



# ANNUAL REPORT

2017/18







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*2017/18 Annual Report adopted by Council on 26 November 2018*

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*The Coorong District Council wishes to acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional custodians – the people of the Ngarrindjeri nation whose ancestral lands on which we meet.*

*We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of Aboriginal people to country. We also pay respect to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people from other areas of South Australia and Australia.*

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# COUNCIL PROFILE.

## VISION

A progressive and proactive Council recognised for its diverse communities, prosperous economy and unique and highly valued environment.

## MISSION

Council is committed to:

- Providing leadership for the community and ensuring efficient and effective management of the community's resources.
- Responsibly managing the natural and built environment to achieve sustainability.
- Facilitating economic prosperity, growth and employment throughout the district.
- Actively enhancing the quality of life for the community by encouraging health, wellbeing and safety.
- Being an employer of choice that attracts, develops and inspires highly talented employees and elected members.

## CORE VALUES

- Integrity
- Proactive
- Progressive
- Collaborative
- Service excellence
- Enjoy work



## THE KEY FACTS

State electorates	Hammond, MacKillop
Federal electorate	Barker
District size	8,836m <sup>2</sup> (primarily rural land)
Population	5,537 (2016 Census)
Rateable properties	4,470
Roads, sealed	321 kms
Roads, unsealed	1,563 kms
Principal office	Taillem Bend
Branch offices	Meningie, Tintinara
Arterial highways	Dukes, Princes and Mallee (state controlled)

# COUNCIL MEMBERS.

(sworn in 18 November 2014)

## MAYOR



Cr. Neville Jaensch JP  
Mallee Ward

## LAKES WARD



Cr. Sharon Bland  
Deputy Mayor



Cr. Vern Leng



Cr. Mick O'Hara

## MALLEE WARD



Cr. Donna Middleton



Cr. Bob Simcock



Cr. Peter Wright

## PARKS WARD

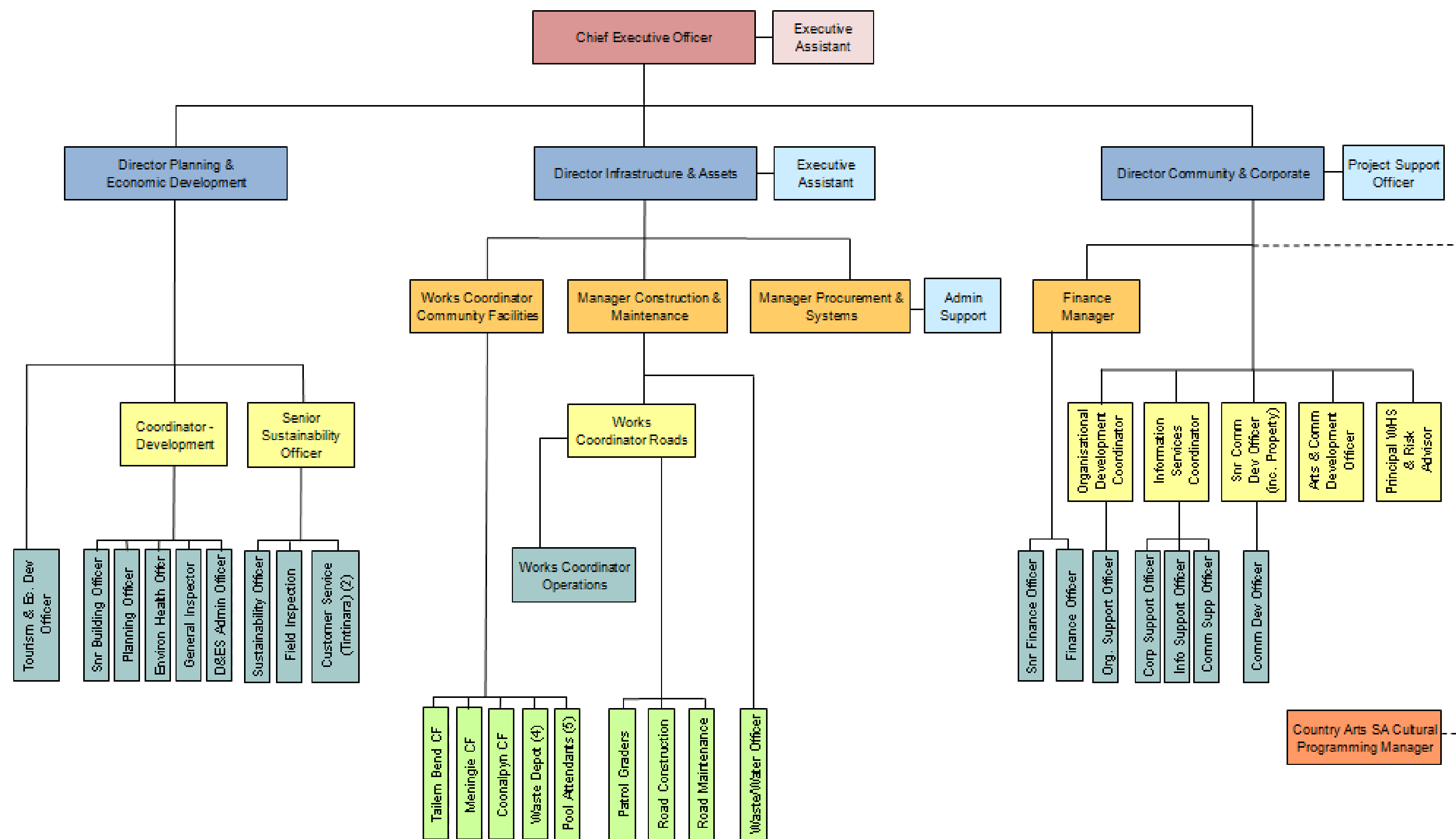


Cr. Julie Barrie



Cr. Jeff Arthur

# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE. (as at 30 June 2018)



# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE.

## LIST OF REGISTERS AND CODES

- Code of Conduct for Council Employees
- Code of Conduct for Council Members
- Code of Practice for Access to Meetings of Council and Committees and Council Documents
- Code of Practice for Proceedings of Council and Committee Meetings
- 2017/18 Fees & Charges Schedule
- Register of By-Laws
- Register of Community Land
- Register of Delegations (26 instruments)
- Register of Council Members Allowances and Benefits
- Register of Interest (Council Employees and Council Members)
- Register of Gifts (to Council Employees and Council Members)
- Register of Public Roads
- Register of Salaries
- Asset Register

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

Council received one Freedom of Information request (regarding staff personnel records) during 2017/18, which was processed and completed.

## OMBUDSMAN'S INVESTIGATIONS

The Ombudsman conducted three investigations during 2017/18 primarily in relation to rates & charges. One case was declined and the remaining two were referred back to the agency

(Council) by the Ombudsman to determine an appropriate outcome.

## SECTION 41 COMMITTEES

The following committees, formed under section 41 of the Local Government Act 1999 exist to streamline Council business and management of community assets:

- Australia Day Awards Sub-Committee
- Coorong Bushfire Prevention Committee
- Coonalpyn Community Hall Committee
- Coorong Local Action Plan Committee
- Coonalpyn Soldiers Memorial Swimming Pool and Caravan Park Committee
- Meningie Airfield Management Committee
- Meningie Cemetery Committee
- Moorlands Hall Committee
- Pangarinda Botanic Garden Committee
- Tailem Bend Town Hall Committee
- Tintinara Aerodrome Management Committee
- Tintinara Community Gymnasium Committee
- Tintinara Community Men's Shed Committee
- Tintinara Homes and Community Centre Committee
- Tintinara War Memorial Committee

## POLICIES REVIEWED/ENDORSED

- Annual Business Plan & Budget Policy
- Arts & Cultural Policy
- Asset Accounting Policy
- Building Inspection Policy

- Community Cemeteries & Burial Policy
- Community Group Loan Policy
- Control of Election Signs Policy
- Council Hall & Facilities Hire Policy
- Council Participation in Emergency Response Operations Policy
- Debt Recovery & Financial Hardship Policy
- Disposal of Council Land and Other Assets Policy
- Elected Members Allowance, Benefits and Support Policy
- Electronic Communications Policy
- Enforcement of Unlawful Development Policy
- Enforcement Policy
- Fraud & Corruption Prevention Policy
- Funding Policy
- Human Resource Policy
- Information Security Policy
- Internal Financial Control Policy
- Lease, Licence & Permit for Council Owned & Controlled Land & Buildings Policy
- Naming & Numbering of Roads Policy
- Order making Policy
- Petty Cash Policy
- Procurement Policy
- Rating Policy 2018/19
- Requests for Service Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Safe Environment Policy
- Service Range Policy
- Strategic Rating Policy
- Street Traders & Mobile Food Vans Policy
- Treasury Management Policy
- Waste Collection Service Level Policy
- Whistleblowers Protection Policy

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS – ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

For the term of Council (July 2017 – June 2018) 12 ordinary meetings and 3 special meetings were held.

Member	Attendance
Mayor Cr. Neville Jaensch	15
Cr. Jeff Arthur	15
Cr. Julie Barrie	13
Cr. Sharon Bland	12
Cr. Vern Leng	13
Cr. Donna Middleton	15
Cr. Mick O'Hara	12
Cr. Bob Simcock	14
Cr. Peter Wright	13



*Coorong District Council members and senior staff*

## CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

During 2017/18 Council made 19 confidential orders representing the following subsections of the Local Government Act 1999:

- (a) information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead) (15 orders)
- (b) information the disclosure of which –
  - (i) could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting, or proposing to conduct, business, or to prejudice the commercial position of the council; and
  - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest (1 order)
- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which:
  - (i) could reasonably be expected to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or to confer a commercial advantage on a third party; and
  - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest (3 orders)
- (e) matters affecting the security of the council, members or employees of the council, or council property, or the safety of any person (2 orders)
- (f) information the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice the maintenance of law, including by affecting (or potentially affecting) the prevention, detection or investigation of a criminal offence, or the right to a fair trial (1 order)

At the annual review of confidential orders, Council released 16 items from the confidential minute register. 24 items (resolutions) were released immediately following discussion.

## REPRESENTATION QUOTA

A review of the Coorong representative structure was last completed in 2013. The community was invited to participate in the Representation Review process and make submissions in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999 (included seeking submissions on Representations Options Paper and Review Report). Council's representation structure review is determined by regulation, and as at 30 June 2018 the next review had not been set (a draft schedule released by the LGA shows that it will likely be April 2020). The following table displays a representation quota grouping of similar SA councils using the Australian Classification of Local Governments.

Council	Electors	Council members (inc. Mayor)	Representation quota	Number of Wards
Clare & Gilbert Valleys	6,733	10	673	0
<b>Coorong</b>	<b>3,790</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>3</b>
Grant	5,499	10	549	3
Adelaide Plains	5,898	10	589	3
Mid Murray	6,417	10	641	3
Naracoorte Lucindale	5,782	11	525	0
Northern Areas	3,423	9	380	4
Renmark Paringa	6,417	9	713	0
Tatiara	4,528	10	452	0
Wakefield Regional	4,813	10	481	3



# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE.

## INTERNAL REVIEWS OF A COUNCIL DECISION

No requests were made by community members for an internal review of a Council decision in 2017/18. Council's *Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy and Procedure* aligns with the Ombudsman's recommendations to councils, and will be reviewed again in February 2019.

## COMMUNITY LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS

Council owns and controls 130 pieces of land classified as community land. There was no movement regarding Council's community land management plans during 2017/18. Council intends to review these plans in the next twelve months to ensure that they are current.

## EXTERNAL AUDITOR REMUNERATION

Council's external auditors for 2017/18 were Bentleys SA Pty Ltd. Bentleys SA Pty Ltd have been appointed Council's auditor for the 2016 - 2021 financial year period. The total remuneration paid for undertaking the annual audit of Council's 2017/18 financial statements is \$19,800.

Council resolved to remunerate Rex Mooney, Chairperson of the Audit Committee, \$775.00 per meeting.

## COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBER ALLOWANCES

In 2017/18 members of the Council Assessment Panel received a sitting fee (per meeting):

Presiding Member	\$350.00
Independent Members	\$300.00

Members also received a travel reimbursement rate of 0.66 cents per kilometre.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

In 2017/18 the breakdown was as follows:

Mayor	\$36,400
Deputy Mayor	\$11,365
Councillor	\$ 9,100

Members were also reimbursed for all prescribed travel and administrative expenses.

## SENIOR STAFF SALARIES AND BENEFITS

The Chief Executive Officer receives a total employment package of \$230,000 and the Directors (3) ranged from \$112,000 to \$170,000.

The Chief Executive Officer and Directors are not paid overtime but receive as part of their total salary package, the benefit of private use of a fully maintained motor vehicle and provision of an iPhone and laptop for work purposes.

## PROCUREMENT

Council released various invitations for tender or request for quotations in 2017/18, which primarily were for building

maintenance works (Meningie Chambers, Point Malcolm Lighthouse, Tailem Bend Town Hall, Tintinara Aged Homes and Tintinara War Memorial Hall) and plant replacement (light fleet vehicles, mowers, maintenance truck and loader). Other requests for tender included pest control services, carpark stops, real estate services for land appraisal, Peake Water Scheme, solar light installation and supply and installation of the Tailem Bend Works Depot shed.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

Council participates in a biennial risk evaluation as stipulated by membership requirements of the Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme and Workers Compensation Scheme. The process covers two separate functions of risk and work health safety in order to make an accurate assessment on the effectiveness of management systems within the organisation.

Results show that Council's risk and work health safety frameworks are still in the 'build' stage, with signs of positive system performance. The two year gap between evaluations means that Council has an extended period to identify gaps and set an action plan to address non-conformances. This will be achieved through internal collaboration and liaison with the Regional Risk Coordinator employed by the schemes. Given an evaluation was undertaken in November 2017, the next evaluation will not be due until 2019/20.

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE.

## CITIZENSHIP

Mayor Jaensch considers conferring new Australian citizens to be a true honour. In 2017/18, 7 citizens were conferred at ceremonies across the Council district.

Mayor Jaensch enjoyed meeting and speaking with our newest Australians, and their families and friends.



Mayor Jaensch conferring three new Australian citizens, Tailem Bend

## REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

Coorong District Council is in a unique geographical location – it is the gateway to neighbouring tourism regions, situated on major transport corridors and the largest rural Council area in the state. The area comprises land within regions generally known as the Murraylands and Upper South East.

To keep abreast of regional trends and statewide impacts, Council is a member of:

- **Regional Development Australia Murraylands & Riverland** – (funding partner) membership allows Council to collaborate with

Murraylands and Riverland councils regarding regional programs, initiatives and informed economic development.

- **Murraylands & Riverland Local Government Association** – (funding partner) membership provides Council the ability to achieve improvements for the benefit of Council and constituent councils at regional level, advocate for regional representation and undertake region wide beneficial projects.
- **Limestone Coast Local Government Association** – (observer) formerly the South East Local Government Association, Council's observing seat gives us an insight into similar regional issues in the south east tourism district.
- **Murray River, Lakes & Coorong Tourism Alliance** – (funding partner) this alliance is seen as a focal contact point for the tourism industry. Council's membership affords the opportunity to receive direct tourism advice, leverage partnership opportunities and achieve sustainable strategic outcomes for the region.
- **Murray Darling Association Region 6** - (funding partner) membership enables Council to lend its voice alongside neighbouring Councils and their communities in support

of providing effective representation at state and federal levels for sustainable management of the Murray Darling Basin through provision of information, facilitating debate and seeking to influence government policy.

## 2016-2020 STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

Delivering on the strategic plan during 2017/18 brought challenges and opportunities:

*Objective 1: A caring, healthy and resilient community*

Council engaged with local, state and federal bodies with the aim to improve amenities, assets, facilities and services.

Working to enhance the quality of life of communities was most prevalent in Coonalpyn through final delivery of the Creating Coonalpyn program, which has revitalised the rural town.

Indigenous engagement occurred through art mentorship of local indigenous artists, support of local businesses, and higher level collaboration with indigenous leaders and the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority.

Coorong volunteers were supported through mentoring, regular engagement with local community groups, and delivery of Community Grants.

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE.

Healthy lifestyles have been promoted through the Murray Coorong Trail, Lower Murray Canoe Trail, STARclub program and Coorong Healthy Highways initiative.

Council continues to carry out its statutory and core responsibilities; recent legislative changes have put strain on Council resources, particularly in regard to planning reforms.

*Objective 2: A strong sense of civic pride and well-maintained partnerships*

Stage 1 of the Taillem Bend Princes Highway Place-making Project was completed in conjunction with the State Government to develop an area master plan.

Public art was promoted through the Meningie Stormwater & Streetscape Project (planter boxes) and Wheels on Water project, which commissioned work from local artists and artisans.

Public open space activation continued at Dickson Reserve, Taillem Bend, and street lighting continued to be rolled out across the district.

Council recognised the need to upgrade the Coonalpyn and Taillem Bend public toilets and budgeted for works to be carried out in 2018/19 onwards.

Management of waste included a review of Council's waste collection services during 2017/18.

*Objective 3: A prosperous and sustainable district*

Housing and accommodation options were planned for through delivery of the Town Centres, Townships & Environs DPA during 2017/18, as well as consideration of employment generating land uses.

Encouraging increased tourist visitation through volunteer support occurred with training provided for this purpose, and direct assistance to community groups.

Council's local road network continued to be maintained with 3,494km of grading undertaken and 34km of re-sheeting carried out on unsealed roads. Council also completed a major stormwater renewal project in Meningie which included various streetscape elements.

Environment and landcare initiatives were carried out through the Coorong Tatiara LAP program and membership of the Murray Darling Association.

Building maintenance was implemented in line with the 2017/18 works program.

Control of overabundant and pest species was carried out, and advocated with government agencies during 2017/18.

*Objective 4: Collaborative and respectful relationships amongst community, Elected Members and Council staff*

Relationships were fostered between Council Members and staff through regular briefings

and workshops, and open dialogue.

Open and accountable administration practices are a priority for the organisation, and were recognised through the recruitment of a specialist Work Health Safety & Risk advisor, and full cooperation when undertaking internal and external quarterly financial audits.

Striving for improvements to administrative practices is an ongoing process, and will be further recognised in 2018/19 with the aim to review the Customer Charter.

Information is distributed through a variety of sources, including social media, local newspapers and newsletters. Council aims to balance its resident's needs against budget constraints.

Community capacity building is a strong driver of Council activities and is undertaken through engagement with local, state and federal contacts, and at a grassroots level, actively working with various community groups to achieve shared positive outcomes.

Support for staff in their work environment is shown through training and professional development opportunities, and wellbeing initiatives like Healthy Ageing Seminars, Health Assessments, and FAWT (Fun at Work Team) activities.



# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE.

Council Members are supported in making sound decisions by regularly working through Council's strategic and business plans in detail with staff, and attending regular workshops on items of importance.

The updated Roads Asset Management Plan, Buildings Asset Management Plan, and Water & Sewer Asset Management Plan were all adopted by Council on 20 March 2018.

## **Long Term Financial Plan**

A review of the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2018/19 – 2028/29 was carried out during 2017/18.

Beginning in late 2017, the review considered issues raised by staff, Council Members and the community in workshops and briefings, including decreasing roads funding, Financial Assistance Grants indexation changes and further costs & resource implications associated with legislated changes. The LTFP was put out for community engagement in conjunction with the 2018/19 Annual Business Plan, and was adopted prior to 30 June 2018.

It was recognised that due to Council's decision to significantly increase road funding, a framework was recommended to be developed and implemented to create a financial strategy that will move Council into a financially sustainable position over time. It is anticipated that this will be carried out by the new Council in 2018/19 and onwards.

## **Asset Management Plans**

Council's suite of Asset Management Plans underwent a review during 2017/18, with advice provided by asset management consultant Assetic.

# 2017/18 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN REPORT CARD.

In response to the Objective and Strategies in the Strategic Management Plan 2012-2020 a range of capital works, projects and actions were reflected in the 2016/17 Annual Business Plan. These have been placed against relevant Objectives and reported against in the following manner:

## THEME: COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Objective: A caring, healthy and resilient community.

2017/18 Actions & Projects	2017/18 key outcome(s)
Development and construction of off-leash Dog Park at Meningie.	The off-leash Meningie Dog Park at the Meningie Town Oval commenced in 2017/18 and will be completed with a further \$22k budget allocation in 2018/19.
Install a shelter shed at Tailem Bend off-leash dog park.	Project completed, shelter installed in early 2018.
Install a PA system at Coonalpyn Swimming Centre.	A powered Public Address (PA) system including desktop microphone, speakers and amplifier was installed at the Coonalpyn Pool.
Install picture rails/hanging space for local artists at Meningie Information Hub.	Project completed, space now utilised for Meningie Gallery art exhibitions.
Maintain the Community Development Officer role and activities program for Council.	The Community Development Officer position was filled in September 2017. Programs include community engagement, indigenous engagement, infrastructure project management, school, sporting club, community libraries & community group support, event management, grants and other associated general support.
Through the Murray & Mallee Regional Public Health Plan, reflect the importance of the Tailem Bend Community Centre, Coonalpyn Hub and Tintinara Men's Shed to community participation, well-being and resilience, and the need for a community centre space at Meningie.	Council maintained regular representation on the Murray & Mallee Regional Public Health Plan Committee throughout 2017/18. The 'Plan' has progressed in line with SA government expectations.
Continue with engaging records consultants to assist with the back log of records to be sentenced at the Tailem Bend archive site to meet legislative and business requirements.	Project has been ongoing throughout 2017/18. 44 boxes of records were destroyed, and 34 boxes were approved to transfer to archive site.

## THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE & TOWNSHIPS

Objective: A strong sense of civic pride and well-maintained townships.

2017/18 Actions & Projects	2017/18 key outcome(s)
Replacement of kerb and gutter as required in accordance with Council's Roads Asset Management Plan (RAMP).	Works completed as per Council's Roads Asset Management Plan, including works at Tintinara, Tailern Bend, Coonalpyn and Meningie.
Plant and machinery replacements.	Various plant and machinery replaced as per schedule within the allocated 2017/18 budget.
Sealed roads replacement as per Council's RAMP – Rural and Urban re-seals.	<p>Resealing and asphalt works occurred as prioritised within the 2017/18 budget, and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narrung Road (Meningie)</li> <li>• Pangarinda Road (Wellington East)</li> <li>• East Street and Station Drive (Tailern Bend)</li> <li>• Granites Road (Tailern Bend)</li> <li>• Various other works</li> </ul>
Unsealed roads replacement as required in accordance with Council's (RAMP).	During 2017/18 34 kilometres of unsealed road resurfacing was carried out across the Council district.
Ongoing maintenance of Council owned buildings, as per Council's building renewal schedule.	<p>The Building Renewal Schedule was developed from the Building Asset Management Plan and conditions assessments. Maintenance works carried out during 2017/18 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade of the Coonalpyn Institute supper room;</li> <li>• Works on the Meningie Chambers including the amenities block</li> <li>• Refurbishment works of the Point Malcolm Lighthouse</li> <li>• Tailern Bend rotunda roof replacement</li> <li>• Maintenance work for the Moorlands, Tintinara and Tailern Bend Town Halls</li> <li>• Exterior painting at Tintinara Aged Homes</li> <li>• Internal building works at the Tintinara Health and Recreation Centre</li> </ul>
Upgrade of Tailern Bend Council works depot shed.	Work commenced with the construction of the new Tailern Bend Depot shed during 2017/18 with works carrying over into the 2018/19 year. Works include the construction of a 20m x 17m shed with an internal fitout, including a workshop, lunch room and shower/toilet facilities
Replacement of footpaths as required in accordance with Council's Roads Asset Management Plan (RAMP).	Works completed as per Council's Roads Asset Management Plan schedule of works.
Installation of public lighting (solar or electric).	12 new solar-powered street lighting were installed along Narrung Road at Meningie.
Installation of new street lighting at Ferry Road intersection and boat ramp, Wellington East.	A new mains powered LED light was installed at the intersection of George-Mason and Ferry Roads at Wellington East.
Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS).	Capital renewal works included the replacement of the mechanical and electrical equipment at the Warrengie Drive Pump Station in Meningie and the replacement of electrical equipment at various Pump Stations in Tailern Bend.
Undertake stormwater upgrade as part of Meningie Stormwater Project.	Through the State Local Government Infrastructure Partnership, Meningie main street stormwater works were completed in 2017/18.



2017/18 Actions & Projects	2017/18 key outcome(s)
Peake and Wellington East water renewal/replacement.	Works included the replacement of underground pipework and associated valves.
Carry out fencing works at Tintinara Cemetery.	Fencing works continued at the Tintinara cemetery as part of the 2017/18 works program.
Increase fencing of the Meningie Aerodrome.	Fencing works continued at the Meningie Aerodrome as part of the 2017/18 works program.
Finalise the Princes Highway Tailem Bend Landscaping Study and implement.	The Princes Highway, Tailem Bend Landscaping & Place-making Plan is nearing completion and should be finalised by the end of August 2018. A successful community engagement session was held on 27 June 2018. The timing of the project over ran owing to some international work commitments by the consultant, seeking feedback on the project from DPTI staff and trying to secure government funding (\$30,000 made available by DPTI at the end of 2017). Council has purchased some elements that have been supported by the community. Implementation of the project was designed to run to the end of the Strategic Management Plan period but budget constraints has meant that grants and external funding sources will be pursued in earnest
Employ a Mobile Mechanic/Handyman to service Council's plant and minor machinery on-site, resulting in immediate cost savings and productivity.	Due to a shift in resourcing, the Mobile Mechanic/Handyman position was not progressed.
Replacement of roadside street blade (directional) signs.	In recognition of aging roadside signage, Council commenced the replacement program of signs across the road network.
Increase Parks & Gardens maintenance operations to assist with improvements to smaller townships and settlements.	Council's Community Facilities team were provided with additional resources in recognition of an increase in visitor numbers and community expectations.

## THEME: PROSPERITY & SUSTAINABILITY

Objective: A prosperous and sustainable district.

2017/18 Actions & Projects	2017/18 key outcome(s)
Dickson Reserve upgrades.	Bollard upgrades, picnic setting replacements and tripping hazards were achieved in 2017/18. Documentation was contracted for mooring posts and a large multi-purpose pontoon (suitable for tour boats) and appropriate planning assessments conducted. A grant application was also submitted to the SA Boating Facilities Fund which is awaiting determination (late 2018).
Continuation of Lake Indawarra Project Stage 2 – land negotiation and finalisation of RV friendly works.	Arguments to support exploring ownership of the former railway lands at DPTI were submitted to Minister Knoll in April 2018. Currently awaiting feedback.  In partnership with the Tintinara Action Club and Community Men's Shed, established a large shelter, seating and electric bbq in the precinct, as well as signage and lighting for the RV Park. Development Approval has been granted for the RV Park and is

2017/18 Actions & Projects	2017/18 key outcome(s)
	awaiting DPTI land owner consent.
Continual design and construction of various stages of Murray-Coorong Trail as per the Feasibility Report.	Construction continued during 2017/18 on Stages 1 and 4 of the Murray Coorong Trail including trail making, design and installation of directional markers, trail heads, mapping and associated infrastructure.
Marketing support for digital media (Coorong promotion and tourism).	The budget for this Project was removed as per the adjustment to roads funding.
Brand Coorong (Priority 2) – clarify marketing message, build a Business & Tourism Prospectus.	The budget for this Project was removed as per the adjustment to roads funding. Grant opportunities will be pursued during 2018/19 to develop an attractive prospectus. If no grant success, a more basic document and updated web pages will be pursued.
Brownfield Intermodal Project (Priority 3) – build a concept for an integrated freight, logistics, warehousing & assembly concept at Tailem Bend.	A concept proposal for developing an upgraded intersection at Lime Kiln Road and Mallee Highway was drafted to support longer term activation of land in the Urban Employment Zone.
Increased budget line for tourism signs.	The tourism signage budget was expanded to include other small tourism infrastructure and training projects (per the last update of the SMP). A budget increase between 2016/17 and 2017/18 did not occur owing to other priorities, however tourism signage was purchased for the new Culburra RV Park, the Tintinara RV Dump Point signage, design work for the Tintinara RV Park, Tailem Bend main street banners, and interpretive signage at the Wellington East Ferry information bay and the Pink Lake, Meningie.
Implement Development Plan Amendments (DPAs) as contained in the Strategic Directions Report and investigate the potential for strategic housing & tourism accommodation growth in the Wellington East to Tailem Bend area.	<p>The Rural Land DPA was not progressed owing to discussions with DPTI. Instead work was concentrated on completing the current Town Centres, Townships &amp; Environs DPA. This DPA was split in two with the first part (minus rural living proposals) authorised in November 2017. The second part of the DPA has recently been put before to the Minister for Planning for sign off. Should Part 2 be approved then there will be further supply of rural living housing land on the eastern edge of Tailem Bend.</p> <p>Communications occurred with landholders for the Tailem Bend to Wellington East and Tailem Bend North study areas, which were reported to the Strategic Planning &amp; Development Policy Committee. Grant opportunities will be explored during 2018/19 to further develop a strategic document.</p>
Plan for moving forward with State Government planning reforms (regional planning boards etc.).	<p>The investigations surrounding the business case for joint planning boards identified financial and legal issues that translated to the councils in the southern part of the MRLGA holding back from any further business case discussions until it was apparent how successful the Riverland councils were in progressing their arrangements (who are further advanced in their regional collaborations). It is understood that the principal interest of councils at this point in time is the prospect of preparing a Regional Plan update.</p> <p>Council continues to respond to new legislative matters and planning reforms documentation and</p>

2017/18 Actions & Projects	2017/18 key outcome(s)
	workshops are being attended on the Murray River Flood Zone Review.

## THEME: LEADERSHIP & COLLABORATION

Objective: Collaborative and respectful relationships amongst community, Elected Members and Council staff.

2017/18 Actions & Projects	2017/18 key outcome(s)
Changeover of 10 vehicles (utilities) as per fleet agreement.	Changed over 10 vehicles in accordance with agreement and 2017/18 budget.
Replace A3 scanner at Coorong Civic Centre (records).	A3 records scanner was replaced in 2017/18.
Upgrade key software to add extra functionality.	Software upgrade of Council's digital record keeping system, Content Manager, was carried out during 2017/18.
Cloud Environment upgrade.	Software upgrade of Council's Authority system was carried out during 2017/18.
Implement automated Council agenda and minute software system.	Software was installed in 2017/18.
Implement automated Council delegation software which will see the creation and maintenance of the Council's delegation register/instruments.	Software was not implemented.



# AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT CARD.

The Audit Committee is formed under section 41 of the Local Government Act 1999 as a committee of Council for the purpose of providing independent advice and making recommendations to the full Council on matters relating to the corporate and financial governance of Council.

The Audit Committee is responsible for assisting Council in fulfilling its corporate governance responsibilities in regard to:

- Business risk management
- Compliance with legal and regulatory obligations
- The establishment and maintenance of the internal control framework
- The reliability and integrity of financial information for inclusion in financial statements and other financial reports
- Monitoring the financial performance of Council
- Development and review of a long term financial plan and associated policies
- Safeguarding the independence of the internal and external auditors
- Audit, accounting and financial reporting obligations

The Chairperson is the independent member of the Committee, and their membership, which is reviewed every two years, can be extended upon recommendation from the Audit Committee to Council. All Council members are invited to attend each meeting.

The Audit Committee met on five occasions in 2017/18 – 3 October 2017, 7 November 2017, 6 March 2018, 1 May 2018 and 16 May 2018.

Meeting attendance for the current term of Council (July 2017 – June 2018):

Member	Attendance
Rex Mooney (Independent Chairperson)	4
Mayor Cr. Neville Jaensch	4
Cr. Vern Leng (proxy)	4
Cr. Mick O'Hara	2
Cr. Bob Simcock	5
Cr. Peter Wright	3

The Chief Executive Officer, Director Community & Corporate and Finance Manager are generally in attendance at each meeting and the committee may co-opt expertise when required.

The Committee generally uses its work program to determine the matters for discussion at each meeting. The program is updated prior to each meeting and members can add to the program with the consensus of the Committee. Significant achievements throughout 2017/18 include:

- Endorsed the adoption of the 2016/17 Annual Financial Statements which included robust discussion and recommendations to Council relating to the qualified external audit result.
- Regularly undertook budget reviews in relation to budget variances.
- Introduced new treasury management report (informs Council of their outstanding loan liabilities & community loan assets).
- Endorsed the operation of 12 Council policies.
- Hosted a presentation regarding Council's Asset Management Plans in relation to roads, buildings, water & sewerage, and recommended that Council adopt the plans.
- Continued to monitor Council's internal controls which are assessed and reported on by UHY Haines Norton.
- Reviewed, received and noted the external interim audit report for 30 June 2018.
- Introduced new internal Petty Cash Policy on recommendation from external auditors Bentley's Pty Ltd.
- Reviewed and discussed the draft 2018/19 annual business plan & budget.
- Recommended to Council that a more aggressive financial strategy should be developed to address ongoing shortfall in budgeted operation revenue.
- Reviewed and discussed the draft Long Term Financial Plan 2018/19-2028/29 with a recommendation that management develop and implement a framework to create a financial strategy that will move Council into a financially sustainable position over time.

# ENVIRONMENTAL.

Responsibly managing the natural and built environment to achieve sustainability.

## LOCAL ACTION PLAN

The Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan (CTLAP) Committee has continued its on ground works program throughout 2017/18 with the proactive delivery of innovative projects.

Council's Sustainability Officers have assisted land owners with a variety of initiatives and funding, including fencing remnant vegetation and wetlands, revegetation, water security, dryland salinity, and weed and feral animal control.

The LAP actively collaborate with private & public landholders, Natural Resources SA Murray Darling Basin & South East, Commonwealth and State Government Departments, and local agribusiness, to deliver high quality and timely information and events.

## Wetland & Environmental Activities

- Supported survey of fish, turtle and bird diversity and abundance, and water quality on Narrung Peninsula
- Provided support to the Raukkan Working on Country Ranges to complete wetland monitoring at Teringie Wetlands
- Work to protect the River Murray Short-Necked turtles at the Narrung Narrows
- Carried out fox control using the Canid Pest Ejector
- Hosted Meet the Animals Workshops series on 10 occasions, with 150 participants. Topics included

birds, fish, reptiles, frogs and turtles

- Supported the Pangarinda Botanic Gardens and Friends of the Coorong volunteer groups to carry out conservation activities
- Provided funding to landholders to carry out African Boxthorn Control – 13,400 plants were removed across 8,380 hectares for the duration of the project (concluded 2017/18)



*River Murray Short-Necked turtle*

## Sustainable Agriculture Activities

*The Saltland Pasture Redemption Project* was initiated by the CTLAP and Coomandook Ag Bureau to investigate the application of new developments in the productive use of saline land across Coomandook and Cooke Plains. This included testing the suitability of new salt tolerant legume species Messina, and complimentary salt tolerant pastures in broadacre farming systems. Three sites have been established at Meningie East, Coomandook, and Cooke Plains. The first Saltland Pasture Redemption Project Tour was held in September 2017 with over 60 in attendance.

A Planning Forum was held in March 2018 with the Saltland Pasture Redemption Project Working Group (participating landholders, agronomists, seed merchants, & Natural Resources SA Murray Darling Basin and South East) where the plan for year 2 of this project was finalised.

The focus of this group is now expanding to consider the increasing area of dryland salinity that has occurred recently.

*Livestock Water Price Security* for primary producers is an issue that CTLAP and the Coorong Water Security Advisory Group continue to lobby for through media campaigns, tours with Ministers and State Government representatives, a public forum, and presentation to the Parliamentary Regional Affairs Committee.

Rising mains water costs has placed real pressure on grazing enterprises dependent on this water.

Funding applications have been submitted to trial on farm water saving technologies, and to develop relevant information on farm water security options such as lined catchments.



*Saltland Pasture Redemption Project Tour*

# ENVIRONMENTAL.

Responsibly managing the natural and built environment to achieve sustainability.

## 20 Million Trees Project

The 20 Million Trees Project is a two year \$100,000 revegetation project with sites at; Narrung Peninsula, Mandina Marshes, Custon Conservation Park, and Lowan Vale. Melaleuca Nursery / Orana have propagated and supplied the tubestock. Local spray & direct seeding contractors are being utilised on the project.

## Working with Youth

The CTLAP continued to provide awareness raising activities and support to curriculum for schools in the Coorong district.

During 2017/18 key schools included Meningie Area School and Coomandook Area School, where multiple sessions on frogs, dryland salinity and water quality were delivered.



Workshop delivered at Meningie Area School

CTLAP also continues to support local youth through involvement in River Murray Youth Council activities focussing on environmental and agricultural sustainability (involves students from Tintinara Area School, Coomandook Area School, Unity College, and home schooled students).

Project themes to date have been fire management in Ngarkat Conservation Park, conservation activities at Cambrai, and an overnight camp at Monarto Zoo.

## Other Project Funds

The CTLAP leverages the funding it receives from Council to actively seek funding from outside bodies to achieve more of the aims outlined in the Coorong District Local Action Plan. Funds attracted over the 2017/18 period are shown below:

Funding Body	Project	Funding (\$)
National Landcare Program Phase 2	29 Million Trees Project	100,000
Natural Resources SA Murray Darling Basin	Connecting Communities	80,000
Natural Resources SA Murray Darling Basin, Natural Resources South East, Agribusiness & landholders	Saltland Redemption Pasture Project	20,000
Natural Resources SA Murray Darling Basin	Annual reed clearance of growth from the Waltowa Wetland inlet channel	5,000
Natural Resources SA Murray Darling Basin	Bat Project	3,500
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$208,500</b>

## Biodiversity Fund – Rounds 1 & 2

Funding from Rounds 1 and 2 of the Biodiversity Clean Energy Fund (Commonwealth) injected \$3.6 million in environment protection and biodiversity initiatives across the project area. Since project inception there has been an emphasis on protecting endangered flora and fauna species and increasing carbon storage in the Coorong and Tatiara districts. The project concluded in 2017/18. On-ground actions completed as part of the Biodiversity Fund (2012 - 2017) are summarised below:

Projects	Sites	Hectares	Km of fence
Pest animal control	25	183,857	
Pest plant Control	55	21,967	
Protecting remnant native vegetation	41	28,295	163
Protection wetlands	3	400	9.5
Revegetation	88	1,382	100.5
Sandhill Stabilisation	4	42	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>215 sites</b>	<b>235,944 ha</b>	<b>273.5 km</b>



# ENVIRONMENTAL.

Responsibly managing the natural and built environment to achieve sustainability.

## CIVIL ROAD CONSTRUCTION

In consideration to Council's Road Asset Management Plan, Council continued to re-sheet a further 34 kilometres of unsealed roads during 2017/18.

16 roads were completed as part of Council's unsealed roads re-construction, some of which included Nine Mile Road, Richardson Road, Yarindale Road, Southern Cross Road, Boothby Road and Emu Springs Road.

17 roads and intersections had spray sealed reconstruction work completed during 2017/18 (totalling 32,679 square metres). Some of these roads included Princes Highway service road (Taillem Bend), Narrung Road (Meningie), Pangarinda Road (Wellington East), and High Street (Tintinara).

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

Council provides a weekly kerbside collection in all township areas. For residents outside these areas, properties located on the existing route have the option of an en-route collection, and for those not located en-route the option of a bin bank collection or waste depot dump vouchers are available. A review of Council's waste collection service was undertaken in 2017/18 with the aim to expand the service district wide, however after reviewing the initial costings the service was considered unfeasible and the proposal was not put to community engagement. Residents are also able to dispose of waste at Council's waste transfer stations located at Taillem Bend, Meningie, Tintinara and Coonalpyn.

## MAJOR WORKS PROJECTS

2017/18 saw the completion of Stage One of the Taillem Bend Works Depot shed. Stage One included the design, civil earthworks, and shed construction, incorporating internal flooring construction, as well as design completion in preparation for Stage Two. Stage Two will include internal fit out of the shed (to be undertaken in the 2018/19 financial year).

Council's largest project in 2017/18 was the completion of the Meningie Stormwater Project. Further development of the Meningie Streetscape will

occur during 2018/19 to complement the stormwater works and finalise the entire project.

In addition to Council's major project, Council also completed:

- Stage one construction of the Meningie Dog Off Leash Park
- Major remediation works to the Point Malcolm Light House, Tintinara War Memorial Hall and Meningie Chambers
- Construction of boat ramp at Wellington East (SA Boating & Facilities grant)



*Dog Off Leash Park, Meningie*



*Council Works Depot Shed, Taillem Bend*

## PROJECTS CARRIED OVER TO 2018/19

Council has listed the following key projects to be carried over into 2018/19 (in addition to scheduled works):

- Taillem Bend Works Depot shed
- Meningie Dog Off Leash Park
- Coonalpyn Public toilets septic upgrade
- Dickson Reserve upgrade
- Meningie Streetscape project

## FIRE PREVENTION

Council's Bushfire Prevention Committee exists to advise the appropriate authorities of the existence of fire hazards within the council area and to make recommendations on their removal. The committee did not meet in 2017/18.

Number of Section 105F notices issued:	85
Number of Schedule 9 permits issued:	40

# ENVIRONMENTAL.

Responsibly managing the natural and built environment to achieve sustainability.

## GENERAL INSPECTORIAL

### 2017/18 Animal Management Statistics

Total dog income:	\$37,099
Total dogs registered:	1,678
Wandering dogs:	41
Dogs returned without expiation:	51
Impounded:	19
Dogs re-homed:	18
Wandering stock:	12
Barking complaints:	12
RSPCA cases:	4
Dog attacks:	4
Euthanased:	0
Claimed by owner:	1

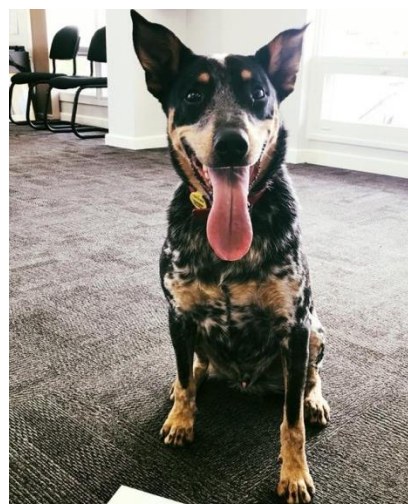
Council has also continued to implement public health programs to reduce the prevalence of public health issues. Council has engaged the services of University of South Australia to implement a mosquito management plan across the Council area and continues to engage the services of local medical centres to implement the school immunisation program.

Council's Environmental Health Officer continues to implement the requirements of the SA Public Health Act and liaise with the Assets and Infrastructure department in relation to Community Wastewater Management Scheme issues.

## PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS & SERVICES

Coorong District Council is now one of 21 councils across the state that is participating in the Food Safety Ratings Scheme, which is still being rolled out across the region. Council undertook 31 inspections of its 103 registered food premises during 2017/18.

Council has continued to promote Food Safety across the district and has hosted 3 food safety training sessions in conjunction with TAFE SA at Meningie, Coonalpyn and Tailem Bend. These training sessions have been well attended by residents in the area. Council is continuing to work with business owners to ensure that food safety is paramount.



2017 Coorong Canine of the Year 2nd Place Winner, 'Ryker'

## DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS & SERVICES

### 2017/18 Development Applications

	Number of applications
New dwellings	32
Dwelling additions and alterations over \$2,000	9
Domestic outbuildings and minor additions/alterations	64
Commercial development – including farm implement sheds, olive orchards and piggeries	31
Commercial additions/alterations – including community facilities	25
Land division	11
Tourist facilities (additions/alterations/signage)	8
Swimming pools	3
Dredging/emergency dredging	1
Change in use of building (tourist/short term accommodation/business use)	4
Other (shipping containers, jetties, retaining walls, variations etc.)	7
<b>Total Development Applications</b>	<b>195</b>

# TOURISM & ECONOMIC.

Facilitating economic prosperity, growth and employment throughout the district.

## TOURISM INITIATIVES

Council delivered a range of tourism initiatives during 2017/18.

### Business Engagement

Council engaged with the Regional Tourism Manager of the Murray, River Lakes & Tourism Alliance and the Business Development Officer from Regional Development Australia Murraylands & Riverland to strengthen regional ties and foster opportunities for the Coorong district.

Engagement also occurred with local operators and community groups throughout 2017/18 around awareness of grant and professional development opportunities available, including SATIC's Service IQ training program and the Coorong Tourism Excellence Program (focusing on tourism businesses and building the capacity of tourism volunteers).

### Tourism Infrastructure

Assistance was provided to the Tintinara Action Club and Community Men's Shed to formally establish an RV parking area at Lake Indawarra. This included completing a development application, seeking permission from Crown Lands and developing a sign for visitors. An RV Dump Point was also installed at Tintinara.

Assistance was provided to the Culburra Community Complex to seek development approval to establish an RV Park. Consents were achieved including consultation with DPI on signage. Rules for the Park were developed and signage created.

Advice was provided to the Meningie Community Sports Ground Inc on the process for applying for development approval to establish an RV Park.

New or upgraded tourism signage included: Lake Indawarra RV Park, Culburra RV Park, Tintinara RV Dump Point, Taillem Bend main street banners, Mosaic Mural sign at Coonalpyn, Wellington East Ferry information bay and the Pink Lake.

## ECONOMIC INITIATIVES

The Town Centres, Townships & Environs Development Plan Amendment (DPA) was drafted in consultation with the public and agencies during

2016/17. The DPA was submitted to the Minister for Planning in 2017/18 and assessed; the Minister decided to split the DPA into two parts, approving Part 1, which included all proposed changes to Council's current Development Plan, except for further rural living opportunities. Part 2 was rolled over into 2018/19, with approval subject to further consideration.

Work on the Tourism & Economic Strategy commenced in two parts during 2017/18, with some future trend analysis and visioning done with a consultant. The funds for the project were reduced owing to other priorities. Further development of the Strategy will be dependent upon future funding and resource levels.

During 2017/18, Council received funding from the State Government to prepare a Project Brief for the Princes Highway, Taillem Bend Landscaping Project. This project included the drafting of concept design plans for the town entrances in consultation with the community, and seeking feedback on other elements of the highway which could potentially be upgraded to improve the amenity of the town and encourage visitors to stay longer. No funding has yet been committed to carry out on ground works, and grant opportunities are still being investigated.

The Bend Motorsport Park continues to be a strong economic driver for the region, with the first large-scale event held in April 2018. Council celebrated the event by hosting a Race Day Market at Willow Street, with local businesses taking part to showcase their products to travellers and race-goers.



Stallholders at the 2018 Race Day Markets, Taillem Bend

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

Actively enhancing the quality of life for the community by encouraging health, wellbeing and safety.

## COMMUNITY GRANTS

Council's Community Events, Grants & Donations program allowed for some great community projects to become a reality during 2017/18. A total of \$26,047.98 was allocated for several sporting and community club facilities upgrades, art and history projects and events.

A total of \$400.00 was awarded to two young individuals through the Individual Sport & Cultural Grant program to contribute towards their participation in national and international championships (in their respective fields of volleyball and rowing).

## VOLUNTEERS

Council has approximately 150 active volunteers which contribute countless hours to town beautification, environmental initiatives and library assistance across the district.

This year's volunteer event was held in Coonalpyn, hosted by Master of Ceremonies Andrew 'Cosi' Costello. Approximately 140 volunteers attended and participated in games and stories – certainly a fun day for all volunteers and Council's opportunity to say thanks.

Council highly values each of its volunteers and the work they undertake to make our district a better place.



*Cosi with Coorong volunteers at the 2018 Volunteer event, Coonalpyn*

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Council continues to support youth activities across the region through delivery of the Mobile Skate Ramp, Imagination Playground and Giant Games resources for hire. The Community Development Team also worked with local schools, kindergartens and early childhood centres on a variety of topics. Council continues to provide resources and information to local kindergartens and early childhood centres around healthy eating.

## COMMUNITY LIBRARIES

Council continues to spread the word of the OneCard system and other library services within the community, through regular e-newsletters and promotion at major community events.

In conjunction with the Meningie Library, Council ran its first digital literacy session, following feedback from the community and local library contacts. A free introduction to drones workshop was also held which was well attended by members of the community.

## ARTS AND CULTURE

Coorong District Council recognises the significant benefits of the arts have on our communities. Projects and programs are partly delivered through a Creative Community Partnership with Country Arts SA and Raukkan Community Council.

Initiatives included supporting the screening of the film *Blackscreen* during Reconciliation Week, the completion of the Coonalpyn Mosaic Mural which officially launched the incredibly successful Creating Coonalpyn program on 8 December 2017, creation of the Coorong Arts & Cultural Advisory Committee, and supporting the *Tinty Lights Up* community arts group.

The Coorong Gallery has had another successful calendar of exhibitions comprising both community and travelling exhibitions. Exhibitions included *Twenty* a celebration of Council's twenty years since amalgamation. Due to popularity, exhibitions have expanded to include the new Meningie Information Hub Gallery.

Coorong District Council is also the auspicing body for the next big regional arts project, Long Story Short, which is collecting local stories with the aim to share them in public artworks along the major highway routes.



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

Actively enhancing the quality of life for the community by encouraging health, wellbeing and safety.

## COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

The Murray Mallee Community Transport Scheme (MMCTS) plays an important key role as a central point of contact to assist with the transport needs of the transport disadvantaged within the communities of the Coorong, Southern Mallee and Karoonda East Murray district councils. Client numbers during 2017/18 were 543.

MMCTS activities during the past 12 months include:

- Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
- Karoonda Farm Fair (both days)
- Local Government Training
- Disaster Preparation Workshop

MMCTS employed 2 full time staff based at Taillem Bend during 2017/18 and its volunteer base included Pinnaroo, Lameroo, Geranium, Karoonda, Taillem Bend & Meningie. The volunteers have completed 445 trips, travelled 40,572 kilometres and provided 886.25 voluntary hours to their communities.

MMCTS receive on average one new referral per week through My Aged Care (MAC).

Staff booked and coordinated 835 trips for the Murray Mallee Medical bus over the past 12 months. The Medical service is a specific contract between MMCTS and the Department for Planning, Transport & Infrastructure, and operated by Coorong Coaches from Keith.

## COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAMME (CHSP)

The Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) supports people 65 years and above, and people with a disability or their carers. It is designed to encourage people to live independently and prevent premature admission to residential care. Council auspices the CHSP funding for Social Support, Home Maintenance and Modifications Program to the Taillem Bend Community Centre, with funding secured until June 2020.

The Department for Human Services (DHS), Home and Community Care (HACC) and Council also auspice the HACC Grant which provides people aged under 65 years with Disability services to remain independently living at home. The DCSI HACC program is funded until June 2018 which will then transition into the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Taillem Bend Community Centre is a registered NDIS provider (provider number 4050013121) for modification and maintenance.

CHSP/HACC staff (1.4FTE) are based at the Taillem Bend Community Centre (TBCC), and with the assistance of many dedicated volunteers provide numerous social support services to the general public including the aged, disabled and the disadvantaged. Requests come from as far away as Victoria, testament to TBCC's outstanding service delivery and reputation.

In May 2018, 450 assessment packs were mailed out to eligible CHSP/HACC clients, with 120 replies received in that month alone for assistance.

Some of the CHSP social support funded programs provided at the TBCC include:

- Leadlight/mosaic, yoga, Social Craft Circle, sewing, folk art, computing, woodwork, woodturning, glass art, wellness, support groups, Goldies luncheons, information sessions, bus trips, Bridge Quilters sewing retreat weekend

The Coorong region has 473 CHSP registered clients (increased by 88 from 2016/17).

2017/18 Department of Health CHSP provided the following assistance:

Meals:	565
Individual hours of social support:	2,033
Group hours of social support:	5,685
Transport trips:	982
Goods & Equipment items:	24
Maintenance hours:	352
Volunteer hours:	3,118
Modification dollars:	\$27,062

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

Actively enhancing the quality of life for the community by encouraging health, wellbeing and safety.

Some special events and transport trips highlights from 2017/18 include:

- Completing CHSP Home Care Standard Audit with 100%
- Tour of The Bend Motorsport Park with 100 clients from the Coorong and Strathalbyn
- Bus trip and lunch in Hahndorf, Milang and Clayton Bay
- Steam Ranger train trip to Strathalbyn
- Matilda, Wizard of Oz and the Christmas Proms musicals
- Melbourne Cup luncheon
- Volunteers Christmas lunch



*Lower Murray Coorong Trail (Photo credit: B Carle)*

## SPORT AND RECREATION

### **Murray Coorong Trail**

The Murray Coorong Trail continues to be a key project of the Coorong District Council in partnership with Mid Murray Council, the Rural City of Murray Bridge and the Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

During 2017/18 the Murray Coorong Trail working party continued to lobby the State Government for funding opportunities through their vision for the state. Construction continued on the first stage of the Meningie to Seven Mile Road trail on the Coorong, and a loop trail between Taillem Bend and Wellington (formerly the River Bend Heritage Trail) at Mowantjie Willauwar Conservation Park. Interpretive signage is to be installed at Mowantjie Willauwar, providing local information on the area.

### **Lower Murray Canoe Trail**

Council won a \$20,000 grant through the State Government's Riverine Recovery Project (RRP) for development of a canoe trail between Taillem Bend and Wellington East which enables users to be active, and experience some spectacular scenery along the River Murray. The trail was scoped out during 2017/18, and trail signage will be installed during 2018/19.

### **Sport & Recreation Strategy**

Council continues to seek funding to deliver an Open Space and Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy.

### **STARCLUB**

The STARclub Murraylands program continues to be the leader in the state with the most clubs registered and STARclub recognised Clubs in South Australia. The program received an award for *Excellence in Cross Council Collaboration* at the 2018 Local Government Professionals SA Leadership Excellence Awards.

Since its inception in 2010, grants in the Murraylands have increased by 500%. During 2017/18 the STARclub Field Officer also partnered with Council to support a proposed Taillem Bend Sporting Hub, and delivered Child Safe Officer training and grant information sessions. Council remains committed to the STARclub program and will endorse an application for further funding for the 2018-2021 period during 2018/19.

# ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

Being an employer of choice that attracts, develops and inspires highly talented employees and elected members.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS' TRAINING

Council Members were afforded local, state and national (where applicable) training and network opportunities. A copy of the Council Members Training Register details such opportunities, and is available on request.

## EMPLOYEE STATISTICS

Number of employees:	71
FTE equivalent:	49

## LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Council's organisational development values extend to the continual upskilling and wellbeing of its employee base. Eleven staff and two Council Members have been trained in Mental Health First Aid, delivering a vital intervention service for fellow employees who show mental health symptoms. Council's accredited staff base join over two million accredited officers nation wide.

Equal Employment Opportunity and other human resource initiatives are implemented at departmental level. A snapshot of some employee training programs delivered or undertaken in 2017/18 include:

- Work Zone Traffic Management
- Certificate III in Business
- Incident & Hazard Awareness, Reporting & Investigation
- First Aid

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

As part of Council's Employee Reward and Recognition Program, Employee of the Year Awards were distributed in 2017/18. Sacha Holme (inside) and Martin Thomas (outside) were the recipients in their respective fields of work.



CEO Vincent Cammell presenting 2017 inside Employee of the Year Sacha Holme with her award, with Director Community & Corporate, Nat Traeger

## WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY (WHS)

Council has a total of 41 WHS policies and procedures and one of these was reviewed in 2017/18. Throughout this period, 31 injury / hazard / incident reports were lodged by staff/volunteers and investigated.

Council transitioned to an online safety platform, *Skytrust* in 2017/18 for the lodgement and investigation of all hazards and incidents. This rules out the need for a paper trail and will strengthen the Council's investigation and corrective action process. Free access to the Skytrust software was granted through Council's mutual membership of the Local Government Association Workers Compensation Scheme.

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

### Records management

- 23,651 electronic records created
- 30 boxes of permanent records transferred to State Records
- 44 boxes of hard copy records destroyed

### Information technology

Significant projects included:

- Authority Local Government suite upgrade
- HPE Content Manager upgrade
- Planning and migration of communications to NBN
- Migration to Dogs and Cats Online (DACO – new State Government system)
- Implementation of Infocouncil software
- Online Schedule 9 burning permit notifications
- Planning and connection of Council works depots to the core IT network (ongoing)

### Communications

- 32 media releases generated and disseminated
- 6,278 Facebook followers

Council also hosts an Instagram page and YouTube channel which assist in promoting many of the projects and events happening in and around the district.

### Customer service

- 2,714 customer service requests processed
- 23 complaints & 20 compliments recieved
- 4,655 incoming mail items
- 9,372 incoming calls (343 hours total)

# APPENDICES.

2017/18 Audited Financial Statements\*

2017/18 Murraylands & Riverland Local Government Association Annual Report\*

2017/18 Murray Mallee Community Transport Scheme Annual Report\*



## WE'RE REDUCING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT.....

\* Respective documents can be accessed at Council's website by clicking [here](#).

While hard copies are available on request, we want to be seen to be doing our bit for the environment - one page at a time.