



Meningie, Lake Albert and Lake Alexandrina

Strategic Community Engagement

Moving Towards 2020

Introduction

The Meningie and Lower Lakes community continues to respond to changing water policy, water scarcity/security, water quality, water infrastructure and assets in a reactive and sometimes uncoordinated manner.

Council policy, while attempting to facilitate whole of region responses, has the potential to polarise or single out individual landowners and organisations.

Council is keen to facilitate consensus in policy and project effort across the community in a proactive manner.

Strategic Management Plan Consultation

As part of the refreshment of the Coorong District Council Strategic Management Plan, Council is keen to understand more clearly, and prioritise, their role in community economic development activities associated with Meningie and Lower Lakes.

During October 2015, the Meningie and Lower Lakes community was consulted to determine the role of Council in relation to water, infrastructure and development over the next three years.

The consultation process aimed to clearly identify what strategic effort is required by the whole community, but more specifically the role that Council on the key activities required to bring about longer term change.

Outcome

This report captures the feedback from key community groups and individuals from Meningie and Lower Lakes communities.

It also details a range of recommendations, from the community, on how Council can, working with community, affect change.

Methodology

In 2015, the Coorong District Council engaged Dynamic Training & Facilitation to facilitate direct community consultation with the Meningie and Lower Lakes community to understand what Council's role should be in relation to:

- Water
- Infrastructure
- Tourism Development
- Economic Development
- Community Development

Council was keen to understand the communities' views and influence the development of the 2020 Strategic Management Plan.

During October 2015, Dynamic Training and Facilitation met with more than 70 individuals and groups, namely:

- Meningie Narrung Lakes Irrigators Group (2)
- Meningie Community Forum (+50 individual participants)
- Camp Coorong (2)
- Emma Swan (1)
- Meningie Progress Association (5)
- The Lakes Hub (1)
- The Fishing Industry (2)
- Raukkan Community Council (1)
- Ngopamuldi Aboriginal Corporation (1)
- Rosa Hillam (1)
- Jock Robertson (1)
- Meningie Area School (2)
- Vic Woolston (1)

Summaries of each of the one:one meetings are included in this report. The key areas for change were identified and proposed actions were collected.

The proposed actions are summarised in pages 4 to 5 as a Strategic Action Plan. This plan will be shared with both Council and the participants for further consideration and action.

Dynamic Training and Facilitation also prepared an Issues Paper to support the one:one consultative meetings. This paper is attached to this report.

Strategic Action Plan

The ***Meningie and Lower Lakes Strategic Action Plan*** is a summary of the recommendations that were made during the open community forum and closed one:one consultation sessions. The recommendations are grouped by subject matter and a number of recommendations were suggested by multiple individuals/organisations.

Water

Lake Albert Scoping Study

1. The Irrigators Group to work with the CDC to secure Federal funding to facilitate the development of an Environmental Impact Study (for management of the Coorong).

Water Users Association

2. The Irrigators Group to work with the CDC to establish a Water Users Association.

Central Information Source

3. The CDC coordinate, collate and promulgate key water information/documentation via the CDC website.

Infrastructure

4. CDC to lead/facilitate discussions regarding common water infrastructure.

Community Support

Community Development:

5. CDC to lead/facilitate and test broad community support for the establishment, management and need for a Community Centre at Meningie.

Drought Ready Community Plan

6. The Lakes Hub to partner with CDC to progress a Drought Ready Community Plan.

Aged Care:

7. CDC to work with Jallarah Homes and the wider community to design an interconnecting path from the Hospital to the main shopping centre.

Business

8. CDC to prioritise engagement with agribusiness.
9. CDC to actively streamline and fast track the development approval process.

Environment:

10. CDC to continue to support the LAP Program and the Lakes Hub.

Ngarrindjeri Community

KYNA Agreement

11. Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority/Raukkan Community Council work with CDC to develop a contemporary Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan Agreement (KNYA).

Tourist Signage:

12. Advance notice (signage) for Camp Coorong on the Princes Highway.

Wilderness Lodge:

13. Internal decisions re: future of Wilderness Lodge may require CDC support.

Fishing Industry

Seal Working Party

14. The CDC actively promote, and lobby for immediate and fast resolutions to increasing seal numbers.

Tourism Development and Boating Infrastructure

Tourism Infrastructure

15. Meningie Progress Association to partner with CDC to develop a Tourism Infrastructure strategy for Meningie (includes signage, mapping, streetscaping and mooring facilities).

Young people and education

DECD Assets Management

16. Meningie Area School to work with CDC to explore long term management options for the school pool and Community Library.

Consultation Summary

Date	Segment	Key Contact/s	Change and/or Issues identified	Proposed Action
22/9/15	Meningie Narrung Lakes Irrigators Group	Sam Dodd Lesley Fischer	<p>Lake Albert Scoping Study Coorong Connector</p> <p>Water Users Association</p> <p>Collation of key water information/documentation</p>	<p>Lake Albert Scoping Study</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Irrigators Group to work with the CDC to secure Federal funding to facilitate the development of an Environmental Impact Study. <p>Water Users Association</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The Irrigators Group to work with the CDC to establish a Water Users Association. <p>Central Information Source</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The CDC coordinate, collate and promulgate key water information/documentation via the CDC website.

Lake Albert Scoping Study

The Meningie Narrung Lakes Irrigators Group represents a very small number of irrigators who continue to irrigate on the Narrung Peninsula.

The Irrigators Group supports the need for the development of an independent Environmental Impact Study (Coorong Management Plan), that builds on the findings of the Lake Albert Scoping Study, specifically to explore sustainable options to lower the salinity levels in Lake Albert, including the proposed Coorong Connector.

The *Lake Albert Scoping Study – Options Paper* was released in September 2014 and it identified eight different ways of reducing salinity in Lake Albert.

To date, the project has stalled. Specifically, the South Australian Government has been reluctant to support these independent investigations. However, the Federal Government has indicated some general support, as have members of the Ngarrindjeri community.

The Irrigators Group acknowledge that any future solution must be holistic and support environmental, community and cultural outcomes.

Water Users Association

Water security and salinity issues are important to the broader Meningie and Lakes communities. The Meningie Narrung Lakes Irrigators Group recognises the value of a coordinated community response to water issues and proposes that a Water Users Association be established that represents:

- Irrigators
- The Environment
- Boating and Recreation
- Tourism
- Cultural Impact
- Community

Water Policy and Decision Making

Water policy and decision making is also influenced by a range of statutory and Government organisations. Keeping abreast of policy and decisions that may impact water users is difficult due to the variety of decision makers, including:

- Community Advisory Panel (CAP)
- River Murray Advisory Board
- SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resource Management Board
- Coorong Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Program (CLLMM)
- Murray Darling Association
- Regional Development Australia Murraylands

The Meningie Narrung Lakes Irrigators Group and the proposed Water Users Association would be better supported through access to decisions, reports and minutes of the above groups if they could be collated and promulgated from a single site (such as the CDC web site).

Date	Segment	Key Contact/s	Change and/or Issues identified	Proposed Action
22/9/15	Meningie Community Forum	50+ Participants	<p>Four key issues were explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water ▪ Community Development ▪ Tourism & Business ▪ Environment 	<p>Water:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CDC to lead discussions regarding water infrastructure. 2. CDC to prioritise engagement with agribusiness. <p>Community Development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. CDC to lead the development of a Community Centre. <p>Business:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. CDC to lead tourism infrastructure development. <p>Environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. CDC to continue to support the LAP Program and the Lakes Hub.

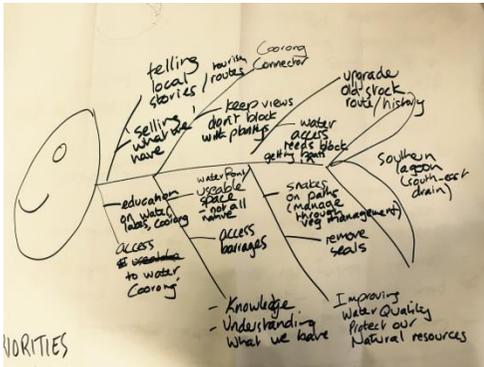
The participants were asked to consider five key questions, relevant to their interest group. The discussion, on the following pages, summarises the notes taken by the participants and presented to the wider group.

1. Water

What are the projects, people and/or organisations that I am proud of in Meningie/Lower Lakes? (Water Group)

- Lake Albert
- Meningie Narrung Lakes Irrigators Association
- Local Action Planning efforts
- Council support for the Lake
- Diverse tourism opportunities
- Shift to beef production (was dairying)
- Horse training
- RAMSAR status

What are the priorities for change in Meningie/Lower Lakes (Water Group).



The Water Group identified that change was required in a range of areas, namely:

- Promotion of ‘local stories’ – celebrating natural assets
- Coorong Connector
- Improving water access (barrages, stock routes)
- Pest management (seals/snakes)
- Education on the Coorong

Left: Priority for change fishbone (Water), Meningie consultation 22/9/15

What needs to be done to make the change? (Water Group)

The Water Group identified the following solutions (ranked in priority):

- Priority 1:** A plan for the future that includes water pipelines to effectively extract water from the Lake in a centralised manner.
Priority 2: Address rural subdivision to enable surplus housing to be divided from farming enterprises
Priority 3: Respond/act on the proposed Coorong Connector to improve salinity in Lake Albert.

Others:

- Protect Lake Albert and Lake Alexandrina
- Grow community pride; work together
- CDC to recognise the importance of primary production to the regional economy

What are the roles of Council and the community in implementing the priority solutions?

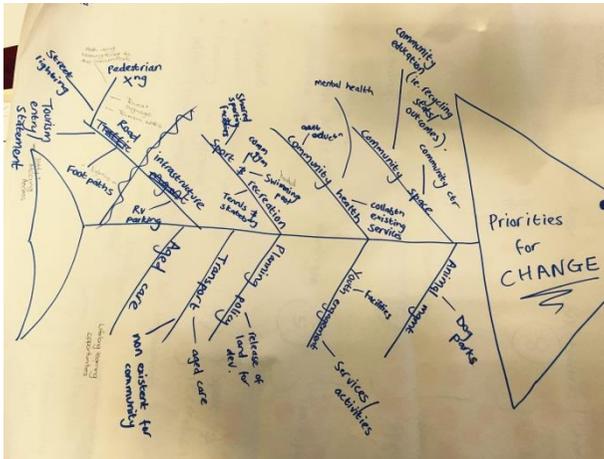
1. Council to facilitate/lead discussions about water infrastructure, namely:
 - The Coorong Connector
 - Common water extraction point/facility
2. Council to prioritise engagement with the agribusiness community, particularly around pragmatic water use/assets.

2. Community Development

What are the projects, people and/or organisations that I am proud of in Meningie/Lower Lakes? (Community Development Group)

- Meals on Wheels
- 2nd Time Round
- School Community Library
- Medical Infrastructure (Jallarah/Hospital/Medical Centre)
- Broad volunteer base
- Marianne Cunneen
- Cemetery Committee
- Volunteers in general
- Australia Day Fun Run
- Christmas Pageant
- Lions Club Walking Trail

What are the priorities for change in Meningie/Lower Lakes (Community Development Group).



The Community Development Group identified that change was required in a range of areas, namely:

- Animal management (dog parks)
- Youth engagement (services, activities, facilities)
- Planning policy (release of land for development)
- Transport (aged care)
- Aged care
- Community space/centre
- Community health
- Sport and recreation (pool, gymnasium, tennis & skateboarding)
- Road infrastructure (footpaths, street lighting)
- Tourism infrastructure

What needs to be done to make the change? (Community Development Group)

The Community Development Group identified the following solutions (ranked in priority):

- Priority 1:** A community space
- Priority 2:** A shared sporting space
- Priority 3:** Tourism entry/retention infrastructure and community facilities.

Others:

- Sport and recreation (reduce expectations and increase support)
- Transport (community bus, increase access and volunteer drivers)

What are the roles of Council and the community in implementing the priority solutions?

Council's role to develop a Community Centre includes:

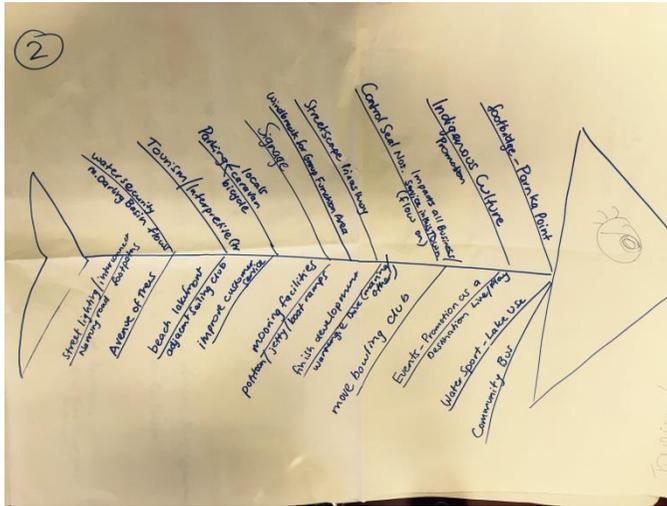
1. Talking to community, not consultants
2. Negotiating and advocating for space
3. Developing a business plan, sustainability model and success plan
4. Chasing funding
5. Conducting a gap analysis
6. Making it a priority
7. Identifying networking and business partnerships

3. Business and Tourism

What are the projects, people and/or organisations that I am proud of in Meningie/Lower Lakes? (Business and Tourism Development Group)

- Narrung Peninsula Drive
- Tourism trail or drives
- Meningie Progress Association
- Lakes Hub
- Lions Club
- Museum
- R.S.L.
- KESAB Award – Tidy Town
- Clubs in general
- Hospital
- 2nd Time Round
- Lake Frontage – Pelican Park
- Lions Walking Trail
- Coorong Wild Seafoods
- Meningie toilets in Lions Park
- Indigenous Tourism

What are the priorities for change in Meningie/Lower Lakes (Business and Tourism Development Group).



The Business and Tourism Development Group identified that change was required in a range of areas, namely:

- Infrastructure (Footbridge Parnka Point, Streetscape, Windbreaks, Signage, Parking, Street Lighting, Lakefront, Mooring Facilities, Community Bus)
- Promote Indigenous Culture
- Control seal numbers
- Tourism Interpretive Centre
- Water security
- Improve customer service
- Finish Warrenge Drive Development
- Move Bowling Club
- Promote Events
- Encourage Water Sports on the Lake

What needs to be done to make the change? (Business and Tourism Development Group)

The Business and Tourism Development Group identified the following solutions (ranked in priority):

- Priority 1:** Develop tourist activities/attractions and improve Princes Highway
- Priority 2:** Business and Tourism signage
- Priority 3:** Marked tourism routes/scenic drives.

Others:

- Viewing platform
- Tourism awareness/customer service
- Swimming area/facilities
- Council to support local business
- Tourism trail
- Barrage tours

- Work with Indigenous groups to promote culture
- Identify opportunities for youth to stay in community
- Embrace change

What are the roles of Council and the community in implementing the priority solutions?

Council's role to develop tourism includes:

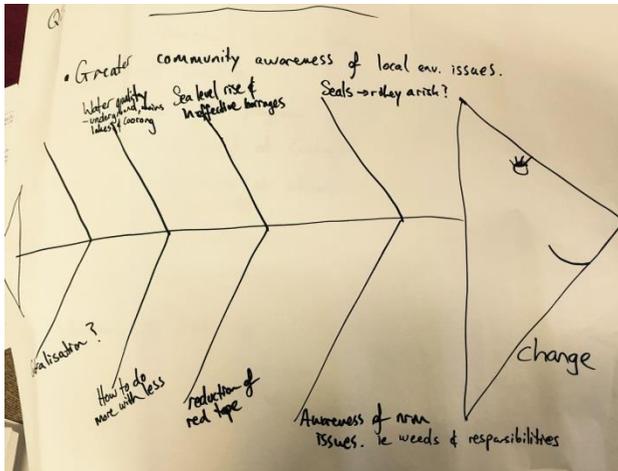
1. Facilitate awareness
2. Grant application assistance
3. Prioritise action and staging
4. Simplify procedures
5. Clarify land ownership
6. Identify tourism attractions (existing and potential)
7. Regional positioning (Limestone Coast or Murraylands?)

4. Environment

What are the projects, people and/or organisations that I am proud of in Meningie/Lower Lakes? (Environment Group)

- Work contributed by Service Clubs (eg Lions)
- Environmental works (planting and aquatic plants)
- Revegetation around Lakes & Coorong
- Good clean environment = greater tourism
- Reduced complications (camping in the Coorong)
- LAP Program
- The Lakes Hub
- Improved awareness of environment as a result of environmental works
- The Lakelander

What are the priorities for change in Meningie/Lower Lakes (Environment Group).



The Environment Group identified that change was required in a range of areas, namely, namely greater community awareness of:

- Water quality (underground drains, Lakes and Coorong)
- Sea Level rise and ineffective barrages
- Seals
- Centralisation
- Need for efficiencies
- Reduction of red tape
- Awareness of NRM issues

What needs to be done to make the change? (Environment Group)

The Environment Group identified the following solutions (ranked in priority):

- Priority 1:** Continue the LAP Program
- Priority 2:** Education and awareness at a school level
- Priority 3:** Adequate technical advice resourcing

Others:

- Cost shifting from State Government to Local Government
- Reduction of red tape
- Retain local knowledge
- A desalination plant at Cooke Plains
- The Murray Darling Basin Plan

What are the roles of Council and the community in implementing the priority solutions?

Councils role to develop the Environment includes:

1. Continue the LAP Program
2. Support the Lakes Hub
3. Council to lead the way in roadside weed control
4. Collaborate to achieve improved education and awareness

Date	Segment	Key Contact/s	Change and/or Issues identified	Proposed Action
23/9/15	Ngarrindjeri Community Camp Coorong	Ellen Trevorrow and Darryl Rigney	Tourist signage Wilderness Lodge	<p>Tourist Signage:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advance notice for Camp Coorong on the Princes Highway. <p>Wilderness Lodge:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Internal decisions re: future of Wilderness Lodge may require CDC support.

Tourist signage

The approach to Camp Coorong is on a blind bend on the Princes Highway and current signage does not afford travellers with much warning. Last minute braking could cause road accidents and loss of life. Camp Coorong is keen to develop advance notice of its location.

Wilderness Lodge

Coorong Wilderness Lodge is managed by the Ngarrindjeri Lands and Progress Association (NLPA), chaired by Tim Hartman. Currently, Coorong Wilderness Lodge is in recess as it has experienced financial difficulties due to costs associated with water supply to the property. There is some interest in leasing the property to an operator, however, this has not been discussed formally with NLPA.

Further engagement with NLPA will be required to determine their preference for the future of Coorong Wilderness Lodge.

Date	Segment	Key Contact/s	Change and/or Issues identified	Proposed Action
23/9/15	Community Development	Emma Swan	<p>Community Centre</p> <p>Aged Care Support Services</p> <p>Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>Community Centre</p> <p>1. CDC to test broad community support for the establishment, management and need for a Community Centre.</p> <p>Aged Care Support Services</p> <p>2. CDC to work with Jallarah Homes and the wider community to determine need for an interconnecting path from the Hospital to the main shopping centre.</p>

Community Centre

Emma Swan is a well-connected, and active member of the Meningie community. Emma supports the need for a Community Centre and discussed a range of possible locations and committee members. There may be an opportunity for the Meningie Centre to be auspiced by the Taillem Bend Community Centre to more effectively manage governance, operations, finance and programming. However, this has not been discussed formally and there is no confirmation of support (community leadership at Meningie) to advance this concept.

It is suggested that the CDC facilitate a purpose driven meeting to determine leadership, broad needs, operating models and location for a Community Centre in Meningie.

Community Infrastructure

Emma is employed by Jallarah Homes for the Aged on a part time basis. Residents find it difficult to access the shopping facilities in the main street due to the slope from Jallarah and unsuitable paths. Residents also find transport access (particularly for medical appointments) difficult.

It is suggested that CDC consider extending the footpath corridor to the Hospital and encouraging additional support from the Murray Mallee Community Transport Scheme.

Emma also suggested that Meningie needs a range of other community infrastructure, namely:

- Skate Park for Young People
- A basketball ring in a public space
- Resolve development/tidy up the Meningie Waters site on Warrengie Drive
- Provision of additional support for grant writing and development
- RV Park and/or campsite close to the central Meningie township.

Date	Segment	Key Contact/s	Change and/or Issues identified	Proposed Action
23/9/15	Community Development <i>Meningie Progress Association</i>	Brownyn Kirkman (Chair) Marianne Cunneen Denise Mason Jock Robertson Kirsty Bagshaw	Tourism Development Approvals Streetscaping Mooring Facilities	Tourism Infrastructure 1. Progress to partner with CDC to develop a Tourism Infrastructure strategy for Meningie (includes signage, mapping, streetscaping and mooring facilities) Development Approvals 2. CDC to actively streamline the development approval process.

Tourism

The Meningie Progress Association (Progress) are very active in tourism development, promotion and infrastructure. Progress is very keen to resolve three critical infrastructure issues, namely:

1. **Tourism signage.** Progress is keen to improve tourism signage for the Meningie business district. Directional signage for visitors is limited and Progress is keen to work with the CDC to create a signage master plan.
2. **Tourism map.** Similarly, Progress is keen to create a Meningie, Lakes and Coorong map for visitors. However, ownership, copy right and reproduction rights need to be resolved.
3. **Tourism region.** The boundary between Limestone Coast/Murray Lakes and Coorong causes difficulties for operators, particularly in advertising and South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) web based recognition. Progress is seeking support from CDC to resolve both boundary and technical issues for operators.

Development Approvals

Progress has been frustrated by a lack of timely coordination from CDC on development approvals for streetscaping projects. A dedicated officer from CDC or a streamlined approval process will assist Progress (and the community) to fast track town scape beautification projects.

Streetscaping

Progress has undertaken a range of streetscaping project improvements. These works locally driven, however, their implementation has been frustrated by Council approval processes. Progress would like to work more actively with CDC to determine an Infrastructure Plan for streetscaping improvements.

Mooring Facilities

Progress, together with key community members, has supported the conceptual development of a floating pontoon to provide mooring facilities. To date, this concept has not progressed. Progress would also like to work more actively with CDC to determine/resurrect an Infrastructure Plan for mooring facilities.

Role of Council

Progress believes that the role of Council, moving forward is to:

- Listen actively to community needs/desires/projects
- Act responsively to community projects
- Provide accurate and timely advice on community projects
- Be flexible in their approach to community

Date	Segment	Key Contact/s	Change and/or Issues identified	Proposed Action
29/9/15	Resilient communities <i>The Lakes Hub</i>	Faith Coleman	Drought Ready Community Plan Community Centre	<p>Drought Ready Community Plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Lakes Hub to partner with CDC to progress a Drought Ready Community Plan. <p>Community Centre</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. CDC to test broad community support for the establishment, management and need for a Community Centre.

Drought Ready Community Plan

The Lakes Hub has received State funding to scope the development of a Drought Ready Community Plan. The 'Plan' will facilitate the coordination of key agencies across the Meningie, Lakes and Coorong basin to respond proactively to drought conditions.

The plan will be multi dimensional and will cover social, economic and environmental responses and will require commitment from local government, regional development and not for profits to its implementation. CDC is encouraged to actively partner with the Lakes Hub in the development of the plan and the longer term implementation/response.

Community Centre

The Lakes Hub is, by default, providing some of the services of a Community Centre. The Lakes Hub supports the CDC in facilitating a community workshop process to determine the operating model, business case and gap analysis for a community centre.

Date	Segment	Key Contact/s	Change and/or Issues identified	Proposed Action
29/9/15	Fishing Industry	Glen and Tracy Hill	<p>Seal Working Party</p> <p>Business Development</p>	<p>Seal Working Party</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The CDC actively promote and lobby for immediate and fast resolutions to increasing seal numbers. <p>Business Development</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. CDC reduce the impost to business with fast tracking of development approval.

Seal Working Party

The fishing industry in the Coorong and Lakes is under threat from increasing seal numbers. CDC has been an active supporter and lobbyist for the removal/and or control of seals. However, the situation is critical and the CDC can help further by using the power of their social media (Facebook) to promote the impact of seals on the Coorong community.

Business Development

The fishing industry is, once again, forced to structurally adjust their business practices due to seal invasion. CDC can assist the industry by actively supporting businesses through the development approval process.

Date	Segment	Key Contact/s	Change and/or Issues identified	Proposed Action
14/10/15	Ngarrindjeri Community Development	Clyde Rigney (Snr) Derek Walker	Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan Agreement	KYNA Agreement 1. Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority/Raukkan Community Council work with CDC to develop a contemporary Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan Agreement (KNYA).

Indigenous Community Partnerships

The CDC has an existing partnership agreement with Raukkan Community Council. The agreement details a working relationship between CDC and Raukkan. General in nature, the agreement does not recognise the sovereign nature of Ngarrindjeri leadership or reflect a contemporary, active partnership model.

It is strongly recommended that the CDC enter into active discussions with the Ngarrindjeri community to establish a contemporary Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan Agreement (KYNA).

Date	Segment	Key Contact/s	Change and/or Issues identified	Proposed Action
15/10/15	Community Development	Rosa Hillam	Community Centre	Community Centre 1. CDC to test broad community support for the establishment, management and need for a Community Centre.

Community Centre

Rosa has a strong interest in the development of a community centre. As a former tutor with the Taillem Bend Community Centre and the author of the *2008 Coorong Community House Needs Analysis* report, Rosa understands the case for a Meningie based community centre.

Rosa is able to demonstrate that both Council and the community have a long term interest, need and demand for a Meningie based Community Centre. Her research from 2008 found that:

- There is demand/interest for an intergenerational approach to a community centre
- A centre will rely heavily on its integration with partnerships with existing groups and organisations

Rosa supports further investigation into the development of a Community Centre and is able to provide historic advice.

Rosa also strongly supports the creation of an Arts & Culture Officer, employed by Coorong District Council, to advance arts & cultural initiatives across the Coorong region.

Date	Segment	Key Contact/s	Change and/or Issues identified	Proposed Action
15/10/15	Tourism Development	Jock Robertson	Mooring facilities and boat ramps Tourism resources Business development	Tourism Infrastructure 1. Progress to partner with CDC to develop a Tourism Infrastructure strategy for Meningie (includes signage, mapping, streetscaping and mooring facilities) Business Development 2. CDC reduce the impost to business with fast tracking of development approval.

Mooring facilities and boat ramps

Jock is a former tourism operator (Chowilla Station www.chowilla.com.au) who has recently retired to Meningie. Jock brings to Meningie a wealth of experience in tourism development and he has recently joined the Meningie Progress Association.

As a keen boat operator, Jock is aware that Meningie lacks mooring facilities to adequately service river/lake based tourism. Jock specifically suggests:

- The development of boating facilities at the end of Warrengie Drive, making good use of deep water and a sandy beach.
- A boat ramp at Marks Point, Seven Mile Crossing and Parnka Point.
- A walk to be formalised at Tauwitchere Barrage
- Open up the 'Narrows' to allow boats with a deeper draught to traverse Lake Albert

Tourism resources

Jock also believes that tourism infrastructure in Meningie, the Lakes and Coorong can also be further developed by:

- Creation of trails for walkers, bikes and vehicles
- Fostering cultural heritage through partnerships with the indigenous community
- Creation of a tourism operators guide
- Create a 'pull along boat' for walkers to access the Beach at Parnka Point

Business development

And, finally, Jock believes that CDC can capitalise on a range of business development opportunities including:

- The State Government has released a Nature Based Tourism Action Plan. CDC and operators need to capitalise on this strategic direction and form their own plan.
- CDC can facilitate faster development approvals through the creation of a support approach by resourcing an Economic Development Manager.
- Creation of a Community Bus (with the cost shared by a range of business/community users)
- Establish a monthly farmers market for Meningie

Date	Segment	Key Contact/s	Change and/or Issues identified	Proposed Action
15/10/15	Young people and education	<p>Monica Williams (Principal)</p> <p>Mal Jurgs (Deputy Principal)</p>	<p>Transition Options</p> <p>Transport Support</p> <p>Mental health</p> <p>Volunteers and DECD assets</p> <p>Pool</p> <p>Community Library</p>	<p>Community Centre</p> <p>1. CDC to test broad community support for the establishment, management and need for a Community Centre.</p> <p>DECD Assets Management</p> <p>2. MAS to work with CDC to explore long term management options for the school pool and Community Library.</p>

Transition Options

Meningie Area School is concerned about the limited support for young people transitioning from school to work/study. There are limited services for young people, delivered from Meningie. A community centre may provide some of these services.

Transport Support

There is also limited transport access for young people to access Murray Bridge centric services. A community centre may provide some of these services

Mental health

Similarly, there is limited access for young people to access mental health support services from Murray Bridge centric services. A community centre may provide some of these services

Volunteers and DECD assets

The Department of Education and Child Development policy environment is making it increasingly difficult for community members to access school assets. Access issues, child protection, risk management and hire agreements conspire to make community access challenging.

Pool

As above, DECD policy makes it increasingly challenge for community volunteers to man, manage and maintain the school pool. The DECD policy environment is compounded by working in isolation, working with chemicals and high risk policy direction. MAS is open to discussions with the CDC about long term co-management opportunities of the pool. Specifically, MAS is open to a partnership whereby they maintain the asset and CDC/community make provision for supervision.

Community Library

Asset evaluation and long term planning means that the MAS is open to discussions with the CDC about the long term location and management of the Community Library.

Date	Segment	Key Contact/s	Change and/or Issues identified	Proposed Action
15/10/15	Boating infrastructure	Vic Woolston	Mooring facilities and boat ramps	Tourism Infrastructure 1. Progress to partner with CDC to develop a Tourism Infrastructure strategy for Meningie (includes signage, mapping, streetscaping and mooring facilities)

Mooring facilities and boat ramps

Through his participation in the Meningie Jetties Group, Vic Woolston has invested considerable time with the CDC in the development of a strategic approach for jetties at Meningie.

Vic is disappointed that the work of the Meningie Jetties Group has stalled and that no further action has been taken to progress the development of a master plan for Meningie. Vic is keen to understand the strategic intent of CDC as it relates to jetties, moorings and boat ramps in Meningie.

Issues Paper

Coorong District Council is reviewing its *Strategic Management Plan* to determine the range of new 'influencers' on its future allocation of resources. As part of this process, Council will determine what the key issues are for the Meningie and Lower Lakes community. More importantly, Council is keen to understand what their role should be in relation to:

- Water
- Infrastructure
- Tourism Development
- Economic Development
- Community Development

Council will ascertain the views of the community and build an agreed *Meningie Action Plan* into the overall *Strategic Management Plan*.

The Key Issues

Water

The Meningie population and the wider Coorong community are still suffering the long term effects of the dryland drought and enforced water restrictions in the 2001-2011 period. The declining agricultural sector remains the major industry in the region, but in many sectors, is crippled by water issues.

The Murray Darling Basin Plan is designed to protect the environment, yet the biggest issue facing the region will be striking a balance between the needs of the environment and irrigators.

Water Quality

Whilst salinity levels in Lake Albert are declining, they remain above the historic average. The Lake Albert Scoping Study (released in 2014) included a Coorong connector solution as a management tool for salinity levels. This was the preferred solution of the Meningie and Lakes community, however was not supported by the Government as a permanent solution due to the cost and time to deliver benefits when compared to lake cycling. The Government has not indicated when it will proceed with an environmental impact study

SA Water Prices

The cost of SA Water mains water continues to escalate as a result of Government water security measures. This has impacts not only on primary producers and householders, but community groups such as sporting clubs who cannot afford to water their grounds. This results in significant risk to players and the long term sustainability of clubs.

Pipelines

As a result of escalating mains water prices, there is an increased need for irrigators to extend and invest in non-mains irrigation networks. Funding for this is limited to non-existent, and so producers are forced to foot the full cost. There are additional issues such as lake access points for pumps, which has caused division in the community.

Council is currently in discussions with SA Water to explore options to allow land holders to access water allocations at reduced costs, and will consult with affected land holders in the near future.

Infrastructure

A number of infrastructure issues have been identified in Meningie, including:

- The sale of the Meningie Waters project.
- The loss of federal government diversification funding for the Interpretive Centre on the lake front at Meningie.
- Lack of community centre space.
- Dated sporting and social infrastructure, with no capacity for functions larger than 120 people. Currently, social functions such as the football presentation dinner must be held in the school gymnasium, which lacks catering facilities and breaches the OH&S regulations of the school.
- Water infrastructure including non-mains pipelines and lake access points.
- The need for ongoing improvements and facilities around the waterfront.
- The recent cut in funding to Raukkan Community Council, to just 7% of its former Government funding.

Tourism Development

Tourism has previously been identified by both the Meningie community and various levels of Government, as a viable and likely industry for the region to broaden and secure a sustainable economic future. Tourism to the Murray River, Lakes & Coorong is predicted to grow 40% to Dec 2020, with the opportunity to increase growth by 68% (*Murray River, Lakes & Coorong Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2012/16*).

Diversification into the tourism industry will provide long term economic benefits for the region, including jobs, increased community capability, infrastructure that facilitates further growth and future opportunities for members of the community.

Opportunities for tourism development include:

- The old school buildings at the picturesque Narrung, owned by the Raukkan community, provide unique opportunities in eco and cultural tourism, and would address a critical lack of accommodation facilities in the Coorong.
- The provision of function centre facilities at Meningie Oval, managed by the Meningie Football Club, to cater to an identified demand from visitors to the unique Coorong tourism region.
- Indigenous, cultural and nature based tourism experiences, utilising and showcasing the unique, stunning and natural beauty of the region. National, State and regional tourism bodies have placed emphasis on the significant growth potential for these experiences.

Murraylands Tourism Partnership (MTP), funded by participating Councils, have recently secured funding to develop a *Murray River, Lakes and Coorong* tourism brand, which includes the operational funding for the development of a website.

Barriers to tourism development in Meningie and the surrounding region include limited funding from the State Government for tourism projects, and the whole regional direction not being strongly driven from a regional level. There is no current regional tourism plan.

Economic Development

The effects of the drought continue to impact on Meningie's major industries. Effective management of water issues such as quality, accessibility and affordability, in balance with the needs of the environment is critical to the ongoing economic prosperity of the region.

Seals

The impact of an unprecedented high seal population in the Coorong, Lakes and Murray River is significant and topical. Long nosed fur seals are wreaking havoc on the local fishing industry, the community, fish stock numbers and local wildlife. The financial viability of the fishing industry is at serious risk, as is the social and mental health of fishers and the community. Further, the impact of the seals on wildlife such as pelicans may jeopardise the Coorong's status as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention of Wetlands.

A working group has recently been established to address the impact of the seals on industry and the environment, and includes representatives from DEWNR, Council, SARDI, the tourism and fishers sectors, the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority and conservation. The State Government is currently investigating the protocols of using devices such as underwater crackers and pingers, but has not responded to calls for a public community meeting.

SA Motorsport Park

The development of the SA Motorsport Park at Tailem Bend will provide significant opportunities for the Meningie and the Lakes populations, most significantly in the tourism sector. It is anticipated that events will be held at the complex most weekends and attract up to 300,000 people each year. Meningie is strategically placed to capitalise on tourism development, as many of the visitors will require accommodation and other tourism experiences.

The project will also provide jobs and boost economic activity in the region, both in the construction and operational phases.

Inghams

Inghams has recently announced its intention to double the size of its chicken hatchery at Monarto, in the Murraylands. This will result in 250 new jobs. The project will be supported by new feeder farms, which require wide exclusion zones. This expands the feeder farm zones through to the Coorong and Meningie, providing new diversification opportunities.

Community Development

Several community issues have been identified in the Meningie community. They include, but are not limited to:

Community Library

The current community library is located in a central position in the school grounds, which has raised concerns by the school over student safety and risk minimisation. The future direction of the library in Meningie requires further community engagement.

Community Space/Centre

There is a lack of community space at Meningie, with no dedicated Town Hall or Community Centre.

There is a clear need for an in-depth and strong community engagement process at Meningie, as part of the overall development of Council's Strategic Management Plan, to assist in identifying both the needs and priorities of the Meningie community, and a suitable space for a Community Centre. Further, clarification is required from the community about the dedication, Governance and sustainability of a Community Centre.

Statistical Snapshot – Meningie

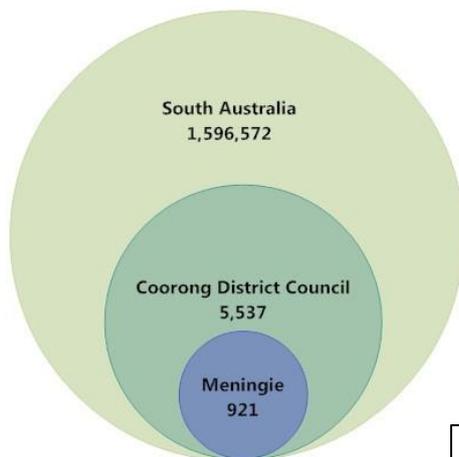
The Meningie population, and the wider Coorong community has not recovered from the dryland drought and enforced water restrictions in the 2001-2011 period. While Meningie supports a strong indigenous population, the total population is ageing faster than South Australia.

Household income is well below the State average and employment numbers have declined significantly during the 2001-2011 period. The economy is now highly reliant upon a declining agricultural sector for employment and economic stimulus. As a result of the decline, a number of alternative, and secondary industry sectors do not now exist.

The SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (derived from Census variables related to disadvantage, such as low income, low educational attainment, unemployment, as well as variables that reflect disadvantage rather than measure specific aspects of disadvantage) rates the Coorong District at 948.7. This places the district in the top 10% of rankings (Australian and South Australian communities) for socio-economic disadvantage.

Analysis of population change between 2001 – 2011 Census data provides these key indicators.

Population



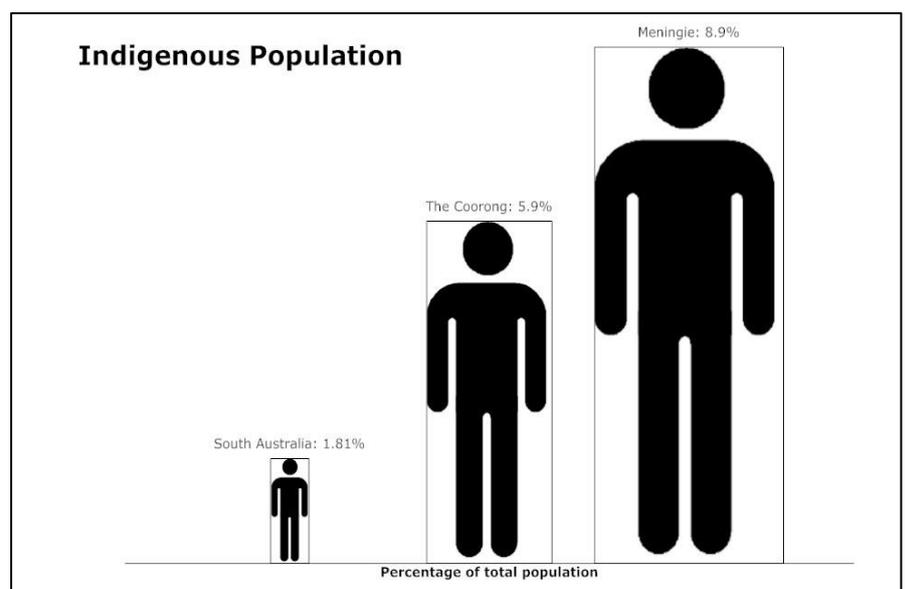
Meningie, and The Coorong District Council area, are home to a significant indigenous population.

Nearly 9% of the Meningie community identify themselves as aboriginal, significantly higher than the State average of 1.81%.

Key indigenous communities are located in Meningie, at Raukkan and across The Coorong.

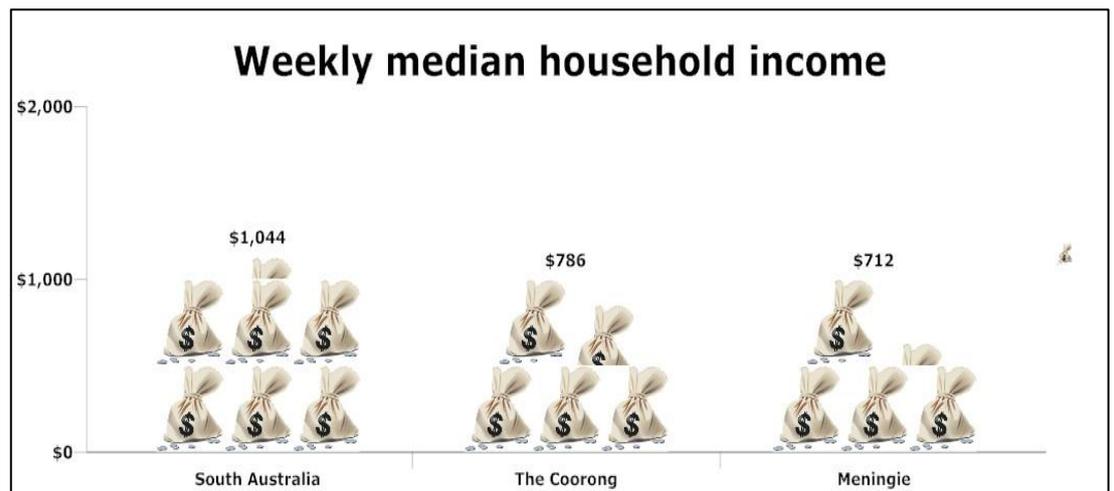
Meningie is a 90 minute drive south east of Adelaide and is located on the shores of Lake Albert and at the head of the Coorong.

Meningie supports a population of 921 people, or around 16% of the total population of The Coorong District Council.



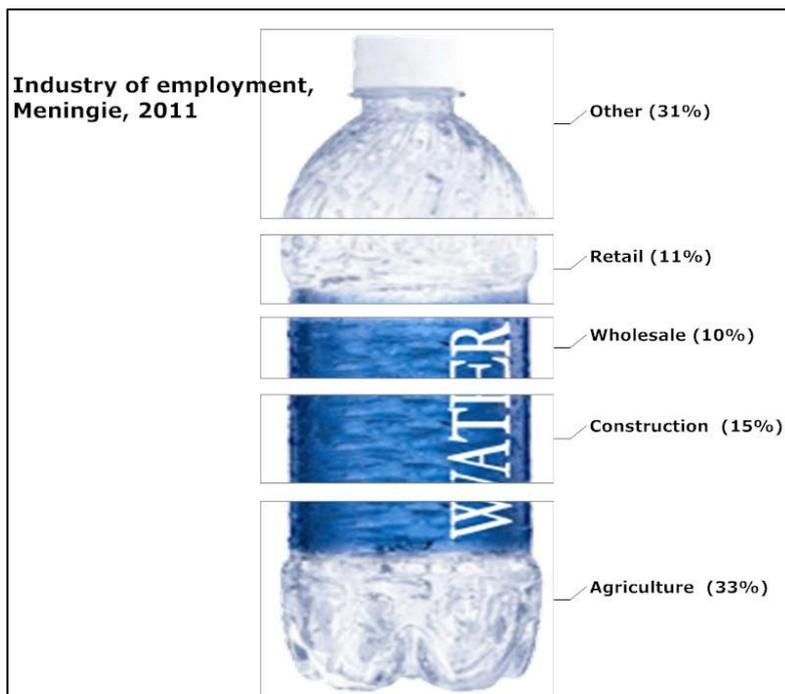
Wealth

In 2011, the Meningie community existed on much lower levels of household income of \$712 per week when compared to the State average of \$1,044 per week.



Industry

Employment 2011



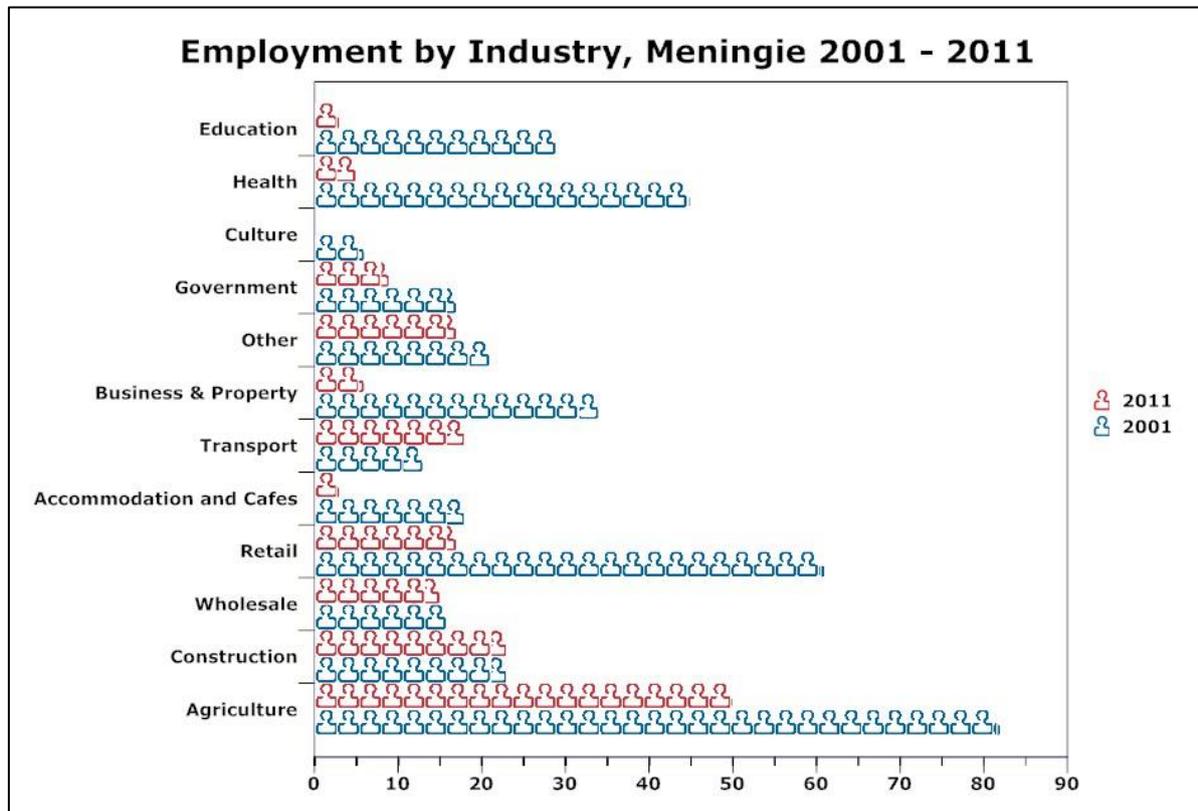
Employment in Meningie, in 2011 is largely agriculture dependent, with broad acre agriculture, dairying and commercial fishing representing more than 33% of all employment in Meningie.

Agriculture is an important, but declining, industry sector that fuels employment in the remaining secondary sectors of construction, transport and wholesale/retail trade.

Employment 2001 – 2011

More telling, is the decline in employment in a range of key sectors during the ten year period (2001-2011) that includes:

- the dryland drought of 2002-2005; and
- extreme water reductions across the River Murray and Lower Lakes between 2005-2011



In 2001, pre drought and water restrictions, the Meningie community employed **365 persons** and they were concentrated in:

- Agriculture (22% of total employment)
- Retail (16%)
- Health and Education (20%)

There was also good employment numbers in:

- Accommodation, cafes and restaurants (5%)
- Government (8%)

Post drought and water restrictions, **in 2011**, the Meningie economy has not recovered. Total employment has retracted to **172 persons** and employment has:

- Fallen in retail to 10% (of total employment)
- Fallen in accommodation, cafes and restaurants to below 1%
- Fallen in health and education to below 3%

Agriculture has become the main industry sector, employing 29% of the workforce, albeit with only 50 persons (down from 82 in 2001). Employment in construction, in Meningie, has remained stable over the ten year period.