about it on our website and consider its benefits for your Council.

Executive Committee Meetings

Our Executive Committee meetings are usually held on the last Friday of the month, with all members welcome to attend as observers. For the 2021/2022 year we again held several Executive Committee meetings virtually or in a hybrid format to enable greater participation. The success of this continues to be variable and largely dependent on the IT setups at the hosting Councils.

Times and locations of meetings are available on our website. I encourage you to take the time to read our agendas and minutes to gain an understanding of the work being undertaken by the work groups and the status of current issues. If you have any questions, any one of our Committee members would be happy to take the time to discuss these matters with you.

Sponsors

We acknowledged them earlier today and I would like to again mention the sponsors we have had during the 2021/2022 year and for continuing to support us through changing times.

We sincerely thank you for your support and look forward to working with you again in 2022/2023. We would encourage our members to continue to show their support to these organisations who support our sector.

Platinum Sponsor

Local Government Finance Authority, who have been supporting us since our inception, they also support our annual conference dinner and provide attendance to FMG events for those from regional councils.

Gold Sponsors

- Credit Clear Solutions
- LG Solutions

Silver Sponsors

- Bentleys SA
- TechnologyOne
- UHY Haines Norton

Bronze Sponsors

- Bee Squared Consultants
- Datacom
- Dean Newbery & Partners
- Galpins Accountants, Auditors and Business Consultants
- Genesis Accounting
- MAGIQ Software
- Norman Waterhouse Lawyers

Finally, I would like to thank Alexandrina Council for supporting me in my second and final year as President. It has been a rewarding two years and I am grateful to be part of the FMG, a proactive and a highly regarded professional group within the Local Government sector.

Thank you.

Moved: Mike Carey
Seconded: Alex Oulianoff

Recommendation: That the President's report be noted.

CARRIED

5. Treasurer's Report

The President provided an update on the income and expenditure for the 2021/22 financial year.

Moved: Rajith Udugampola
Seconded: Grant Jennings

Recommendation: That the Treasurer's report and audited financial statements for 2021/22 be noted.

CARRIED

6. Election of Office Bearers and Executive Committee Members

Notice was given to all FMG Members that the term of office of the Executive Committee Members was due to expire and nominations were called from Members. Nineteen (19) nominations have been received and all retiring Executive Committee Members are eligible for re-election.

The nominees are as follows:

Position:	Full Name:	Council:
President	Alexander Oulianoff	Mount Barker District Council
Vice President	Luke Harris	City of Mitcham
Secretary	Clive Hempel	Mid Murray Council
Treasurer	Grant Jennings	Whyalla City Council
Committee	Alexander Brown	City of Unley
	Annette Martin	City of Charles Sturt
	Chris Birch	City of Burnside
	Elizabeth Williams	Alexandrina Council
	Julie Scoggins	City of Mount Gambier
	Kate George	City of Salisbury
	Kellie-Knight Stacey	City of Victor Harbor
	Kevin Carter	City of Onkaparinga
	Lisa Gilmartin	City of West Torrens
	Mike Carey	Adelaide Hills Council
	Piero Sparapani	City of Adelaide
	Rajith Udugampola	Adelaide Plains Council
	Rebecca Baines	City of Tea Tree Gully
	Simon Zbierski	Campbelltown City Council
Vikki Purtle	Town of Walkerville	

Moved: David Harman

Seconded: Steve Ireland

Recommendation: *That in accordance with the South Australian Local Government Financial Management Group Constitution, the Membership declares the Executive Committee Members duly elected from midnight tonight and will conclude at midnight on the day of the next Annual General Meeting.*

CARRIED

7. Appointment of Auditor

Moved: Grant Jennings

Seconded: Luke Harris

Recommendation: *That the SALGFMG Executive Committee recommends to the Annual General Meeting that Creative Auditing be provided with a letter of engagement as Auditor of the SA Local Government Financial Management Group for the 2022/23 financial year, subject to their acceptance.*

CARRIED

8. Constitution

Moved: Alex Brown
Seconded: Clive Hempel

***Recommendation:** That the SALGFMG Executive Committee recommends to the Annual General Meeting that there be no changes made to the Constitution.*

CARRIED

9. Setting of Fees

Moved: Lisa Gilmartin
Seconded: Annette Martin

***Recommendation:** That the SALGFMG Executive Committee recommends to the Annual General Meeting that there be no changes to the membership fees for the coming membership period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023.*

CARRIED

10. Membership

There were no recommended changes for life or honorary membership.

11. Close

The meeting closed at 2:46pm.