



GRFMA ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN

2020-2021

Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority

Constituent Councils:

Adelaide Hills Council

Adelaide Plains Council

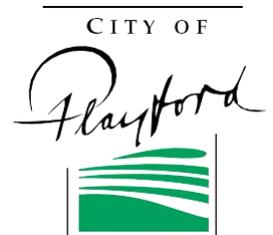
The Barossa Council

Town of Gawler

Light Regional Council

City of Playford

Gawler



Business Plan 2020-2021

Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority (GRFMA)

The Gawler River

The Gawler River is formed by the confluence of the North Para and South Para in the town of Gawler and is located in the Adelaide Plains district of South Australia. The district surrounding the river produces cereal crops and sheep for both meat and wool, as well as market gardens, almond orchards and vineyards. The farm gate output of the Gawler River floodplain horticultural areas is estimated to be at least \$225 million.

History

The river is subject to periodic flood events.



Desirable Levels of Protection Cost of Flooding

Flood Frequency (ARI)	Estimated Damages
1 in 10	\$15m
1 in 20	\$24m
1 in 50	\$102m
1 in 100	\$182m
1 in 200	\$212m
Average Annual Damage	\$7.40m
Present Value of Damages	\$109m

Properties at Risk

Flood Frequency (ARI)	Number of residential properties within each hazard rating			
	Low	Medium	High	Extreme
1 in 50	1056	785	483	236
1 in 100	1559	1451	1179	457
1 in 200	1814	1652	1419	615

Following the November 2005 flood, which flooded the Virginia district and township, a series of meetings of the major stakeholders led to the approval of \$20 million in funding from Federal, State and Local Governments to fund the Gawler River Flood Mitigation Scheme (Scheme Works).

The Scheme Works had three parts:

- One The construction of a flood control dam on the North Para River near Turretfield designed to control a 1 in 100-year flood.
- Two The modification of the South Para Reservoir dam wall and spillway to provide 1 in 100-year flood control storage on top of full reservoir storage (completed 2012).
- Three The formalisation of controlled flow paths for floodwaters along the lower reaches of the Gawler River.

Following successful construction of the flood control Dam on the North Para (Bruce Eastick North Para Flood Mitigation Dam) in 2007 and modification of the South Para Reservoir Dam and spillway in 2012, the Authority has progressed the Gawler River Flood Mitigation Scheme, elements which include:

- further development of the preliminary assessment of possible local area levees prepared in the 2008 Gawler River Floodplain Mapping Study at Gawler, Angle Vale and Two Wells and to develop a levee strategy for Virginia.
- establishment of a protocol with the Floodplain Councils that where development of land in areas identified as 'at risk of flooding' is planned to proceed by the implementation of a local area levee that mapping of the proposed levees on the Gawler River Floodplain Mapping Study Model will be required.
- to develop a funding strategy for flood protection that is delivered by local area levees on the questions of who should own and maintain the levees and whether local area levees are regional works that the GRFMA should fund or are they local works that are the responsibility of the local Council.
- investigate opportunities for funding partners and grants to undertake the necessary assessments and designs.

Purpose of the GRFMA

The Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority (GRFMA) was formed as a Regional Subsidiary under Section 43 and Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 1999 on 22 August 2002. The Constituent Councils are the Adelaide Hills Council, The Adelaide Plains Council, The Barossa Council, The Town of Gawler, Light Regional Council, and the City of Playford.

The Authority has been established for the following purposes:

- to co-ordinate the construction, operation and maintenance of flood mitigation infrastructure for the Gawler River. This purpose is the core business of the Authority;
- to raise finance for the purpose of developing, managing and operating and maintaining works approved by the Board;
- to provide a forum for the discussion and consideration of topics relating to the constituent council's obligations and responsibilities in relation to management of flood mitigation for the Gawler River; and
- upon application of one or more constituent councils pursuant to clause 12.4:
 - to coordinate the construction, maintenance and promotion and enhancement of the Gawler River and areas adjacent to the Gawler River as recreational open space for the

- adjacent communities; and
- to enter into agreements with one or more of the constituent councils for the purpose of managing and developing the Gawler River.

Governance

The Authority has established a Charter which sets down the powers, functions, safeguards, accountabilities and an operational framework and the Business Plan sets down the operational plan and financial plan to achieve agreed objectives.

The Authority is governed by the Board of management

The Board comprises of

- one independent person, who is not an officer, employee or elected member of a constituent council, to be appointed as the Chairperson of the Board of Management of the GRFMA for a term of two years.
- Two persons appointed from each of the six constituent councils (12 members in total). Council appointees comprise of the Council CEO, or delegate and one Elected Member.
- Deputy Board members as appointed by each constituent council

The Board

The Members of the Board are:

Council	Board Members	Deputy Board Members
Chairperson and Independent Member	Mr. Ian Baldwin	
Adelaide Hills Council	Cr Malcolm Herrmann Mr. Marc Salver	Cr Pauline Gill
Adelaide Plains Council	Cr Terry-Anne Keen Mr James Miller	Cr John Lush Mr Robert Veitch
The Barossa Council	Mayor Bim Lange Mr. Gary Mavrinac	Cr Russell Johnstone
Town of Gawler	Cr Paul Koch Mr. Sam Dilena	Cr Nathan Shanks Mr. Ben DeGilio
Light Regional Council	Cr William Close Mr. Brian Carr	Mr. Andrew Philpott
City of Playford	Cr Peter Rentoulis Mr. Greg Pattinson	Cr Clinton Marsh

A Technical Assessment Panel has been appointed to support the decision-making processes of the Board with delegated powers to provide advice and manage the technical aspects of the design, assessment and construction of the various parts of the Scheme.

The Members of the Panel are:

- Mr Ian Baldwin, Independent Chair
- Ms Ingrid Franssen, Manager Flood Management, DEWNR
- Dr Moji Kan, Principal Engineer Dams, SA Water
- Mr Matt Elding, Barossa Council
- Mr Braden Austin, Playford Council
- Mr David Hitchcock Executive Officer
- Mr Dino Musolino, Observer, Lower Gawler River representative

An Audit Committee has been appointed to review:

- the annual financial statements to ensure that they present fairly the financial state of affairs of the Board; and
- the adequacy of the accounting, internal control, reporting and other financial management systems and practices of the Board on a regular basis.

The Members of the Audit Committee are:

- Mr. Peter Brass, Independent member and Chair
- Cr. Malcolm Herrmann, Adelaide Hills Council
- Mr. Greg Pattinson, City of Playford.

The following Policies have been adopted to provide management guidelines for the day-to-day business of the GRFMA:

- Access to Meetings and Documents
- Internal Review of Decisions
- Procurement and Operations
- Dam Valuation
- Public Consultation
- Treasury Management



Further work will be undertaken to establish and adopt appropriate policy documents as required (Public Interest Disclosure, Fraud and Corruption etc).

To meet the statutory and operational responsibilities the Authority will maintain appointment of a part time Executive Officer, and an Auditor, on a contract basis.

Dean Newbery and Partners have been appointed as the external auditor for the financial year period 2019/20 until 2023/24.

The Authority is required to hold a minimum of 6 meetings per year and to provide the required Business Plans, Budgets Reports and Audited Statements to its constituent councils required by the Charter and Local Government 1999.

The Authority will conduct two reviews each year of its performance against the targets set in this Business Plan that will form part of the report to its constituent councils and will be included in its Annual Report.

Cost of Operations

The scope of the GRFMA annual budget and operations is small in comparison to the extensive undertakings by constituent councils.

Principally the budget revenue is sourced from predetermined “formulae based’ financial contributions by the six constituent councils, opportunistic funding applications and some interest from financial institutions. Recently any shortfalls in income (over expenditure) have been met from reserves.

Expenditure is principally budgeted on estimated costs of executive management and administrative and governance requirements of the Authority according to its charter. Some costs are incurred with maintenance of the Bruce Eastick North Para River Flood Mitigation Dam site and access.

The contributions of the constituent councils are based on the following percentage shares for capital works, maintenance of Scheme assets and operational costs of the Authority. (GRFMA Charter Clause 10)

Constituent Council Shares for Contributions

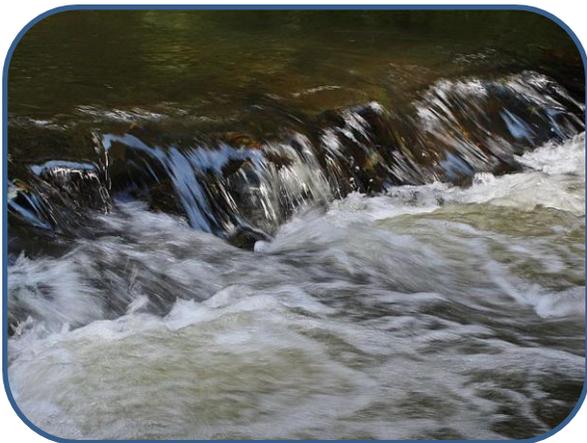
Constituent Council	Capital Works	Maintenance of Assets	Operational Costs
	Percentage Share	Percentage Share	Percentage Share
Adelaide Hills Council	1.73%	1.73%	16.66%
Adelaide Plains Council	28.91%	28.91%	16.66%
The Barossa Council	8.67%	8.67%	16.66%
Town of Gawler	17.34%	17.34%	16.66%
Light Regional Council	8.67%	8.67%	16.66%
City of Playford	34.68%	34.68%	16.66%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Work Priorities 2020/2021

Previously in 2016/17 the Authority engaged:

- AECOM to provide a fatal flaw screening assessment for the potential raising of the North Para Dam by up to 10 metres to provide additional flood protection for a 1 in 100 Annual Event Probability (AEP) event to the township of Gawler and further downstream.
- Australian Water Environments to undertake the Gawler River 2016 Flood Review

Both reports have been subsequently completed and following consultation with constituent councils the Authority has resolved that decision on extending the height (10mtr) of the dam be on held over pending the initiatives recommended in the Gawler River 2016 Flood Review report are implemented and outcomes considered. Feasibility of raising of the North Para Dam will then subsequently be considered.



The Gawler River 2016 Flood Review report provides three recommendations for works to be undertaken and provides first stage indicative costs of \$27 million:

- a) proposed Gawler River northern floodway;
- b) upgrade and maintenance of the levee system; and
- c) management of silt and pest vegetation.

The Authority will continue to pursue endeavors to obtain State and Federal government funding for the project having an estimated \$27 million cost, on the basis of securing commitment from Federal and State Governments to fund in totality all capital costs, including the further design and development cost associated with the project.

During 2019 the Authority, in partnership with the University of Adelaide, via funding from the Federal and State Government National Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) commenced development of decision support tool to explore how to manage flood risk into the future in an integrated and dynamic approach. The project is on schedule to conclude in June 2020 and findings provided by the final report will be further explored.

On 16/8/18 the Authority endorsed commencement of a GRFMA Charter and Governance Review to be undertaken in two phases consisting of:

1. A charter review to be undertaken as a shorter-term action; and
2. Following completion of the charter review a further process to scope and consider other contemporary governance arrangements be undertaken.

Phase 1, Charter Review has now been completed and key elements of changes to be effected in the new charter are.

Clause	Change
1.2	Provision of Definitions
3.1.4	New wording to facilitate sustainable outcomes to ensure a proper balance between economic, social, environmental and cultural considerations.
4.3.11	New options to identify Board and Deputy Board Members.
4.5.1	New process for appointment of Chairperson three-year term.
6.	Reworded and reorganised to reflect Role and Functions and provision for a new Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures
7.2	Clarifies obligations of the Authority in regards to Register of Interest and Related Party Disclosures
8.4.2	Sets limit of overdraft facility.
8.5.2	Provides direction on draw down of loan funds.
9.4.1 and 9.4.2	Establishment of Committees - Provides opportunity for more than one independent Audit Committee member and term of appointment.
11.1	Requires separate funding agreement with constituent councils where capital or maintenance cost exceed \$1 Million in any one year.
12	Provision for Annual Business Plan and Annual Budget - clarification that Council approve the Budget as a whole.
13	New Management Framework requiring a Long-Term Financial Plan, a Strategic Plan and an Asset Management plan as well as annual budget.
21	Clarifies dispute resolution process between Authority and one or more constituent councils.
23.3	No change to financial contributions by constituent councils. Depreciation falls within the scope of the Authorities operational costs.
24	New identification of non-derogation and Direction by constituent councils.

The new Charter (phase1) commenced from 28 January 2020 and a transition program will be undertaken to effect the new GRFMA Management Framework requiring a Long-Term Financial Plan, a Strategic Plan and an Asset Management plan as well as annual budget.

The Authority has now separately initiated Phase 2 of the Charter review so as to facilitate a process to scope and consider other contemporary governance arrangements that the GRFMA might, with constituent council support, adopt in seeking to deliver its purpose of coordinating the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of flood mitigation infrastructure for the Gawler River.

This process is to also examine percentage rate contributions (subscriptions) pursuant to the current Charter (2015), Clause 10. Financial Contributions to the Authority (now Clause 11 in the proposed Charter, Stage 1, 2019).

A Charter Review (2) Working Group has been established to provide and manage the process and to facilitate conclusion of the Charter Review considerations and arrangements such that any resultant new charter will be operational and effective from 1 July 2021.

Maintenance and operations of the scheme during 2020 to 2021 will include:

- Establishment of a Dam Emergency Management Plan.
- Implementation of requirement of the reviewed (2020) Operation and Maintenance Manual;
- Establishment of a revegetation program around land associated with the Bruce Eastick North Para Flood Mitigation Dam.
- Scheduled inspections and environmental management of land associated with the Dam location will be undertaken in accordance with ANCOLD recommendations. Principality Routine (monthly), Intermediate (annually), Comprehensive (every 5 years).

