

Board Members



Your Board until the conclusion of the 2023 AGM is:



Michael Sedgman, City of Adelaide

President



Dylan Strong, Berri Barmera Council

Board Member



Mark Withers, City of Port Adelaide Enfield

Board Member



Thuyen Vi-Alternetti, City of Marion

Board Member



Debra Larwood, District Council of Kimba

Board Member



Kristie Johnson, City of Charles Sturt

Board Member



Kate Grigg, City of Unley

Board Member



Stacey Bateson, City of Adelaide

Board Member



Kate O'Neill, City of Mitcham

Board Member



Morgan Potter, Port Pirie Regional Council

Board Member



Paul Sutton, City of Charles Sturt

Board Member

President

Michael Sedgman

Chief Operating Officer, City of Adelaide

Length of service in Local Government: 23 years

Reason for nominating:

As a Local Government Professional in both Victoria and South Australia over the past 20 years I have been an active supporter of Local Government Professionals and regard LG Professionals SA as an important professional development and networking forum.

As President and a member of the Local Government Professionals Australia, SA Board I believe I bring a significant and rich leadership experience in Local Government to enhance the benefits of membership of LG Professionals SA.



Board Member

Dylan Strong

Chief Executive Officer, Berri Barmera Council

Length of service in Local Government: 3.5 years

Reason for nominating:

Local government is integral to our social fabric. I feel privileged to work within a sector which has a hands-on role in ensuring our communities meet the challenges we face and optimise the opportunities ahead of us. The Local Government Professionals Australia, SA network provides us with a vehicle to connect and share experiences, and also offer our people innovative and practical development opportunities.

Having worked across the tiers of government over the past ten years, I am keen to share my experience in business, engagement, economic development, leadership and personal development. I also welcome the opportunity to work with LG Professionals SA to strengthen the relationship with our regions to ensure the sector supports our people across the State in achieving their goals.



Board Member

Mark Withers

Chief Executive Officer, City of Port Adelaide Enfield

Length of service in Local Government: 38 years

Reason for nominating:

Throughout my many years' experience in local government I have been fundamentally committed to delivering public good. During my career I have maintained an enthusiastic commitment to my own professional development and believe my broad sector knowledge can benefit others to progress professionally to achieve their career goals. I have worked in 9 different SA Councils and held CEO positions at Port Adelaide Enfield, Charles Sturt and Unley Councils.

I am a past National President of LG Professionals Australia and also a current Board Member of the Environmental Protection Authority SA and CAWRA. I believe to be successful in your working life you must share knowledge, encourage growth in people and take opportunities to lead whenever they present themselves. This is my ongoing commitment as a member of the LG Professionals SA Board.



Board Member

Thuyen Vi-Alternetti

Manager City Property, City of Marion

Length of service in Local Government: 10 years

Reason for nominating:

I am extremely passionate about local government, motivating and empowering our people and bringing diversity to the table.

Working in local government has given me the opportunity to meet many intelligent, motivating and inspiring leaders who have challenged and supported me to grow and further my career in the sector - this I will forever be grateful for.

I am an alumni of the Emerging Leaders Program (2016), currently the Chair of the LG Professionals SA Women's Network Committee and have served my first term as a board member at LG Professionals SA. The last two years have given me a great opportunity to further understand, influence, advocate and represent the many professionals who work in our sector. I still have a lot more to give and achieve for our sector.



Board Member

Debra Larwood

Chief Executive Officer, District Council of Kimba

Length of service in Local Government: 15.5 years

Reason for nominating:

I have worked in Local Government for over 15 years at Kimba Council, six as CEO, served on several boards and am a current member of the LGA CEO Advisory Committee and LG Professionals SA Board. I am a passionate advocate for the sector with a strong belief in what we can achieve collaboratively.

As an alumni of the Executive Leaders Program and a participant in the Regional Women's Mentoring Program and other LG Professionals SA initiatives, I'm committed to the importance of ongoing professional development and would like to use my experiences to help build capacity within local government through LG Professionals SA. As CEO of a small regional council, I bring a different perspective to the Board and provide a depth of geographical diversity with an opportunity to expand my networks and work closely with a dedicated group of professionals to challenge myself and the sector as a whole.



Board Member

Kristie Johnson

Manager, Media Marketing and Communications, City of Charles Sturt

Length of service in Local Government: 12 years

Reason for nominating:

I was appointed to the LG Professionals SA Board in 2020 as a skill-based appointment. In my term, I helped shape our strategic direction, ensuring we offer opportunities for employees across field and administrative roles to develop their skills. I also contributed to the launch of a successful partnership between LG Professionals SA and the LGA to further enhance opportunities for local government people to attend training and development in their fields.

I am passionate about considering regional and metro issues into LG Professional SA's planning, as well as increasing the participation of field employees with targeted opportunities that suit their needs and establishing a Local Government Graduate Program to link emerging professionals with a career in local government.



Board Member

Kate Grigg

Team Member Open Space, City of Unley

Length of Service in Local Government: 21 years

Reason for nominating:

As an outdoor worker I love to be a positive representative. I am very passionate about my role and the people around me and want to encourage more outdoor interaction with LG Professionals SA. I am currently a member of the LG Professionals SA Women's Network Committee and I feel I have a positive input.



Board Member

Stacey Bateson

Manager, Customer & Marketing, City of Adelaide

Length of Service in Local Government: 17 years

Reason for nominating:

I love to give back and contribute to an organisation that is striving to make a difference in our sector, who is innovative and invested in raising the capabilities of our collective teams.

I believe being a Board Member is an incredible opportunity to leverage my knowledge and experience to create meaningful outcomes for those who strive to further develop their potential and career in local government. To also have a positive influence on the amazing programs and initiatives I have been honoured to be a part of, is so exciting.

I have worked in local government with City of Adelaide for 16 years in Commercial Business, Information Management, Customer Experience, Marketing and Media Relations, I believe my diverse experience and inclusive leadership style is valuable, and being a Board Member is a wonderful opportunity to gain new strategic insights and networks, and instil these back into our sector and community.



Board Member

Kate O'Neill

**General Manager, Organisational & Community Development,
City of Mitcham**

Length of Service in Local Government: 20 years

Reason for nominating:

Having worked in Councils across SA and NSW over 19 years, starting as a Business Analyst and progressing through a diversity of roles to my current position as General Manager at the City of Mitcham, I am well positioned to add value to the direction setting and decision making that shapes the professionalism, profile, and collaborative potential of SA Local Government.

My love of coaching and mentoring emerging leaders is driven by a passion for progressing workplace diversity and inclusion, attracting and retaining outstanding people to local government, and delivering outcomes that meet the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities.

I am excited about the opportunity to give back to the sector that has provided me with so many opportunities, working with a network of equally passionate peers, and discovering the future role I can play in developing the sector.



Board Member

Morgan Potter

Manager Corporate Services, Port Pirie Regional Council

Length of service in Local Government: 6 months

Reason for nominating:

Relocating back to South Australia in 2021 and transitioning from the private sector to local government, I have identified a number of challenges and prospects for professionals within our sector – particularly younger professionals in regional and remote areas.

As a result, I seek to represent a cohort of professionals just starting out within our sector and for whom the transition represents unique opportunities to local governments, and networks, in which they join.

I am a strong advocate for innovative business improvement, modernisation of organisations whilst retaining key knowledge and enabling high performing teams to better support the local community.

I am a Chartered Accountant with broad experience across the renewable energy, intermodal transport, and not-for-profit sectors. I am involved in community organisations, and I am proud to be the 'Aggregated Scone and Muffin winner' at the 2022 Crystal Brook Agricultural Show.



Board Member

Paul Sutton

Chief Executive Officer, City of Charles Sturt

Length of service in Local Government: 26 years

I work collaboratively with the Elected Council and executive team to provide strategic leadership for the City. I thrive by creating a passionate and ambitious, achievement-oriented environment where our community is central and our staff's development and fulfillment is stretched.

I am an authentic leader and pride myself on having an energetic, flexible and proactive style. I have developed a highly constructive culture to achieve positive business impact, this is primarily felt through customer excellence, flexibility and a solution orientation. I have a passion for collaboration and working together across the local government sector to create a better South Australia.

Being a Board Member of LG Professionals SA and Director of LG Professionals Australia further supports this contribution.

I am a past President of LG Professionals SA and current Board Member of CAWRA, a joint council subsidiary doing its part to further recycling and the circular economy in SA. I am also a past Governing Council member and the Company Secretary of IPAA (Institute of Public Administration Australia SA) where I was a Board Member for 8 years.

I was awarded a fellowship of IPAA in 2016, a Graduate of the AICD and I have an MBA from the University of Adelaide and with qualifications in Business and Engineering from the University of South Australia.

