

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

UPPER SPENCER GULF REGIONAL ASSESSMENT PANEL



The Upper Spencer Gulf Regional Assessment Panel consists of the Whyalla City Council, the Port Augusta City Council and the Port Pirie Regional Council.

The Upper Spencer Gulf Regional Assessment Panel Terms of Reference requires that the Assessment Manager prepares and presents an annual report detailing the activities of the USGRAP to each of the member Councils prior to the 30th September each year.

Governance

A review of the USGRAP Terms of Reference and Service Agreement documentation is currently being undertaken to identify if any amendments are required.

During the reporting period, all members have applied for renewal of their accreditation status as planning level 2. This is the minimum accreditation level required to sit as a member of a panel in South Australia as per the Accredited Professional Scheme. All members have since secured their accreditation for a further 12 months and will be reviewed again in 2024.

Current Members term is due to expire in August 2024, therefore a report will be prepared for the USGRAP Councils to seek direction in relation to the membership expression of interest of extension process for the next 2 year term.

USGRAP Membership

The USGRAP membership is comprised of a five- member panel that does not consist of any Council Members. The members are as follows:

Stewart Payne – Presiding Member

Fiona Barr – Independent Member

Rob Donaldson- Independent Member

Angela Stokes - Independent Member

Nick Stassinopoulos - Independent Member

Panel Meetings and Attendance

The USGRAP met 6 times during the reporting period and determined 8 items. The Panel granted consent for 7 applications and refused 1 application.

Panel members attendance during the reporting period is summarised below:

Member	Meetings Held	Meetings Attended
Stewart Payne	6	6
Fiona Barr	6	6
Rob Donaldson	6	6
Angela Stokes	6	6
Nick Stassinopoulos	6	6

Appeals

No appeals were lodged for any decisions of the USGRAP as the relevant authority during the reporting period.

No requests were made through the USGRAP for review of any decisions made by the Assessment Manager/delegates.

Delegated Decisions

During the reporting period, the USGRAP were the relevant authority for a significantly larger number of development applications than what was presented to the Panel as they were the subject of notification, however determined under delegation of the Assessment Manager/delegates. These applications may have been of a more minor nature and did not receive representation during the notification period, or staff were able to satisfy representors in relation to their concerns/queries regarding the development. Applications of this nature can be determined under delegation, but only without valid representation being received.

Applications that require notification and have a development value greater than 5 million dollars, or in the opinion of the Assessment Manager are of major significance to the Council area, must be referred to the USGRAP for determination even if no representation is received as per the Schedule of Conditions of the USGRAP delegations register. These forms of applications are considered to be of a nature that warrants the USGRAP determination.

Statistical Snapshot - Reporting Period

Applications Submitted per Council and Development Cost

Council	DA's Submitted	Development Cost
Port Augusta City Council	222	\$159.06 million
Port Pirie Regional Council	268	\$343.85 million
Whyalla City Council	297	\$58.12 million
TOTAL	787	\$561.03 million

Consent Category across the USGRAP Councils

Development Category	No.	%
Accepted	190	21.96%
Deemed to Satisfy	112	12.94%
Performance Assessed	561	64.85%
Exempt	2	0.25%
Restricted	0	0.00%
TOTAL	865	100%

Assessment Manager

The Assessment Manager is responsible for the continued governance and operations of the USGRAP. The Assessment Manager also supports the recruitment of new staff across the three Councils and provides delegations appropriately in accordance with skills and experience to ensure that thorough and considered planning decisions are made across the USGRAP.

The Assessment Manager provides advice, support and guidance to all planning staff and management across the three Councils as well as reviewing and amending delegations as appropriate. The Assessment Manager is the relevant authority for all applications that are Performance Assessed (not requiring notification) and Deemed to Satisfy, and provides delegation to staff across the USGRAP Councils.

The role of Assessment Manager has transitioned on the 19th of March 2023 from David Altmann at Development Answers, who was fundamental in the successful establishment of the USGRAP, to Jodie Perone who holds a Planning Level 1 Accreditation as required to hold the position of Assessment Manager. The transition now provides for local management as was the intention of the Councils when they resolved to establish the Regional Assessment Panel.

Host Council

Whyalla City Council was Host Council for the last 12 months, this arrangement will continue into the new year. Thanks must be extended to Cristina Schubert (Technical Officer Development Assessment) and Joanne Blayney (Executive Coordinator – City Development) for their assistance in the preparation and distribution of Agendas and Minutes, calendar arrangements and setting up for meetings, and administration of payment for members attendance.

Conclusion

The staff and consultants across the three Councils have assessed a variety of complex applications for presentation to the Panel for determination over the last 12 months. The Presiding Member and Independent Members have been professional in their conduct in determining applications and respectful when dealing with staff, applicants and representors alike.

I thank the members, staff and Management for their support and cooperation which has ensured the success of the panel over the last 12 months, and I look forward to working with the team for the next 12 months.



Jodie Perone

Assessment Manger

Upper Spencer Gulf Regional Assessment Panel

24 September 2023