



10 August 2020

Sue Weatherley
Director, City Strategy & Innovation
Georges River Council
Via email: sweatherley@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au

Your ref: D19/266915

Dear Sue

Re: Benefits of Georges River Council Membership of SSROC

Thank you for your letter dated 15 November 2019, which SSROC received on 12 May 2020. I write in response to your request for information about the benefits to Georges River Council of membership of SSROC.

Introduction

Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) is a incorporated association, owned and controlled by its member councils through the council Delegates. Georges River Council SSROC Delegates are the Mayor, Cr Kevin Greene, and Cr Con Hindi, who is SSROC Junior Vice-President. Georges River Council also has three alternative Delegates, Cr Rita Kastanias, Cr Vince Badalati and Cr Nick Katris. The organisation employs staff as it requires to act as its secretariat. The financial contribution by member Councils towards the costs of the organisation are equal.

All the secretariat's activities are given overall direction by SSROC, and reported to SSROC at each Ordinary Meeting. The services provided are in accordance with the organisation's constitution, and are broadly categorised as: advocacy, programs and procurement. Of great benefit to Georges River Council is the weight that is given to regional advocacy as a result of endorsement by SSROC and therefore by all the 11 councils of the region, who represent the 1.7 million people who reside in those Local Government Areas.

With regard to information that you have requested in relation to procurement and contracts, where it is possible for the secretariat to identify tangible savings, these are listed. For most contracts, the benefits are assessed by individual councils when deciding whether or not to enter into an agreement with the preferred supplier. Each council is provided with an evaluation report to inform this decision.

The following table lists existing contracts that Council has entered into with SSROC since the amalgamation of Kogarah and Hurstville Councils in May 2016

Estimated savings that have been made through all contracts through SSROC

(Note that this list is, as requested, of contracts in which Georges River Council is currently participating: other available contracts are not listed here.)

| Contract | Cost to council | Benefit to council | Net benefit/(cost) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|
| Agricultural products | \$0 | Saved the cost of running the tender, estimated at \$15,000. Ongoing contract management service. | \$15,000 |
| Asbestos services | \$0 | Saved the cost of running the tender, estimated at \$15,000. Ongoing contract management service. New service to give council access to rapid removal of asbestos, particularly dumped asbestos. | \$15,000 |
| AWT Services (Kogarah) | \$27,045 | Saved significant cost running the tender. \$884,576 per annum Ongoing contract management service (currently working with the supplier to overcome the 2018 revocation of the resource recovery order and exemption for mixed waste organic output). | \$882,872 per annum for 10 (up to 15) years. |
| Bush Regeneration Services | \$0 | Saved the cost of running the tender, estimated at \$15,000. Ongoing contract management service. | \$15,000 |
| Clean up services | Contribution fee \$12,000 | With many Bingo facilities, reduced transportation costs, guaranteed 75% facility with recovery rate lower tonnage costs. New service for collection and processing of kerbside hard waste materials, introducing recycling of these materials and divert them from landfill. To increase and maximise recovery rates from municipal material, (which includes municipal clean up material, illegally dumped material, and residential drop-off material), through reuse, recycling, and processing for energy or other recovery before landfilling. | \$400,000 per annum |

| Contract | Cost to council | Benefit to council | Net benefit/(cost) |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| Construction and demolition waste | \$0 | <p>Saved the cost of running the tender, estimated at \$13,000.</p> <p>Facility to receive excavated road and concrete materials for recycling and on sale for re use. Saved money for disposal cost. Contract period of 5 years. Licensed facilities to take accept council excavated road materials, including recycling and diversion from landfill.</p> <p>This contract achieved better pricing than current council rates, 77-92% resource recovery facility-wide from the contractors' various sites, provides access to various locations across the region, will reduce carbon emissions and transport costs, support local employment, and all suppliers have gender equality in their workforce. Councils will have a facility to deliver their excavated road materials for sorting and recycling.</p> | \$13,000 + 26% of previous cost (based on estimated average across participating councils) |
| Copy paper | \$0 | Saved the cost of running the tender, estimated at \$15,000. Ongoing contract management service. | \$15,000 |
| Feral Animal Control Services | \$0 | <p>Saved the cost of running the tender, estimated at \$15,000.</p> <p>Increased scope of services, additional to existing fox control service: deer, rabbits, birds, rats and new incursion species (corn snakes, red-eared slider turtles etc.).</p> <p>Panel of 6 suppliers offering competitive pricing and enabling cross-LGA collaboration between councils to support the Sydney Pest Animal Action Network. Ongoing contract management service.</p> | \$15,000 |

| Contract | Cost to council | Benefit to council | Net benefit/(cost) |
|---|------------------------------|---|---|
| Gross Pollutant Traps and Related Services | \$0 | Saved the cost of running the tender, estimated at \$39,000. Ongoing contract management service. Significant savings in landfill levy since 90% of waste is now recycled. Typically \$380 per tonne, now \$175 per tonne. | \$39,000 + \$205 per tonne. |
| Hardware | \$0 | Saved the cost of running the tender, estimated at \$15,000. Ongoing contract management service. | \$15,000 |
| Industrial Footwear | \$0 | Saved the cost of running the tender, estimated at \$15,000. Ongoing contract management service. | \$15,000 |
| Line-marking | \$0 | Saved the cost of running the tender, estimated at \$15,000. Ongoing contract management service. | \$15,000 |
| Mattress Collection and Processing Services | \$0 | Saved the cost of running the tender, estimated at \$15,000. Ongoing contract management service. | \$15,000 |
| PEERS 1 Large and small sites electricity and 20% renewable energy | Contribution fee \$46,750 | <p>Electricity savings: \$52,028 in 2019/20. LGC value: \$1,800 in 2019/20.</p> <p>SSROC understands that GRC is surrendering its Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGC) to the preferred retailer, Origin Energy. So the value of the LGC should be deducted from the price of the electricity energy to calculate the precise figure. It is a cost effective saving (or if retired, of emissions reduction). The renewable energy agreement offers 20% savings over electricity market pricing in the first year.</p> <p>The renewable energy power purchase agreement (PPA) guarantees to deliver the MWh specified in the request for tender (20% of Council's load at the</p> | <p>\$5,2078 in 2019/20. Over the contract term: \$202,000 electricity savings plus \$18,000 in LGC value. (Estimated savings based on the contract price and market price at commencement, and 11 year term.)</p> |

| Contract | Cost to council | Benefit to council | Net benefit/(cost) |
|--|-----------------|--|--|
| | | <p>time) as renewable energy until 2030, at the contract price.</p> <p>Price assurance in a very volatile market: 11 years for renewable portion, 3 years for black electricity.</p> | |
| PEERS Gas | \$2,000 | <p>Market test. Declined: savings foregone \$91,000.</p> <p>Supply of wholesale gas to small and large sites. The contract will deliver a potential 30% savings to participating councils, estimated at \$3 million per annum. SSROC recommends an initial contract of 2.5 years, with options to extend for 1+1 years subject to market conditions. Forecast savings for Georges River Council were 45% on small sites and around \$91,000 for large sites.</p> | <p>(\$2,000) Net benefit foregone: \$89,000.</p> |
| Plants & Trees | \$0 | Saved the cost of running the tender, estimated at \$15,000. Ongoing contract management service. | \$15,000 |
| Print | \$0 | Saved the cost of running the tender, estimated at \$15,000. Ongoing contract management service. | \$15,000 |
| Ready-mixed concrete | \$0 | Saved the cost of running the tender, estimated at \$15,000. Ongoing contract management service. | \$15,000 |
| Road signs and traffic control equipment | \$0 | <p>Saved the cost of running the tender, estimated at \$15,000.</p> <p>Estimated cost saving is 10-14% of previous contract cost for road signs.</p> <p>Increased scope of goods and services: installation and maintenance of guard rails; urgent removal and</p> | \$15,000 + 10-14% previous contract cost |

| Contract | Cost to council | Benefit to council | Net benefit/(cost) |
|--|-----------------|--|--------------------|
| | | replacement of damaged signs and devices; removal of old lane dividers; rubber speed cushions; electronic message signs to hire or buy; digital and large format printing for commercial advertising and other applications; cast and brass plaques and engraving. Ongoing contract management service. | |
| Road Vehicle Brooms, Brushes and Spare Parts | \$0 | Saved the cost of running the tender, estimated at \$15,000. Ongoing contract management service. | \$15,000 |
| Sodium Hypochlorite (bulk liquid chlorine) | \$0 | Saved the cost of running the tender, estimated at \$15,000. Ongoing contract management service. | \$15,000 |
| Stationery and Associated Products | \$0 | Saved the cost of running the tender, estimated at \$15,000. Ongoing contract management service. | \$15,000 |
| Temporary Staff | \$0 | Saved the cost of running the tender, estimated at \$15,000. Ongoing contract management service. | \$15,000 |
| Tree Pruning Services | \$0 | Saved the cost of running the tender, estimated at \$15,000. Ongoing contract management service. | \$15,000 |

Details of specific advocacy undertaken by SSROC that directly affects Georges River Council

“Street Lighting Improvement Program” – the SSROC SLI Program has delivered many benefits to councils over more than 15 years, including substantial cost-savings averaging 22% from 1 July 2019 compared with 2018/19 pricing resulting from submissions to the AER 2019-2024 Pricing Review. The current LED replacement program was negotiated by SSROC, and will reduce councils’ electricity costs, including a two-year campaign to achieve \$4 million in additional NSW Government funding. SSROC has raised concerns about the large backlog of lighting repairs, and conducted extensive surveys to highlight the scale of the problem: as a result Ausgrid has now delivered its plan to reduce the backlog (over 5,000) to more typical levels (1,000 to 2,000) by September 2020. SSROC played a large part in ensuring that a new Public Lighting Code and a Management Plan were developed and came into effect from 1 July 2019.

“Our Energy Future” – SSROC joint procurement contract for Energy Services Organisation (Australian Energy Foundation) for delivery of community engagement, advice and capacity building in renewable energy and energy efficiencies. No such service was available in NSW at the time: that service is now established and accessible to residents. 320 quotes for solar and battery installations in Georges River have been provided directly through the service, with 35 installations completed, establishing a generating capacity of 170kW and 14kWh storage capacity. Information provided through email subscriptions (250), website sessions (140,000) and social media impressions (over 400,000) are likely to have resulted in other informed decisions and more installations through other channels.

“Connected Corridors for Biodiversity” – habitat corridor mapping (through SSROC Grant submission to Sydney Salty Communities 2016-2020). Greater Sydney Local Land Services has been providing web mapping services to host the connected corridor mapped by the SSROC members and update annually if needed.

SSROC receives approximately \$400,000 annually from the EPA for waste projects with regional benefit. All SSROC member councils are a part of determining the projects, priorities and funding allocation, and council representatives can participate in project steering groups:

“Waste – DPIE project initiation” 2020/21 - develop and implement training on tendering and contracts for council waste and sustainability managers, for councils renewing or tendering for recycling contracts in next 1-3 years.

“Regional Waste Education” - Face-to-face and online workshops with consistent regional messaging and learning outcomes to priority target audiences for SSROC councils on food waste avoidance, single use plastic avoidance, recycling and reuse based on 2019 waste audit results. Hosting Get Rid of it Right website including links for Georges River residents <http://www.getridofitright.com/>.

“Waste Data and Infrastructure Planning” report due August 2020 – to identify what data is required, more efficient ways to capture data, standardised methodology for quantifying and evaluating waste data along the waste generation, collection, bulking, sorting, processing, and procurement value chain. The outputs of this project will be used to inform SSROC councils’ waste strategies to make informed, evidence-based decisions on waste services, identify which key infrastructure opportunities to develop through feasibility studies and business cases. All SSROC council waste strategy managers and GMs/CEOs will receive the findings of this landmark project and have the opportunity to weigh in on multiple criteria to identify waste and recycling infrastructural options with regional benefit, including location suitability and development pathways. SSROC councils will have the opportunity to feed into the project through workshops and use the final report to guide their waste strategy.

“NSW Waste Materials Flows and Infrastructure Needs Analysis” – originally scoped by SSROC but now run by DPIE (with SSROC membership on the steering committee). This will assess current and projected future waste material flows by type, and current

infrastructure capacity and future needs to manage this. SSROC councils will be able to comment on the draft report and use the final report to guide their waste strategies.

“Regional procurement of civil works materials with recycled crushed glass” 2020 – This project aligns with commonwealth and state strategic circular economy priorities, will stimulate regional investment in glass processing infrastructure, and due to the scale of demand is expected to yield cost-effective unit prices for all participating councils. GRC still has the opportunity to join this initiative, which will create a market for 35-40% of the low-order glass collected through domestic recycling collections.

“Procure Recycled: Phase 2” (following above recycled civil works materials procurement) will identify highest-impact options with recycled content to target for regional procurement (e.g. bins, outdoor seating, infrastructure materials) and stimulate end markets for kerbside plastics and organics. Evaluation criteria, including quality, specifications, supply and demand, will be used to inform ongoing work with recycled plastics and processed organics.

“Regional strategy for AWT-affected councils”. Participate in a pilot project to improve integrated cross-sector planning for recovering food organics in MUDs, including water, climate, and other comprehensive planning elements that often serve as barriers to solutions. One potential project for next year is drawing on research soon finished to pilot onsite organics processing for MUDs, including all elements of the planning process to ensure the best possible outcomes.

“DA Assessment Training” 2020/21 - Waste Planning training sessions targeted at waste staff assessing DAs for waste and recycling infrastructure and collection requirements. This aims to tackle the long-term impacts of poorly planned and badly designed waste infrastructure by ensuring that good waste and resource recovery practices are enabled and not obstructed by building design. The training, developed by SSROC, has been adopted and is being rolled out by DPIE.

SSROC Coordination of Waste Audits; Waste and Environmental Advocacy

- Kerbside Waste Audits 2005, 2008, 2011, 2015, 2019
- Bulky Clean-up Waste Audit 2014

SSROC Advocacy in 2020.

- January 2020 Submission to the Standing Committee on Industry, Innovation, Science and Resources on the Inquiry into Australia’s Waste Management and Recycling Industries
- April 2020 Submission to the Independent Review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- May 2020 Submission to the Department and Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) on the Issues Paper *Cleaning up our Act – The Future for Waste and Recycling in NSW* for the development of the 20-year Waste Strategy (20YWS)
- May 2020 Submission to DPIE on *Cleaning Up Our Act – Redirecting the Future of Plastic in NSW*
- June 2020 Submission to DPIE on proposed amendments to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000
- June 2020 Submission to DPIE on the discussion paper *Criteria to request a higher s7.12 percentage*
- June 2020 Submission to DPIE on the draft special infrastructure contributions (SIC) guidelines
- July 2020 Submission to DPIE regarding the discussion paper *A Housing Strategy for NSW*

- July 2020 Submission to the Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy on the Inquiry into the problem of feral and domestic cats in Australia.

The value of advocacy work is not readily quantifiable, and it is rarely possible to claim a causal link between advocacy and broad reform. However, its value is reflected in for example, SSROC representation on the Steering Committee for DPIE's Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Planning Project, and recent improvements in and reporting of Ausgrid's street lighting repairs backlog following extensive advocacy from SSROC.

SSROC Working Groups

The secretariat also organises and coordinates a number of working groups for member councils, to provide information, identify joint initiatives, share knowledge, and provide networking opportunities. The groups are periodically reviewed by SSROC CEOs and GMs to ensure that they reflect councils' priorities, and were last reviewed in 2019. The current groups are:

- Waste Strategy Steering Group
 - sub-group: Waste Networking Group
- Strategic Procurement Group
- Smart Communities Group
- Environmental and Sustainability Management Group
 - sub-group: Sydney Pest Animal Action Network.
- Strategic Planning Group

I hope that this explanation answers your enquiry. Should you have any further enquiries in relation to this letter, please contact me on 8396 3800 or by email ssroc@ssroc.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Helen Sloan
Acting General Manager
Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils