



GRFMA ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN

2022-2023 Adopted 16/6/2022

Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority

Constituent Councils:

Adelaide Hills Council

Adelaide Plains Council

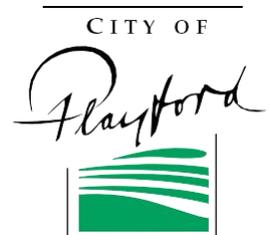
The Barossa Council

Town of Gawler

Light Regional Council

City of Playford

Gawler



Business Plan 2022-2023

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 \$355 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

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.

Numerous factors have a significant influence on the operations of the Authority.

These include:

- Arrangements for managing stormwater in South Australia are very complicated, reflecting incremental changes over time in legislation, guidelines, structures, and funding arrangements.

For the Authority, specific concerns are:

- There is no clear definition of the responsibilities of levels of government for managing stormwater.
- Floodplain management is not well recognised in the current framework for stormwater management.
- Responsibilities for different aspects of managing the Gawler River sit with various (mostly SA Government) agencies, yet there is no overarching structure, body, or plan to ensure an integrated approach to managing it.
- Most of the Gawler River is located on private land (a common situation in South Australia) which restricts the ability of the Authority (and other bodies) to carry out its functions.
- Most flood management initiatives within the Gawler River catchment and floodplain are beyond the capacity of Constituent Councils to fund and State and Federal Government engagement and funding support will be required before any such initiatives are to be realised.

- The effects of flooding on intensive food production and residential properties on the Northern Adelaide Plains.
- Impacts of climate change on the timing, frequency, and volumes of flows into the River.
- Changes in stormwater flows and the risks of flooding associated with new residential development in the Gawler River catchment.
- The level of community understanding of the risks of flooding withing the entire catchment and how individuals can reduce the risks.
- Signs of growing interest in the concept of water cycle management with greater integration of different aspects of water management, including stormwater and floodwater.
- Differences in perspectives and priorities between upstream and downstream Constituent Councils in relation to beneficiaries, funding arrangements, and priorities.
- The limited resource base of the Authority, which is supplemented on an ad-hoc basis through partnering with Constituent Councils.

Governance

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 Ashley Curtis	Cr Pauline Gill
Adelaide Plains Council	Cr Terry-Anne Keen Mr James Miller	Cr John Lush Ms Sheree Schenk
The Barossa Council	Mayor Bim Lange Mr Gary Mavrinac	Cr Russell Johnstone
Town of Gawler	Cr Paul Koch Mr Sam Dilena	Cr Kelvin Goldstone
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, DEWN
- (vacant), SA Water
- 1 Consistent Council representative - Vacant ,
- 1 Consistent Council representative Mr Braden Austin, Playford Council
- Mr David Hitchcock, Executive Officer

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

A suite of Policies have been adopted to provide management guidelines for the day-to-day business of the GRFMA. The policies are currently being reviewed in accordance with the established two year periodical review process.

Policies include

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



Further work is being undertaken to establish and adopt appropriate further policy documents as required (Public Interest Disclosure, Fraud and Corruption Prevention 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 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%

In accordance with the recently revised charter the Authority is now working to finalise the foundation Strategic Plan which is at final draft stage and currently under consultation with constituent councils.

The draft Plan is arranged under three themes, each with its own objective, related to the outcomes to be pursued.

Theme 1: Design, build, and maintain physical flood mitigation infrastructure

Objective: To have in place an agreed extent of physical flood mitigation infrastructure that is fit for purpose and achieves the targetted levels of performance.

Theme 2: Develop and evolve key relationships

Objective: To maintain key relationships that are most important to the Authority achieving its purpose.

Theme 3: Ensure good governance and ongoing financial sustainability

Objective: To ensure that the Authority meets legislative requirements and contemporary standards of governance and is financially sustainable for the long term.

Priority Actions 2022/2023

Finalise preparation of the Gawler River Stormwater Management Plan.

The Gawler River Stormwater Management Plan will be the key document to assist in determining physical and other works required to reduce the risks and impacts of flooding

Review, with Constituent Councils and stakeholders, design standards for infrastructure works including costs and benefits.

The default policy position of the Authority has been for a 1 in 100 year design standard. Reviewing that policy position through consideration of the costs and benefits of various design standard scenarios will assist in identifying appropriate standards.

In conjunction with the Constituent Councils, develop and implement a schedule of flood mitigation infrastructure works for the Gawler River referencing the Gawler River Stormwater Management Plan.

A schedule of works will enable the Authority and Constituent Councils to plan for implementation of the projects and seek funding from the State and Federal Governments.

Working with the Constituent Councils, develop a framework to clearly articulate the respective roles and responsibilities of the Authority and the Councils and suitable partnering arrangements to maintain a low cost base for the Authority.

Identification of partnering opportunities within the capacities of the Councils (e.g., in relation to monitoring information about climate change and climate change policy, and water policy) in delivering the functions, operations and project management required of the Authority would help to keep the Authority's administrative costs low.

Continue to advocate for improved governance and funding arrangements for flood avoidance, resilience, and mitigation in South Australia

With frontline experience the Authority is well positioned to develop a narrative about changes that are required to improve governance and funding arrangements for flood avoidance and mitigation.

The Authority will continue to work with the Department for Environment and Water, in consultation with constituent councils, on implementation and funding arrangements for the State Government funded Gawler River Flood Mitigation Program.

Assist the Constituent Councils in communicating with general communities and specific interest groups in relation to flood mitigation for the Gawler River.

Communication with communities is likely to be a joint activity between the Constituent Councils and the Authority. This to include, subject to funding, implementation of the the Gawler River Flood Disaster Mitigation Program, Community Flood Resilience Project Plan. The 3 year program seeks to provide information, tools, and assistance for the community to learn about flood risk, be aware of what they can do, know how to receive flood warnings, and be prepared to act in the event of a flood

Implement the agreed outcomes from Charter Review 2 which was finalised in 2020.

The second stage of reviewing the Authority's Charter was completed late in 2020. Implementation of agreed outcomes from the review will finalise that process.

Develop fit for purpose risk management, asset management, and long term financial plans.

The Charter requires these plans to be prepared and adopted. All three Plans will assist the Board in decision making and show that risk, asset management, and long term financial planning are being addressed.

Maintenance and operations of the scheme during 2022 to 2023 will include:

- Implementation of requirements of the reviewed Operation and Maintenance Manual.
- Continuation of the 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 due 2022/2023).
- Completion of identified repairs to the Bruce Eastick North Para Flood Mitigation Dam.

