



# Coorong District Local Action Plan Strategic Vision 2023 - 2028



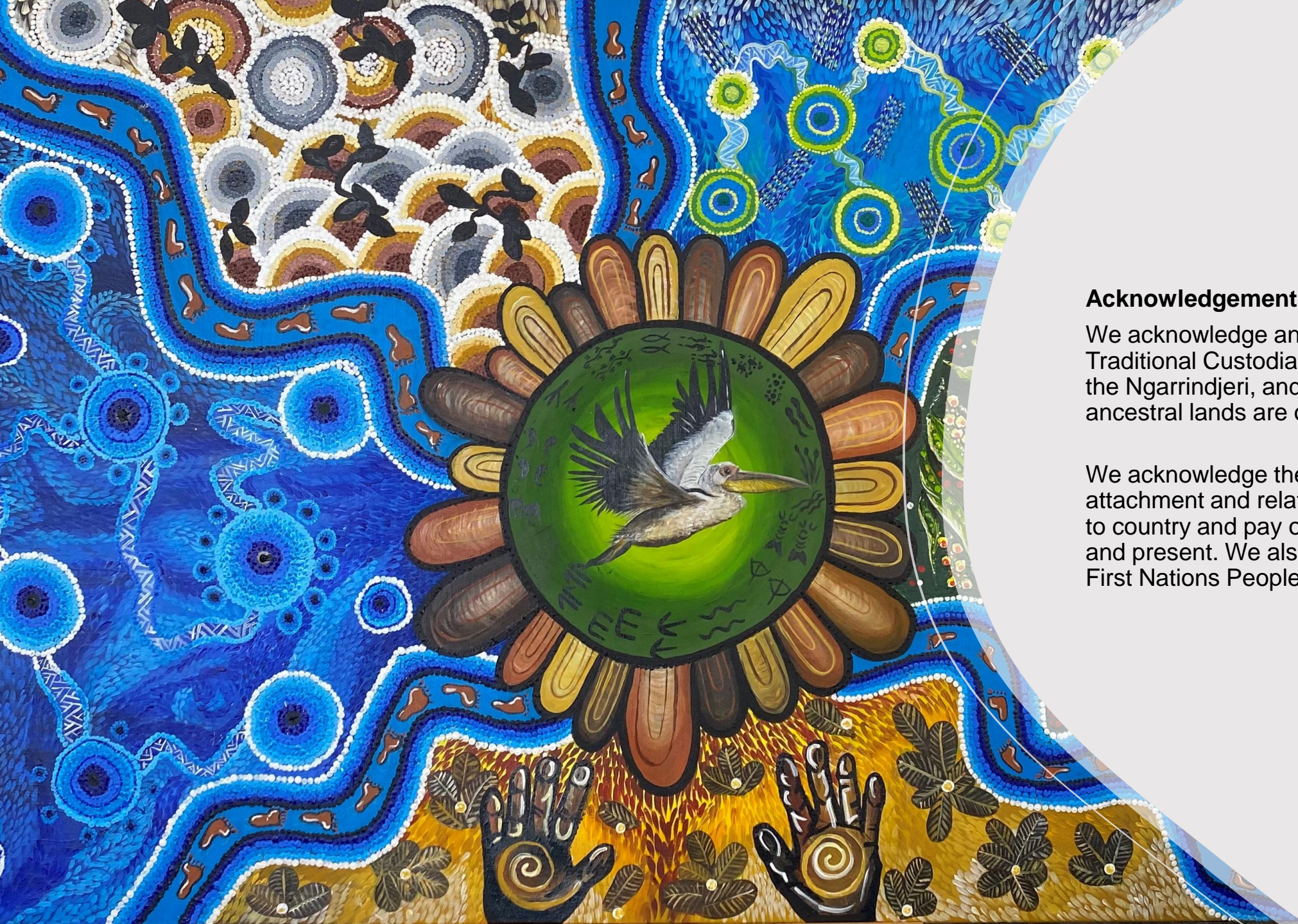


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### **Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters, the Ngarrindjeri, and Ngarkat People whose ancestral lands are on which we meet.

We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of Aboriginal people to country and pay our respects to Elders past and present. We also extend that respect to all First Nations Peoples.





## Strategic Context

Coorong District Council's Local Action Plan Strategic Vision 2023-2028 aligns with the Coorong Community Vision Plan 2021–2025 and the Coorong Growth Strategy 2022. The relevant components and linkages to these plans are outlined on pages 17-22.

The LAP Strategic Vision, 2023 - 2028 augments the Strategic Management Plan, 2017 and sets a direction that provides a long-term vision and considers the likely impacts of climate variability on current and planned activities, whilst applying principles of sustainability and adaption in decision making.

It sets the direction for the LAP Program over the next five years, providing a framework for how Council, through the LAP will meet and achieve balanced, effective outcomes for our environment and agricultural community .

This is a 'living' document with a robust framework capable of future updates, changes or adjustments that can be amended to align more closely with evolving innovations in a rapidly changing environment.



*Funding to produce this document was received from the Murraylands and Riverland Landscapes Board Grassroots Grants program, 2022 -23 with support from Coorong District Council.*



**Government of South Australia**  
Murraylands and Riverland  
Landscape Board

## Coorong District Overview

The Coorong District Local Action Plan covers an area which extends from just above Taillem Bend and Peake in the north, to just above Keith in the Upper South East.

The Coorong National Park, Lake Albert and part of Lake Alexandrina form the western boundary. The Local Action Plan shares a common boundary with the Coorong District Council.

The Coorong Council District covers 883,500 hectares of land and 46,800 hectares of Lakes.

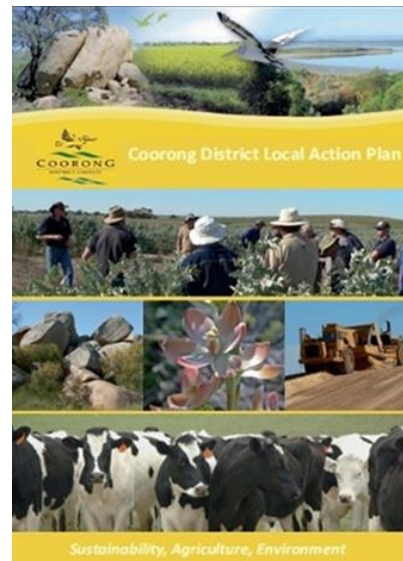
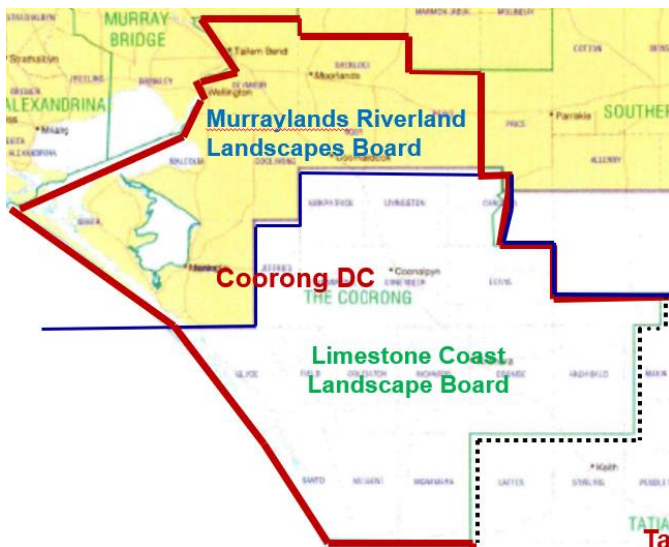
The annual average rainfall ranges from just over 300mm in the north to just under 500mm in the south.

The population of the district is 5,599 people - Census 2021.

Top Industry and employment categories in the region are Grain-Sheep or Grain-Beef Cattle Farming, Beef Cattle Farming, Sheep Farming and other Grain growing enterprises - Census 2021.

Total area dedicated to the production of agricultural commodities is 613,068 hectares - ABS 2021.

A carbon profile of the Coorong District can be viewed here <https://snapshotclimate.com.au/locality/municipality/australia/south-australia/the-coorong/>



A comprehensive description of the Coorong region including topography, landscapes, land-use, soils, water supply, vegetation, biodiversity, and prevalent issues can be found in the Coorong District Local Action Plan located at:

<https://www.coorong.sa.gov.au/council-services/coorong-tatiara-local-action-plan>



## VISION:

Building Prosperity through Sustainability

### GOALS:

- Sustainable, profitable agriculture
- Terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity for future generations
- Water resources and water balance understood and respected
- Strengthening our network / community



## GOAL 1: Building resilience and prosperity through sustainability

Recognising that viable agricultural enterprises are underpinned by sound and sustainable management of natural resources, notably soils, water, and biology

Objective	Actions	Desired shifts	Role*
Improve soil health across the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to programs that aim to improve soil health and plant production, and understand best bet soil amelioration options, and plant production</li> <li>Encourage programs for improved perennial pasture uptake and water use across the landscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved awareness</li> <li>Increase production</li> <li>Increased soil health</li> <li>New innovations promoted &amp; known</li> </ul>	LAP Regional Regional Regional
Support land managers to incorporate technology into farming systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify programs to support land managers to incorporate technology into farming systems</li> <li>Establish partnerships to deliver demonstration programs and awareness raising activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption of practices / increased uptake technology</li> <li>Reduction in threats eg.agricultural weeds and pest animals</li> <li>Increase business confidence</li> </ul>	LAP Regional Regional
Identify and promote future farming innovations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with others to bring ideas (infrastructure and investment) to local farming communities</li> <li>Link with Councils Community Vision Plan and Growth Strategy to increase adoption of innovation over time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase adoption of practices over time</li> <li>Increase business confidence</li> </ul>	Regional Regional

### \*Role

**Regional** – denotes working toward delivery at the Regional level by a range of partners, stakeholders and land managers

**LAP** – denotes a Coorong District Local Action Plan specific Objective, Action and Desired Shift

## GOAL 1: Building resilience and prosperity through sustainability

Recognising that viable agricultural enterprises are underpinned by sound and sustainable management of natural resources, notably soils, water, and biology

Objective	Actions	Desired Shift	Role*
Incorporate natural capital, sustainable and innovative practices into farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure carbon and biodiversity policy developments are understood, and opportunities for Coorong District land managers are identified and promoted</li> <li>• Practical application of research to land management across our region</li> <li>• Support the growing of native vegetation and salt tolerant plants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmers understanding their carbon footprint</li> <li>• New innovations promoted &amp; known</li> </ul>	LAP  Regional
Action and awareness on Weeds & Pests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore weed and pest reduction opportunities</li> <li>• Promote access to resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in weed and pest incursion and spread</li> <li>• Improved understanding of access to resources</li> <li>• New innovations promoted &amp; known</li> </ul>	Regional  LAP  Regional

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## GOAL 2: Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity for Future Generations

Our unique biodiversity is vulnerable yet integral to the resilience of our landscape in the face of land use pressures and climate change

Objective	Actions	Desired Shifts	Role*
Protect and enhance high value biodiversity remnants on public* and private land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify geographical locations of high value biodiversity</li> <li>Explore funding options to fence areas for protection</li> <li>Explore options to replant and promote natural regeneration</li> <li>Identify connectivity opportunities</li> <li>Explore pest, weed, and fuel reduction options / opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved integrity of native vegetation (health, number of species)</li> <li>Improved habitat</li> <li>Reduction in threats eg. agricultural weeds and pest animals</li> <li>Carbon opportunities explored</li> </ul>	Regional  Regional Regional LAP
Promote and encourage establishment of native vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore funding options to fence areas for protection</li> <li>Explore options to replant and promote natural regeneration</li> <li>Identify habitat connectivity options</li> <li>Explore pest, weed, and fuel reduction options / opportunities</li> <li>Seek funding and / or partnerships to implement tree planting on private land, including species with high biodiversity value</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved integrity of native vegetation (health, number of species)</li> <li>Improved habitat</li> <li>Reduction in threats eg. agricultural weeds and pest animals, fuel reduction</li> <li>Increase hectares of native vegetation</li> <li>New innovations promoted &amp; known</li> <li>Carbon opportunities explored</li> </ul>	Regional  Regional Regional Regional LAP LAP

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## GOAL 2: Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity for Future Generations

Our unique biodiversity is vulnerable yet integral to the resilience of our landscape in the face of land use pressures and climate change

Objective	Actions	Desired Shifts	Role*
Value roadside remnant vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Value, understand and enhance roadside remnant vegetation</li> <li>Seek external funding to update and develop a Roadside Vegetation Management Plan</li> <li>Work with other agencies / businesses to increase roadside remnant vegetation over the medium to longer term</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved identification of Roadside Remnant Vegetation</li> <li>Improved management of Roadside Remnant Vegetation assets</li> <li>No decrease in roadside remnant vegetation hectares over time</li> <li>Reduction in threats eg. agricultural weeds and pest animals, fuel reduction Increase hectares of native vegetation</li> <li>Carbon opportunities explored</li> </ul>	<p>LAP</p> <p>LAP</p> <p>Regional</p> <p>Regional</p> <p>LAP</p>
Encourage planting trees and vegetation to improve the liveability and climate resilience of our towns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inform Council to create a succession / forward tree plan / street tree policy</li> <li>Work with Council to design promote the use of water-sensitive urban design applications around trees wherever possible</li> <li>Work with Council to create habitat (transition) zones into townscapes through plantings eg. Meningie Lakeside environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased tree canopy cover for shade and cooling</li> <li>Reduced urban heat</li> <li>Improved township liveability and aesthetic improvement</li> <li>New innovations promoted &amp; known</li> </ul>	<p>Regional</p> <p>Regional</p> <p>Regional</p> <p>LAP</p>

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## GOAL 2: Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity for Future Generations

Our unique biodiversity is vulnerable yet integral to the resilience of our landscape in the face of land use pressures and climate change

Objective	Actions	Desired Shifts	Role*
<b>Wetland enhancement and recovery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the wetland assets in the Coorong region</li> <li>• Understand the recovery action priorities for wetland enhancement and recovery e.g. aquatic reed planting</li> <li>• Identify landholders/locations with lake edge suitable for aquatic reed planting</li> <li>• Identify locations of in-situ <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> for harvestable material</li> <li>• Explore funding opportunities for reed harvesting and planting work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved wetland health</li> <li>• Understand wetland rehabilitation technique and application in our local area</li> <li>• Reduced lakeshore erosion</li> <li>• Reinstating near-shore aquatic habitat</li> <li>• Carbon opportunities explored</li> </ul>	<p>Regional LAP</p> <p>Regional Regional LAP</p>

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## GOAL 3: Water resources and water balance understood and respected

Ensuring that the integral nature of water resources in our natural and agricultural systems, is respected.

Objective	Actions	Desired shifts	Role*
Improve water security and water use efficiency across the landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to programs that aim to improve soil health and plant production, and understand best bet soil amelioration and plant production options</li> <li>Encourage programs for improved perennial pasture uptake and water use across the landscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve water security across the region</li> <li>Increase business confidence</li> <li>New innovations promoted and known</li> </ul>	Regional  Regional LAP
Maximise water use across the landscape through the use of deep rooted perennials, soil amelioration etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to programs that aim to improve soil health and plant production, and understand best bet soil amelioration and plant production options</li> <li>Encourage programs for improved perennial pasture uptake and water use across the landscape</li> <li>Encourage revegetation on public* and private land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land management options to increase water use across the landscape understood</li> <li>New innovations promoted and known</li> </ul>	LAP  LAP

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## GOAL 3: Water resources and water balance understood and respected

Ensuring that the integral nature of water resources in our natural and agricultural systems, is respected

Objective	Actions	Desired Shifts	Role*
Adoption of evolving water security technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote new water security technologies through a range of media</li> <li>Promote new water security technologies through events (including demonstration projects etc)</li> <li>Explore funding options and partnerships to grow water security technology awareness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved awareness</li> <li>Increased uptake of water security technologies</li> <li>Increase business confidence</li> <li>New innovations promoted and known</li> </ul>	LAP Regional  Regional LAP
Improve understanding of local groundwater systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with others to continue to monitor local groundwater systems and aquifers</li> <li>Share and promote information to assist land managers to make informed decisions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved awareness</li> <li>Groundwater sustained into the future</li> <li>Increase business confidence</li> </ul>	LAP Regional  Regional

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## GOAL 3: Water resources and water balance understood and respected

Ensuring that the integral nature of water resources in our natural and agricultural systems, is respected

Objective	Actions	Desired Shifts	Role*
Build partnerships and support projects that aim to sustain the health of the Coorong and Lower Lakes and RAMSAR Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Continue to contribute to the Coorong Partnerships, Friends of Coorong, Murray Darling Association Region 6, Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Water Advisory Committee</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improved awareness</li><li>Coorong, Lower Lakes and RAMSAR sites valued and cared for into the future</li><li>New projects and innovations promoted and known</li></ul>	LAP Regional  LAP

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## GOAL 4: Strengthening our network / community

Valuing and encouraging the interest and contribution of our community towards achieving our goals

Objective	Actions	Desired shifts	Role*
<b>Acknowledge, consult and where possible partner with Traditional Owners to deliver Coorong District Local Action Plan Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to Coorong District Councils Reconciliation Action Plan to Consult with Traditional Owners on projects as appropriate</li> <li>Link with Community Vision Plan and Reconciliation Action Plan to incorporate interpretive signage to highlight Traditional Owner and local cultural significance</li> <li>Explore partnership options to work with Traditional Owners and others to develop and deliver projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved awareness</li> <li>Increase interpretive signage across the council</li> <li>Improved relationships with Traditional Owners</li> </ul>	LAP Regional Regional
<b>Encourage sustainable enjoyment of our natural landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote our natural assets – online and on ground</li> <li>Improve access to our natural assets</li> <li>Develop and install interpretive signage which educates, and fosters protection and respect of our local natural landscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved awareness of our tourism destinations</li> <li>Natural assets and tourism sites are protected and sustained into the future</li> <li>Tourism is a profitable sector in the community</li> </ul>	LAP Regional Regional

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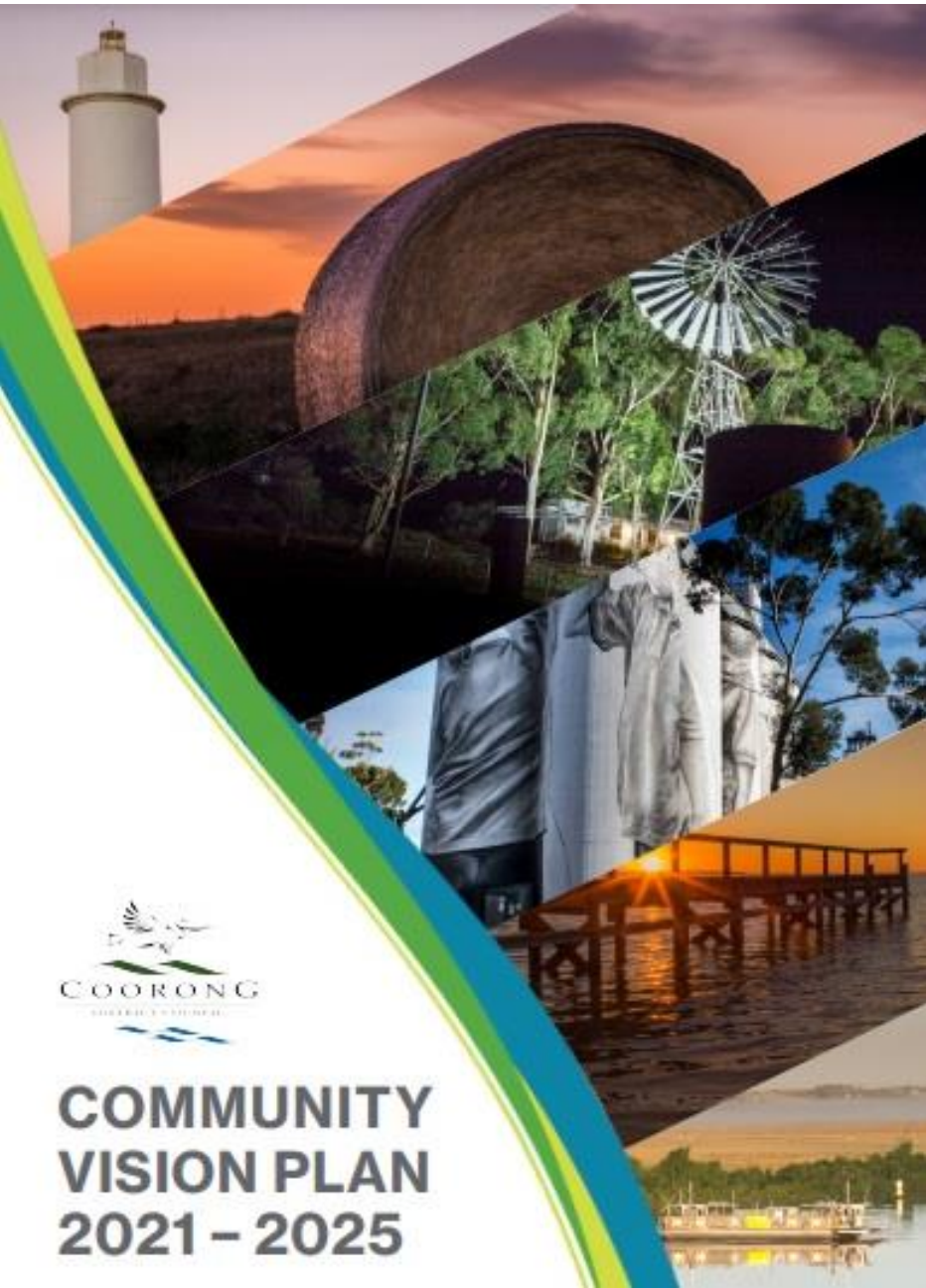
## GOAL 4: Strengthening our network / community

Valuing and encouraging the interest and contribution of our community towards achieving our goals

Objective	Actions	Desired Shifts	Role*
Engage in social marketing research to understand and leverage the values of our community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilise project evaluation to undertake Adaptive Management across program and project management</li> <li>In our work, target, and tailor messages that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>keep the early adopters engaged and energised</li> <li>reach and activate the early majority, and</li> <li>reach and motivate the later majority</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A culture of continuous improvement is embedded in our work</li> <li>Community feels valued and engaged</li> </ul>	LAP  Regional
Assist the community to connect with and celebrate their achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect with and or run volunteer recognition events</li> <li>Nominate volunteers and groups for awards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved awareness</li> <li>Increased sense of social connectivity</li> <li>Community feels valued and engaged</li> </ul>	LAP Regional  Regional
Identify and collaborate with like minded groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with and cross promote other agencies and groups such as Landscapes Boards, Mallee Sustainable Farming, and relevant agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share and promote knowledge and information</li> <li>Increased adoption of technologies</li> </ul>	LAP  LAP

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## APPENDIX 1: Linkage to [Coorong District Council Community Vision Plan](#)



The Coorong District Council Community Vision Plan 2021-2025 identifies the Environment as one of five guiding themes. This theme as well as components of the Economy, Community and Leadership Themes provide direct linkages to the identified Actions and Desired Shifts in this Strategic Vision Plan. Please click on the link above to view the Coorong District Council Community Vision Plan

The Community Vision Plan 2021 – 2025 outlines Council's vision and objectives over a four-year period and focuses on five key themes, all with many intersecting components:

**ECONOMY**

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

**COMMUNITY**

**ENVIRONMENT**

**LEADERSHIP**



## 4. ENVIRONMENT

Council will consider the likely impacts of climate variability for our current and planned activities, whilst applying principles of sustainability and adaption in decision making.

Strategic Outcomes	Actions	
1. Native Vegetation	1.1	Work with community and relevant State departments to identify opportunities to protect and manage native vegetation
	1.2	Promote opportunities to landholders to establish perennial vegetation through the Local Action Plan
2. Pest Plant and Feral Animal Control	2.1	Undertake a consistent approach to weed control across the district through the implementation of Council's weed management strategy
	2.2	Work in partnership with community/agencies to control introduced plant and feral animal species
3. Parks and Reserves	3.1	Work with other agencies to optimise awareness of and access to existing parks and reserves
	3.2	Work with other agencies to optimise environmental and sustainable management of existing parks and reserves

4. Sustainable Agriculture	4.1	Work with landholders to identify opportunities to establish and manage perennial vegetation across the landscape including native species
	4.2	Access government funding streams that support economic growth, agriculture and environmental sustainability, water security innovation, and respond to climate change and carbon challenges
	4.3	Work with Coorong landholders to tackle existing and arising land management issues
5. Water Security	5.1	Advocate with other agencies to ensure adequate water flows
	5.2	Work with agricultural producers to advocate in regard to high mains water prices
	5.3	Promote adoption of water security technologies and innovations
6. Climate Change	6.1	Maintain knowledge and awareness of scientific based climate change issues applicable to the district
	6.2	Share climate change information with the community and encourage conversation and feedback
	6.3	Continue to identify and deliver actions which address or mitigate the impacts of climate change



### 3. COMMUNITY

Maintaining strong and active communities as the foundation for future growth and wellbeing.

Strategic Outcomes	Actions	
1. Health and Wellbeing	1.1	Contribute to public health planning, accessible and inclusive communities and the implementation of strategies that support and enhance community health and wellbeing
	1.2	Support the provision of formal and informal sport, recreation and play-spaces for the community to enjoy
	1.3	Work with the community to foster art and cultural activities
	1.4	Support volunteering as an essential element in delivering community outcomes and building wellbeing
2. Social Connections	2.1	Provide welcoming spaces and places for the community through our libraries, community centres and council and community facilities
	2.2	Work with communities to provide and promote a range of programs and opportunities to connect and engage around shared interest
	2.3	Continuous improvement in communications and engaging the community
3. Community Development	3.1	Establish a youth advisory forum to Council
	3.2	Encourage a community youth mentoring program
	3.3	Continue to strengthen our relationships with the district's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
	3.4	Contribute to the development of active ageing programs and events
4. Community Safety	4.1	Work with the Country Fire Service and emergency services to facilitate a Community Fire Safe action plan to improve fire safety for townships
	4.2	Work with key stakeholders including State departments to provide safe communities

### 5. LEADERSHIP

Through collaborative leadership, Council will take a unified approach to its community's aspirations, interests and legislative requirements.

Strategic Outcomes	Actions	
1. Recognised for our Natural and Built Environment	1.1	We promote our waterways, river, lakes and internationally recognised Coorong as world class
	1.2	We recognise the contribution our primary production make to the State economy
	1.3	We recognise the world class motorsport facilities at "The Bend"
2. Celebratory	2.1	Council welcomes all new citizens and marks the abundance of nationally significant events
	2.2	We embrace all diverse groups that make up our community
	2.3	We encourage visitors to stay, work and play
3. Business Excellence	3.1	Council is an organisational leader, reinforcing our position as a leading local government body
	3.2	Council takes a responsible approach to financial sustainability
	3.3	Council Members are strong advocates for the community
	3.4	Council reports openly and transparently on its performance
	3.5	Council staff and elected members act with integrity and accountability
	3.6	Council Members and Council staff work cooperatively
	3.7	Council Members demonstrate 'good governance' in their roles
	3.8	Council Members actively communicate and consult with the community
	3.9	Utilise our connection with regional bodies (Regional Development Australia, Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association etc) to maximise outcomes for the district
	3.10	Recognise the valuable contribution of volunteers to the district
	3.11	Recognise staff in their contribution to business excellence

## APPENDIX 2: Linkage to Coorong District Council - Coorong Growth Strategy

The Coorong Growth Strategy was identified as a key action in Council's Community Vision Plan 2021-2025. The Strategy provides guidance and direction to support orderly and sustainable population growth for the district and its main towns.

Prepared during 2022 following community engagement and endorsed by Council in December 2022, the Coorong Growth Strategy considers existing supply and demand for housing, constraints and opportunities for development and highlights areas for investment and further research.

The Coorong District Local Action Plan Strategic Vision links direction to the Coorong Growth Strategy in the following areas;

- Recognition of unique natural environment
- Recognition of risk of climate variability and natural disaster
- Climate ready development
- Biodiversity enhancement
- Community resilience





# Our Environment

## Highlights

The Coorong is home to a wetland of international importance and hosts a natural environment that is a drawcard for visitors and those wanting a sea/tree change.

The Coorong is of strong cultural significance to the Ngarrindjeri people with a focus to respect and preserve cultural heritage.

Improved long-term management solutions for the Murray-Darling Basin will support social, cultural and economic benefits. The Department for Environment and Water are committed to health of the Murray-Darling Basin and are working with the Commonwealth Government \$70 million contribution to ensure the ongoing health of the Coorong.

The planting of native plants will help create habitat for native animals, birds and fish and improve habitat connectivity between water and land.

## Opportunities

- › Natural landscape and scenic quality characterised by the River Murray, Lower Lakes and Coorong and rich agricultural lands.
- › Preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage.
- › The Coorong National Park provides an opportunity for eco-tourism. The waterway attracts a diverse range of visitor types and presents a number of cultural or nature-based activities.
- › Conservation and sustainable use of Lake Albert and Alexandrina as they are Ramsar sites.
- › Large areas of relatively flat open land and other natural attributes provides opportunity for renewable energy ventures such as solar and hydrogen.

## Challenges

- › Manage the impacts of climate change which is likely to bring a drier and warmer future.
- › Presence of acid sulfate soils in some townships.
- › Natural hazards such as bushfires, drought and flooding.
- › Shoreline erosion and flooding along the River.



# Creating Sustainable Environments

## Objectives

1. Development that is climate ready so that our economy, communities and environment will be resilient to climate change impacts.
2. Maintain and enhance the region's biodiversity and its life supporting functions.
3. Protect, restore and enhance the River Murray and the Murray Lakes in order to sustain the physical, economic and social well-being of the community and facilitate the economic development of the region.
4. Build the resilience of communities, development and infrastructure from the adverse impacts of natural hazards.

## Strategies

1. Utilise local knowledge and the Ngarrindjeri People to preserve and enhance the natural environment, especially in areas of cultural significance.
2. Protect people, property and the environment from exposure to hazards (including coastal flooding, erosion, dune drift and acid sulfate soils) by working with the State Government to identify these risks and ensure they are mapped within the planning rules.

## Actions

1. Develop an Environmental and Sustainable Climate Action Plan.