



PARKS & LEISURE
AUSTRALIA
(SA/NT)

2024/25

ANNUAL REPORT

Looking back, it's been a big year for the SA/NT Region! We kicked off with the exciting announcement of the appointment of Dan Ferguson as Executive Officer for the PLA SA/NT region. Dan is likely a familiar face to those in our industry, having been involved with PLA for many years, and continued as the Executive Officer for the VIC/TAS region simultaneously in an expanded role.

Sector development is at the heart of what we do, and Dan got straight down to business delivering a diversity of events and activities that saw more than 300 attendees engage in over seven events across the year:

- SEPTEMBER 2024 - [Northeast Explorer Playspace Tour](#)
- OCTOBER 2024 - [Employing Technology to Understand Recreation Usage Webinar](#)
- NOVEMBER 2024 - [Port Adelaide Football Club Facility Tour](#)
- FEBRUARY 2025 - [Social Impact and Sustainability in Sport Breakfast](#)
- APRIL 2025 - [2025 Gather Round Behind the Scenes Facilities Forum](#)
- JUNE 2025 - [2025 Region Conference](#) + [Awards of Excellence](#)

We must recognise that it takes a collective effort to deliver these exciting events and we thank all of the presenters for volunteering their time to showcase the best our industry has to offer. We were thrilled to have numerous trade exhibitors join us at the conference this year where

delegates could find all the information needed on the latest and greatest innovations from our industry suppliers.

In addition, a big thank you must go out to our event partners, who without their support we wouldn't be able to put on these events:

- Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing – Our region partners
- Golf Australia, PLA industry partner
- GreenLife Group, conference Platinum sponsor
- Design Inc our conference bronze partners
- Terrain Group, conference lanyards
- KOMPAN, conference coffee
- And our seminar/ webinar partners SANFL, LIV Golf, Campbelltown City Council, LCS Landscapes, City of Darwin, Sarah Constructions and Sport Environment Alliance

None of this could have happened without our [Region Council](#)'s strong leadership. I can't thank each one of you for your tireless work ethic and willingness to volunteer your time to support our industry. A special welcome to Hayden Beelitz (AusCycling) who joined this year.



Hayley Ashworth
President, PLA SA/NT

SA/NT REGION COUNCIL

Our Region Council plays a vital role in championing parks and leisure in South Australia and Northern Territory.



Hayley Ashworth
President
City of Mitcham



John Wilkinson
Councillor
City of Charles Sturt



Emily Moskwa
Councillor
City of Campbelltown



Matt Sexton
Councillor
City of Adelaide



Clare Black
Councillor
City of Darwin



Morris Wang
Councillor
City of Campbelltown



Monina Gilbey
Councillor
Torgersen Gilbey



Alex Giakoumis
Councillor
iugo



Hayden Beelitz
Councillor
AusCycling

JULY 2024

NEW PLA SA/NT EXECUTIVE OFFICER ANNOUNCED



It was with great pleasure that we announced the appointment of Dan Ferguson as Executive Officer for the PLA SA/NT region, starting immediately.

Dan is likely a familiar face to those in our industry, having been involved with PLA for many years and currently fulfilling the role of Executive Officer for the VIC/TAS region. He will continue to service both VIC/TAS and the SA/NT regions in this newly expanded role.

"We are extremely excited about bringing Dan on as Executive Officer. With a reinvigorated Region Council full of passionate volunteers and now with Dan at the helm - we are in a great position to set our region up for success!"

"I can't wait to get stuck in. With the recent success we have had in VIC/TAS, I hope to bring my learnings across and push SA/NT forward to continue to add as much value to our members as possible... watch this space!"



Hayley Ashworth
President, PLA SA/NT



Dan Ferguson
Executive Officer, SA/NT + VIC/TAS



SEPTEMBER 2024

Northeast Explorer Playspace Tour

We are excited to have hosted our 'Northeast Explorer' Playspace Technical Tour this week, as we hopped on board to take a look at three unique playspaces across Adelaide's North Eastern suburbs – [Thorndon Park Reserve](#), [Paradise Recreation Plaza](#), and [Edinburgh Reserve](#).

We heard from the expert construction team behind Thorndorn Park Reserve and Paradise Recreation Plaza, [LCS Landscapes](#), with local council staff on site to guide us through each site and provide a behind the scenes understanding of the playspaces from concept to project delivery and community benefits.

Of course, a big thank you must go out to Emily Moskwa and the team at Campbelltown City Council for hosting, along with our event partners LCS Landscapes for their support. Check out below for more on the sites we visited and photos from the day.

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OCTOBER 2024

Employing Technology to Understand Recreation Usage Webinar

PLA SA/NT are thrilled to have hosted a webinar this week in collaboration with the team at City of Darwin. The webinar explored ways of using different technologies to address specific usage questions you may have at your recreation sites, and how usage data can assist decision making for future planning and activation.

Attendees heard how City of Darwin is trialling the use of different digital counting solutions, and analysis of the data received, to answer specific usage questions at various active recreation sites across the municipality. Rather than focusing on a whole park approach to data collection, this webinar explored examples and ideas to suit varied situations and budget limitations.

A big thank you must go out to PLA SA/NT Region Councillor, Clare Black, for the coordination of the event, along with her fellow presenters Keith and Benazir for their time and expertise. Whilst the webinar was recorded, we are unable to share it publicly. You can find more information, including a brief recap of the event below.

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NOVEMBER 2024

Port Adelaide Football Club Facility Tour

Thanks to all who joined us as we toured Port Adelaide Football Club's new world-class High Performance Centre and community precinct. We were thrilled to hear how the project came to life from Port Adelaide Football Club CEO, Matthew Richardson, and the team at Sarah Constructions.

We were also joined by SANFL and the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing who updated us on all the funding currently available for future projects. A fantastic day of networking and exploring this outstanding high-class facility. A big thank you goes out to all our presenters – Matthew Richardson (PAFC), Robert Maiolo (Sarah Constructions), Martin Govett (ORSR) and Rebecca Tappert (SANFL) – for their time and expertise. You can explore the photo gallery from the day below.

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FEBRUARY 2025

Social Impact and Sustainability in Sport – LIV Golf Breakfast

We were thrilled to be part of a breakfast with the LIV Golf Social Impact and Sustainability team, to hear all about their Impact Strategy – Potential. Unleashed! Hosted by Sport SA, in collaboration with Parks and Leisure Australia SA/NT and Sports Environment Alliance the breakfast was designed to showcase the Social Impact initiatives that LIV Golf are delivering both globally and right here in Adelaide.

The day kicked off with [Gabriella Thompson](#) and [Thomas Wells](#) exploring Liv Golf's sustainability strategy and its local social impact initiatives for the Adelaide event. Parks and Leisure Australia and the Sports Environment Alliance then joined the LIV Golf Team for an interactive Panel discussion to help participants identify how they can prioritise three actions to take away from the breakfast.

- Adam Cheyne, CEO of [Sports Environment Alliance](#) shared how they connect sporting communities, from grassroots clubs to elite, to leverage the power of sport to advance climate and environmental goals.
- Parks and Leisure Australia SA/NT Region Councillor [Monina Gilbey](#) shared some fantastic biodiversity initiatives all sporting clubs could consider.

A fantastic morning had by all, you can view some photos from the day below.

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APRIL 2025

2025 Gather Round Behind the Scenes Facilities Forum

SANFL in partnership with Parks & Leisure Australia and The Barossa Council were thrilled to present the **Gather Round Behind the Scenes | SANFL Facilities Forum** on Thursday 10 April 2025 in the Barossa.

Celebrating the 2024 winner of [SA Football Facility of the Year – Tanunda Recreation Park](#), we started on site with a self-guided tour of the facility, before taking a deep dive into the redevelopment project exploring the funding and design journey, and discovering the challenges and wins of construction – hearing firsthand from the club about their input and experience.

Jumping aboard LinkSA chartered buses to get an exclusive behind the scenes tour of [Barossa Park](#) – Lyndoch during Gather Round event week. We then headed back to Tanunda Recreation Park for guest speakers, panel sessions and of course some lunch!

A big thankyou to all of our guests, panellists and event partners for your involvement on the day.

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JUNE 2025

2025 Region Conference

The Parks and Leisure Australia SA/NT Region Conference returned once again, taking place in the vibrant heart of Adelaide at the U City Function Centre.

It was a day to remember, with a strong turnout of attendees gathering for a dynamic program filled with networking opportunities, knowledge sharing, and a showcase of the very best our industry has to offer. As the only sector conference created *by* local government *for* local government and its supporters, the event truly celebrated the PEOPLE behind the PLACES.

The conference kicked off with an official opening from The Hon. Nat Cook MP and Welcome to Country by Cliffy Wilson from Kuma Kaaru Cultural Services. An inspiring keynote address from Stephen Yarwood came next, setting the tone for the day. This was followed by an insightful industry panel with Campbelltown City Council CEO Paul Di Iulio and Executive Manager Strategic Projects and Climate at Mitcham Council, Amy Pokoney Cramey. Delegates then delved into a wide-ranging program across two engaging streams, before the day concluded on a high note with a powerful closing keynote from Jed Altschwager.

And of course, a highlight of the day was our annual Awards of Excellence, where we proudly recognised the exceptional achievements and contributions across PLA SA/NT.

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JUNE 2025

2025 Awards of Excellence

The day concluded with the celebration of the 2025 PLA SA/NT Awards of Excellence, honouring the outstanding initiatives and innovative efforts across our industry and proudly supported by GLG Green Life Group. Guests enjoyed the festivities over canapes and refreshments creating the perfect atmosphere to recognise this year's standout contributions. A heartfelt congratulations to all of the 2025 award recipients, who will now go on to represent our region at the National Awards of Excellence in Hobart this November.

- **Community Based Initiative of the Year Award**
 COMMENDATION – Reconciliation River Walk – Campbelltown City Council and City of Tea Tree Gully
 WINNER The Accessible Outdoors Program – SA Water
- **Best Use of Technology Award**
 WINNER – SACA Region Rezoning – Kinetica and South Australian Cricket Association
- **Playspace Award (>\$500K)**
 WINNER – Playford Road Reserve – Campbelltown City Council
- **Community Facility of the Year Award**
 COMMENDATION – Mile End Athletics Stadium – SPORTENG
- **Park of the Year Award**
 WINNER – Playford Road Reserve – Campbelltown City Council

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2024/25 PARTNERS



Government of South Australia

Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing



DesignInc



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