



# COORONG THRIVING TOWNS BUSINESS PLAN



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*Front Cover: Images from the Coorong Thriving Towns Plan – Tintinara, and drought and water sensitive landscape design in Murray Bridge*

*Below: Coonalpyn Silo Art, parking and rest area, adjacent to Dukes Highway and local businesses*





*Above: Tailem Bend Main Street looking North West – businesses, Railway Terrace, green space and parking*

## Project Description

The 'Coorong Thriving Towns Project' will enhance the liveability, economic vitality, road safety, streetscapes and civic spaces of the key townships in the Coorong District; Tailem Bend, Meningie, Coonalpyn and Tintinara. Each of these townships are significant centres for our local farming communities and are also located on the Dukes and Princes Highways forming a significant gateway to South Australia for the local, state, interstate and international visitors.

The Coorong District has a strong economic base in agriculture. This project will build the resilience of our towns to support a broader base for ongoing economic and community resilience in the face of ongoing challenges as identified in the Regional Development Australia - Murraylands Riverland Plan including; drought, climate resilience, supply chain and export opportunity disruption, and biosecurity threats. These challenges are a particular threat to our dominant agriculture sector.

Components of the Coorong Thriving Towns Project include; drought sensitive landscaping design, improved shade enhancing community use spaces, improved pathways linking key township assets, Electric Vehicle charging stations, playground, improved aesthetics to attract community, visitors & businesses to stay, work, play & spend. Full Design & Community Engagement for this project is complete.

Improving the health, liveability and connectivity of our towns will help to improve the economic and community resilience and vitality of our businesses and people when economic disruption occurs by creating spaces where our community, visitors and existing and burgeoning businesses want to spend time and locate themselves.



## Project Demand and Supply Assumptions

The Coorong District Council townships identified in the Coorong Thriving Towns Project are all small thriving communities and are situated on significant national highways.

Coorong District Council is committed through our [Community Vision Plan](#) to enhance these towns to improve liveable spaces, and encourage the travelling population to safely stop and enjoy the amenities and services of the towns, and to provide the best environments possible for our businesses to grow and thrive.

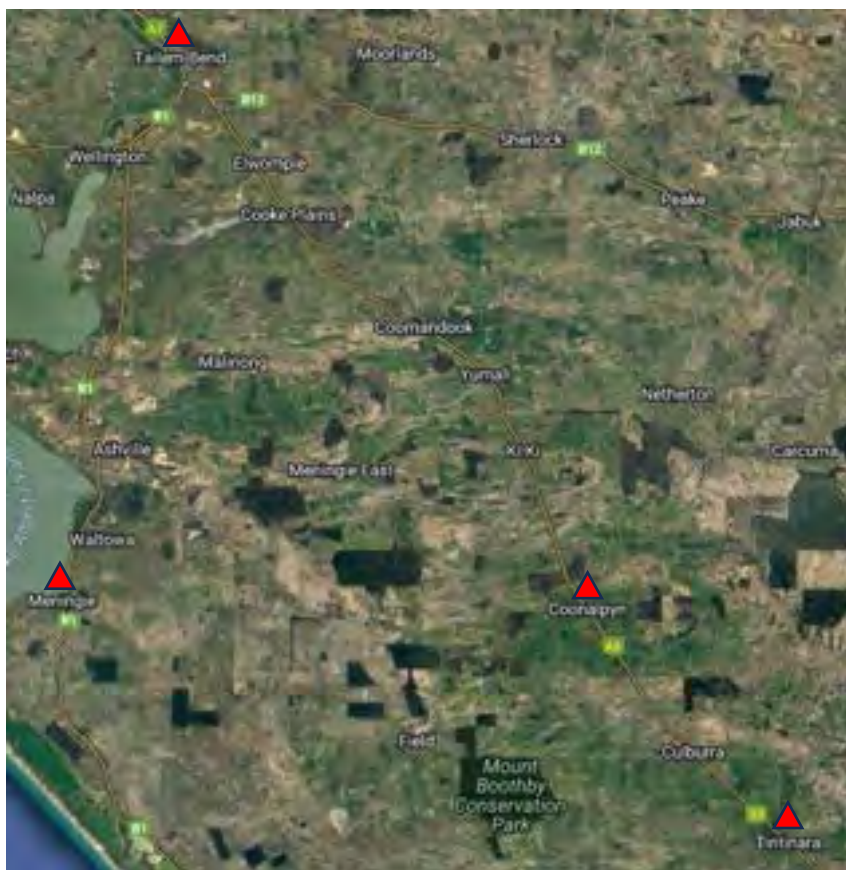
The first step is to start enhancing the visual amenity of our towns, highway corridors and business precincts to provide an inviting and welcoming spaces. This project will provide improved visual amenity on entry to the towns, improved park, reserves and public facilities, and safe pedestrian access from improved rest stop parking areas to town businesses.

All of these towns have high demand placed on them to deliver services to travellers who are wishing to rest and revive. These towns require facilities for travellers to; use restrooms, stretch their legs in a park area; allow children to play, walk the dog, and grab a coffee or a bite to eat whilst travelling.

## The Coorong District and our Towns

The Coorong covers 8,832 kilometres<sup>2</sup> encompassing; tourism & grain gateway, Lower Murray, Lakes & Coorong, Upper South East food-bowl. Our community spans a diverse age range, with economic diversity; 720 businesses covering tourism, service, motorsports & agriculture with >2,400 jobs and Gross Regional Product of \$420 million.

Our impressive waterways are linked by a mixture of wide open spaces, Coorong National Park, Conservation Parks and Ngarrindjeri Ruwe (land) including Raukkan and areas of cultural & historic significance.



*Left: Coorong Thriving Project will be focussed in the towns of Taillem Bend, Meningie, Coonapllyn and Tintinara.*

*All are marked on this map with this symbol*



*The three major highways entering South Australia from the East; Dukes, Princes and Mallee are shown in yellow converging at Taillem Bend.*



Taillem  
Bend  
Population  
1705  
*2021 census*

Meningie  
Population  
1118  
*2021  
census*



Coonalpyn  
Population  
350  
*2021 census*

Tintinara  
Population  
544  
*2021 census*



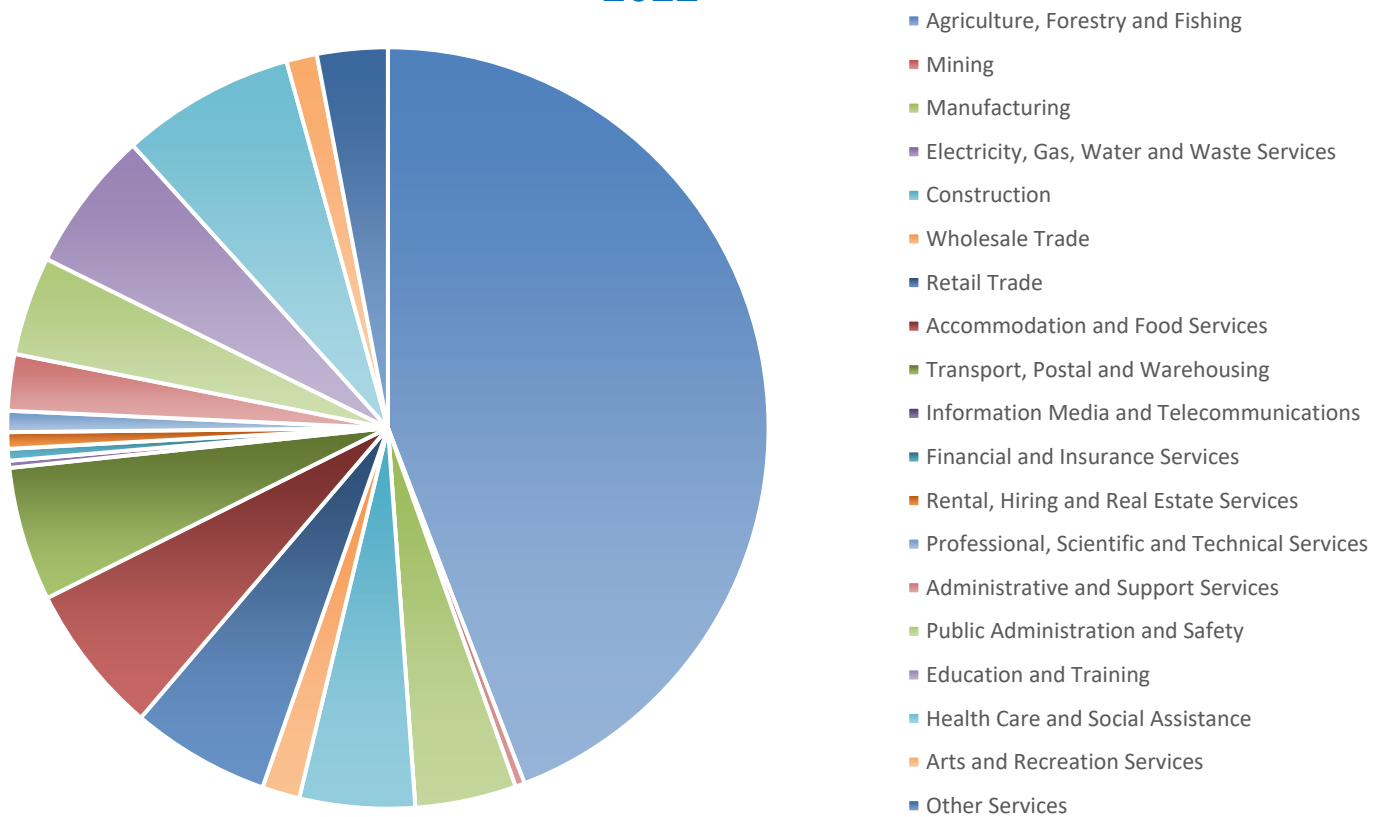
# Our Economy and Businesses

*Coorong District Council area Gross Regional Product was \$420 million in the year ending June 2022, growing 18.5% since the previous year. Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing had the highest local sales, generating \$116 million.*

*Coorong District Council aim to build on our economic diversity which is driven by over 720 businesses, the majority of which are in the agriculture, services, & motorsports sectors.*

*Over 2400 people are employed in the Coorong District Council area.*

## Employment by Sector - Coorong District Council Area 2021 - 2022



This data supports our project aim of improving the economic and community vitality of our main towns to further diversify our economy which is currently dominated by primary production. Improved economic diversity will ensure our District and our State are better able to withstand market disruptions such as climate variability supply chain / export opportunity disruption, and biosecurity threats.

*Below: Trucks passing the United Service Station at Tintinara*



## Project Outcomes, Deliverables and Benefits



### Economic Benefits

The Coorong District has a strong economic base in agriculture. Improving the health, liveability and connectivity of our towns will help to improve the economic and community resilience and vitality of our businesses and people when these disruptions occur by creating spaces where our community, visitors and existing and burgeoning businesses want to spend time, and towns where businesses want to locate themselves, invest, spend time and money.

The Coorong District townships located on the Dukes, Mallee and Princes Highways form a significant gateway to South Australia for the local, state, interstate and international visitors. In the current State environment travellers are on the move due to; post COVID-19 domestic travel, increases in State based events such as the Gather Round, Festivals and new events occurring frequently, events at The Bend Motor Sport Park, and larger local travel to townships due to amalgamation of football/netball leagues and teams. Ensuring our towns are thriving and welcoming will maximise the likelihood of locals, visitors and businesses will want to stay, play and spend in our local economies.

Coorong District Council will actively engage Indigenous Work Providers, Contractors and Teams in procurement processes. Understorey hardy native landscape plants will be sourced from the Raukkan Aboriginal Community Nursery.

Left: Drought tolerant landscape Adelaide Road Linear Park Murray Bridge Right: : Lake Albert Sunset at Meningie



## Social Benefits

The Coorong Thriving Towns Project will provide social benefits through;

- Improving the vibrance of our townships will support business and tourism, and will improve township resilience when economic or climate related upheavals occur in our surrounding agricultural industries
- By highlighting township assets, connectivity, shade and green spaces will enhance a feeling of town and district pride
- Improved road safety and parking spaces
- Improved accessibility and inclusion for a wide range of our community; indigenous, non English speaking, physically and mentally disabled
- Enhancing civic spaces in our townships where people want to spend time and gather together
- Working with our communities we will encourage holding community events in these improved spaces to enhance our sense of community



*Above: Locals and visitors making the most of Café Culture in Coonalpyn. Improved highway exit & entry points, parking and defined pedestrian access points will improve the attractiveness of the Coonalpyn township as a space to spend time and support businesses.*

We will work with the Coorong District Council Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural and Arts Advisory Group to assist with embedding stories and culture into landscape and design features. Coorong District Council continue to actively seek and source engagement and partnership through the – First Nations Aboriginal Entrepreneurs Circle.

*Below: Snap shot from design concept plans for Taillem Bend*





# Community Engagement

The Coorong Thriving Towns Project design and community consultation is complete ensuring the shovel readiness of this project. Community Engagement workshops were held in Tailem Bend, Meningie, Coonalpyn and Tintinara over March and April 2023. These sessions were very well attended by our local community providing Council Staff and Consultants with valuable feedback to refine planning and concepts. These meetings were held in Tailem Bend, Meningie, Coonalpyn and Tintinara over March and April 2021.



Above: Stakeholders in attendance at the Tailem Bend consultation session 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – Tailem Bend Town Hall

The outcomes of all Community Engagement sessions can be found by clicking on the hyperlinked document titles below;

- 1 . [Coorong Thriving Towns - Community Engagement 2023, and](#)
- 4. [Coorong Thriving Towns Meningie - Project Design, Style Guide, Community Engagement 2023](#)

Below: Snapshot of Community Engagement Data contained in the reports above.

## WHY IS THE TOWN IMPORTANT TO YOU?

40 percent of respondents feel that the town is important to them as they grew up within that town. This suggests a strong emotional attachment to that place.






















Other features within the townships that are important to the respondents include the shopping, cafes and town services, the ability to raise a family, and the town pride and business of the town.



# Coorong Thriving Towns Project Scope and Design

Project Design for this Project are complete and were undertaken by the Coorong District Council Infrastructure and Assets Team working with City Collective and Hatch Consulting Services (Urban Design, Planning, Landscape Architecture and Engineering).

Project Scope and Key Activities are summarised in the table below by town.

| TOWN  | Tailem Bend   | Meningie  | Coonalpyn   | Tintinara   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>PROJECT ACTIVITY</b>   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Artistic Outdoor Lighting Design Installation</b> <i>Mallee Lights Project</i>   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>Connectivity</b> – <i>linking town assets and points of interest, improved pedestrian crossing safety, footpaths using Universal Design Principles</i> |    |   |    |    |
| <b>Electric Vehicle Charging Station and Car Park</b>   |   |    |   |   |
| <b>Furniture</b> - <i>new and refurbished</i>   |   |   |    |   |
| <b>Improved Car Parking</b>   |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Landscape Design</b>   |    |   |    |   |
| <b>Laser cut artistic feature bins</b>  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Outdoor Gym Equipment</b>  |   |  |   |   |
| <b>Playground</b>   |   |   |  |   |
| <b>Shelters, BBQ Facilities and Furniture</b>   |   |  |   |   |
| <b>Stormwater Improvement</b>   |  |   |   |   |
| <b>Way Finding</b>  |  |   |   |   |

Detailed Project Design illustrations and style guides for each township can be found by clicking on the hyperlinked document titles below;

- [2a. Coorong Thriving Towns Tailem Bend Project Design & Style Guide 2023, and](#)
- [2b. Coorong Thriving Towns Coonalpyn Tintinara Project Design & Style Guide 2023](#)
- [4. Coorong Thriving Towns Meningie Project Design, Style Guide and Community Engagement 2023](#)

Below: Concept plan for Meningie Lions Park enhancement, example of new shade and picnic structures to be installed



# Project Scope and Budget by Location

## Project Milestones by Location

Project Scope, Budgeting and Milestone Work Planning for this Project was undertaken by James Clarke – Capital Projects Manager with Coorong District Council Project. Project Scope, Budgeting and Milestone Work Planning for each township can be found [here](#) ;

### [1 . Coorong Thriving Towns - Project Scope, Budget, Milestones 2023](#)

#### Coorong District Council Project Investment

Coorong District Council is invested in this project as shown by the cash and in kind contributions in the table below;

| 2023 -24 Coorong District Council Annual Business Plan approved 'Coorong Thriving Towns Project' components                                | Cash Contribution | In Kind Contribution |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|
| Meningie Lions Jubilee Park Upgrade  | \$155,000         |                      |
| EV Charging Station and Carpark  | \$115,500         |                      |
| Mallee Lights Project  | \$28,000          |                      |
| Railway Terrace Stormwater   | \$176,000         |                      |
| Laser cut artistic feature bins  | \$49,000          |                      |
| 2024 -25 Coorong District Council Long Term Financial Plan commitment to 'Coorong Thriving Towns Project'                                  | \$300,000         |                      |
| Coorong District Council in kind contribution - <i>Project Management, Administration, Project Promotion, ongoing Community Engagement</i> |                   | \$10,000             |
| <b>COORONG DISTRICT COUNCIL TOTAL CONTRIBUTION</b>   | <b>\$833,500</b>  | <b>\$10,000</b>      |

Below: Example of understorey drought tolerant native and introduced landscape plants at the Adelaide Road Linear Park in Murray Bridge



# Planning Approval Process

Hi Tracey

The projects identified are largely exempt under Schedule 4 part 2 of the PDH Regulations. The only thing that would need approval is public change and toilets. When construction plans are available and an application lodged, they will be dealt with promptly in house.

Thanks

**Ken Stratton**  
Manager Development Services



## Land Ownership

As outlined previously the Coorong Thriving Towns Project encompasses sites across four towns. Please find below a description by town in regard to land ownership.

### Meningie

Meningie Lions Jubilee Park – Princes Highway Meningie.

Crown Record Volume 5754 Folio 488 Lot 348 Princes Hwy Meningie.

The Land is dedicated for District Council purposes and declared that such land shall be under the care, control and management of Coorong District Council.

### Tintinara

Tintinara Lions Park, Windmill Park, parking area in front of Heart of the Parks. Area between Shell Service Station and Dog Park – Dukes Highway Tintinara.

Certificate of Title Volume 6039 Folio 582. Railway land leased from Department of Infrastructure and Transport.

### Coonalpyn

Parkland, parking area in front of public toilet and surrounding parking areas. Dukes Highway Coonalpyn.

Certificate of Title Volume 6141 Folio 509. Railway land leased from Department of Infrastructure and Transport.

### Tailem Bend

Project areas include both sides of Railway Terrace between Granites Road and Trevena Road, and adjacent parks and reserves including the area in front of the Tailem Bend Railway Station. Project area also includes North West side of Willow Street Reserve and Willow Street.

Certificate of Title Volume 6282 Folio 248 and Certificate of Title Volume 5847 Folio 855. Railway land leased from Department of Infrastructure and Transport.

Certificate of Title Volume 6070 Folio 862. Land owned estate in fee simple by Coorong District Council.

**All relevant roads and footpaths are owned by Coorong District Council will also form part of the new streetscape in each town.**

# Project Risk Management

| RISK PROBABILITY  | RISK RATING MATRIX |        | RISK IMPACT |         |         |
|---|--------------------|--------|-------------|---------|---------|
| RISK PROBABILITY  | RISK RATING MATRIX |        | RISK IMPACT |         |         |
|   | INSIGNIFICANT      | MINOR  | MODERATE    | MAJOR   | SEVERE  |
| <b>ALMOST CERTAIN</b><br>Is expected to occur (up to 90% chance)              | LOW                | MEDIUM | HIGH        | EXTREME | EXTREME |
| <b>LIKELY</b><br>Will probably occur in most circumstances (up to 70% chance) | LOW                | MEDIUM | HIGH        | HIGH    | EXTREME |
| <b>POSSIBLE</b><br>Might occur at some point (up to 40% chance)               | LOW                | MEDIUM | MEDIUM      | HIGH    | EXTREME |
| <b>UNLIKELY</b><br>Could occur at some time (up to 20% chance)                | LOW                | LOW    | MEDIUM      | HIGH    | HIGH    |
| <b>RARE</b><br>May occur only in exceptional circumstances (up to 5% chance)  | LOW                | LOW    | LOW         | MEDIUM  | HIGH    |

Below: Park Bench design to be used in Coorong Thriving Towns Project



## Description of Risks and Treatments

| Risk item and its effect on the objective of the proposed project                                | Risk level before treatment  |  |  | Treatment strategies   | Treated Risk Level   |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  | Likelihood<br>(Almost Certain / Likely / Possible / Unlikely / Rare) | Consequence<br>(Insignificant / Minor / Moderate / Major / Severe) | Risk Rating<br>(low / medium / high / extreme) |  | Likelihood<br>(Almost Certain / Likely / Possible / Unlikely / Rare) | Consequence<br>(Insignificant / Minor / Moderate / Major / Severe) | Risk Rating<br>(low / medium / high / extreme) |
| Pandemic restrictions impacting the delivery of the Coorong Thriving Towns Project               | Possible   | Moderate   | Medium   | Coorong District Council will apply existing organisational strategies to provide COVID safe work place, and will adhere to any State Government health orders   | Possible   | Moderate   | Medium   |
| Extreme weather or natural disaster impacting the delivery of the Coorong Thriving Towns Project | Possible   | Major  | High   | Coorong District Council will apply existing organisational strategies to provide a safe work place, and will minimise exposure to extreme weather conditions. During a bushfire risk or extreme heat work on site will cease.                       | Possible   | Major  | Medium   |
| Vandalism occurring to elements of the Coorong Thriving Towns Project                            | Possible   | Moderate   | Medium   | Work sites will be cordoned off minimising the risk of vandalism. Coorong District Council will take ongoing maintenance responsibility for all sites. Any reported damage will be alerted to Coorong District Council triggering immediate repairs. | Unlikely   | Moderate   | Medium   |
| Weather and adverse conditions damage to elements of the Coorong Thriving Towns Project          | Unlikely   | Moderate   | Medium   | Coorong District Council will take ongoing maintenance responsibility for all sites. Any reported damage will be alerted to Coorong District Council triggering immediate repairs.   | Unlikely   | Moderate   | Low  |

## Arrangements Post Funding

The 'Coorong Thriving Towns Project' can be sustained without further investment from external funding bodies after the funding is provided. All asset improvement will be recorded and monitored in the Coorong District Assets Register and accounted for in terms of asset depreciation and long term financial planning will factor in asset upgrade and replacement costs.

## Project Contacts

External Funding:

Tracey Strugnell  
Senior Sustainability and Grants Officer  
Coorong District Council  
E: [tstrugnell@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:tstrugnell@coorong.sa.gov.au)

Project Delivery:

James Clarke  
Capital Projects Manager  
Coorong District Council  
E: [jclarke@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:jclarke@coorong.sa.gov.au)

*Below: Picnic Table design to be used in Coorong Thriving Towns Project*



## Evidence of **Coorong Thriving Towns Project** Strategic Plan & Policy Linkages

| Plan or Policy                                 | Government Body  | Description   | Linkage to the Coorong Thriving Towns Project   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <a href="#">Murraylands and Riverland Plan</a> | Murraylands and Riverland Regional Development Authority | <p>Our project has direct linkages with the following <a href="#">MR Plan</a> Priority Principles for Regional Resilience; Together Community, Prepared and Proactive, Productive and Collaborative Futures. The Priorities for Resilience Intervention and Action; - Cohesive, Organised and Empowered to Take Responsibility, - Building Social Capital, - Learning for Change, - Planned and Prepared, - Diverse and Flexible, - Collaboration, Connection and Inclusion.</p> <p>The Commonwealth and State Governments co-funds the Murraylands Riverland Landscapes Board, and is a funding supporter of the Murraylands Riverland Plan.</p> | The Coorong District has a strong economic base in agriculture. This project will build the resilience of our towns to support a broader base for ongoing economic and community resilience in the face of ongoing challenges as identified in the Regional Development Australia - <a href="#">Murraylands Riverland Plan</a> including; drought, climate resilience, supply chain and export opportunity disruption, and biosecurity threats. These challenges are a particular threat to our dominant agriculture sector.  |
| <a href="#">2023-24 Federal Budget</a>         | Commonwealth Government                                  | <p><a href="#">The 2023-24 Federal Budget supports a strong, secure and sustainable regional Australia.</a> All regional investments must meet standards of merit and integrity, crucial to maintaining trust and confidence in government. The Framework identifies four key priority areas to support regional development – investing in services, people, places and industry.</p>  | The Coorong Thriving Towns Project directly reflects these areas by; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<b>SERVICES</b> - Providing an improved level of public infrastructure services to our local people, visitors and local businesses</li> <li>-<b>PEOPLE</b> -Building a sense of place in our townships that people want to spend time and gather together</li> <li>-Working with our communities we will encourage holding community events in these improved spaces to build a sense of community</li> <li>-Improved accessibility and inclusion for a wide range of our community; indigenous, non English speaking, physically and mentally disabled</li> <li>-<b>PLACES</b> -Improving the vibrance of our townships will support business and tourism, and will improve township resilience when economic or climate related upheavals occur in our surrounding agricultural industries</li> <li>-By highlighting township assets, connectivity, shade and green spaces will enhance a feeling of town and district pride</li> <li>-Improved shade and soft landscaping to provide beautiful places to exercise and relax</li> <li>-Improved spaces for our young people to spend time</li> <li>-<b>INDUSTRY</b> Economic data for the Coorong District directly supports our project aim of improving the economic &amp; social vitality of our main towns, boosting local businesses and service providers, to further diversify our economy which is currently dominated by primary production. Improved economic diversity will ensure our District and our State are better able to withstand market disruptions that directly impact agriculture such as</li> </ul> |



|   |                             |  |  |
|---|-----------------------------|--|--|
|   |                             |  | climate variability supply chain and export opportunity disruption & biosecurity threats.  |
| <b>SA State Government Priorities</b>                           | South Australian Government | <p>Our Project directly links to;</p> <p>The SA long term outcomes identified in the <a href="#">Thriving Regions Fund</a>; - Improved quality of life for regional communities, - Thriving, resilient and sustainable regional communities that attract &amp; retain people to live and work, - Stronger regional economies.</p> <p>-The State Government Strategic Priority,- <a href="#">Safe Communities, Healthy Neighbourhoods</a>.</p> <p>-The <a href="#">Infrastructure SA Strategy Objectives</a>;- Sustained economic &amp; jobs growth, - Connected &amp; productive regions, - Enviable liveability.</p> <p>-The <a href="#">State Public Health Plan Priority</a>,- Build stronger communities &amp; healthier environments.</p> | <p>The Coorong Thriving Towns Project directly reflects these areas by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Directly meeting the long term outcomes identified in the <a href="#">Thriving Regions Fund</a></li> <li>- Providing <a href="#">Safe Communities and Healthy Neighbourhoods</a> through improved road and pedestrian safety, and providing public spaces where community and visitors want to spend time, engage, exercise and play</li> <li>- Meeting <a href="#">Infrastructure SA Strategy Objectives</a> &amp; <a href="#">State Public Health Plan Priority</a> by creating township environments where community and visitors want to spend time and money, supporting local businesses, leading to job creation. The Thriving Towns Project will directly improve the liveability of the four townships.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Coorong District Council Community Vision Plan 2021-2025</b> | Coorong District Council    | Coorong District Council <a href="#">Community Vision Plan 2021-2025</a> covers the key Pillars of; Economy, Infrastructure, Community, Environment & Leadership.  | There are multiple project objectives aligning the Coorong Thriving Towns Project to the <a href="#">Community Vision Plan</a> .   |
| <b>Coorong District Council Coorong Growth Strategy</b>         | Coorong District Council    | <p>Region-wide strategy objectives;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Building a strong economy</li> <li>-Sustainable environments</li> <li>-Making great places</li> <li>-Integrated planning and infrastructure</li> <li>-Smaller settlements</li> </ul>   | There are multiple project objectives aligning the Coorong Thriving Towns Project to the <a href="#">Coorong Growth Strategy</a> .   |



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28<sup>th</sup> July 2023

## LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Bridget Mather  
Chief Executive Officer  
Coorong District Council  
PO Box 399  
TAILEM BEND SA 5260

Dear Bridget,

### Re: COORONG THRIVING TOWNS PROJECT

On behalf of Regional Development Australia Murraylands & Riverland (RDAMR), I have the pleasure of writing a letter of support to assist the Coorong District Council implement their extensive Coorong Thriving Towns project.

The Coorong Thriving Towns Project will positively impact a substantial portion of the Coorong community by enhancing the streetscapes, liveability, and road safety, along with the economic vitality of the key townships in the Coorong District; Tailem Bend, Meningie, Coonalpyn, and Tintinara.

Each of these townships is a significant centre for our local farming communities. In addition, these towns are located on the Dukes and Princes Highways, with high levels of tourist traffic including interstate and international visitors.

Tourism is a significant driver for the Murray River, Lakes & Coorong tourism region, contributing \$124M in visitor expenditure annually. The Coorong District is well-placed to grow this economic opportunity.

This Coorong Thriving Towns Project will strengthen these towns to support ongoing economic and community resilience in the face of ongoing challenges such as; drought and flood, climate variability, pandemic, supply chain and export opportunity disruption, and biosecurity threats.

The Coorong District has a strong economic base in agriculture. Improving the health, liveability and connectivity of our towns will help to improve the economic and community resilience and vitality of our businesses and people when these disruptions occur by creating spaces where our community, visitors and existing and burgeoning businesses will want to spend time and locate themselves.

I look forward to seeing the benefits this project will deliver.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Bates'.

Julie Bates  
Director Business Development  
Mobile: 0458 505 169 Email: [jbates@rdamr.com.au](mailto:jbates@rdamr.com.au)





**NICK McBRIDE** MP  
MEMBER FOR MACKILLOP

26<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Department of Primary Industries and Regions  
Enabling Infrastructure Program  
C/- Coorong District Council  
CEO Bridget Mather

Email: [bmather@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:bmather@coorong.sa.gov.au)

To Whom It May Concern,

I write in support of the application by the Coorong District Council to the **Enabling Infrastructure Program** offered through the **Department of Primary Industries and Regions** for the Coorong Thriving Towns project.

The Coorong Thriving Towns Project will enhance the streetscapes, liveability, road safety, and economic vitality of the key townships in the Coorong District, Tailem Bend, Meningie, Coonalpyn and Tintinara.

Each of these townships are significant centres for our local farming communities and are also located on the Dukes and Princes Highways forming a significant gateway to South Australia for the local, state, interstate and international visitors.

This Coorong Thriving Towns Project will strengthen these towns to support ongoing economic and community resilience in the face of ongoing challenges such as; drought and flood, climate variability, pandemic, supply chain and export opportunity disruption, and biosecurity threats.

The Coorong District has a strong economic base in agriculture. Improving the health, liveability and connectivity of our towns will help to improve the economic and community resilience and vitality of our businesses and people when these disruptions occur by creating spaces where our community, visitors and existing and burgeoning businesses will want to spend time and locate themselves.

I am pleased to support the Coorong District Council's application and I look forward to seeing the benefits this project will deliver in my electorate.

Kind regards,

Nick McBride  
**Member for Mackillop**



# TONY PASIN MP

Shadow Assistant Minister for Infrastructure & Transport  
Federal Member for Barker



29 July 2023

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Support for Coorong Thriving Towns Project**

I am writing to express my support for the Coorong Thriving Towns Project, a commendable initiative developed by the Coorong District Council. This project has the potential to significantly enhance the well-being and prosperity of the key townships in the Coorong District, namely Tailem Bend, Meningie, Coonalpyn, and Tintinara.

These townships hold immense significance as central hubs for our local farming communities. Moreover, their strategic location along the Dukes and Princes Highways establishes them as vital gateways to South Australia for local, interstate, and international visitors. The Coorong Thriving Towns Project serves as an opportunity to improve streetscapes, liveability, road safety, and economic vitality for residents and visitors alike.

In light of various challenges, including droughts, floods, the pandemic, supply chain disruptions, and biosecurity threats, it is essential to bolster the resilience of these towns and the communities they support. The Coorong Thriving Towns Project seeks to address these challenges, and I believe that its successful implementation will make a substantial contribution to the long-term economic and community resilience of our region.

The Coorong District's economic foundation relies heavily on agriculture. By enhancing the overall health, liveability, and connectivity of our towns, we can create an environment that supports local businesses and individuals during periods of disruption. The creation of functional and inviting spaces for the community, visitors, and businesses will foster economic growth and ensure that these towns remain attractive places to live, work, and invest.

I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity to voice my support for the Coorong Thriving Towns Project.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Pasin MP  
**Federal Member for Barker**  
**Shadow Assistant Minister for Infrastructure & Transport**

Ref: TP/AI

**Murray Bridge Office**

Shop 5, Murray Bridge Green, Riverview Road, Murray Bridge SA 5253

Phone (08) 8531 2466 Freecall 1300 301 648

**Mount Gambier Office**

27 Commercial Street East, Mount Gambier SA 5290

Phone (08) 8724 7730 Freecall 1300 723 935

28 July 2023

Chief Executive Officer  
Coorong District Council  
PO Box 399  
TAILEM BEND SA 5260  
Email: [bmather@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:bmather@coorong.sa.gov.au)

Dear Bridget

### **LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR COORONG THRIVING TOWNS PROJECT**

I confirm that Thomas Foods International supports the Coorong Thriving Towns Project concept developed by Coorong District Council.

The Coorong Thriving Towns Project will enhance the streetscapes, liveability, road safety, and economic vitality of key townships in the Coorong District: Tailem Bend, Meningie, Coonalpyn and Tintinara.

Each of these townships are significant centres for our local farming communities and are also located on the Dukes and Princes Highways forming a significant gateway to South Australia for the local, state, interstate and international visitors.

The Coorong Thriving Towns Project will strengthen these towns to support ongoing economic and community resilience in the face of ongoing challenges such as drought and flood, climate variability, pandemic, supply chain and export opportunity disruption, and biosecurity threats.

The Coorong District has a strong economic base in agriculture. Improving the health, liveability and connectivity of our towns will help to improve the economic and community resilience and vitality of our businesses and people when these disruptions occur by creating spaces where our community, visitors and existing and burgeoning businesses will want to spend time and locate themselves.

I look forward to seeing the benefits this project will deliver in supporting out business activities in the region and improving the environment in which our staff live and work.

Kind regards



Darren Thomas  
Managing Director  
Thomas Foods International



Anthony Stewart  
CEO  
Thomas Foods International



24 July 2023

Chief Executive Officer  
Coorong District Council  
PO Box 399  
TAILEM BEND SA 5260  
Email: [bmather@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:bmather@coorong.sa.gov.au)

Dear Bridget

### **LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR COORONG THRIVING TOWNS PROJECT**

I confirm that The Bend Motorsport Park supports the Coorong Thriving Towns Project concept developed by Coorong District Council.

The Coorong Thriving Towns Project will enhance the streetscapes, liveability, road safety, and economic vitality of key townships in the Coorong District: Tailem Bend, Meningie, Coonalpyn and Tintinara.

Each of these townships are significant centres for our local farming communities and are also located on the Dukes and Princes Highways forming a significant gateway to South Australia for the local, state, interstate and international visitors.

The Coorong Thriving Towns Project will strengthen these towns to support ongoing economic and community resilience in the face of ongoing challenges such as drought and flood, climate variability, pandemic, supply chain and export opportunity disruption, and biosecurity threats.

The Coorong District has a strong economic base in agriculture. Improving the health, liveability and connectivity of our towns will help to improve the economic and community resilience and vitality of our businesses and people when these disruptions occur by creating spaces where our community, visitors and existing and burgeoning businesses will want to spend time and locate themselves.

We believe that The Bend Motorsport Park adds significant value to regional tourism and the Coorong Thriving Towns project will further enhance our ability to attract people to the region.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alistair MacDonald".

Alistair MacDonald  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Bend Motorsport Park



26 July 2023

Chief Executive Officer  
Coorong District Council  
PO Box 399  
TAILEM BEND SA 5260  
Email: [bmather@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:bmather@coorong.sa.gov.au)

Dear Bridget

### **LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR COORONG THRIVING TOWNS PROJECT**

I confirm that Coonalpyn Community Hub supports the Coorong Thriving Towns Project concept developed by Coorong District Council.

The Coorong Thriving Towns Project will enhance the streetscapes, liveability, road safety, and economic vitality of key townships in the Coorong District: Tailem Bend, Meningie, Coonalpyn and Tintinara.

Each of these townships are significant centres for our local farming communities and are also located on the Dukes and Princes Highways forming a significant gateway to South Australia for the local, state, interstate and international visitors.

The Coorong Thriving Towns Project will strengthen these towns to support ongoing economic and community resilience in the face of ongoing challenges such as drought and flood, climate variability, pandemic, supply chain and export opportunity disruption, and biosecurity threats.

The Coorong District has a strong economic base in agriculture. Improving the health, liveability and connectivity of our towns will help to improve the economic and community resilience and vitality of our businesses and people when these disruptions occur by creating spaces where our community, visitors and existing and burgeoning businesses will want to spend time and locate themselves.

I look forward to seeing the benefits this project will deliver in the Coonalpyn Township.

Kind regards

Jeff Klitscher  
Chairperson  
Coonalpyn Community Hub

Jane Watson  
Coordinator  
Coonalpyn Community Hub

24 July 2023

Chief Executive Officer  
Coorong District Council  
PO Box 399  
TAILEM BEND SA 5260  
Email: [bmather@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:bmather@coorong.sa.gov.au)

Dear Bridget

### **LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR COORONG THRIVING TOWNS PROJECT**

I confirm that the Tailem Bend Progress Association supports the Coorong Thriving Towns Project concept developed by Coorong District Council.

The Coorong Thriving Towns Project will enhance the streetscapes, liveability, road safety and economic vitality of key townships in the Coorong District: Tailem Bend, Meningie, Coonalpyn and Tinlinara.

Each of these townships are significant centres for our local farming communities and are also located on the Dukes and Princes Highways forming a significant gateway to South Australia for the local, state, interstate and international visitors.

The Coorong Thriving Towns Project will strengthen these towns to support ongoing economic and community resilience in the face of ongoing challenges such as drought and flood, climate variability, pandemic, supply chain and export opportunity disruption, and biosecurity threats.

The Coorong District has a strong economic base in agriculture. Improving the health, liveability and connectivity of our towns will help to improve the economic and community resilience and vitality of our businesses and people when these disruptions occur by creating spaces where our community, visitors and existing and burgeoning businesses will want to spend time and locate themselves.

I look forward to seeing the results this project will deliver in Tailem Bend, and the benefits to the community.

Kind regards



Maxine Kiddie  
President  
Tailem Bend Progress Association



Attn:  
Chief Executive Officer  
Coorong District Council  
PO Box 399  
TAILEM BEND SA 5260  
Email: [bmather@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:bmather@coorong.sa.gov.au)



### **Re Coorong Thriving Towns Project**

To whom it may concern,

I write to confirm that the TRADE committee has discussed and is supportive of the Coorong Thriving Towns Project concept developed by Coorong District Council. The Coorong Thriving Towns Project will contribute toward our townships streetscape, livability, road safety, and economic vitality. The proposed actions within Tintinara sit well within TRADE's community vision and plan of works for the township, which we have been implementing over a period of several decades.

Tintinara TRADE is the trade and development focused group for Tintinara, made up of business owners and managers from within the township and broader district. The Tintinara township is a key centre for the surrounding agricultural district, proving a location for service and supplies delivery, as well as a hub of social connection and mental well-being.

Tintinara is the "Heart of the Parks" being the nearest township with accommodation and RV facilities to the southern end of the Coorong, Messent, Ngarkat, Mt Remarkable, Mt Boothby and Carcuma conservation parks, which means the town also services a large number of tourists, both passing through or staying longer to visit key sites of conservation interest.

Lake Indawarra, a one hectare man-made recreational lake in the centre of Tintinara, is a significant draw-card to the area, attracting visitors for several aquatic sports events per year, as well as being used by locals and visitors alike on a daily basis over the warmer months and as a refuge from the impacts of heat waves, drought and bushfire during our more challenging seasons.

The Coorong Thriving Towns Project will strengthen these towns, supporting ongoing economic and community resilience in the face of the ongoing challenges facing not only our community, but all regional communities, in this time of uncertainty. This project will contribute by helping create spaces where our community, visitors and businesses will want to spend time and locate themselves.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Faith Coleman". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Faith Coleman, 27th July 2023  
President  
Tintinara & Regional Areas Development Enterprises (TRADE)  
PO Box 596, Tintinara SA 5266. [www.tintinara.com.au](http://www.tintinara.com.au)