



City of
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Payneham
& St Peters



TEA TREE GULLY
Naturally Better



ERA 2014

Eastern Region Alliance Annual Report 2014

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**ERA'S VISION: Adelaide's Eastern Metropolitan Councils
working together to better serve their communities.**

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Chairperson's Report



2014 was a year of reflection on ERA's structure, aims and projects. Of the significant projects identified during the preceding two years, two were selected to become the focus of ERA's particular energies for the foreseeable future. Details of these projects can be found in the following pages.

During two facilitated workshops focusing on *The Council of the Future* review report, the ERA Mayors and CEOs Group developed a strategy to drive ERA's future undertakings. This will be further progressed during 2015.

The Portfolio Group structure was also revisited, with some groups electing not to continue to meet, instead progressing joint activities on an informal basis where appropriate, while others have assumed responsibility for driving the major projects.

I would like to thank the Mayors of ERA councils for their commitment to setting ERA's strategic direction for the foreseeable future and the staff of ERA councils for their tireless work on joint initiatives to benefit their stakeholders.

Mayor Lachlan Clyne
Chair, ERA Mayors and CEOs Group

What is ERA?

An Overview

The Eastern Region Alliance (ERA), consisting of the Cities of Burnside, Campbelltown, Norwood, Payneham & St Peters, Prospect, Tea Tree Gully, Unley and the Town of Walkerville, was formed in late 2008 when a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the seven councils.

At the 2011 Census, ERA's resident population was 284,503, the average age was 40 years and average weekly personal income was \$623.00. In job terms, employment within ERA's boundaries is estimated to have reached 89,521 persons at the Census of 2011; this represents 10.9% of South Australia's employment

The economic contribution of the residents of ERA in 2011 is estimated to be \$17.3 billion (19.0 per cent of the State's GSP) – slightly larger than its population share. The value of goods and services produced within ERA's boundaries is estimated to be \$10.1 billion in 2011. This represents 11.1 per cent of South Australia's Gross State Product, making ERA a significant force within Greater Metropolitan Adelaide.

Since signing an MOU in 2008, the seven ERA councils have been working towards improved co-operation, resource sharing, more effective working relationships and joint actions to agree and address strategic priorities between any two or more of the seven councils.

With the goal of securing a sustainable lifestyle, excellent services and facilities for its constituent communities, ERA aims to:

- > Improve cooperation, collaboration, and coordination across the member councils.
- > Establish a robust operational framework to deliver effective and efficient services.
- > Be successful in attracting state and federal government funding for regional initiatives.
- > Increase awareness, and the influence, of ERA within the three spheres of government.

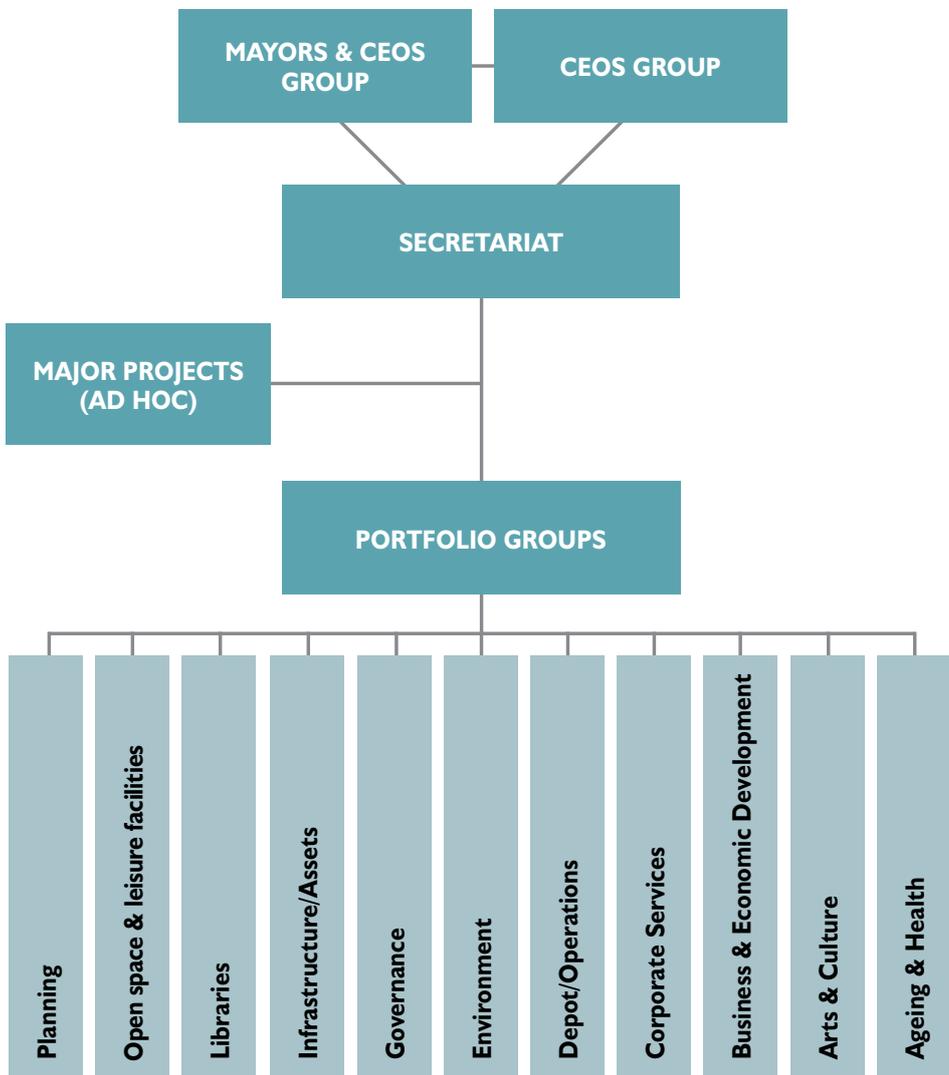
The CEOs of the seven councils meet monthly to discuss issues of mutual interest, while the Mayors and CEOs meet quarterly. Chairing of these meetings is rotated annually, alphabetically by council name, with the host council for 2014 having been the City of Unley.

A range of joint projects is carried out by a number of working parties or Portfolio Groups made up of staff from the ERA councils, engaging consulting expertise where appropriate. These groups are shown on the following page in the diagram outlining ERA's structure.

Highlights of some the ERA projects under way also follow. For more information about the Portfolio Groups and their work, visit www.era.sa.gov.au.

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ERA's Structure



ERA's Area

The Eastern Region Alliance (ERA), consists of the Cities of Burnside, Campbelltown, Norwood, Payneham & St Peters, Prospect, Tea Tree Gully, Unley and the Town of Walkerville.



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ERA's Federal Initiatives Group

The Role of the ERA-FIG

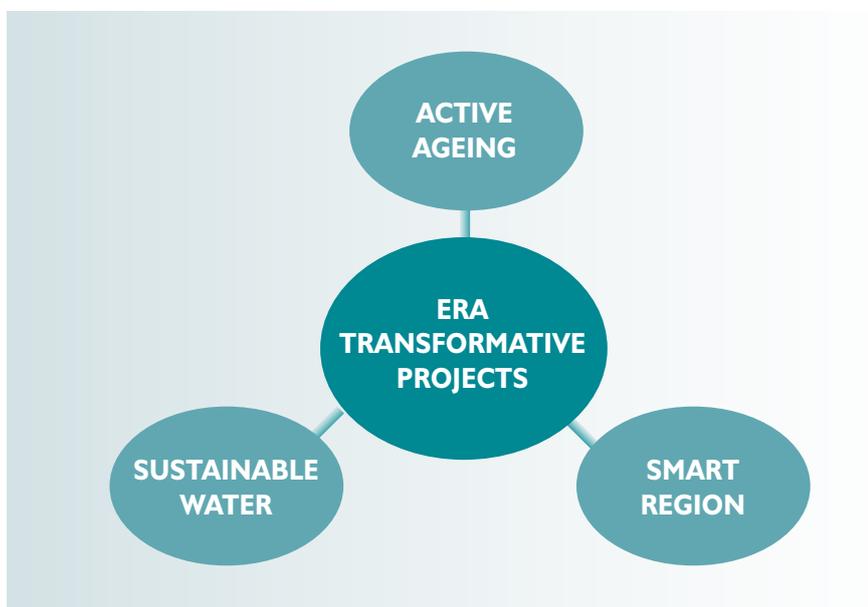
In 2011 in a strategic initiative, the Eastern Region Alliance formed the Federal Initiatives Group (FIG) with the purpose of:

- > Maximising the benefits for infrastructure and special projects funding that can accrue to the communities that are associated with the Federal seats of Adelaide, Sturt and Makin.
- > Encouraging a close working relationship between Federal Members and the councils that make up the Group.
- > Focusing the activities of the FIG at the strategic level where it is beneficial to do so.

The FIG was made up of the ERA Mayors and CEOs, who met regularly in facilitated workshops to identify projects that could benefit the ERA region and ratepayers through expansion of its economy and improvement of the services it offered.

The FIG Projects

Over a period of three years the FIG developed a range of potential transformative projects to provide a strong agenda for its dealings with the Federal Government, with three projects in particular identified as offering benefits to the ERA region:



Before the 2013 Federal election, these projects were promoted through meetings with Government and Opposition Members at the level of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

ERA now has a focus on these three areas, each of which is being progressed by working parties employing the additional expertise of consultants where appropriate.

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ERA-FIG - The Way Forward

With the change of Federal Government arising from the 2013 Election and the resulting tightened fiscal environment, availability of Federal funding to assist with the agenda of Transformative Projects became less likely. The execution of the transformative projects will now be progressed within existing ERA resources.

Accordingly, during 2014 it was agreed that ERA FIG morph into the ERA Mayors and CEOs Group, with a focus on overseeing the progress of these major projects in the coming years.

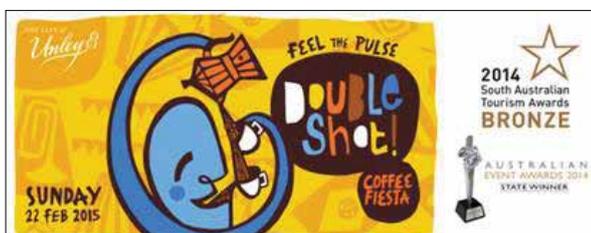
ERA Mayors and CEOs Group

In late 2014 Dr Kristine Peters facilitated the first two of a series of workshops for the ERA Mayors and CEOs Group; these workshops, which were held within the framework of the *Council of the Future* report, will continue into 2015 as the group develops a strategy to drive ERA's future undertakings.

Two key recommendations came out of the August workshop, and were endorsed at the October workshop:

1. That a better reporting system to Council staff and Elected Members be developed, in two stages:
 - > As a matter of urgency to assist with induction of new Elected Members.
 - > During 2015 to provide simpler and more consistent reporting of ERA achievements and directions to Elected Members and Council staff.
2. That ERA develop a Strategic Plan for the next decade, which describes the assessment and implementation of priority directions and projects, as well as allowing for flexibility as new opportunities arise.

An implementation plan was developed to ensure that these recommendations are carried out, and work on its actions has commenced. It is anticipated that this process will occur throughout 2015, to be concluded in 2016.



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ERA Major Project Highlights

Active Ageing

Throughout 2014 the ERA Ageing Portfolio Group has focused on three main areas:

Volunteering in the East Project

The ERA Ageing Portfolio Group undertook a collaborative project including:

- > An audit of current ERA volunteers systems and practices with a view to identifying opportunities for regional alignment and efficiency;
- > Research into opportunities to better utilise online volunteer management systems;
- > Identification of innovative strategies to address emerging volunteer needs.

The project has resulted in a report outlining recommendations for future direction of volunteering in the Eastern regions. The Portfolio Group will work on the report's recommended actions which include:

- > Explore and develop a shared philosophy to volunteering in the east;
- > Assess the degree to which volunteer systems are incorporated into the over-arching risk management and HR systems of ERA Councils;
- > Explore the potential benefit of a regional 'umbrella' volunteering software platform;
- > Develop a community of practice to implement ERA volunteering initiatives;
- > Explore the possibilities of piloting the Time Banking model of volunteering.



ERA Major Project Highlights

Aged Care Reform

In April 2012, the Commonwealth released the aged care reform package *Living Longer, Living Better*. Amongst other initiatives, this package includes the development of an integrated Home Support program which brings together HACC and related respite and support programs. The Portfolio Group has been collaboratively working through the changes to aged care services as a result of the Commonwealth Aged Care Reforms. These changes impact all aged care providers nationally, including Local Government. The Portfolio Group has supported the SA Local Government sector with the changes by leading discussions, sharing information and keeping the sector up to date.

There will be changes to the Home and Community Care funding from July 2015 that mean local Government has had to prepare for structural and service changes over the last year. The Portfolio Group is working with the LG Professionals Community Managers' Network and the Local Government Association to ensure continued and stronger collaborative work across the sector.



ERA's innovative and collaborative work in aged care reform during 2014 demonstrates the Eastern Region Alliance's greater vision for the member councils: working together to better serve their communities.

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Eastern Metropolitan Community Passenger Network

The Ageing Portfolio Group was approached by the State Government and offered funding to scope a Community Passenger Network for the Eastern Metropolitan Region. During 2013/14 the project scoping phase was completed and the actual service was established and became operational in March 2014.

Community Passenger Networks (CPNs) play a key role in providing a central point of contact for the transport needs of local communities. They primarily provide a transport information and referral service; however, some of the CPNs also offer last resort transport for the transport disadvantaged. CPN services are available to those who are frail, elderly, isolated or have a disability; do not have access to transport; do not have family, friends or neighbours to help with transport; or cannot walk to the bus stop.

Throughout the implementation of this service, the CPN Coordinator works closely with community transport service providers, public and private transport operators to explore solutions to these needs and gaps. Although the service is specifically about a centralised Eastern Region information and referral point for transport, it certainly opens up other opportunities for the Eastern Region to further explore additional possibilities including:

- > A network of transport coordinators to begin working regionally;
- > A central person to identify gaps in transport services and to assist participating councils and other transport suppliers to further collaborate and across council boundaries.

Creative Region

This project is being progressed by the Business and Economic Development Portfolio Group which has had a busy and productive period with a clear focus on delivering projects arising from the previous year's strategic direction.

Following the 2012-13 economic analysis of the Eastern Region undertaken by Professor Richard Blandy which included an ERA Economic Development Strategy, the group focused on creating an action plan for 2013/14 to 2016/17 based on the findings of the Blandy report (both are available in full on the ERA website www.era.sa.gov.au).

The 'ERA Business & Economic Development Action Plan 2013/14 to 2016/17' was endorsed by each of the ERA Council members (4th quarter 2013-14) and includes projected timelines, lead Council and estimated resource implications for the following 3 key themes:

- > Creative Industries / Smart Region
- > Events, Tourism and Lifestyle
- > Small Business support, trader liaison and education

The creative industry sector and becoming a 'Smart Region' was identified as a key focus area by the previous year's Federal Initiatives Group program and the Blandy report, and was therefore the number one priority of the 'ERA Economic Development Action Plan 2013/14 to 2016/17'.

A 'Creative Industries and the Smart Region – Way Forward' paper was commissioned in May 2014 to identify the necessary steps to progress the Smart Region strategy. The report, which is available in full on the ERA website www.era.sa.gov.au, was finalised and presented to the ERA CEO group at their July 2014 meeting. In addition, in June 2014 collective feedback was provided to AusIndustry on a new 'Entrepreneurs Infrastructure Program' as requested through their consultative process with stakeholders. Feedback was based on the key issues identified through the development of the 'Way Forward' report - a framework to support and grow the creative industries sector in ERA.

The ERA Councils (excluding the City of Tea Tree Gully which supports their own business enterprise centre) also continued their financial support of the Eastside Business Enterprise Centre (EBEC) in partnership with the Federal Government through the Australia Small Business Advisory Services funding (SBAS). Federal Government SBAS funding concludes December 2014 with another round of 2 year funding becoming available for 2015 and 2016. Letters of support to accompany a future EBEC funding submission will be included from each ERA Council member and the ERA Business & Economic Development Group.

Sustainable Water: ERA stormwater harvesting and reuse major project

In 2009 the participating ERA councils (Walkerville, Tea Tree Gully, Norwood Payneham & St Peters, Burnside and Campbelltown;) initiated a study to assess the economic feasibility of economically recycling up to approximately 950 mega litres of urban stormwater which would otherwise have been discharged to the sea as partially polluted water via the River Torrens.

ERA was successful in securing \$9.5m in Commonwealth grant funds and \$2m funding from the Natural Resource Management board to add to the \$16.5m committed by the five project councils to the ERA Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse Major Project.

The partners in this project are: the five councils, the Commonwealth Government; and the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Natural Resource Management Board. The project has been guided by the respective Chief Executive Officers of the councils, technical staff and independent technical and financial advisors.

Over the past four years a project team has driven this project, which has the potential to recycle water principally for use on Council reserves and ovals but has the capacity to expand to public and private schools.

The objectives of the project are:

- > To provide good value to the residents of the respective council areas;
- > To provide a technical solution with a high degree of economic certainty;
- > To create an opportunity for ensuring a greater certainty of supply in times of drought;
- > To meet the environmental objects of not harming the environment but enhancing it with habitat creation and reducing the pollution load entering the sea.

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The project proposes to use diversion weirs at Felixtow Reserve in Norwood Payneham & St Peters and Max Amber Reserve in Campbelltown to capture water from the nearby creeks, clean it in wetlands and biofilters then use ultraviolet light to disinfect the water prior to pumping the water underground in to fractured rock aquifers. There it will displace existing saline groundwater and store the fresher, cleaner water for extraction when needed. The mixing of the two types of water will be minimal.

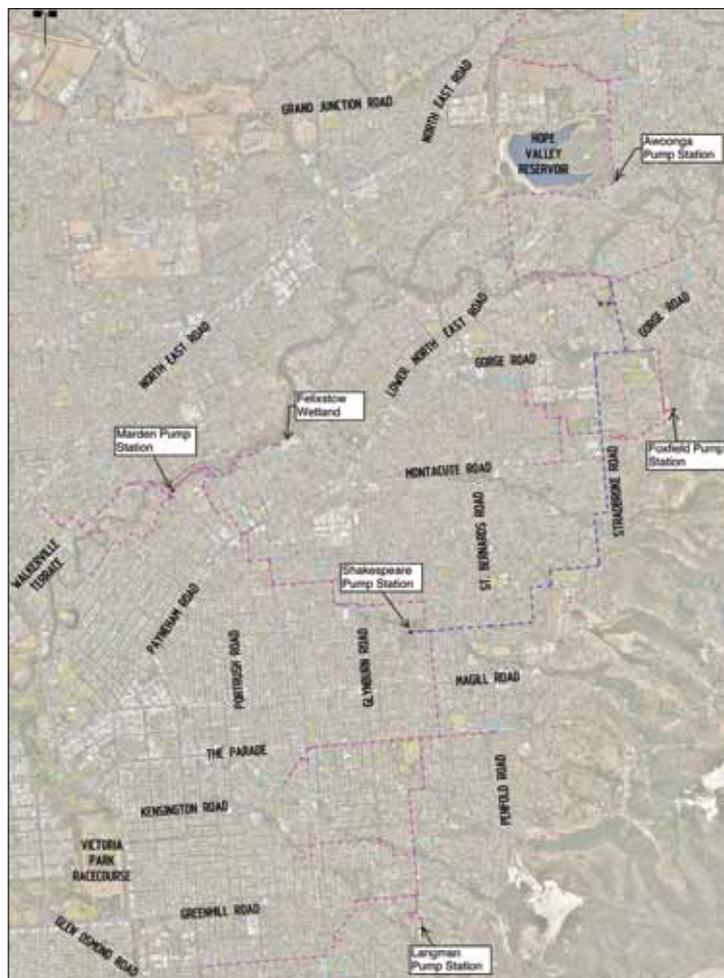
Extraction and pump distribution systems via up to 50 kilometres of pipe will supply the water to the council reserves, schools and potentially businesses, at a lower price and in general of a lower salinity than drinking water. The water is however not of drinking water quality therefore is not proposed to be used for that purpose.

The work undertaken to date has been to undertake sufficient design work and tendering to be certain of the capital and operating costs and to ensure an economically feasible project is constructed.

The economic viability will be assessed by the end of January 2015 and, if found positive, subject to the endorsement of the councils and the Commonwealth Government, is anticipated to commence construction in March 2015 and completion in June 2016.

Further detail can be found on the ERA website www.era.sa.gov.au

Below: Proposed pipe route for the eastern region recycled water system.



Portfolio Group Highlights

Arts and Culture Portfolio Group

The ERA we live in: 21 artists, seven Councils, one unique touring exhibition.

The ERA we live in collaborative visual arts exhibition showcased 21 artists with a connection to the Eastern metropolitan region. The touring exhibition was created and run by members of the ERA Arts and Culture Portfolio who work together to foster enriching and inclusive arts and cultural experiences for local ERA artists and communities.

The ERA we live in exhibition brought together the seven Eastern Region Alliance councils through a common goal to encourage people to build connections that contribute to a creative community life. Curated by Annabelle Collett, the exhibition was launched at the Prospect Gallery on Sunday 4 August 2013 as part of the 2013 South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Festival.

Through a variety of media, 21 artists collectively took us on a personal journey that was inspired by the natural and built environment, nostalgia, technology, science, family and community of the ERA Council area.

The exhibition demonstrated that working alone we can achieve many things; however, when seven Councils work together we can achieve great outcomes for our own and a much broader community.

The ERA we live in ran until 14 September 2014 and toured galleries and exhibition spaces in the Cities of Burnside, Campbelltown, Norwood, Payneham & St Peters, Prospect, Tea Tree Gully, Unley and the Town of Walkerville.

The ERA we live in is just one example of how the Eastern Region Alliance can share resources, collaborate and work across Council boundaries.

Below left: Claire Foord: 'The 123 KWR Collaborative', mixed media on canvas, 2012.

Below centre: Peter Wallfried: 'Torrens at Walkerville', acrylic on canvas, 2013.

Below right: Rebecca Cooke: 'Moonlit Falling Totem, Trees of St Agnes', acrylic on canvas, 2013.



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Environment Portfolio Group: Resilient East

In September 2014, the ERA Environment Portfolio Group, in partnership with Adelaide City Council, commenced an 18 month long eastern region climate change adaptation project, entitled Resilient East.

Funding has been provided by all councils, the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board and the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission. The consultancy URPS was appointed to deliver the project, and project management is co-led by the City of Norwood, Payneham & St Peters and the Adelaide City Council.

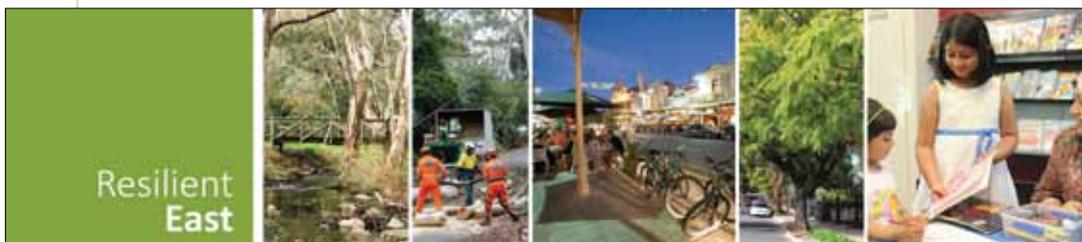
Resilient East will determine the current adaptive capacity of economies, communities and natural environments to climate change impacts. The project will then identify how to efficiently and effectively increase the resilience of the eastern region's natural and built environment and strengthen the networks, resources and skills in our local businesses and communities so they can positively respond to the impacts of climate change. By having active participation by key stakeholders throughout the project life, Resilient East aims to:

- > Build the adaptive capacity of those who must adapt
- > Create conditions for meaningful action
- > Overcome barriers to adaptation
- > Support practical and relevant adaptation measures

Over 80 people attended the first key stakeholder workshop in November 2014 and offered their views on what they currently value, the key decisions they face in their sector and the vision they want for the eastern region in the coming decades. These findings, coupled with a regional profile report and the latest regional modelling of future changes to the climate, will inform further workshops in 2015. These workshops will allow key stakeholders to assess where the most vulnerable sectors and systems are and explore what the most appropriate adaptive responses could be.

The resulting Adaptation Plan will outline tangible and prioritised strategic actions for the eastern region that can be programmed into future investment strategies.

For further information visit: http://www.npsp.sa.gov.au/our_environment/resilient_east



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Open Space and Leisure Facilities Portfolio Group

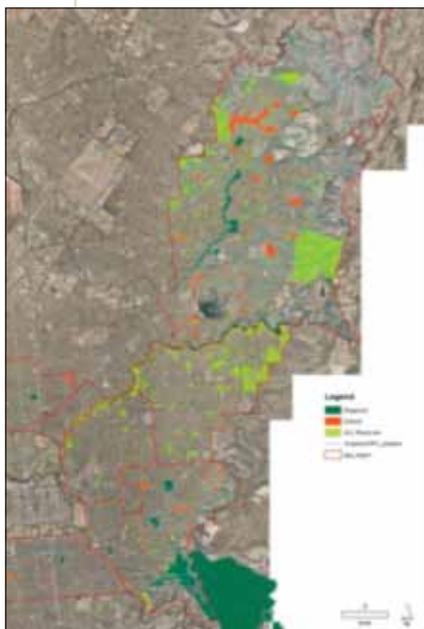
The Open Space and Leisure Facilities Portfolio Group has significantly progressed the Asset Audit and Mapping project, which has been the main focus for 2014. An external consultant has been commissioned to undertake the project, which is on schedule for completion by late January 2015.

Following the feasibility work undertaken on an open source mapping tool for ERA so as to provide a common platform for ERA councils to share spatial data, a number of conclusions were reached:

- > Open source platforms are valuable and can provide a solution to sharing data and assist in planning across councils but the legal barriers to sharing data need addressing.
- > It is necessary to define standards and develop common classifications for open space hierarchies and assets across ERA or develop a glossary that allows comparisons on a consistent basis.
- > Sharing the solution outside ERA with bordering councils will further improve planning outcomes for ERA.

This project aims to:

1. Establish agreed definitions for open space and leisure facilities, focussed on regional and district facilities and trails, where these facilities offer wider benefits across the ERA region.
2. Identify the regional and district level open space and leisure facilities within ERA councils in accordance with the agreed definitions.
3. Map this information using a system that can include spatial information from the seven ERA councils.



Progress has been made on creating a standardised approach to naming and definitions in relation to open space and leisure assets, which has also assisted the mapping of district and regional assets across the region.

The group will continue to work towards the end goal, which is a regional strategic plan by the end of 2015.



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Eastern Region Alliance CEO's Group Financial Statement 2013-2014

Opening Balance	
Opening Balance from Financial Year 2012/13	-4064
	<u>-4064</u>
Operating Income	
Council Contributions	44196
ERA CEO Group Budget	4064
	<u>48260</u>
Operating Expenditure	
ERA FIG	4598
Marketing & Communications	2390
Postage & Sundry Supplies	45
ERA Secretariat	13491
	<u>20524</u>
Project Expenditure	<u>0</u>
Other Expenditure	<u>0</u>
ERA CEO's Group Financial Result for 2013/14	23672

Eastern Region Alliance Portfolio Group Financial Statement 2013-2014

Opening Balance	
Opening Balance from Financial Year 2012/13	0
	<u>0</u>
Operating Income	
Council Contributions	26050
	<u>26050</u>
Operating Expenditure	
Arts & Culture	3291
Business & Economic Development	7500
Governance	1828
Open Space & Leisure Facilities	5810
	<u>18429</u>
Project Expenditure	
	<u>0</u>
Other Expenditure	
	<u>0</u>
ERA Portfolio Group Financial Result for 2013/14	7621

Eastern Region Alliance FIG Financial Statement 2013-2014

Opening Balance	
Opening Balance from Financial Year 2012/13	10985
	<u>10985</u>
Operating Income	
Council Contributions	78000
	<u>78000</u>
Operating Expenditure	
Administration - Brochure/letterhead printing	4432
Consultant - Terry Bell	35900
Lobbying / Election - Travel FIG members	3850
Lobby Advice - Pre/post election	2000
Media/Editorial - Media releases/regional features	2040
Integrated Vulnerability Assessment Project	5000
	<u>53222</u>
Project Expenditure	
Transformative Project - Active Ageing	16560
Transformative Project - Smart Region	13273
	<u>29833</u>
Other Expenditure	
	<u>0</u>
ERA FIG Financial Result for 2013/14	5930



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Adelaide's Eastern Metropolitan Councils working together to better serve their communities.

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