



Foreword

Promoting sustainable communities is about setting an agenda for the future, an agenda that reflects local values and aspirations. It is about defining and reconciling the economic, social and environmental priorities for the area.

It is also about understanding which strategic directions are being realised, and which require more attention—do we have more or fewer job opportunities in the area? How well are we managing the local environment? How safe do people feel? Are there enough parks and recreation areas for the community to enjoy?

Quality of life, healthy cities and sustainability indicators are all very recent and evolving concepts. The City of Onkaparinga was fortunate to receive support through the Local Government Research and Development Scheme to review the various indicator approaches being adopted in Australia and overseas, and to develop a flexible model and suite of indicators that could be used by a local or regional authority. The active interest in this project demonstrated by South Australian councils enriched its outcomes.

Monitoring outcomes: achieving goals provides the information base and starting point for tracking progress using indicators. It promotes a more systematic approach to monitoring trends and conditions that are linked to the strategic directions of an area. It also places emphasis on sustainable development principles. After all, it is no longer acceptable to rely on economic indicators alone as a barometer for community well being.

This guide is a product of a comprehensive process that engaged many councils, state agencies and non-government organisations. I commend it to leaders in local government and other local and regional authorities with a responsibility for policy development and strategic planning.

Jeff Tate
City Manager
City of Onkaparinga