

LG Excellence Award – Final

Reference #	17399909
Status	Complete
Login Username	FSWG
Login Email	<a href="mailto:linda.enright@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au">linda.enright@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au</a>
Category	Excellence in Cross Council Collaboration
Nominator First Name	Sue
Nominator Last Name	Dugan
Position	Community Development Coordinator
Organisation	City of Holdfast Bay
Phone Number	0499 882 293
Email Address	<a href="mailto:sdugan@holdfast.sa.gov.au">sdugan@holdfast.sa.gov.au</a>
Please list all councils involved in this cross council collaboration:	
1	Alexandrina Council
2	City of Holdfast Bay
3	City of Marion
4	City of Onkaparinga
5	Mt Barker District Council
6	City of Salisbury
Name of Group or Team	Food Systems Network

<b>Name of Project</b>	Local government: Enabling resilient food systems in South Australia
<b>Has this project/innovation been nominated for a Leadership Excellence Award in a previous year?</b>	No
<b>Team Member 1 First Name</b>	Kylie
<b>Team Member 1 Last Name</b>	Markow
<b>Position 1</b>	Community Health and Wellbeing Officer
<b>Organisation 1</b>	Alexandrina Council
<b>Phone 1</b>	(08) 8555 7000
<b>Email 1</b>	<a href="mailto:kylie.markow@alexandrina.sa.gov.au">kylie.markow@alexandrina.sa.gov.au</a>
<b>Number of additional team members</b>	7 additional team members
<b>Team Member 2 First Name</b>	Sue
<b>Team Member 2 Last Name</b>	Dugan
<b>Position 2</b>	Community Development Coordinator
<b>Organisation 2</b>	City of Holdfast Bay
<b>Phone 2</b>	0499 882 293
<b>Email 2</b>	<a href="mailto:sdugan@holdfast.sa.gov.au">sdugan@holdfast.sa.gov.au</a>
<b>Team Member 3 First Name</b>	Danielle
<b>Team Member 3 Last Name</b>	Clark
<b>Position 3</b>	Community Development Officer
<b>Organisation 3</b>	City of Marion

<b>Phone 3</b>	0478 324 836
<b>Email 3</b>	<a href="mailto:danielle.clark@marion.sa.gov.au">danielle.clark@marion.sa.gov.au</a>
<b>Team Member 4 First Name</b>	Linda
<b>Team Member 4 Last Name</b>	Enright
<b>Position 4</b>	Healthy Lifestyle Officer
<b>Organisation 4</b>	City of Onkaparinga
<b>Phone 4</b>	0414 647 711
<b>Email 4</b>	<a href="mailto:linda.enright@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au">linda.enright@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au</a>
<b>Team Member 5 First Name</b>	Greg
<b>Team Member 5 Last Name</b>	Sarre
<b>Position 5</b>	Manager Sustainability and Corporate Planning
<b>Organisation 5</b>	Mt Barker District Council
<b>Phone 5</b>	(08) 8391 7257
<b>Email 5</b>	<a href="mailto:gsarre@mountbarker.sa.gov.au">gsarre@mountbarker.sa.gov.au</a>
<b>Team Member 6 First Name</b>	Bruce
<b>Team Member 6 Last Name</b>	Naumann
<b>Position 6</b>	Manager Salisbury Water
<b>Organisation 6</b>	City of Salisbury
<b>Phone 6</b>	0401 984 725
<b>Email 6</b>	<a href="mailto:bnaumann@salisbury.sa.gov.au">bnaumann@salisbury.sa.gov.au</a>

Team Member 7 First Name	Christy
Team Member 7 Last Name	Spier
Position 7	Adaptive Communities Coordinator
Organisation 7	Green Adelaide, Department for Environment and Water
Phone 7	0427 174 748
Email 7	<a href="mailto:Christy.Spier@sa.gov.au">Christy.Spier@sa.gov.au</a>
Team Member 8 First Name	Frances
Team Member 8 Last Name	Turner
Position 8	Coordinator Heart Health
Organisation 8	Heart Foundation
Phone 8	(08) 8224 2867
Email 8	<a href="mailto:Frances.Turland@heartfoundation.org.au">Frances.Turland@heartfoundation.org.au</a>
<p><b>Elevator Pitch: (100 - 200 words)</b>  <b>Please provide a summary description of the nomination that is clear and concise. Should you be a finalist, these words will be used in a booklet at the Gala Awards dinner and shared with all councils – the aim of which is to provide enough information for your sector peers to get in touch and learn more. Assume that those who read this pitch will not have access to the rest of the nomination and provide enough information (the ‘what, when, how, who, why and how much’) so others gain a good understanding. THIS SECTION MUST BE WRITTEN IN THE THIRD PERSON.</b></p>	<p>Do you feel lucky to live in the beautiful, clean, natural environment of South Australia? Do you delight in the delicious, fresh produce that is grown right here in our home state? Sadly, this is not true for everyone. One in four children live in a food-insecure household and the COVID-19 pandemic has made this worse through job losses, reduced incomes and disruption of supply chains. COVID-19 and climate shocks such as bushfires, have exposed big weaknesses in food supply chains. With climate change altering temperatures and rainfall and increasing the frequency of natural disasters, food will become harder to grow. These are wicked problems that can only be solved through collaboration and leadership.</p> <p>This project collaborates with local and state government partners, exploring the role of local government in enabling resilient food systems and a</p>

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sustainable food future for South Australians. As the closest level of government to the people, Local Government are well-placed to step into a leadership role, hosting conversations with their communities about how they can strengthen their local food system. This reduces dependence on distant food sources, ensures access to affordable, nutritious food, generates local jobs and protects the environment for future generations.

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**Vision and strategic thinking: (up to 500 words) Demonstrate how the nomination: contributes to the strategic plan and visionary future for the council and the community anticipates and plans for future organisation needs.**

In 2020, an emerging group called the Food Systems Network were successful in obtaining a grant from the Local Government Association's Research and Development Scheme for a project called Local government: Enabling resilient food systems in South Australia.

The project aims to engage local government, communities and stakeholders in building the resilience of local food systems in the face of climate change risks.

A consultancy team, Ethical Fields, in partnership with Sustain and Collaborative Futures, were successful in their tender to work on the project with six local councils, on behalf of councils across South Australia.

One of the key objectives is to provide a guide for local governments to support them to understand their role in enabling local food systems. All of the resources developed will contribute to building the capacity of local government staff, elected members and communities to value local food systems, remove barriers and support climate-resilient initiatives.

Part of the strategic approach of this project is to embed the tools, techniques and knowledge across councils and networks within South Australia. With the development of a local food system presentation pack, any local or regional government will have the ability to replicate the processes that will develop the tools and information needed to play an integral role in improving the food system in their local area.

The actions and role clarification for local governments will help them determine their future investment and resourcing to more effectively enable resilient food

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systems. The project will validate existing strategic actions and forge new commitments in council plans.

The ambition of the project to embed tools, techniques and knowledge into Councils across SA is a work in progress. However the project has already demonstrated how this can be achieved through exploring existing models from other states and countries, developing understanding of local and regional context and dynamics and by undertaking targeted engagement across community, industry and government partners including, importantly, with council staff working in complementary areas. The project has shown that there is a role for councils in supporting and encouraging sustainable and resilient food systems and demonstrated a process whereby relevant strategic objectives can be progressed and eventually extended formally through development of administrative levers, such as food policies.

Ultimately, embedding deliverable and sustainable actions within local government strategic plans and policies can help remove barriers and facilitate collaboration between Councils, community and industry. The project has shown effective processes and engagement strategies that enable diverse sector players to work towards the same goal of the benefit of the whole community.

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**Achievement of results: (up to 500 words) Provide evidence of how the nomination achieved its goals and delivered results, including data that supports key evaluated outcomes, performance measures and financial results. Discuss any problems and resulting adaptations that arose throughout the journey.**

Our Local Food Systems workshops were hosted by four councils; City of Onkaparinga, Mount Barker District Council, Alexandrina Council and City of Marion.

Participants representing the local food system (from farmers to consumers and beyond) in addition to general community were invited to consider what a healthy and sustainable food system would look like for their local area; how it could drive climate change action, support local jobs, reduce food waste and connect us as diverse communities?

The workshops were well attended by 140 participants representing a diverse cross-section of the food system. Each workshop co-created a local food vision, a set of supporting actions for priority areas, and mapped current and/or future considerations. The

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level of engagement and participation was very high and the feedback received was extremely positive. Participants valued being asked to provide input into the process but also to learn and collaborate with others working or interested in food systems. 74% of participants reported experiencing a moderate or substantial improvement in their understanding of their local food system as a result. This was due to the time given to engage with the issue, hearing from a diverse group of people, sharing stories and building awareness of the different parts and actors of the system and how they are interconnected. Workshop materials will now be developed into a guide (that will be accessible on the Local Government Association webpage) to help local governments:

- understand, advocate for and foster local food systems
- identify and prioritise the best ways to invest and promote local food system initiatives
- develop and embed relevant food systems policy and planning as part of governments' response to climate change risks.

A significant achievement has been the cross-organisational collaboration. Even prior to the funding, the project was co-designed by local and state government partners; from engagement of a consultancy team, to the planning and facilitation of each workshop and the ongoing sharing of learning. It has strengthened existing relationships and built new ones, that will continue beyond the life of the project, supporting the sustainability of outcomes and future opportunities. Participating and supporting councils will now help other councils wishing to undertake a similar process.

Delivery of the project also saw the upskilling of council staff in engagement, facilitation, research, reporting and evaluation. The tools and techniques learnt provides ongoing sustainability and capacity. An important outcome was that staff from different sections of councils were involved; from community development, sustainability, economic development, environmental health and planning. Each were able to consider how their areas impact the food system.

Other achievements included:

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- an increase in community garden and food swap networks,
  - increased skill development in advocacy, volunteering, administration and community governance
  - community groups applying for food and gardening projects.

For example, the City of Holdfast Bay saw an increase of requests for community garden support letters with groups applying for grants to deliver new education and climate change projects. This has been directly attributable to connecting with this project.

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**Business performance: (up to 500 words) Demonstrate how the nomination: displays sound financial decision making, considering long term sustainability considers sound risk mitigation strategies in decision making displays excellence in procurement practices influences organisational and sector performance and is widely transferable and applicable across the sector leveraged the contributions of a high-performing team.**

South Australia is currently home to a vibrant food industry, producing a wide variety of high quality fruits, vegetables, grains, meats and seafood. The value to the SA economy, sourced from the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) for 2018-19 includes 51,619 jobs in agriculture and food and beverage manufacturing with \$15,672.24 value of output (\$M) and \$11,145.99 of exports (\$M).

The project highlighted how important sustainable food systems are to the regional economy and the role that they play in supporting community wellbeing through the provision of local employment opportunities, availability of healthy food options and reduction of food miles. It highlighted the threats to food related businesses but also opportunities for collaboration, building knowledge around food culture and the 'eat and shop local' message. The value above and beyond pure economics for a healthy community raises the need for better information and procedures to help prioritise the ways government, stakeholders and communities can support and promote the benefits of local food initiatives. The development and implementation of government policy and guidance materials to increase support in the local food production and logistics sector will benefit the community. With the aim to assist in problem solving (e.g. current Covid supply chain issues) before a community is negatively affected, the project identifies roles that local government can play.

In addition, this project has created a space for food system stakeholders to nominate their roles in enabling resilient food systems and identify where

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local government can remove unnecessary barriers or “red tape”. This information assists local governments to avoid duplication, better utilise local resources within Council projects and enable community action towards a resilient food system.

The research produced from this project offers resources to urban and regional local governments to embed within strategic plans coherent actions and priorities, visions and principles for a mapped area and improve stakeholder food literacy. The collection of diverse councils driving the project was reflected in the outcomes of guides and tools with varying adaptability to individual council demographics.

The project steering group consisted of representatives from local and regional government, state government and local corporate businesses, bringing expertise from government administration, management, environment, community, strategy and planning. A wider network guided the tender process (local and interstate submissions) through to the evaluation of the project. Each step included working with businesses and not-for-profits local to the region, utilising diverse cultural influences and Indigenous connections for a broad summary of the mapped area.

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**Stakeholder engagement and relationships: (up to 250 words)**  
**Identify all key internal and external stakeholder relationships and provide examples of how these were strategically and politically navigated to deliver results. What was each party’s interest and how was this addressed or negotiated?**

The project has effectively developed a community of practice to address food system resilience across local and state governments. Monetary & In-kind support was provided from several governments and organizations, totaling a contribution of \$36,750 showing their commitment.

The City of Onkaparinga, City of Holdfast Bay, City of Marion, City of Salisbury, City of Charles Sturt, City of Campbelltown, City of Adelaide, Whyalla Council, Alexandrina Council and Mount Barker Council all contributed funding and support, calculated at \$16,500.

Green Adelaide, Wellbeing SA, the Heart Foundation, the SA Nutrition and Dietetics Network, Ethical Fields, Collaborative Futures, the Onkaparinga Food Security Collaborative, Healthy Cities Onkaparinga, the SA Urban Food Network, Adelaide Sustainability Centre & Conservation SA,

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	<p>Sustain: Australian Food Network and the University of Sydney also provided in-kind support. These connections provided valuable insights and informed project direction.</p> <p>The project engagement included a diverse range of food systems actors including local farmers and producers, other gardeners, food processors and distributors, food retail, general community, resource recovery, hospitality, education and business. This encouraged ongoing networking, for example visiting each other farms following the workshop.</p> <p>Participation from various council departments, including economic development, strategic planning and strategy, community development and wellbeing, increased interaction and their awareness of the food system and what role they could play. One example is of the economic development and wellbeing teams at Alexandrina committing to link with the upcoming Agribusiness Forum.</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement will continue with other councils and networks as the guide and toolkit are launched.</p>
<b>Supporting Information (Optional):</b> <b>Maximum one additional A4 page in PDF format.</b>	<a href="#">Visuals_for_LG_Excellence_applicaiton.pdf (439 KB)</a>
<b>I believe I/this person/this team of local government professionals meet(s) the selection criteria and would be a worthy recipient of this award.</b>	Yes
<b>I understand that I/the nominee/a team representative will be expected to take part in a Zoom interview should the nomination be shortlisted for an award.</b>	Yes
<b>Please indicate whether the CEO has: - signed off on the nomination - signed off that personal drive, professionalism and integrity were demonstrated by all local government</b>	Yes

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professionals associated with the nomination - acknowledged that by submitting this nomination you have permission from all parties involved.

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Please indicate whether the nominee(s) is/are aware of this nomination:

Aware

I agree that a summary of this application (the elevator pitch provided) will be published in a document to be circulated to all SA Councils and that finalists may be recorded.

Yes

Project Contact Person for Finalist Booklet

Linda

Last Name

Enright

Position

Healthy Lifestyle Officer

Organisation

City of Onkaparinga

Phone Number

0414647711

Email Address

[linda.enright@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:linda.enright@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au)

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