COORONG
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Community Vision Plan

2026-2030

Your Community, Your Way



Love where you Live



Acknowledgement

Coorong District Council acknowledge and pay respect to the Ngarrindjeri and Ngarkat People, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet and work.

We pay respect to all Australians who have made and continue to make a positive contribution to our culture and way of life in this country we live in and share together – Australia.

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Love where you live

Message from the Mayor

> "Council is adopting a futures-thinking mindset"

The Coorong District is more than just a place – it's a living, breathing community shaped by connection, resilience, and a shared sense of purpose.

Stretching across more than 8,800 square kilometres, our region is one of South Australia's most geographically and culturally diverse. It comprises three distinct yet complementary zones: Tailem Bend and the Mallee, The Lower Lakes and Coorong, and the Upper Southeast.

Each area brings its own unique character, strengths, and stories. Together, they form a vibrant, interwoven district with extraordinary potential for growth, innovation, and community wellbeing.

Our population reflects a rich demographic – diverse in age, background, and household structure. With a balanced age profile and household diversity that exceeds national averages, the Coorong District is a place where all generations are not only welcomed but empowered to thrive.

Looking ahead to 2030 and beyond, the Coorong District Council is adopting a futures-thinking mindset. Guided by the principle of "**think globally, act locally**," we are committed to a place-led, community-fed approach to planning. This means deeply listening to our people, understanding the unique qualities of our places, and being bold in our aspirations for what comes next.

Looking ahead to 2030



Our future will be shaped not only by today's challenges but also by broader social, environmental, and economic forces – including population growth, climate change, an aging population, and rapid technological advancement. These trends demand thoughtful, proactive responses that reflect both local values and global realities.

This strategic plan sets the direction for the next four years, focusing on five key pillars:

- **Connected Communities**
  fostering inclusion, wellbeing and civic pride
- **Thriving Economies**
  supporting local businesses, tourism and innovation
- **Environmental Care**
  protecting our natural assets and promoting sustainability
- **Supporting Infrastructure**
  investing in the facilities and services that enable growth
- **Leadership**
  ensuring transparent, forward-thinking governance

Together, these priorities will guide our decisions, shape our budgets, and inform the projects that bring our shared vision to life. The Coorong District is ready to embrace the future – with courage, creativity, and community at its heart.





Snapshot
of the Community

The Coorong District Council spans one of South Australia's most distinctive and geographically expansive regions, stretching between the River Murray and the Limestone Coast.

Established in 1997 through the amalgamation of the Coonalpyn Downs, Meningie, and Peake councils, it remains the largest local government area in South Australia, encompassing rural communities, farming landscapes, and sections of the internationally renowned Coorong National Park.

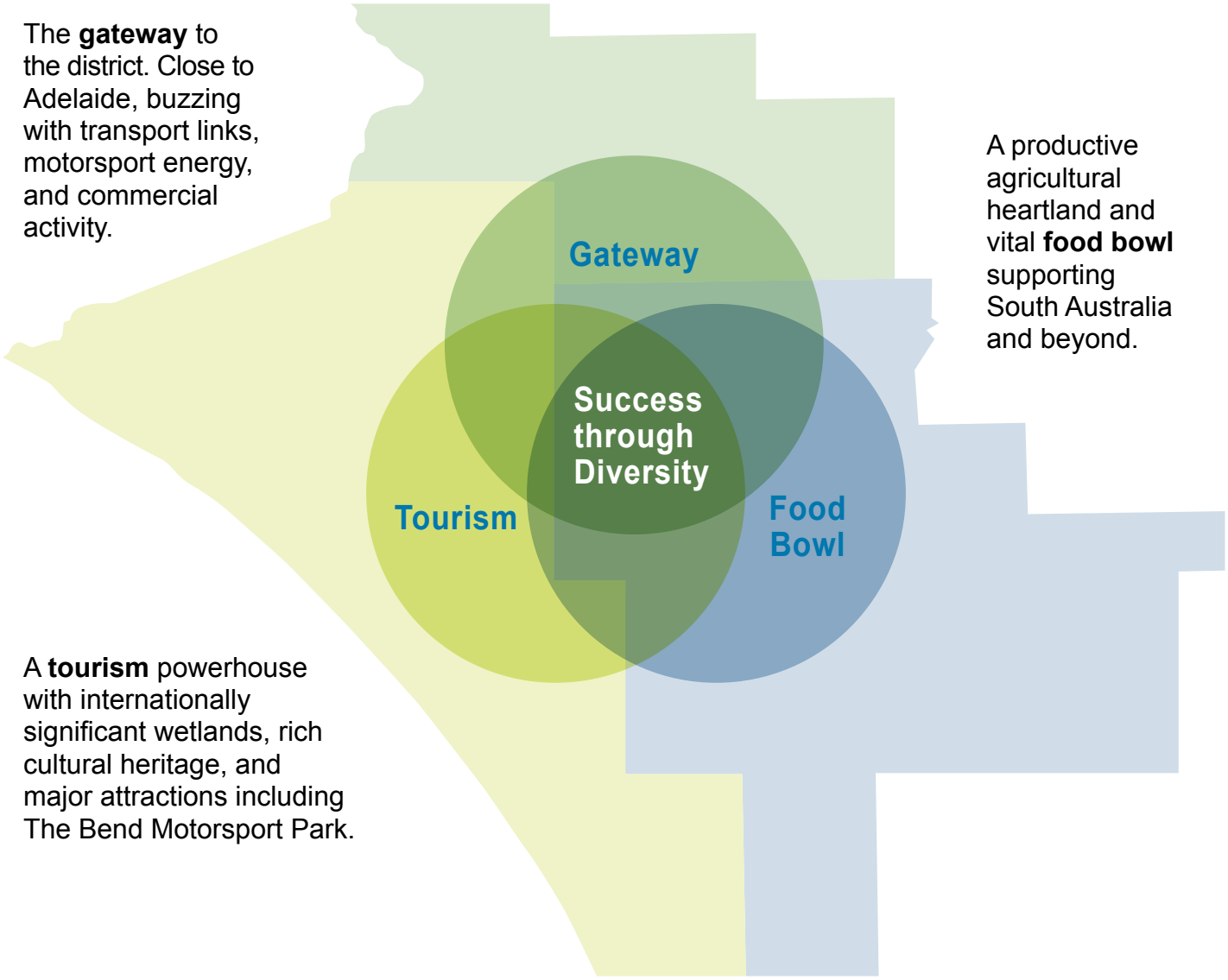
Tailem Bend host's the civic and administrative hub, supported by service centres in Meningie and Tintinara. The district benefits from its strategic position along major transport corridors including the Princes, Dukes and Mallee Highways. These routes connect the region to Adelaide and interstate destinations, making the Coorong not only accessible but increasingly attractive for residential growth, investment, and industry.



Three Distinct Regions, One Connected District

The **gateway** to the district. Close to Adelaide, buzzing with transport links, motorsport energy, and commercial activity.

A productive agricultural heartland and vital **food bowl** supporting South Australia and beyond.



A **tourism** powerhouse with internationally significant wetlands, rich cultural heritage, and major attractions including The Bend Motorsport Park.

Each zone offers its own strengths, opportunities, and attractions. Through the Community Vision Plan, Council is committed to harnessing this diversity – celebrating what makes each area special while working collectively to deliver regional success through unity and inclusion.

Our Community

Council statistics

Population

5,614 Population

48 Median Age

649 Families (with children)

245 Children under 5

12% Aged 5-14 years

9% Aged 15-24 years

25% Aged 65 plus

0.64 Population density (persons per km^2)

Employment

2,349 Employed (58% full time and 35% part time)

Businesses

734 Registered Businesses

Area

8,832km^2 of land in Coorong District Council





Volunteers

27% Population volunteer

Diversity

6% Aboriginal and/or Torres Straight Islander

6.6% Identify as requiring assistance due to disability

9% Born overseas

Households

2,185 Households

1,447 Family Households

738 Lone Households

1,513 Private dwellings

509 Rental properties

2.7 Average number of people per household

Rateable properties

2,218 Residential

241 Commercial

1,508 Primary Production

576 Vacant Land

Sources:

https://profile.id.com.au/rda-murraylands-riverland/highlights?WebID=110
https://profile.id.com.au/rda-murraylands-riverland/volunteering?WebID=110
https://profile.id.com.au/rda-murraylands-riverland/households?WebID=110
https://economy.id.com.au/rda-murraylands-riverland/number-of-businesses-by-industry?WebID=110
https://economy.id.com.au/rda-murraylands-riverland

Services and Functions of Council

Councils have responsibilities under the Local Government Act 1999 and other relevant legislation, including:

- Supporting the elected Council.
- Representing the interests of residents and ratepayers.
- Management of infrastructure, including civic buildings, roads, footpaths, parks, public open spaces, street lighting and stormwater drainage.
- Setting rates, preparing an annual budget and determining longer-term strategic management plans for the area.
- Street cleaning, waste collection and recycling.
- Development planning and control, including building fire safety assessment.
- Environmental health services, including health standards inspections and waste control application assessment.
- Protection of natural resources including parks, reserves, the River Murray, Lower Lakes and Coorong.
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan
- Regional Public Health Plan







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

- Community Development
  - Five (5) Community Libraries.
  - Community grants, funding and sponsorship program.
  - Arts and culture programs including the Coorong Gallery.
  - Support for community groups and volunteer organisations.
  - Active aging initiatives and programs.
  - Youth programs and activities.
- Health and wellbeing
  - Mental health and wellbeing initiatives.
  - Support for sport and recreational groups.
- Tourism and Economic Development
  - Building business and industry capacity.
  - Tourism promotion.
  - Development of product and experiences, such as trails.
- Environment
  - Local Action Plan (LAP) Program.
  - Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS).
  - Response and support to impacted communities through drought, bushfire and flood.
  - Climate response.

The Council operates a number of facilities on behalf of the community. These provide important community benefits including recreation, tourism, infrastructure and property management.

- Coonalpyn Caravan Park.
- Narrung Camp Grounds.
- Recreation and facilities including the Coonalpyn Swimming Pool and town halls.
- Visitor Information Outlets including Rail Museum.
- Pangarinda Botanic Garden.

provide important community benefits

What is a Community Vision Plan

"reflects what our community envisions for the future"

Coorong District Council's Community Vision Plan 2026-2030 is a strategic roadmap that sets the direction for Council's work over the next four years.

It provides a clear framework to guide decision-making, meet legislative obligations, and deliver balanced, meaningful outcomes for our communities.

Building on the foundations of the 2021-2025 Plan, this updated Vision Plan redefines Council's priorities in alignment with the long-term aspirations, values, and goals of our region. It reflects what our community envisions for the future – capturing the spirit, needs, and ambitions of the people who live, work, and visit here.

At its core, the Plan is about ensuring the Coorong District remains a great place to live, work, and play. It sets out a shared vision and mission, supported by strategic objectives, desired outcomes, and measurable actions that will guide Council's efforts and investments.

Through this Plan, Council will deliver leadership across key areas – community wellbeing, economic development, infrastructure planning, and environmental stewardship – to help create a sustainable and thriving future for the district.



Council's Strategic
Planning Framework





Developing
the Plan

Under the Local Government Act 1999, all councils are required to develop a strategic management plan. In response, the Coorong District Council has prepared a four-year Community Vision Plan (2026-2030) to guide its strategic direction and decision-making.

This Plan will inform key Council documents and initiatives, including:

- Asset Management Plans
- Capital Works Programs
- Workforce Development Plans
- Annual Business Plans

It also aligns with and influences broader regional strategies and planning efforts.

The Community Vision Plan is designed to:

- Establish a clear vision and strategic objectives for the district, developed in consultation with the community.
- Address issues of importance to the Coorong District and acknowledge the community's role in shaping the future.
- Manage Council's resources, workforce, and assets in a sustainable and responsible way.
- Align local efforts with the broader goals of the South Australian and Australian Governments.

developed
in consultation
with the community

Community Engagement

In line with Council's Community Engagement Policy, initial consultation was conducted over a six-week period. During this time, community members, service providers, Council staff and Elected Members were invited to contribute through:

- Submission forms (online and printed)
- Direct feedback via email, phone, and face-to-face conversations
- Participation in community workshops

The consultation was structured around five key themes: Infrastructure, Environment, Economy, Community, and Leadership, with opportunities for additional feedback encouraged throughout.

Council hosted 22 community engagement sessions across the district, attended by 308 participants, who provided valuable insights and ideas. Two versions of the submission form were made available – online and printed – with access provided via Council's website, social media channels, Council offices, and local post offices. 267 community members contributed through this process.

In total, 575 community members and stakeholders participated in the engagement process. Their feedback has played a vital role in shaping the strategies and priorities outlined in the Community Vision Plan.

Following the development of the draft plan, a second round of consultation was undertaken over another three week period. During this time, community members, service providers, Council staff and Elected Members were invited to provide feedback on the draft. This feedback was received, considered and updated accordingly.





Council's Vision

A connected, thriving and sustainable district where community pride, economic prosperity, and environmental care shape our future.



Mission

To serve and support our community by fostering connection, sustainability, and economic growth, while preserving our unique environment and cultural heritage. We are committed to delivering transparent, inclusive, and innovative services that enhance the quality of life for all residents and visitors.

Community Priorities

Guided by five key strategic themes – Connected Communities, Thriving Economies, Environmental Care, Supporting Infrastructure, and Leadership – Coorong District Council undertook a comprehensive community engagement process to inform the development of its Community Vision Plan 2026-2030.

These themes provided the foundation for community engagement undertaken throughout October and November 2025. The workshops enabled Council to identify community priorities, understand future aspirations, and gain valuable insights into the direction residents and stakeholders wish to take to achieve long-term growth and sustainability.

The input received was analysed to identify recurring themes, strategic opportunities, and areas of concern. This analysis has directly informed the development of the Community Vision Plan, ensuring it reflects the collective voice and aspirations of the district.

A detailed Findings Report, summarising the engagement outcomes and key insights, is available on Council's website and serves as a transparent record of the consultation process and its influence on strategic planning.



Guiding Themes

This plan sets out five action areas: Connected Communities, Thriving Economies, Environmental Care, Supporting Infrastructure and Visionary Leadership



Connected Communities



Thriving Economies



Environmental Care



Supporting Infrastructure

Leadership

Each of these action areas has supporting activities and measures for the community's aspirations to be more connected, thriving and sustainable.



Bringing the Community Vision Plan to life

To work towards a Vision of a connected, thriving, and sustainable district where community pride, economic prosperity and environmental care shape our future.

We will focus our efforts on the five themes to bring our vision to life. Each theme is supported by an overarching objective statement that describes what success will look like by 2030.

The plan sets out these themes and objectives and shows:

- The outcomes achieved if we are successful
- The actions delivered to achieve these outcomes
- The time frames in which we will deliver the actions
- And the role Council plays





our guiding themes



Connected Communities

Our communities are inclusive, connected, and resilient, where people feel a sense of belonging, have opportunities to participate in social and cultural activities, and can access the support they need to maintain physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing.

Priority Areas

1. Community Health & Wellbeing
2. Inclusive and Welcoming Communities
3. Enriched, Empowered and Supported Communities
4. Community Connection

Thriving Economies

Our thriving economy and sustainable population is achieved by enhanced liveability through housing and infrastructure upgrades, diversifying the local economy across agriculture, tourism, logistics, and renewable energy, and creating strong regional linkages to benefit from Greater Adelaide's forecast.

Priority Areas

1. Sustainable Population and Economic Growth
2. Diverse and Resilient Economy
3. Tourism and Visitor Growth
4. Affordable Living



Environmental Care

Our district encompasses diverse landscapes and ecosystems that Council recognises as requiring protection, including our unique waterways and biodiversity. Through management, sustainability, and strong community partnerships, we work to ensure the Coorong, lower lakes and our farming communities remain healthy, resilient, and thriving for generations to come.

Priority Areas

1. Environmental Initiatives and Sustainable Agriculture
2. Healthy Habitats and Biodiversity
3. Climate Variability and Extreme Events
4. Waste Management and Recycling

Supporting Infrastructure

Our district's infrastructure is planned, developed and maintained to support the current requirement and future growth and needs of our community, businesses, industries and visitors.

Priority Areas

1. Infrastructure Supporting Growth
2. Welcoming and Accessible Environments
3. Assets and Maintenance

Leadership

Council is progressive, transparent, and financially sustainable, delivering streamlined services, fostering community engagement, and advocating strongly for district priorities to ensure long-term growth and prosperity.

Priority Areas

1. Transparency and Accountability
2. Engagement & Communication
3. Streamlined Processes
4. Financial Sustainability
5. Advocacy
6. Emergency Preparedness

Connected Communities



Our communities are inclusive, connected, and resilient, where people feel a sense of belonging, have opportunities to participate in social and cultural activities, and can access the support they need to maintain physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing.

Priority 1: Community Health & Wellbeing

Outcome: Our community experiences improved health, wellbeing, and access to essential services and through strengthened partnerships, strategic planning, and increased investment in local programs and supports.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 1.1.1: Deliver our priority actions outlined in the Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2026-2030 and advocate for improved mental health, suicide prevention, active ageing, children and youth services for our region.

Council Role: L, P, A

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 1.1.2: Pursue and utilise funding opportunities that support wellbeing programs and events that strengthen wellbeing outcomes contained within the Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2026-2030.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 1.1.3: Provide support to the Coorong Community Health Advancement & Advisory Section 41 Committee.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-28

Action 1.1.4: Collaborate with State Government, agencies and local health providers on the delivery of improved healthcare services across the district.

Council Role: P, A

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 1.1.5: Collaborate with Federal and State Government, agencies and key stakeholders on the delivery of increased early education and childcare services across the district.

Council Role: P, A

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Priority 2: Inclusive and Welcoming Communities

Outcome: Our communities are inclusive, culturally respectful and welcoming, with accessible services, vibrant learning opportunities, and meaningful connections that celebrate diversity and support participation for all.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 1.2.1: Deliver and report annually on priority actions outlined in our Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025 – 2029.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 1.2.2: Review, update and implement Council's Reconciliation Action Plan.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-27

Action 1.2.3: Foster and celebrate cultural diversity through the delivery of an annual program that supports art and multi cultural events and activities including Art Exhibitions, cultural events and festivities.

Council Role: L, P

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 1.2.4: Implement the recommendations from the South Australian Government's School Community libraries review (subject to agreement being signed by all parties).

Council Role: L, P

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-28



Priority 3: Enrich, Empower and Support Communities

Outcome: Community groups and organisations are empowered, well-resourced and connected, enabling them to deliver sustainable programs and activities that strengthen inclusion, participation, and local pride.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 1.3.1: Provide resources to support and empower our community groups and sporting clubs to design, lead, and successfully deliver their own projects, events and activities.

Council Role: L, P

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 1.3.2: Review Council's annual Community Grants, Sponsorship and Funding Program for the 2027/28 draft budget to ensure that it best meets the future needs of community groups and sporting organisations.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-27

Action 1.3.3: Recognise the value of volunteers and community groups by celebrating their contributions to Council and community through an annual recognition event and awards program.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

provide resources to support and empower





Priority 4: Community Connection

Outcome: The community experiences strengthened social connection and equitable access to opportunities through improved transport options, inclusive programs, supported local events, and enhanced digital connectivity.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 1.4.1: Collaborate with State Government, agencies and key stakeholders to advocate for, plan, and implement enhanced public transportation options and services that meet the needs of the wider community.

Council Role: P, A

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 1.4.2: Support community groups and organisation to deliver community events, Christmas festivities, cultural activities and market days.

Council Role: L, P

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 1.4.3: Work with our libraries and community organisations to deliver programs and activities that foster community connection, strengthen social inclusion, and enhance wellbeing.

Council Role: L, P

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Thriving Economies



Our thriving economy and sustainable population is achieved by enhanced livability through housing and infrastructure upgrades, diversifying the local economy across agriculture, tourism, logistics, and renewable energy, and creating strong regional linkages to benefit from Greater Adelaide's forecast.

Priority 1: Sustainable Population and Economic Growth

Outcome: Population and economic growth is sustainably supported through strategic planning, contemporary investment attraction, and coordinated land-use frameworks that ensure well-planned housing, infrastructure, and development across all towns and Coorong District.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 2.1.1: Review Council's Growth Strategy following the release of the 2026 Census results and establish a revised five-year action plan.

Council Role: L, P, A

Deliverable Time frame: Dec 2027

Action 2.1.2: Review Council's Investment Prospectus following the release of the 2026 Census results and update accordingly to ensure it remains an attractive, contemporary and informative prospectus.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: Dec 2027

Action 2.1.3: Prepare the Coorong District Council Local Area Plan to meet State Government legislation for housing supply and related actions.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: Jun 2028

Action 2.1.4: Complete the Tailem Bend Structure Plan and commence key planning code amendments.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-28

Action 2.1.5: Establish structure planning priorities for other towns over the life of the Community Vision Plan and incorporate required investment into the Long-Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plans. (Commencing with 2026/27 budget bids for the Wellington East & Meningie Structure Plans).

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-27

Priority 2: Diverse and Resilient Economy

Outcome: A diverse and resilient economy is strengthened through targeted industry support, strategic partnerships, and capability-building initiatives that enable sustainable growth, innovation, and long-term business success across the region.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 2.2.1: Procure and utilise specialised economic development resources to support and grow our region's existing and emerging industries. Maintain budget allocation as required for utilisation of external expertise.

Council Role: L, P

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 2.2.2: Collaborate with business, industry, regional development agencies and educational institutions including the Murray River Study Hub and TAFE on the delivery of networking opportunities and programs that build capability, increase employment opportunities, strengthen sustainability and enable managed growth.

Council Role: L, P, A

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 2.2.3: Undertake a review on the relationship with the Regional Development Australia Murraylands & Riverland in early 2027.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: Jun 2027

Action 2.2.4: Support the district's primary producers though advocating for and facilitating access to essential services and programs that strengthen sustainability and production outcomes.

Council Role: L, P, A

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30



Priority 3: Tourism and Visitor Growth

Outcome: Tourism and visitation increase through coordinated regional partnerships, enhanced visitor experiences, strengthened industry capability, and the delivery of strategic infrastructure and destination-marketing initiatives.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 2.3.1: Annually review the funding agreement with the region's tourism authority the Murray, River, Lakes, and Coorong Tourism Alliance.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: Jun 26-29

Action 2.3.2: Grow the visitor economy through supporting and delivering on the actions contained within the Murray, River, Lakes, and Coorong Destination Management Plan.

Council Role: P

Deliverable Time frame: Jun 2029

Action 2.3.3: Work with our businesses and key stakeholders to undertake a Visitor Servicing review and develop a plan aimed at building industry capacity, increasing visitation, overnight stay and providing improved experiences.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-27

Action 2.3.4: Continue to work with the Department for Environment and Water, Alexandrina and Kingston District Councils on the Coorong Visitor Experience Masterplan, and implement actions when and where appropriate.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: Jun 2029

Action 2.3.5: Seek funding to complete the Murray Coorong Trail sections from Meningie to Salt Creek, Seven Mile Road to Bonney Reserve and Tailem Bend to Wellington East.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: Jun 2028

Priority 4: Affordable Living

Outcome: Affordable living is strengthened through strategic planning, fair and transparent rating systems, expanded housing options, and advocacy that supports diverse, accessible, and environmentally responsible accommodation across the district.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 2.4.1: Complete the Tenth Street Precinct Project and promote opportunities to progress Affordable Housing options.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: Dec 2026

Action 2.4.2: Progress consideration of Affordable Housing Project opportunities throughout the Council District. (To be undertaken in conjunction with 2.1.5).

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: Jun 2026

Action 2.4.3: Undertake a rating review to ensure our rating system is fair, transparent, and aligned with the needs of our community. Prepare and engage consultants by December 2026 and deliver over 2027.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: Dec 2027

Action 2.4.4: In collaboration with all South Australian regional councils advocate for improved legislation on approvals of tiny homes and other affordable housing.

Council Role: A

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-27



Environmental Care

Our district encompasses diverse landscapes and ecosystems that Council recognises as requiring protection, including our unique waterways and biodiversity. Through management, sustainability, and strong community partnerships, we work to ensure the Coorong, lower lakes and our farming communities remain healthy, resilient, and thriving for generations to come.

Priority 1: Environmental Initiatives and Sustainable Agriculture

Outcome: Our communities and primary producers actively participate in environmental initiatives and benefits from accessible education programs that promote sustainability, conservation, and responsible resource use, fostering a cleaner and greener district.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 3.1.1: Deliver on the actions contained within the Coorong District Council Local Action Plan (LAP) Strategic Vision 2023 – 2028.

Council Role: L, P

Deliverable Time frame: Jun 2028

Action 3.1.2: Support the development of the 2029 – 2034 Coorong District Council Local Action Plan (LAP) Strategic Vision.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2027-28



Action 3.1.3: Seek and apply to external funding streams that support economic growth, agriculture and environmental sustainability, water security innovation, and response to climate change, carbon and emissions, and nature-based markets.

Council Role: L, P

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 3.1.4: Subject to annual budgets and funding, deliver on the actions contained within the Pangarinda Botanic Garden – Future Vision Plan 2025-2030.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 3.1.5: Subject to funding and in conjunction with the Wellington East Structure Plan, develop a Pangarinda Garden Masterplan that enhances visitor experience, supports ongoing conservation work and allows for appropriate value adding opportunities.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-27

Action 3.1.6: Investigate the feasibility of an annual native plant giveaway program for Coorong District Council residents, promoting the planting of species that are suited to the area.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-27

Action 3.1.7: Collaborate with key stakeholders to partner and engage with schools to develop environmental projects that promote greening, biodiversity, and improved waste and recycling practices.

Council Role: P, A

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 3.1.8: Work with State Government, Agencies, Industry Bodies and key stakeholders to fund and deliver programs and initiatives around drought and climate resilience and agricultural sustainability.

Council Role: P, A

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Priority 2: Healthy Habitats and Biodiversity

Outcome: Healthy habitats and local biodiversity are protected and enhanced through strategic vegetation management, targeted conservation efforts, sustainable planting practices, and strong community leadership.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 3.2.1: Manage and protect Council's road reserves and visual amenity through the development and implementation of a Roadside Native Vegetation Plan.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: Jun 2029

Action 3.2.2: In conjunction with the development of Council owned land for housing through code amendment, establish a protection zone / reserve located at portion Lots 22-24 Kulde Road for the conservation and protection of Lomandra efussa.

Council Role: L, P

Deliverable Time frame: Jun 2027

Action 3.2.3: Develop an Urban Tree Canopy Strategy to reduce urban heat-island effects, including implementing a succession planting program focused on long-term suitability, drought tolerance, and species diversity for street trees and other vegetation.

Council Role: L, P

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-27

Action 3.2.4: Control introduced plant, feral animal and overabundant native species through working in partnership and collaborating with Landscape Boards, PIRSA, National Parks and Wildlife Services.

Council Role: P, A

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 3.2.5: Actively promote, advocate, protect, rehabilitate, and conserve our natural environment, reserves and waterways through strategic partnerships with State and Commonwealth Government and Ngarrindjeri Agencies.

Council Role: P

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Priority 3: Climate Variability and Extreme Events

Outcome: Community resilience to climate variability and extreme events is strengthened through coordinated planning, proactive risk-reduction measures, informed community participation, and strategic investment in sustainable energy solutions.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 3.3.1: Develop and implement a Council Climate Variability adoption strategy to strengthen district wide capacity to manage drought conditions and long-term changes in weather patterns.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2027-28

Action 3.3.2: Identify opportunities and develop supporting business cases to invest in renewable energy sources and battery technology.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 3.3.3: Continue to promote and support the use of water security technologies that support the sustainable supply and use of water by Council across the Coorong District.

Council Role: L, P

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 3.3.4: Continue to investigate alternative and re-use materials to assist with reducing waste and reliance on virgin materials for road construction.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30





Priority 4: Waste Management and Recycling

Outcome: Waste is reduced and resource recovery is increased through improved community access to disposal options, effective education programs, and initiatives that support responsible recycling, organic diversion, and reuse across the district.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 3.4.1: Investigate and consider the implementation of an annual hard waste collection day for the district's townships.

Council Role: L, P

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-27

Action 3.4.2: Implement the Murraylands & Riverland Local Government Association's (MRLGA) waste education program to increase the diversion of food waste from general waste to organic waste. Improve waste knowledge in the community and decrease contamination in recycling and green waste bins.

Council Role: L, P, A

Deliverable Time frame: Dec 2026

Action 3.4.3: Investigate provision of community access to mulch through coordinated production, distribution, and promotion initiatives that support local reuse.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: Mar 2027





healthy, resilient, and thriving

Supporting Infrastructure

Our district's infrastructure is planned, developed and maintained to support the current requirement and future growth and needs of our community, businesses, industries and visitors.

Priority 1: Infrastructure Supporting Growth

Outcome: The diverse needs of our communities and future population growth are supported by well-designed and maintained infrastructure.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 4.1.1: Deliver priority actions outlined in our Coorong Asset Management Strategy 2023-2033 with the flexibility to address changing infrastructure needs, industry and population growth and heavy vehicle usage.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 4.1.2: Investigate Federal and State funding opportunities to seal Yumali Road.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 4.1.3: Incorporate infrastructure outcomes from township structure plans into Asset Management Plans and Council's Long Term Financial Plan. (To be completed in conjunction with 2.1.5).

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30





Action 4.1.4: Prepare an Infrastructure Investment Strategy for the un-serviced Wellington East area. (To be completed in conjunction with 2.1.5)

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 4.1.5: Review and update Council's footpath network expansion strategy following community engagement to determine the current and changing needs of the community.

Council Role: L, P

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-27

Action 4.1.6: Develop and implement a Sports, Recreation and Tourism infrastructure strategy that identifies current and future infrastructure requirements.

Council Role: L, P

Deliverable Time frame: 2027

Priority 2: Welcoming and Accessible Environments

Outcome: Our facilities (including halls, parks, playgrounds, toilets) are maintained and improved to create accessible and welcoming spaces for all to enjoy.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 4.2.1: Complete the Dickson Reserve, Tailem Bend Old Ferry Landing, Tailem Bend Highway and Railway Terrace projects funded under the Regional Precincts, Partnerships Program (RPPP).

Council Role: L, P

Deliverable Time frame: Jun 2027

Action 4.2.2: Pursue funding opportunities to progress improvements under Council's streetscape masterplan to enhance town pride and aesthetics.

Council Role: L, P

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 4.2.3: Actively support the Meningie Community Sports Ground Inc's facility Project.

Council Role: A

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 4.2.4: Council parks, gardens, green spaces and town entry statements are maintained and improved, creating welcoming and aesthetically pleasing public places.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 4.2.5: Integrate outcomes of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan to ensure appropriate and ongoing upgrades and renewal of Council's assets to meet the needs of community and visitors.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 4.2.6: Advocate for improved mobile phone and internet coverage across the District with State and Federal Government, telecommunications providers and key stakeholders.

Council Role: P, A

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Priority 3: Assets and Maintenance

Outcome: Council assets are maintained and upgraded to meet safety standards and ensure long-term functionality, providing reliable infrastructure that supports community needs and reduces risk.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 4.3.1: Review, update and deliver Asset Management Plans for Council's major asset classes (Roads and transport, Land, buildings and structures, Plant and fleet, Water, wastewater and drainage) at least every four years and in accordance with the revision schedule.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 4.3.2: Seek and apply to external funding streams that support and supplement infrastructure renewal and upgrade projects.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 4.3.3: Develop and implement an annual maintenance plan for Council's operational activities.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2027-28



transparent, accountable, and responsive



Leadership

Council is progressive, transparent, and financially sustainable, delivering streamlined services, fostering community engagement, and advocating strongly for district priorities to ensure long-term growth and prosperity.

Priority 1: Transparency and Accountability

Outcome: Council decision-making is transparent, accountable, and responsive to community needs, supported by respectful and inclusive leadership that strengthens engagement through clear communication and accessible forums. Stakeholders can easily access information, provide feedback, understand how decisions are made, and receive timely, meaningful feedback on the issues they raise.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 5.1.1: Develop a biennial customer satisfaction survey to identify opportunities around Council performance, customer service, engagement preferences and the provisions of accessible information relating to Council decisions and operations.

Council Role: L
Deliverable Time frame: Nov 27 & Nov 29

Action 5.1.2: Following the completion of the customer service satisfaction survey, review and update Council's Customer Service Charter.

Council Role: L
Deliverable Time frame: May 2028

Action 5.1.3: Support decision making through the use of timely and relevant data-driven evidence and outcomes from community engagement and legislation.

Council Role: L
Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 5.1.4: Report annually on the performance and outcomes of all Council and relevant key Strategic plans.

Council Role: L
Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Priority 2: Engagement & Communication

Outcome: Our communities are actively engaged, informed and provided extensive opportunities to contribute to matters relating to civil life.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 5.2.1: Provide specialised and inclusive communications and engagement resources to support and continue to improve Council's communications, engagement and connection with the community.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 5.2.2: Update and implement Council's Community Engagement Framework following the adoption of an updated Community Engagement Policy, which complies with the Community Engagement Charter established by the Minister for Local Government.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: Sep 2026

Action 5.2.3: Encourage meaningful community involvement by making engagement more accessible, offering regular and diverse opportunities for participation through reviewing and enhancing opportunities such as Council in Community sessions.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 5.2.4: As per Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, increase the number of strategic documents and policies in accessible formats such as plain language and easy read.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 5.2.5: Prepare and deliver a 'Meet your Council' roadshow following the 2026 Local Government Elections.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: Mar 2027

Action 5.2.6: Provide the community an opportunity to meet with candidates at a public meeting held in the district in the lead up to the 2026 Local Government Elections.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: Sep/Oct 26



Action 5.2.7: Prepare and deliver ongoing professional development and governance training for Elected Members including legislative requirements, leadership and culture.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: Feb 2027

Action 5.2.8: Council acknowledge and welcome all diverse groups that make up and contribute to our community.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 5.2.9: Elected Members and Council Staff will work collaboratively through regular meetings, workshops and briefings to support clear communication, shared understanding and timely, effective decision-making.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 5.2.10: Elected Members will demonstrate effective governance and community leadership through active participation in Council, committee meetings, regular engagement with residents, community groups and stakeholders to advocate for, and deliver on local priorities and represent the community's interests.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 5.2.11: Council recognises the valuable contribution of its volunteer groups to the district though ongoing support and capacity building initiatives including Council's Community Grants, funding and sponsorship program, training programs and providing practical and relevant assistance.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 5.2.12: Council recognises the valuable contribution of its Council's Volunteer Program through ongoing support, training and provisions of appropriate resources and leadership.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Priority 3: Streamlined Processes

Outcome: Community projects and volunteer initiatives are supported through streamlined processes that assist groups to submit applications for approvals while maintaining compliance and quality standards.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 5.3.1: Establish an early engagement framework for community projects and events that provides advice and guidance to community groups on Council processes and on project approval requirements.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: Nov 2026

Action 5.3.2: Undertake a review of Council-controlled administrative processes to enhance efficiency, streamline event permit pathways and strengthen coordination of collaborative initiatives.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026

Action 5.3.3: Optimise Council's volunteer program though reviewing and improving administration and on boarding processes.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: May 2027



Priority 4: Financial Sustainability

Outcome: We maintain long-term financial sustainability by prioritising efficient resource management and focusing on core business functions that deliver essential services and value to the community.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 5.4.1: Review Council's Long Term Financial Plan in line with the annual business planning process.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 5.4.2: Ensure embedded Asset Management Plans, Long Term Financial Plans and the Annual Business Plan are part of an integrated financial budget setting process.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 5.4.3: Council considers financial sustainability, (including Long Term Financial Plan) capacity in decision making for projects involving significant expenditure.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30



ensure long-term growth and prosperity

Priority 5: Advocacy

Outcome: We proactively undertake political and local advocacy on matters affecting community wellbeing, infrastructure, the economy and environment.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 5.5.1: Advocate for improved Health and Wellbeing Services and flexible Childcare options.

Council Role: L, A

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 5.5.2: Advocate for accessible and improved public transport options.

Council Role: L, A

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 5.5.3: In partnership with the Murraylands & Riverland Local Government Association and Local Government Association of South Australia lobby and advocate for Council's changing infrastructure needs through updated regional plans and any associated funding available.

Council Role: L, A

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 5.5.4: Advocate for Environmental sustainability priorities (including water security).

Council Role: L, A

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 5.5.5: Work with State and Federal government, agencies, and key stakeholders to promote and advocate for agriculture and primary production as the leading economic drivers in the district.

Council Role: L, A

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 5.5.6: Undertake proactive political lobbying to maximise opportunities to apply for funding under RPPP Stream Two funding for the Tailem Bend Precinct and other projects and investment opportunities.

Council Role: L, A

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-28

Action 5.5.7: Advocate for greater engagement on matters relating to environmental projects for the Coorong (including the Southern Lagoon).

Council Role: L, A

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30



Priority 6: Emergency Preparedness

Outcome: We build a well-prepared organisation and community by strengthening our business continuity and emergency planning, enhancing our technology and data governance, and actively supporting local emergency services and volunteer participation.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 5.6.1: Invest in Business Continuity Planning (BCP) and Emergency Planning Reviews.

Council Role: L
Deliverable Time frame: 2026-27

Action 5.6.2: Invest in modern technology solutions and capability development to deliver and improve organisational effectiveness and efficiency.

Council Role: L
Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 5.6.3: Review and update Council's IT Strategy and maintain investment in technology and capability.

Council Role: L
Deliverable Time frame: 2026-27

Action 5.6.4: Continue to strengthen data governance and security to safeguard information assets and ensure full compliance with legislative requirements.

Council Role: L
Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 5.6.5: Actively support emergency services including the CFS, SES and SA Ambulance Service through actions including promoting the value of active volunteering and the positive impacts it has on regional communities.

Council Role: L
Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Priority 7: People and Culture

Outcome: We cultivate a capable, supported and future-focused workforce by strengthening our organisational structure, developing our people, promoting a safe and inclusive culture, and empowering strong leadership across the organisation.

Deliverable Actions

L = Lead, P = Partner, A = Advocate

Action 5.7.1: Complete an organisational review to support Council's future growth around service delivery and improved efficiencies (including artificial intelligence), productivity and community outcomes.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: Jun 2027

Action 5.7.2: Develop and implement a workforce development plan – encompassing recruitment, retention, leadership training, succession planning and ongoing support – to strengthen staff capability and maximise workforce retention.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: Jun 2027

Action 5.7.3: Foster and maintain a safe, equitable and inclusive workplace that prioritises wellbeing and upholds best-practice safety standards.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30

Action 5.7.4: Council invests in responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the benefit of improved service delivery and operational efficiencies.

Council Role: L

Deliverable Time frame: 2026-30





Implementation and Reporting

Implementation of the Plan will take place over a four-year period. It will inform the development of Council's annual business plans and budgets, provide a clear framework for decision-making, ensure we meet our legislative responsibilities, and support the delivery of balanced and meaningful outcomes for our community.

Council will report on performance indicators each year through the Annual Report and the Quarterly Annual Business Plan Progress Reports. Other key strategic documents will also be reported on annually where required by legislation.

We will further demonstrate how we achieve our goals through the creation and delivery of our functional plans, strategies, and programs. Examples include the Capital Works Program, the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, the Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, the Coorong Growth Strategy, and the Coorong Local Action Plan.

We keep the community and stakeholders informed of our progress through regular reporting, including the Annual Report, Quarterly Council Performance Reports, Quarterly Budget Review Reports, and Community Engagement Reports.



COORONG
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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