



September 2024

Far North Regional Plan Visioning Workshop

Regional plans are designated planning instruments under Section 46 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* and set the long-term vision and direction for strategic planning and land use for the next 15 to 30 years. Regional plans contain clear principles for orderly development and the management of growth within a region. South Australia is split into seven proclaimed planning regions, each have their own separate plan. Regional plans are developed by the Department for Housing and Urban Development (the Department) on behalf of the State Planning Commission, taking a collaborative approach with councils, other government agencies, infrastructure organisations, industry and local communities.

This document reflects the information collected as part of the initial stages of developing the Far North Regional Plan.

Engagement So Far

To date pre-workshop engagement activities, designed to inform councils, state agencies and key industry representatives, have been conducted by the Department. The Far North Visioning Workshop was held online on 24th July 2023, where representatives from the local councils, key industry organisations, departments and progress associations attended. The workshops were led by the State Planning Commission, Planning and Land Use Services and Department of Premier and Cabinet. 45 key stakeholders were in attendance and provided invaluable knowledge of the Far North region, by exploring how the various communities will be shaped, live, and grow over the next 30 years. The information collected during the Visioning Workshop will play a critical role in shaping the Far North Regional Plan.

What We Heard

The Far North Visioning Workshop participants were asked to identify key vision issues that they felt should be reflected in the Far North Regional Plan. Each of the vision issues were grouped under themes, as reflected in the bar graph below, and a voting process took place on an online tool to identify key priority areas.

Ranking Vision Elements



Workshop participants at the Far North Visioning Workshop were then asked to consider each vision theme and identify the spatial issues that should be addressed in the Far North Regional Plan. Further, workshop participants identified a number of “enablers” across the short, medium, and long term that are required to achieve the vision sought for the Far North region.

Priority themes emerging were

Transport & Infrastructure

- Connected communities with greater bus and rail options, reducing the number of cars on roads.
- Fast rail from Adelaide to Port Augusta.
- Greater use of air transport: drones and aircraft.
- Utilising artificial intelligence in the region e.g. for road maintenance.
- Significant investment in localised community infrastructure, improving connectivity between communities.
- Water security for the region.

Population, Housing and Decentralisation

- Co-operative way forward, working together – younger generations and older generations alike.
- Housing design and construction that suits the region's environment.
- Housing design that meets sustainable requirements.
- Greater housing supply, affordability, and diversity.
- Equitable provision of housing for Aboriginal people.
- Focussing of population in regional towns and communities.

Energy Generation and Mining

- Decarbonisation through utilising renewable energies across the region; wind and solar.
- Sustainable mining practices and innovative use of minerals and resources.
- Remote communities self-contained in terms of energy and water.

Technology

- Greater and equitable access to telecommunications technology.
- Utilising artificial intelligence.

Healthcare and Ageing in Place

- Housing diversity and housing that supports ageing in place.
- Technology to support medical services and advancements.
- Better access to services ensuring better quality of life outcomes.
- Equitable health services across remote and rural communities, particularly for ageing residents.

Education, Employment and Jobs

- Opportunities to increase local skills, access to university, and vocational training.
- Local supply chains being able to tap into trade, labour, and skills.
- Employment to retain younger people and bring them back to the region.
- Local and modern manufacturing in the region.

Economy

- Equitable wealth for rural and remote communities.
- Retaining assets within the region, not all being exported.
- Profits from mining returned to the community.
- Opportunities around innovation – particularly manufacturing.
- Diversifying the economic base of the region.
- Explore tourism potential, townships with specialised tourism offerings and assets.
- Economic opportunities to use native plants in products/ value adding.

Biodiversity and Environment

- Promote and create understanding of sustainability, plus understanding of local flora and fauna.
- Spencer Gulf Estuary – attractive living and tourism.
- Diversifying farming through carbon farming.
- Environment as an asset not a resource.

Other

- Having circular systems e.g. food and water.
- Recycling of materials locally – utilising all forms of waste: organics, materials, produce.
- Digitised and diversified agricultural sector that is thriving.
- World leaders in manufacturing green technologies – not just users of it.
- Learning from First Nations people about their connections to country.

Next Steps

A draft Far North Regional Plan will be prepared from late 2024, having consideration to the range of feedback received in the initial phase of engagement. Public consultation will be undertaken on the draft regional plan in early 2025 and engagement activities will be developed to support wide-ranging participation by the community and stakeholders. Details of these engagement activities will be developed once the draft Far North Regional Plan has been prepared.

Contact

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