

Community Vision Plan 2021 – 2025



Phase 2 community engagement feedback report

Following the development of the Draft Community Vision Plan, phase 2 of the community engagement process commenced on Wednesday 20 January 2021 and concluded on Friday 12 February 2021. During this time a range of community engagement activities were undertaken to further engage the community and seek feedback on the draft plan. The engagement activities included the following:

- 3 Community engagement / workshops held
 - Tintinara – Tuesday 2nd Feb
 - Meningie – Wednesday 3rd Feb
 - Tailem Bend Thursday 4th Feb
- Media Release - distributed
- Website content updated and included copies of the plan, findings report and link to the online feedback form
- E-newsletter to over 1400 subscribers
- Facebook promotion and links to the website
- In Touch with the Community E-newsletter
- E-newsletter – Reminder to over 1400 Subscribers

Consultant feedback

In attendance at the community workshops were Council representatives and the consultant engaged to develop the plan. The following is the report provided by the consultant.

Overview

A second round of community consultation was arranged as part of the development of the Community Vision Plan. The intention was to present an overview of the plan at three workshops across the district namely Tintinara, Meningie and Tailem Bend. It was hoped that those who attended the first round of workshops and contributed their ideas would be able to see a draft of the resulting plan and in-turn offer their feedback.

Similar communication and promotion channels were used to alert the various communities to the workshops and to invite their attendance. Those who attended the first round of workshops received a draft electronic copy of the plan as well as being alerted to its presence on the council website.

Workshop 1 – 2 February 2021 – Tintinara

Apart from Deputy Mayor Cr. Jeff Arthur and several senior council staff (Chief Executive Officer and Director Community & Corporate), no one attended the session.

On the one hand this could be seen as disappointing, however, on the other it could have indicated that residents from Tintinara and Coonalpyn were 'happy' with the draft plan.

Workshop 2 – 3 February 2021 – Meningie

On this occasion three residents attended the workshop. Two of those attending had not participated in the initial workshop. Deputy Mayor Cr. Jeff Arthur and Cr. Tracy Hill attended along with CEO.

Scott Way spoke to the attached presentation and then invited questions and feedback. Overall, the feedback regarding the plan was positive. It was suggested that more could have been said about the RAMSAR sites close to Meningie.

Workshop 3 – 4 February 2021 – Tailem Bend

This session attracted seven (?) residents along with Deputy Mayor Jeff Arthur, Councillor Brenton Qualmann Hill and CEO, Bridget Mather.

For consistency Scott Way spoke to the attached presentation and then invited questions and feedback. Again, most general feedback was positive regarding the draft plan however specific suggestions were made to enhance planning approvals to facilitate business start-ups, as well as council securing grants for particular projects. A question was raised regarding Council's role in relation to affordable housing.

Summary

Although attendance at the second round of workshops was well below expectations, in many respects the real litmus test will be the reaction and feedback from residents over the next 2 years as they see and experience tangible 'improvements' to their towns and the district as a whole.

Draft Community Vision Plan – Feedback

During the workshops held the following notes were captured:

Wednesday 3rd February – Meningie (5 community members in attendance)

- Group understands the diversity side of the plan.

Guiding themes

- queried environmental side; community engagement re native veg and Ramsar side of things; potential for continuing highlighting to local community to Ramsar
- Cr Hill - we have people on committee; it could be included in prospectus, even bought up at progress association.
- CEO - even easy as to put story board in the parks.
- people come here and see amazing shore birds.
- Cr Hill– there is business opportunity for someone to undertaken walks to the wetlands.
- suggestion to meet with state holders of Coorong natural parks; idea re migratory bird workshop in Meningie.
- Cr Hill- advised council could help facilitate this and funding available

- CEO - if there is a conference around migratory birds, let Council know, gives opportunity to visit where it all happens.
- Cr Hill – there is a wetlands day, maybe we can participate in that.
- Scott – it is progress association and council to work together; if see opportunity, its about working out how to work together. Point 2 and 3 doesn't state Ramsar but could.
- encourage interaction with groups e.g. if going to put walkway in consult with local groups, then everyone on the same playing field instead of surprising people.
- queried if there a safeguard for maintenance, emergency, flexibility.
- CEO - if COVID comes in again in 6 months will review the plans. There is a built safe guard in for 2 years. If something catastrophic were to happen have to review. It's a budgetary challenge.
- Was there mention about sustainability, united nations ???
- Cr Arthur - people think council responsible for things but are not; eg roadside is landowner responsibility not council, declared weed is not council responsibility.
- 4 - need message out there where the community can go for these types of things.
- Response - Council can advocate but if no one listens

Thursday 4th February 2021 – Taillem Bend (7 People in attendance)

- Interested in how Council are going to grow the community?
 - IDEA - Sub divide Council's land, allow couples to build homes on council land and then the land is the rented to Council and have an additional income line?
 - Community Enterprise - Coomandook Store closing losing their fuel station?
 - Commercial Businesses also struggle to continually jump through help
Need somebody in Council to help the community when they hit the hurdles, they need to be encouraged to continue and be helped.
 - Industrial Corridor into and out of Taillem Bend?
 - Small business supporter within the Coorong District Council to help residents
 - Development - Active aging - Grants? \$40,000. Aging Well Grants?
 - Taillem Bend Progress Association - Happy to work with Council re Grants.
 - When the nitty gritty documents are complete will the documents be made available?
 - Progress review to be undertaken annual ABP works alongside the CVP. We keep checking in with how we are moving forward.
 - SMP - This is what we have done. Then move into the CVP. Community want to see what Council have done!
 - How can council keep updating the community on how we are tracking with ABP.
Keep a copy in the council offices for community to pop in a read.
 - Rates Notices - More feel-good documents outlining what Council is doing. Once a year?
 - Need to remind the community that we are able to give them hard copies of documents.
 - Bridget confirmed that we are getting more active in getting Council topics into the Taillem topics, Coonalpyn hub, Lakelander
 - When we have finalised a project a small article to be included into the Taillem Topics.
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Feedback forms

In addition to providing feedback during the workshop's community members were provided the opportunity to complete the feedback forms provided and their responses are below.

- Tailem bend Progress Association would be willing to work with Council on projects regarding grants.
- I look forward to seeing the more in-depth plans details. Tailem Bend Progress Association would be happy to assist in whatever way we can
- Someone within the Council with knowledge to actively support small business establishment also housing development – affordable housing
- Commit to advocate for better deals to purchase regional housing through banks
- Look at rezone residential / commercial land
- Encourage new business into town, help and assist with advice and paperwork
- Is there a “safeguard” for unforeseen events e.g. events/ maintenance
- Clean up streets – e.g. cars on footpath/ workshop at residence
- Encourage groups to be included with Council on town planning (Progress / Lions / Rotary)

Online feedback forms

An online feedback form was developed and accessible via Council's website, this form was also promoted via Social Media and various newsletters

- This document is well presented a more professional presentation than previous efforts (consultant involved)
 - Too many colour photographs it is not a photo album but a master working document.
 - Function of Council -also provide a reliable supply for non-potable supply
 - And the infrastructure for the supply
 - Strategies should align to mission statements
 - Also vision should align to mission statement i.e. promoting diversity
 - Values= “Balance” of balance sheet or outcomes to revenue
 - Our district will be a recognised leader of “environmental initiatives or business excellence (how measured)
 - What are the major asset classes, roads, paths, buildings, pipe work - what are critical to community and financial impact, identify
 - List facilities and outsource maintenance to improve efficiency and costs
 - Community - the management of health in particular virus
 - Climate change what is council actively doing, smart lighting, solar input for major buildings
 - Leadership rephrase from we promote to we will further promote, don't agree that Council Members NOW reports openly or an organisation leader should state we will
 - A good DRAFT starting working document
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Written correspondence

The following written correspondence was received by Council

The CE officer and Council Members,

I would like to commend the Council for their vision to maintain the viability of the Council area.

It is very difficult given the deficient soils of the "90 Mile desert" which has changed with trace elements into an oasis. The inherent lack of potable stock water is also a problem that is being addressed by the L.A. Program.

Of equal importance is the Road Networks that give the area a viable cost to freight the produce to Interstate Markets and the necessary inputs for the farming community.

There is no doubt that without a viable primary production industry, then there would not be a need for the townships that service the needs of the district.

To this end, farmers have had to maximise their land holdings into much larger land parcels to remain viable.

Unfortunately the unviable farms are taken up by the viable farmers which leave to a population decline.

In my 50 years in the District I have witnessed the Livestock Transport Industry change from 10 metre single deck cattle crates to 25 metre by 2 decks high Road Trains or B-Triple trailers. This equates to a 5 times increase in load carrying capacity with still 1 driver, one insurance policy, one vehicle registration.

The Meningie Township has enormous tourist and district recreational potential.

However this potential is jeopardised by the heavy haulage sector having to use the Main Street as part of the Princes Highway. My submission is twofold (1) to procure land for a future By-pass of the town.

(2) a vision to ultimately revamp the main street so that the parking for the shopping area is provided behind the shops and allow a pedestrian only access in front of the shops to the foreshore /lakeside area. i.e. The shops would have double access for clients, one for people requiring car proximity for goods with the other entrance for visitors primarily requiring food /drinks etc to be consumed on the lawned lakeside common community land.

The current situation is a Safety issue as cars and kids don't mix.

Trust that you can find a solution for the future.

Draft Community Vision Plan Version 4 13th January 2021

I seek to make comment on the Draft Community Vision Plan

Under "Service and Functions of Council" 2nd column the plan states.

“In response to the community needs, Council provides or supports additional services and programs, including:

At 5th dot point

“• On-street parking management to maximise use of kerbside space.”

I note that neither in this introduction nor in the detail of the plan is there reference to “Off Street Parking”, and I suggest that this should be added.

Council already provides and continues to maintain off street parking in Taillem Bend and this is a much needed and used facility. There is also the appearance of off-street parking in Coonalpyn and Tintinara, although in those towns that parking may be within the road reserve, however it is not ‘On-street parking’ in the usual sense.

In addition to the need to maintain the existing Off-Street Parking as indicated, I suggest that there is a need to provide off street parking in Meningie. The recent major works program by Council to generally upgrade the general facility of Princess Highway through Meningie has provided an opportunity for an improved visitor experience of the town, however at busy times adequate parking particularly for vans and trailers is simply not available. The locals can manage by changing their shopping times etc, but the visitor passing through is looking for a park ‘now’.

I suggest that there is a demonstrated community need for Off Street Parking and that this should have a place in the plan. Further that Council should be actively servicing that need in Meningie, but that this is unlikely to occur when it is not recognised as a service supported by the Council.

I am not aware of any current moves to facilitate additional parking in Meningie, however the area of the ‘old CFS shed’ with possible acquisition of adjoining land could be considered for car parking. The land to the rear of the X Holden agency could be acquired and could be configured for parking vehicles with trailers or vans. An area of underutilized land lies at the rear of the Laundromat and butcher shop. The opportunities that currently exist may not be available in 4 years’ time.

The sixth dot point under “Service and Functions of Council” is “Increased support and development of tourism-related activities and facilities.” I suggest that the provision of Off-Street Parking when needed is supported by this dot point.

Community

Council is to be congratulated on undertaking wide ranging community consultation and providing the record of points made in that consultation.

I note that one of the points often made is the need for community transport, and on this issue, I can only underline the situation that exists in Meningie; however, the situation may well be similar in other communities.

Up until recent times residents in and around Meningie have benefitted from the use of the “Hospital bus”, a 25-seater light bus with a wheelchair lift. The bus while owned by the hospital was used largely for the benefit of older residents for local shopping, with very occasional trips further afield and was operated by volunteer drivers. The wheelchair lift became unserviceable and I understand that the bus itself is no longer considered serviceable.

Meningie does not have any other form of public transport, there is no taxi, and the town is rapidly becoming a town for retirees, and the need for some form of community transport will only grow. This is an area of service where the Council may be able to encourage other agencies to participate in the provision of services, however the provision of Community Transport does not appear to be a strong point in the plan.

Council may be able to satisfy the need for basic community transport in Meningie by working with the health sector thus not requiring capital or maintenance costs. The provision of the current Medical Clinic in Meningie was encouraged by an initiative of the Coorong Council, with the Council contributing site preparation and no building or ongoing costs.

General Comment Mayors introduction.

It may be advisable to check on the situation with Camp Coorong and Coorong Wilderness Lodge before highlighting them in the introduction. Coorong Wilderness Lodge no longer has a sign at the entrance, and I understand that the Camp Coorong is no longer offering training services.

A sound document...

I do appreciate the emphasis being drawn to climate change but appreciate that it can still be contentious so well done. As an adjunct to climate change and so many other aspects of the document consider introducing the concept of "shade-scapes" which have implications for public health, tourism sites etc in addition to environment. Also it is easily understood and accepted as an adaptation to hotter weather.

Also in addition to addressing salinity as a problem, consider soil acidification which has greater potential impact for farmers in the district.

Again - well done Happy to discuss further if required

Ps. Typo in infrastructure 3.3

Phase 1 community engagement submission forms received after the closing date

A further 7 feedback submission forms were returned to Council after the initial Phase 1 closing date on 24 December 2020, therefore these responses were not collated and included in the initial findings report.

The response from these submissions are collated and provided below.

Infrastructure

- Seven Mile Road both ends dirt roads corrugated. Need more repair.
- When moving grass areas perhaps stop the mower and removed obstacles like fallen branches to a point where they can be picked up rather than mow around them letting weeds grow up thru them.
- "Increase size and fence eight of dog park to utilise full grass area by railway line to cater for larger dogs.
- Disabled public toilet and baby change room/parent and child toilet.
- Stop letting people put up ugly fences along the highway, they are eye sores.
- Ramp at the post office for elderly, disabled and pram use. "
- Footpaths - tripping hazards from Bridgestone, in front of motel at old fuel pumps, sharp rock 6" from road sticking up between Bridgestone & P/Office, in front of CWS; in front of old hardware and corner of Hotel, path between Foodworks and Institute. Walk thru in front Foodworks to public toilets on highway side.
- None of the above in my area that I know of.
- "Footpath needs to be finished from West Tce to the Medical Centre.
- Footpath and bike track from West Tce to oval entrance badly needs repair (very dangerous for walking and bike riding)."

Environment

- More signs on roads where dogs not allowed such as Seven Mile Road Meningie SA
- Allowing camping at the rear of the Hotel is damaging to the caravan park not to mention unhealthy/unhygienic with campers urinating in gardens across the street and emptying caravan toilet canisters along the side fence of Dent's property, running generators through the next etc etc. "
- "Provide pipeline from stormwater run off holding dams to bowling club and football oval so they can keep greens and oval in far better condition over summer at lower costs. The oval goes to seed and when mown without a catcher is then not child or pet friendly over the warmer months.
- Who is meant to mow area between oval and boundary fence on the road? Area not maintained."
- "Keep the corella's population down. They do a lot of harm to our town.
- Control the cats in council area."

Economy

- More space parking, when caravans park in town its hard to find a parking spot.
- Making it financially easier to live in the area will encourage more people to move live or purchase in the area thus growing the population.
- "Employ more locals. Buy locally."

Community

- The bitumen road from Tailem Bend to Meningie is dreadful, patches, dips, bad bends, not enough notice of dips, rough road patches. Fix the road (tourism).
- I believe Council could employ an extra person in my community to work at the pool/caravan park/township encompassing pool chemical checks, cleaning amenities at pool/caravan park/town toilets, assisting with pool blankets, qualified as a life guard to help through swim season, maintenance of pool/caravan park grassed areas and in town maintenance after pool season. A detailed job spec should be offered and advertised locally not just on council website/facebook.
- Increase small children appropriate play equipment at the swimming pool/caravan park play ground. Most equipment is school age. Somethings are needed for 6 months-5 years.
- I quite often hear elderly say that the library is closed, or they have walked to pay council rates only to find the council office closed; one case travelled from Coonalpyn. Keep our local office open at least 4 times a week so that we can go in and use enquire face to face; not some voice on the end of the phone.

Leadership

- I travelled recently where there were 100 caravan in a row and had to go slow because of road damage.
- Council's communication with communities/ratepayers/volunteers needs improvement. A list in your office of what days/times various managers are in the office would be handy. I also get confused about who looks after what aspect of council business.

Are there any services Council provides that you believe it should not?

- All service people notices easily available. Hard to search for tradesman. Staff at council reluctant to advice or recommend anyone.
- Encourage local doctors to have services at the Health Centre. Make the Health Centre more open to the public.
- Don't receive any services from the council

Are there any additional services that you would like to see Council provide that it currently doesn't?

- A list of local tradies and supply people eg water carter road makers electrician carpenters.
- A hard rubbish pickup once a year in each town and a green pickup for large items prior to the fire season in each town.
- "Please consider the elderly who have limited social activities.
- A pedestrian safety island on the highway opposite the walk thru from Foodworks to the public toilet."
- New croquet courts, as there are more older players wanting to play than the courts can hold safely.

Taking a long-term view, what do you consider to be the 3 most important things for the Community to focus on over the next 10 years?

- Improving the public perception of our town, disparaging comment about the towns appearance effect the mental health of current residents. Comments about how 'unloved Coonalpyn looks', 'the town has gone to rack and ruin', 'I used to live here what has happened to this town'. Bad for morale, and not encouraging town pride when nothing changes despite letters and calls to council.
- "Cleaning up the town/removal of fences.
- Improving facilities and the function of. Weed control/mowing plan."
- To have purified water in Wellington East.
- "To keep upgrade of rural roads.
- Bitumise roads when funds are available.
- Keep council debt under control.
- Have minimal office staff (less expenses)."
- Remembering there are people within its area that live rurally and not in the town.
- Encourage tourism, which brings money into the town.

Council's current vision statement is "A progressive and proactive Council recognised for its diverse communities, prosperous economy and unique and highly valued environment."

Appreciating this vision will change through the Community Vision planning process, do you have any feedback about issues or priorities important to you within this vision?

- Fix the roads
- With regards to the untidy properties around Coonalpyn, the question to be asked when deciding if the appearances are acceptable should be 'would this property pass scrutiny in Taillem Bend'. Taillem Bend and Meninjie always are much neater and well maintained than Coonalpyn. We pay the same rates, so not fair I say.
- Making sure that all the towns are beautified so that travelling thru public can remember a neat tidy area and stop.
- Sounds good, as long as it is done.

Are there any further comments you would like to provide?

- I realise the time pressure on the crew who look after Coonalpyn and would like to suggest they use chemicals to areas around council assets and footpaths to help with grass/weed control. This might cut back the amount of mowing required.
- Provide more footpaths on both sides of the highway to cater for locals and it would help motivate people to increase their daily fitness if paths were improved. Safer than walking on the edge of roadways especially with pets and/or prams or walking frames
- The water quality in Wellington East gets so bad at times that our WC cisterns have mud in them; the HW heaters are full of settled mud and having a bath is awful at times with muddy water. I believe these issues with muddy water being supplied can be resolved by filtered water. I am enclosing two (2) photos which show the color of water in my bath and also in my laundry sink. I believe this issue of muddy water needs to be resolved urgently.

- "Any important projects and forward plans be voted on by ratepayers ie yes or no.
 - One employee to live in town for instant call for any problems and to do lawns, bins, branches, so as travel time to-from mis deleted.
 - The cemetery is still a disgrace on the headstones: a recent visitor who has grandparents, parents, husband was disgusted. Headstones can't be read because of water (which was being rectified 18 months ago). The old section needs new rubble on pathways.
 - Please send these out a lot earlier than right on Xmas and allow for postage delays."
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Conclusion

Council has reviewed the feedback provided by the community and has undertaken minor changes to the draft Community Vision Plan, which included grammatical changes and edits, aesthetic changes including improvements to font and font sizes for ease of reading.

Feedback and commentary obtained during the workshops provided further insights into community aspirations and confirmed that the strategic directions presented in the plan were aligned to what the community wanted and saw as the future priorities for the district.