

Coorong District Local Action Plan Strategic Vision 2023 - 2028





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.

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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 & 18.

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.

COORONG DISTRICT COUNCIL

Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan

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 Tailem 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.

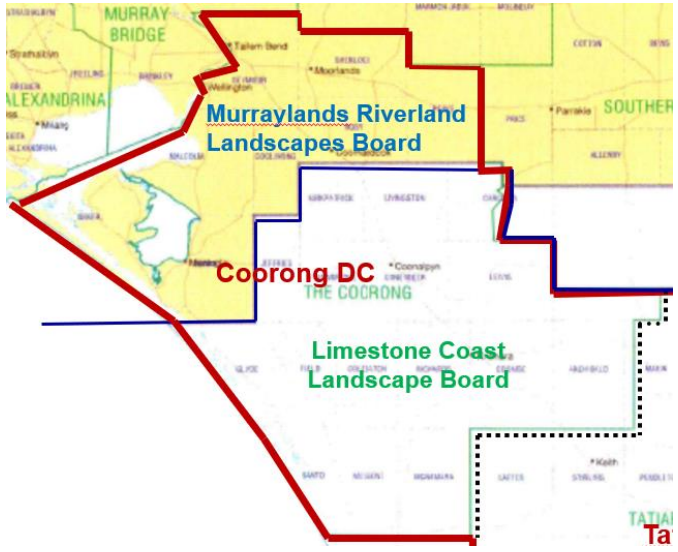
The annual average rainfall ranges from just over 300mm in the north to just under 500mm in the south.

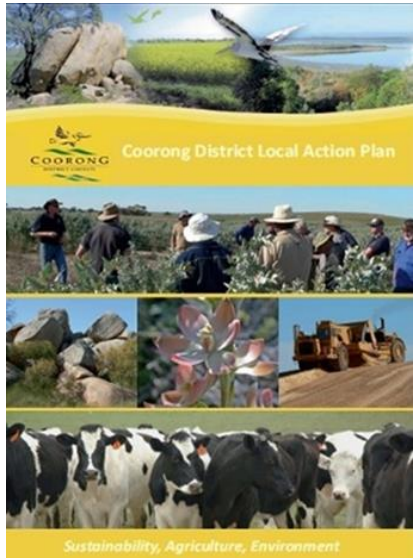
The population of the district is 5,599 people - Census 2021.

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 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	• Contribute to programs that aim to improve soil health and plant production, and understand best bet soil amelioration options, and plant production • Encourage programs for improved perennial pasture uptake and water use across the landscape	• Improved awareness • Increase production • Increased soil health • New innovations promoted & known	LAP Regional Regional Regional
Support land managers to incorporate technology into farming systems	• Identify programs to support land managers to incorporate technology into farming systems • Establish partnerships to deliver demonstration programs and awareness raising activities	• Adoption of practices / increased uptake technology • Reduction in threats eg.agricultural weeds and pest animals • Increase business confidence	LAP Regional Regional
Identify and promote future farming innovations	• Work with others to bring ideas (infrastructure and investment) to local farming communities • Link with Councils Community Vision Plan and Growth Strategy to increase adoption of innovation over time	• Increase adoption of practices over time • Increase business confidence	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	• Ensure carbon and biodiversity policy developments are understood, and opportunities for Coorong District land managers are identified and promoted • Practical application of research to land management across our region • Support the growing of native vegetation and salt tolerant plants	• Farmers understanding their carbon footprint • New innovations promoted & known	LAP Regional
Action and awareness on Weeds & Pests	• Explore weed and pest reduction opportunities • Promote access to resources	• Reduction in weed and pest incursion and spread • Improved understanding of access to resources • New innovations promoted & known	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	• Identify geographical locations of high value biodiversity • Explore funding options to fence areas for protection • Explore options to replant and promote natural regeneration • Identify connectivity opportunities • Explore pest, weed, and fuel reduction options / opportunities	• Improved integrity of native vegetation (health, number of species) • Improved habitat • Reduction in threats eg. agricultural weeds and pest animals • Carbon opportunities explored	Regional Regional Regional LAP
Promote and encourage establishment of native vegetation	• Explore funding options to fence areas for protection • Explore options to replant and promote natural regeneration • Identify habitat connectivity options • Explore pest, weed, and fuel reduction options / opportunities • Seek funding and / or partnerships to implement tree planting on private land, including species with high biodiversity value	• Improved integrity of native vegetation (health, number of species) • Improved habitat • Reduction in threats eg. agricultural weeds and pest animals, fuel reduction • Increase hectares of native vegetation • New innovations promoted & known • Carbon opportunities explored	Regional Regional Regional Regional LAP LAP

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***Public** in the context of this document refers to Coorong District Council land or land under the Care and Control of Coorong District Council*

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	• Value, understand and enhance roadside remnant vegetation • Seek external funding to update and develop a Roadside Vegetation Management Plan • Work with other agencies / businesses to increase roadside remnant vegetation over the medium to longer term	• Improved identification of Roadside Remnant Vegetation • Improved management of Roadside Remnant Vegetation assets • No decrease in roadside remnant vegetation hectares over time • Reduction in threats eg. agricultural weeds and pest animals, fuel reduction Increase hectares of native vegetation • Carbon opportunities explored	LAP LAP Regional Regional LAP
Encourage planting trees and vegetation to improve the liveability and climate resilience of our towns	• Inform Council to create a succession / forward tree plan / street tree policy • Work with Council to design promote the use of water-sensitive urban design applications around trees wherever possible • Work with Council to create habitat (transition) zones into townscapes through plantings eg. Meningie Lakeside environment	• Increased tree canopy cover for shade and cooling • Reduced urban heat • Improved township liveability and aesthetic improvement • New innovations promoted & known	Regional Regional Regional 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*
Wetland enhancement and recovery	• Understand the wetland assets in the Coorong region • Understand the recovery action priorities for wetland enhancement and recovery e.g. aquatic reed planting • Identify landholders/locations with lake edge suitable for aquatic reed planting • Identify locations of in-situ *Schoenoplectus validus* for harvestable material • Explore funding opportunities for reed harvesting and planting work	• Improved wetland health • Understand wetland rehabilitation technique and application in our local area • Reduced lakeshore erosion • Reinstating near-shore aquatic habitat • Carbon opportunities explored	Regional LAP Regional Regional 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*
Improve water security and water use efficiency across the landscape	• Contribute to programs that aim to improve soil health and plant production, and understand best bet soil amelioration and plant production options • Encourage programs for improved perennial pasture uptake and water use across the landscape	• Improve water security across the region • Increase business confidence • New innovations promoted and known	Regional Regional LAP
Maximise water use across the landscape through the use of deep rooted perennials, soil amelioration etc	• Contribute to programs that aim to improve soil health and plant production, and understand best bet soil amelioration and plant production options • Encourage programs for improved perennial pasture uptake and water use across the landscape • Encourage revegetation on public* and private land	• Land management options to increase water use across the landscape understood • New innovations promoted and known	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	• Promote new water security technologies through a range of media • Promote new water security technologies through events (including demonstration projects etc) • Explore funding options and partnerships to grow water security technology awareness	• Improved awareness • Increased uptake of water security technologies • Increase business confidence • New innovations promoted and known	LAP Regional Regional LAP
Improve understanding of local groundwater systems	• Partner with others to continue to monitor local groundwater systems and aquifers • Share and promote information to assist land managers to make informed decisions	• Improved awareness • Ground water sustained into the future • Increase business confidence	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	• Continue to contribute to the Coorong Partnerships, Friends of Coorong, Murray Darling Association Region 6, Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Water Advisory Committee	• Improved awareness • Coorong, Lower Lakes and RAMSAR sites valued and cared for into the future • New projects and innovations promoted and known	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
Acknowledge, consult and where possible partner with Traditional Owners to deliver Coorong District Local Action Plan Goals	• Refer to Coorong District Councils Reconciliation Action Plan to Consult with Traditional Owners on projects as appropriate • Link with Community Vision Plan and Reconciliation Action Plan to incorporate interpretive signage to highlight Traditional Owner and local cultural significance • Explore partnership options to work with Traditional Owners and others to develop and deliver projects	• Improved awareness • Increase interpretive signage across the council • Improved relationships with Traditional Owners	LAP Regional Regional
Encourage sustainable enjoyment of our natural landscape.	• Promote our natural assets – online and on ground • Improve access to our natural assets • Develop and install interpretive signage which educates, and fosters protection and respect of our local natural landscape	• Improved awareness of our tourism destinations • Increase number of high visitor stays • Natural assets and tourism sites are protected and sustained into the future • Tourism is a profitable sector in the community	LAP Regional 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	• Utilise project evaluation to undertake Adaptive Management across program and project management
	• In our work, target, and tailor messages that:
	  ○ keep the early adopters engaged and energised
	  ○ reach and activate the early majority, and
	  ○ reach and motivate the later majority
		• A culture of continuous improvement is embedded in our work
		• Community feels valued and engaged
			LAP
			
			Regional

Assist the community to connect with and celebrate their achievements	• Connect with and or run volunteer recognition events • Nominate volunteers and groups for awards	• Improved awareness • Increased sense of social connectivity • Community feels valued and engaged	LAP Regional Regional
Identify and collaborate with like minded groups	• Partner with and cross promote other agencies and groups such as Landscapes Boards, MacKillop Farm Management Group, Mallee Sustainable Farming, relevant Departments, LGA's	• Share and promote knowledge and information • Increased adoption of technologies	LAP LAP

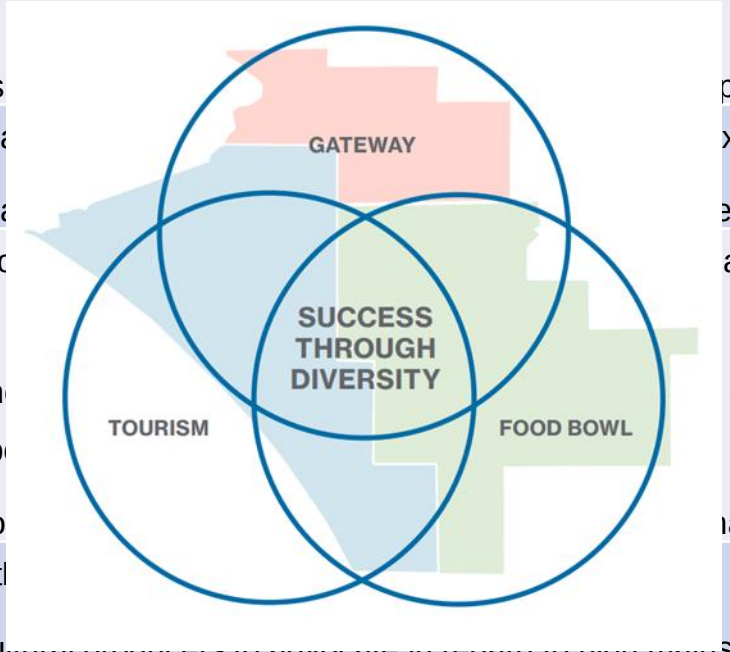
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Community Vision Plan 2021-2025 Environment

Strategic Outcomes	Actions
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.
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 partners plants and feral animal species.
Parks and Reserves	3.1 Work with other a xisting parks and reserves. 3.2 Work with other a e management of existing parks and reserves.
Sustainable Agriculture	4.1 Work with landho age perennial vegetation across the landscape including native species. 4.2 Access governm agriculture and environmental sustainability, water security innovation, and resp 4.3 Work with Cooro anagement issues.
Water Security	5.1 Advocate with ot 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.
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 conservation and feedback. 6.3 Continue to identify and deliver actions which address or mitigate the impacts of climate change.



Coorong Growth Strategy

Creating Sustainable Environments

Maintain and enhance the region's biodiversity and its life supporting functions.

Councils have responsibility under the Local Government Act and other relevant legislation, including: Protection of natural resources including parks, reserves, The River Murray, Lower Lakes and Coorong.

In response to community needs council provides additional services and programs, particularly the Local Action Plan (LAP) including agricultural, environmental and economic programs.

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