



**MOUNT GAMBIER REGIONAL SPORT AND RECREATION CENTRE**

**ATTACHMENT B - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

- 1. Limestone Coast Region Plan .....
- 2. City of Mount Gambier Youth Engagement Strategy.....
- 3. Youth Population .....
- 4. Issues and Directions Paper .....

# Limestone Coast Region Plan

A volume of the South Australian Planning Strategy



August 2011



Government of South Australia  
Department of Planning  
and Local Government



# Limestone Coast Region Plan

A volume of the South Australian Planning Strategy

This document is the *Limestone Coast Region Plan*.

The document has been prepared by the South Australian Government, through the Department of Planning and Local Government, as a volume of the South Australian Planning Strategy pursuant to section 22 of the *Development Act 1993* and is subject to change.

#### For further information

Please visit [www.dplg.sa.gov.au](http://www.dplg.sa.gov.au) or telephone the Department of Planning and Local Government on 08 8303 0600.



**Government of South Australia**

Department of Planning  
and Local Government

#### Disclaimer

While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that this document is correct at the time of publication, the Minister for Urban Development, Planning and the City of Adelaide, the State of South Australia, its agencies, instrumentalities, employees and contractors disclaim any and all liability to any person in respect to anything or the consequence of anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon the whole or any part of this document.

© Government of South Australia. Published 2011. All rights reserved.

ISBN 978-0-7590-0174-9

FIS 23014





## MINISTER FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND THE CITY OF ADELAIDE

South Australia's Limestone Coast is well-placed to build on its sound economy, with its strong townships, well established agricultural and fishing industries, and growing tourism performance.

The region's strengths are many: it is home to South Australia's second largest city, Mount Gambier, and a range of well serviced commercial centres; it hosts several prestigious wine regions including the world famous Coonawarra, and it is one of South Australia's most important primary production regions. The coastal towns and wine growing districts, in particular, are attractive tourist destinations for South Australians and interstate visitors. Importantly, the Limestone Coast is home to around 64,500 people who live and work in the region.

The *Limestone Coast Region Plan* is designed to make sure this beautiful region remains a great place to live, work and visit for many years to come. This plan is one of seven regional volumes in the South Australian Planning Strategy. Based on a presumption of steady economic growth, the plans indicate where new housing, industry and commercial activity should be best located – and not located. The plan outlines the different roles and functions of towns and addresses important issues, such as the way industrial, commercial and residential areas connect and impact on each other.

As with all of the regional plans, the challenge is to balance changes in the economy and population with the need to protect the region's natural and historical features. These include unique ecosystems, landscapes and the built environment of towns. The plan identifies the potential effects of growth on these features and sets out land-use principles and policies for development that will support their protection. Ultimately, the plan is about helping the Limestone Coast to continue to grow and develop in a way which preserves everything the community values about the region.

The *Limestone Coast Region Plan* was produced as a result of close collaboration between the State Government, local councils, regional development and natural resources management boards, local industry and the community. The result is a document which points the way to a future of well-managed growth, protected natural and industry assets, and strong communities.

### **Hon John Rau MP**

Deputy Premier

Minister for Urban Development, Planning and the City of Adelaide



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Chapter A    **OVERVIEW** . . . . . 1
  - Background . . . . . 2
  - The role of the South Australian Planning Strategy . . . . . 2
  - The objectives of the regional planning strategies . . . . . 4
  - Alignment with state government policies . . . . . 4
  - How the regional volumes will work at regional and local government levels . . . . . 6
  - Consideration of Commonwealth environmental matters . . . . . 6
  - Planning for change in regional South Australia . . . . . 6
  
- Chapter B    **THE CONTEXT FOR THE PLAN** . . . . . 11
  - The Limestone Coast region at a glance . . . . . 12
  - Key issues for the Limestone Coast region . . . . . 12
  
- Chapter C    **THE VISION FOR THE LIMESTONE COAST REGION** . . . . . 15
  - An integrated approach . . . . . 16
  
- Chapter D    **PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES** . . . . . 19
  - Environment and culture . . . . . 22
  - Economic development . . . . . 34
  - Population and settlements . . . . . 46
  
- Chapter E    **INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE PROVISION** . . . . . 55
  
- APPENDICES** . . . . . 59
  - Appendix 1    How the Plan was developed . . . . . 60
  - Appendix 2    Information about the Limestone Coast region . . . . . 62
  - Appendix 3    Contribution of the Plan to *South Australia's Strategic Plan* targets . . . . . 74
  - Appendix 4    Related reports, strategies and plans . . . . . 76
  
- GLOSSARY** . . . . . 79
  
- List of maps
  - A1    Planning regions covered in the South Australian Planning Strategy . . . . . 3
  - C1    An integrated vision for the Limestone Coast region . . . . . 17
  - D1    Environment and culture . . . . . 23
  - D2    Economic development . . . . . 35
  - D3    Population and settlements . . . . . 47







# OVERVIEW

## Chapter A



# OVERVIEW

## Chapter A

### Background

The *Limestone Coast Region Plan* (the Plan) guides future land use and development in the region.

It has been prepared by the South Australian Government, through the Department of Planning and Local Government (DPLG), in collaboration with the Limestone Coast Regional Development Board<sup>1</sup>, the South East Local Government Association, the South East Natural Resources Management Board and the seven councils of the region:

- Tatiara District Council
- Kingston District Council
- Naracoorte Lucindale Council
- District Council of Robe
- Wattle Range Council
- City of Mount Gambier
- District Council of Grant.

Submissions received from industry, interest groups and the community during the public consultation period from March to May 2010 were valuable in improving and finalising the Plan.

For more information about the *Limestone Coast Region Plan* and how it was developed, please see Appendix 1.

<sup>1</sup> The Limestone Coast Regional Development Board became Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast in 2009–10.

### The role of the South Australian Planning Strategy

The *Limestone Coast Region Plan* is one of seven regional volumes that, together with *The 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide*, make up the South Australian Planning Strategy. The regions covered in the regional volumes of the Planning Strategy are: Eyre and Western, Far North, Kangaroo Island<sup>2</sup>, Limestone Coast, Murray and Mallee, Yorke and Mid North<sup>3</sup> (refer to Map A1).

In the regional volumes the state government gives direction on land use and development for the period 2010–2036. They set out how the government proposes to balance population and economic growth with the need to preserve the environment and protect the heritage, history and character of regional communities. They also help state and local government in planning for the provision of services and infrastructure, such as transport, health, schools, and aged care and community facilities.

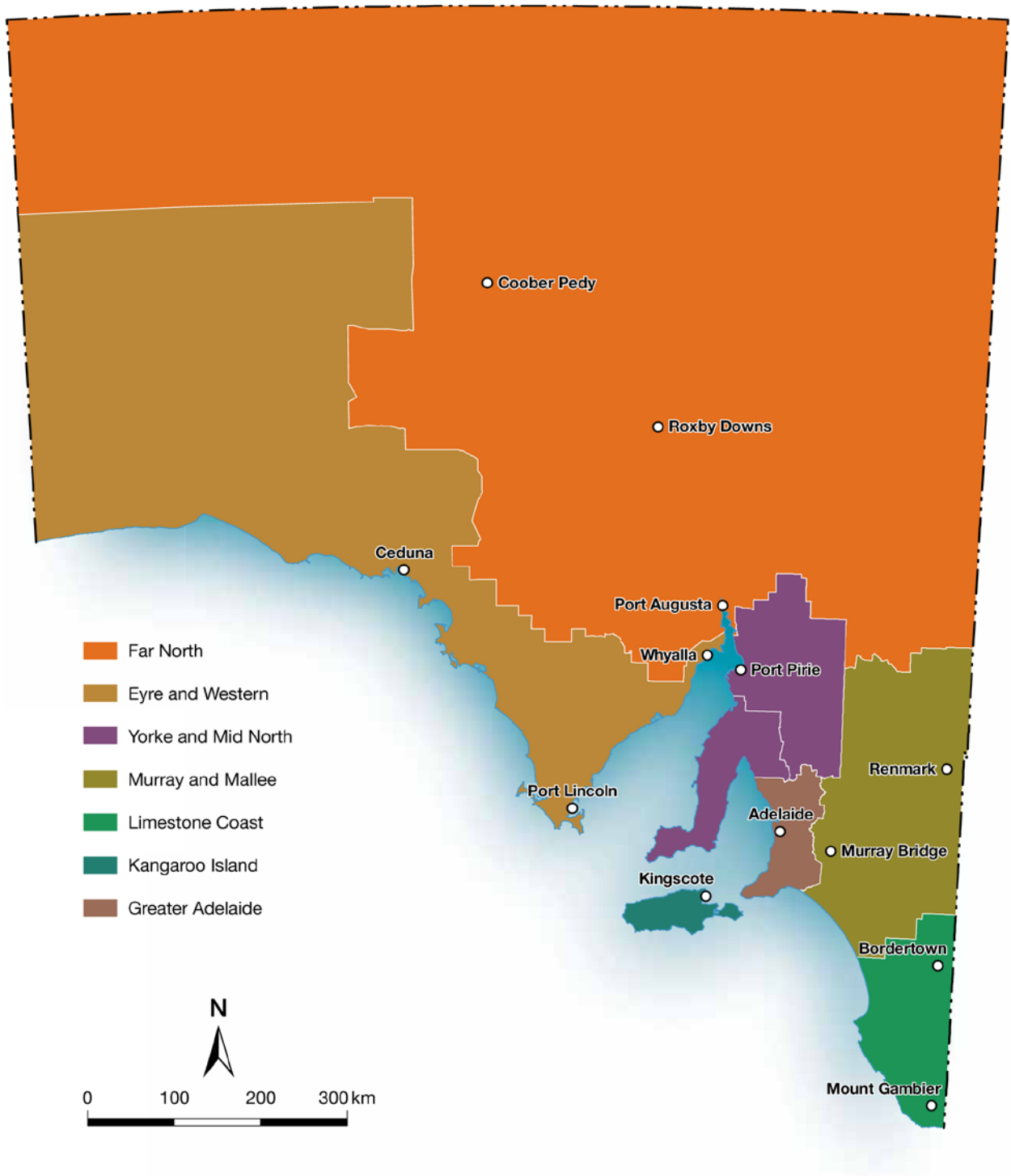
<sup>2</sup> Kangaroo Island is part of the Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island SA Government Region but for planning purposes it is covered in a separate regional volume of the South Australian Planning Strategy. The Fleurieu Peninsula is covered in *The 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide*.

<sup>3</sup> The Yorke and Mid North regions are currently covered in the South Australian Planning Strategy as separate volumes. They will eventually be combined into one volume.

At a local level, the regional volumes provide guidance and resources for councils as they undertake their Strategic Management Plans and review and amend their Development Plans. Development Plans contain the zones, maps and explicit rules that specify what can and cannot be done with land in a council area. Councils must ensure that their Development Plans and Development Plan Amendments are consistent with the land-use policies and directions of the relevant regional volume. The regional volumes also guide Development Plans and Development Plan Amendments in unincorporated (out of council) areas, as undertaken by the Minister responsible for urban development and planning (the Minister).

The structure plans for the state's major regional cities, including Mount Gambier, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie and Whyalla, flow from the regional volumes.

The South Australian Planning Strategy is a requirement of section 22 of the *Development Act 1993*. The Minister is responsible for its preparation on behalf of the state government and for reporting to the South Australian Parliament annually on its implementation. Each volume of the strategy must be reviewed at least every five years.





## The objectives of the regional planning strategies

To maximise the state's opportunities and respond to its challenges, the regional volumes of the South Australian Planning Strategy have three interlocking objectives. They are to:

- maintain and improve liveability
- increase competitiveness
- drive sustainability and resilience to climate change.

Figure A1 shows how these three objectives interrelate.

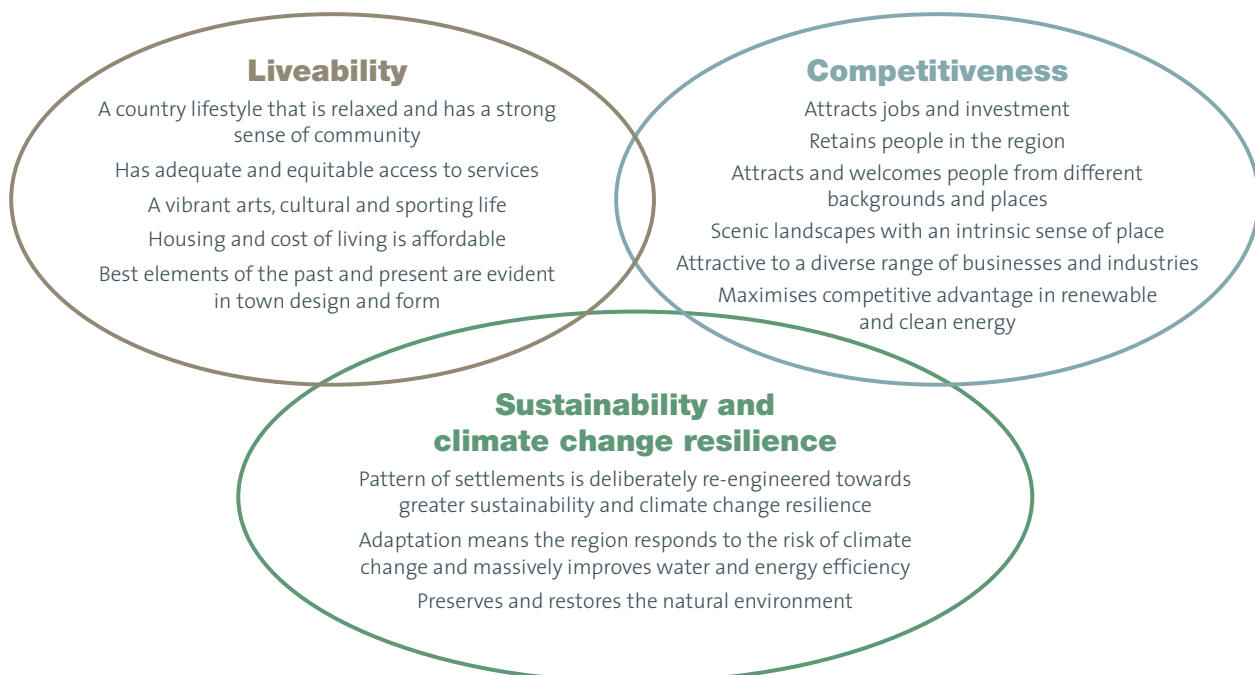
## Alignment with state government policies

The regional volumes of the South Australian Planning Strategy provide a link between broad, state-wide planning aims and local, council-specific planning needs, and they work in tandem with key state policies, leading to a consistent approach to land use and development across the state.

Firstly, the volumes support the achievement of a range of social, economic and environmental targets in *South Australia's Strategic Plan*. Second, they feed into the

*Strategic Infrastructure Plan for South Australia* (2005–06) by identifying the infrastructure priorities needed to support economic and population growth. Third, they tie in with the *Housing Plan for South Australia* (2005), *Water for Good—A Plan to Ensure our Water Future to 2050* (2009), the *Economic Statement* (2009), the *State Natural Resources Management Plan* (2006), the regional natural resources management plans (2009) and *South Australia's Waste Strategy* (2005).

Figure A1 – Objectives for the regional volumes of the South Australian Planning Strategy



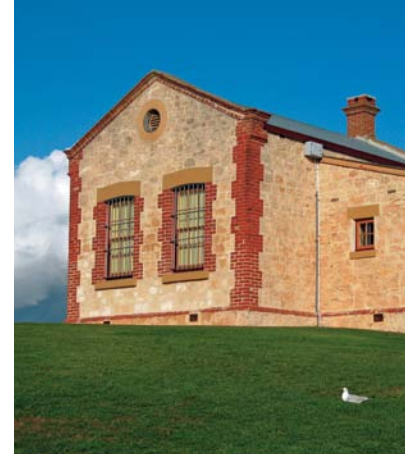
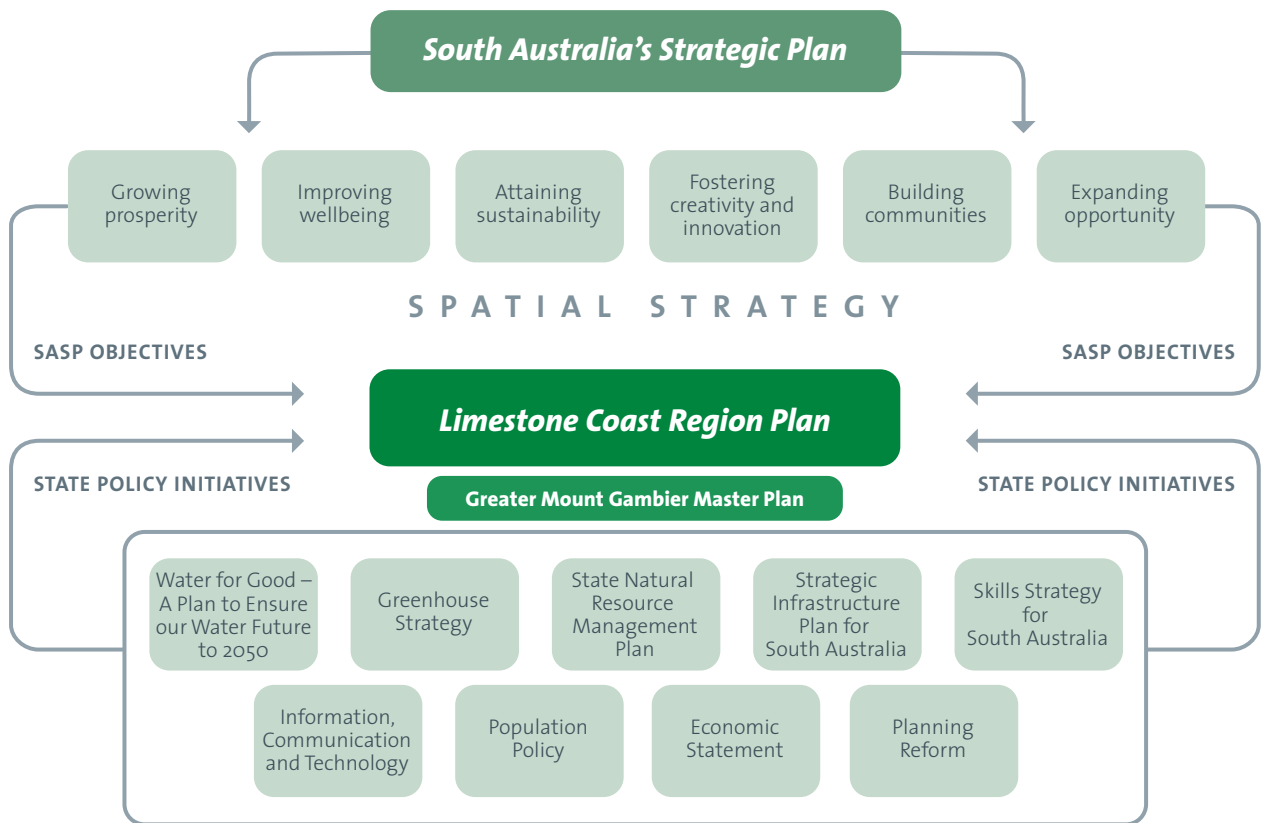


Figure A2 – The *Limestone Coast Region Plan*'s relationship with key state government policies



### Relationship to *South Australia's Strategic Plan*

Figure A2 shows the relationship of the regional volumes with *South Australia's Strategic Plan* (SASP) and its targets, as well as the links to several state policy initiatives.

See Appendix 3 for further information about SASP principles and targets.



## How the regional volumes will work at regional and local government levels

While the regional volumes will primarily operate at a regional level, local government will play a pivotal role in their implementation, in collaboration with DPLG, other state government agencies and stakeholders such as regional development and natural resources management boards. The collaborative process will feature regional forums, which will bring councils and relevant bodies together each year to agree on long-term land-use and infrastructure priorities, appropriate targets, and the need to focus their respective resources on implementing the priorities.

## Consideration of Commonwealth environmental matters

The regions encompass many matters of National Environmental Significance (NES) that are protected under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). These matters include:

- nationally listed species and ecological communities
- migratory species
- wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention (Ramsar-listed wetlands)
- national and World Heritage items/areas.

Councils' decision making processes and development controls should provide for early consideration of matters of NES and recognition that actions that may potentially have a significant impact on matters of NES will require a referral to the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts under the auspices of the EPBC Act.

## Planning for change in regional South Australia

The regional volumes of the South Australian Planning Strategy set out land-use policies to manage the changes that are forecast to occur across the regions. Of particular concern are changes in population and climate, which are having, and will continue to have, significant impact on the demand for services and infrastructure, the natural environment, the character of communities and the economic prosperity of the regions.

### Regional population change

The state government believes that sustainable population growth is essential to maintain healthy communities and a labour force that can support our economy. While much of the state's population growth is expected to occur in Greater Adelaide, regional areas are targeted to grow as well.

The make-up of the state's population is also changing dramatically—it is ageing at a faster rate than the other Australian states and this will bring significant challenges for planning, particularly in terms of the type and location of housing and its proximity to services.



Table A1 – Population trends and targets by region 1996–2036

Region	Population trends		SASP T5.9 Target—Maintain regional SA's share (18%) of state population <sup>a</sup>			
	ERP in 2008 <sup>b</sup>	Average annual growth rate 1996–2008 (%)	Share of 2008 regional population <sup>c</sup> (%)	Population target in 2036 <sup>d</sup> (based on 2008 share)	Population increase 2008–36 (persons)	Population growth 2008–36 (persons per year)
Eyre and Western	58,072	0.19	19.54	77,385	19,313	715
Murray and Mallee	70,125	0.23	23.60	93,446	23,321	864
Far North	28,460	-0.46	9.58	37,925	9,465	351
<b>Limestone Coast</b>	<b>65,402</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>22.01</b>	<b>87,152</b>	<b>21,750</b>	<b>806</b>
Yorke and Mid North	75,112	0.15	25.28	100,092	24,980	925
<b>Total</b>	<b>297,171</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>396,000</b>	<b>98,829</b>	<b>3660</b>

South Australia's Strategic Plan (SASP) calls for regional South Australia to maintain an 18 per cent share of the state's total population (Target 5.9). Based on the all-of-state population target developed for *The 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide*, this would equate to about 99,000 additional people taking up residence in regional areas, resulting in a regional population of 396,000 people by 2036.

Table A1 breaks down this population target by region and indicates the past population growth rates (1996–2008). Each region requires an average annual growth rate of 1.03 per cent to achieve its population target increase and maintain its 2008 share of the estimated resident population (ERP).

Notes to Table A1:

- a The regional population targets are aspirational, based on the all-of-state population target developed for *The 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide*. The timeframes cited are uncertain and the growth targets will be amended as the results of more recent demographic analyses become available.
- b ERP (estimated resident population). Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional population growth, Australia, cat. no. 3218.0, ABS, Canberra, Apr. 2009.
- c Department of the Premier and Cabinet, South Australia's Strategic Plan, DPC, Government of South Australia, Adelaide, 2007, <www.saplan.org.au>.
- d South Australia's population is expected to reach 2.2 million by 2036. Department of Planning and Local Government, *The 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide: Background Technical Report*, DPLG, Government of South Australia, Adelaide, 2009, p. 16, <www.plan4adelaide.sa.gov.au>.





While overall population numbers in regional areas have remained relatively static during the past decade, there have been significant changes in where people are choosing to live.

Numbers have declined in the more sparsely populated areas, particularly those in the Far North, and in settlements with less than 1000 people (with the exception of coastal communities). Changes to population distribution are being driven by the restructuring of farming enterprises, resulting in larger and fewer agricultural properties; the interstate and intrastate migration of people seeking a regional lifestyle; and changing industry demands.

Generally, towns with more than 1000 people have grown; several of these towns have had the fastest rates of population growth in the state. Larger centres such as Port Lincoln, Murray Bridge and Mount Gambier have continued to expand, while in Port Pirie, Port Augusta and Whyalla the population has stabilised and shown some improvement after a sustained period of decline.

The demographic profile of the regions also has been changing, with an ageing population and generally declining numbers of young people.

However, increasing economic investment in the regions and the expansion and diversification of primary industries, aquaculture, mining and the services that support tourism and older populations are expected to attract and maintain more young people and people from overseas. This will contribute to the achievement of the SASP population growth target.

To achieve the SASP workforce targets, the South Australian Government, through the Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology, is working with industry to develop workforce action plans in the mining, defence, construction, health and advanced manufacturing sectors. As well, industry skills boards are developing workforce development plans to address the demand for labour and skills in industries that have lost workers to mining.

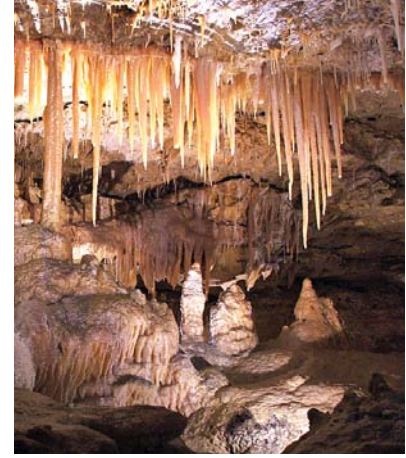
Any potential impacts on natural resources, the environment, biodiversity, unique landscapes and the character of communities as a result of these changing population patterns and related development will need to be carefully managed.

## Climate change

The potential effects of climate change on the regions range from threats to water supply, increased risk of bushfire, sea level rise and greater fragmentation of native habitats to increased pressure on health care services from more vulnerable people.

The state government believes it is critical to intervene now to help the regions prepare for and adapt to long-term climate change. Securing water and energy supplies is fundamental to economic, social and environmental wellbeing in the face of such change.

In recent years state and local governments and regional communities have improved water security through augmentation of supply, the introduction of permanent water conservation, and measures such as wastewater re-use and stormwater harvesting. Increased housing density, improved water efficiency of buildings and the incorporation of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles in the development process will lead to more efficient water consumption in regional towns. State and local governments are developing regional demand and supply plans, to be in place by 2014, as outlined in *Water for Good—A Plan to Ensure our Water Future to 2050*, as well as investigating how regional communities can diversify their water supply sources.



In addition, state and local governments continue to investigate ways to organise land use such that it supports renewable and clean energy technologies. These opportunities will give South Australia a competitive advantage in a carbon-constrained economy. Investment in infrastructure will be critical to realise such opportunities.

These initiatives will extend the life and reliability of our water and energy supplies and allow the population and the economy to grow without placing unsustainable demands on our natural resources.

Our understanding of climate change and its ramifications is evolving rapidly. It is critical that policies and decisions are based on the best current information and can be adjusted in the future if required.

### **Managing change**

South Australia's regions face the challenge of managing the impacts of climate change and population growth to protect viable primary production industries and the natural resources upon which they depend. This challenge has been compounded by reduced rainfall during several drought years. During this time rural communities have again shown their resilience and capacity to manage both good and bad years.

Local councils, regional and economic development boards, natural resources management boards and the state government have been working with the community, local groups and industry to develop effective strategies for specific sectors (for example, primary industries and tourism) and specific parts of the region (for example, individual towns and council areas) that will lead to a sustainable future for the region.

They recognise that population and economic growth must be balanced with protection of the environment, including biodiversity, and retention of the regions' unique qualities for the benefit of future generations and to attract and retain skilled workers.





# THE CONTEXT FOR THE PLAN

## Chapter B



# THE CONTEXT FOR THE PLAN

## Chapter B

### The Limestone Coast region at a glance

The Limestone Coast region:

- covers an area of around 21,400 square kilometres
- has a population of around 65,400<sup>4</sup>
- has an economy based on agriculture and primary production, horticulture/viticulture, dairying, forestry and associated processing, and fishing
- has a growing tourism industry and many popular tourist and holiday coastal destinations
- is well resourced, with generally reliable water supplies (particularly in the Lower South East) and available energy
- is well placed to accommodate population growth, given its strong economy and well serviced regional centres

- is rich in environmental assets, including coastal environments, national parks, conservation areas and woodlands
- has a major regional centre, Mount Gambier (population around 23,500), which has a strong economy based on agriculture and timber processing, a wide range of educational, retail and commercial facilities and services, and extensive infrastructure
- has several important commercial and service centres, including Naracoorte, Millicent, Kingston and Bordertown, whose economies are based on servicing the surrounding communities and their industries.

See Appendix 2 for detailed information about the Limestone Coast region, including its population distribution, economy and infrastructure.

### Key issues for the Limestone Coast region

The following issues were identified as critical to the region's future by local government, industry groups and communities during consultations in 2009. These issues, which are key drivers for the *Limestone Coast Region Plan*, are grouped under four themes:

- environment and culture
- economic development
- population and settlements
- infrastructure and services provision.

<sup>4</sup> Estimated resident population in 2008.



## Environment and culture

- Providing quality water supply and reducing reliance on traditional water supplies by developing strategies to re-use stormwater and waste water
- Planning for the impacts of climate change particularly declining rainfall on agricultural production, as well as the increasing demand for water resources arising from population growth
- Supporting sustainable groundwater and surface water management
- Ensuring development protects and preserves environmental assets, including areas of international and national importance, conservation parks, coastal habitats, wetlands and water resources
- Supporting the creation of biodiversity corridors and linkages (including wetlands) to enhance landscape connectivity for biodiversity
- Ensuring development is appropriately located, and does not adversely affect environmentally significant areas and scenic landscapes.

## Economic development

- Attracting and retaining a skilled and flexible workforce to support a stronger economic base
- Developing an integrated, strategic tourism plan to guide the expansion of tourism, building on the region's natural and cultural assets
- Encouraging further development of alternative energy industries (solar, wind, biomass, geothermal and wave)
- Attracting industry to the region, particularly where there is infrastructure capacity for growth (for example, electricity, gas, roads, rail and telecommunications)
- Developing and diversifying primary industries and planning for their sustainable adaptation to climate change
- Encouraging new industries to set up in the region to reduce reliance on agriculture
- Positioning the region to capitalise on the expansion of primary industry activities across the state and encouraging the relocation of activities from intra/interstate.

## Population and settlements

- Valuing the strong sense of community spirit and regional identity
- Discouraging residential development outside towns
- Catering for an ageing population by developing a range of housing alternatives around existing health and community services
- Maintaining town character and heritage and promoting towns and settlements with distinctive built heritage and historical importance, including Aboriginal heritage
- Ensuring an adequate supply of residential land for future development
- Providing greater employment, recreation and other opportunities to retain young people.



### Infrastructure and services provision

- Improving the capacity of water and sewer infrastructure to support growth in population, tourism and industry
- Expanding the re-use of stormwater and wastewater
- Investing in infrastructure to support economic and population growth
- Expanding electricity wind farms and fostering the development of other renewable energy sources and related infrastructure to facilitate economic growth
- Making the best use of existing and planned road and rail infrastructure
- Extending and upgrading broadband and mobile phone services to support industry and expand distance education opportunities
- Supporting the development and maintenance of social and community services and facilities, including sporting, education, health, recreational and other facilities to service the local population.



# THE VISION FOR THE LIMESTONE COAST REGION

## Chapter C





# THE VISION FOR THE LIMESTONE COAST REGION

## Chapter C

### An integrated approach

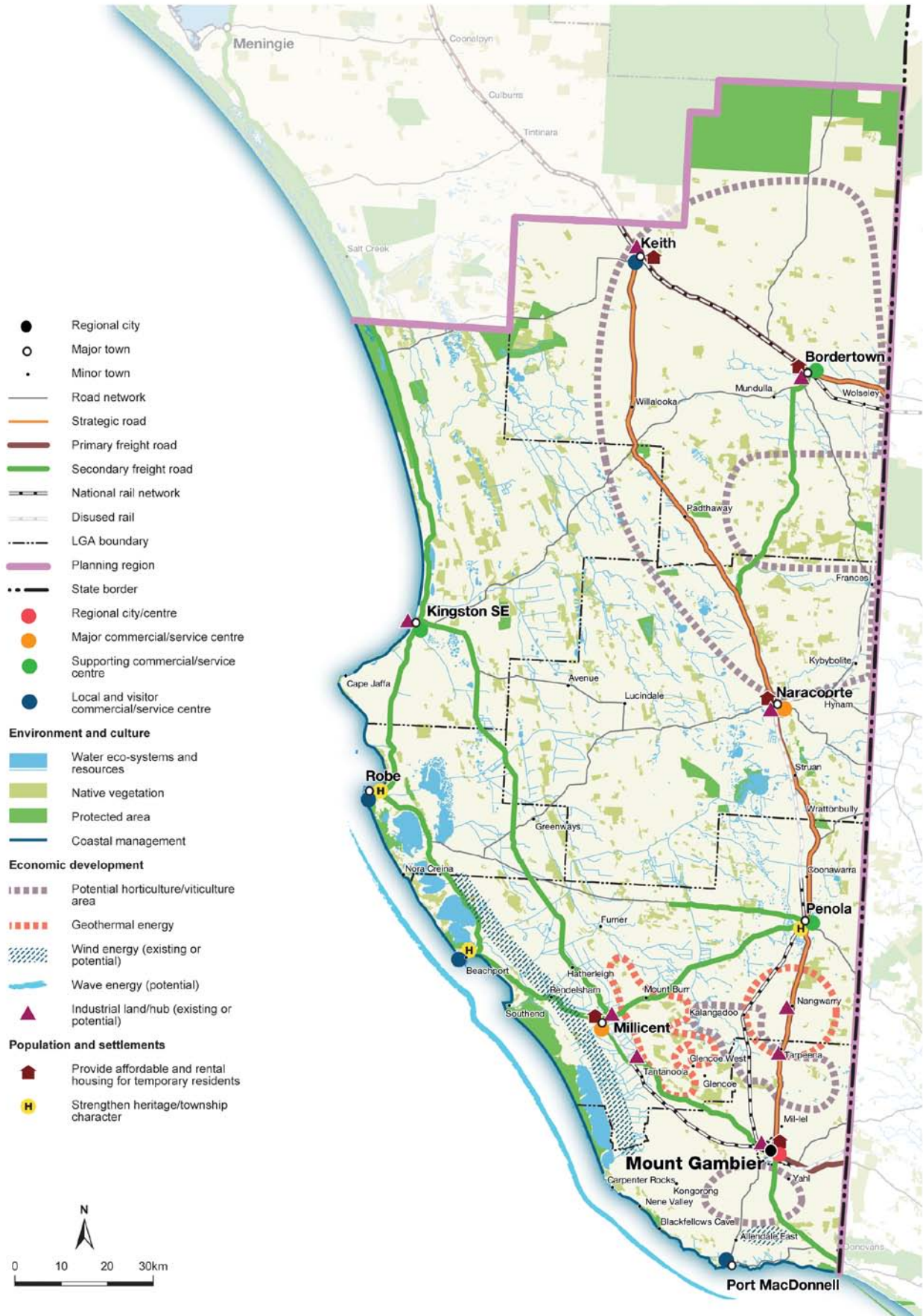
The *Limestone Coast Region Plan* is a coordinated and integrated vision for land use and development across the region. It responds to the opportunities and challenges facing the region and identifies the planning priorities necessary to achieve the vision (see Map C1).

The Plan allows for communities to develop and grow, and encourages initiatives that help retain the special qualities of the region while fostering vibrant and distinctive towns that support a range of lifestyles. It supports activities that benefit the local and regional economy, provide local employment opportunities and attract people to the region. It recognises the region's variations in geographical features, economic strengths and community aspirations and seeks to make the most of the different opportunities each presents. It seeks to balance the needs of people today with those of future generations.

The aims of the vision are to:

- promote industrial growth, particularly in Mount Gambier, Naracoorte, the Katnook industrial area near Penola,<sup>5</sup> Snuggery, Bordertown, Keith, Kingston and Millicent
- manage growth to protect and enhance natural assets and existing industry
- foster small-, micro- and home-based businesses
- assist primary production industries to adapt to increasing variations in climate and water availability and so become more sustainable
- strengthen the roles of Mount Gambier as the major regional centre; Naracoorte and Millicent as major commercial and service centres; Bordertown, Kingston and Penola as supporting commercial and service centres; and Keith, Robe, Beachport and Port MacDonnell as local and visitor commercial / service centres
- strengthen the tourism industry by building on the region's natural and cultural assets
- protect areas of environmental and conservation significance, such as the Naracoorte Caves, Bool Lagoon and Hacks Lagoon wetlands
- retain built heritage and link it with tourism, especially in Robe, Kingston, Beachport, Port MacDonnell and Penola
- support and strengthen emerging industries, including the renewable energy (particularly wind) sector.

<sup>5</sup> Industrial growth in this area is contingent on development of a pulp mill, which received Major Development approval in 2009.







# PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES

## Chapter D



# PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES

## Chapter D

This chapter outlines the principles and the policies that are required to realise the vision for the Limestone Coast region. These are set out under three themes:

- environment and culture
- economic development
- population and settlements.

Under each theme the Plan identifies:

- planning-related priorities for councils (and the Minister in out-of-council areas) to consider when developing Strategic Management Plans and updating Development Plans<sup>6</sup>
- principles to guide land-use planning and development
- planning-related policies that provide ongoing direction to councils (and which must be reflected in their Development Plans).

While the policies and priorities of the *Limestone Coast Region Plan* may change over time, the principles will be a constant driving force for future generations to ensure that the region is competitive, liveable, sustainable and resilient to climate change.

The contributions of these principles to South Australia's Strategic Plan are described in Appendix 3.

<sup>6</sup> These priorities were identified during consultation and workshops with local councils during 2009.



### The principles are:

- 1** Recognise, protect and restore the region's environmental assets
- 2** Protect people, property and the environment from exposure to hazards
- 3** Identify and protect places of heritage and cultural significance, and desired town character
- 4** Create the conditions for the region to adapt and become resilient to the impacts of climate change
- 5** Protect and build on the region's strategic infrastructure
- 6** Retain and strengthen the economic potential of the region's primary production land
- 7** Strengthen local commercial fishing and aquaculture industries
- 8** Reinforce the region as a preferred tourism destination
- 9** Provide and protect serviced and well-sited industrial land to meet projected demand
- 10** Focus commercial development in key centres and ensure it is well sited and designed
- 11** Strategically plan and manage the growth of towns
- 12** Design towns to provide safe, healthy, accessible and appealing environments
- 13** Provide residential land for a supply of diverse, affordable and sustainable housing to meet the needs of current and future residents and visitors

# ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE

## Overview

The design, siting and management of development must prevent adverse impacts on environmental and cultural assets and minimise the exposure of people, property and the environment to danger from hazards such as floods and bushfire.

Achieving sustainable levels of demand for water and energy is also essential, particularly considering the projected effects of climate change.

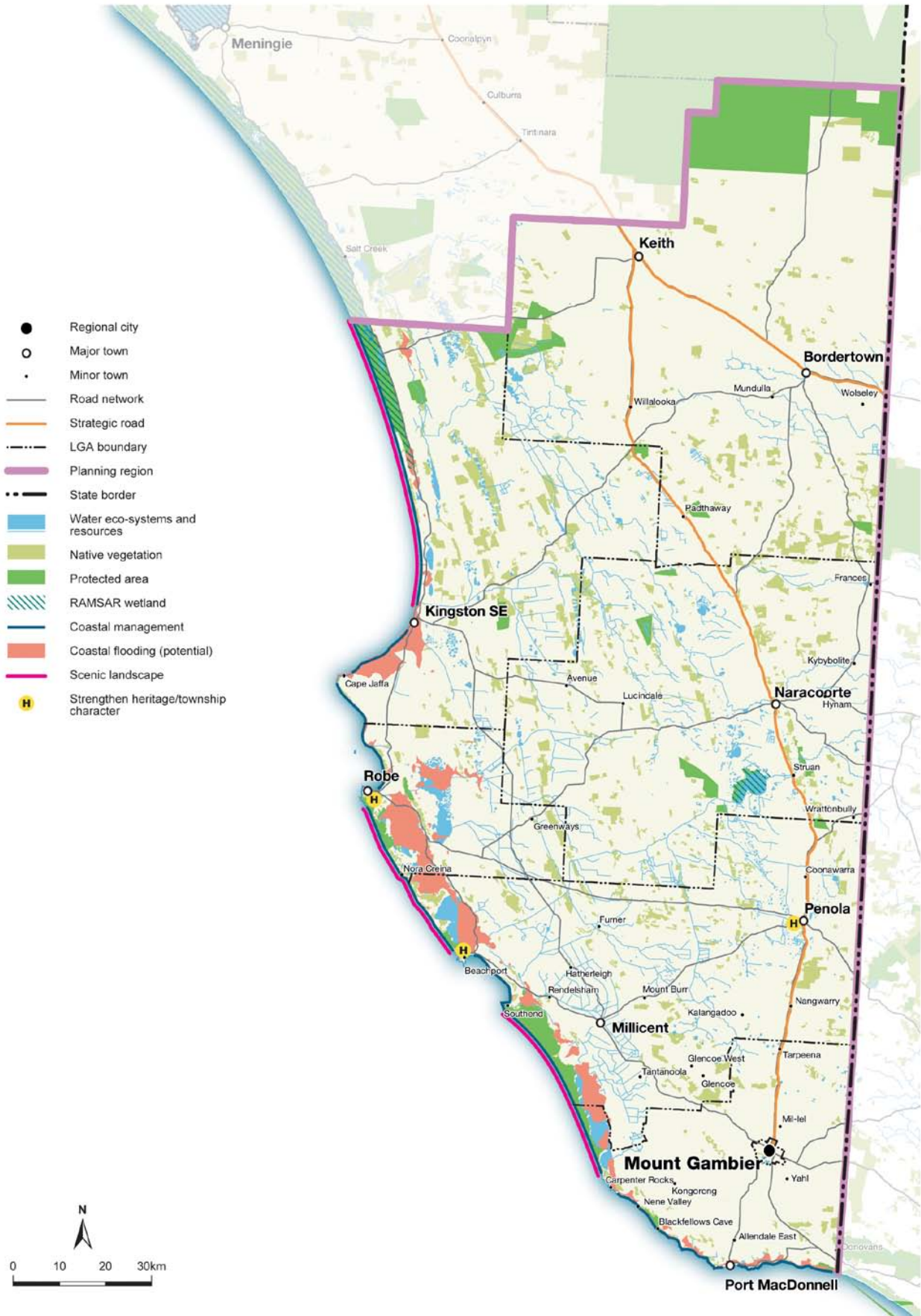
Several organisations have policies and programs to guide the environmental management of the region, particularly the *South East Regional Natural Resources Management Plan* (2009); Environment Protection Authority policies, codes of practice and guidelines; the *Living Coast Strategy for South Australia* (2004); *Coast Protection Board Policy Document* (2002); *No Species Loss—A Nature Conservation Strategy for South Australia 2007–2017*; *Tackling Climate Change: South Australia's Greenhouse Strategy 2007–2020*; *Wetlands Strategy for South Australia* (2003); *Marine Planning Framework for South Australia*; and Marine Protected Areas program.

This *Limestone Coast Region Plan* seeks to ensure that future land-use directions complement these documents. It therefore contains land-use principles and policies to guide future development in a manner that:

- protects biodiversity and areas of environmental sensitivity, including coastal areas and wetlands of national and international significance
- supports the management of the region's natural resources
- prepares the region for the impacts of climate change
- ensures that development appropriately responds to hazards and risks
- helps preserve the region's heritage, including Aboriginal heritage.

## Priorities for councils

- Incorporate information from environmental studies (for example, biodiversity, wetlands, climate change and dryland salinity) and state government policies and plans (referred to above) to inform the review and updating of Development Plans, including identifying areas of high biodiversity value to be protected and buffered
- Enhance understanding of the impacts of climate change on natural resources and habitats in order to inform future strategic planning for development and land use
- Develop and maintain local heritage registers and identify heritage-listed sites in Development Plans
- Identify coastal areas of high scenic value and other landscapes with amenity significance in order that they can be protected
- Protect and conserve wetlands of national and international significance
- Identify and map areas that are subject to risks and hazards.







## Principle 1

### Recognise, protect and restore the region's environmental assets

#### Water

The Limestone Coast has significant groundwater resources, including two extensive aquifer systems that provide water for municipal, industrial and agricultural needs. Groundwater supports the region's distinctive ecosystems. Protection and enhancement of these groundwater resources is vital to the longevity and sustainable use of the region's environmental assets. Regulation of groundwater was introduced in the 1970s to manage groundwater depletion and quality deterioration.

The combination of diminished rainfall predicted as a result of climate change (and its associated impact on aquifer recharge rates) and the SASP population growth target<sup>7</sup> will increase the demand for available water. More efficient water use, recycling of stormwater and wastewater and other such measures are required in forward planning. The state government is working with regional communities to develop regional water supply and demand plans, as outlined in *Water for Good—A Plan to Ensure our Water Future to 2050*, and to incorporate water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) principles in the development process (see Box 1). Cooperation and coordination in relation to land-use planning, water management and integrated natural resources management is important to ensure relevant land-use matters are incorporated into Development Plans

#### Policies

- 1.1 Protect the quality and function of water-dependent ecosystems by preventing adverse impacts of land use and development (such as overuse of resources, erosion, impeded surface and subsurface water flows, increase in exposure of acid sulfate soils, land degradation and clearing, and pollution).
- 1.2 Encourage water harvesting initiatives where ecologically appropriate (that is, where it can be shown that the water requirements of dependent ecosystems are being met).
- 1.3 Pursue best practice water use efficiency in the built form (at both individual dwelling and town scales) drawing on WSUD techniques.
- 1.4 Ensure development retains natural watercourses and drainage patterns through the creation of appropriate buffers, the appropriate siting and design of development, and the application of WSUD principles.

<sup>7</sup> Target 5.9 of *South Australia's Strategic Plan* (SASP) calls for regional South Australia to maintain an 18 per cent share of the state's total population.

### Box 1—Water-sensitive urban design (WSUD)

WSUD techniques help to improve water quality and quantity, and reduce flood risk in urban areas, while enhancing biodiversity. They can be incorporated into development projects across a range of types and scales, including homes, streets, parking areas, subdivisions and multi-units, commercial and industrial developments, and public land. The techniques include:

- permeable paving of footpaths, common areas and parking spaces above underground water storage facilities
- water efficient fittings and appliances
- maintaining fixtures (for example, stopping leaks and drips from plumbing and taps)
- green roofs and living walls (that is, plantings on roofs and down walls)
- appropriate landscaping (for example, efficient irrigation, mulching, wind and sun protection, minimising lawn area and selection of suitable plants)
- wetlands to capture and treat run-off water
- the capture and storage of rainwater and stormwater for residential re-use, or to irrigate parks, sporting fields and other open space
- the capture, treatment and re-use of wastewater.

More information about WSUD principles and techniques can be found in the *WSUD Technical Manual for Greater Adelaide*, available at <[www.planning.sa.gov.au/go/wsud](http://www.planning.sa.gov.au/go/wsud)>. Although the manual focuses on Greater Adelaide, many WSUD techniques can be applied on Limestone Coast.



## Coastal, estuarine and marine environments

Resource-based industries, recreational and tourism activities associated with the coast provide great economic and amenity value to the region. Sustainable management of the coastal environment is essential to protect these values, as well as native flora and fauna and Aboriginal sites and objects located along the region's coastline, especially given the likely impacts of sea level rise.

In accordance with the *Marine Parks Act 2007*, nineteen marine parks were proclaimed in 2009. Multiple use management plans with associated zoning are being developed for these parks.

The Planning Strategy now includes the objects of the *Marine Parks Act 2007*. In addition, marine park management plans will need to complement planning strategies and will need to be taken into account in the review and updating of the Development Plan.

## Policies

- 1.5** Protect coastal, marine and estuarine areas of conservation, landscape and environmental significance by limiting development in these areas. In limited circumstances where development may require such a location—such as a development of state significance—the social and economic benefits must be demonstrated to outweigh any adverse environmental and amenity impacts. If development cannot be avoided, the impacts should be minimised and offset where possible.
- 1.6** Protect coastal features and biodiversity by establishing coastal zones (see Box 2) that incorporate:
- ▶ habitats that are highly sensitive to the direct impacts of development
  - ▶ important geological and/or natural features of scientific, educational or cultural importance
  - ▶ landscapes of very high scenic quality.
- 1.7** Establish appropriate coastal zones and manage development to:
- ▶ minimise the impact of development and land uses, including cumulative impacts, on natural coastal processes and systems
  - ▶ sustain the coastal and estuarine environment by providing for the retreat of the beach, dune, mangrove and saltmarsh communities in response to predicted sea level rise and land subsidence
  - ▶ enhance public access to the coast
  - ▶ provide for appropriate nature-based tourism and ecotourism development
  - ▶ prevent disturbance of natural coastal habitats and native vegetation.

**1.8** Integrate into Development Plans relevant coastal management requirements, including:

- ▶ coast protection policies under the *Coast Protection Act 1972*
- ▶ marine parks under the *Marine Parks Act 2007*
- ▶ aquatic reserves under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*
- ▶ relevant provisions of the *River Murray Act 2003*
- ▶ relevant provisions of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* and its associated plans
- ▶ relevant provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*
- ▶ relevant provisions of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*.

**Box 2—What is a coastal zone?**

Coastal zones in Development Plans incorporate:

- coastal features and habitats (including coastal dunes, coastal wetlands, tidal marsh, mangrove areas and estuaries)
- important coastal geological features or other natural features of scientific, educational, heritage or cultural importance (including coastal cliffs)
- buffer areas separating development from sensitive coastal and marine features and habitats
- areas exposed to coastal hazards (including seawater flooding, erosion, acid sulfate soils and sand dune drift) where there are not adequate measures to mitigate the hazard (such as a managed seawall or levee bank) or any strategies to provide further protection
- coast protection measures such as erosion buffer areas, seawalls and levee banks
- coastal landscapes of high scenic quality.



## Biodiversity

To protect the region's biodiversity, ecological investigations and impact assessments should be undertaken in areas that are proposed for rezoning or development. Some developments may also require assessment by the Commonwealth (see Box 3).

### Policies

- 1.9** Introduce a clear hierarchy of environmental areas to be protected to improve development certainty and transparency, and incorporate the protection of these areas into Development Plans. The three categories in the hierarchy, which will be managed through Development Plans, are:
- ▶ **areas of high environmental significance**, including protected public lands (such as National Parks and Conservation Parks), private/public lands under a Heritage Agreement, and land containing high-value native vegetation. These areas will be protected from development unless a specific regulatory exemption applies

### Box 3 – Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act

Applicants for and proponents of developments may be responsible for forwarding development proposals to the Commonwealth Environment Minister. The Minister is responsible for determining if the action is a controlled action, under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth), and subject to assessment and approval processes under that Act.

- ▶ **areas of environmental significance**, including habitat areas and lands that have human uses, such as primary production, but also support biodiversity because the uses are of relatively low environmental impact. Higher impact land uses in these areas should be avoided. If development cannot be avoided, the impacts will be minimised and offsets provided
  - ▶ **areas designated for human use**, where human use is the principal consideration. Development is to be consistent with Development Plans and existing legislation.
- 1.10** Recognise areas of high biodiversity value, and locate and design development to prevent the loss, degradation and/or fragmentation of native vegetation and any loss of species and/or ecological communities.
- 1.11** Provide for environmental connections to link areas of high biodiversity value and create buffers as a means of managing the interface with conservation areas.
- 1.12** Avoid any adverse impact on biodiversity, where possible. If such impact is unavoidable, it should be minimised and offset. A comprehensive offset scheme, based on existing offset provisions and drawing on models such as bio-banking, will be developed to provide for a net gain to biodiversity through flexible offsets. Offsets could be made across regions or by funding designated rehabilitation programs.

## Scenic landscapes

Attention should be given to the planning and design of development to ensure that significant landscapes and their associated views—both from the land and the sea—are retained (see Box 4). The incremental approval of individual developments, including minor additions and maintenance activities, has resulted in the degradation of scenic resources in the past. It is also important that Development Plan updates reassess landscapes and associated views and devise measures to ensure their protection.

The Coastal Viewscapes of South Australia study undertaken for the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH)<sup>8</sup> identifies a number of areas in the region that have a 'high coastal scenic quality'. Similar work could be undertaken to determine important non-coastal landscapes and to incorporate them into future Development Plan updates.

### Policies

**1.13** Acknowledge, protect and manage areas of significant landscape and amenity value, including landscapes that form attractive backgrounds and entrances to towns and tourist developments.

### Box 4—More than just a pretty picture

Protection of scenic landscapes is important for the Limestone Coast region because these landscapes:

- provide a range of environmental and ecological services in addition to their scenic value
- form a key component of tourism infrastructure, which supports the economic viability of the tourism industry
- encompass the visual amenity of the beaches, coasts, cliffs, sand dunes, conservation and wilderness parks and rural landscapes, which strengthen cultural ties to the land and build a common bond among residents and visitors to the region
- enhance the attractiveness of the region which helps to draw new residents
- support healthy lifestyles through the recreational opportunities they provide.

**1.14** Avoid development in areas with significant landscapes that can be viewed from tourist routes, walking trails, the beach and the sea, unless the development requires such a location (such as a development of state significance, renewable energy developments), in which case the scale, height, design and siting of buildings and structures must:

- ▶ not adversely affect views to, from and along the ocean and scenic coastal areas
- ▶ minimise the alteration of natural land forms

- ▶ be visually compatible with the character of surrounding areas
- ▶ restore and enhance visual quality in visually degraded areas where feasible.

**1.15** Avoid adverse impacts of development on landscapes through site selection and design alternatives that reduce the height or bulk of structures. (Note that landscape screening to mitigate the visual impacts of development is not a substitute for re-siting or re-design.)

<sup>8</sup> DEH became the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in June 2010.



## Principle 2

### Protect people, property and the environment from exposure to hazards

Hazards include flooding, erosion, disturbance of acid sulfate soils, bushfires, erosion, salinity and landslides, as well as water, air and noise pollution, and site contamination. These hazards can occur naturally or result from development activity. Inappropriately located or designed development and land uses can increase the exposure to and impact of hazards.

The potential impacts of climate change, such as sea level rise and increased extreme weather events, are likely to increase the risk of hazards in the future.

Better development planning and control measures can help reduce risks and hazards, but cannot eliminate them.

#### *Policies*

- 2.1** Design and plan development to prevent the creation of hazards and to minimise the impacts of naturally occurring hazards.
- 2.2** Develop policies to minimise the impact of extreme bushfires in line with the findings of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission.
- 2.3** Develop partnerships and agreements between state and local government (particularly with emergency services agencies) to address identified risks and hazards and protect the health and wellbeing of the community.
- 2.4** Integrate adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction and hazard avoidance policies, standards and actions into strategic plans, Development Plans and development assessment processes using best practice models to:
  - ▶ reduce the social, environmental and economic impacts arising from extreme events
  - ▶ achieve more consistent and rigorous decision making for long term land-use planning aimed at reducing emergency and hazard risks
  - ▶ enhance protection of critical infrastructure
  - ▶ develop building standards and urban design approaches that create resilient environments for the future
  - ▶ reduce risks while protecting natural areas and biodiversity
  - ▶ protect human health and the environment where contamination has occurred
  - ▶ adopt appropriate processes and methods when remediating contaminated land and ensure its suitability for the proposed zoning
  - ▶ address risk, hazard and emergency management issues in structure and precinct planning for new and existing urban areas.

- 2.5** Protect people, property and the environment from exposure to hazards (including flooding, erosion, dune drift and acid sulfate soils) by designing and planning for development in accordance with the following principles:
- ▶ Avoidance—avoid permanent development in and adjacent to areas subject to unacceptable risk from hazards
  - ▶ Adaptation—design buildings and infrastructure to minimise risk in the long term
  - ▶ Protection—establish works to protect existing development or facilitate major development (including stormwater discharge management to accommodate higher tide levels).
- 2.6** Identify and rehabilitate areas and sites where land is contaminated as a part of development processes.
- 2.7** Ensure new development is appropriately sited in relation to existing and closed landfills to minimise the risk to people and property from landfill gas emissions. Continue to monitor gas emissions from existing and closed landfill sites to ensure development is not placed at unnecessary risk.

## Principle 3

### Identify and protect places of heritage and cultural significance, and desired town character

Many buildings and places in the Limestone Coast have heritage and cultural significance that give the region a distinct character and are linked to the attitudes and values that have shaped South Australian history. Identification and careful management of these sites can enliven history, engender a sense of identity and attachment as well as inform future decisions.

Acts that identify and protect places of heritage and cultural significance include the *Heritage Places Act 1993*, the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981* and the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*. The latter prohibits any damage to, disturbance of, or interference with the sites, objects and remains without an authorisation by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation.

The state government's Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division (AARD) maintains a register of Aboriginal sites and objects. Aboriginal people and the AARD should be involved early in the planning and development process to help identify and protect sites of cultural significance.

## Policies

- 3.1** Protect and conserve places of heritage and cultural value, including national, state and local registered sites.
- 3.2** Identify the desired character of towns and parts of towns, and ensure the design of buildings and public places such as streetscapes and entrances supports the desired character.
- 3.3** Preserve and enhance the character of towns that are strongly valued for their unique design and character buildings, including Robe, Beachport and Penola.
- 3.4** Identify and protect sites that have Aboriginal cultural significance and provide guidance in relation to native title and Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) requirements.





## Principle 4

### Create the conditions for the region to adapt to and become resilient to the impacts of climate change

In recent years, reduced rainfall has affected the region's agricultural and horticultural activities and reduced the recharge of its aquifers. Climate change predictions indicate that diminished rainfall will continue to affect the region, with potentially negative impacts on the agricultural and horticultural industries as well as the tourism industry.

The effects of climate change in other, drier parts of the state may also have implications for the future of the Limestone Coast. It is expected that the region may experience some growth through the relocation of primary production activities from these drier areas (particularly the Murray and Mallee region), placing additional pressure on the region's natural resources, particularly water.

Accordingly, it will be important to pursue opportunities to make positive, long-lasting changes in water management in the region. Economically and technologically feasible measures are available to provide the quantity and quality of water needed for the future sustainable development of the region. A well-managed water

supply necessarily encompasses the application of water-efficient technologies and approaches that can save or reduce water consumption in the future.

While not yet mandated for country areas, WSUD principles should be incorporated into all new development. It is envisaged that by 2013 South Australia will develop and implement the best regulatory approach to mandate WSUD, including the specification of targets for particular regions of the state.

Sea level rise will exacerbate beach erosion and foredune erosion at ocean beaches. Recessions of 5 to 30 metres over 50 years can be expected, depending on beach topography, sand supplies and littoral sediment movement. The coastline seaward of the Coorong is a high-energy coastline at greatest risk.

Coastal erosion threatening buildings and infrastructure can be managed with structures such as levees, groynes and sea walls. These are costly to construct, however, and may impact on the amenity of coastal areas, the longshore transport of sand and affect the deposition of sand in other coastal areas.

Protection or maintenance of existing infrastructure and coastal assets (town beaches, boat launching facilities, roads, service infrastructure, housing, moorings and berths) in some areas will become increasingly difficult and expensive as a result of sea level rise. Planning within and around areas of sea level rise risk should therefore seek to address and mitigate these risks.

Energy supply is currently limited in many parts of the region. The implementation of sustainable building design methods together with the development of renewable local energy sources (such as solar, wind and co-generation) can help make the best use of available and planned energy supplies (see Box 5).

The southern ocean winds offer opportunities to further develop wind farms across the southern part of the region, from level with Lake St Clair (between Beachport and Robe) to the southern end of Lake Bonney near Carpenter Rocks.

Increasing industry, residential and tourism related development will place further pressures on energy and water supplies across the region. It is important that local Development Plans are consistent with the regional natural resources management plans and state policy frameworks under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*.

Managing demand for water and energy by raising awareness among both residents and visitors is essential to achieving South Australia's sustainable water and energy efficiency targets.

### **Policies**

- 4.1** Promote carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas mitigation through sustainable land-use management practices, taking into account climate, land and soil suitability and species characteristics.
- 4.2** Provide buffer areas of sufficient width to separate development from the foreshore and coastal features and to accommodate long-term physical coastal processes.
- 4.3** Provide the opportunity for town/settlement-level energy efficiency through the promotion of alternative, renewable energy supplies, such as wind power and embedded generation.
- 4.4** Support the development of alternative and innovative energy generation (such as wind, marine, biomass and geothermal technologies) and water supply facilities, as well as provide guidance on environmental assessment requirements.

### **Box 5—Improve water and energy efficiency**

Many subdivisions and buildings are now designed to maximise the re-use of stormwater and wastewater in residential and industrial developments. For example, at Mawson Lakes in Adelaide, stormwater is filtered and plumbed into houses for use in toilets. Some industries also re-use wastewater and stormwater for cooling or washing down machinery.

Energy demand can be reduced through innovative housing design and methods such as co-generation, which produces electricity and heat in a single process. More information is available on the Energy SA website, at <[www.sustainable.energy.sa.gov.au](http://www.sustainable.energy.sa.gov.au)>. The Energy Smart Toolbox, <[www.energysmart.com.au/sedatatoolbox](http://www.energysmart.com.au/sedatatoolbox)>, provides tools to help industry reduce energy costs.

- 4.5** Support the incorporation of sustainable energy and water supply, conservation and efficiencies (for example, stormwater re-use, wind and solar technologies, green buffers, WSUD, building orientation to maximise solar access and shaded areas) in the design of residential, commercial and industrial developments and subdivisions.
- 4.6** Set building standards and design guidelines to create thermal- and energy-efficient buildings.
- 4.7** Plan for effective wastewater disposal through mains sewer and community wastewater management systems (CWMS) and maximise re-use opportunities.
- 4.8** Ensure compact towns to encourage cycling and walking (for example, to shops, work or school) and reduce the number of car trips.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Overview

The South Australian Government is planning for an additional 21,750 residents in the Limestone Coast region during the next three decades. Economic development to provide employment opportunities will play a key role in facilitating this growth. Creation of employment opportunities depends on a good supply of land for development that is not constrained by a lack of infrastructure, as well as supporting opportunities in the primary production sector. In addition, the region is well positioned to benefit from having major rail and road freight transport networks that provide excellent access to markets in Adelaide and the eastern states.

A key objective of this Plan is to support the growth of existing industries, including value-adding activities and facilitate the growth of emerging industries. The region's economy is based on primary production, including horticulture/viticulture, dairying, forestry and associated processing, and fishing. Value-adding in these industries has the potential to provide for some employment growth, while the establishment of emerging industries will provide additional employment opportunities.

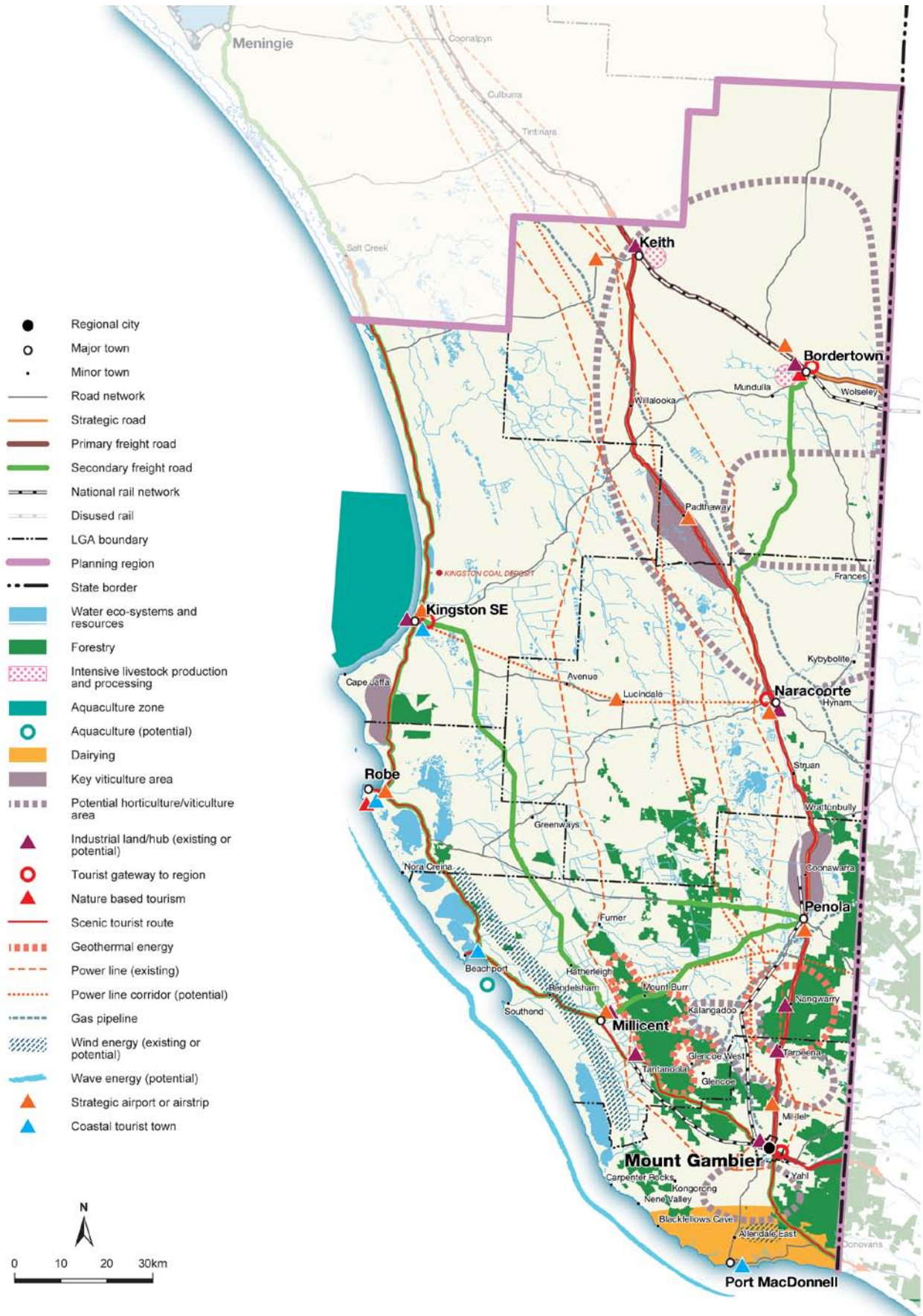
South Australia has the potential to be a 'green' energy hub and to help other states achieve the Commonwealth's target of 20 per cent renewable energy by 2020. Reaching this goal will require improvements to South Australia's transmission lines to encourage large energy companies to invest in the generation and distribution of renewable energy.

The Limestone Coast region has significant geothermal, wind and wave potential for renewable energy and is well-placed in relation to power infrastructure and links to the eastern states. ElectraNet regularly reviews the network to see where it requires upgrades and improvements to the grid in order to support the generation of renewable energy. Further development of the high voltage electricity transmission network will be required, including planning for and investment in new powerlines and substations.

Service sectors associated with population growth, such as health and aged care, are also likely to grow. Education opportunities, particularly at the tertiary level, are also vital in supporting and retaining young people and ensuring a skilled future workforce.

Tourism is another key economic driver in the Limestone Coast, with the region's natural and cultural assets offering potential for further growth. Current tourism themes include unspoilt natural landscapes, ecotourism, coastal recreation, local food and wine, and adventure four-wheel driving.

Supportive Development Plan policies, investment in infrastructure, expansion of local training opportunities and attraction of skilled labour will all be critical to realising regional economic development opportunities. Detailed Development Plan policies will be informed by industry plans and consultation with Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast, Limestone Coast Tourism, the South East Natural Resources Management Board and state government agencies, including the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI), Primary Industries and Resources South Australia (PIRSA), the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) and the Department of Trade and Economic Development (DTED).





To promote future economic growth in the region, this Plan provides principles and policies aimed at ensuring that:

- there is a supply of well located zoned land suitable for industrial development
- commercial growth complements the role and function of particular towns
- primary production land is protected and agricultural/horticultural activities strengthened
- the renewable energy sector is supported
- opportunities for new and emerging industries are supported.

### Priorities for councils

- Reflect in local Strategic Management Plans and Development Plans the South Australian Tourism Commission's directions regarding positioning and branding, tourism infrastructure priorities, partnerships and development opportunities
- Strengthen the economic potential of primary production land and foster sustainable practices
- Identify areas of primary production significance
- Strategically plan for the expansion of industrial land in Bordertown, Keith, Kingston, Millicent, Snuggery, the Katnook industrial area (contingent on development of the proposed pulp mill), Mount Gambier and Naracoorte
- Support aquaculture development, including processing and transport
- Facilitate the development of appropriately located renewable energy projects
- Protect strategic infrastructure (existing and potential) from encroachment
- Encourage small-, micro- and home-based industries.

### Principle 5

#### Protect and build on the region's strategic infrastructure

Proximity to major freight transport networks and freight storage facilities are crucial elements in the value chain and provide comparative advantage to local agricultural, forestry, seafood and related industries in the region. These networks link the region to growing industrial areas in Adelaide and Melbourne, irrigated agricultural activities in the lower Murray and Mallee region, and export facilities and interstate markets.

The region also has an airport at Mount Gambier, as well as a number of aerodromes and airstrips, some of which would require redevelopment or upgrading in order to meet future industry demands and safety and security requirements.

Protecting these assets and providing for the expansion of nearby export-related and value-adding activities will enable capitalisation on investment, offer opportunities to attract new industry and provide support and certainty for existing industries.

The Green Triangle Region Freight Action Plan (developed by the South Australian and Victorian Governments in conjunction with local government, the timber and freight industries and the Port of Portland) identifies the actions needed to meet growing transport demand in the region, including road and rail network enhancements and regulatory reform<sup>9</sup>.

### **Policies**

**5.1** Encourage industry clusters (including mining, primary production and aquaculture value-adding processing and storage activities) in strategic locations such as freight transport nodes to maximise transport efficiencies and support industry development.

**5.2** Establish appropriate buffers to protect existing strategic infrastructure and sites and corridors identified as potential locations for future infrastructure from encroachment that may compromise their operation or expansion.

**5.3** Reinforce the role of the region's airport, aerodromes and airstrips to support economic and social development and to provide emergency access for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS). Facilities include:

- ▶ an airport at Mount Gambier - which should allow for a potential upgrade to accommodate long-term growth in passenger numbers and larger, heavier aircraft
- ▶ sealed airstrips with pilot-activated lights at Naracoorte, Bordertown, Kingston and Millicent - used for RFDS, fire fighting, aerial agriculture and charter services

- ▶ aerodrome at Keith - used for aerial agriculture and RFDS
- ▶ aerodromes at Lucindale and Padthaway - used for aerial agriculture and RFDS
- ▶ aerodrome at Penola - used for aerial agriculture and fire fighting
- ▶ aerodrome at Robe - used for general aviation and light aircraft for tourism purposes.

<sup>9</sup> The Green Triangle is an area of about six million hectares in south-east South Australia and south-west Victoria that encompasses the cities of Warrnambool, Horsham and Mount Gambier, and the regional centres of Portland, Hamilton, Naracoorte, Bordertown, Millicent and Penola. The area's verdant green appearance is due to the predominance of agriculture, pasture and timber plantations and to the fact that it has been largely drought-free for 100 years.



- 5.4** Ensure land uses surrounding the airport, aerodromes and airstrips are compatible with these facilities and do not detract from their operation.
- 5.5** Identify land suitable for waste management and resource recovery facilities to optimise opportunities for re-use and recycling of waste while maximising economic efficiencies and protect this land from encroachment by sensitive land uses such as housing.
- 5.6** Protect the transport functionality of road and rail corridors through planning policy in Development Plans.
- 5.7** Designate and protect strategic roads and primary/secondary freight roads as identified on maps C1 and D2.
- 5.8** Protect current and future freight bypasses around towns.

## Principle 6

### Retain and strengthen the economic potential of the region's primary production land

Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, viticulture, dairying, livestock and associated processing activities underpin the region's economy. Protection of primary production land across the region is a priority to ensure the ongoing viability of these activities.

To strengthen the region's comparative advantage, new processing activities should be located on existing freight routes. Identification of suitable sites that have good access to existing freight routes and appropriate zoning to meet demand will provide certainty to potential investors and inform the planning and provision of infrastructure.

In addition to industry clusters around strategic transport hubs, major hubs identified for primary production processing activities are Mount Gambier, Bordertown, Kingston, Naracoorte, Millicent, the Katnook industrial area, Keith and Snuggery. Small industrial operations, such as electrical engineers, metal fabricators and engineers will require suitable sites in towns across the region.

Conversion of productive land to residential and other sensitive uses through inappropriate town expansion or subdivision into rural living allotments is strongly discouraged as it can create conflicts at interfaces and compromise primary production operations.

## Agriculture and horticulture

### Policies

- 6.1** Prevent loss of productive agricultural land and potential conflict with incompatible uses by:
  - ▶ focusing housing (including rural living allotments) and industrial development in and adjacent to towns and industrial estates, unless directly related to primary industry
  - ▶ preventing fragmentation of agricultural land
  - ▶ managing interfaces with residential areas and other sensitive activities through the use of buffers
  - ▶ limiting and carefully locating rural living zones
  - ▶ managing and directing township expansion

- ▶ ensuring tourism-based developments are sited away from agricultural land where practical
  - ▶ designating areas of primary production significance (in particular high-value agricultural and horticultural land) in Development Plans and introducing a standard set of planning controls to protect their use.
- 6.2** Support new horticultural development in locations between Bordertown and Naracoorte and north and south of Mount Gambier (as identified on Map 4), and ensure compatible land uses in these areas.
- 6.3** Remove unnecessary regulatory barriers to the adjustment of primary production activities. Development Plans should be flexible enough to allow property holders to change agricultural practices or commodity type, particularly where the change would enable increased productivity or better environmental outcomes.
- 6.4** Encourage the development of small-scale value-adding activity that complements primary production in the local area, provided it does not adversely impact on areas of primary production significance (see Box 6).
- 6.5** Maximise opportunities for processing plant waste and establishing other value-adding activities (for example, co-location of biofuel production with livestock enterprises).
- 6.6** Rehabilitate unproductive and degraded primary production land affected by salinity through revegetation using native species, increasing the vitality and integrity of remnant stands of native vegetation, and introducing perennial pastures.
- 6.7** Co-locate intensive primary industries and compatible processing activities to reduce land-use conflict and achieve efficiencies in production, processing, distribution, energy efficiency and waste recycling, taking into account environmental, infrastructure and rural amenity issues.

**Box 6—Supporting the value chain**

The term ‘value chain’ refers to the various value-adding activities that occur along the supply chain of every industry sector - from primary production through processing and transport to marketing and sales. Competitive advantage is gained by improving the movement of goods and adding value at every link in the chain.

Combining spatial analysis with value chain analysis is a powerful tool for strategic land-use planning. It involves identifying key infrastructure and synergies or potential conflicts between activities and assists in deciding the best use of land and locations for development to maximise a region’s economic competitiveness.





### Dairying and livestock production and processing

- 6.8** Focus the expansion of intensive animal keeping in locations that maximise the use of existing and planned infrastructure (for example, water, energy and waste facilities), particularly around Bordertown.
- 6.9** Focus dairy farming in areas that maximise the use of existing and planned infrastructure (for example, water, energy and waste facilities), particularly around Mount Gambier and near processing facilities.
- 6.10** Maximise opportunities for processing animal waste and establishing related activities.
- 6.11** Plan for intensive dairy or livestock production in accordance with PIRSA, Environment Protection Authority and natural resource management guidelines to meet biosecurity, environmental and public health requirements, including maintaining buffers adjacent to residential areas.

### Commercial forestry

- 6.12** Encourage forestry plantations in locations that are sustainable and ensure they:
  - ▶ maximise use of existing transport infrastructure
  - ▶ minimise water use
  - ▶ are as close as practical to existing processing facilities
  - ▶ are on degraded primary production land where possible
  - ▶ are on sites that complement other regional primary production land use.

(See *Guidelines for Plantation Forestry in South Australia 2009*, Managing the Water Resources Impacts of Plantation Forests and the Better Development Plan Forestry Module for guidance on locations for forestry activities.)

- 6.13** Effectively manage the impact of forestry plantations on the environment, in line with the requirements of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, transport networks and surrounding land uses and landscapes.
- 6.14** Establish and maintain buffers around forestry plantations to protect them from incompatible uses.
- 6.15** Manage the expansion of timber processing and manufacturing activities to avoid conflict with sensitive uses.
- 6.16** Support the establishment of co-generation biomass power facilities associated with timber processing.

### Mineral resources

- 6.17** Establish and maintain buffers around mines and mineral resources to prevent encroachment by housing and other development that may affect the viability of resource extraction.

## Principle 7

### Strengthen local commercial fishing and aquaculture industries

Development Plan policies should recognise that aquaculture and fishing industries have differing requirements in terms of site, infrastructure and environmental conditions. For example, hatcheries and grow-out facilities need to be located close to the coast, where pipe access to seawater is available and the costs of energy associated with pumping can be minimised. Efficiencies can be gained by reducing the distance between marine aquaculture and commercial fishing, and related on-land industries, such as storage and waste management and processing.

#### Policies

- 7.1** Provide for land-based processing facilities at key sites, in particular at Robe, Cape Jaffa and Beachport, in accordance with environmental requirements, including provisions for land-based waste disposal facilities.
- 7.2** Locate commercial boat launching facilities in areas adjoining towns or in locations that support marine aquaculture licences.
- 7.3** Protect potential aquaculture areas (see Box 7 and Maps C1 and D2) from incompatible uses.

#### Box 7—About aquaculture policies and zones

Aquaculture policies:

- identify where specific classes of aquaculture can and cannot occur in state waters
- are developed in accordance with the process set out in the *Aquaculture Act 2001* and involve consultation and consideration of environmental, social, equity and economic impacts
- provide clear direction, including specific criteria or conditions to ensure that activities are ecologically sustainable, to aquaculture operators.

The zones related to aquaculture include:

- aquaculture zones - areas of state waters in which specified classes of aquaculture can be permitted
- prospective aquaculture zones - areas of state waters subject to investigation (for no more than three years) to determine if they are suitable to become aquaculture zones
- aquaculture exclusion zones - areas of state waters in which no aquaculture is permitted.

For more information, see <[www.pir.sa.gov.au/aquaculture](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/aquaculture)>.



## Principle 8

### Reinforce the region as a preferred tourism destination

The Limestone Coast region offers tourists picturesque coastlines, rural landscapes, rustic towns and a range of unique food, wine and nature-based experiences. The *South Australian Tourism Plan 2009–2014* provides strategic direction for the marketing and management of the industry. The *Responsible Nature-based Tourism Strategy 2004-2009* provides additional guidance on the development of nature-based tourism, including design guidelines and case studies.

#### Policies

- 8.1** Protect, enhance and promote those assets that attract tourists and are of value to the community, including:
- ▶ open space and walking and cycling trail networks, including potential trails along former rail corridors (if they are not required for future freight and or/ passenger rail services)
  - ▶ scenic tourist drives, particularly along the coast

- ▶ designated four-wheel drive trails, especially north of Bordertown and in the Mallee
- ▶ natural, rural and coastal landscapes and the marine environment (including the foreshore, jetties and boat ramps)
- ▶ the heritage, cultural and/or built character of towns, including town approaches
- ▶ caravan parks and campsites, including those that provide effluent disposal facilities for motor homes
- ▶ unique archaeological and geological features
- ▶ national and conservation parks and reserves.

- 8.2** Reinforce the desired roles of various towns in the Limestone Coast tourist experience:

- ▶ Kingston, Robe, Beachport and Port MacDonnell as premier coastal and recreational fishing destinations
- ▶ Bordertown, Millicent and Keith as visitor service locations

- ▶ Naracoorte as the primary visitor service centre for the central Limestone Coast and home of the World Heritage-listed Naracoorte Caves
- ▶ Mount Gambier as the region's principal business and retail hub, gateway to South Australia from south western Victoria and home of the Blue Lake
- ▶ Penola as a cultural and local service hub focused on food and wine tourism and accommodation servicing the Coonawarra and Limestone Coast wine areas.

- 8.3** Protect and enhance key tourism assets, such as the Naracoorte Caves, Blue Lake, Bool Lagoon and Hacks Lagoon, through sustainable land management practices.

- 8.4** Support the role of the coast in providing adventure, nature-based and eco-tourism experiences, including in national and conservation parks, as well as for food and wine experiences (see Box 8).

## Box 8—Types of tourism

*Sustainable tourism* meets the present needs of tourists and local regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future. It involves management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs can be fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life support systems.

*Nature-based tourism* is any sustainable tourism activity or experience that relates to the natural environment, whether for relaxation, discovery or adventure.

*Eco-tourism* is a niche segment where the key motivation is learning, appreciation and conservation. It is low-capacity, discrete, educational, conservation-minded and returns tangible benefits to the local community or natural resource.

Source: South Australian Tourism Commission

- 8.5** Facilitate sustainable tourist accommodation in suitable locations throughout the region.
- 8.6** Facilitate tourism-related developments, such as restaurants, specialist retail and accommodation, that add value to existing enterprises.
- 8.7** Promote the region as a culinary and coast/nature-based destination by:
  - ▶ preserving the character and appeal of coastal towns
  - ▶ encouraging the appropriate development of restaurants and culinary facilities promoting the region's produce
  - ▶ ensuring high-quality design to protect scenic landscapes and productive coastal areas
  - ▶ supporting adventure, nature-based and eco-tourism experiences (particularly in national and conservation parks)
  - ▶ developing links with the fishing/aquaculture and wine industries.

## Principle 9

### Provide and protect serviced and well-sited industrial land to meet projected demand

Industries play a critical role in the regional economy, providing local employment and strengthening the region's comparative advantage. These industries range from large-scale processing and major agricultural equipment manufacturing and maintenance to small-scale engineering and processing firms. Identification of suitable sites for these activities and appropriate zoning to meet demand (including for large-scale development) provides certainty to potential investors and informs the planning and provision of infrastructure.

#### Policies

- 9.1** Provide a supply of well-sited and serviced industrial land (including an identified 25-year supply, of which 15 years should be already zoned) in Mount Gambier (in accordance with the Greater Mount Gambier Master Plan), Naracoorte, Bordertown, Keith, Millicent, Snuggery and Kingston. Industrial land at Nangwarry, Tarpeena and the Katnook industrial area also may be required in the long term.



**9.2** Ensure an adequate supply of appropriately located industrial land to provide opportunities for small-scale and local industries that complement local agriculture, horticulture, fishing and aquaculture, livestock and dairying, and mining in towns throughout the region.

**9.3** Site and locate industrial land to ensure:

- ▶ management of interfaces with residential areas and other sensitive uses, and protection from encroachment
- ▶ optimal use of existing and planned infrastructure (for example, wastewater re-use plants)
- ▶ provision for future expansion
- ▶ accordance with Environment Protection Authority policies, codes of practice and guidelines
- ▶ an efficient road freight network that minimises the impacts of freight movements on neighbouring areas
- ▶ access to required energy and water supplies.

**9.4** Retain and support ongoing industrial operations by providing for appropriate buffers to minimise conflicts and managing external impacts, such as noise, vibrations, odour and native vegetation disturbance.

**9.5** Support the growth of renewable energy and 'green' technologies by setting aside employment lands and ensuring flexibility in zoning to allow new industries to establish.

**9.6** Provide for the establishment of facilities in appropriate locations to support new markets and products for recycled materials and animal waste products.

## Principle 10

### Focus commercial development in key centres and ensure it is well sited and designed

Focusing major commercial activities, such as shops, offices, banks and government services, in selected towns supports the ongoing viability of these activities and enables people to undertake several activities in one location.

Mount Gambier will continue to be the focus for major commercial activities servicing the region and western Victoria. Naracoorte is the major commercial service centre for the central and northern parts of the region and should be a focus for facilities, services and commercial growth. Millicent should be the primary focus for major commercial activities in the southern part of the region outside Mount Gambier. Bordertown, Keith, Penola and Kingston will be the preferred locations for secondary commercial activities. Local/small-scale commercial activities will continue to be located in other towns servicing local communities and visitors, such as Robe, Beachport and Port MacDonnell.

The southern port centres of Port MacDonnell, Beachport, Robe and Kingston should continue to develop service and infrastructure support for the fishing industry and may need to accommodate export and processing facilities associated with oil and gas exploration in the Otway Basin. These towns are also popular holiday/tourist destinations that should retain and protect their coastal features, character and unique environmental and recreational experiences.

### **Policies**

- 10.1** Reinforce the primary commercial and services role of Mount Gambier as the focus of major retail, commercial, administrative, education, health, justice and recreational developments in the region (in accordance with the Greater Mount Gambier Master Plan).
- 10.2** Reinforce the major commercial and services role of Naracoorte and Millicent as the focus of secondary retail, commercial, administrative, education, health and recreational developments in the region.

- 10.3** Reinforce the supporting commercial and services role of Bordertown, Penola and Kingston.
- 10.4** Strengthen the local and visitor service/retail role of Keith, Robe, Beachport and Port MacDonnell.
- 10.5** Locate commercial activities in town centres or existing commercial zones, which should be expanded where necessary to support activity commensurate with the town role.
- 10.6** Commercial areas proposed outside of town centres must demonstrate that they:
  - ▶ will avoid adverse incremental or cumulative impacts on existing town centres
  - ▶ will avoid adverse impacts on primary production activities
  - ▶ are clustered rather than linear development and do not adversely affect the efficiency and safety of arterial roads
  - ▶ are convenient and accessible, including by walking and cycling
  - ▶ are supportive of the desired future character of the town

- ▶ are not using land of strategic importance to industry.

- 10.7** Proposals for major commercial areas in towns other than those identified in 10.1–10.4 must demonstrate that they support and complement the commercial functions of these towns both incrementally and cumulatively in the long term.
- 10.8** Prevent linear/ribbon development along major roads to support an efficient road network.

# POPULATION AND SETTLEMENTS

## Overview

The state government is planning for an additional 21,750 people in the Limestone Coast region over the next 30 years, based on the SASP population target described in Chapter A. The region may experience a higher growth rate and so reach this target sooner.<sup>10</sup> The role of *Limestone Coast Region Plan* is to ensure that future land use can support the target population, at whatever growth rate.

Table D1 illustrates the number of dwellings that would be required, depending on occupancy rate (that is, the average number of people living in each dwelling) and the land area necessary to accommodate them, depending on the overall density (that is, the average number of dwellings per hectare). For comparison, the region currently has around 29,000 dwellings.

Table D1 – Land area required based on dwellings per hectare (dph) and occupancy rate (people per dwelling)

Required new homes (for 21,750 people)	Land area required (hectares)		
	8.5 dph*	10 dph*	13 dph*
9063 @ 2.4 people per home	1066	906	697
10,357 @ 2.1 people per home	1218	1036	797
12,083 @ 1.8 people per home	1422	1208	929

\* Dwellings per hectare.

With an ageing population, the region's occupancy rates (which in Mount Gambier, for example, are around 2.4 people per dwelling unit) are likely to decrease while dwelling density may increase as ageing people move into smaller homes. This potentially could increase the number of new homes required to accommodate the target population. These factors should be considered when reading the table above.

There is also likely to be additional demand for new homes in centres across the region, as retirees living in rural areas move closer to health and community services and aged care facilities available in those centres.

Further investigations of intra- and inter-regional migration patterns and residential occupancy rates will be necessary to inform this Plan through the future review process.

The region currently has a significant amount of undeveloped, ready zoned land suitable for residential development, which includes around 1329 hectares (ha) zoned residential and 3048 ha zoned rural living. A further 225 ha of deferred urban land could in part be used for residential development, as shown in Table D2.

<sup>10</sup> During the past five years around 460 new dwellings have been approved per year in the region. This is more than the 336 new dwellings per year required to achieve the 9063 dwellings needed to accommodate the target population (as per Table D2). If this level of growth were to continue, the target population for the region could be reached in around 20 years.

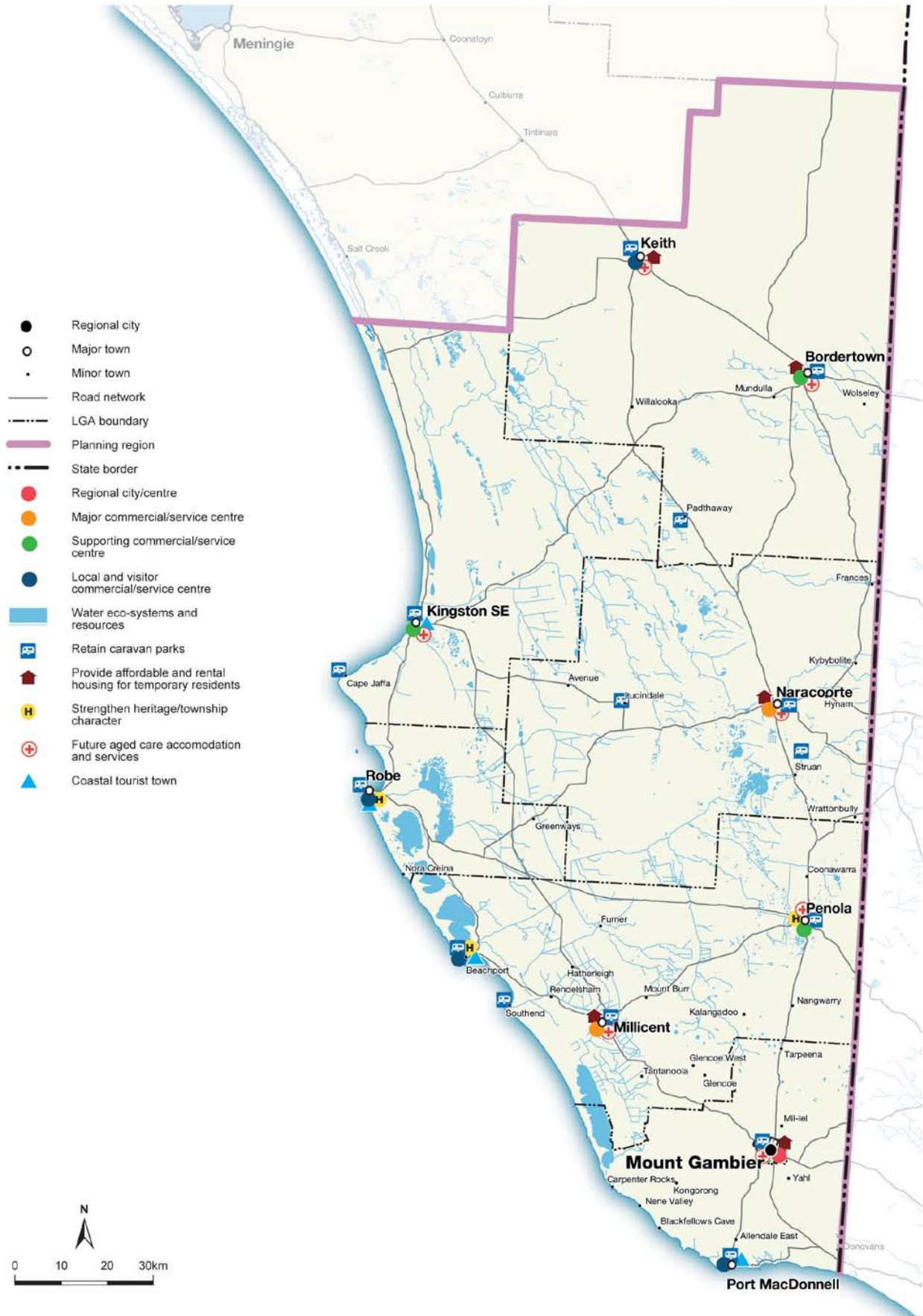






Table D2 – Residential land supply in key towns

Town	Residential zones		Deferred urban zones		Rural living zones	
	Area (ha)	Dwell est. <sup>a</sup>	Area (ha)	Dwell est. <sup>a</sup>	Area (ha)	Dwell est. <sup>a</sup>
Bordertown	65	650	–	–	360	144
Kingston	27	270	128	1088	476	238
Millicent	194	1940	–	–	672	336
Greater Mount Gambier <sup>b</sup>	942	9420	–	–	197	394
Naracoorte	101	1010	97	825	1343	2686
<b>Total</b>	<b>1329</b>	<b>13,290</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>1913</b>	<b>3048</b>	<b>3798</b>

<sup>a</sup> Dwelling estimates are based on: residential zones = 10 dwellings per hectare; deferred urban zones = 10 dwellings per hectare less 15 per cent (to factor in land used for non-residential purposes); rural living zones = the average rural living allotment for each council.

<sup>b</sup> The Greater Mount Gambier Master Plan provides specific detail regarding the city's growth (covering both Mount Gambier and adjacent areas in DC Grant). The land area and dwelling estimate is derived from the figures in the Master Plan (based on areas identified as 'land for residential development in the short to medium term' plus 'land for residential development in the longer term').

Table D2 shows that the Limestone Coast region has a significant supply of land identified for future residential/urban use in all the major towns, which could provide for more than 17,000 new dwellings. This capacity should be sufficient to support the growth necessary to achieve the SASP population target.

While this Plan seeks to prepare for an ageing population, policies are also needed to attract and retain young and working-age people.

Social infrastructure needs include increased housing in the major regional centres, as well as in remote locations where attracting and retaining staff - especially professional staff - is vital for development. Social infrastructure includes education and childcare facilities to service young families, as well as access to good health services. Broadband access outside major centres is essential to deliver distance learning and for business development and growth; it also facilitates social interaction and helps make remote locations more desirable places in which to live.

To guide land use in response to growth pressures, the Plan's principles and policies aim to ensure that:

- there is a supply of zoned land suitable for residential development
- growth occurs according to the roles and functions of towns
- growth is directed towards towns with health, education, community and aged care services/facilities

- there is a diversity of housing (including affordable housing) that is adaptable to changing preferences
- town growth is managed to preserve areas of primary production significance and environmental sensitivity

### Priorities for councils

- Undertake demographic analysis of the region's population, including growth projections and movement patterns to provide a clear picture of future occupancy rates, dwelling sizes and types and consequent land needs.
- Undertake detailed analysis of capacity for residential development in towns that have been identified for growth. Ensuring these towns have sufficient suitable land zoned for residential development to cater for population growth also requires detailed analysis of future demand (see also Policy 13.1).
- Develop urban design frameworks for the major towns to ensure new development is well designed and provides attractive places in which to live and invest.

- Reinforce the primary service and commercial roles of the major towns.
- Undertake an audit of existing housing supply to determine whether the needs of older people and other vulnerable groups in the housing market are being met.
- Address the housing needs of lower income workers and ensure an affordable housing supply keeps pace with demand.
- Identify the desired character of towns (and parts of towns) to guide design of buildings and public places.

## Principle 11

### Strategically plan and manage the growth of towns

The Plan supports the consolidation of population growth in existing settlements in order to:

- limit development in places difficult to adequately service (for example, household waste collection, water supplies/ treatment and energy transmission)
- facilitate the treatment and re-use of wastewater and stormwater
- preserve councils' financial viability
- build on existing and planned business, service and infrastructure investment
- reduce the population's vulnerability to increased fuel and transport costs
- protect important scenic and natural landscapes and areas of environmental and primary production significance.



Population growth in the region has chiefly occurred in the larger towns and urban areas, particularly in Mount Gambier. Planned economic expansion in Mount Gambier is likely to be accompanied by continued interest in housing development in the lower Limestone Coast.

As the main city for the region and western Victoria, Mount Gambier will experience significant growth in the future. The Mount Gambier Master Plan identifies capacity for up to 9420 additional dwellings on 942 hectares of land identified for short-, medium- and long-term residential development; any land uses that might impede this, such as rural living, should be avoided. If additional land is required for residential purposes in the longer term, Mount Gambier should expand to the north. Medium density opportunities close to the city centre, including for aged care accommodation, should be encouraged.

Naracoorte has a major role as a commercial and service centre for the central and upper parts of the region, and should be a focus for delivering facilities and services, as well as accommodating population growth.

Millicent, Penola and other towns within commuting distance of Mount Gambier are likely to experience development pressures as economic opportunities expand there and in the lower Limestone Coast in general. Penola is an important cultural/heritage and tourist hub, so future development needs to be carefully managed to preserve its attributes. Millicent is the area's principal centre outside of Mount Gambier and has capacity to accommodate additional growth. Residential growth should be accommodated principally through development within existing town areas, while growth in rural living should be avoided.

Bordertown is the Limestone Coast's northernmost supporting commercial/service centre and has capacity to accommodate further growth in this area of the region.

The natural coast and wetland environments surrounding Port MacDonnell, Beachport, Robe and Kingston provide a unique environmental and recreational experience. Development in these southern ports should retain and protect coastal features and characters while service and infrastructure support for the region's fishing industry should be developed in harmony with the coastal environment. Sensitive development of export and processing facilities associated

with oil and gas exploration in the Otway Basin may also be required. Coastal settlements should be rationalised and properly planned, but not expanded.

A planned approach to development seeks to balance a range of competing interests. This regional plan supports development in existing settlements and towns to build on current and planned business, service and infrastructure investment while protecting scenic and coastal landscapes, environmental assets and rural land of importance to industry.

Identifying and effectively managing suitable sites for waste facilities to meet the needs of residents and tourists is essential to creating healthy communities and protecting the environment.

Environment Protection Authority guidelines and codes provide guidance on the management of waste and wastewater and stormwater to prevent risk to public and environmental health.

### **Policies**

- 11.1** Focus growth and development in existing towns and settlements based on their roles and functions, as described in Principle 10 and shown on Map D3.

- 11.2** The expansion of towns should:
- ▶ ensure new areas are continuous with and form compact extensions of existing built-up areas, and prevent linear development along the coast and arterial roads
  - ▶ not encroach upon areas of importance to economic development
  - ▶ not encroach on environmentally sensitive areas
  - ▶ support the cost-effective provision of infrastructure and services such as health and education, avoiding unnecessary expansion or duplication of existing regional infrastructure and services
  - ▶ promote strong linkages between all parts of the town, particularly between residential areas, town centres, sporting and recreational facilities, and open space
  - ▶ promote development on vacant land, surplus government land and infill sites, and renew existing developed areas (where it does not compromise town character or heritage) in preference to broadacre or greenfield sites
- ▶ locate land for rural living in towns in such a way that opportunities for future town expansion are retained
  - ▶ retain a functional and visual separation between towns
  - ▶ allow for the incorporation of WSUD features to enable treatment and re-use of wastewater and stormwater
- 11.3** Development in areas remote from infrastructure should be self-sufficient in energy, water supplies and wastewater management.
- 11.4** Retain the coastal living, fishing and holiday appeal of Kingston, Robe, Beachport and Port MacDonnell.
- 11.5** Build on the cultural/heritage tourist focus of Robe, Beachport, Penola and Mundulla by strengthening heritage and town character.
- 11.6** Provide a range of aged care accommodation (locating supported aged care accommodation in towns with health services).
- 11.7** Provide opportunities for lifestyle/retirement village type accommodation.
- 11.8** Manage waste in accordance with the Zero Waste SA hierarchy of waste management practices (from the most preferred to least preferred: avoid, reduce, re-use, recycle, recover, treat, dispose) by ensuring that settlements and developments have appropriate space, facilities, access and construction methods.
- 11.9** Restrict ad hoc construction of isolated rural dwellings and subdivision of rural lands through the planned expansion of towns, increasing density within town boundaries, appropriate intensification of existing rural living zones, and strategic designation of new rural living zones outside areas of primary production significance.
- 11.10** Prevent the expansion and/or intensification of existing, or creation of new, rural living zones in areas of primary production significance.
- 11.11** Manage the interface between primary production activities and urban areas and towns through appropriate separation buffers, screening vegetation and appropriate alignment of allotment boundaries.



## Principle 12

### Design towns to provide safe, healthy, accessible and appealing environments

The way in which towns across the Limestone Coast region are designed influences not only how they look, but also how well they function. The ease and safety of getting around town, the accessibility of services and facilities, and a sense of community and civic pride are all influenced by the way a town is designed.

Towns and parts of towns can develop a strong identity and sense of place built around local history, unique natural features (for example, the coastline and Mount Gambier's Blue Lake) and future aspirations.

Features such as building height, rooflines, scale, materials and building setbacks in new developments can contribute to, rather than detract from, town and landscape character.

#### Policies

- 12.1** Reinforce those elements (natural and built) that contribute to the unique character and identity of towns, including landscapes, building design, streetscape design and built heritage.
- 12.2** Establish and retain distinct and attractive entrances to towns.
- 12.3** Retain town centres as the focus of retail, commercial, recreation, entertainment, community and civic activities in accordance with the role and function of the town.
- 12.4** Locate health, community and education facilities and services where the community will have equitable access.
- 12.5** Provide strong links between coastal town centres and the coast and between other town centres and key sites of tourism interest.
- 12.6** Manage interfaces between residential, town centres and industrial areas to avoid potential conflicts.
- 12.7** Encourage active lifestyles by providing:
- ▶ a range of open space, sport and recreation facilities in towns and throughout the region
  - ▶ walking and cycling facilities in towns, giving consideration to the needs of people of different ages and physical and intellectual abilities
- 12.8** Develop safer towns by incorporating the principles set out in *Designing Out Crime: Design Solutions for Safer Neighbourhoods*,<sup>11</sup> using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles and consulting with the South Australia Police.
- 12.9** Design all developments to minimise their visual and physical intrusiveness and ensure they are sympathetic to cultural and landscape features and contribute to the desired character of the area.
- 12.10** Apply WSUD principles to all new development and public open spaces, and encourage their application in existing development.

<sup>11</sup> Planning SA, *Designing Out Crime: Design Solutions for Safer Neighbourhoods* (2004) <[www.planning.sa.gov.au](http://www.planning.sa.gov.au)>.

## Principle 13

### Provide residential land for a supply of diverse, affordable and sustainable housing to meet the needs of current and future residents and visitors

Considered planning is required to ensure a supply of housing to meet the needs of people who live and work in the region, taking into account demographic changes such as higher numbers of older people. Population growth will be driven primarily by local and regional employment opportunities.

Retirees and holiday home owners, including from western Victoria, could add to overall housing demand.

Housing for seasonal and low-income workers needs to be considered to support the livestock processing, forestry, viticulture and horticulture industries, and fishing. Towns may experience localised pressure for rental accommodation from temporary workers.

Strategies are required to ensure a range of housing options, including affordable housing, to maintain the region's attractiveness as a place to live and help retain young and working-age people.

#### *Policies*

- 13.1** Ensure a 15-year zoned supply of land for residential development in towns/centres identified for growth (refer Principle 11 and Map D3).
- 13.2** Ensure that appropriately serviced towns provide a range of housing types and densities to enable people to stay in their community as their housing needs change and to cater for the region's changing demographics.
- 13.3** Provide opportunities for higher density housing near the centre of towns identified for growth, in particular Mount Gambier, Naracoorte, Millicent, Bordertown and Kingston.
- 13.4** Provide a range of accommodation for older people and people with a disability, and focus high-level care accommodation in towns with health services.

- 13.5** Ensure that land is made available for public and social housing in towns with a service role.
- 13.6** Encourage provision of rental housing and accommodation for temporary workers in locations where there is high demand, including from professionals, tradespeople and labourers employed in various local industries.
- 13.7** Provide for 15 per cent affordable housing, including a 5 per cent component for high needs housing, in all new housing developments, in accordance with the Housing Plan for South Australia (2005).
- 13.8** Actively involve Aboriginal people and newly arrived overseas migrants in planning for housing supply to ensure their needs are met.
- 13.9** Retain caravan parks and support the use of some parks for affordable rental housing, particularly for temporary accommodation.





# INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE PROVISION

## Chapter E





# INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE PROVISION

## Chapter E

This chapter discusses the implications of the *Limestone Coast Region Plan* for the provision and coordination of infrastructure and services in the region.

Government agencies are required to use the Plan to identify infrastructure priorities, such as health and education centres, and are encouraged to identify clear trigger points, such as population growth in a particular town, to indicate when new infrastructure is needed.

The state government recognises the importance of integrating land use and infrastructure planning. This approach aims to build strong and healthy communities and ensure industrial and commercial land activities remain competitive by making the best use of existing infrastructure capacity and ensuring new infrastructure and services are strategically planned for and proceed in a timely manner.

The *Strategic Infrastructure Plan for South Australia* (2005) is the first step in developing a coordinated long-term approach to infrastructure and service provision throughout the state. It provides a strategy for planning and delivery of infrastructure and services by all government and private sector providers.

The priorities identified for the Limestone Coast in the *Strategic Infrastructure Plan* are listed on the following pages. The *Limestone Coast Region Plan* confirms these priorities, further clarifies where specifically in the region these infrastructure and services are most required, and identifies other potential demands on infrastructure and services.

Infrastructure, with the exception of major works, is generally the responsibility of the landowner. Given the long lead times associated with industrial development, the state government and other infrastructure providers need to plan, budget for, and coordinate the development of infrastructure. This is particularly important for larger parcels of land that have been identified as key future supply sites but have significant constraints.

Further, infrastructure provision should link with the *Limestone Coast Region Plan* to ensure industrial and commercial land is ready when needed, and that appropriate services are provided to support industrial/commercial operators, residents and visitors. This is crucial to ensure that funding is not prematurely invested in infrastructure and services that will be under-used. It also reinforces the need for ongoing information gathering and liaison with the private sector and local government on industry and community needs.



### Priorities for the Limestone Coast Region, as identified in the *Strategic Infrastructure Plan for South Australia, Regional Overview, 2005-06–2014-15*

#### Land (economic development)

- Establish new headquarters for Forestry SA (now completed)
- At Cape Jaffa develop a combined public/commercial marina and upgrade recreational facilities to cater for aquaculture and recreational/commercial fishing activities
- Investigate the potential location of future industrial sites
- Develop an industrial estate at Mount Gambier

#### Water and wastewater

- Complete drainage program in Upper South East
- Implement the South East Catchment Water Management Board Plan (now completed)
- At Tantanoola, develop options to harvest and re-use KCA's wastewater resource

- Upgrade Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS) servicing particular towns
- Collect and analyse data to determine if the Eight Mile Creek Catchment should and could provide an environmentally sustainable yield of water

#### Transport

- Work with the Victorian Government to facilitate the use of rail to transport freight between SA and Victoria (Portland)
- Develop plans to manage growth in freight, including road improvements and heavy vehicle detours of key towns e.g. Penola, Mount Gambier
- Leverage Australian Government funding to provide additional transport infrastructure
- Upgrade the Riddoch Highway and the Princes Highway section along the Coorong
- Identify the preferred site for a regional intermodal facility as part of a state-wide intermodal strategy

#### Energy

- Strengthen and augment the electricity supply network by undertaking transmission network upgrades and sub-station upgrades
- Build gas laterals from SEA Gas pipeline to Katnook and Naracoorte to provide an alternative supply of gas to Katnook gas users and industrial businesses at Naracoorte
- Investigate the viability of biomass power generation from timber waste

#### Information and communication technologies (ICT)

- Develop a business case that identifies sufficient aggregated demand to justify installation of broadband



### Health

- Provide additional residential aged care facilities through redevelopment of hospital facilities at Millicent and Bordertown
- Establish an Aboriginal Wellbeing Centre in Mount Gambier
- Continue to upgrade hospital facilities to better meet acute service requirements and support the co-located delivery of primary health care services including general practice, allied health, mental health and Aboriginal health programs

### Housing

- Increase the supply of affordable and adaptable housing in Naracoorte and other centres

### Arts, culture and heritage

- Upgrade the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre at Mount Gambier

### Education and training

- Rejuvenate the existing built asset base of schools to support improved utilisation, integration of services and future education provision
- Undertake planned capital works at Mount Gambier high school and Kalangadoo preschool

### Further issues related to infrastructure and services provision as identified through the process of the developing the *Limestone Coast Region Plan* are:

- the need for improved north-south access between communities and for freight vehicles during harvest periods, and for the management of potential conflicts between cars and large freight vehicles
- increasing pressure on wastewater facilities associated with residential development and tourist facilities

- localised pressures to upgrade aerodromes and air services, especially at Robe, Naracoorte and Mount Gambier
- potential increase in demand for public transport services, particularly to improve access to local, regional and Adelaide-based health services and education/training facilities
- potential pressure on recreation and sporting facilities due to growing resident and tourist numbers.



# APPENDICES

# APPENDIX 1

## HOW THE PLAN WAS DEVELOPED

Figure 3 – The *Limestone Coast Region Plan* process





# APPENDIX 2

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIMESTONE COAST REGION

### COMMUNITIES AND CHANGING SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

#### A changing region

The needs of residents and communities throughout the region are a driving force for the preparation of the *Limestone Coast Region Plan* and associated strategic priorities for the region.

In 2006 the combined population for the seven council areas that make up the region was 61,098 persons.<sup>12</sup> The population for the region increased by 2.6 per cent between 1996 and 2006.

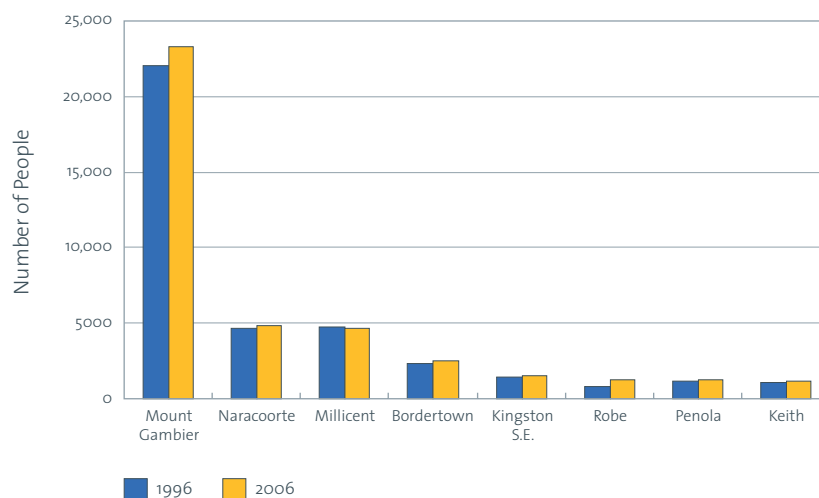
Mount Gambier has 38.1 per cent of the region's total population (23,273 at the 2006 Census). It sustained the region's highest per annum growth rate (1.06 per cent) during 1996–2006. A further 17,230 people (28.2 per cent) live in towns: Naracoorte (4816), Millicent (4641), Bordertown (2550), Kingston (1546), Robe (1286), Penola (1266) and Keith (1125) (refer Figure 4).

Towns with less than 1000 people together accommodate only 4.7 per cent of the population; 29 per cent of the population live on farms or in small settlements of fewer than 200 people.

While the larger towns grew during 1996–2006, many smaller towns, including Beachport, Kalangadoo, Lucindale, Nangwarry, Port MacDonnell, Tantanoola and Tarpee, experienced small declines (refer Figure 5). Given the larger labour markets and better services in the larger centres, this trend is expected to continue.

Permanent population figures may not reflect the additional demands of visitors on local and regional facilities. For example, Robe experiences high levels of visitors during peak tourist periods; in 2006 43.5 per cent of the town's dwellings were considered 'unoccupied', indicating a high proportion of holiday houses. However, this proportion fell from 50.2 per cent in 1996 (refer Figure 6), indicating that holiday accommodation is increasingly used for extended occupation. Overall, the region's occupancy rate is around 85 per cent, leaving 15 per cent of dwellings unoccupied.

Figure 4 – Towns with population > 1000, Limestone Coast Region



12 2006 Census Basic Community Profile released Sept 2007.

Figure 5 – Towns with population < 1000, Limestone Coast Region

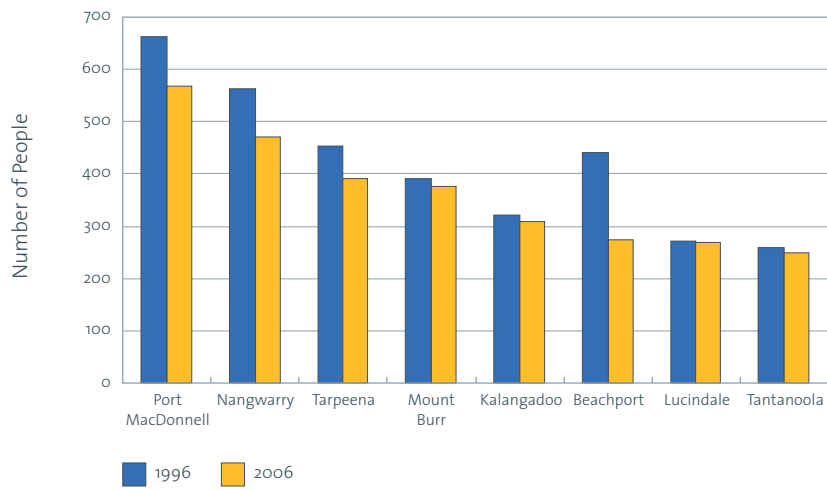
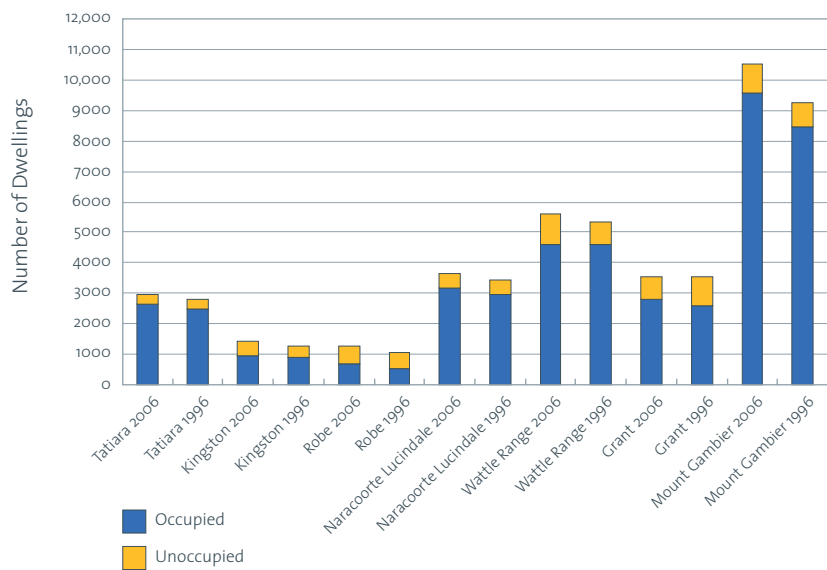


Figure 6 – Occupied and unoccupied dwellings 1996 & 2006



Source: ABS Census 2006.



## An ageing region

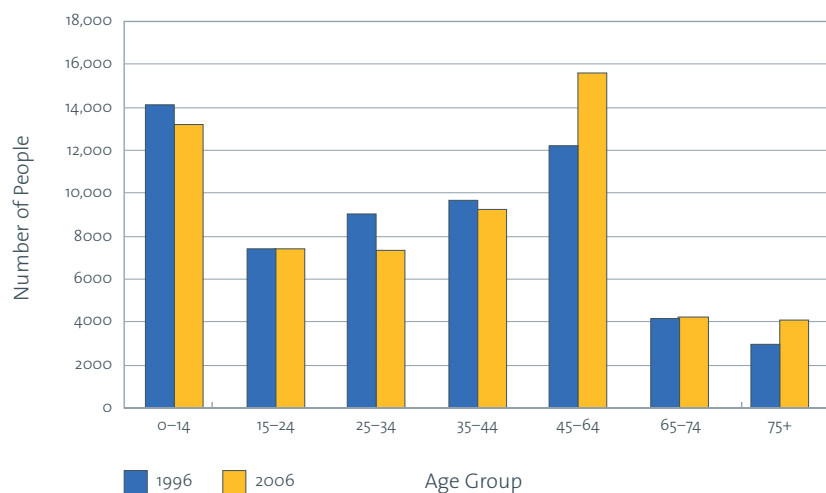
Of the 64,615 persons living in the region in 2006, 8309 (13.6 per cent) were aged over 60. The number of people over 60 is projected to increase for South Australia as a whole, and similar trends are expected in this region.

The population of the region is already ageing. Between 1996 and 2006 there was an increase of 1.2 per cent in the number of people aged 65–74; however, the increase in people aged 75 and over was far more pronounced, at 37.4 per cent.

Conversely, the major family-creating cohorts of 25–34 years of age declined (by 13.5 per cent), as did the 35–44 age cohort (by 4.4 per cent) over the period 1996–2006, as did the number of children (the 0–14 age cohort declined by 6.5 per cent).

Considerable shifts in the demographic balance as the population ages and people move from farms into towns to retire will have implications for the provision of community services and facilities.

Figure 7 – Population by age, Limestone Coast region 1996–2006



Source: ABS Census 1996, 2001 and 2006.

## Housing demand and affordability

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data on the population distribution in the region indicates that most local government areas have experienced population growth, with only Kingston remaining fairly static and Wattle Range experiencing some decline.

ABS data also indicates that the number of aged persons as a percentage of the total population in the region is likely to increase faster than the region's overall population growth. The number of people over the age of 70 years is

expected to triple statewide within the next few years, with the region likely to be strongly affected.

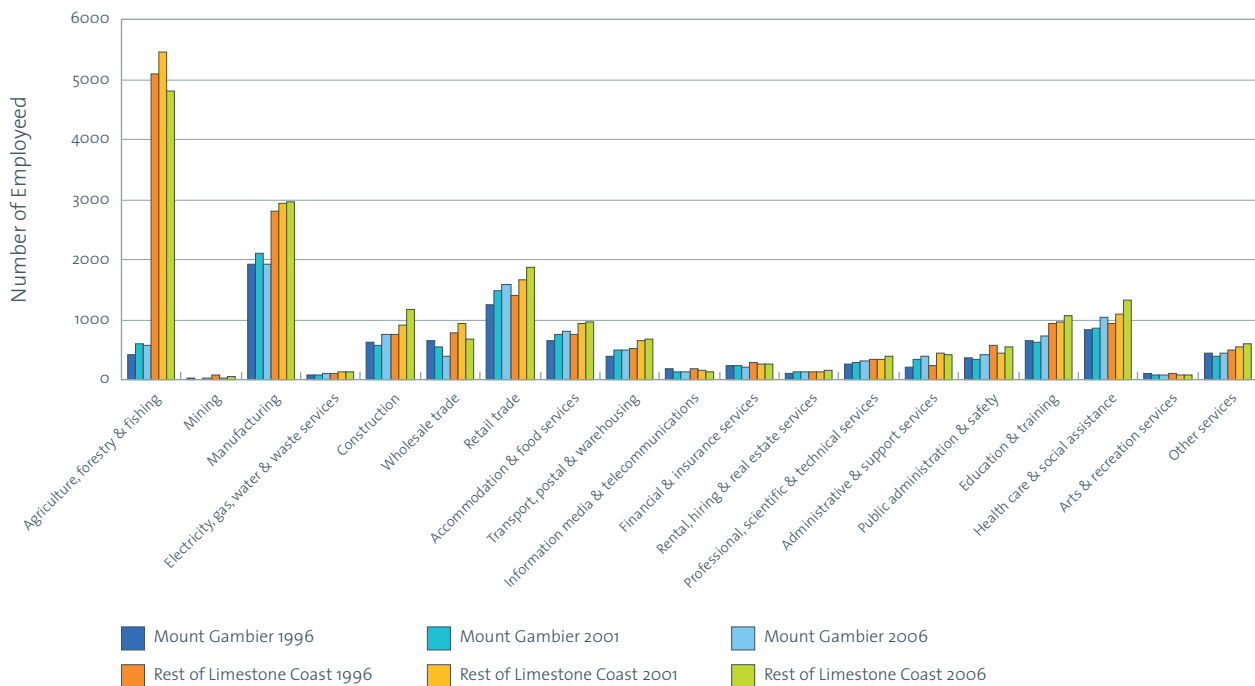
This trend should be taken into account in planning for the provision of suitable and appropriately located housing to meet the needs of an ageing population.

Attracting and retaining young people will remain a challenge. ABS data shows that between 1996 and 2006 the number of people in the 0–14 age group declined by more than 800. Similarly, the young working age group declined by over 1400 during the same period.

Table 4 – Demographic summary, Limestone Coast

Population	Grant	Kingston	Mount Gambier	Naracoorte Lucindale	Robe	Tatiara	Wattle Range	Limestone Coast Region
0–14	22.6%	19.9%	21.1%	21.0%	20.2%	23.1%	22.1%	21.6%
15–24	10.9%	10.4%	13.8%	12.4%	9.8%	11.4%	10.5%	12.1%
25–34	10.5%	9.6%	13.0%	12.4%	10.4%	12.2%	11.4%	12.0%
35–44	17.1%	12.4%	14.5%	15.2%	14.2%	15.2%	15.6%	15.1%
45–64	28.6%	30.0%	23.8%	25.4%	27.7%	25.0%	25.9%	25.5%
65–74	6.0%	10.1%	6.7%	6.5%	9.3%	6.6%	7.5%	6.9%
75+	4.3%	7.6%	7.0%	7.0%	8.4%	6.6%	7.0%	6.7%
Indigenous	0.8%	1.3%	1.6%	1.2%	0.6%	0.9%	1.2%	1.3%
Workforce Participation	69.3%	61.9%	63.2%	68.6%	50.8%	69.8%	62.3%	
Unemployment Rate	3.5%	3.8%	7.1%	3.2%	3.2%	1.9%	5.2%	
Median Weekly Household Income	\$1063	\$706	\$816	\$925	\$796	\$939	\$823	
Total Population	7692	2238	23273	7900	1716	6806	11,473	61,098
0–14	1737	446	4920	1662	346	1574	2533	13218
15–24	838	233	3220	980	169	773	1207	7420
25–34	807	214	3024	983	179	827	1306	7340
35–44	1319	278	3373	1200	243	1033	1789	9235
45–64	2202	671	5545	2004	476	1701	2977	15576
65–74	460	227	1566	516	159	450	855	4233
75+	329	169	1625	555	144	448	806	4076
Indigenous	65	29	373	95	11	63	141	777

Figure 8 – Industry of Employment, 1996–2006



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006 Census of Population and Housing, ABS, Canberra, 2007.

Land values in the region are rising. Job creation and growing economies, combined with the region's natural features and the affordability of housing relative to Adelaide, make the Limestone Coast attractive for new residents.

### Rental accommodation

A shortage of affordable rental housing is, however, affecting the region's ability to attract and retain

people in the region, particularly seasonal workers and workers in lower income occupations.

Higher building costs compared to the metropolitan area, coupled with difficulties in obtaining finance due to the unpredictability of the rural economy, are contributing to the shortage of housing in most parts of the region.

## THE ECONOMY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Employment

With a regional unemployment rate that is consistently lower than the state average and a participation rate that is higher than the state average, the region's strong economic activity may be retaining

young people in employment and reducing the need for them to go elsewhere to find employment.

The ABS Population Census 2006 - Labour Force Participation Rates is a key indicator of how well the local economy is faring. With a participation rate of 64.2 per cent, which is more than 5 per cent higher than the state average, it is clear that the Limestone Coast has not experienced the negative changes that have affected much of regional South Australia over the past 30 years.

Regional employment data reflects a very diverse and self-reliant local economy. Continuing employment growth in the construction, transport, tourism, health and education sectors suggests that the regional economy continues to diversify and is adapting to changing economic conditions.

As can be seen in Figure 8, employment in the Limestone Coast is dominated by agriculture, forestry, fishing and manufacturing, with these sectors employing people in greater proportions than the state average. Retail trade is the third largest employer in the region, which, combined with accommodation, cafes and restaurants, reflects in part the region's continuing attraction to tourists.

Between 2001 and 2006, there was a strong increase in employment in health and community services and construction. Employment in the

construction industry is now higher than the state average. There was a major percentage increase in employment in government administration and defence at the same time, although the numbers of people affected were smaller. Despite the significant decline in employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing between 2001 and 2006, it remains the region's largest employing sector. Overall employment increased by 4.2 per cent (1219 jobs) between 2001 and 2006.

While more than a third of the region's population is employed in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors, the construction, wholesale and retail sales, and tourism sectors also contribute strongly to the regional economy, with around 30 per cent of the workforce now employed in these sectors.

As the region's industries adapt to changing environmental conditions and adopt new technologies, practices and policies, enterprises will require new skills and skill combinations from their existing workforce, or new workers with appropriate skills.

In summary, the Limestone Coast region has a strong and diverse base which will underpin future growth. Its natural resources coupled with being positioned midway between the markets of Adelaide and Melbourne will continue to realise opportunities if forward thinking and good planning outcomes are achieved.

## Agriculture and fishing

In 2006, 18.8 per cent of the region's workforce was engaged in primary industry; it continues to be one of the largest employment sectors in the Limestone Coast.

PIRSA's *Food Scorecard Summary* estimated that in 2005–06 the gross food revenue for the region was \$919 million. This takes into account the value of farm production, food value-adding, processing, packing and distribution, as well as food service and retail sales, but does not include revenue derived from viticulture.

While there has been a greater focus on viticulture in more recent times, livestock production (primarily sheep and cattle) remains the single largest primary industry in the region. In 2005–06, livestock production was valued at \$277 million in farm gate terms and represents about 31 per cent of the total value of the South Australian livestock industry.

In addition, the region is also known for its horticultural activities, particularly potato production with about 2,500 hectares producing 130,000 tonnes of potatoes annually, and supporting 300 full time jobs. Carrot and onion production is increasing in the region.

The Limestone Coast supports one of regional South Australia's key dairy industries. Around 20,000 hectares from 128 farms

produces around 300 million litres of milk annually. This has a farm gate value of \$80 million, and \$247 million wholesale supporting around 750 full time jobs.

Field crops including grains and seed production contribute over \$100 million to the local economy.

The region's active agricultural sector and generally reliable rainfall have encouraged the relocation of agricultural activities from other parts of the State, particularly to the Tatiara Council area. This trend is expected to continue throughout the region.

The region produces some of the best seafood in Australia and is renowned for its rock lobsters. Each year, over 1,890 tonnes of lobsters are sent to markets throughout Australia and abroad, earning valuable income for the region. Overall, the region's seafood industry earns around \$63 million in farm gate terms.

### Viticulture

The Limestone Coast has a number of wine regions: Padthaway in the north, Robe and Cape Jaffa and Mount Benson on the north west coast; and Wrattontully and Coonawarra in the centre. Bordertown and Mount Gambier also produce wine but are recognised as wine regions by the Geographic Indication (GI) Committee of the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation.

In 2007 the Limestone Coast had 300 winegrape growers with a total of around 15,000 hectares (ha) of winegrapes under cultivation, which accounts for 21 per cent of South Australia's plantings. The largest wine regions by area planted are Coonawarra (5860 ha), Padthaway (4010 ha) and Wrattontully (2550 ha).

The Limestone Coast produces 20.5 per cent of Australia's premium wine. Its wine industry has a farm gate value of approximately \$250 million and a value-added worth of around \$1.5 billion. The industry supports 1200 full time jobs.

Future opportunities for vineyard planting and wine production are likely to occur in the lower south east, particularly considering water allocations. PIRSA's investigations suggest that the area south of Mount Gambier is well suited to viticulture, while areas around Mt Benson and Robe may be suitable for expansion.

### Forestry

The forest and forest products industry sector in the Limestone Coast is significant. Since the introduction of forestry to the region a century ago, this industry sector now has over 150,000 ha of timber currently under plantation with one in five jobs in the region directly related to this area of employment.

The direct and indirect contribution to the Gross Regional Product (GRP) by the forest and forest

products sector is \$759 million per annum or 28 per cent of GRP (2003–04 figures). The sector employs more than 7000 people or 22 per cent of the workforce.

There are over 108,000 ha of softwood plantation (predominantly *Pinus Radiata*) and over 42,000 ha of hardwood plantation (predominantly *Eucalyptus globulus*). The softwood plantations were originally started in the early 1900s followed by major expansion in the 1930s, 1960s and 1970s. The hardwood plantations have been established during the past decade.

A comprehensive value-adding industry produces structural timber, dressed timber products, engineered timber products and paper pulp. Almost all the biomass residue is used by the industry in timber processing or for soil improvement.

The hardwood plantations are nearing the end of their first rotation. It is envisaged that contracts will be secured to supply overseas companies with export wood chip through Portland.

A paper pulp plant, a potential major investment project, has been facilitated by the passage of indenture legislation through the State Parliament. If it proceeds, this project may generate significant demand for hardwood plantation products to meet input requirements of the plant.

During the period 2009–2014 the volume of wood harvested in the Green Triangle Region is expected to nearly double as the hardwood plantations come on stream. This will require rapid expansion in workforce capacity.

## Industry

Although the regional economy is dominated by agriculture and timber processing, general industries servicing these sectors are also located throughout the region. Several emerging industries are establishing in the region, including a biomass plant near Tarpeena and meatworks at Bordertown and Naracoorte, which provide significant employment opportunities and generate export earnings. The region also has resources and features that may facilitate the development of renewable energy opportunities on a large scale.

The region's proximity to infrastructure, transport networks, available water and proximity to important markets will continue to make it attractive for new and relocating industries.

## Tourism

Tourism is a key element of the regional economy, with more than 5700 associated jobs in retail, accommodation, cafes and restaurants. Employment in the accommodation, café and restaurant sector rose by 7.9 per cent in the five years to 2006 and should continue to provide employment growth throughout the region.

The region has a number of iconic natural tourist attractions, including the Naracoorte Caves and Mount Gambier's Blue Lake. The natural beauty of the region coupled with a growing food and wine industry continue to draw a significant number of visitors each year. Historic fishing ports, coastal holiday destinations and the national and conservation parks also attract visitors. Proximity to Adelaide and Melbourne encourages visitors travelling between the two to explore the region.

It is estimated that there were around 525,000 overnight visits to the region in 2008, with an average stay of three nights. This directly contributes around \$230 million to the local economy and provides employment opportunities for many local residents.

Visitors range from grey nomads to young activity seekers wanting to explore new recreational and nature-based activities.

## Mining and mineral processing

The region is not part of a geological province and has a relatively low prospect for mineral resources, with mining largely limited to low value agricultural, industrial and construction materials, such as sand and road base materials (for example, crushed limestone). Prospects are also attached to the proposed Hybrid Energy Coal project at Kingston (which could potentially generate enough diesel fuel to supply South Australia for the next 30 years).

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

A wide range of infrastructure and services support the community and economy.

### Road and rail

The main corridors in the Limestone Coast region are as follows:

- National Land Transport Network corridor is the Dukes Highway, which transverses the region and is the major corridor linking to Victoria

- State and local roads provide access throughout the region and to other regions and states. Important state roads include the Riddoch Highway and the Princes Highway. The importance of the Riddoch Highway to the national economy has been identified by the Victorian and South Australian governments in the Green Triangle Region Freight Action Plan (2009) and recommendations regarding its inclusion in the national network have been made to the Commonwealth. Heavy vehicle movements are expected to increase, placing significant demands on the network. Efficient transportation links to cater for economic growth will be a priority, particularly in regard to providing effective local road and lower order state road links to major freight routes
- The rail link between Adelaide and Melbourne generally follows the Dukes Highway corridor. It facilitates the export of grain from the region to Port Adelaide.

Road connections to the Port of Portland provide the region with an export port and competitive advantages.

## Air

The Mount Gambier Airport is the Limestone Coast region's only regular passenger airport. Growth in passenger numbers over the 14 years between 1990–91 and 2004–05 is equivalent to an annual average growth rate of 5.5 per cent. Projecting this to 2020 would see passenger numbers increase to around 224,700. The airport currently does not have capacity to cater for larger planes.

Other aerodromes include:

- Naracoorte, Bordertown, Kingston and Millicent, which have sealed strips with pilot-activated lights suitable for RFDS, firefighting, aerial agriculture and charter services
- Keith aerodrome, used for aerial agriculture and the RFDS
- Lucindale and Padthaway, used for aerial agriculture and available for RFDS use
- Penola aerodrome, used for aerial agriculture and fire fighting
- Robe aerodrome, used by general aviation light aircraft for tourism purposes.

## Public transport

Most regional centres have daily services to and from Adelaide, but services connecting towns are mostly limited to once or twice a week. As a result, the population is highly reliant on private motor vehicles.

Larger centres have taxi and small passenger vehicle (hire car) services, enabling subsidised travel through the SA Transport Subsidy Scheme (SATSS), which is funded by the state government through the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure.

An integrated transport service is provided in the Tatiara area by a commercial operator under service contract with the Minister for Transport. This provides regular services for students, specific services for the South East Regional Health Service and general community services between Keith, Bordertown, Mundulla, Padthaway, Serviceton and Wolseley.

The Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure, through the Public Transport Division, funds a Community Passenger Network (CPN) to provide information, coordination and direct transport services for people who are transport disadvantaged. The CPN is based in Mount Gambier and covers the council areas of Wattle Range, Tatiara, Robe, Naracoorte, Kingston and Grant.

Despite these services, lack of access to transport is a major cause of social isolation in the region.

### **Cycling**

The region's relatively low traffic volumes, wide streets and compact towns make cycling and walking attractive transport and recreation options. Many towns have strategic Local Area Bicycle Plans and most have extensive footpaths and are developing cycling networks. Opportunities exist to further develop cycling tourism. Highway routes, including for heavy vehicle traffic, pass through many towns, creating barriers to connectivity. Specific allocated space, such as bicycle lanes or shared-use paths, can help address this problem.

### **Health services**

The South East Regional Health Service funds, supports and oversees a group of six publicly-funded hospitals and a regional community health service, which operates over eight sites.

Public hospitals are situated at Bordertown, Kingston, Millicent, Mt Gambier, Naracoorte and Penola while privately-funded hospitals are located in Mount Gambier and Keith. Health services are located at Lucindale.

### **Education facilities**

The region has 49 government and non-government schools and 16 childcare facilities.

The demand for childcare facilities may increase due to the region currently experiencing higher than normal birth rates, and higher proportions of single parents, compared to the past. This increased demand could accelerate given the trend for people to seek off-farm employment as a means to supplement household income.

TAFE SA has campuses located in Mount Gambier, Millicent and Naracoorte. TAFE learning centres are also located at Bordertown, Kingston and Lucindale. The Mount Gambier campus offers a wide range of courses whilst the Millicent and Naracoorte campuses both focus on business, finance and

management with Naracoorte also having an agricultural, wine and rural focus. A number of universities – Flinders, University of South Australia and Deakin (Melbourne-based) – operate from Mount Gambier.

### **Community wastewater management systems (CWMS)**

Local governments operate 13 CWMS schemes throughout the region. In addition, several new schemes such as Beachport, Donovans, Blackfellows Caves, Carpenter Rocks and Nene Valley are being planned or are currently under construction.

Existing schemes at Robe, Bordertown, Penola, Kalangadoo and Southend are currently being upgraded to supplement existing water supplies through increased recycling of reclaimed wastewater.

The Local Government Association of SA is facilitating applications on behalf of South Australian councils under the Commonwealth's Water Smart Australia Program for funding to upgrade individual schemes identified by individual councils as a priority.

Wastewater (and stormwater) recycling, and other water-sensitive initiatives (such as urban design measures) will provide an opportunity to reduce water consumption.



## Water

Water in the South East not only supports industry and settlements, but also the region's distinctive ecosystems (including significant wetlands) and environment.

SA Water supplies 33 towns in the upper area of the Limestone Coast via the Tailem Bend to Keith pipeline and the remaining areas served mostly from underground water supplies and rainfall runoff.

The Limestone Coast has significant groundwater resources, comprising two extensive aquifer systems:

- The unconfined aquifer – the principal resource for municipal, industrial, rural residences and irrigation water use
- The confined aquifer – utilised mainly for municipal and agriculture needs.

The South East Natural Resource Management Board has produced a number of Water Allocation Plans to carefully manage this important resource. These strategies include the Blue Lake Management Plan aimed at ensuring clean safe water for Mount Gambier and surrounding districts.

The implications of diminished rainfall projected for the region through climate change (and associated impact on aquifer recharge rates), together with increased population and economic growth targeted through SASP, will increase competition for the available water.

## Electricity

The electrical interface with Adelaide is a meshed network of 275 kV and 132 kV transmission lines with an additional two 275 kV lines providing interconnections to Victoria.

Three distillate-fuelled gas turbine generators are installed at Snuggery, and the Ladbroke Grove gas turbines near Penola provide around 107 MW respectively into the network.

Wind farms are operational at Canunda (23 turbines producing 46 MW) and Lake Bonney (46 turbines producing 80MW). Other wind farms being constructed and planned in the lower section of the Limestone Coast will further boost generation.

The high deep water wave energy that occurs naturally off the coast in the lower Limestone Coast is attracting significant interest from the energy sector for its potential to develop base load renewable energy. There are also potential opportunities for future geothermal energy in the lower south east, with reasonable proximity to the power grid.

While generally reliable, electricity supply in some towns and areas can fluctuate, which impacts on communities, while the availability of three-phase power in some locations has affected industry development.

## Natural gas

The Katnook area gas field supplies natural gas to industrial, residential and other customers in the Mount Gambier region with spur lines delivering gas to Kimberley-Clark Australia's processing plant at Tantanoola and the SA Fries factory and the Nangwarry timber mill.

The SEA Gas pipeline passes within 8 km of Naracoorte continuing to the south-west of Keith.

## Information and communications technology (ICT)

The region has broadband services in the major urban centres. Wireless opportunities may exist along the Riddoch highway route from Bordertown to Mount Gambier following recent back haul infrastructure build.

The state government's project to provide microwave backhaul from Mount Gambier to Bordertown includes specific provision for connections at Mount Burr, Penola, Naracoorte and Bordertown. This enables more competitive broadband services in various forms at those locations including ADSL and WiMax wireless broadband services.

## THE ENVIRONMENT

The Living Coast Strategy and the Natural Resources Plan provide a range of mechanisms to maintain and enhance the environmental qualities of the Limestone Coast region.

Much of the region is made up of a series of stranded dunes that rise 20–50 metres above interdunal plains. These plains can be inundated with water during the winter months and are part of internationally recognised wetland systems that include the 3200 hectare Ramsar-listed Bool and Hacks lagoons.

The region also has an extensive network of limestone sink holes and caves, including the World Heritage-listed Naracoorte Caves.

The 300-kilometre south-east coast is also a dominant feature of the region. It extends from the Victorian border in the south to the internationally acclaimed Coorong National Park in the north. This coastline features a number of towns, including Kingston, Robe, Beachport and Port MacDonnell. A number of small settlements south of Lake Bonney such as Carpenter Rocks, Blackfellows Caves and Nene Valley, as well as Donovans on the Glenelg River are attracting prospective investors and potential residents.

The coast's dunes, limestone cliffs, sandy beaches, rocky shores and coastal springs and lakes are unique to the region.

The near shore marine environment is dominated by numerous intertidal and sub-tidal reef systems interspersed with seagrass meadows, kelp forests and sandy bottoms. This environment provides habitats for various marine organisms.

Rainfall varies from approximately 440mm in the region's northern parts to around 900mm in the south. The temperate, Mediterranean-type climate brings average summer temperatures that range from 21°C in Cape Northumberland to 29°C in Bordertown. Cold days and chilly nights are usually associated with the winter months, especially in inland areas.

A natural resources management plan, due to be implemented in 2010, will identify the environmental issues that need to be managed with appropriate forward planning to ensure economic activity remains ecologically sustainable.

## Managing climate change

The region has experienced diminished rainfall corresponding with drought conditions in recent years.

Climate change predictions indicate there may be a higher frequency of poor years in the future. The ongoing drought reducing rainfall in recent years and the predicted impacts of climate change are having widespread impacts on agricultural, horticultural and pastoral activities and have the potential to affect the tourism industry. A new climate regime means past weather experiences are an imperfect guide to the future.

The possible negative effects caused by climate change on the sustainability of some primary production areas should be monitored and climate risk management plans developed in a timely manner.

# APPENDIX 3

## CONTRIBUTION OF THE PLAN TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S STRATEGIC PLAN TARGETS

Table 3.1 – Linkages with *South Australia's Strategic Plan*

Limestone Coast Region Plan Principles	South Australia's Strategic Plan Target
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL ASSETS</b>	
1. Recognise, protect and restore the region's environmental assets	T3.1 Lose no species, T3.2 Land biodiversity, T3.3 Soil Protection, T3.4 Marine biodiversity, T3.7 Ecological footprint, T3.9 Sustainable water supplies, T3.10 River Murray
2. Protect people, property and the environment from exposure to hazards	T2.4 Healthy South Australians, T2.7 Psychological wellbeing
3. Identify and protect places of heritage and cultural significance, and desired town character	T1.15 Tourism industry, T2.7 Psychological wellbeing, T6.1 Aboriginal wellbeing, T5.9 Regional population levels
4. Create the conditions for the region to adapt and become resilient to the impacts of climate change	T3.5 Greenhouse gas emissions reduction, T3.7 Ecological footprint, T3.9 Sustainable water supply, T3.13 and T3.14 Energy efficiency—dwellings and government buildings
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>	
5. Protect and build on the region's strategic infrastructure	T1.1 Economic growth, T1.14 Total exports, T1.21 Strategic infrastructure, T3.7 Ecological footprint, T3.8 Zero waste
6. Retain and strengthen the economic potential of the region's primary production land	T1.1 Economic growth, T1.10 Jobs, T 1.14 Total exports, T1.17 Minerals exploration, T3.9 Sustainable water supply
7. Strengthen local commercial fishing and aquaculture industries	T1.1 Economic growth, T1.10 Jobs, T 1.14 Total Exports
8. Reinforce the region as a preferred tourist destination	T1.10 Jobs, T1.15 Tourism, T1.5 Business Investment, T1.21 Strategic infrastructure
9. Provide and protect serviced and well-sited industrial land to meet projected demand	T1.1 Economic growth; T1.2 Competitive business climate ; T1.5 Business investment; T1.10 Jobs; T 1.14 Total exports; T1.21 Strategic infrastructure
10. Ensure commercial development is well sited and designed to support the role and function of towns	T1.5 Business Investment, T1.10 Jobs, T1.21 Strategic infrastructure

**Limestone Coast Region Plan Principles****South Australia's Strategic Plan Target****POPULATION AND SETTLEMENTS**

11. Strategically plan and manage the growth of towns	T1.21 Strategic infrastructure, T3.7 Ecological footprint, T3.8 Zero waste, T5.9 Regional population levels
12. Design towns to provide safe, healthy accessible and appealing environments	T2.4 Healthy South Australians, T2.7 Psychological wellbeing, T2.8 Statewide crime rates
13. Provide residential land for a supply of diverse, affordable and sustainable housing to meet the needs of current and future residents and visitors	T5.9 Regional population levels, T6.7 Affordable housing, T6.8 Housing stress, T6.9 Aboriginal housing, T6.10 Housing for people with disabilities, T1.24 Overseas migrants

# APPENDIX 4

## RELATED REPORTS, STRATEGIES AND PLANS

Various plans, strategies and research have been considered during the development of the *Limestone Coast Region Plan*. Many of these reports were developed in consultation with industry and the local community. The detailed research and analysis contained in these documents underpin and complement this Plan.

Australian Bureau of Statistics, *2006 Census of Population and Housing*, ABS, Canberra, 2007.

Coast Protection Board (2003) *Coastline: A Strategy for Implementing CPB Policies on Coastal Acid Sulfate Soils in South Australia*, DEH, Government of South Australia.

Coast Protection Board (1992) *Coastline: Coastal Erosion, Flooding and Sea Level Rise Standards and Protection Policy*, DEH, Government of South Australia.

Coast Protection Board (2002) *Coast Protection Board Policy Document*, DEH, Government of South Australia.

Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) (2005) *Draft Estuaries Policy and Action Plan for South Australia*, DEH, Government of South Australia.

DEH (2003) *Heritage Directions: A Future for Built Heritage in South Australia*, DEH, Government of South Australia.

DEH (2004) *Living Coast Strategy for South Australia*, DEH Government of South Australia.

DEH (2006) *Marine Planning Framework for South Australia*, DEH, Government of South Australia.

DEH (2003) *NatureLinks—Implementing the Wild Country Philosophy in South Australia*, DEH, Government of South Australia.

DEH (2007) *No Species Loss - A Nature Conservation Strategy for South Australia 2007–2017*, DEH, Government of South Australia.

DEH *River Murray-South East NatureLink Plan*, DEH, Government of South Australia.

DEH *South East Regional Action Plans for Flora and Fauna*, DEH, Government of South Australia.

DEH (2003) *Wetlands Strategy for South Australia*, DEH, Government of South Australia.

Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology (2008) *Limestone Coast Employment and Skills Network Region Regional Profile*, DFEEST, Government of South Australia.

Department for Water Resources (2000) *State Water Plan*, DWR, Government of South Australia.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (1994) *Human Services Planning Kit*, 2nd edn, South Australian Urban Land Trust, DHUD, Government of South Australia.

Department of Human Services and Environment Protection Agency (1999) *South Australian Reclaimed Water Guidelines*, DHS, Government of South Australia.

Department of Justice (various), *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Program*, refer Crime Prevention Unit, Department of Justice, Government of South Australia, <[www.cpu.sa.gov.au/cpted.html](http://www.cpu.sa.gov.au/cpted.html)>.

Department of Transport and Urban Planning (2004) *Designing Out Crime: Design Solutions for Safer Neighbourhoods*, DTUP, Government of South Australia.

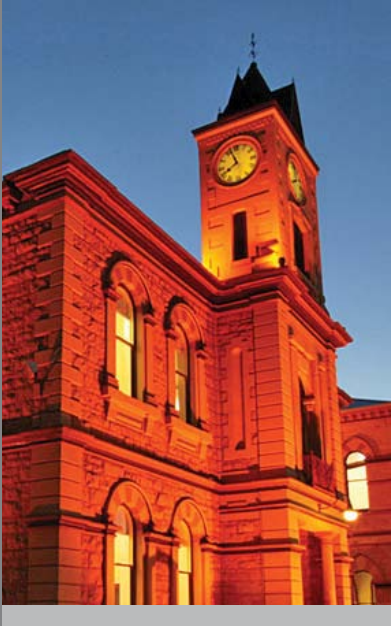
Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation (2006) *State Natural Resources Management Plan*, DWLBC, Government of South Australia.

Economic Development Board (2003) *A Framework for Economic Development in South Australia*, Department of Trade and Economic Development, Government of South Australia.

Econsearch (2008) *The Timber Industry and Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Planning: Socio-Economic Aspects*.

- Environment Australia (2001) *A Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia*, Third Edition
- Environment Protection Authority (EPA) (2006) *Code of Practice for Vessels Management*, EPA, Government of South Australia.
- EPA (2001) *Environmental Guidelines: Resource Recovery and Waste Transfer Depots*, EPA, Government of South Australia.
- EPA (1998) *EPA Guidelines: Major Solid Waste Landfill Depots*, EPA, Government of South Australia.
- EPA (2003) *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy and Explanatory Report*, EPA, Government of South Australia.
- EPA (1997) *Stormwater Pollution Prevention—Code of Practice for Local, State and Federal Government*, EPA, Government of South Australia.
- EPA (1999) *Stormwater Pollution Prevention—Code of Practice for the Building and Construction Industry*, EPA, Government of South Australia.
- EPA (1997) *Stormwater Pollution Prevention—Code of Practice for the Community*, EPA, Government of South Australia.
- EPA (2003) *The State of Our Environment: State of the Environment Report for South Australia 2003*, EPA, Government of South Australia.
- Government of South Australia (2009) *Economic Statement – South Australia’s Prospects for Growth*.
- Government of South Australia (2009) *Guidelines for Plantation Forestry in South Australia*.
- Government of South Australia (2005) *Housing Plan for South Australia*.
- Government of South Australia (2009) *Managing the Water Resource Impacts of Plantation Forests: A Statewide Policy Framework*.
- Government of South Australia (2004) *Prosperity Through People: A Population Policy for South Australia*.
- Government of South Australia (2004) *South Australia’s Broadband Strategy*.
- Government of South Australia (2003) *South Australia’s Draft Transport Plan*.
- Government of South Australia (2004) *South Australia’s Strategic Plan: Creating Opportunity*.
- Government of South Australia (2005) *South Australia’s Strategic Plan: Preliminary Community Engagement Report*.
- Government of South Australia (2001) *State Food Plan 2001–2004*.
- Government of South Australia (2006) *State Natural Resources Management Plan*.
- Government of South Australia (2005) *Strategic Infrastructure Plan for South Australia: Regional Overview 2005-06–2014-15*.
- Government of South Australia (2009) *Water for Good—A Plan to Ensure our Water Future to 2050*
- Government of South Australia (2007) *Tackling Climate Change: South Australia’s Greenhouse Strategy 2007-2020*.
- Government of South Australia (2004) *Unlocking South Australia’s Mineral and Energy Potential: A Plan for Accelerating Exploration*.
- Green Triangle Regional Plantation Committee (2001) *South East Forest Industry Development Strategy*.
- Limestone Coast Regional Development Board (LCRDB) (2007) *2007–2012 Strategic Plan*
- LCRDB (2009) *2009–2010 Action Plan*
- LCRDB (2001) *A Regional Profile*
- LCRDB (2005) *Limestone Coast Plantation Timber 2005 and Beyond*
- Lothian A (2005) ‘Coastal Viewscapes of South Australia’, report prepared for DEH, Government of South Australia.

- Marine and Estuarine Steering Committee (1998) *Our Seas and Coasts: A Marine and Estuarine Strategy for South Australia*, prepared by the Marine and Estuarine Steering Committee, Adelaide.
- McInnes KL, Suppiah R, Whetton PH, Hennessy KJ and Jones RN (2003) *Climate Change in South Australia—Report on Assessment of Climate Change, Impacts and Possible Adaptation Strategies Relevant to South Australia*, CSIRO Atmospheric Research.
- Planning SA (1999) *Good Residential Design SA: A Resource for Planning, Designing and Developing Neighbourhoods and Homes*, Planning SA, Government of South Australia.
- Planning SA (2001) *Planning Bulletin: Development in Rural Areas*, Planning SA, Government of South Australia.
- Planning SA (2003) *Planning Bulletin: Extractive Industries*, Planning SA, Government of South Australia.
- Planning SA (1998) *Planning Bulletin: Industrial Development*, Planning SA, Government of South Australia.
- Planning SA (2000) *Planning Bulletin: Waste Infrastructure—Resource Recovery Centres*, Planning SA, Government of South Australia.
- Planning SA (2007) *Report on Outcomes of Focus groups for the SA Ageing Atlas: Age and its Implications for Social and Planning Policy*, prepared by AHURI, Planning SA, Government of South Australia.
- Primary Industries and Resources SA (PIRSA) (2001) *State Dryland Salinity Strategy and Directions for Managing Salinity in South Australia*, PIRSA, Government of South Australia.
- South East Natural Resources Management Board (SENRMB) (2001) *Tatiara Water Allocation Plan*.
- SENRMB (2007) *Water Allocation Plan for the Lower Limestone Coast Prescribed Wells Area: Pre-draft for A2 consultation*.
- SENRMB (2009) *Padthaway Water Allocation Plan*.
- South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) and DEH (2003) *Responsible Nature-based Tourism Strategy 2004–2009*, SATC and DEH, Government of South Australia.
- SATC (2005) *Design Guidelines for Sustainable Tourism Development, Draft for consultation*, SATC, Government of South Australia.
- SATC (2008) *Limestone Coast Regional Tourism Profile 2008*.
- SATC (2002) *South Australian Tourism Plan 2003–2008: Inspiring Partnerships for Sustainable Tourism*, SATC, Government of South Australia.
- State of Victoria and Government of South Australia (2009) *Green Triangle Region Freight Action Plan: A joint initiative of the Victorian and South Australian Governments*.
- Zero Waste SA (2005) *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2005–2010*, Zero Waste SA, Government of South Australia.



# GLOSSARY



# GLOSSARY

<b>Acid sulfate soils</b>	The common name given to naturally occurring soils containing iron sulfides (predominantly pyrite). When exposed to oxygen due to drainage, excavation or disturbance, they produce sulfuric acid and trigger the release of iron, aluminium and heavy metals. Once mobilised, the acid and minerals can kill vegetation, destroy building materials and seep into wetlands, killing fish and other aquatic organisms.
<b>Affordable housing</b>	Affordable housing is housing that is appropriate to the needs of households with low and moderate incomes (that is, up to 120 per cent of gross annual median income). The indicative affordable house purchase price for these groups—currently \$225,000—is determined by the affordability indicators gazetted on 8 October 2009 (p. 4818) or in the <i>Development Act 1993</i> and South Australian Housing Trust (General) Regulations 1995.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	The variety of life in all its forms and at all levels of organisation, as well as the ecological and evolutionary processes through which genes, species and ecosystems interact with one another and with their environment.
<b>Climate change</b>	A change in the state of the climate that can be identified by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer ( <i>The Garnaut Climate Change Review, 2008</i> ).
<b>Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS)</b>	A system or scheme that is installed and operated by an individual council for the collection, treatment and disposal (including by recycling) of wastewater.
<b>Density</b>	Density is a measure of the population (persons) or the number of dwelling units in a given area.
<b>Development Plans</b>	Development Plans should seek to promote the provisions of the Planning Strategy and may set out to include planning or development objectives or principles. They are the principal document in South Australia used to assess development.
<b>Distributed or embedded generation</b>	Where a generating unit is connected to a distribution network and not having direct access to the transmission network.

Employment lands	Concentrated areas where people are employed on a full- or part-time basis in a wide range of employment industry categories including: agriculture; mining; electricity; construction; wholesaling; communication; finance; property; government; cultural and personal services; education, health and community services; manufacturing; retailing; accommodation; and cafes and restaurants.
Freight corridors	Road or rail corridors for the movement of freight.
Green industry	Green industries are primarily concerned with the supply of energy from renewable sources such as wind, solar and water (including waste), and those industries concerned with assisting other sectors of the economy to meet the climate change challenge by reducing their reliance on carbon-based energy supply.
Greenhouse gas emissions	Polluting carbon substances released into the atmosphere.
Gross state product (GSP)	Gross state product is the measurement of economic output of the state. It is the sum of all value added by industries in the state.
Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA)	An Indigenous Land Use Agreement is a voluntary agreement between a native title group and others for the use and management of the land and/or water covered by the agreement.
Rural living	Large residential allotments outside towns that allow for minor primary production activity.
Strategic Management Plans	The <i>Local Government Act 1999</i> requires councils to apply a strategic approach in all actions they undertake through the preparation of Strategic Management Plans. These plans articulate council goals and objectives and the vision for the community and are intended to complement the regional volumes of the South Australian Planning Strategy, that is, the <i>Limestone Coast Region Plan</i> .
Sustainable development	Forms of development that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
Water demand	Water demand is taken to be the measurement of all water uses in the region from all water sources for the purposes of essential human needs, the economy and the environment.

<b>Water infrastructure</b>	Water infrastructure includes treatment systems (including wetlands), pumps, pipelines, storages (including aquifers) and other natural or constructed means of transferring water of appropriate quality from its source to the demand point.
<b>Water security</b>	Water security has been taken to mean the availability of an appropriate quantity of water at an appropriate quality to meet the needs of the community. This includes the provision of potable and fit-for-purpose water supplies, collection and treatment of wastewater and the management of stormwater and groundwater resources.
<b>Water-sensitive urban design (WSUD)</b>	<p>Water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) is an approach to urban planning and design that integrates the management of the total water cycle into the urban development process. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ the integrated management of groundwater, surface run-off (including stormwater), drinking water and wastewater to protect water-related environmental, recreational and cultural values</li> <li>■ the storage, treatment and beneficial use of run-off</li> <li>■ the treatment and re-use of wastewater</li> <li>■ using vegetation for treatment purposes, water-efficient landscaping and enhancing biodiversity</li> <li>■ using water-saving measures inside and outside domestic, commercial, industrial and institutional premises to minimise requirements for drinking and non-drinking water supplies.</li> </ul> <p>WSUD incorporates all water resources, including surface water, groundwater, urban and roof run-off, and wastewater.</p>

# #MYMTG

A YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR MOUNT GAMBIER

## Introduction

A key initiative of Council's Community Plan – The Futures Paper 2016-2020, the Youth Engagement Strategy recognises and responds to the fundamental role that young people between the age of 12 and 25 play as citizens and integral members of our community.

The Strategy also reflects Council's commitment to ensuring that young people have input into the future planning of our City and works to ensure that Mount Gambier continues to evolve as a place that celebrates and supports its younger population.

From the outset, it was important that this strategy was informed and driven by our youth. Initial brainstorming sessions with 'City Youth' - Council's Youth Advisory Group, informed the development of an engagement strategy, mapping stakeholders and defining a range of activities to capturing a broad cross-section of young people who work, live, visit or study in Mount Gambier.

Engagement activities were designed to encourage participants to explore:

- *What's great about Mount Gambier as a place for young people?*
- *What's not great about Mount Gambier as a place for young people?*
- *What matters most for the future?*
- *What we'd like to see happen in Mount Gambier?*
- *Whose role is it to make things happen?*

Branded #MyMTG, the engagement program was launched by Councillor Josh Lynagh on Friday 11 August 2017 in conjunction with the Limestone Coast Careers Expo, in the presence of secondary students from throughout the region, members of City Youth and Council staff.

Opportunities for young people to engage with Council through the engagement period received broad promotion through print and digital media channels, local schools and the Library and Main Corner.

In collaboration with Elected Members, Council staff local business and community sector, consultation continued for 4 months, engaging a total of 694 young people across 16 separate events and activities.

In addition to the engagement activity led by Council, the project also benefited from the participation of Ms Julie Baum, a final year Social Work student from the University of South Australia who completed a placement with Council. Julie engaged 60 young people in exploring the indicators, impacts and perceptions of social exclusion in Mount Gambier (Attachment 1). As part of this study, participants explored:

- The degree they felt they belonged and 'were a part of' Mount Gambier
- The achievability of education and employment locally; and
- The sense of fulfillment of the lifestyle that Mount Gambier offered.

Concurrent to the engagement activity undertaken by Council, South Australia's first Commissioner for children and young people, Helen Connolly kicked off her Listening Tour in Mount Gambier (Attachment 2) in response to the initiative undertaken by the Youth Advisory Group to provide a submission to the Council for the Care of Children illustrating their expectations of what the Commissioner should be, do and achieve.

## The Engagement Strategy

Recognising the evolving needs and interests of young people, particularly in the progression to independence, an initial stakeholder mapping exercise assisted in defining age-appropriate and targeted engagement activities for each cohort.

	Age (yrs)	What's potentially happening?	Engagement opportunities
<b>Early Adolescence</b>	12	Transitioning to secondary education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School based workshops</li> <li>• Student representative committees</li> <li>• Library workshops</li> <li>• Sport and recreational based activity</li> <li>• Community youth groups (Scouts, Guides etc)</li> </ul>
	13	Defining identity and defining relationships	
	14	Desire for independence Defining education pathway	
<b>Middle Adolescence</b>	15	Able to commence casual employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interest based workshops</li> <li>• Student representative committees</li> <li>• Engagement activity at recreational spaces (i.e. skate park, sporting facilities etc)</li> <li>• Engagement through large employers or age groups</li> <li>• Service providers and alternative education providers</li> <li>• Community youth groups</li> </ul>
	16	Able to apply for learners driving permit	
	17	Year 11 or 12 or leaving school	
	18	Legal purchase of alcohol	
	19	Transition to tertiary study or a level of employment Increased independence	
<b>Late Adolescence/ Young Adult</b>	20	Further definition of career or employment/underemployment level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAFE and Universities</li> <li>• Service providers</li> <li>• Employment agencies</li> <li>• Young Professionals networks</li> <li>• Employers/Chamber of commerce</li> <li>• Café's, clubs and night entertainment venues</li> </ul>
	21	Potential completion of study	
	22	Self-supported accommodation	
	23	Increased sense of identity	
	24	Potential decreased participation in sport	
	25		

## Engagement Activity

### City Youth – City of Mount Gambier Youth Advisory Group

Integral to the delivery of the engagement strategy, regular meetings with City Youth provided both a sounding board for the project team and an opportunity to fine tune consultation activities. City Youth were also presented with copies of the feedback and data collected from each activity, prompting discussion and further articulating final recommendations for the Strategy.

### Online Hub

An online hub was created on Have Your Say Mount Gambier ([www.haveyoursaymountgambier.com.au/mymtg](http://www.haveyoursaymountgambier.com.au/mymtg)) to provide a central location for information about the Youth Engagement Strategy. This page attracted 630 visitors during the engagement period.

## Limestone Coast Career Expo Stand



With the assistance of Elected Members, Council staff and members of City Youth, a #MyMTG stand was held at the Limestone Coast Career Expo on 11 August 2017. This stand created an excellent opportunity to promote the Engagement Strategy and capture surveys from students from across the region.

### Graphic Surveys

Colourful and single page surveys were created to present key survey questions in an informal and fun manner. Respondents wrote or drew their responses. These surveys became incredibly useful as non-intimating ways to engage with young people individually or in group sessions.

### Chalk Boards

Located at various Council sites and at youth oriented events, #MyMTG chalk boards were used to capture responses to a variety of broad questions relating to the strategy. These questions included:

- *What's most important to for the future?*
- *What's awesome about Mount Gambier?*
- *If you could change one thing about Mount Gambier, what would it be?*
- *What would you like to see happen in Mount Gambier?*
- *What is it about Mount Gambier that we could improve?*

Throughout sections of the engagement period, chalk boards were located at:

- The Independent Learning Centre
- The Main Corner
- Mount Gambier Library
- Melaleuca Reserve
- City Youth 'Escape Room' event
- Mount Gambier TAFE.

### Space or Group Focused Workshops/Interviews

To ensure that consultation could occur in spaces which felt comfortable to the target audiences, members of the project team sought the opportunity to attend places where young people were already gathering or regularly frequented. As a result, a range of consultations, interviews or workshops were held at spaces such as:

- Headspace
- Melaleuca Reserve
- Mount Gambier Library
- Macs Hotel
- Mount Gambier TAFE
- Metro Bakery
- AF Sutton Reserve Skate Park; and
- Daktari Sports Store



**Student Leaders Roundtable**

Bringing together 10 student leaders from each high school in Mount Gambier, a Student Leader’s Roundtable was staged at City Hall. Students participated in a number of group sessions facilitated by Elected Members, Council staff and members of City Youth.

**Online Surveys**

Hosted on the Have Your Say web site, online surveys provided a valuable source of well-considered feedback from a range young city users. To encourage participation, 2 Harvey Norman Gift Vouchers were randomly awarded throughout the consultation period. These surveys were completed by 60 young people between the ages of 12-25.



**Young Professionals Roundtable**

Staged at Macs Hotel, the Young professionals Roundtable brought together 10 young people who live and work in Mount Gambier. Participants worked in a range of sectors including health, media, forestry, manufacturing, education and government.

**Review**

As a final step in the engagement process, a community update was published and distributed in October 2017 to a cross-section of participants who had participated to date (Attachment 3).

This update provided an overview of the consistent messages that Council had heard from our youth throughout the engagement period.

**Participation**

Over 4 months 694 young people provided input into the Youth Engagement Strategy across 16 separate engagement activities.

This included:

- **141** participants in workshops, interviews and roundtable consultations
- **493** completed surveys; and
- **60** participants in interviews and small workshop sessions with Julie Baum (University of South Australia Student Placement).

**Have Your Say Mount Gambier Online Survey**

Of the 60 young people who participated in the online survey:

<b>Location:</b>	<b>85%</b> lived in Mount Gambier <b>15%</b> lived elsewhere in the region and visited for education, employment, entertainment or services
<b>Gender:</b>	<b>23.3%</b> identified as male <b>76.6%</b> identified as female
<b>Age:</b>	<b>21.7%</b> were aged 12-14 <b>35%</b> were aged 15-19 <b>43.3%</b> were aged 20-25



## Career Expo Survey

Of the 433 young people who completed a survey at the Limestone Coast Career Expo:

<b>Location:</b>	<b>52.4%</b> lived in Mount Gambier <b>47.6%</b> lived elsewhere in the region and visited for education, employment, entertainment or services.
<b>Gender:</b>	<b>38.7%</b> identified as male <b>60.8%</b> identified as female <b>0.5%</b> identified as other
<b>Age:</b>	<b>16%</b> were aged 12-14 <b>81.9%</b> were aged 15-19 <b>2.1%</b> were aged 20-25

### Those engaged through roundtable and targeted activity included:

- Young musicians
- Friendship Force (Young Carers)
- Skate Park users
- Limestone Coast STEM students
- Melaleuca Reserve users – (Door knock and community barbeque)
- Library Youth Space users
- Headspace Youth Reference Group members
- Independent Learning Centre (Metro Bakery mentoring group).
- Daktari Sports Store Management (non-youth)
- Mount Gambier Mountain Bike President (non-youth)

## Youth Response

All submissions have been reviewed (Summary Attachment 4) with the consistent message received from our Youth based around passive and commercial activities. Generally the availability of public space is of high value and regularly used however, the decline in commercial offerings is of particular concern. Transport and affordable accessibility also remain a barrier to participation.

A snapshot of responses include:

What do you like about Life in Mount Gambier?

- We enjoy 'urban country life' as the city is the right size to have some of the benefits of a city, with the feel of a large country town.
- We have some shopping and entertainment options like the cinema and 10 pin bowling.
- For most, the presence of friends and family creates an important ongoing connection to the city.
- Local people are friendly and the size of the city helps people to get to know and support one another.
- We have access to some great services, particularly the Library where we can learn things, meet people and hang out.
- We enjoy the high quality of parks, gardens and recreational spaces.
- The accessibility of the beach and other unique natural environments adds value to the lifestyle that we enjoy locally.
- We have a strong sporting culture and a range of options available
- Mostly, we feel safe when we're out and about in the community
- If you live in the city, it's easy to get around.

What don't you like about life in Mount Gambier?

- We lack entertainment options for young people.
- In winter and in the evenings, there's even less for young people to do in the city.

- Our live music scene is limited, we often miss out on touring acts and when they do visit, they're often only accessible to adults.
- We're worried about the presence of drugs in our community.
- Many of our commercial entertainment options (go-karts, roller skating, laser-tag and video arcades) have closed.
- We lack an all-weather aquatic facility.
- Limited housing options that are desirable to young professionals.
- Empty shops take away from the vibrancy of the city and make us worried for the future.
- For those of us who out of town, transport to the city is challenging.
- Our skate parks are often crowded, particularly with bmx and scooter riders
- Free wifi in the city is limited in availability and often of poor quality
- As local tertiary study options are limited, in most cases, we have to move if we want to continue our education.
- We lack places to just 'hang out', particularly in the evenings or in winter.

#### Issues of Youth Exclusion

- Lack of sustainable employment
- Limited opportunities to enter employment if unskilled or unknown
- Expensive private rental
- Government housing long waiting lists
- Family breakdown leaves you homeless
- Moving to a new town to study separates me from my networks
- Family circumstances, Domestic Violence, Drug and Alcohol Abuse all affect my ability to stay connected to school
- Not enough further education opportunities locally
- Limited service access for those on the perimeter of Mount Gambier
- Limited specialist medical services
- Social stigma for some areas
- Social stigma on youth

#### Social Issues

- Homelessness/Couch surfing
- Boredom
- Drugs
- Peer pressure, bullying

#### Recommendations

1. Fit for purpose recreational facilities	Strategic Alignment
1.1 Council develop a recreational strategy that gives holistic consideration to the delivery of all recreational assets across the city 1.2 Council consider the health, wellbeing and social benefits clearly articulated by young people regarding the development of an indoor pool facility/aquatic centre 1.3 Council further the proposal that was submitted to Fund My Neighbourhood and introduce a Pump Track at Hastings Cunningham Reserve that extends the all age offering of recreational assets	Futures Paper, Community Plan, Regional Health Plan, Social Inclusion Charter, City Growth Strategy, Youth Engagement Strategy
2. Engaging with Public Space	Strategic Alignment
2.1 Council maintain the quality standard of our Parks and Gardens 2.2 Council facilitate community and commercial activation (short, medium and long term) in public spaces such as the Crater Lake precinct	Futures Paper, Community Plan, Regional Health Plan, Social Inclusion Charter,

2.3 Council invest in programming which provide youth-led public art outcomes (eg YAG proposal - Attachment 5)	City Growth Strategy, Digital Strategy, Culture and Heritage Plan, Youth Engagement Strategy
2.4 Council acknowledge the value to young people in extending the provision of high quality Wi-Fi services to the CBD	
<b>3. Create an accessible, welcoming and engaging CBD for young people</b>	<b>Strategic Alignment</b>
3.1 Council considers the development of a CBD precinct activation group to foster community leadership	Futures Paper, Community Plan, Regional Health Plan, Social Inclusion Charter, City Growth Strategy, Digital Strategy, Econ Search Report, Culture and Heritage Plan, Youth Engagement Strategy
3.2 Council review internal systems to support opportunities which encourage entrepreneurial youth participation in the CBD	
3.3 Included in Urban Planning, Council considers the needs of young people to enjoy safe and accessible spaces in the public realm in the early evenings	
3.4 Council actively encourage the development of commercial environments which are safe, affordable and attractive to young people.	
3.5 Council work with existing transport providers to review access to reliable and affordable transport particularly in the evenings and weekends	
<b>4. Creating a sustainable, vibrant and visual youth culture</b>	<b>Strategic Alignment</b>
4.1 Develop a live music action plan to build capacity of our city to sustain a vibrant live music culture	Futures Paper, Community Plan, Social Inclusion Charter, Econ Search Report, Culture and Heritage Plan, Youth Engagement Strategy
4.2 Encourage delivery of events which attract an all-ages audience	
4.3 Council facilitate partnerships with education providers and businesses to foster viable employment pathways	
<b>5. Social Issues</b>	<b>Strategic Alignment</b>
5.1 Advocate and actively support initiatives and services that identify and address youth at risk of homelessness and disengagement	Futures Paper, Community Plan, Regional Health Plan, Reconciliation Action Plan, Social Inclusion Charter, Youth Engagement Strategy, Community Engagement and Social Inclusion sub committee
5.2 Advocate and actively support initiatives and services that address drug, alcohol and substance abuse	

## Summary

The Youth Engagement Strategy identifies some focused work in the future to articulate recreation strategies and gain a clearer measure on our local social issues. Revealed throughout the consultation is the increasing vulnerability issues for youth in Mount Gambier. Youth unemployment is sitting at 14.5% for Mount Gambier, this is above the Regional SA average of 13.4%. The undercurrent of homelessness and couch surfing, whilst known to services providers, is an issue that can easily be silent if reliant on traditional data sources. The increasing incidence of disengagement and homelessness has drawn attention from the University of South Australia, Uniting Communities and the Service to Youth Council who have partnered in a two year Community of Schools and Youth Services Early Intervention Pilot to identify those Youth at risk of disengagement and homelessness and offering a range of preventative support.

Synergies in feedback from both the Culture and Heritage Plan and Youth Engagement consultation regarding solutions for youth development and engagement is of value as we move toward building the capacity of our community. The youth of Mount Gambier have a strong role to play in our future and implementing outcomes identified in our strategic framework. Delivery of collaborative outcomes with our

community, business and education sectors to support youth employment opportunities ensures a sustainable approach to the growth of Mount Gambier.

Attachments:

1. Social Exclusion – Indicators, impacts and perceptions of Youth in Mount Gambier
2. 'Listening Tour' Regional Wrap Up – Commissioner for Children and Young People, Helen Connolly
3. Community Update – Youth Engagement Strategy
4. Feedback Summary – Youth Engagement Strategy
5. YAG Street Art Proposal

# SOCIAL EXCLUSION – INDICATORS, IMPACTS AND PERCEPTIONS OF YOUTH IN MOUNT GAMBIER



1/1/2017

A Report by Julie Baum  
4th Year Social Work Student – University of South Australia

## Contents

Acknowledgements	2
Introduction	3
Background Data	5
Indicators	7
Impacts	9
Perceptions	11
Discussion	15
Recommendations	16
Reference list	17
Appendix	18

## Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the collaboration and support of the Mount Gambier City Council team including; Barbara Cernovskis – General Manager Community Wellbeing, Alison Brash – Community Development Officer and Ben Kilsby – Community and Stakeholder Engagement Officer. I appreciate being provided the opportunity to undertake my final placement with the Council, and thank you for working with me through the process. Thank you also to the services who supported my research project, The Migrant Resource Centre and Independent Learning Centre.

I would also like to acknowledge the support from Sandi Seymour – Field Placement Officer, University of South Australia, your knowledge of literature has always amazed me. And finally I would like to give a special mention to Paula McCubbin – Student Supervisor, thank you for being an ear to hear, mirror to reflect, an encouraging word and teacher.

Julie Baum – Social Work Student, University of South Australia

## Introduction

In recent decades Governments and policy makers on a local, national and global scale have been discussing and implementing strategies for social inclusion in communities. Society is increasingly recognizing where individuals and groups of people are becoming disconnected, isolated, and disengaged from each other, and their community.

This lack of connection/segregation from the community has been identified in literature as social exclusion:

“Social exclusion involves the lack of or denial of resources, rights, goods and services, and the inability to participate in the normal relationships and activities, available to the majority of people in a society, whether in economic, social, cultural or political arenas. It affects both the quality of life of individuals and the equity and cohesion of society as a whole.” (Crous & Bradshaw 2017)

Social Exclusion has become the 'go to' phrase, it is the terminology most commonly used in literature today to provide a framework for understanding preclusion of individuals in society. What is well recognized is the impact of exclusion in relation to youth, they face a rapidly evolving world where they are more closely connected on a global scale (technology, media, internet), but are less connected on an individual personal level.

Family and community structures have changed, the current labor market has greatly impacted employment for youth, and there are comparatively fewer full time apprenticeships available, than in years gone by. Youth are now reliant on casual or part-time roles often having more than 1 job at a time to survive. Our housing market both in rentals and home buyers has become unaffordable and almost unattainable for most youth.



## Introduction

While the expectation on youth to achieve a higher education due to the competitiveness in the market often precludes young people from gaining sustainable employment and/or future possibilities for career growth.

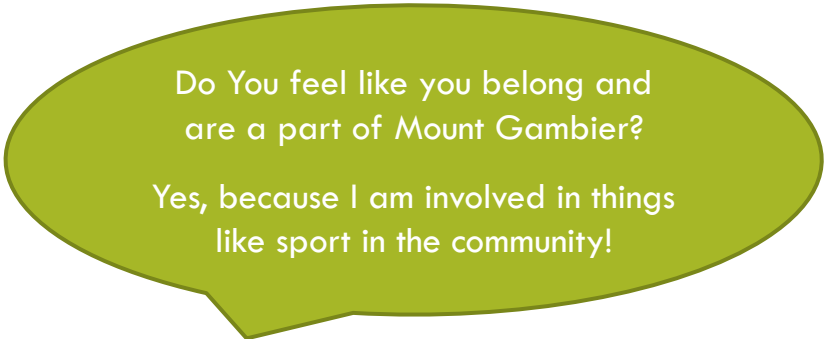
While unemployment, housing and family structures are all factors in social exclusion, the exclusionary process is also related to the assumptions held by society, the truths/untruths by which their perceptions and biases are attained (Burns et.al, 2008). These perceptions often lead to barriers which further increase the risk of disengaging youth. Barriers can be both physical (preventing a person from engaging in services), and personal (stigma, stereotyping, labeling). As a society we place labels on individuals, 'unemployed', 'lower socio-economic', 'uneducated', to name a few. Once this label or stigma has been placed upon a person, they are then subjected to barriers which impact their ability to engage in and be connected to those around them (Burns, et.al, 2008).

Whether we are attempting to understand social exclusion, or finding indicators and labels for what this means and how it is represented, this is a 'topic' which must be addressed if we as a society want to be inclusive.

The following report seeks to gain an awareness of social exclusion of youth in Mount Gambier, to provide an awareness of what social exclusion looks like, how it is perceived, how it effects and impacts those who are excluded and what can be done to affect change for the future.

## Background Data

The following report is based on the research undertaken by Julie Baum into Social Exclusion of Youth in Mount Gambier. Being excluded in a social context means that an individual may not feel included in society and/or, be denied access to opportunities. To be able to gain a deep understanding of what this could mean to youth in Mount Gambier, the questions were developed to gain insight into the feelings and lived experience of youth, seeking to understand if they felt a sense of belonging in their community. The questions were designed to ascertain the following; did the youth believe they were excluded, if so in what ways and why, and what can be done in our community to change this.



Do You feel like you belong and  
are a part of Mount Gambier?

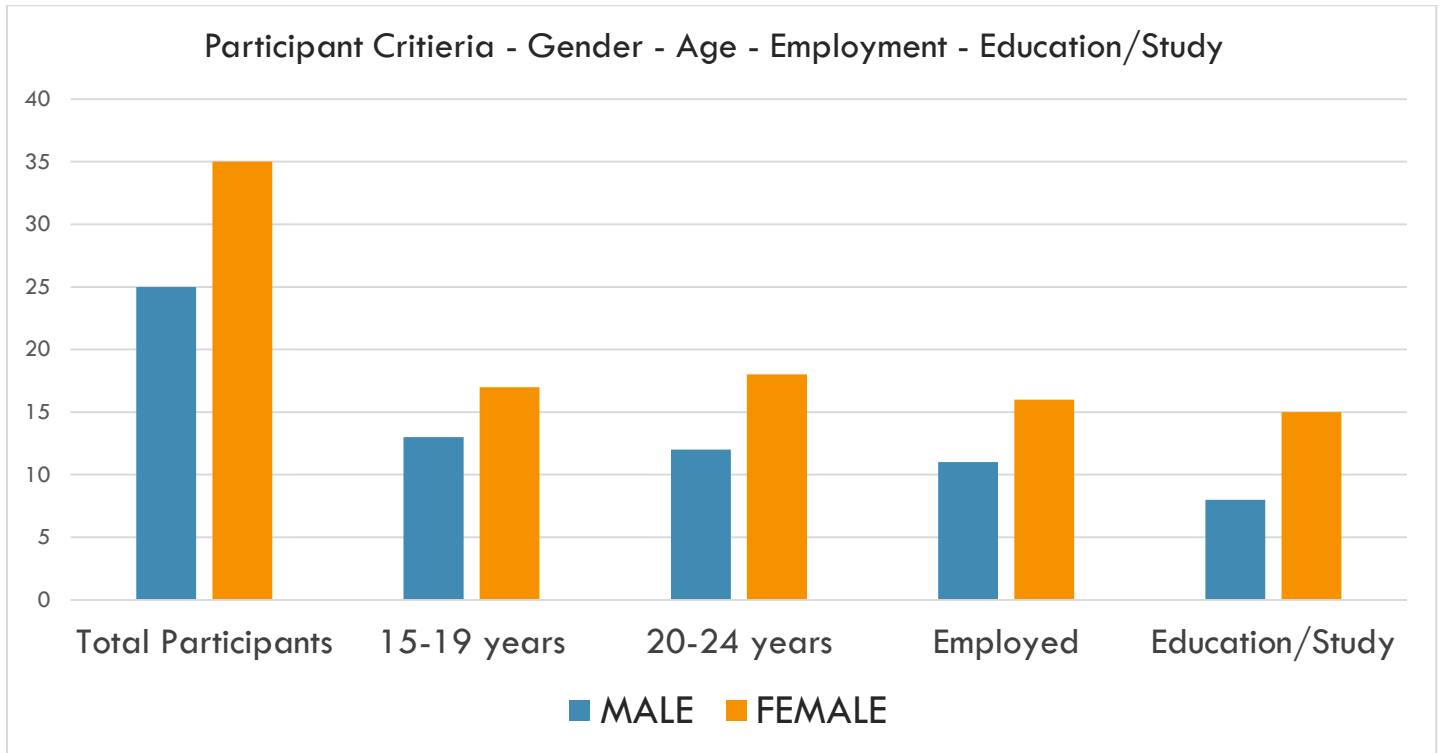
Yes, because I am involved in things  
like sport in the community!

The questions asked in the research were as follows;

- Do you feel like you belong, that you are a part of the Mount Gambier Community?
- If you do not feel like you belong, can you tell me why?
- What is here in Mount Gambier that makes you want to stay?
- Can you do things you want to do here, if so what are they?
- What can you not do here, what would you like to do or have here?
- Do you believe there will be job opportunities for you here, if not where will you go?
- Do you believe you will be able to get the further education you want here, if not where will you go
- If your Mount Gambier community could be different, how would that look to you?

## Background Data

### Data analysis of participants

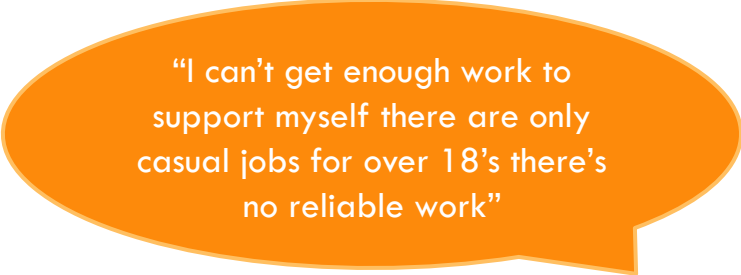


The following is background information on the participant sample;

- Total number of participants was 60
- 11 participants were ILC (Independent Learning Centre) students
- 7 participants were from the MRC (Migrant Resource Centre)
- 9 participants were Uni students – 8 full-time and 1 part-time
- The remaining 33 participants were interviewed through direct engagement in the community (shopping centre's, main street, local parks etc)
- The majority of participants were interviewed during normal business hours with the exception of 8 participants interviewed on the weekend

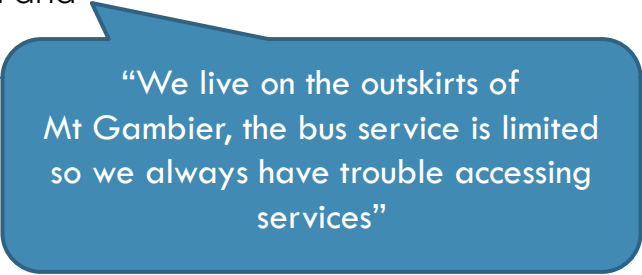
## Indicators

The indicators/causes of social exclusion can be identified through; unemployment, poor housing, education capacity, family/relationship breakdown, limited opportunities to access/utilize services and disengagement and isolation from the community.



“I can’t get enough work to support myself there are only casual jobs for over 18’s there’s no reliable work”

These factors are exacerbated for youth who live in regional areas where there are higher unemployment rates for youth aged 18-25 years, less private housing opportunities and lengthy waiting lists for public housing (6-7 Years), (Housing SA, 2017). Services for both physical health and mental wellbeing are difficult for some young people to access, or unavailable due to limited service providers in regional settings. Exclusion is also recognized through an individual’s participation in society. It is the inter-relationships between friends, family, social networks and community that all play a role in a person feeling a sense of belonging, (Pouw & Hodgkinson 2016). Segregation from the community is often seen in individuals and groups who are stigmatized by socio-economic areas and social status. Sheppard (2006) suggests when a person perceives that stigma is real or assumed, that it can cause individuals and groups to disengage and separate themselves from society. This was further supported through discussions held at the Melaleuca Community Day, where participants noted that they feel ‘set apart’ from and believe they are less valued than people who live in other areas of Mount Gambier.



“We live on the outskirts of Mt Gambier, the bus service is limited so we always have trouble accessing services”

## Indicators cont.

The following indicators were identified by the Youth who participated in the research;

- Lack of sustainable employment
- Limited opportunities to enter employment if unskilled or unknown
- Expensive private rental
- Government housing long waiting lists
- Family breakdown leaves you homeless
- Moving to a new town to study separates me from my networks
- Family circumstances, Domestic Violence, Drug and Alcohol abuse all affect my ability to stay connected to school
- Not enough further education opportunities locally
- Limited service access for those on the perimeter of Mount Gambier
- Limited medical services  
(Often have to be sent to Adelaide for major treatment)
- Social stigma for some areas
- Social stigma on youth



“I can’t live at home anymore but I can’t afford private rental so I couch surf”

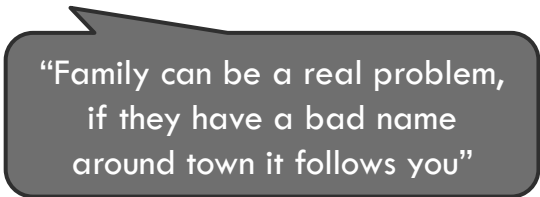
There are clear identifiable similarities between the participant data and information found in literature regarding the indicators of social exclusion. What is evident for the Youth of Mount Gambier is that housing, unemployment, social networks and service availability are all key factors in inclusion. Each of these play a role in their sense of belonging or not belonging, and whether or not they feel isolated, disconnected or segregated from their community.

## Impacts

An individual who feels 'socially excluded' can often feel as though they do not belong or that they are not a part of anything (including friendships, family, support networks and the community). There can be a sense of isolation, they can feel precluded from opportunities and sometimes feel as though they are being barred from participating. Consider the following 2 case studies;

### Case Study; 19 Year old Male

- You did not attain your high school certificate due to family breakdown
- You feel inadequate to try any other form of education or training
- You do not have a job and no one will give you a chance
- You have to rely on Centrelink support payments to survive, with this comes social stigma due to society's expectations for you to look after yourself
- Due to family circumstances you sometimes find yourself having to 'couch surf'
- You are now excluded from society because you cannot get a job, you live in poor housing and you cannot get the education you need to get a job
- You now live with stigma related living in the lower socio-economic area
- You are excluded from participating in the community due to financial and transport limitations



“Family can be a real problem, if they have a bad name around town it follows you”

### Case Study; 21 Year old Female

- You moved to Mt Gambier to do Uni, leaving all of your family and support
- You cannot get any work because no one knows you here
- You have to rely on Centrelink and family support for your finances and housing
- You feel isolated in this new community, and your support networks are far away


## Impacts cont.

- As you do not have friendships here you find it hard to connect with other young people your age as you do not go out drinking or nightclubbing
- You are excluded from participating fully in community activities due to financial limitations
- You are excluded because you don't fit in with the 'norm' of youth society

While these scenarios are completely different both of these young people are in some way 'set apart' from people in their community. Exclusion comes through a complex series of issues, one form of exclusion (poor education) can often lead to secondary exclusion (unemployment), and further into subsequent exclusion (intergenerational poverty), Pouw & Hodgkinson (2016). Feeling separated from society can cause both physical and psychological impacts on individuals, feeling as though they have no control over their lives (Heikkinen, 2000) and leading them to feel isolated, segregated and devalued in their community.

Impacts identified by the research participants included;

- Isolation from peers
- Stigma from services
- Racism
- Ostracized from the community
- Low self-worth
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Segregated at school



As Refugees we had to tolerate a lot of racism when we first arrived, it made me very sad and it took me a long time to settle here

## Perceptions

Perceptions are the thoughts, feelings, and ideas of the youth that were interviewed in the research. Each young person interviewed was provided a forum to have their voice heard, this was to hear how they felt and also an opportunity for them to present their views on what the community means to them and how they do or do not belong.

The data gathered in the research was able to identify several common threads amongst all interviewees, they were;

- There was an overall good sense of belonging to their community
- It is their connections to family, friends and activities they like which keep them here
- They are concerned for their future job prospects here
- They believe there are limits to further education here
- Social stigma impacts opportunities

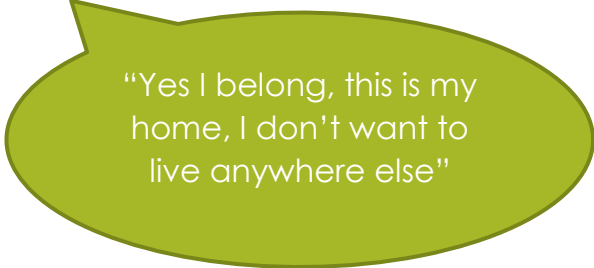




## Perceptions cont.

The majority of participants said that they have a sense of belonging in Mount Gambier, that they feel a part of the community and they feel included.

- Of the 48 participants who have a sense of belonging, 35 identified as strongly connected, 13 identified as well connected.
- 12 participants moved to Mount Gambier within the last 3 years for family or study reasons, 10 identified as feeling included and developing a sense of belonging, 2 identified as not belonging (still feel tied to previous community)



"Yes I belong, this is my home, I don't want to live anywhere else"

There were 3 identified factors which related to participants feeling connected, they were their family, friends and activities.

- 36 participants identified family connections as the key factor in their sense of belonging
- 19 participants identified friend connections as the key factor in their sense of belonging
- 44 participants identified activities they are involved in (sport, music, church, volunteering and community activities) as being a factor in their sense of belonging



"Support from my family and friends makes me feel like I belong"

## Perceptions cont.

The participants identified 2 key areas of concern, they are worried about their future job prospects and the possibilities for further education locally. Both of these concerns lead the youth to question if they will have to leave their community in the near future.

- 36 participants were very concerned about future job prospects, will they get the employment they want, will there be jobs here in the future and will it be sustainable employment
- 22 participants believe they will need to move to the city to gain the employment they want, or get a sustainable job of any description
- 11 participants said they will have to move to the city to do the University degree they want as there are not enough options locally

"People know my family (their issues), when I go to get help from a service, or if I am sent for a job, people treat me the same as them without giving me a chance"

"I want a full-time job, it's very limiting here, how far can I go here before I have to move"

Social stigma was the last key factor identified as a signifier of exclusion for youth, this stigma was seen in the location a person lived, their ethnicity, their family relationships, socio-economic status and youth stereotyping.

- 14 participants believe that socio-economic stereotyping impacts their ability to achieve employment
- 9 participants stated that their ethnic/cultural background caused them to be stigmatized through misbeliefs and racism
- 22 participants identified being on unemployment caused them to be stigmatized
- 4 participants identified being stereotyped due to 'family' connections

## Perceptions cont.

The following are key comments made during the interviews;

“I think Mount Gambier is better than other places I have visited, it is safer here and easy to make friends”

“There is a sense of familiarity here, people know you, you feel like you are a part of the town”

“I can do most things I like and want to do here (except when the weather is bad)”

“I like that fact that it’s small enough to have everything close but big enough that you can’t get what you need here”

“I cannot do my University degree here, I will have to leave my family and that makes me sad”

“There are some work opportunities here, I work part-time but I think I will have to move to the city to get more work”

“Some of us think Mount Gambier has a ‘feral’ reputation, the drugs, violence especially with youth is bad”

“If you’re not 18 you miss out on a lot of the ‘youth’ activities offered ie; bands that come to town”

“If you don’t have money there isn’t much to do in town”

“There aren’t many things for over 18’s to do that don’t involve alcohol, or are not at venues with alcohol”

“I will probably have to move when I finish my teaching degree here as there are not many future job opportunities here”

## Discussion

What this report has identified is that the majority of youth interviewed in the research feel a sense of belonging to Mount Gambier. Whilst there is a strong sense of belonging, there is also a significant sense of being disadvantaged, precluded and isolated. Social exclusion is a relevant issue for youth today, this report provides an opportunity to gain insight into what the youth in our community feel and believe to be their lived experience.

Whilst the exclusionary process differs amongst the youth through demographics such as socio-economic status, residence, family culture and educational opportunities, there were clearly identifiable similarities in these areas of exclusion. The majority of participants are concerned for their future, will there be jobs for them, can they get the education they need here to get a good job, and will they be able to have their own home one day. There is also the stigma and sense of being ostracized that impacts many of the youth, all of these factors can contribute young people feeling as though they do not belong.

Rapid societal change has led to uncertainties for the future of our youth, it is our responsibility as the adults and leaders of our communities to ensure the youth of tomorrow have the best future possible.

## Recommendations

The current global perspective on youth exclusion suggests that as a worldwide society we must ensure youth are included in their communities through equal opportunities and civic participation. If we expect them to achieve their full potential, then as a community we must reduce the barriers to inclusion and work collaboratively to effect change (Global Forum on Youth Policies Report, 2017).

We firstly need to listen, take the time to have conversations with young people, identify what the needs and challenges are and then act towards effecting change for the future. Whilst as a community we cannot meet everyone's needs, we must start somewhere, find out what is really needed from their perspective and work together to make things happen.

The following is a list of recommendations put forward by the participants;

- Look at expanding the University degrees available here
- Provide a central indoor youth activity centre (alcohol free) for young people to socialize and do activities
- Have regular Youth focused activities in the community – maybe pop-up shops in the empty local shops, provide short term activities such as; Technology games centre (PlayStation etc), pop-up drop in café, free tea and coffee and bikkies, bean bags somewhere to hang out.
- Youth activities in town that include all generations, each teaching others new skills
- Improve transport for perimeter areas of Mount Gambier
- Be a bridge between those of us who want work but don't have the connections, get some businesses to take on and train us so we can get skills
- Establish youth clubs ie; reading, music, board games, art for those of us who do not drink alcohol, there is very little here if you don't go to the pubs or sport
- Provide a venue for music artists that come to town that does not include alcohol
- Provide more under 18 activities
- What about using the old 'Bunnings building' if not this a venue that is enclosed because of the poor weather here

## References

Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS 2017, 2016 Census QuickStats,  
<http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au>

Burns, J, Collin, P, Blanchard, M, De-Freitas, N & Lloyd, S 2008, Preventing Youth Disengagement and Promoting Engagement, Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth, West Perth WA.

Crous, G & Bradshaw, J 2017, Child social exclusion, *Children and Youth Service Review*, vol.80, pp.129-139.

Davie, A 2015, Engaging Young People in Regional, Rural and Remote Australia, Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies 2017,  
[https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/young\\_people\\_in\\_regional\\_rural\\_and\\_remote\\_australia.pdf](https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/young_people_in_regional_rural_and_remote_australia.pdf)

Heikkinen, M 2000, Social Networks of the Marginal Young: A Study of Young People's Social Exclusion in Finland, *Journal of Youth Studies*, vol. 3, no. 4, pp.389-406.

Housing South Australia, Housing SA 2017, <https://dcsi.sa.gov.au/services/housing-sa>

Mission Australia 2017, Youth Survey 2015 South Australia,  
<https://www.missionaustralia.com.au/.../young...mission-australia-youth-survey-2015/file>

Pouw, NRM & Hodgkinson, K 2016, Social Exclusion of Vulnerable Youth – Literature Review, viewed 16 Sept 2017, <http://www.researchgate.net/publication/296834320>

Salvesberg, HJ & Martin-Giles, BM 2008, Young people on the margins: Australian studies of social exclusion, *Journal of Youth Studies*, vol.11, no.1, pp.17-31.

Sheppard, M 2006, Social Work and Social Exclusion: The Idea of Practice, Google books, viewed September 20 2017, <https://books.google.com.au/books?isbn=1409490696>

### Research Participant Data

Gender	Age	School	School F/T – P/T	TAFE/Other F/T – P/T	UNI F/T – P/T	Work F/T – P/T - C	Residence H – I/O
M	15	Y	F/T			P/T	H
M	15	Y	F/T			P/T	H
F	16	Y	P/T - FLO				H
F	16	Y	P/T - FLO				I
M	16	N		P/T		Apprentice	H
M	16	Y	P/T - FLO				H
F	16	Y	F/T			P/T	H
F	17	Y	F/T				H
F	17	Y	F/T			C	H
F	17	Y	P/T – FLO				H
F	17	Y	P/T – FLO	P/T			I
F	17	Y	P/T – FLO	P/T			H
F	17	Y	P/T - FLO				I
M	17	Y	P/T – FLO	P/T			H
M	17	Y	P/T – FLO			C	H
M	17	Y	P/T – FLO	P/T			I
M	17	Y	P/T – FLO				I
M	17	Y	F/T			C	H
F	18						H
F	18					C	H
F	18				P/T		H
F	18						I
M	18						H
F	19				F/T		H
F	19				F/T	C	H

**Social Exclusion – Indicators, Impacts and Perceptions of Youth in Mount Gambier**

Gender	Age	School	School F/T – P/T	TAFE/Other F/T – P/T	UNI F/.T – P/T	Work F/T- P/T - C	Residence H – I/O
F	19				F/T	C	H
F	19			P/T			H
M	19						H
M	19				F/T	C	H
M	19			F/T		Apprentice	H
F	20				F/T		H
F	20				F/T	P/T	I
F	20						I
F	20					C	H
F	20					C	H
M	20					P/T	I
M	20			P/T			H
M	20					F/T	H
F	21				F/T	C	H
F	21					P/T	I
F	21					C	H
M	21						H
M	21					P/T	I
F	22			P/T		C	H
F	22			P/T other			I
F	22					C	H
F	22						H
M	22					P/T	I
M	22						H
F	23			P/T other			H
F	23					P/T	H
M	23				F/T	C	H
M	23					P/T	H



Social Exclusion – Indicators, Impacts and Perceptions of Youth in Mount Gambier

Gender	Age	School	School F/T – P/T	TAFE/Other F/T – P/T	UNI F/T – P/T	Work F/T – P/T - C	Residence H – I/O
M	23					F/T	H
F	24					F/T	I
F	24			P/T			H
F	24					C	H
F	24						H
M	24					P/T	I
M	24						I

Legend: F/T – Full- time, P/T – Part-time, C – Casual, UNI – University, FLO Flexible Learning Options program, H – Home, I/O – Independent/Other

# COMMISSIONER'S REGIONAL WRAP UP

In 2017, I commenced as South Australia's Commissioner for Children and Young People. My role is to position the needs, interests and well-being of children and young people front and centre in policy, practice and services affecting them.

In fulfilling my role I am committed to being a Commissioner who:

- engages in two-way discussions with children and young people
- connects to children and young people in both metro and rural areas
- meets children and young people in their spaces and in their time and this includes at early learning centres, schools and community centres
- liaises with services and advocates alongside children and young people
- demonstrates respect and valuing of children through active involvement in all that I do.

## Mount Gambier

Over the next five years, I will visit regional communities across South Australia to ensure young regional voices inform and contribute to my work.

I will ensure that local decision makers and service providers receive my regional wrap-up as a record of some of the views and opinions of local children and young people.

I encourage community leaders to create opportunities to engage children and young people in ongoing dialogues as a tangible way of building community participation.

I kicked off my Listening tour in Mount Gambier on June 15th, 2017.

What brought me to Mount Gambier as my first stop was a letter written by the Youth Advisory Committee. The letter was a contribution to the consultation about what young people wanted in a Commissioner and sent to the Minister. I was given this letter upon commencement of my role and thought it would be appropriate to meet this group as a priority.

### What I did...

With the support of the Mount Gambier Council staff I was able to schedule this visit to coincide with the Limestone Coast Early Childhood Forum and attend the "Play Grows Brains" lecture as well as a breakfast meeting with the Mayor and Council executive. Here I was able to hear first-hand about the City of Mount Gambier's Charter for Children and how it is being used to drive new relationships with children and young people in the region.

### Who I saw

In addition to the sessions with children and young people I took the opportunity to meet with local services to hear their challenges including Burrendies Aboriginal Corporation, Australian Migrant Centre, ac.care and I addressed the Limestone Coast Early Childhood Forum.

However, it was the direct conversations with children and young people that were the highlight of my visit.

These conversations were made possible through the on-going relationships and programs of the following agencies:

- Uniting Communities
- Carers SA
- Acacia Kindergarten
- Mount Gambier North Primary School
- Tenison Woods College
- Burrendies
- ac.care



# Mount Gambier

## Where I went...

In small groups at the kindy, schools and library, Burrandies and Ruby's, children and young people were asked to share in words and pictures what is important to them, what they would change to make life better for children and young people in South Australia and what actions they think I should prioritise.

A number of sessions were held at the Mount Gambier Library. I was impressed by the high utilisation, the flexibility and the ownership in the space by children and young people. It seemed everyone loved the library and used it, and is a jewel in the Mount Gambier crown.

## What I was asked to share...

While the library was almost universally supported by children and young people in the community there was also a desire for a more youth specific venues to see, play and experience live music. Some young people were keen for Mount Gambier to bid for the triple j One Night Stand in 2018.

Many children and young people spoke about the importance of sport in their life but acknowledged that this wasn't always inclusive of all and that a diversity of expressive arts and other leisure pursuits were required and at an affordable price.

Cost of living pressures was spoken about by a number of primary school students with many comments on the "things I would change" question relating to cheaper food, cheaper medication, more affordable electricity and

water bills, free wifi to save internet costs, cheaper clothes.

For the older age group, they expressed concerns about changes to the P plate rules, in particular, the impact on safety due to the inability of designated drivers to take passengers.

Housing and homelessness issues in the local area featured. A number of young people, across all settings, spoke about the issue but felt because it is not as visible as in the city it was not at the forefront of the communities mind.

Many of the young people I listened to felt that as a group they were "talked down" and portrayed as having everything given to them on a silver platter and only interested in themselves. They expressed frustration with this and said they are in fact very hard working; they think about equality and are genuinely concerned for the future.



South Australia's first commissioner for children and young people, Helen Connolly, has kicked off her "listening tour" in Mount Gambier, speaking with students through agencies.

## What we heard?

“ I would like to see less bullying in Australia and more fairness” ”



## A YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR MOUNT GAMBIER



### **As young people, what do we like about Mount Gambier?**

---

- We enjoy 'urban country life' as the city is the right size to have some of the benefits of a city, with the feel of a large country town.
- We have some shopping and entertainment options like the cinema and 10 pin bowling.
- For most, the presence of friends and family creates an important ongoing connection to the city.
- Local people are friendly and the size of the city helps people to get to know and support one another.
- We have access to some great services, particularly the Library where we can learn things, meet people and hang out.
- We enjoy the high quality of parks, gardens and recreational spaces.
- The accessibility of the beach and other unique natural environments adds value to the lifestyle that we enjoy locally.
- We have a strong sporting culture and a range of options available
- Mostly, we feel safe when we're out and about in the community
- If you live in the city, it's easy to get around

### **What don't we currently like about Mount Gambier?**

---

- We lack entertainment options for young people.
- In winter and in the evenings, there's even less for young people to do in the city.
- Our live music scene is limited, we often miss out on touring acts and when they do visit, they're often only accessible to adults.
- We're worried about the presence of drugs in our community.
- Many of our commercial entertainment options (go-karts, roller skating, laser-tag and video arcades) have closed.
- We lack an all-weather aquatic facility
- Empty shops take away from the vibrancy of the city and make us worried for the future.
- For those of us who out of town, transport to the city is challenging.
- Our skate parks are often crowded, particularly with bmx and scooter riders
- Free wifi in the city is limited in availability and often of poor quality

- As local tertiary study options are limited, in most cases, we have to move if we want to continue our education.
- We lack places to just ‘hang out’, particularly in the evenings or in winter.
- We lack housing that is attractive and appropriate for young professionals.

## What would we like to see happen?

---

### Fit-for-purpose recreational facilities

- An **indoor aquatic centre** would provide a focus on fitness and a recreation space during winter. It would also respond to many health issues identified in our community and provide a place for people of all levels of ability.
- A **pump track** development would take pressure off our existing skate park facilities and create a space which is broadly accessible for all ages.
- We’d like to see **more informal recreational facilities** throughout the city such as urban basketball courts.

### More ways to engage with public space:

- **We value our natural assets** such as the Crater Lakes Precinct, but **additional infrastructure** would improve our interaction with these spaces (like a zip line, café, rock climbing or canoeing).
- **Public art is great** but we’d also like more opportunities for expression such as **art workshops** and **graffiti walls**.
- Our free **public wifi** is limited and of poor quality. Improved public wifi would allow us to stay connected, learn and engage while in public areas.

### Building an accessible, welcoming and engaging CBD for young people

- **Choice in retail is important** as it provides employment and entertainment. Attraction and retention of youth related businesses will assist in this space.
- **Vacant shopfronts make us feel like we don’t have a future in the city**. Activation of empty stores would make the city feel more vibrant and welcoming.
- **Safe and accessible evening venues or places to hang out** – after 5pm, there’s very few places for us to be.
- **Affordable transport options** on weekends, evenings and from within the region would increase our access to the city.

### Creating a sustainable, vibrant and visual youth culture

- Better positioning Mount Gambier as a **destination for touring artists**, encouraging **all-ages music venues and events**, **retention of a music store** and investing in a local live music scene.
- Attraction and retention of **youth focused commercial entertainment outlets** such as ‘Bounce’, go-karting, roller skating and escape rooms.
- An ongoing calendar of **affordable and accessible events and festivals** would build our connection to the city throughout the year.
- Providing **space and programming for events, activities and informal learning** opportunities that are specifically aimed at our interests.

### Addressing social issues faced by young people

- Boredom

- Drugs
- Peer pressure, bullying
- Homelessness/Couch surfing

YAG	Career Expo Surveys	Headspace Youth Reference Group	Independent Learning Centre	STEM Planning Day Students
Library Youth Area	Friendship force - Young Carers	Student Leaders Roundtable	Melaleuca Community	Young Professional Roundtable
Have Your Say Survey	Skate Park	Mountain Bike Club/Daktari Sports Store		

## Youth Engagement Strategy - Developing Themes

What's most important for the future?	What do you like about Mount Gambier	What don't you like about Mount Gambier	What would you like to see happen	Who's role is it to make this possible
Family Friends Job Security Safety Study options	Library Short travel time around town Jazz Academy The size of the city The sense of community The beauty of the city	Lack of live music scene for young people Lack of entertainment options Drugs and violence Lack of hobbies (choice) Limited study options	Increased diversity in shopping outlets Public graffiti walls More festivals Increased live music performance	Volunteers
Renewable energy Feeling involved and connected to community Career opportunities Sustainability	Sense of community and connection to place Connection to family and friends who live locally We know each other The Blue Lake Shopping options (particularly for respondents who reside elsewhere in the region) The location - close to beach, forest and connecting towns Country life - not too busy Friendly people Sporting options	Weather Entertainment options for young people Shopping options (particularly for respondents who reside in Mount Gambier) Too small Distance from Adelaide and Melbourne Drugs	More festivals Indoor swimming pool More entertainment options for young people Transport options for young people Airport improvements and cheaper access to cities More baseball, basketball, hockey and athletics facilities More shops Free Wi-Fi	
Retaining young people in the community Opportunities of all kinds To be informed and empowered Employment security Study options Food security Financial security	Community Library Sports and recreation variety Jazz Convenience and location Natural environment - caves, sinkholes, volcanoes Headspace Festivals - fringe etc. Recreational facilities - skate parks etc.	Public transport (weekend and evenings) Limited employment Limited study options Lack of venues for all ages, particularly in evenings Too much emphasis on sports Schools are understaffed Live music and music programming is limited Young people have a stigma as 'me' generation Presence of drugs and peer pressure	Mount Gambier playing to its strengths Retaining young people More bike lanes After hours activity for young people More events and activities for young people Young adult literature group (book shop or library) Active laneways More locally produced food Attraction of diverse business outlets	Collaborations between young people, service providers and other groups YAG Council
Locally produced things are supported Employment Finishing school Getting a good education The community is connected People remain friendly	Lots of local talent and capacity Diversity in food Gallery, Library, Main Corner Railway Lands Friendliness of local people Shopping Sporting options Gardens	Weather Empty shops Lack of entertainment options for young people Lack of variety in shops Presence of drugs Bullying Peer pressure Housing options for young people are lacking Lack of local music scene	Dedicated music venues Music festivals in summer with food fans, market stalls Drug rehabilitation services More entertainment options for young people Increased job opportunities Indoor or undercover activities in winter Commercial entertainment outlets aimed at young people Urban basketball courts Mount Gambier has its own tv channel	Young people Community Volunteers Business People of Mount Gambier
Education opportunities Facilities are continually updated/maintained Career options Financial stability To have a home To have a family	Landmarks for tourists Some shopping options Bowling alley, playgrounds, skate parks, cinema A range of volunteer groups Lots of fast food options Mount Gambier Show Library The size - not populated too much Clean air	Lack of variety in shops The same things get boring Not enough transport if you live out of town Lack of entertainment options for young people Lack of diversity in entertainment Some places don't feel safe Lacks a water park	Commercial and non-commercial entertainment options Indoor pool City free Wi-Fi Improved transport options Weekend entertainment options Safe places for kids Greater shopping options More shows, concerts, festivals	Empty building owners Council Schools Students Business
Employment Family Happiness Independence Entertainment that changes and is exciting Parents are supported Students can concentrate at school There are places to hang out University is accessible	Library has great workshops and places to hang out Cinema Friendly people Strong sporting culture Sense of community Good people live here Lots of parks and beautiful natural environment Pool Skate Park Sporting facilities	Some places are unsafe The attractions can become boring No waterpark No gaming arcade Lack of transport options Lack of entertainment options Lack of flat smooth surfaces to skate on Not many youth related clothing stores Lack of winter activity, particularly low cost/no cost	More workshops for kids - learning new things A waterpark, arcade Develop a place for young people to be A 'first job centre' to help you get your first job More power sources to charge mobile devices in the city Encourage diverse trading mix (shopping and eating) Keep the streets clean Affordable housing options Free indoor playground for kids in winter Workshop and learning opportunities for kids	All levels of government Council - delivery of winter activity Business Young people Parents
Employment Financial security Family Access to sport Life	Sporting facilities and programs Library Free public services Presence of friends and family	Lack of shopping options Poor Wi-Fi Weather	Gaming arcade More basketball courts More shopping choices Better Wi-Fi (faster and free) Athletics stadium	Council Community Schools

			Playgrounds for 12+ Walls that you can draw on	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessibility and location - ease of access</li> <li>Sense of safety</li> <li>Sense of community</li> <li>Urban country life - the right size</li> <li>Clean, well maintained public space</li> <li>Diversity in people and food</li> <li>Lots of parking</li> <li>Some transport is available</li> <li>Lots of sporting opportunities</li> <li>Increased presence of public art</li> <li>Library, Railway Lands</li> <li>Low levels of graffiti</li> <li>No traffic and parking problems</li> <li>Natural environment</li> <li>Sporting facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weather</li> <li>Lack of winter activity</li> <li>Need to travel to city for music or live entertainment</li> <li>Lack of indoor facilities</li> <li>Lack of indoor swimming pool</li> <li>Alcohol and drug use</li> <li>Poor reputation of City</li> <li>Rivalry in sport transcends throughout the city</li> <li>Sport is competitive, not social</li> <li>Lack of shopping diversity</li> <li>Lack of creative spaces</li> <li>Boredom</li> <li>Live music is limited and when it's on, it's aimed at adults</li> <li>Crater lakes needs enhancement</li> <li>Lack of cross-cultural understanding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Become a sports hub - bring sapsasa events</li> <li>Create a voice for young people - suggestion box - day to voice ideas</li> <li>More diversity in shopping</li> <li>Build awareness of non-sport related fields</li> <li>Indoor entertainment options</li> <li>Indoor swimming pool - hydrotherapy/rehab/improved health</li> <li>Music festivals</li> <li>All ages music events</li> <li>Activations at Valley Lakes - zip line, canoeing</li> <li>Museum</li> <li>Night time activates for young people</li> <li>Late night shopping with markets, buskers, live music</li> <li>Combine existing markets</li> <li>Better promotion of events</li> <li>Better promotion of employment opportunities</li> <li>Public transport on weekends and during large events</li> <li>Dedicated space/place for cultural stuff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnerships with schools</li> <li>Collaboration with business</li> <li>Media</li> <li>Social media</li> <li>Using word of mouth</li> <li>Community groups and clubs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feeling connected to the community</li> <li>Friends and family</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The familiarity and connection with the community</li> <li>More young families are in the melaleuca area</li> <li>Pokémon Go</li> <li>Fringe festival</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>East end perpetuates feelings of an under-class</li> <li>No action on previous resident recommendations</li> <li>BMX track at Melaleuca reserve area is dangerous</li> <li>Poor lighting of the Melaleuca reserve makes it feel unsafe after dark</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreation facilities are improved throughout the area</li> <li>BMX track in Melaleuca reserve is upgraded and made safer</li> <li>Focus on connecting the Melaleuca community with the broader city</li> <li>Advocate for early-adult learning opportunities in the area - currently prohibited by expensive internet connections and transport issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council - advocate for services</li> <li>Council - budget for improved local recreation facilities</li> <li>Resident support/working group</li> <li>Primary school and kindy</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel</li> <li>Pursuing a career</li> <li>Quality of life</li> <li>Health</li> <li>Family</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parks and gardens</li> <li>Accessibility of the city</li> <li>Range of activities on offer at certain times of the year</li> <li>Sporting and fitness options available</li> <li>Young Professionals Network</li> <li>Lots to explore in the region</li> <li>Jazz Club</li> <li>Sport helps people integrate (if you play)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Events and activities occur without knowledge</li> <li>The weather impacts on vibrancy</li> <li>Study opportunities are limited</li> <li>Hands-on learning experiences are limited</li> <li>Fit-for-purpose accommodation options are limited for young professionals</li> <li>Quality restaurants options are limited</li> <li>Music scene is mono-cultured and lacks dynamic</li> <li>The city misses out on touring acts</li> <li>Trading hours limit activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create business activity at the Valley Lakes - needs a café</li> <li>Encourage unique, spontaneous events</li> <li>Encourage JMA to be visually present</li> <li>Promote what makes us unique</li> <li>Support social networking amongst professionals</li> <li>Improve our reputation amongst the state.</li> <li>Encourage hands-on learning experiences</li> <li>Reduce costs of flights</li> <li>Improve opening hours</li> <li>Improve Sunday culture</li> <li>Encourage busking, street art, street performance</li> <li>Support local business to promote employment opportunities</li> <li>Support growth of fringe festival</li> <li>Become a centre of specialised training</li> <li>A train to Adelaide-Melbourne</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being close to family and friends</li> <li>Inclusion and equality for everyone</li> <li>Employment opportunities</li> <li>Education opportunities</li> <li>Affordability</li> <li>Feeling a part of my community</li> <li>The wellbeing of me and my family</li> <li>Feeling safe</li> <li>Being happy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The city is accessible - easy to get around</li> <li>The sporting nature of the community</li> <li>People are friendly</li> <li>My friends and family are here</li> <li>The natural environment</li> <li>The size is 'just right'</li> <li>Public spaces are high quality</li> <li>The city is green and well maintained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not enough for young people to do</li> <li>Lack of entertainment options on weekends and evenings</li> <li>Drug use</li> <li>Weather and lack of undercover activities</li> <li>Lack of diversity in shops</li> <li>Lack of live music scene</li> <li>People can be a bit clicky and pretentious</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable commercial entertainment options/outlets for young people</li> <li>Increased informal recreational facilities throughout the city</li> <li>Festivals - particularly live music</li> <li>Increased diversity in shopping and food outlets</li> <li>Attracting more live performance</li> <li>More spaces to 'hang'</li> <li>Age friendly venues for live music</li> <li>Community events aimed at young people</li> <li>Creation of places which are safe and fun for young people</li> <li>More options for wet weather activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council</li> <li>Community needs to back/support initiatives</li> <li>State Government</li> <li>I could hold a gaming tournament'</li> <li>Investing in young people will create a sense of responsibility and leadership</li> <li>I run leadership development programs and help school aged youth</li> <li>I have experience in basketball and gaming coaching</li> <li>I can help organise music events and advertise them</li> <li>I have a Facebook page called 'Make Mount Gambier Better for Us Teenagers'</li> <li>I could start a petition</li> </ul>
Retention of a skate 'bowl' similar to Dimjalla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing skate parks are highly valued</li> <li>Dimjalla park 'bowl' is unique - has 'heritage' value</li> <li>Size of bowl is significant - nothing like this in the region</li> <li>Painting of watermelon at skate park shows connection</li> <li>Facilities used by 80-120 people each weekend</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skate parks are overflowing with people on weekends</li> <li>Facilities are in poor condition - no water fountain</li> <li>No graffiti /art management plan in place</li> <li>Rule boards are outdated and cause additional conflict</li> <li>No plan in place if/when Dimjalla park closes</li> <li>Can't use facilities at night</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of a pump track - reduce pressure on facilities</li> <li>Beautification initiative/graffiti management plan</li> <li>Installation of water fountains</li> <li>Lighting to encourage night use</li> <li>Plan to retain or replace Dimjalla Park facility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involve park users in creating code of use to replace rule boards</li> <li>Engage park users in further developments at the sites</li> <li>Consider engaging skate park design company 'Convic'.</li> </ul>
Development of a family friendly 'pump track'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BMX Track is good, but can only be used by professionals</li> <li>Marist Park Mountain Bike Track is generating interest</li> <li>Mount Gambier has a number of high level comp riders</li> <li>Competitions are attracting hundreds of families</li> <li>Developing tourism potential through recreation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No alternative facilities for families to use</li> <li>Few places for kids to start out</li> <li>Accidents occur due to mixed use of current facilities</li> <li>Already have two skate parks - need for alternative site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of a pump track facility at Cunningham Reserve Club has applied for funding. Council assistance required.</li> <li>Creation of a bike park hub (Marist park, bmx track, pump track)</li> <li>Linking with Rail Trail to build accessibility throughout city</li> </ul>	



Concept  
Street Art – Youth Project  
Hosted by City of Mount Gambier Youth Advisory Group

---

The Youth Advisory Group (YAG) wishes to share with you a vision; a concept that we believe will benefit the local community.

The aim is to help prevent graffiti in the community by providing a legal avenue to showcase art and prevent other crimes such as vandalism by increasing self-esteem through recognition, reduction in boredom and familiarising links with the community.

The project will contribute to the reduction of anti-social activities through engagement in cultural and youth activities that identify self-esteem and increase community pride by shining their light on current assets. The concept is about promoting youth culture whilst building their skill set and as result they feel valued in their community; that their opinions matter.

Enclosed is the concept in more detail.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

**City of Mount Gambier - YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP**

The aim of this concept is to help prevent graffiti in the community by providing a legal avenue to showcase art and prevent other crimes such as vandalism by identifying self-esteem through recognition, reduction in boredom and familiarising links with the community. The project will contribute to the reduction of anti-social activities through engagement in cultural and youth activities that identify self-esteem and increase community pride.

YAG became intrigued by the idea of a street art workshop for youth when they saw an article in Lifestyle magazine about a workshop taking place in Hamilton and Coleraine, Victoria. A YAG representative made her way down to Coleraine, Victoria to check out what they were doing with the young people involved and was overwhelmingly inspired by their work and quickly became passionate about bringing a project similar to Mount Gambier.

YAG began their research by looking at areas that are of concern as targets for graffiti. The areas we observed looked unappealing and filthy, a true eyesore for the community. The main areas we have observed around town that we feel currently present issues of concern are attached (See Graffiti issue observed throughout the town). There are however a few projects within the local community that have worked well in the past and have had a positive impact and outcomes. These are attached (See projects that have worked in the past). This being solid evidence that supports the idea and statement that Stuart Walsh makes *"murals make it unappealing to vandalise because there is already art obscuring any vandalism that is applied. They also create a sense of ownership and engagement within the local community, discouraging vandalism by creating a more appealing, and more frequently used space."* Since these few successful projects dating back as far as 2004, nothing has been done around graffiti prevention and workshops in this form. We believe now is the time to take action and do something about graffiti prevention in our community.

Our vision is to see Professional Artist Stuart Walsh demystifying graffiti's "bad boy" image, and personalising the impact of illegal graffiti by engaging the young people in a discussion around public assets and places that they value. Stuart will reflect on how it would make them feel if someone vandalised their local public spaces or private property - something they worked hard on and value. He will discuss how unattractive and worthless "tagging" is, emphasising the lack of skill involved with this practice. Stuart aims to speak their language and use graffiti parlance effectively to persuade the participants that "tagging" and "bombing" is "toy", not just something older people are annoyed by.

The educational aspect of his sessions will change their focus to the way in which graffiti attracts crime more widely in their community in a way that can inadvertently negatively affect them, by attracting other kinds of criminals to their town. He teaches them about Broken Window theory – the notion that graffiti acts as a signal of general disorder in a community in a way that leads to subsequent crime, leaving residents disconnected and hopeless. He will teach the youth how crime can impact on them and that under certain conditions graffiti and other crimes may have a correlated and synergistic relationship.

The practical component of this project would take place at the Skate Park at AF Sutton Memorial Park (see attached potential site AF Sutton Memorial Park, Skate Park), where Stuart would teach the participants how to create "fresh" urban art utilising techniques used in abstract expressionist painting and stencil art to make murals. He will aim to show them that there is legitimate work in the arts that they can aspire to paint murals as a career. As a YAG we are committed to driving projects such as this as it supports our goals in that we want more youth friendly spaces. We will be the driver in the rolling out of the program to the young people in the community along with supporting the program through marketing and gaining interest with the young people. We envision this project will take place mid to late 2018, dependent on funding and its availability.

Research tells us that murals work in two ways; they occupy the space and they make it unappealing to vandalise because there is already art obscuring any vandalism that is applied (See projects that have worked in the past). Importantly they create a sense of ownership and engagement within the local community, discouraging vandalism by creating a more appealing, and more frequently used space. All of these lessons come together, and continue, once the work on a mural begins. This process will be centered on allowing the participants to take ownership of the space. This is a key point, as the participants see the hard work they put in and thus also see the value in the work of others. They will have been trained to use aerosol paints and related materials in a much more professional manner, making crude vandalism and "tagging" look unpleasant in comparison. Stuart focuses on stencil art for these type of murals

because it attracts exactly the young people who may be attracted to wanton vandalism, but teaches them a much more difficult and rewarding technique that does not lend itself well to illegal vandalism. With this in mind we wish to bring your attention to 3 other key sites that could be a side on project to the Skate Park initiative. These "side on" projects could be funded by the private businesses as they are attached to their buildings but be facilitated by City of Mount Gambier. The sites being: Railway Lands trail - Carter Holt Harvey wall, Gambier West Brakes, and Forty Winks. Please refer to the pictures attached within this concept (Other key sites).

We believe these projects will strengthen and identify self-esteem in young people through recognition, reduction in boredom and familiarising links with the community. These projects will contribute to the reduction of anti-social activities through engagement in cultural and youth activities that increase self-esteem and community pride. The YAG recommends we utilise the services of Stuart Walsh, Design and Illustration to carry out the workshops with the youth and guide them through the projects. A quote provided by Stuart Walsh is attached for your perusal. This quote is valid for each site outlined within this concept. We have also attached a projected budget as an example of the types of costs we need to account for, on top of Stuart's quote.

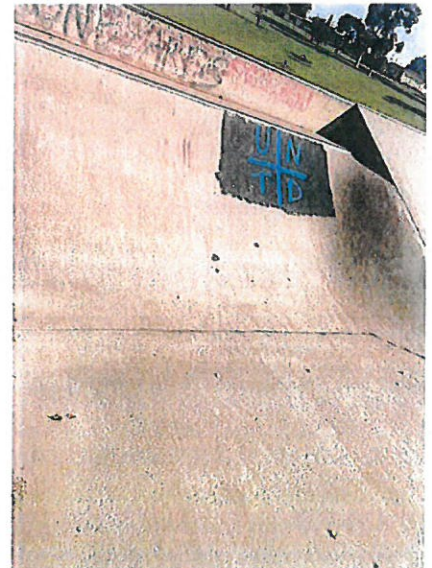
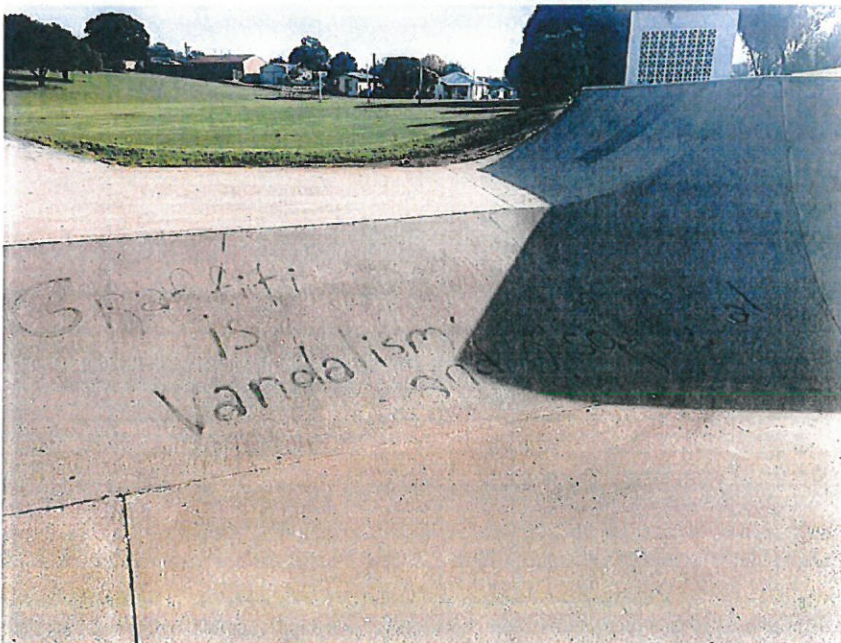
#### **Further reading**

- Stuart Walsh general website: <https://artofbacondrum.wordpress.com/>
- Documentary that Golden Plains Shire commissioned: (some good background into purpose of doing these types of projects) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lv4SZTL6gE&feature=youtu.be>
- Blog for the Southern Grampians Murals: <https://makeyourmarkatthepark.wordpress.com/>
- Street Art: Discover street art in 140 hotspots in 42 cities worldwide by Lonely Planet (great book source for gathering visual ideas to inspire a project)

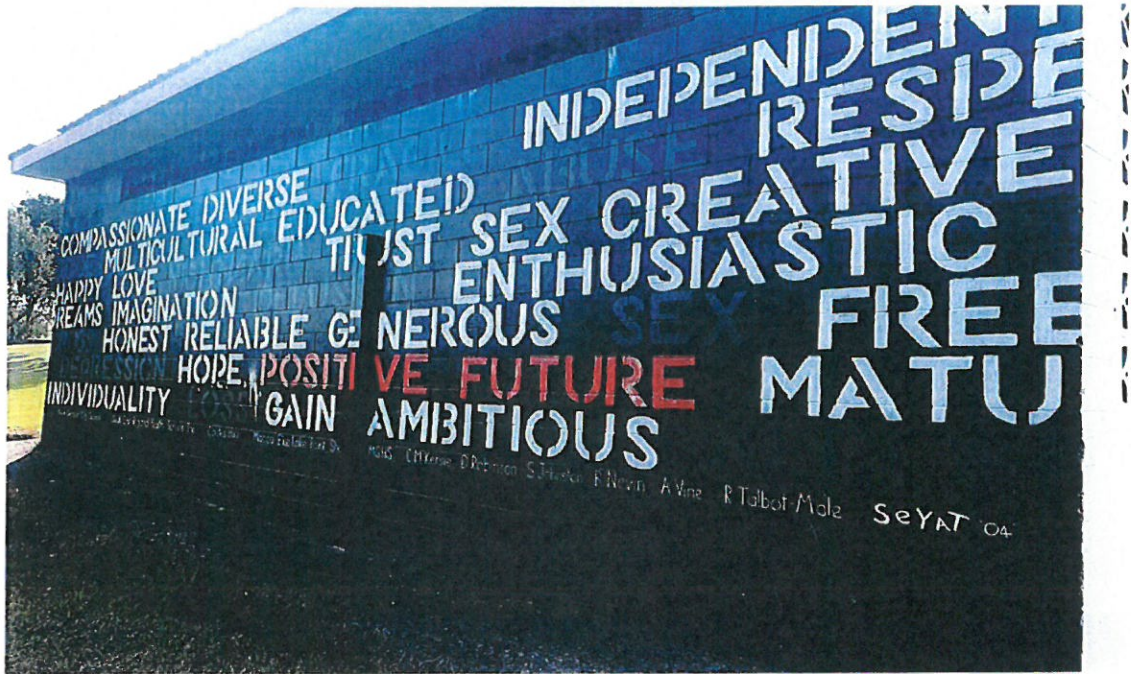
Graffiti issue observed throughout the town



**Graffiti issue observed throughout the town**



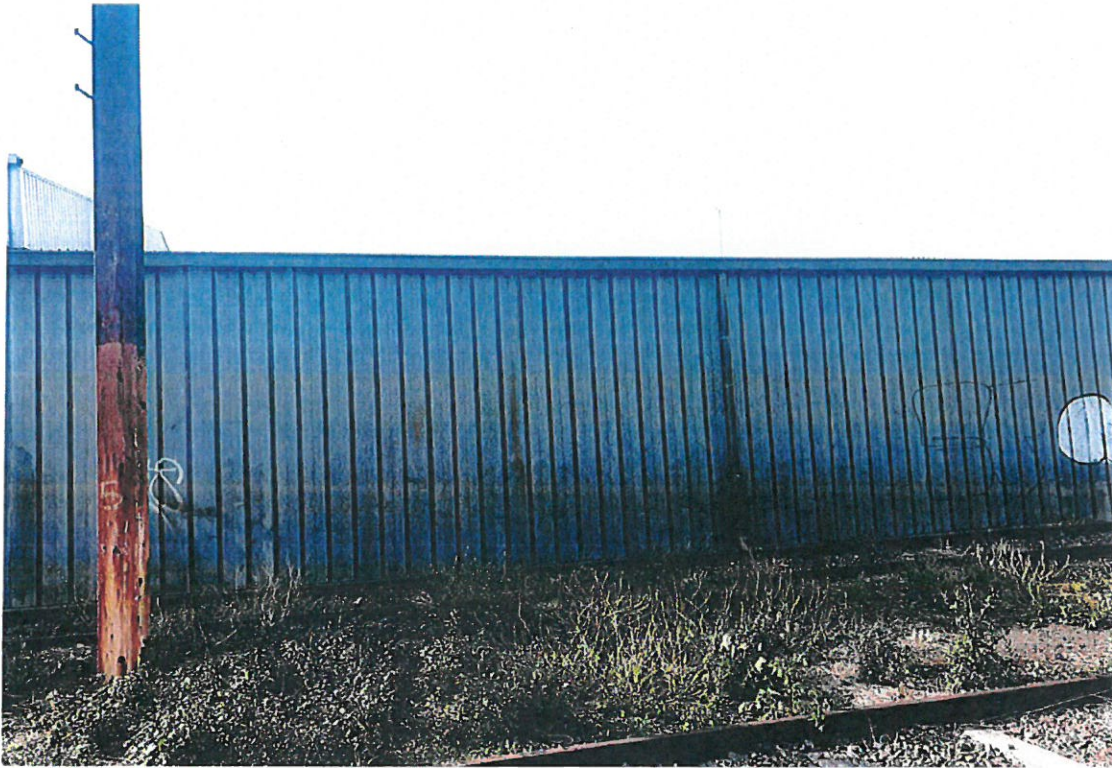
Projects that have worked in the past



**Potential site – AF Sutton Memorial Park – Skate Park**



**Other Key Sites – Railway Lands trail using Carter Holt Harvey tin wall**







**Other key sites – Gambier West Brake Service**



**Other key sites – Forty Winks wall**

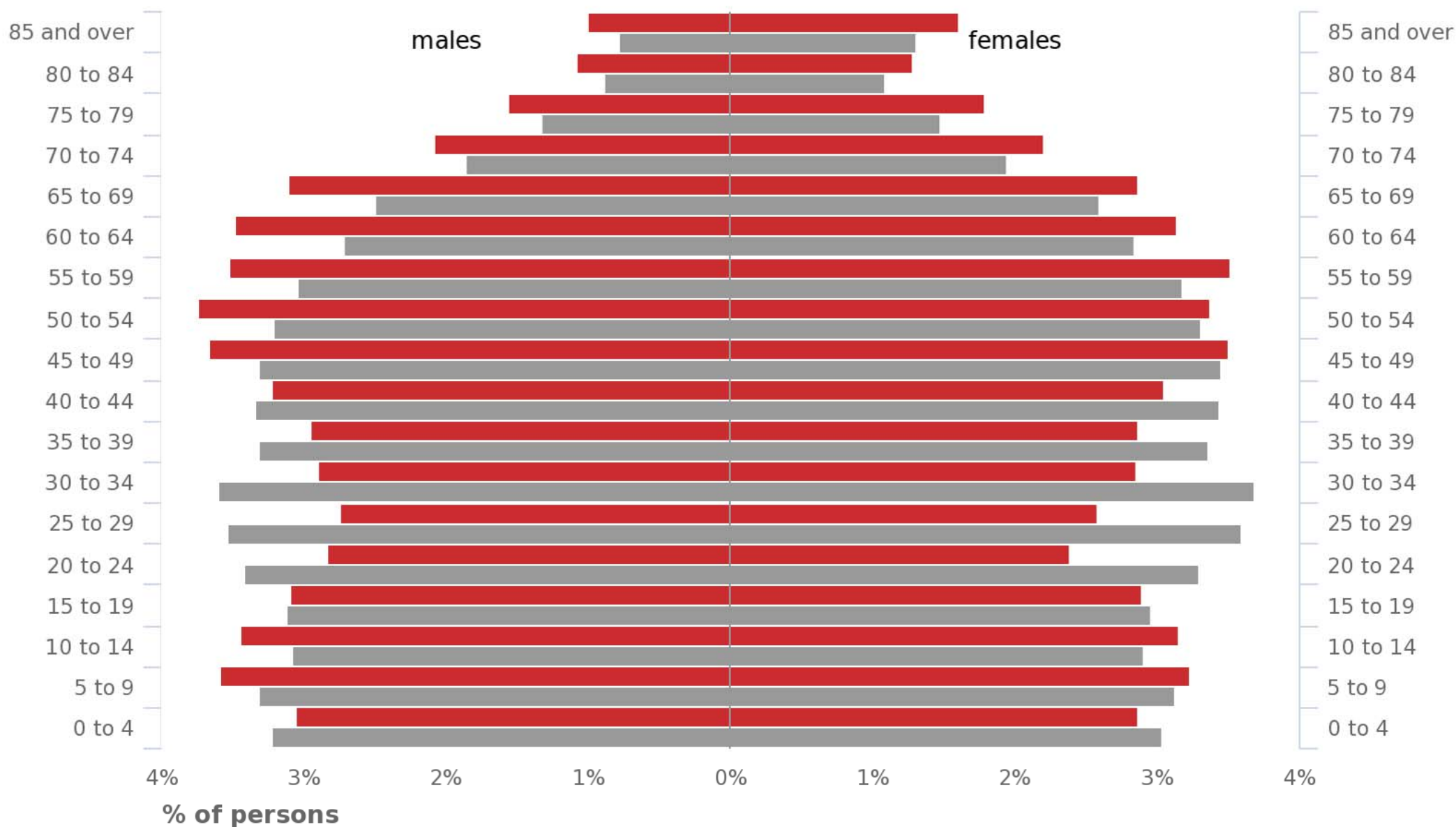






# Age-sex pyramid, 2016

■ Limestone Coast region ■ Australia



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, selected years between 1991-2016 (Enumerated data).  
Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.



**Issues and Directions Paper**  
for  
**Local and Regional Sport and Recreation Facilities**

**‘A TIME FOR FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE’**

**September 2009**

**An Initiative of the Local Government Recreation Forum**

**Funded by the Local Government Research and Development Fund**

## **Acknowledgements:**



**Suzanne Suter of Suter Planners** undertook the consultations and developed the paper.

**Domenic Marta, Chair of the Local Government Recreation Forum** provided strategic guidance and gave input to the directions in the paper.

**Local Government Recreation Forum members** provided feedback and assisted with arranging and promoting consultations (particular thanks to Ryan Viney (LGA), Elaine Delgado, Sean O'Brien, Deb Agnew, Christie Rogers, Brad Breeding and Adrian Pipe for assistance)

**Local Councils** from across the State contributed to the consultations and recommended directions which are reflected in the paper.

# CONTENTS

	Page
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>1. About the Paper</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Why the Paper has been Developed	1
1.2 Approach to Developing the Paper	2
1.3 Relevance to Stakeholders	3
<b>2. The 'Issues' Context</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 Local and Regional Facilities	5
2.2 The Key Issues	6
2.3 The 'Issue Implications'	8
<b>3. Responding to the Issues</b>	<b>9</b>
3.1 Response Framework	9
2.1 Recommended Directions	10
3.3 Suggested Action Plan	14
<b>4. Stakeholder Roles</b>	<b>16</b>
4.1 A Coordinated Approach	16
4.2 Potential Stakeholder Roles	16
<b>5. Implementation and Outcomes</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>6. The Next Steps</b>	<b>18</b>

Attachments:

Attachment 1- Facility Hierarchy Definitions

Attachment 2- Further Understanding the Issues



## Executive Summary

### The Issues for Local Government

Local government provides a range of sport and recreation facilities and is continually pressured for new and improved facilities. In supporting their communities, many Local Councils have created more assets than they can sustain and are grappling with ageing facilities and inefficient provision. Compounding the asset situation is a lack of funding through other levels of government and a reliance on local government to plan for, provide and upgrade facilities at the local and regional level.

The issues and potential impacts on communities and sports have reached a critical stage, and local government can no longer address the issues in a 'vacuum'. A strategic and consistent approach to addressing the issues by local government, other levels of government and other key stakeholders is essential.

A response of ongoing 'no action' will ultimately impact on the quality of lifestyle and the health of communities across South Australia and subsequently affect local, State and national strategic objectives and planned outcomes. This includes the impact on South Australia's Strategic Plan objectives (particularly the target for Sport and Recreation T2.3).

### Responding to the Issues

The issues facing local government are well known and have existed for a number of years. Various State and regional plans have recognised the local and regional facility issues and local councils are becoming frustrated that no coordinated assistance or direction has been forthcoming.

South Australian Local Government has assessed the issues and considered how local government and other stakeholders should best respond to the issues. The result is a paper which recommends fundamental change to the way local government and other stakeholders deal with the facility issues, and provides a framework for this change.

A number of strategic responses are recommended relating to:

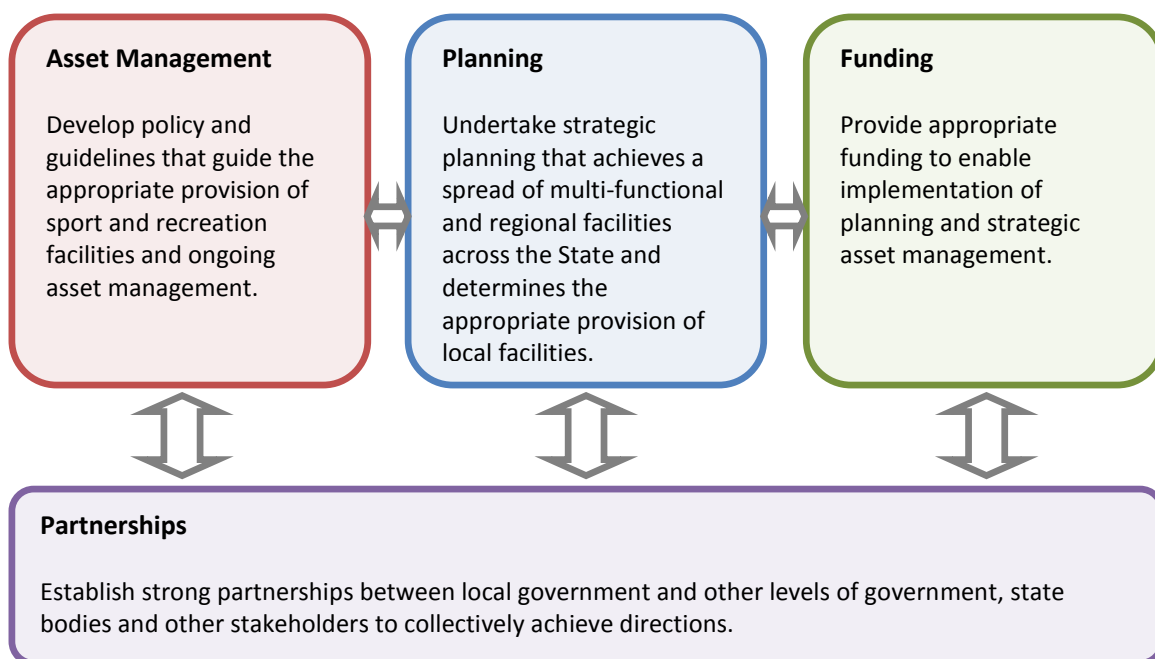
- Asset Management (and the need for related policy and guidelines)
- Planning
- Funding
- Partnerships

A consistent and coordinated response is required and all aspects of the issues need to be addressed. No one issue or response is a higher priority. This paper will assist local government to instigate the required coordinated response and encourage other levels of government and stakeholders to work with local government to address the issues.

The development of this paper has highlighted that new and holistic approaches to the provision, management and resourcing of local and regional facilities that are strategic, sustainable and supported by all stakeholders are vital.

It is 'Time for Fundamental Change' and South Australia has the opportunity to lead the way. Local government leadership in achieving this change is essential given that local communities will be most affected by a 'no action' response.

The suggested 'Response Framework' is as follows:

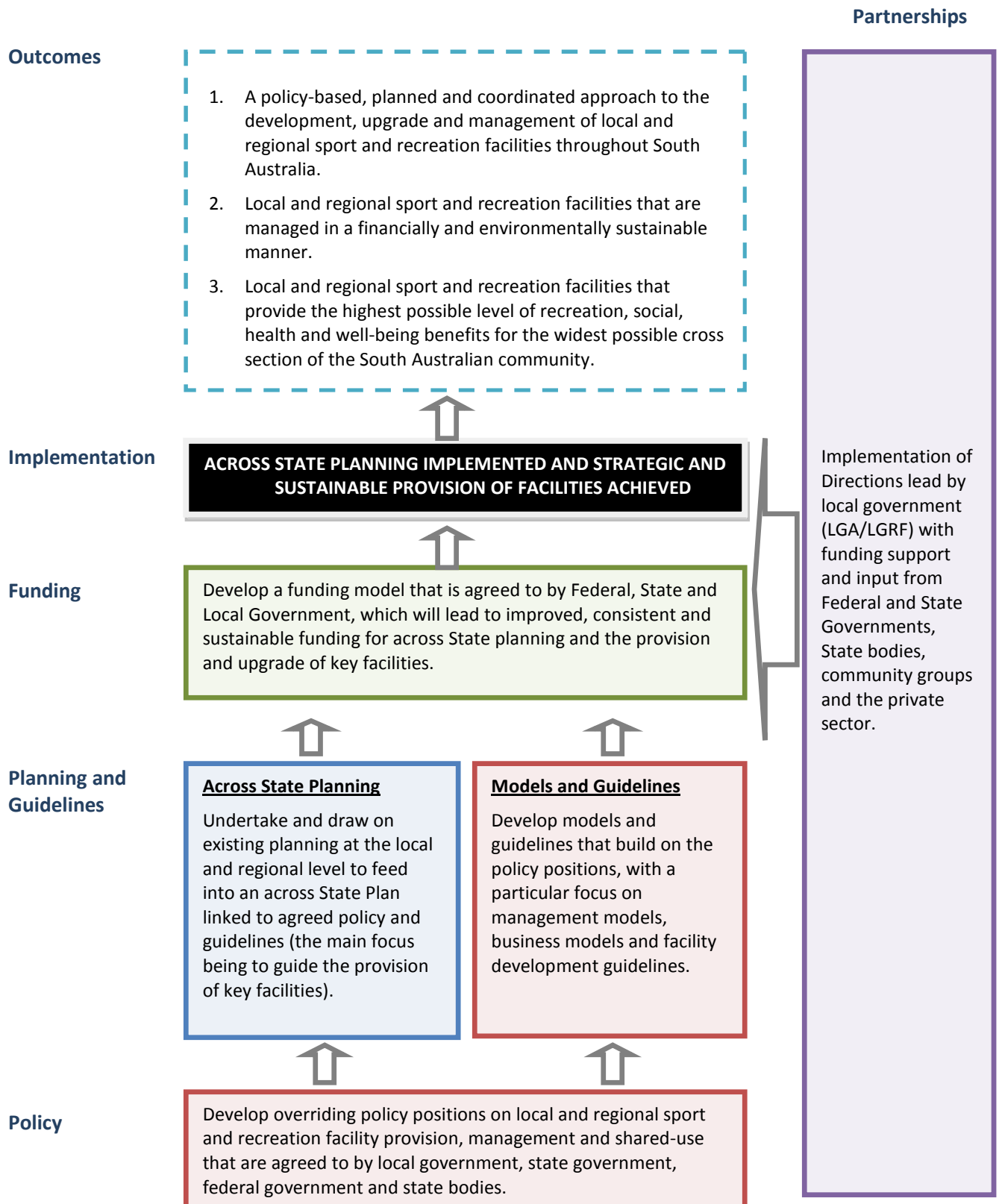


The recommended directions outlined in the paper are summarised below.

Asset Management	Planning	Funding	Partnerships
Develop an agreed policy direction on the provision and management of facilities with a particular focus on multi-function and shared use facilities, appropriate hierarchy, facility consolidation and management.	Plan for a strategic spread of regional and multi-functional facilities across the State through an integrated and coordinated planning process.	Develop an agreed funding model that improves the availability, consistency and sustainability of funding and enables local government to implement planning and strategic asset management.	Increase communication and partnerships across local government.
Develop specific guidelines, standards, models and templates that assist local councils and community groups to plan for, provide and manage facilities.	Develop a planning framework to assist local councils and State bodies in facility planning and review.	Strengthen existing Office for Recreation and Sport funding and create a stronger connection with strategic planning undertaken by local government.	Strengthen the Federal to Local Government connection through direct funding and policy links.
Develop a State level policy on the shared-use of school facilities.	Provide guidance and initiate reforms regarding new development area planning.		Strengthen the relationship between local and State government through planning and funding connections.
			Avoid duplicated initiatives across government through communication and coordinated projects.
			Strengthen partnerships and communication with peak bodies (sport, recreation, health, community).
			Work with local businesses and communities to achieve appropriate provision.

## Implementation

The implementation of the framework and directions in this paper will require a strategic and committed approach that is led by local government and contributed to by other levels of government and other stakeholders. The suggested approach to implementation and desired outcomes are outlined below.



A Suggested Action Plan is provided on page 14 of the paper to guide the implementation over the next 5 years and beyond. Appropriate resources will be required to undertake the Action Plan and achieve the recommended directions.

### **The 'Next Steps'**

This paper and its directions will require support from all levels of government and other stakeholders, and the most important 'next step' will be to promote and obtain support for the paper. The Local Government Recreation Forum will play a key role in this promotion, as will the Local Government Association and Parks and Leisure Australia as a key industry body.

Once awareness and support is obtained, it is recommended that resources are allocated to enable implementation of the Suggested Action Plan. Processes for policy development, planning, funding and partnerships can then be put in place.

Action is essential to achieve a strategic and sustainable response to local and regional sport and recreation facility issues, and ultimately improve the viability of local government and the social outcomes for communities.

## 1. About the Paper

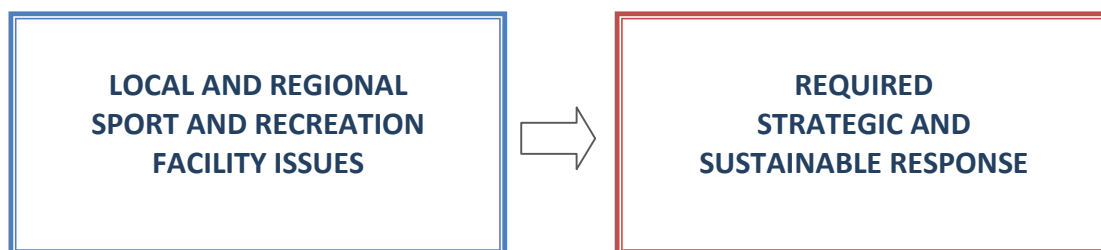
### 1.1 Why the Paper has been Developed

The ongoing provision and upgrade of local and regional sport and recreation facilities has become a major issue for local government across South Australia and nationally. The issue has been identified in various plans and is recognised as a key priority in the Local Government Association of South Australia's Strategic Plan 2007-2010.

Local government has established a range of local and regional sport and recreation facilities over a number of years to cater for diverse community needs, and this has been appropriate given the importance of active and healthy communities. However, many facilities are now ageing and declining in quality and Councils and communities are faced with the mammoth task of continually upgrading and replacing these facilities.

Recent asset management planning has highlighted the enormous cost associated with facility upgrade and many local councils do not have the resources to maintain all assets to the required standard. This will potentially impact on sports development and the quality of sport and recreation participation.

The purpose of this paper is to provide local government, other levels of government and other stakeholders with a recommended strategic response to the issue. The paper includes key directions and actions that will guide local government and other stakeholders to strategically provide and upgrade facilities. The issue has reached a crucial level and a coordinated response is essential for the well being of communities and the viability of local government.



### Scope

For the purpose of this paper local and regional sport and recreation facilities refers to local and regional 'built facilities that support organised sport and physical activity by local communities'. These could include:

- Facilities that cater for sporting competitions such as sports grounds and outdoor court complexes
- Indoor sport centres
- Aquatic and fitness facilities
- Other specialised sports based facilities such as equestrian and mountain bike complexes
- Other recreation facilities that support physical activity such as walking and bicycle trails

The paper does not relate to informal recreation facilities (e.g. picnic areas and playgrounds), community centres, art and cultural facilities, libraries, civic spaces or other community facilities. Definitions of 'local and regional' are provided in Attachment 1.

## 1.2 Approach to Developing the Paper

The paper is based on issues relating to local and regional sport and recreation facilities. These issues are well known and documented in various recreation, sport and open space studies undertaken by local councils and the Office for Recreation and Sport.

Development of the paper involved drawing together the issues from previous planning, confirming that the issues are still relevant and identifying the higher priority issues from a local government perspective. The 'issue identification and confirmation' represented the first phase of the study.

Because the issues are well known and it was found that they have not changed greatly, the greater emphasis of the study has been on determining appropriate directions that will assist local government and other stakeholders to respond to the issues. Providing a coordinated response to the issues is the main focus of the paper.

The study approach was highly consultative with seven workshop sessions, including three across metropolitan Adelaide and four in regional areas (Mid North, Murraylands, SE Region and Riverland). In addition, contact was made with local councils in regions where a consultation workshop was not held. A workshop session was also held with the Local Government Recreation Forum (LGRF) on the draft report and the draft document was sent to all LGRF members to enable feedback.



### 1.3 Relevance to Stakeholders

Local government is generally the owner of local and regional sport and recreation facilities and most affected by related issues. As such, responding to the issues should be lead by local government.

However, other levels of government and sport and recreation state bodies also have a strong interest in the provision and quality of facilities and the continuation of sport and recreation participation opportunities.

The Objective 'Improving Wellbeing' in South Australia's Strategic Plan includes the following target:

*T2.3 Sport and recreation: exceed the Australian average for participation in sport and physical activity by 2014.*

To achieve this target it will be essential for South Australia to provide a range of quality sport and recreation facilities that support participation across metropolitan and regional areas.

Various other plans have been developed by State government and key organisations that relate to facilities, physical activity, health and other topics that are affected by local and regional sport and recreation facility provision.

State sport and recreation bodies are committed to the development of their sports, but this will be difficult to achieve without appropriate facilities.

The relevance to other stakeholders is recognised in the Local Government Association of South Australia's Strategic Plan 2007-2010 which includes the following strategy:

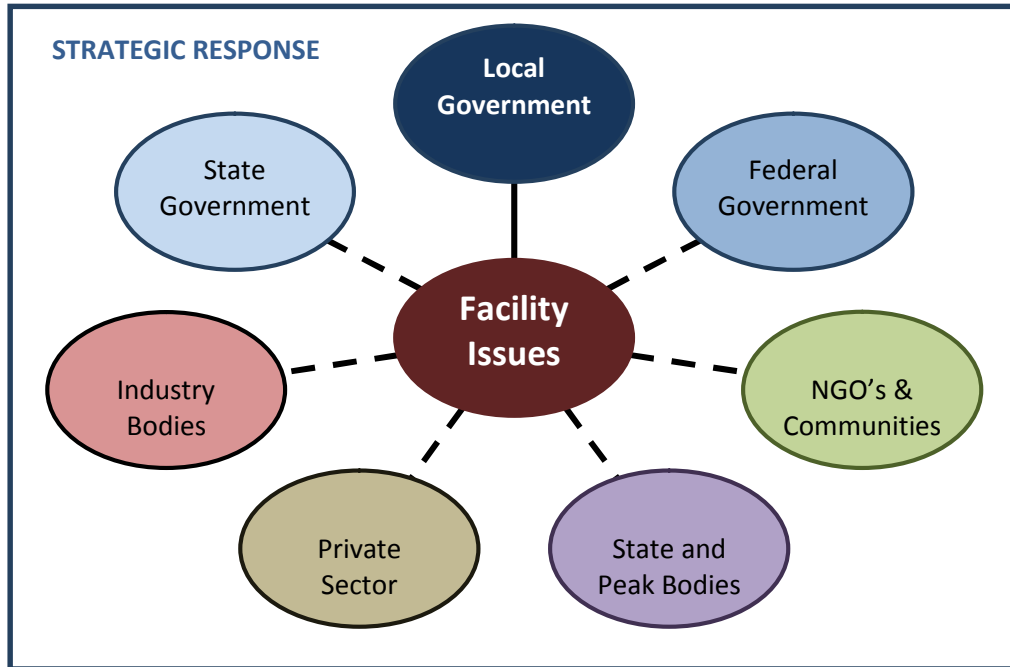
*Encourage the development of a state wide strategy for the funding of upgrades to Council recreation and sport facilities to meet the requirements of the various sporting codes and peak bodies.*

As indicated by the above, local and regional sport and recreation facilities and as such the directions in this paper are relevant to all stakeholders. This includes:

- Local government
- State government
- Federal government
- State sport and recreation bodies (including Sport SA and Recreation SA)
- Non government organisations (e.g. Heart Foundation)
- Community groups (sport and recreation clubs, schools)
- The private sector (commercial providers, local business)

All of these stakeholders have the potential to contribute to addressing the local and regional sport and recreation facility issues and collectively achieving the directions in this paper.

*Collective Strategic Response*





## 2. The 'Issues' Context

### 2.1 Local and Regional Facilities

The paper relates to local and regional facilities and not State, National or International level facilities. Facility definitions are provided in Attachment 1, but broadly:

- A regional facility is generally a facility that has the capacity, due to its large size, exceptional quality or unique function, to support activities and events that draw people from across a region. A region will generally include a number of local council areas.
- A local facility will tend to draw people from within one local council area, unless the facility is close to a council border. The catchment for a 'local' facility could be district, neighbourhood or very local (e.g. one suburb or one town).

Local and regional sport and recreation facilities are vital to participation in physical activity by communities. Facilities are necessary for activities and people require facilities that are accessible to where they live. Most importantly local and regional facilities support participation at all levels and enable the development of sport and recreation. State, National and International facilities generally support higher levels of competition and are often not accessible to the wider community for activities. It is the local and regional facilities that support participation at the community level, which represents the large majority of the community.

Local government has become the main provider of local and regional facilities because these facilities relate to community level participation and the day to day well being of the community.

## 2.2 The Key Issues

The overriding issue for local government is the ability to continue to provide, upgrade and maintain local and regional sport and recreation facilities to the level required by the community. Many local councils are struggling to do so and many facilities are in a poor or declining condition.

The Local Government Research and Development Scheme Annual Business Plan 2008 identifies long term financial planning and infrastructure and asset management as two key challenges facing local government. As stated in the Plan:

*“All Councils have very large stocks of assets relative to their revenue base. A high proportion of these assets are reaching the stage where they will require upgrading or replacing in the foreseeable future”.*

The asset planning undertaken by local councils in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999 has highlighted that the situation is dire for some councils. Assets are ageing and many councils have too many assets to maintain. Few councils would have the finances to upgrade all existing assets.

Due to the asset situation, local councils are faced with the dilemma of whether they should consolidate sport and recreation facilities to more effectively manage their assets. However, they are also dealing with potential user and community objections and often have limited resources to develop consolidated replacement facilities. Regional areas have the added issues of small and declining populations, isolated communities, distance to travel and lower rate bases to fund facilities.

Meanwhile, the expectation for quality facilities by users groups, sporting bodies and communities is increasing and there is a ‘gap in provision’ for some facilities that should be addressed. The reliance on local government is also increasing with declining numbers of volunteers and reducing commitments by other levels of government.

A further issue that compounds all of the other issues is the limited amount of grant funding available to local government for sport and recreation facilities and the high competition with other sectors for the funding that is available. Whilst funding programs are available through the Office for Recreation and Sport, the amount of funding is limited, the focus tends to be on new facilities more than facility renewal and local councils compete with community groups and schools. Department of Planning and Local Government funding is not currently available for sporting open space or facilities.

In summary the main issues are:

- The significant number of assets managed by local government
- Ageing infrastructure
- Increasing demand for quality facilities
- Gaps in the provision of some facilities
- Increasing costs and responsibilities
- Additional issues faced by regional areas (e.g. isolation, travel)
- Limited opportunities for funding

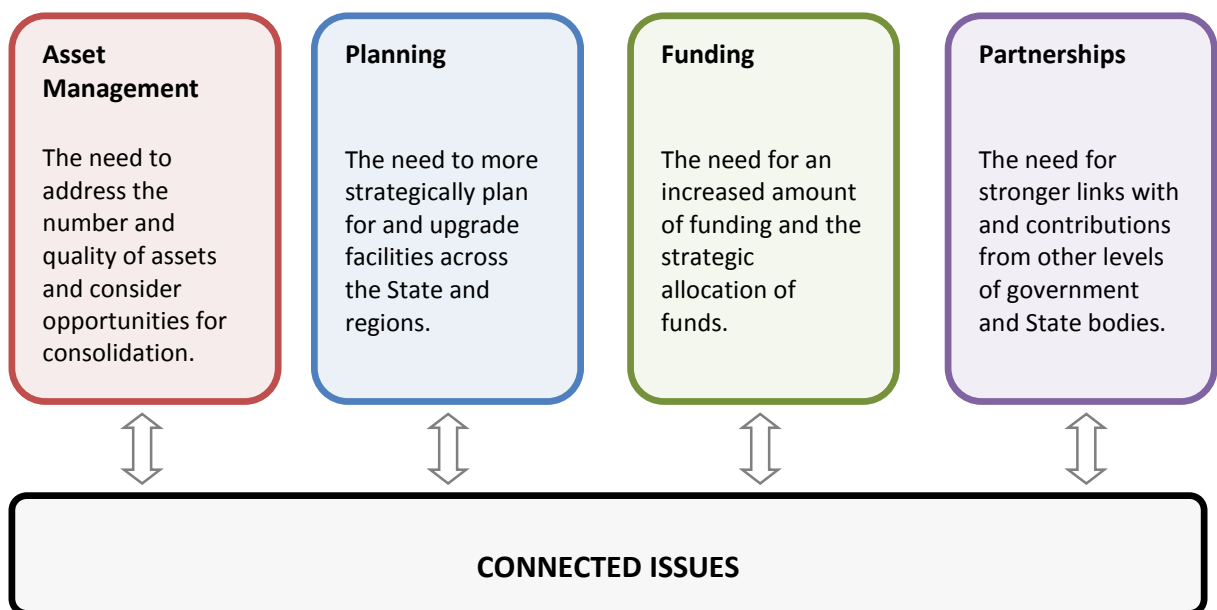
Local government is also affected by broader social and environmental issues, including:

- The economic downturn
- Climate change and responsible water management
- South Australia's ageing population
- Changing regional populations ('part time' communities, young people moving to the city)

These and other issues are explained in Attachment 2 'Further Understanding the Issues'.

### Priority Issues

The main priority issues consistently identified by local council representatives and other stakeholders in the consultation workshops for this paper related to:



## 2.3 The 'Issue Implications'

Most of the issues relating to sport and recreation facilities have a cost implication for local government. This includes:

- The cost of addressing ageing facilities and providing new facilities
- The cost of ongoing maintenance, particularly if facilities are not upgraded or replaced

Given that local government has a limited source of funding and many other social responsibilities, it is difficult for local government to manage these costs.

Other implications for local government include:

- The impact on local communities and their quality of life. This is particularly an issue for regional communities where facilities and services are often an important part of the fabric of community life.
- The health, safety and risk implications linked to inappropriate buildings and structures.
- Poor relationships with State and local sport and recreation bodies due to the frustration of using sub standard facilities.
- Dissatisfied communities, resulting in people leaving areas or towns due to poor facility provision.

The implications go beyond local government. If local government is unable to upgrade, maintain and replace sport and recreation facilities as they age, sporting bodies and communities will not be adequately catered for and participation in sport and recreation could decline as a result. This in turn will impact on State Government objectives to increase participation levels and improve wellbeing.

The affect of 'no action' could ultimately impact on South Australia's reputation as a quality place to live and have a direct impact on the economic viability and social structure of the State.

### 3. Responding to the Issues

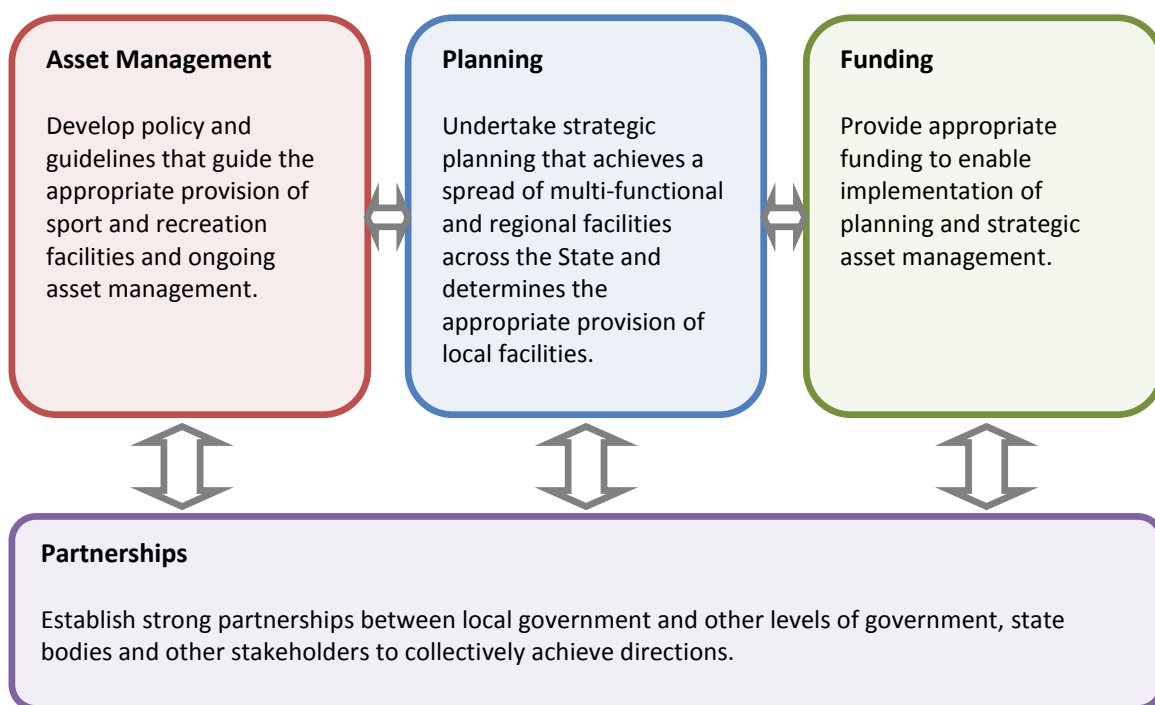
#### 3.1 Response Framework

Additional funding would certainly contribute to addressing the local and regional sport and recreation facility issues. However, funding on its own is not the solution.

What is required is a totally new and holistic approach to the provision, management and resourcing of local and regional facilities that is strategic, sustainable and supported by all stakeholders. This will require a commitment across all levels of government and from other stakeholders.

#### *Responding to Priorities*

The consultations with local councils and other stakeholders undertaken for this paper highlighted that a strategic response is required for each of the four main areas of priority as outlined below. Each 'priority response' is integral to achieving a strategic and sustainable provision and management of facilities across South Australia and should not be addressed in isolation as shown below.



## 3.2 Recommended Directions

Recommended directions for each Response Priority are provided below.

### ***Asset Management***

#### *Agreed Policy Direction*

1. Develop an agreed policy direction on the provision and management of facilities that includes directions and principles relating to:
  - Multi-function and shared-use facilities versus single use facilities
  - Facility hierarchy
  - Facility consolidation
  - Facility feasibility
  - Management approaches

The policy will provide local councils with a basis for making decisions on the future provision and consolidation of facilities. The policy and principles should be agreed to across local government and across the different levels of government and be directly linked to funding allocations.

#### *Guidelines, Models, Standards, Templates*

2. Develop specific guidelines, models, standards and templates that assist local councils and community groups to plan for, provide and manage local and regional recreation and sport facilities. This could include:
  - Facility auditing models and templates to encourage a consistent and coordinated approach
  - Facility management models that consider the best approach for 'who should manage facilities' (council versus community) and good practice facility management approaches
  - Strategic planning models and templates
  - Consistent processes, models and templates for asset management
  - Facility development guidelines, including feasibility benchmarks and 'fit for purpose' guidelines
  - Business models, including cost sharing and business oriented approaches to facility management and development (including investment and partnership opportunities)
  - Environmental sustainability guidelines, including water management and climate change
  - Guidelines for facility consolidation, including guidelines for appropriate provision and criteria for assessing facilities
  - Sports standards and requirements for facilities
  - Business planning guides for community groups
  - Community consultation and inclusion guidelines

#### *School Facilities Shared-Use Policy*

3. Develop a State level policy on the shared-use of school facilities. This would ideally be a Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS) policy that commits to shared-use principles and guides schools and other partners in achieving positive shared-use.

## **Planning**

### *Across State Plan (Regional and Multi-functional Facilities)*

1. Plan for a strategic spread of regional and multi-functional facilities across the State through an integrated and coordinated planning process. The process should involve drawing on existing planning and undertaking additional planning at various levels to 'feed into' an overriding plan. The planning process should involve:
  - Local councils identifying demands and opportunities for key facilities (through existing and new local plans), including the potential for asset consolidation
  - State sporting bodies identifying requirements for key facilities across metropolitan Adelaide and regional areas linked to strategic planning for their sport
  - State government contributing to identifying demands and opportunities and providing guidelines that influence the provision and location of facilities
  - All levels of government considering opportunities for the future sport and recreation potential of surplus land, e.g. schools that could be closed, private land that could be sold
  - Regions agreeing on key facility opportunities and determining where facilities should be strategically located, giving consideration to facility provision and management policy and guidelines
  - The directions recommended by regions, sporting bodies and State Government being strategically assessed, mapped and integrated within an overriding state level plan
  - Consideration being given to broader planning, e.g. 30 Year Greater Adelaide Plan
  - The directions identified through the plan being clearly linked to funding allocations

The planning should be guided by local government and focus on providing directions for regions, while also reflecting State body requirements, State Government planning and local area requirements. The across state plan should consider future community requirements including service requirements such as transport connections (including for regional areas).

### *Local Planning Framework*

2. Develop a planning framework linked to the policy and guidelines that will assist local councils and State bodies to determine future facility requirements and identify opportunities for facility consolidation and multi-functional facilities, whilst meeting the local needs of communities.

### *New Development Area Planning*

3. Provide guidance and initiate reforms regarding the provision of open space and developer contributions to sport and recreation facilities linked to new development areas.

## **Funding**

### *Sustainable Funding Model*

1. Develop a sustainable funding model that is agreed to by Federal, State and Local Government and is targeted towards local government achieving planning and strategic asset management. The funding model should aim to achieve consistent ongoing funding and encourage a cooperative approach to sourcing, promoting and distributing funds.

The model could involve sourcing and broadening existing funding and providing funding incentives, including:

- Review Department of Planning and Local Government grant funding criteria to enable the funding of key sports oriented open space and facilities
- Broaden the sources of funding linked to health, environment and social initiatives (recognising the health and social benefits of sport and recreation)
- Provide incentives for funding contributions, e.g. taxation incentives to encourage community and business contributions
- Consider funding opportunities within communities, including sponsorships

Related funding should:

- Be clearly linked to policy and strategic planning priorities
- Encourage the development of regional and multi-function facilities and asset consolidation
- Enable facility 'renewal' as well as 'new development'
- Support asset planning and feasibility assessment as well as facility development
- Recognise the difference between regional areas and metropolitan areas and consider the individual characteristics of regions (isolation, travel, activity opportunities, community trends)
- Require strategic and financial plans and feasibility assessments to justify funding applications and projects

### *Enhanced ORS Funding*

2. Continue the Office for Recreation and Sport facility development funding program. However, review the approach to this funding and create a stronger connection with the strategic planning undertaken by local government. Ideas for consideration identified by Local Councils include:
  - Increase the total amount of funds available (using a comparison of funding per capita with Victoria and Western Australia as a basis)
  - Review the groups funded (local government, community and schools could be too dispersed and competitive)
  - Increase the funding limits (\$300,000 for major facility is inadequate)
  - Review the requirement to match grants 'dollar for dollar'
  - Link funding to planning undertaken by local councils (projects should be in plans or priority listings)
  - Allocate different assessment criteria to regional areas (giving consideration to isolation and community benefit)
  - Encourage assessment by local councils and be guided by council recommendations
  - Consult with local councils in the assessment process and prior to allocation



## **Partnerships**

### *Local Government Communication*

1. Increase the communication and partnerships across local government, including greater communication across regions and a greater emphasis on local councils working and planning together for key facilities.

### *Federal and Local Government Connection*

2. Strengthen the Federal to Local Government connection through direct funding and policy links. It is recommended that the Federal Government allocate funding directly to the local government 'pool' of funding and the Federal Government be involved in determining guidelines for this funding.

### *State and Local Government Relationship*

3. Strengthen the relationship between local government and State government through improved planning and funding connections.

### *Across Government Coordination*

4. Encourage greater cooperation across government through formal communication forums and coordinated project initiatives facilitated by local and state government (avoiding duplicated initiatives across government).

### *Peak Body Partnerships*

5. Strengthen partnerships and communication with peak sport, recreation, health and community bodies, including information and guidance on facility requirements and partnership opportunities for key initiatives.

### *Local Business and Community Partnerships*

6. Work with local businesses and communities to achieve an appropriate provision of quality facilities through greater awareness of policy directions and partnerships at the community level.

### 3.3 Suggested Action Plan

The Suggested Action Plan is designed to be a 5 Year Plan, where all actions are commenced within 5 years. However, some of the actions will require ongoing advocacy and there may be a need for some extended projects.

The Action Plan relates to the recommended directions and includes the Direction topic, suggested related actions and suggested stakeholder involvement. The Directions identify WHAT should be done and the Actions consider HOW the directions can be achieved.

The Action Plan is based on Local Government taking a lead role in the implementation, whether this be through undertaking or facilitating an action.

Directions	Specific Actions	Stakeholders
Initial Tasks (to enable implementation)	Undertake additional research through the Local Government Association to further substantiate directions where required.	Local government
	Provide resources to undertake the actions and related projects.	Local government State government Federal government
Asset Management	Establish a process of communication across local government and with other stakeholders to enable input to the asset management directions.	Local government State government State bodies
	Develop the policy and guidelines with input from across local government, other levels of government and other stakeholders.	Local government State government State bodies
	Liaise with DECS to gain support for an overriding shared-use policy for school facilities and work with DECS to develop the policy.	Local government State government
Planning	Obtain support for and refine the planning approach outlined in the Directions. This will involve communication with all local councils, other levels of government and State bodies.	Local government State government State bodies
	Guide and undertake the across State planning for local and regional facilities through a structured approach and process of communication.	Local government State government State bodies Community
	Develop the planning framework to guide local councils and State sporting bodies in their planning.	Local government State government State bodies
	Liaise with the Department of Planning and Local Government on potential further reforms and guidelines for new development area planning.	Local government State government

***Suggested Action Plan (continued)***

<b>Directions</b>	<b>Specific Actions</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>
Funding	Communicate and negotiate on the development of a sustainable funding model that is agreed to by all levels of government.	Local government State government Federal government
	Research and record existing grant funding opportunities and negotiate additional opportunities across government.	Local government State government Federal government
	Assist the Office for Recreation and Sport to consider potential improvements to grant funding programs.	Local government State government
Partnerships	Establish relationships through formal communication processes and involvement in policy development, planning and funding initiatives.	Local government State government Federal government State bodies

## 4. Stakeholder Roles

### 4.1 A Coordinated Approach

As the owner of most local and regional sport and recreation facilities it is only appropriate that local government should take the lead role in responding to the issues. However, the enormity of the issue and the high value of local and regional sport and recreation facilities to communities justifies support and involvement from all stakeholders.

There is potential for a coordinated response and each stakeholder has an important role to play.

### 4.2 Potential Stakeholder Roles

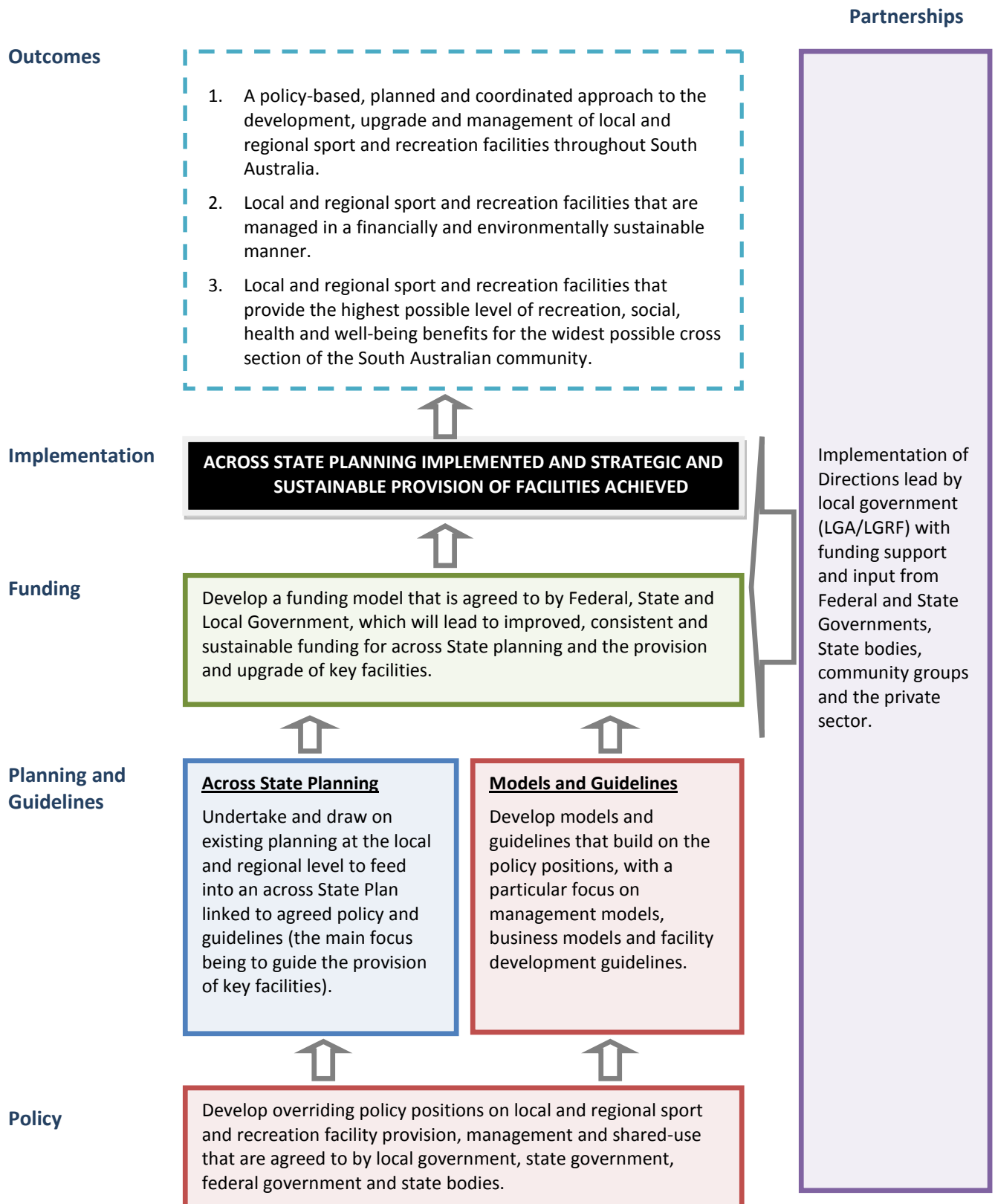
The suggested role of each stakeholder required to achieve the directions in this paper and strategically respond to local and regional sport and recreation facility issues is outlined below.

<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Role</b>
Local Government	Play a lead role in implementing the Directions in this paper and responding to the local and regional sport and recreation facility issues in partnership with other levels of government and other stakeholders.
State Government	Work with local government to ensure appropriate facility provision and management. This includes involvement in policy, guidelines and planning, and contributing appropriate funding to planned assets.
Federal Government	Assist local government to respond to the local and regional sport and recreation facility issues through direct funding allocations to local government and support to policy and planning outcomes as appropriate.
State Sport and Recreation Bodies	Contribute to the policy and planning and develop stronger relationships with local government. This includes undertaking strategic planning to determine future sporting requirements and feeding this information into the 'across State' planning process as appropriate.
Non Government Organisations	Assist local government to develop and achieve policy and planning and adopt consistent approaches to providing for sport and recreation.
Community Groups	Support local government in its strategic asset planning and management and work with local government to achieve appropriately located quality facilities over time.
Private Sector	Work with local government to identify opportunities for local business and private sector involvement that benefits communities and achieves the asset management objectives of local government.

Specific involvement linked to recommended actions is outlined in Section 3.3.

## 5. Implementation and Outcomes

The implementation of the 5 Year Action Plan and directions will require a strategic and committed approach that is led by local government and contributed to by other levels of government and other stakeholders. The suggested approach to implementation and the desired outcomes are outlined below starting with 'Policy'.



## 6. The Next Steps

This paper reflects what local councils across South Australia believe is necessary to address the issues relating to local and regional sport and recreation facilities. The views of the local councils involved in the study have been consistent and strong.

There is clearly a need for policy, guidelines and planning that will enable a more strategic and sustainable approach to facility provision, management and resourcing. Local government cannot continue to 'patch up' facilities with limited resources and a holistic and coordinated approach is required to address the issue. This paper aims to provide the framework to enable the appropriate response.

The paper and its directions and recommendations will require support from all levels of government and other stakeholders and as such the most important 'next step' will be to promote and obtain endorsement for the paper. This will include liaison with:

- Local Government Association as a potential leader of the implementation.
- Ministerial committees that can provide valuable support to the paper and the directions such as the Physical Activity Council.
- Industry bodies with the potential to liaise at the National level. Parks and Leisure Australia has the potential to play a key role in the promotion and future implementation.
- State government departments that can contribute to achieving specific directions, e.g. Department of Planning and Local Government, Office for Recreation and Sport and Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS).
- State representative bodies that will ideally support and contribute to achieving the directions including Sport SA and Recreation SA.

Initial liaison with the Local Government Association has indicated 'in principle' support for the paper and its findings. However, to substantiate the directions and further justify support from other levels of government and industry bodies, the Local Government Association has indicated a desire to undertake some additional research as its first 'next step' and this is included in the suggested Action Plan.

Overall, a coordinated and strategic approach to addressing local and regional sport and recreation facility issues will be required. Local government has the potential to play a lead role and work with the other levels of government and industry bodies to ensure a coordinated approach and achieve fundamental change over the next 5 years and beyond.

## ATTACHMENTS

## Attachment 1: Facility Hierarchy Definitions

The Office for Recreation and Sport generally refers to State, Regional and Local facilities in its planning and grant funding programs. There is also reference to International and National level facilities in the Statewide Sport and Recreation Facility Audit 2002.

International, National and State facilities are those facilities that support international, national and state level competitions and events respectively (Statewide Sport and Recreation Facility Audit 2002). Adelaide Oval, Ami Stadium and ETSA Park are good examples. This paper does not relate to those facilities.

The definition for 'regional/ significant community level' facilities in the Statewide Sport and Recreation Facility Audit 2002 is as follows:

*"A facility is deemed to be regional if it attracts users from a substantial part of the region or from several local Council areas. Significant community is defined as a facility that has significant usage or importance to the community."*

For this Paper and to further guide local and state government in their assessment of hierarchy, the following definitions have been used.

### Regional Facility

A regional facility will have the capacity, due to its large size, exceptional quality or unique function, to support activities and events that draw people from a regional or wider catchment.

A regional catchment will generally include more than one Local Government Area. However, a geographically large regional area could be an exception, e.g. where the activity mainly draws people from across the LGA due to distance to travel but can also attract people from outside the LGA.

### Local Facility

The term 'local' refers to all other facilities that are not State level or Regional level. However, 'local facilities' could be broken down into three more clearly defined hierarchy levels as outlined below.

#### *District Facility*

A District facility will have the capacity, due to its larger size, high quality or distinct function, to support activities that draw people from across a large part of the Local Government Area. A District facility could also cater for people in another LGA where the facility is near the Council border.

#### *Neighbourhood Facility*

A neighbourhood facility will have the capacity to support activities that draw people from a number of suburbs or more than one town. The facility quality and size will reflect the activity level.

#### *Local Facility*

A local facility may only cater for one or two suburbs or one town due to its smaller size and/ or moderate quality (safe and appealing but not high quality).



## Attachment 2: Further Understanding the Issues

A summary of key issues is provided below. These issues have been drawn from previous regional and local sport and recreation plans and also consider wider issues reflected in State level planning and additional issues raised through the workshop consultations.

### Sport and Recreation Facility Issues

Topic	Key Issues	Impacts on Local Government
Asset Stock	Local Councils have established recreation, sport and community facilities over a number of years and are now faced with a large number of assets that require management.	Ongoing capital and operational costs
Ageing Infrastructure	Facilities that were established prior to the 1980's (which is often a large proportion of assets) are beginning to age and require upgrade or replacement.	Significant capital cost over a long period of time Risk management and health and safety issues
Facility Duplication	There is often a duplication of facilities, e.g. a number of buildings located at one sportsground or the location of facilities close to each other. However, communities tend to resist rationalisation or sharing facilities.	Unnecessary capital and operational costs Community backlash to proposed change
Gaps in Provision	Some key facilities are lacking in parts of metropolitan Adelaide and regional areas, including indoor aquatic facilities, health and fitness centres, outdoor court complexes, event spaces, and quality sportsgrounds with spectator facilities.	Capital and ongoing operational costs of establishing Difficulty in obtaining land to establish facilities
Asset Management	Local Government is required to develop Asset Management Plans in accordance with the SA Local Government Act 1999. Whilst this is positive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Some Local Councils may not have the skills or resources to undertake the planning</li> <li>– Some Local Councils may only assess assets from a condition perspective and not consider the social aspects of facilities</li> <li>– Local Councils could face community resistance against rationalisation</li> <li>– Many Local Councils will not have the funds to implement their Plans, i.e. upgrade or replace facilities</li> </ul>	Potential loss of facilities valued by communities Allocation of time and resources that may not have a positive outcome Potential community backlash Capital costs
Hierarchy Considerations	There is need for a consistent approach to facility hierarchy and a balanced spread of different levels of facilities. However, there is no agreed hierarchy framework and no across State recognition of higher level hierarchy facilities (ideally all regional and district facilities would be mapped and gaps identified). A draft hierarchy definition is attached for feedback.	Lack of 'bigger picture' considerations (where do Council's facilities fit in the scheme of things, to what level should facilities be developed etc)

## Sport and Recreation Facility Issues (continued)

Topic	Key Issues	Impacts on Local Government
Planning Outcomes	Regional and Local Plans relating to sport and recreation facilities have been developed for a number of regions and Local Councils, but they are often not implemented due to a lack of funds and resources.	Lack of improvements, which ultimately has capital and operational cost implications  Community dissatisfaction (consulted, have a plan but no results)
New Development Area Planning	There is a need to improve the approach to planning for new development areas as developers could otherwise determine open space and facility provision with inadequate consideration to future community needs.	Potential inadequate provision of open space and facilities (including a lack of land to enable regional facilities that may be required)
Community Expectations	Community needs and expectations are increasing. There is an ongoing expectation that communities will be provided with quality facilities that are safe, appealing and accessible and there will be a diversity of activity opportunities, unique places and experiences. As communities age the requirements for health, fitness and social interaction are likely to increase.	Capital and operational costs to respond to needs and expectations
Volunteers and Facility Management	Volunteers in sport and recreation are becoming increasingly difficult to find. Broadly speaking, the younger generation is more likely to have work and family commitments and the older generation are often becoming too old to continue to take on the volunteer load. The competition for volunteers is also high, with many community services relying on volunteers to achieve their work. As a result there are fewer people with the time and skills to contribute to facility management.  The approach to 'who manages facilities' and the related responsibilities varies across local government.	Poorly managed facilities resulting in increased responsibility and cost to Local Councils
Competition Between Clubs	Sporting clubs are competing with each other for members and funding for programs and facilities. A more coordinated approach across sports and clubs is required.	Low use of facilities and greater requirements for facilities
Planning by Community Groups	There is often a lack of strategic and financial planning by sport and community groups and as a result proposals are ad hoc with limited rationale.	Difficulty to justify facility upgrade without appropriate planning
Issues Faced by Regional Areas	Regional areas often face additional issues to metropolitan areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Distance to travel between towns and to facilities</li> <li>– Isolation of communities and the need for facilities to compensate</li> <li>– Small communities resulting and limited funds and people to undertake activities</li> </ul>	Greater pressure to provide facilities at the local level

## Sport and Recreation Facility Issues (continued)

Topic	Key Issues	Impacts on Local Government
Key Facilities in Regional Areas	<p>Regional communities often seek quality facilities to provide a focus for the community and an opportunity for economic development (linking to National and State events etc). The main issues with this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The cost of establishing regional facilities with a relatively small rate base</li> <li>– The ongoing feasibility of the facilities particularly for smaller or geographically isolated populations</li> </ul>	Initial capital cost and ongoing operational cost
Resistance to Regional Approach	A regional approach to facility provision aims to avoid duplication and achieve an appropriate spread of facilities. However, there tends to be a resistance to contributing to regional projects ‘across the border’.	Potential facility duplication and unnecessary capital and operational costs
Cost of Regional Facilities	Individual Local Councils generally do not have the resources to establish regional facilities. As a result, higher quality regional level facilities are often not provided unless there is a commitment of funding from the other levels of government which is generally difficult to obtain.	<p>Inability to establish regional facilities</p> <p>Potential financial burden on Councils that do establish facilities</p>
Key Facilities in Regional Areas	<p>Regional communities often seek quality facilities to provide a focus for the community and an opportunity for economic development (linking to National and State events etc). The main issues with this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The cost of establishing regional facilities with a relatively small rate base</li> <li>– The ongoing feasibility of the facilities particularly for smaller or geographically isolated populations</li> </ul>	Initial capital cost and ongoing operational cost
Changing Regional Areas	There is uncertainty regarding which local councils make up some regions, i.e. the grouping of local councils in some regions change for different planning projects.	Lack of regional connection and commitment
Cost of Regional Facilities	Individual Local Councils generally do not have the resources to establish regional facilities. As a result, higher quality regional level facilities are often not provided unless there is a commitment of funding from the other levels of government which is generally difficult to obtain.	<p>Inability to establish regional facilities</p> <p>Potential financial burden on Councils that do establish facilities</p>

## Sport and Recreation Facility Issues (continued)

Topic	Key Issues	Impacts on Local Government
Funding	<p>The funding availability for sport and recreation facilities is limited and there is high competition. The main funding program is the Office for Recreation and Sport Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program. This program is available to Local Councils, sporting clubs and associations and school councils, which makes it very competitive. The funding is limited to \$300,000 for each project and funding is up to 50% (up to 30% for school based projects). In addition, the focus tends to be on new facility development rather than existing facility upgrade (capital renewal).</p> <p>Local Councils and communities often express concern that there is inadequate State and Federal Government funding available and that too much responsibility is placed on Local Councils to fund facilities.</p>	<p>Lack of grant funding</p> <p>Inability to improve facilities, which results in community dissatisfaction</p>
Partnerships	<p>The importance of partnerships is often promoted, recognising that Local Government cannot 'do it alone'. However, the reality of partnerships is more difficult. Partnerships with schools can result in poor access to facilities by communities and partnerships with the private sector are difficult if there is minimal potential return on investment. Sponsorships can be difficult to obtain and could become more so due to the economic downturn.</p>	<p>Ongoing difficulty in establishing effective partnerships</p>
Surplus Land	<p>Schools and private land are sometimes sold off without giving consideration to the potential for open space and key facilities. Future opportunities should be identified in advance.</p>	<p>Missed opportunities for regional and multi-functional open space and facilities</p>
Government Roles	<p>The State and Federal Government is currently placing a strong emphasis on developing and upgrading State level facilities. Local Councils are concerned that an inadequate focus is being placed on contributing to regional and local facilities by the other levels of government.</p>	<p>Increasing reliance on Local Government</p>

## Broad Relevant Issues

A number of broader issues are likely to have an impact on local government and the provision and management of sport and recreation facilities as outlined below.

Topic	Key Issues	Impacts on Local Government
Economic Downturn	The global economic situation could affect people across South Australia for a number of years. Job losses, declining asset values and a tightening of spending could create social and economic issues within communities that flow through to sport and recreation.	Potential impact on investment values and available funding  Increased pressure to support communities, e.g. affordable facilities, network and support opportunities
Climate Change	South Australia is experiencing drought conditions with increasing temperatures, reduced rainfall, fire risks and water restrictions. These conditions are impacting on landscapes, activity opportunities such as water based sports and the economy, e.g. impacts on the livelihood of farmers.	New approaches are required to designing and managing open spaces (irrigation, water collection, landscape design)  Cost implications
Population Size and Character	South Australia's population is changing in various ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The State Government is encouraging a substantial increase in the population to support economic growth</li> <li>– The State has an ageing population that is likely to require additional facilities and services over time</li> <li>– There is an increasing number of new immigrants including people with language, cultural and integration requirements</li> <li>– Regional areas are experiencing people moving into their areas for lifestyle reasons (sea change, rural lifestyle) and young people moving out of towns to pursue education and careers</li> </ul>	Cost of providing additional facilities and services  Loss of workforce and vitality (through loss of young people)
Social Considerations	Society is experiencing ongoing change that requires a continued response, e.g. high divorce rates resulting in single parent families, couples having children later in life, increasing gap between the 'haves' and 'have nots', increasing people 'on the streets' linked to drug and alcohol abuse.	Cost of supporting communities and responding to changes and social issues
Health and Activity	The concept of a 'healthy community' is becoming a significant priority. It is recognised that obesity is potentially a major issue, the encouragement of physical activity is a key State and Federal initiative, and diet awareness and stress relief is becoming increasingly important due to increasing heart disease, cancer, autism, depression and other diseases linked to a western society.	Cost of supporting communities and responding to priorities