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Community Vision Plan

Early Engagement Summary Report

COORONG DISTRICT COUNCIL

URPS

Community Vision Plan

16 December 2025

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We acknowledge the Kaurna People as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

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Executive Summary

Coorong District Council (Council) is preparing the next Community Vision Plan 2026 – 2030. The Plan is a strategic roadmap that will guide Council decisions, budgets, and projects over the next four years.

Early engagement was undertaken over 6 weeks between Monday 13 October and Friday 21 November 2025.

553 people contributed to the community engagement period,[1]:

- 187 people completed and returned the feedback form (6% return rate on the direct mail campaign).
- 72 people completed the online feedback form.
- 91 people participated across 22 community workshops.
- 102 people participated in a community group meeting.
- 100 people were engaged at the Coonalpyn Show.

Input was received from more than 12 townships across the district. Tailem Bend and Meningie were the two townships most represented i.e. resident or business owner.

A connected, welcoming, and inclusive community remains a clear priority. Community camaraderie is what the district prides itself on and have a high desire to continue this into the future. Residents want their towns to be desirable places to live. This means safe, family-friendly, and inclusive.

Top themes of feedback

Across all towns the engagement has highlighted the following key themes for consideration in developing each section of the draft Community Vision Plan.

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
Economy	• Strengthen agriculture and tourism as primary economic drivers for the district. • Support small businesses and attract new investment through grants and incentives. • Create employment opportunities for youth and skilled workers to retain population. • Promote the Coorong as a destination for visitors and encourage agritourism initiatives.

[1] People could participate in more than one activity.

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
	• Keep council rates affordable, particularly for farmers, and reduce unnecessary red tape to enable growth.
Infrastructure	• Upgrade and maintain roads, footpaths, lighting, and signage for safety and accessibility. • Improve essential services such as water, sewerage, and digital connectivity (internet and mobile coverage). • Enhance community facilities including parks, playgrounds, toilets, and sporting hubs for all ages. • Advocate for better public transport options and connectivity between towns and Adelaide. • Maintain and upgrade existing council assets to ensure long-term functionality and safety. This includes railway crossings.
Community	• Improve access to health services (medical, dental, mental health) and aged care across all towns. • Provide more youth programs, childcare options, and inclusive community events. • Support volunteers and reduce barriers for community-driven projects and engagement. • Address housing shortages and affordability for families, workers, and seniors. • Foster cultural identity and inclusiveness through events and partnerships with First Nations communities.
Environment	• Increase tree planting, revegetation, and biodiversity protection across the district. • Manage pests, weeds, and fire risks while promoting sustainable land care practices. • Advocate for water security and climate resilience to protect farming and communities. • Preserve natural assets, waterways, and cultural heritage sites for tourism and wellbeing.

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
	• Promote education and community involvement in sustainability and environmental care.
Leadership	• Improve transparency, accountability, and responsiveness in council decision-making. • Reduce red tape for community projects, volunteers and simplify development approvals. • Ensure financial sustainability and focus on core council business functions. • Foster respectful, inclusive leadership and strengthen engagement through forums and clear communication. • Advocate strongly for district priorities with State and Federal Governments to secure funding and support.

The findings and feedback obtained from 553 participating community members and stakeholders has been summarised in this report. The summary will guide the development of the Plan to align with the communities' priorities and future aspirations.

1. Why we engaged

Coorong District Council (Council) is preparing its next Community Vision Plan 2026 – 2030. The Plan is a legislative requirement of the Local Government Act, 199 and will be a strategic roadmap that will guide Council decisions, budgets, and projects over the next four years.

Council wants the Plan to be shaped by the voices of those who live, work and contribute to our region. As such, Council undertook early engagement, in line with its Community Engagement Policy to understand:

- Aspirations residents, businesses, community groups, and stakeholders have for the district.
- Ideas for what the Council could focus on for the next four years under the Plan's themes of Infrastructure, Environment, Economy, Community and Leadership.

This report presents information about how the engagement was undertaken and what was heard. The information in this report will be considered by Council to prepare the draft Plan which is anticipated to be released for public consultation in early 2026

2. How we engaged

Early engagement was undertaken over 6 weeks between Monday 13 October and Friday 21 November 2025. Council ran the following engagement activities to gather input from the community and stakeholders.

Activity	Description
Community workshops	12 workshops were held across the district: • 4 in Tintinara (16 October and 13 November) • 3 in Meningie (15 October 2025) • 1 in Peake (10 November) • 3 in Tailem Bend (11 and 12 November) • 1 at Tailem Bend Primary School (12 November) • A stall was setup at the Coonalpyn Show where Council staff spoke with approximately 100 people (18 October).
Stakeholder and community meetings	9 meetings were held across the district with community groups during the engagement period. The purpose of these meetings was to provide an additional method to provide input. Members of these groups are often busy and unable to attend community workshops e.g. farmers, emergency services and young families.
Survey	Council developed a survey form which included an online version and a printed version. Access to these forms were made available via Council's website, links via electronic and social media distribution, as well as printed copies located at all Council offices and local post offices. The survey questions can be read in Appendix A.
Direct mail out	3131 letters were sent to ratepayers in the district. A letter was also sent to 100 community groups. Letters can be found in Appendix B. The letter included a discussion paper which provided background on the project and ways to provide feedback a survey form and a paid postage envelope. The Discussion Paper can be read in Appendix C.

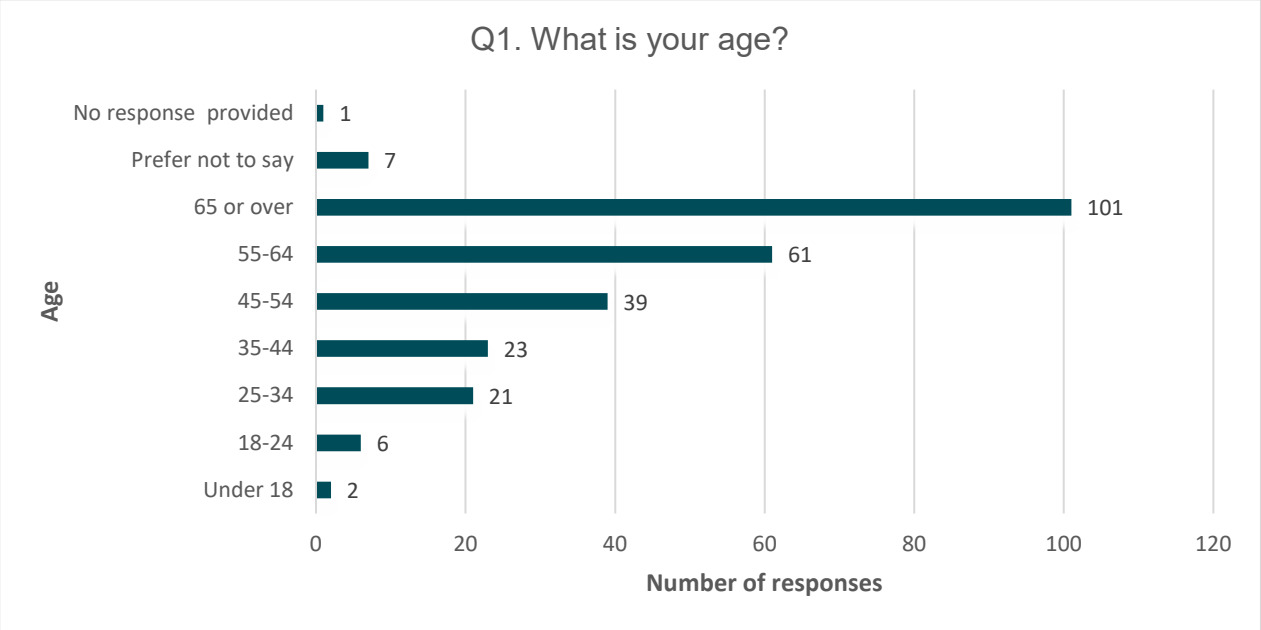
3. Who we heard from

3.1 Survey

261 people completed a survey:

- 39% identified as being 65 or over in age
- 23% identified as being aged between 55-64
- 15% identified as being aged between 45-54

The Coorong District is an ageing district, the high number of responses received from the 65 and over cohort is not surprising.



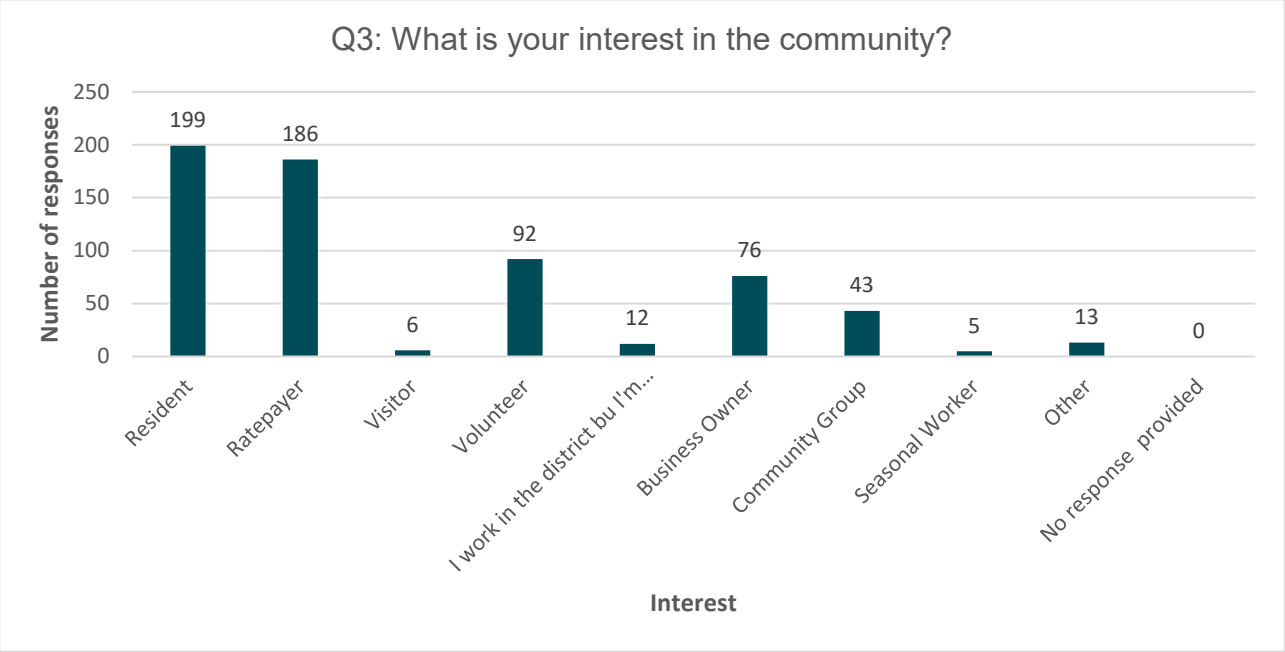
Respondents were asked which township is most relevant to them. More than 12 townships were raised. Tailem Bend (79) and Meningie (70) were the top two townships relevant to most participants. Other townships included:

- Tintinara (29)
- Wellington East (26)
- Coonalpyn (25)
- Coomandook (11)
- Narrung (10)
- Peake (7)
- Jabuk (6)

- Salt Creek (4)
- Raukkan (2)
- Sherlock (1)
- Other (12)

Participants were asked to identify their interest in the community, they could select all that apply:

- 199 identified they are a resident, the majority also selected they are a ratepayer (186)
- 135 identified they are involved in volunteering (92) and/or a community group (43)
- 76 identified they are business owners.



3.2 Workshop

There were 12 community workshops held across the district:

- 15 attendees in Tintinara
- 30 attendees in Meningie
- 11 attendees in Peake
- 17 attendees in Tailem Bend
- 15 year 4/5 students at Tailem Bend Primary School
- Approximately 100 people at the Coonalpyn Show

In addition to this, 9 meetings were held with members of the following organisations, groups and committees:

- 20 members from Rural Women's Circle.
- 11 members from Coomandook CWA.
- 16 members from Coomandook Women in Agriculture and Business.
- 18 members from Coomandook Ag Bureau.
- 15 members from Southern Mallee Early to Mid-Career Farmers Group.
- 6 members from Coonalpyn Progress Association.
- 10 members from Tintinara Playgroup.
- 6 members from Tailem Bend Progress Association Playgroup Sub Committee.
- 15 members from Colebatch CFS.

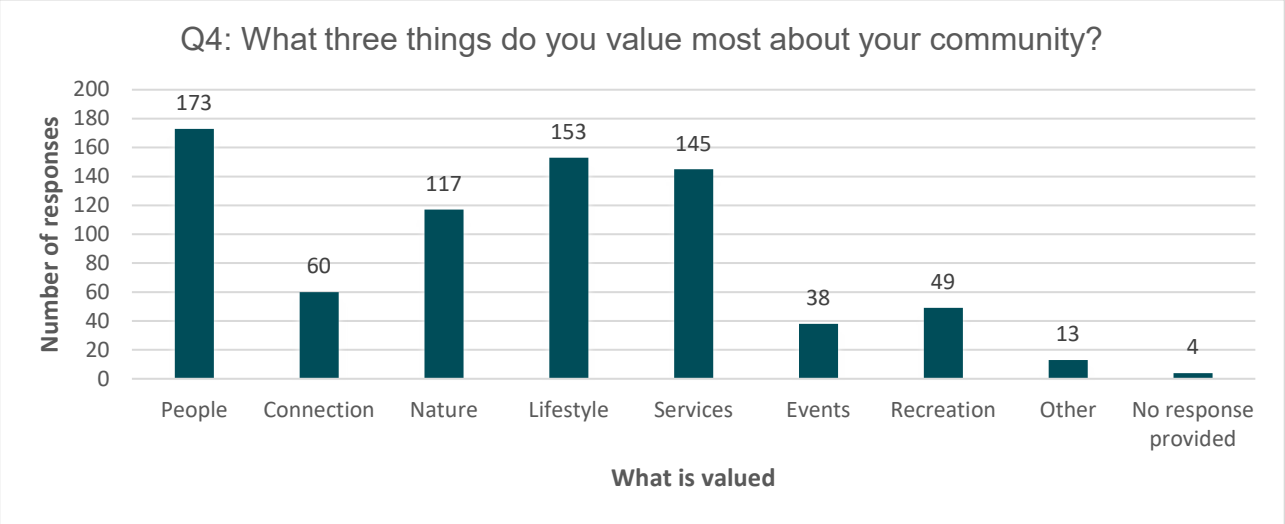
4. What we heard - Vision

This section summarises the input received through the survey, meetings and workshops. Verbatim comments from the survey, meetings and workshops are provided in Appendix D and E respectively.

4.1 What is valued

To help inform the vision, participants of the survey were asked to select up to three things they value most about their community from 7 listed options.

People, Lifestyle and services were the top three things valued by respondents. Values shared in the 'other' category included growth, arts and cultural development, businesses and proximity to other townships such as Adelaide and Murray Bridge and services whilst maintaining a peaceful lifestyle.



The workshop activities also asked attendees what they value. Community and connectedness emerged as the most recurring theme across all workshops. Lifestyle was the next most common theme, with many highlighting the importance of quiet surroundings, freedom, and safety.

Services and amenities ranked third. For some, it was the reassurance of having access to essential services such as doctors, ambulance, or libraries. It is important to note that not all towns have these services. It was emphasised that townships losing these services would have a severe impact on community wellbeing and the ability for residents to age in place.

Students at Tailem Bend Primary School were asked what they love about their area and community. Most things they loved related to recreation. Common themes included:

- The football oval, tennis courts and netball courts to practice sports.
- Tailem Bend Primary School
- Playground and the rotunda.
- Community Tree.

- Tailem Bend Hospital.
- The river for swimming and fishing.
- Pool.
- Bike track and jumps.
- Bakery.
- Train Park.

4.2 Vision for the district

35% of survey participants thought that the vision still captures who they are as a district and what they work towards. 39% somewhat think this vision is still relevant and 11% do not think is accurate. Survey respondents were given the opportunity to provide up to three words if they thought something was missing from the vision. Themes from the survey, workshops and meetings are captured below:

Economic Growth & Employment

- Residents want thriving local economies supported by new businesses, light industry, agriculture, and tourism.
- There is a strong desire for job creation—particularly for younger people—to ensure population stability and long-term prosperity.
- Support for local business and investment opportunities was highlighted, alongside inclusion of rural services and facilities.

Community Connection & Volunteering

- A friendly, welcoming, and inclusive community remains a priority, with strong participation, connection, belonging, and volunteerism.
- People envision more opportunities for engagement through events, youth programs, and spaces that bring residents together across the district.
- Participants would like to see more community events to promote mental wellbeing.
- Diversity and inclusiveness were frequently referenced, with both supportive and critical views noted.

Services & Infrastructure

- Access to essential services such as health care, education, and transport is critical.
- Communities stressed the need for improved roads, footpaths, lighting, and public transport options, as well as modern facilities like libraries and community hubs.
- Mentions of schools and education were raised as part of the vision, along with ensuring rural services and facilities are maintained.

Health, Medical & Aged Care

- Strong interest in accessible health services, wellness, medical and aged care support was noted.
- Mental wellbeing was highlighted as an important priority for community programs and events.

Lifestyle & Liveability

- Residents want their towns to be desirable places to live—safe, family-friendly, and inclusive.
- Affordable housing, recreational spaces, and amenities that support wellbeing and active lifestyles were frequently mentioned.
- Interest in safety and feeling safe in the community was raised, along with requests for affordability and cost-conscious approaches.

Heritage, Identity & Environment

- Preserving historical assets and maintaining healthy landscapes are important to residents. Wadmore House was raised commonly in the Meningie workshop and the Silos in Peake.
- There is a growing focus on sustainability, eco-friendly practices, and celebrating First Nations culture.
- Care for nature and wildlife, biodiversity and conservation, and well-kept green spaces and gardens were emphasized.
- Community pride, resilience, and shared values were also highlighted.

Governance, Planning & Communication

- Communities expect sustainable growth supported by progressive planning and strong collaboration between council and residents.
- Feedback highlighted the need to reduce red tape and make it easier for people to volunteer, alongside financial sustainability and support for community-driven initiatives.
- Calls for honesty, clear communication, leadership, ethics, and common-sense decision making were frequent.
- Desire to see tangible improvement, enhancement, and action on agreed priorities was noted.

4.3 Challenges

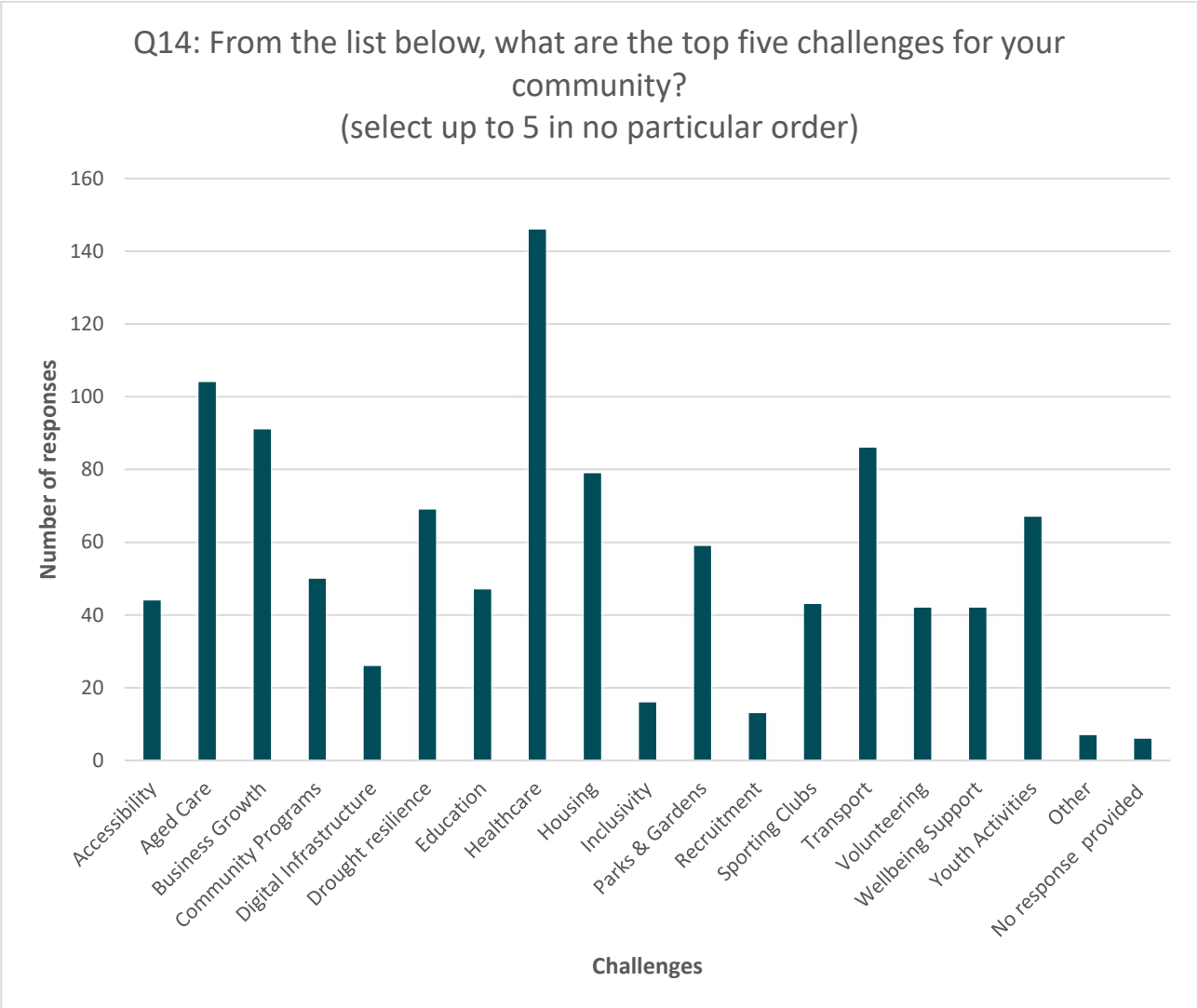
The survey asked participants to select the top five challenges for the community from a list of 17 options, with an additional “other” category available for any challenges not listed. Community workshops provided the opportunity for participants to raise challenges and whether these were local or district wide.

In many cases, issues raised as local challenges were also relevant at a district level, highlighting common priorities across the region.

The top 5 challenges identified in the survey were:

- Healthcare (78%)

- Aged care (55%)
- Business growth (48%)
- Transport (46%)
- Housing (42%)



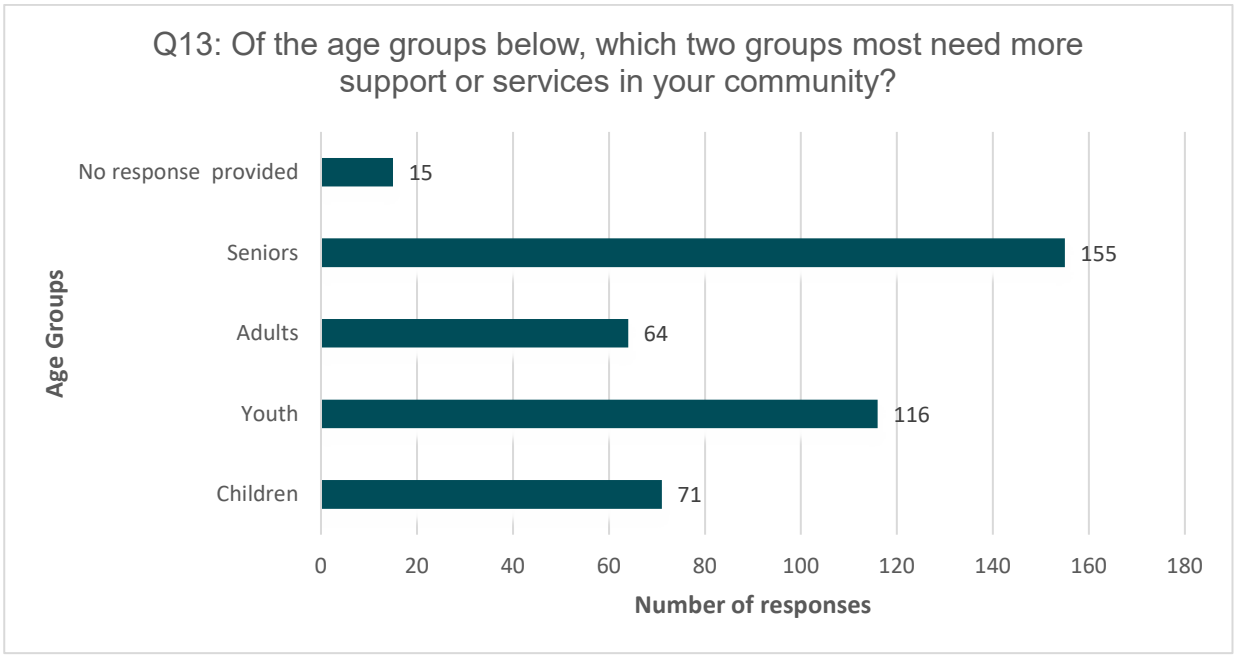
Feedback from the workshops strongly aligned with the top five challenges identified in the survey. A summary of key themes of challenges raised across workshops were:

- Access to essential services remains a significant concern for residents.
- The effects of drought and other environmental issues, such as fires, continue to impact the community.
- An ageing population is creating pressure on health services, care options, and volunteer availability.
- Attracting and retaining younger families, skilled workers, and volunteers is a persistent challenge.
- Limited childcare and before-and-after school care options restrict opportunities for working parents.

- Businesses closing and financial pressures threaten economic stability and employment.
- Housing shortages, including affordable housing for workers and families, are a growing issue.
- Health care access, including medical and mental health services, is declining and needs urgent attention.
- Education challenges include limited public school options and pressure on existing schools.
- Long travel distances for services and poor road conditions increase isolation and inconvenience.
- Red tape, compliance barriers, and council regulation are seen as obstacles to progress and funding. Residents want simplified processes, less regulation, and more outcome-focused approaches.
- Declining volunteer numbers and community burnout threaten local resilience.
- Insurance costs for small clubs and rising rates add financial strain to local organisations.
- Transport limitations, including the need for passing lanes and better connectivity, affect mobility.
- Youth opportunities and activities are lacking, making it harder to keep young people engaged locally.

The survey also asked respondents which two age groups need more support or services in your community. Seniors and Youth were ranked as the age groups most needing the more support. This aligns with feedback from workshops with participants commonly raising:

- The district has an aging population that requires improved and access to healthcare. This access should be equal to all townships in the district, not just the larger townships.
- Communities need more activities for youth that will keep them entertained and want to stay in the district. This included access to facilities such as youth hubs and diverse sporting hubs (i.e. not just netball, football and cricket).


Q13: Of the age groups below, which two groups most need more support or services in your community?
No response provided
Seniors
Adults
Youth
Children
15
155
64
116
71
Age Groups
0
20
40
60
80
100
120
140
160
180
Number of responses

5. What we heard - Ideas

The survey, meetings and workshops asked participants for ideas for what Council should focus on under the Plan's pillars of Economy, Community, Infrastructure, Environment, and Leadership. Participants were also asked for their "top idea", being the one most important to them overall.

The following sections summarise the key themes of ideas raised for each key town at its workshops and meetings as well as in the surveys of those respondents who identified the town as being most relevant to them.

5.1 Tailem Bend Primary School

Students from Tailem Bend were asked, if they were Mayor for a day, what would they do. Suggestions included:

- Have an airport near Tailem Bend.
- Bigger bike track and somewhere to ride motorbikes. A skate park was also raised as an option.
- Build a shopping centre or mall which provides a wider variety of shops including cafes, retail and electronics.
- Increase the size of the pool and ensure that it is heated.
- Plant more trees and build more houses.
- Have an animal shelter and/or pet store, and make sure there is a vet.
- More activities for children to do such as a water park or bounce.
- Make a bridge to Jervois.
- A full-size basketball court with a club and a soccer pitch.
- More talking community trees that tell stories about the area.
- Make the school bigger and have more sporting equipment. This could include a high school so that students can stay in Tailem Bend and be with their friends.

5.2 Coomandook

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
Economy	• Upkeep of buildings and infrastructure, particularly unsealed roads • Support remote work • Support for local groups • Support for farming and tourism • Lower rates.
Infrastructure	• Maintenance of roads • Community facilities such as parks, toilets, and streetscaping.
Community	• Community events such as BBQ's and wellbeing initiatives • Promote engagement and investment in agritourism • Ensure funding is put towards outcomes for the community.
Environment	• Large scale planting and investment in improving habitat for native wildlife • Mandatory cat enclosures for cat owners (one person) • Support for farmers during drought conditions • Address dryland salinity.
Leadership	• Addressing councillor behaviour and uphold ethics and morals in decision-making • Develop a clear roadmap for Coorong's growth, ensuring continuity of achievements • Invest in leadership development and psychological workshops to address toxic behaviours and foster a healthy workplace.
Summary of top ideas	• Council should build more shade structures to address the impacts of extreme weather • Ratepayers must be notified before any trees are removed • Bush tucker gardens should be developed and maintained to enhance community spaces

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
	• Local businesses need support to thrive, and new businesses should be encouraged • Council should focus on essential services and key economic drivers rather than non-essential projects • Road infrastructure must be improved and maintained • Rates should be frozen because current farmland valuations are unrealistic • Spending on feel-good or non-essential ideas should be reduced to keep rates affordable • Cultural education and community connection should be promoted to strengthen identity • The local environment should reflect community pride and a sense of place.

5.3 Coonalpyn

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
Economy	• Focus on maintaining existing infrastructure, improving roads, and upgrading parks and facilities • Attract investment and external funding, encourage small business growth, and provide grants for regional start-ups • Promote Coorong as a destination with scenic drives, better signage, and improved amenities to boost local tourism and business opportunities.
Infrastructure	• Maintain and upgrade roads, footpaths, signage and essential services like water and sewerage • Improve town presentation with parks, gardens, caravan parks, playgrounds and main street clean-up • Provide waste solutions such as free dump days and hard rubbish pickup to reduce roadside dumping.
Community	• Run more community events and link them to schools and local groups • Improve health services and transport options for seniors • Provide more activities for youth and support networks for families and older residents

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
	• Keep public spaces clean and provide additional spaces such as dog parks.
Environment	• Support primary producers and continue agriculture programs • Control pests such as rabbits and weeds, and replace pines with native vegetation • Maintain roads and manage council reserves while protecting native areas • Advocate for drought support and address soil salinity issues.
Leadership	• Provide strong advocacy and support for small business and investment • Ensure stable leadership and consistent staffing with high-quality councillors • Listen to the community, follow up requests and give clear feedback • Lead by example, reduce unnecessary spending and cut red tape.
Summary of top ideas	• Country towns are increasingly attracting people who do not engage with the community and place extra pressure on local health services • The Coorong should be seen as a place to live long-term, not just somewhere to grow up and leave for Adelaide • As the population ages, there needs to be better footpaths and improved services to support older residents • Roads must be maintained to eliminate large potholes that damage smaller cars • Health services need to be strengthened to meet community needs. • Towns should be kept neat, tidy, and viable, with clean public spaces and no overflowing bins during peak times • Schools should offer hybrid physical and digital classrooms to provide specialised skills and maintain strong teacher-student relationships • Council should aim for a budget surplus and reduce rates • Plumbed sewage should replace septic tanks to reduce costs and create local jobs • Governance must remain stable and transparent • Education for children should be improved, including better bus routes

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
	• Coonalpyn needs revitalisation with more small businesses and essential services to attract families and tourists, making the town vibrant and welcoming • Empty and fenced-off properties along the highway should be addressed to improve the town's appearance and appeal.

5.4 Jabuk

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
Economy	• Support new and small businesses and promote tourism and agriculture • Maintain good roads and improve transport options for seniors • Upgrade signage in towns and improve public amenities like parks and toilets • Encourage investment and create opportunities for local economic growth.
Infrastructure	• Fix water main issues and improve parking at local sporting facilities • Maintain and upgrade roads by clearing vegetation, filling potholes and improving unsealed networks • Advocate for better mobile phone coverage in rural areas • Ensure timely upgrades to major routes like the Mallee Highway.
Community	• Run more community events and support local leadership and not-for-profits • Increase services for elderly residents including mobile health care and transport • Provide mental health and wellbeing support for families and youth • Advocate for sustainability and encourage strong community networks
Environment	• Run more community events and create community gardens • Advocate against cloud seeding and promote climate change education • Provide pest and weed education and care for natural assets • Support environmental advocacy and encourage sustainable practices.

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
Leadership	• Improve communication by responding promptly to emails and phone calls • Support staff with wellbeing programs and leadership development • Implement 15-day payment terms for small business creditors.
Summary of top ideas	• Developing oval parking • Facilities and support of aging population. Outside of Tailem Bend and Murray Bridge • Maintaining rural community mindset. Invite tourist to participate in normal Australian lifestyle. Remember our history and roots • Improved communication - respond to emails and phone calls.

5.5 Meningie

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
Economy	• Maintain and upgrade roads, parks, walkways and lakeside facilities across all towns • Support local business, farming families and attract new industry and tourism opportunities • Improve health, childcare and education services and provide more activities for youth and seniors • Promote sustainability, manage pests and weeds and plan for climate change impacts.
Infrastructure	• Maintain and upgrade roads, footpaths and signage • Enhance community facilities such as parks, toilets, BBQ areas, playgrounds. Suggestion for a pool or community centre • Improve lakeside access and tourism opportunities such as water sports, bike paths and nature parks • Maintain clean public spaces by addressing weeds and pests and providing hard rubbish removal.
Community	• Create more community spaces such as parks, gardens and meeting hubs and run inclusive events for all ages

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
	• Improve health services including such as general medicine, dental and mental health • Support volunteers, community projects and local businesses with grants and publicity • Enhance communication and engagement through local newsletters, online forums and clear information for residents • Provide better transport for seniors and isolated residents.
Environment	• Plant more trees and native vegetation around parks, sports grounds and roadsides • Improve weed and pest control and protect waterways, lakes and rivers • Support sustainable practices like efficient waste sorting, controlled burning and climate risk assessments • Maintain green spaces and develop nature trails/walking tracks • Provide education on flora, fauna and environmental care.
Leadership	• Build trust through strong governance, clear communication and compliance • Reduce red tape for volunteers and community projects and speed up approvals • Increase visibility and engagement of councillors and staff through forums and local events • Promote inclusivity, cultural awareness and pathways to leadership for all community members
Summary of top ideas	• Support and grow agriculture and related industries to strengthen the local economy and create jobs • Provide more free or affordable services and activities for older residents, such as shopping assistance, gardening, social programs, and exercise • Advocate to maintain essential health and community services across the district, including GPs and Jallarah • Keep Meningie a welcoming and attractive town for residents and visitors.

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
	• Commit to preserving Wadmore House for community use and historical significance, and allow community-driven redevelopment as a multi-purpose activity centre • Maintain and upgrade existing council assets and infrastructure, including sealed roads, parks, gardens, footpaths, and lighting for safety • Improve accessibility to the Coorong and beaches for locals and tourists and maximise tourism opportunities by leveraging natural and cultural assets • Increase housing availability and affordability for new residents, workers, and retirees, including options like an over-55s gated retirement village • Create employment opportunities for young people to prevent outmigration after school and attract young families and teachers through housing and business grants • Promote diversity and inclusiveness, removing barriers to participation and acknowledging cultural diversity • Upgrade the highway between Meningie and Tailem Bend beyond temporary fixes • Invest in infrastructure, tourism, and business growth to strengthen the district • Foster respectful, inclusive, and well-informed communities where people feel heard and connected • Ensure environmental sustainability, including water security, vegetation, wildlife protection, and incentives for revegetation • Improve health services and community facilities to support a happy, healthy, and connected population • Maintain and upgrade roads, footpaths, and infrastructure for safety and accessibility • Support housing availability and childcare access to attract and retain families and staff • Promote economic stability and growth, including creative housing options, business support, and reducing red tape • Enhance town beautification and public spaces, including parks, trees, walking and bike paths, and safe parking

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
	• Encourage community pride and engagement, including tidy town initiatives and cultural projects (e.g., Ngarrindjeri museum, Salt Creek history) • Advocate for fair and affordable council rates and transparent governance aligned with strategic plans • Expand tourism opportunities by leveraging natural assets and unique attractions • Promote long-term sustainability, balancing economic growth, environmental care, and community wellbeing.

5.6 Narrung

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
Economy	• Support small businesses and allow pop-up shops to keep the area vibrant • Maintain and upgrade road infrastructure and community services • Address environmental challenges like drought, algal bloom and protect native wildlife • Promote tourism and local products and attract more trade services to the district.
Infrastructure	• Increase revegetation along Narrung Road and replace dead trees to improve safety and reduce wind impact • Improve mobile coverage • Extend dump hours and provide better recycling options to reduce roadside rubbish • Be proactive with road maintenance including potholes, shoulders and verge clearing • Repair Narrung Jetty.
Community	• Encourage volunteers and support community projects and charities • Improve health services including dental and medical facilities • Provide community transport and attract funding for health and wellbeing programs in local halls

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
	• Offer training for hall committees to promote transparency and strengthen engagement.
Environment	• Plant more native trees and create large-scale revegetation projects including roadside and sports ground planting • Encourage farmers to plant shelter belts and set a clear goal such as one million trees by 2035 • Improve weed control on roadsides and manage pests while protecting natural habitats • Advocate for stopping duck shooting and promote sustainable land care practices.
Leadership	• Promote integrity, transparency and resilience in council leadership • Improve information flow and communication with the community • Hold monthly open forums with councillors in local electorates • Broaden visibility.
Summary of top ideas	• During high wind events sand is frequently blown from paddocks across roadways. An aggressive approach would assist in reducing wind speeds and shifting top soils • Road Maintenance • Incentive for farmers to retain remnant vegetation on their properties and / or to revegetate areas to create habitat for our local native fauna • Environmental sustainability of the district. Climate change and impacts on the community. It is real and it is here.

5.7 Peake

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
Economy	• Maintain roads, parks, schools and medical clinics to prevent population decline • Reduce rates for farming businesses and provide drought support packages • Protect underground water sources and improve mains water access

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
	• Invest in accommodation and cultural assets like the Ngarrindjeri museum.
Infrastructure	• Improve road maintenance including tree trimming and better restoration work on the Mallee Highway • Upgrade communication networks to eliminate black spots and ensure reliable internet • Maintain public areas such as cemeteries, parks, sports grounds, community centres and provide more rest stops • Address fire risks and support aged care and public transport services.
Community	• Increase involvement and support for small communities and show genuine interest across the council area • Continue improving access to healthcare services and keep clinics open, including reopening Coonalpyn and Tintinara • Provide lower rates or discounts during drought periods and maintain community grants for events and projects • Encourage community engagement through information evenings and events.
Environment	• Ensure underground water stability for the future and protect water supplies • Support vermin control programs and pest plant and animal removal schemes • Improve weed control and manage feral animals, weeds and river frontage areas • Increase tree planting and vegetation to enhance the environment.
Leadership	• Appoint a council representative to attend local community meetings and events • Improve communication and feedback between council and community, including responses to emails • Keep community grants available and support small community groups while ensuring compliance with legislation • Reduce unnecessary spending and maintain transparency in council decisions.

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
Summary of top ideas	• Advocate for water security and underground water sustainability to support farming and community growth • Ensure continued support for smaller communities, including grants to maintain local infrastructure like halls and sports facilities • Maintain and retain existing assets in small towns, such as roads, halls, and gathering spaces • Promote community growth and economic development, including growth in Tailem Bend • Provide fair and affordable council rates, addressing concerns about high rates and succession plan well maintained roads and underground water sustainability • Support farmers to continue working in the area by helping protect our underground water supply • Towns should have access to mains water, be kept tidy, and promote tourism to attract visitors and support the local economy • Fire risks, feral animals, weeds, and road maintenance need to be actively managed to protect the community and environment.

5.8 Salt Creek

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
Economy	• Improve services and provide proper signage to support growth • Require higher rates for derelict or unkept properties and restore buildings promptly • Support remote work and business opportunities to strengthen local economy • Enhance environmental management through pest control and better facilities.
Infrastructure	• Maintain and upgrade roads, signage and public conveniences • Improve open spaces and active transport infrastructure such as footpaths and safe cycling routes • Control feral birds and weeds to protect the environment

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
	• Enhance connectivity and accessibility through better infrastructure.
Community	• Improve health services, public transport and street lighting • Clean up under trees on footpaths and maintain parks with gym facilities • Support local food production to build food security.
Environment	• Protect flora, wildlife and support landcare initiatives • Provide rubber bin lid catches • Control feral birds, litter and weeds to maintain environmental health.
Leadership	• Be inclusive and recognise Coorong South Lagoon and Salt Creek history • Prioritise water conservation and address mismanagement issues • Ensure honesty, transparency and focus on community needs over bureaucracy • Reduce unnecessary office roles and adopt a more open and flexible approach.
Summary of top ideas	• Salt creek to be recognised for the different history and talking to the locals about what could be achieved • Trees should not be cut down without rate payer notification • Attention given to bush tucker garden to help local business thrive and develop new ones.

5.9 Tailem Bend

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
Economy	• Upgrade and maintain roads, footpaths, signage and community facilities • Keep rates affordable and reduce unnecessary red tape • Support local businesses and promote tourism through events, signage and beautification • Maintain medical services locally and improve transport options • Provide fresh potable water and support farmers and disadvantaged groups.
Infrastructure	• Upgrade and maintain roads, highways and improve road safety • Expand and improve footpaths, street lighting and pedestrian crossings • Implement potable water systems and ensure reliable water supply • Maintain and upgrade community facilities, open spaces, playgrounds and toilets • Improve digital connectivity and mobile coverage to support growth.
Community	• Improve health services including doctors, dental and mental health • Keep rates affordable • Increase community events and youth programs • Maintain and upgrade parks, toilets and community facilities • Improve public transport options.
Environment	• Plant more trees and increase green spaces • Improve waste management with recycling bins and hard rubbish collections • Control weeds, feral birds and pests • Clean up and beautify railway areas, river frontage and town entrances • Promote alternative energy and educate on sustainable practices.
Leadership	• Reduce red tape and make development approvals easier • Improve communication and engagement between council and community

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
	• Increase transparency and accountability in leadership and decision-making • Keep rates affordable and review council staffing and costs • Promote Tailem Bend as a good place to live and improve local infrastructure.
Summary of top ideas	• Improve town entrances and beautification, including parks, signage, and walking timelines • Create a central attraction or landmark to make Tailem Bend a destination for visitors • Review and upgrade visitor servicing and signage across the district • Develop inclusive playgrounds and youth-focused spaces, including water parks and activity areas • Address affordable housing needs, including seniors housing and fast-tracking tiny homes, while reducing unsightly vacant properties. • Redevelop or remove unused buildings (e.g., old CFS station, Olive factory) to improve town aesthetics • Improve development assessment processes to support growth and local businesses. • Advocate to change planning rules to allow more than one house to be built on large rural blocks. An additional title should not be created for this dwelling to minimise the sale of land. Instead it is aimed at keeping family members local and/or a place for local farmers to provide workers accommodation. • Expand shopping and hospitality options and upgrade facilities like the rowing club and public toilets • Strengthen health services, including exploring council-led delivery and partnerships (e.g., Dukes Medical Service, Coorong Medical Centre) • Progress Pangarinda Botanic Garden as a key nature attraction in the district • Advocate for planned growth in townships and maintain infrastructure such as roads and footpaths • Foster good relationships with State and Federal Governments to support funding and advocacy

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
	• Improve footpaths for safety and accessibility, especially for walkers and mobility devices • Maintain and upgrade roads and essential infrastructure • Ensure sustainable health services and long-term medical facilities for an ageing community • Keep council rates affordable, with better value for services provided • Support local businesses and promote growth in housing, jobs, and community development • Provide activities and facilities for youth and toddlers, including diverse sports and playgroups • Strengthen and promote sporting clubs as key community hubs • Address environmental issues, including water security and tree planting to reduce heat and improve wellbeing • Actively promote tidy towns and beautification, engaging local groups like Lions and Rotary • Foster community pride and connection, making towns attractive and welcoming • Working with the Ngarrindjeri community to create a museum at Tailem Bend. Could also be run by them • Advocate for transport options to and from events and social clubs • Encourage cultural initiatives, such as working with the Ngarrindjeri community to create a museum • Promote the region as a great place to live and work, attracting families and investment • Ensure transparent, efficient, and accountable council governance, aligned with strategic plans and asset management principles • Focus on long-term community growth and sustainability, supported by appropriate services and infrastructure.

5.10 Tintinara

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
Economy	• Support new businesses and maintain existing assets • Attract investment and external funding for development • Improve town presentation with better signage, green spaces and maintenance • Keep council rates affordable and review staffing costs • Improve healthcare services including reopening health centres and attracting doctors.
Infrastructure	• Fix and maintain roads, including potholes and rural road upgrades • Improve footpaths, lighting and parking near key facilities • Maintain town parks, gardens and public spaces to keep areas tidy • Upgrade playgrounds, recreation facilities and public toilets • Improve internet connectivity and mobile coverage.
Community	• Increase community events and social connection opportunities • Improve health services and access to medical care • Support childcare, youth programs and activities for seniors • Maintain parks, footpaths and town presentation • Improve transport options for seniors and public access.
Environment	• Plant more trees and increase green spaces • Improve weed control and manage environmental issues • Support farmers and primary producers • Maintain and improve walking trails, lake areas and town presentation • Develop community gardens.
Leadership	• Improve communication and engagement between council and community • Keep administration costs down and stick to the budget

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
	• Ensure accountability and focus on core council business • Support small businesses and local investment • Provide better access to council offices and services for all residents.
Summary of top ideas	• Develop additional parking near the town oval to support events and visitors • Make the town look and feel vibrant, improving health and wellbeing for residents • Undertake revegetation along nature strips to enhance the town's appearance and environment • Support agriculture and farming families while improving roads and keeping rates affordable • Upgrade essential infrastructure such as roads, lighting, and footpaths, and promote tourism • Ensure council focuses on financially sustainable programs and core business functions • Introduce a user-pays system for facilities like libraries, pools, and ovals to reduce subsidies • Keep towns neat, tidy, and inviting, with clean public spaces and proper waste management • Stop borrowing money and operate within council's means to maintain financial stability • Improve health services and advocate for better medical and aged care facilities • Lower the cost of living and council rates, especially for single-income households • Create strategies to attract businesses and make the region more employer-friendly • Position Tintinara and other towns as desirable places to settle, not just pass through • Leverage highway traffic by presenting towns as must-stop destinations with great facilities and friendly service.

5.11 Wellington East

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
Economy	• Provide grants to help small businesses start • Improve roads and reduce council red tape for faster approvals • Create parks and green spaces for community events and recreation • Lower rates and manage council debt carefully • Promote local businesses and tourism including better signage and retail options.
Infrastructure	• Improve roads and seal streets in Wellington East • Provide better water supply electricity and sewer connections • Improve phone reception internet and mobile coverage • Add parks playgrounds walking trails and green spaces • Increase public transport options and push for Adelaide train or tram service.
Community	• Increase police presence and improve community safety • Hold community events and encourage participation for everyone • Improve access to medical facilities and create fire safety plans for towns • Approve tiny homes and provide flexible rules for property use • Support biodiversity and protect threatened species including banning 4WD on beaches.
Environment	• Control pests such as wasps, mosquitoes, rabbits and feral birds • Improve recycling options and educate the community on waste management • Maintain biodiversity and protect native species including river sustainability • Plant more trees and convert unused spaces into green zones • Improve weed control and keep public areas clean and tidy.
Leadership	• Improve communication and respond to community questions quickly • Hold regular meetings and involve volunteers in community projects

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
	• Ensure transparency accountability and strong leadership in council • Use funds wisely and support practical initiatives like beautification and plant advice • Employ more local people and keep administrative processes updated.
Summary of top ideas	• Ensure the wellbeing of residents in Wellington East Marina through safe, sustainable environments and reliable water supply • Maintain open spaces in Wellington East and complete promised projects such as the BBQ reserve, playground, and walking trail • Provide public transport options, including a train or bus service between Tailem Bend and Murray Bridge, and a service to Adelaide • Spend money on community priorities rather than unnecessary council expenses • Improve roads and health services to support a growing population • Maintain a lifestyle that includes low crime, essential services, and continued community growth without losing services • Create thriving communities with access to businesses, parks, playgrounds, and green spaces • Enhance bushfire safety and manage rubbish removal, footpath maintenance, and hoarder-type properties • Protect threatened beach-nesting bird species by extending seasonal 4WD restrictions to allow successful breeding • Keep volunteers engaged and supported as they are vital to community wellbeing.

6. Top themes of feedback

Across all towns the engagement has highlighted the following key themes for consideration in developing each section of the draft Community Vision Plan:

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
Economy	• Strengthen agriculture and tourism as primary economic drivers for the district. • Support small businesses and attract new investment through grants and incentives. • Create employment opportunities for youth and skilled workers to retain population. • Promote the Coorong as a destination for visitors and encourage agritourism initiatives. • Keep council rates affordable, particularly for farmers, and reduce unnecessary red tape to enable growth.
Infrastructure	• Upgrade and maintain roads, footpaths, lighting, and signage for safety and accessibility. • Improve essential services such as water, sewerage, and digital connectivity (internet and mobile coverage). • Enhance community facilities including parks, playgrounds, toilets, and sporting hubs for all ages. • Advocate for better public transport options and connectivity between towns and Adelaide. • Maintain and upgrade existing council assets to ensure long-term functionality and safety.
Community	• Improve access to health services (medical, dental, mental health) and aged care across all towns. • Provide more youth programs, childcare options, and inclusive community events. • Support volunteers and reduce barriers for community-driven projects and engagement. • Address housing shortages and affordability for families, workers, and seniors.

Plan Theme	Community idea key themes
	• Foster cultural identity and inclusiveness through events and partnerships with First Nations communities.
Environment	• Increase tree planting, revegetation, and biodiversity protection across the district. • Manage pests, weeds, and fire risks while promoting sustainable land care practices. • Advocate for water security and climate resilience to protect farming and communities. • Preserve natural assets, waterways, and cultural heritage sites for tourism and wellbeing. • Promote education and community involvement in sustainability and environmental care.
Leadership	• Improve transparency, accountability, and responsiveness in council decision-making. • Reduce red tape for community projects and simplify development approvals. • Ensure financial sustainability and focus on core council business functions. • Foster respectful, inclusive leadership and strengthen engagement through forums and clear communication. • Advocate strongly for district priorities with State and Federal Governments to secure funding and support.

Attachment A – Survey Questions

Join the conversation

Have your say on what matters most to you.

Complete the following survey and pop in the **post back to Council by Monday 17th November 2025**

Q1: What is your age?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18 - 24
- ☐ 25 - 34
- ☐ 25 - 44
- ☐ 45 - 54
- ☐ 55 - 64
- ☐ 65 or over
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q2: What township is most relevant to you?

- ☐ Coomandook
- ☐ Coonalpyn
- ☐ Jabuk
- ☐ Meningie
- ☐ Narrung
- ☐ Peake
- ☐ Raukkan
- ☐ Salt Creek
- ☐ Sherlock
- ☐ Tailem Bend
- ☐ Tintinara
- ☐ Wellington East
- ☐ Other (Please Specify)

Q3: What is your interest in the community?

(select all that apply)

- ☐ Resident
- ☐ Ratepayer
- ☐ Visitor
- ☐ Volunteer
- ☐ Business Owner
- ☐ Community Group
- ☐ Seasonal Worker
- ☐ I work in the district but I'm not a resident
- ☐ Other (Please Specify)

Q4: What three things do you value most about your community?

(select 3)

- ☐ People
- ☐ Connection
- ☐ Nature
- ☐ Lifestyle
- ☐ Services
- ☐ Events
- ☐ Recreation
- ☐ Other (Please Specify)

Join the conversation

Q5: Council's Vision Statement:

A vision statement is a short sentence that says what our community wants our district to be like in the future. It helps guide the work Council does and the goals we set.

Council's Current Vision Statement reads

"A district that has pride in its communities, has a prosperous economy and lives in a valued environment. Our success comes from our diversity".

Do you think this vision still captures who we are as a district and what we work towards?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ Not Sure

Q6: If you think something is missing from the vision, please provide up to three words you would like to see in it:

Word 1: _____

Word 2: _____

Word 3: _____

This section of the survey will ask you what you would like Council to focus on over the next four years.

Economy

Q7: Tell us up to three things that Council could focus on to support our local economy?

Idea 1: _____

_____

Idea 2: _____

_____

Idea 3: _____

_____

Infrastructure

Q8: Tell us up to three things that Council could focus on to improve local infrastructure?

(e.g. roads, council facilities, open space, digital)

Idea 1: _____

_____

Idea 2: _____

_____

Idea 3: _____

_____

Join the conversation

Community

Q9: Tell us up to three things that Council could focus on to improve community well-being and connection?

Idea 1: _____

_____

Idea 2: _____

_____

Idea 3: _____

_____

Environment

Q10: Tell us up to three things that Council could focus on to protect the local environment and improve sustainability?

Idea 1: _____

_____

Idea 2: _____

_____

Idea 3: _____

_____

Leadership

Q11: Tell us up to three things that Council could focus on to improve Council leadership and administration?

Idea 1: _____

_____

Idea 2: _____

_____

Idea 3: _____

_____

Other

Q12: Overall, what idea or outcome is the most important to you?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Join the conversation

Q13: Of the age groups below, which two groups most need more support or services in your community?



(select 2)

- ☐ Children
- ☐ Adults
- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Seniors

Q14: From the list below, what are the top five challenges for your community?



(select up to 5 in no particular order)

- ☐ Accessibility
- ☐ Aged care
- ☐ Business Growth
- ☐ Community programs
- ☐ Digital Infrastructure
- ☐ Drought resilience
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Healthcare
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Inclusivity
- ☐ Parks & Gardens
- ☐ Recruitment
- ☐ Sporting clubs
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Volunteering
- ☐ Wellbeing support
- ☐ Youth activities
- ☐ Other (Please Specify)

_____

Q15: Is there anything else you would like to contribute?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Thank you for your input!

Your contributions matter and your input will help Council to develop the next Community Vision Plan.

What Next?

Consultation will close on **Friday, 21st November 2025**. Your responses will be collated and used to develop a draft plan. This draft plan will be available in early 2026 for further consultation.

Thank you for your input!

If you would like to be kept up to date, please provide your email:



_____

Attachment B – Letters

Join the conversation



To our Valued Business Community,

Have your say on what matters most to you.

Council is creating a **new Community Vision Plan** to guide decisions, budgets, and projects over the next four years.

We want it shaped by those who live, work, and contribute to our region.

We're inviting businesses and industry to share your aspirations for the next four years.

- **What outcomes matter most to you?**
- **What should Council focus on** - sustainability, services, infrastructure, well-being, or growth
- **What do you see as our District's biggest challenges and opportunities?**

You may have one thought or idea, or you may have many. Whatever input you have is valuable to help us plan for the future. Below are some questions and ideas to get you thinking.

- **How can we support our rural industries?**
- **How can we grow local jobs, support small businesses, and boost tourism in ways that benefit your everyday life?**
- **How do we attract new and major businesses and industry?**
- **What can we do to help ensure our communities remain vibrant, economically resilient, and attractive to new residents and visitors?**



Come along and join us at a community workshop and have your say.

For more Information contact
Council's Community Development Team on 1300 785 0277

www.coorong.sa.gov.au/CVP2030

Join the conversation



To our
Valued Community Groups and Sporting Clubs,

Have your say on what matters most to you.

Council is creating a **new Community Vision Plan** to guide decisions, budgets, and projects over the next four years.

We want it shaped by those who live, work, and contribute to our region.

We're inviting businesses and industry to share your aspirations for the next four years.

- **What outcomes matter most to you?**
- **What should Council focus on** - sustainability, services, infrastructure, well-being, or growth
- **What do you see as our District's biggest challenges and opportunities?**

You may have one thought or idea, or you may have many. Whatever input you have is valuable to help us plan for the future. Below are some questions and ideas to get you thinking.

- **How we can better support you? e.g. by fostering belonging and to meet diverse community needs through inclusive programs, social connection and community celebrations?**
- **How can sporting facilities, community centres, and social spaces better support your health, well-being, & sense of connection within the community?**

Come along and join us at a community workshop and have your say.

For more Information contact
Council's Community Development Team on 1300 785 0277



www.coorong.sa.gov.au/CVP2030

Attachment C – Discussion Paper

Love where you live

Your Community, Your Way



We're building a plan for everyone, have your say!

Community Vision Plan 2026 - 2030

Your Input, Your Plan

The Coorong district is more than just a place - it's a community built on connection, resilience, and shared purpose.

Coorong District Council is developing its next **Community Vision Plan 2026 - 2030** – a roadmap that will inform our decisions, budgets and projects for the next four years.

We want the Plan to be **shaped by the voices of those who live, work and contribute to our region.**

The current Community Vision Plan 2021-25 outlines a vision of:

A District that has pride in its communities, has a prosperous economy and lives in a valued environment. Our success comes from our diversity.

We want to know if this vision still reflects who we are and where we want to go as a district and a community. We also we want to know what you think Council should focus on to get there.

Whether it's about sustainability, services, infrastructure, culture, or growth, your input will help define the future we build together.

A shared vision starts with listening.

We want to align Council's Community Vision Plan with what matters most to our community.

COORONG
DISTRICT COUNCIL

www.coorong.sa.gov.au/CVP2030

Love where you live

Your Community, Your Way



Population

- Population: **5,614**
- Median age: **48**
- Families (with Children): **649**
- Children under 5: **245**
- 5 – 14 years: **644**
- 15 - 24 years: **509**
- Aged 65 plus: **25%**
- Population density: **0.64 persons per square km**

Volunteers

- **27%** of the population volunteer

Diversity

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander: **6%**
- Identify as requiring assistance due to disability: **6.6%**
- Born overseas: **9%**

Employment

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

Businesses

- Registered businesses: **734**

Households

- Households: **2,185**
- Family households: **1,447**
- Lone households: **738**
- Private dwellings: **1,513**
- Rental properties: **509**
- Average number of people per household: **2.7**
- **56%** of households have access to two or more motor vehicles

Rateable properties

- Residential: **2,218**
- Commercial: **241**
- Primary Production: **1,508**
- Vacant Land: **576**

Development

- Development applications approved in 2024/25: **172**

Area

- The Coorong District Council covers **8,832 square kilometres**





www.coorong.sa.gov.au/CVP2030

Our Future Community



We want to make sure that our **next Community Vision Plan considers what our future needs** may be, while looking after our current community's needs.

Our Growth Strategy anticipates that by 2037, **2,449 new residents** will call our district home, requiring approximately **1,000 new homes** (shown in the table below - Source: Coorong District Growth Strategy).

This approach aligns with the State Government's Draft Murray Mallee Regional Plan, and anticipates higher growth with as many as 28,000 new permanent residents and 13,900 new homes being needed across the broader region by 2051. **Critical to support population growth is attracting new industry and businesses** that create jobs. Sufficient serviced and zoned land for industrial and commercial growth is equally important as residential land.

We want to make sure that **growth is well-managed** and sustainable. We want our Community Vision Plan to **identify what we need to do to plan for our current and growing community** in a way that enhances liveability, strengthens local communities, and ensures infrastructure and services keep pace with future needs.

Measure	Medium Growth Target 2037
Total Population	7,912
Average Annual Population Increase	163
Annual Growth Percentage	2.5%
Total Growth Percentage	44.8%
Population Change 2022 to 2037	2,449 people

Our district is connected by a regional road network and natural assets which open the door to **tourism, transport, and renewable energy growth**. This drives demand for seasonal, worker, and short-stay tourism accommodation.

In the future we want residents to continue to **enjoy a range of choices in their lifestyles**, housing and jobs. Our towns and settlements offer opportunities for a desired lifestyle close to jobs.

As our community ages, we must **plan and advocate** to ensure access to healthcare services and provide more diverse housing options. **Supporting people to stay** in the district as they age allows us to benefit from their valuable experience and knowledge.

We want to work with you, to plan for our future purposefully. It is **important for us to understand** what matters most to our community now and seize opportunities to adapt to the social, environmental, economic challenges and opportunities ahead.

Community Vision Plan 2020 - 2025

What have we achieved



Achievements over the past 5 years

Over the past few years, **Coorong District Council has delivered a wide range of projects** guided by the Community Vision Plan. Many projects were developed in direct response to community feedback.

Community

- Undertook a review of Early Childhood Education and Care
- Developed Council's first:
  - Disability Access & Inclusion Plan
  - Reconciliation Action Plan
- Supported mental health and suicide prevention initiatives including:
  - The Sunflower program
  - Mental Health First Aid Training*
  - Mental Health roadshows
    - The Unbreakable farmer in 2024*
    - The Rain Maker in 2022*
- Commenced a review of public library services with the State Government
- Continued to fund and support the delivery of public library services
- Relocated the Coonalpyn Library
- Supported the development of a new school community library at Meningie
- Established Council's Community Resilience and Sustainability Program
- Established a formal funding agreement with the Coonalpyn Community Hub
- Supported sport and recreation groups through the Murrayland's Starclub program:
  - Delivered the Dads and Daughters program
  - Introduced Strength for Life program
- Supported Council's Volunteer services and programs including:
  - Pangarinda Botanic Garden
  - Tailem Info Station and Rail Museum
  - Meningie Information Hub
  - Coonalpyn & District Soldiers Memorial Swimming Pool
  - Local cemetery groups
  - Town beautification programs
  - Declared plants group
- Delivered a revised Community Grants Program:
  - Awarding over $190,000 in funding to support 54 community projects
  - Implemented a new water allocation program for eligible sporting grounds
  - Implemented new public amenities provisions program for eligible community groups
- Delivered an annual program of events and activities:
  - Citizen of the Year Awards
  - NAIDOC Week events
  - Tailem Bend Street Party
  - Participation in the Coonalpyn Show
  - Annual program of Coorong Gallery exhibits
  - Volunteer Recognition events
  - Volunteer Expo

Community Vision Plan 2020 - 2025
What have we achieved



Environment

- Multitude of projects, technical engagement events and development of technical information on water security, dryland salinity management, farm forestry, sustainable agriculture, pest and weed management, carbon and climate response, environment and wetland management
- Development of:
  - The Coorong District Local Action Plan Strategic Vision Plan
  - Pangarinda Botanic Garden Future Vision Plan
- Review of Council Rural Reserves
- Response and support to impacted communities through drought, bushfire and flood
- Renewable energy initiatives installed on Council office buildings
- Improved understanding of the Council carbon and emissions footprint



Infrastructure

- Graded an average 4,200 km of unsealed roads each year
- Development of:
  - Footpath Expansion Strategy
  - Asset Management Strategy 2023-2033
  - Roads & Transport Infrastructure Asset Management Plan 2023 - 2033
- Undertook upgrades and improvements to:
  - Wellington East Reserve*
  - Meningie Lions Jubilee Park
  - Tintinara Apex Park*
  - Tailem Bend Playground*
  - Coonalpyn Swimming Pool & Amenities
- Construction of:
  - Coorong Community Skate Park*
  - Tailem Bend Public Toilets
- Upgrades to the:
  - Meningie Jetties*
- Streetscape planning for Coonalpyn, Tailem Bend and Tintinara
- Disability access upgrade at the Coorong Civic Centre, Tailem Bend
- Sealing of:
  - Carcuma Road*
  - Princes Highway service road, Tailem Bend
  - Coonalpyn Swimming Pool precinct carpark*
  - Meningie Office carpark*
- Reconstruction of Poltalloch Road*
- Railway Terrace/Cypress Street stormwater works, Tailem Bend
- Installation of:
  - Four Electric Vehicle Charging Stations*
  - payWave system at the Coonalpyn Caravan Park
- Mobile Phone towers installed at Colebatch & Narrung*

Community Vision Plan 2020 - 2025
What have we achieved



Economy

- Coorong Growth Strategy endorsed
- Developed and launched the Coorong Investment Prospectus
- Supported tourism and economic development through:
  - Continued partnership with the Murray River, Lakes & Coorong Tourism Alliance
  - Multi-staged development of Murray Coorong Trail*
  - Development of the Raukkan Walking Trail*
  - Operate two Visitor Information Outlets
- Continued partnership with Regional Development Australia Murrayland's & Riverland
- Developed the Draft Coorong Visitor Experience Masterplan
- Undertook a strategic land acquisition to open up housing opportunities, Tailem Bend

Grant Funding

One third of Council's income is attracted though external funding opportunities for:

- Building and infrastructure projects
- Projects to support our community
- Environmental and agricultural support projects

Notable examples are marked with an asterix

Leadership

- Developed and implemented:
  - A new Corporate Business System
  - An Information & Communication Technology Strategy
- Updated and implemented the 2022 – 2026 Murrayland's & Riverland Regional Public Health Plan
- Completed the acquisition and transfer of Station Master's House in Tailem Bend
- Revised and re-adopted Council By-Laws
- Participated in the Local Government Association's Affordable Housing Option Paper
- Undertook an Elector Representation Review
- Continuous improvement in communications and engaging the community:
  - Installed public notice boards
  - Developed a monthly 2-page Council update for local publications
  - Quarterly 'Council in Community' sessions
- Formalised partnership with Ngarrindjeri Ruwe Empowered Communities
- Established waste services partnership with Solo Resource Recovery
- Completed a financial sustainability review with the Essential Services Commission SA
- Development (and continuous improvement) of a contemporary Long Term Financial Plan



Community Vision Plan 2026 - 2030



Our next Community Vision Plan (2026-2030) will build on the five key themes identified with our community in the current 2021-2025 plan.

Economy	Infrastructure	Community	Environment	Leadership
Strengthening industry and business to create employment, opportunity and prosperity	Enhancing our roads, footpaths, buildings, parks and gardens	Strengthening the fabric of the community to enhance the quality of life of residents	Recognised for our unique native flora, fauna, habitat, water and land use	Our district will be recognised as a leader

The journey to shape our Community Vision Plan (CVP) has just begun, and now is the **perfect time to get involved.** Right now, we are listening to the community share their aspirations for the next four years. The timeline to prepare the CVP is outlined below.

October to November 2025	December 2025 to February 2026	February to March 2026	March 2026	April 2026
Community Consultation	Review feedback and prepare Draft CVP Plan	Public Consultation on Draft CVP	Finalise CVP based on community feedback	Council adopt final CVP

www.coorong.sa.gov.au/CVP2030

We want your input



What matters most to you about our local economy, infrastructure, community, environment and leadership?

What do you see as our District's biggest challenges and opportunities?

What would you like Council to focus on over the next four years?

You may have one thought or idea, or you may have many. Whatever input you have is valuable to help us plan for the future. Below are some questions and ideas to get you thinking.

Community

- How we can better support you? e.g. by fostering belonging and to meet diverse community needs through inclusive programs, social connection and community celebrations?
- What matters most to you or your loved ones – is it access to childcare, health services, libraries, or spaces that bring people together?
- How can we make consultation accessible for everyone and better reach and support community members who face participation barriers?
- How can we better support our ageing community, services, housing and social supports?

Economy

- How can we support our rural industries?
- How can we grow local jobs, support small businesses, and boost tourism in ways that benefit your everyday life?
- How do we attract new and major businesses and industry?
- What can we do to help ensure our communities remain vibrant, economically resilient, and attractive to new residents and visitors?

Environment

- How can Council enhance environmental sustainability in its operations across the District?
- What do you value most in your environment? How can we better protect and improve biodiversity in the Coorong District?
- How can we strengthen our primary production related businesses & communities to respond to the challenges and opportunities ahead?
- How do we support our vital primary production sector and continue to improve our management of soil, water and biodiversity?

Infrastructure

- Which infrastructure improvements would have the greatest positive impact on your daily life? This could include better roads, transport, housing, or digital access.
- How can sporting facilities, community centres, and social spaces better support your health, well-being, & sense of connection within the community?

Leadership

- What does good leadership look like to you?
- How can Council improve communication, advocacy and decision-making to ensure your voice is heard and valued?

Join the conversation



Have your say on what matters most to you.

Your contributions count, and can be made in the following ways:

- At a **community drop in session**
- By completing an **online survey** by visiting www.coorong.sa.gov.au/CVP2030 or scanning the **QR Code below**
- **In person:** at one of Council's Customer Service Centres
- **By email:** council@coorong.sa.gov.au
- **By post:** PO Box 399 Tailem Bend SA 5260

For more information visit
www.coorong.sa.gov.au/CVP2030

Consultation closes
5.00pm Friday 21st November 2025

Scan the QR code to complete your survey online

Community Workshops

Meningie

Wednesday 15 October
Meningie Bowling Club

- **12 noon** - FREE Sausage Sizzle at 11:30am
- **3:30pm** - FAMILY FRIENDLY
- **6pm** - FREE Sausage Sizzle at 5:30pm

Tintinara

Thursday 16 October
Tintinara Council Office

- **12 noon** - FREE Sausage Sizzle at 11:30am
- **3:30pm** - FAMILY FRIENDLY
- **6pm** - FREE Sausage Sizzle at 5:30pm

Peake

Monday 10 November
Peake Sporting Club

- **6pm** - FREE Sausage Sizzle at 5:30pm

Tailem Bend

Tuesday 11 November
Tailem Bend Town Hall

- **11:30am**

Tailem Bend Council Chambers

- **6pm** - FREE Sausage Sizzle at 5:30pm Livestreamed on YouTube

Wednesday 12 November
Tailem Bend Council Chambers

- **8am -** FREE BBQ Breakfast

Adelaide

27 Halifax Street
Enter via Symonds Pl
Adelaide, SA 5000

(08) 8333 7999

Melbourne

68 Clarke Street
Southbank, VIC 3006

(03) 8593 9650

Perth

Level 17, 1 Spring Street
Perth, WA 6000

(08) 6285 3177

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