

# Murray Mallee Regional Plan


Section 73 (7) of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016

## Engagement Report



Source: South Australian Tourism Commission

#23567957

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## Executive summary

### Overview

The Murray Mallee Regional Plan (the Plan) is the one of seven regional plans for South Australia developed in a 100% digital, dynamic, and interactive Regional Planning Portal. This will allow for real-time updates which will ensure the plan remains contemporary and provides users easy access to the regional plans via the accessible interface.

The Plan sets out a vision for sustainable growth across the region, with an additional 28,000 residents expected by 2051. Growth will be concentrated on the Regional City of Murray Bridge and key service centres including Renmark, Loxton, Waikerie, Mannum, Tailem Bend, Berri and Barmera. The Plan supports economic resilience through strategic land use, job creation in tourism, agriculture, viticulture and renewable energy, and by ensuring access to affordable and diverse housing.

Between 25 March 2025 and 17 June 2025, communities, councils, state agencies, industries, interest groups and other key stakeholders were invited to have their say on the Plan. This document provides an overview of the engagement activities undertaken and a short summary of the main themes of feedback received during the engagement process.

### Who we heard from

Submissions and survey responses were received from a range of stakeholders including members of the public, landowners, industry, community groups and government. A total of 70 were received during the 12-week engagement period from:

- email submissions (33)
- YourSAy survey (29)
- submissions via the PlanSA portal (3)
- YourSAy youth survey (2)
- asy read surveys (2)
- hard copy/post submissions (1).

### What we heard

Whilst the feedback received from the survey and submissions covered a diverse range of topics and viewpoints, the key areas of feedback can be categorised under the following five themes of the Plan:

- People, housing and liveability
- Productive economy
- Natural resources, environment and landscapes
- Transport and infrastructure
- Delivery and implementation.

Feedback was well spread across all themes, with **people, housing, and liveability** the most highly rated or commented on themes in surveys and submissions. **Transport and infrastructure** were the next most rated theme by survey respondents, with **productive economy** the third most frequent commented on theme in submissions received.

# 1 Purpose

This report has been prepared by the Planning and Land Use Services Division of the Department for Housing and Urban Development (DHUD-PLUS) for consideration by the State Planning Commission to help inform the development of the Plan.

The report has been prepared in accordance with Section 73(7) of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (the Act) and Part 6 of Practice Direction 2: Preparation and Amendment of a Designated Instrument (Practice Direction 2). The report includes:

- details of the engagement process undertaken
- a summary of the feedback received
- a response to the feedback, including recommended amendments
- an evaluation of the effectiveness of the engagement and whether the principles of the Community Engagement Charter have been achieved.

The report also confirms that engagement has been undertaken in accordance with the Engagement Plan, prepared under part 2(5) of Practice Direction 2 and the Community Engagement Charter.

## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 Murray Mallee Regional Plan

The Plan is a roadmap for the Murray Mallee region that provides the community, council, and industry with a guide for planning the region's residential and employment growth over the next three decades.

It reflects the Government of South Australia's long-term vision for managing sustainable growth and plays a significant role in identifying appropriate land for future housing, employment, and commercial uses, as well as the necessary supporting infrastructure, while enhancing liveability and protecting natural assets.

The Plan seeks to ensure the planning system responds proactively, offering land and infrastructure in the right locations to meet housing and employment demands.

Development of the Plan has involved significant collaboration with stakeholders and extensive community consultation. Engagement in 2025 on the draft Plan has provided critical insights and feedback that will inform the finalisation of this important document.

## 3 Engagement approach

The process for amending a designated instrument (including a regional plan) is set out in the Act. The Act requires public engagement to take place in accordance with the Community Engagement Charter.

The designated entity prepared an engagement plan to apply the principles of the Community Engagement Charter. Engagement sought to:

- assist in understanding the vision and aspirations of regional communities that will help guide how development is undertaken in the longer-term
- have authentic conversations with leaders within the community, key stakeholders, state agencies and councils who can work to ensure regional plans are delivered on the ground and have a positive and meaningful impact

- raise awareness and build capacity within communities about the planning system to enable them to better participate in the planning of their region
- have broad reach to enable those who are interested to contribute, while also having more targeted conversations creating depth to work through the range of planning issues facing the regions, including social and physical infrastructure
- build on work that has already been undertaken to make sure the findings from previous engagement activities are not lost
- close the loop with stakeholders and communities to inform them of the outcomes of the engagement process, and how they can access the final version/s of regional plans.

The engagement period ran for 12 weeks from 25 March to 17 June 2025.

### 3.1 Engagement activities

The engagement included preparation of the engagement plan, early engagement (vision and priorities), consultation on the draft Plan, and communicating the final Plan. This Section 73 engagement report focusses on the statutory engagement period (phase 3 consultation on the draft Plan) outlined in the engagement plan.

**Phase 1:** Preparation of the engagement plan.

**Phase 2:** Early engagement (vision and priorities). This took place in 2024 and was designed to gather early input from key stakeholders to help inform the future drafting of the Plan.

Engagement activities included direct communication with the Minister for Planning, the Premier of South Australia, and Cabinet to inform them of the regional planning process. Key stakeholders such councils, the Local Government Association (LGA), the Regional Development Australia (RDA) Board and local industries such as aged care, disability and youth services were identified for participation in workshops. A dedicated project YourSAy webpage and fact sheet were created to outline the planning process, consultation stages, and how stakeholders could engage. Members of Parliament were also informed about opportunities to participate.

The engagement involved a series of activities, including monthly Planning and Infrastructure Coordination Group meetings to discuss growth area infrastructure, Local Government Regional Planning Committee presentations, and face-to-face visioning workshops in Berri and Murray Bridge with various community groups and industry representatives. State-wide workshops targeted organisations with a broader reach, while an online survey provided a platform for community input from those unable to attend the workshops.

To close the loop on the phase 2 early engagement, participants received updates via email, links to a [What We Heard](#) engagement summary report, and further communications were conducted as necessary throughout 2025.

A summary of engagement undertaken, and feedback provided during phase 2 engagement are contained in **Attachment 3** of this engagement report.

#### 3.1.1 Phase 3: Public engagement activities

The 12-week public engagement period included delivery of a range of engagement activities to inform community and stakeholders of the Plan's objectives and gather feedback.

Activity	Description	Stakeholders
Letter sent to identified stakeholders	<p>Advised the commencement of engagement on the draft regional plan and opportunities to get involved.</p> <p><i>In total <b>428 letters</b> were sent to key stakeholders.</i></p>	All stakeholders
Stakeholder toolkit	<p>Sent to Murray Mallee councils and key stakeholders such as industry groups, community groups to help support engagement, increase reach and promote the Plan (refer <b>Attachment 4</b>).</p> <p>The toolkit contained the following items:  DL community flyer  Social media imagery  Digital display signage  Community event poster  Web banner artwork  Email signature signage  Web banner imagery.</p> <p><i>In total <b>428 stakeholders</b> were sent the toolkit.</i></p>	All stakeholders
Fact sheet	<p>A plain English fact sheet was developed and published on the YourSAy and PlanSA websites to help interested community understand the Plan and its proposed actions.</p> <p><i>The fact sheet was <b>downloaded 40</b> times from the YourSAy website during the consultation period.</i></p>	All audiences, with a focus on interested community.
FAQs	<p>Plain English FAQs were developed and published on the YourSAy and PlanSA websites to help interested community understand the Plan and its proposed actions.</p> <p><i>The FAQs were <b>downloaded 26</b> times from the YourSAy website during the consultation period.</i></p>	All audiences, with a focus on interested community.

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Activity	Description	Stakeholders
Community information sessions	<p>Two face-to-face community information sessions were delivered to promote the draft Plan and provide community with one-on-one access with State Planning Commission and regional planning team members to discuss the Plan and answer any questions. The sessions were advertised via promotional material with the support of council, and registrations were taken through Eventbrite.</p> <p>Community information sessions were supported with information display boards and printed handouts for attendees to take home (see Attachment 4).</p> <p>The following events were held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13 May 2025: Renmark – 3 attendees</li> <li>• 20 May 2025: Tailem Bend – 13 attendees.</li> </ul> <p><i>In total 16 <b>community members</b> attended face to face community information sessions.</i></p>	Community
Online community information session(s)	<p>Delivered one online community information session to promote the draft Plan and gather community feedback. The session was advertised via boosted social media, DL flyers, community posters, with the support of council and community groups. The session occurred prior to the community drop-in sessions. Registration was through Eventbrite.</p> <p>The online events were held on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 29 April 2025 – 13 attendees.</li> </ul> <p><i>In total 13 <b>community members</b> attended online community information sessions.</i></p>	Community
Eventbrite	<p>The engagement and information sessions were promoted via the Eventbrite website, which included sending email notification to all people who follow the PlanSA Eventbrite profile.</p> <p><i>The event pages received 186 <b>page views</b> during the engagement period.</i></p>	Community
Stakeholder briefing(s)	<p>Delivered online briefing(s) to promote the draft Plan and gather feedback.</p> <p>Briefing sessions conducted during engagement: Council staff and elected members - 21 attendees</p>	Peak Industry Bodies, Peak Planning bodies, Utilities, State Government agencies, community and business associations,

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Activity	Description	Stakeholders
	<p>Industry – 50 attendees. State agencies – 59 attendees</p> <p><i>In total 130 key stakeholders attended online briefing sessions.</i></p>	<p>RDA board, LGA board, council, community</p>
Council workshop(s)	<p>Delivered multiple face-to-face workshops to present the draft Plan and opportunity to provide feedback.</p>	<p>Murray Mallee Councils</p>
First Nations engagement	<p>Established ongoing working relationships and partnerships with key representatives from Aboriginal state government agencies, corporations and First Nations groups.</p> <p>Delivered a briefing to Aboriginal Corporations, state agencies and industry groups to introduce the Regional Planning Program.</p> <p>Correspondence to First Nations groups to introduce the program, providing a link to YourSAy and offering an online presentation of the Regional Planning Program.</p>	<p>State agencies Aboriginal Leaders First Nations groups</p>
Youth engagement	<p>An online workshop was scheduled for 21 May 2025; however, the session was cancelled due to poor registration numbers.</p> <p>Emails were sent all youth stakeholders as well as all schools in the region to advise of the ongoing engagement and gain feedback via the YourSAy survey.</p> <p><b>3 youth YourSAy surveys submitted.</b></p>	<p>Youth groups including Youth Advisory Committee/council and Youth Affairs Council of SA</p>
Ongoing meetings and communication as required	<p>Ongoing face to face/online meetings to gather information and provide updates.</p>	<p>Council, agencies, RDA, LGA etc</p>
Email and telephone enquiries	<p>The PlanSA contact details were provided throughout the engagement period and the public and stakeholders were invited to make contact if they had enquires or wished to set up a meeting to discuss the proposal.</p> <p>The service desk was fully briefed to assist people in obtaining further information or to speak with a project team.</p> <p><b>A total of 10 email enquiries and 2 phone enquiries were handled during the engagement period.</b></p>	<p>All</p>
PlanSA website	<p>Information relevant to the Plan were available on the PlanSA website. This included the Plan,</p>	<p>All</p>

Activity	Description	Stakeholders
	<p>visioning workshop reports, fact sheet, and the engagement plan,</p> <p>A news article and banner promoting the engagement were also published on the landing page of the PlanSA website.</p> <p><i>The Plan's PlanSA website pages <b>received 1,346 views</b> and was <b>visited by 810 people</b>.</i></p>	
YourSAy website & online survey	<p>A dedicated page on the YourSAy website was created as the primary location for the community to find easy to understand information and to submit feedback via a survey.</p> <p><i>The YourSAy page received <b>1,700 visits</b> during the engagement period.</i></p> <p><i>Supporting material documents were <b>downloaded 295 times</b>.</i></p> <p><i><b>32 YourSAy survey submissions</b> were provided during the engagement period.</i></p>	Community
Regional Planning Portal	<p>The Regional Planning Portal was created as the primary location for the community to view the Plan and easy to understand supporting material.</p> <p><i>The Murray Mallee Regional Planning Portal page received <b>1,029 page views</b> from <b>431 unique users</b> during the engagement period.</i></p>	All stakeholders
Newsletter article	<p>Articles outlining the Plan were featured in Planning Ahead on 17 April 2025 and 3 June 2025.</p> <p>Copies of the Planning Ahead newsletters can be found in Attachment 4.</p> <p><i>The April article was sent to <b>2,837 recipients</b> and achieved <b>1944 opens</b> and <b>22 link clicks</b>.</i></p> <p><i>The June article was sent to <b>2,839 recipients</b> and achieved <b>1,508 opens</b> and <b>18 link clicks</b>.</i></p>	All stakeholders
Media	<p>The State Planning Commission Chair and the Minister for Planning were made available for media requests.</p> <p><i>Media coverage consisted of <b>74 media items</b> across print, radio and online - achieving an <b>audience reach of 19,500</b> across the 12-week engagement period.</i></p> <p>See Attachment 4 for the full media report.</p>	Media outlets

Activity	Description	Stakeholders
Social media	<p>Social Media campaign was utilised during the engagement period.</p> <p>Organic posts were supported by boosted posts, as well as a \$1,000 like campaign to increase followers during the engagement period.</p> <p>The following social media channels were used to promote public consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PlanSA X</li> <li>- PlanSA Facebook</li> <li>- SPC LinkedIn</li> <li>- YourSAy Facebook.</li> </ul> <p>Examples of the posts are featured in Attachment 4.</p> <p>A total of 7 posts were published on each platform. During the engagement period the PlanSA Facebook page received <b>1.1million views, reached 264,600 users, received 5,089 link clicks</b> and attracted <b>1,177 new followers</b>.</p>	All stakeholders

### 3.2 Mandatory requirements

The following requirements were required to be completed as part of the statutory engagement on the Plan, they were also completed as part of this engagement process.

#### Notice and engagement with councils

The Community Engagement Charter requires that, a council or councils must be directly notified and consulted, where a proposal is relevant to a particular council or councils (and where the council did not initiate the proposal).

The Mayor and Chief Executive of council's located in the Murray Mallee region were notified via a letter. This included:

- Berri Barmera Council
- Coorong District Council
- District Council of Karoonda East Murray
- District Council of Loxton Waikerie
- Mid Murray Council
- Renmark Paringa Council
- Southern Mallee District Council
- The Rural City of Murray Bridge

## Notice and engagement with the Local Government Association

The Community Engagement Charter requires that, the Local Government Association must be notified in writing and consulted, where the proposed Regional Plan is generally relevant to councils.

As the Plan is relevant to all Murray Mallee councils, the Local Government Association was directly notified and consulted.

### 3.3 Compliance with the engagement plan

Engagement activities were undertaken in accordance with the engagement plan. In line with the Community Engagement Charter, the engagement process was regularly monitored.

## 4 Engagement outcomes

The following section summarises feedback received through the activities described in Section 3. It is important to note that participants could provide their feedback through more than one feedback mechanism (for example an online survey and a written submission). For this reason, total counts of comments will vary and not always equal the total quantity of feedback received.

All submissions received can be viewed in Attachment 1 of this document.

Many participants who provided submissions or completed surveys shared very detailed feedback, including specific recommendations for changes to the Plan. It is not within the scope of this summary report to include every specific suggestion, nor less frequently raised issues.

To ensure clarity and readability, this report highlights the common and recurring themes identified across all feedback. While it provides some quantitative counts of frequency of submissions or themes, analysis and presentation of results is intended to be qualitative.

It is important to note that all feedback has been carefully reviewed, analysed, and will continue to inform response actions undertaken by the Commission.

Submissions and survey responses were received from a range of stakeholders including members of the public, landowners, industry, community groups and government. A total of 70 submissions were received during the 12-week engagement period through the following feedback mechanisms (and shown in Figure 1 below):

- Email submissions (33)
- YourSAy Survey – General Public (29)
- Submissions via the PlanSA portal (3)
- YourSAy Youth Survey (2)
- Easy read surveys (2)
- Hard copy/post submissions (1).

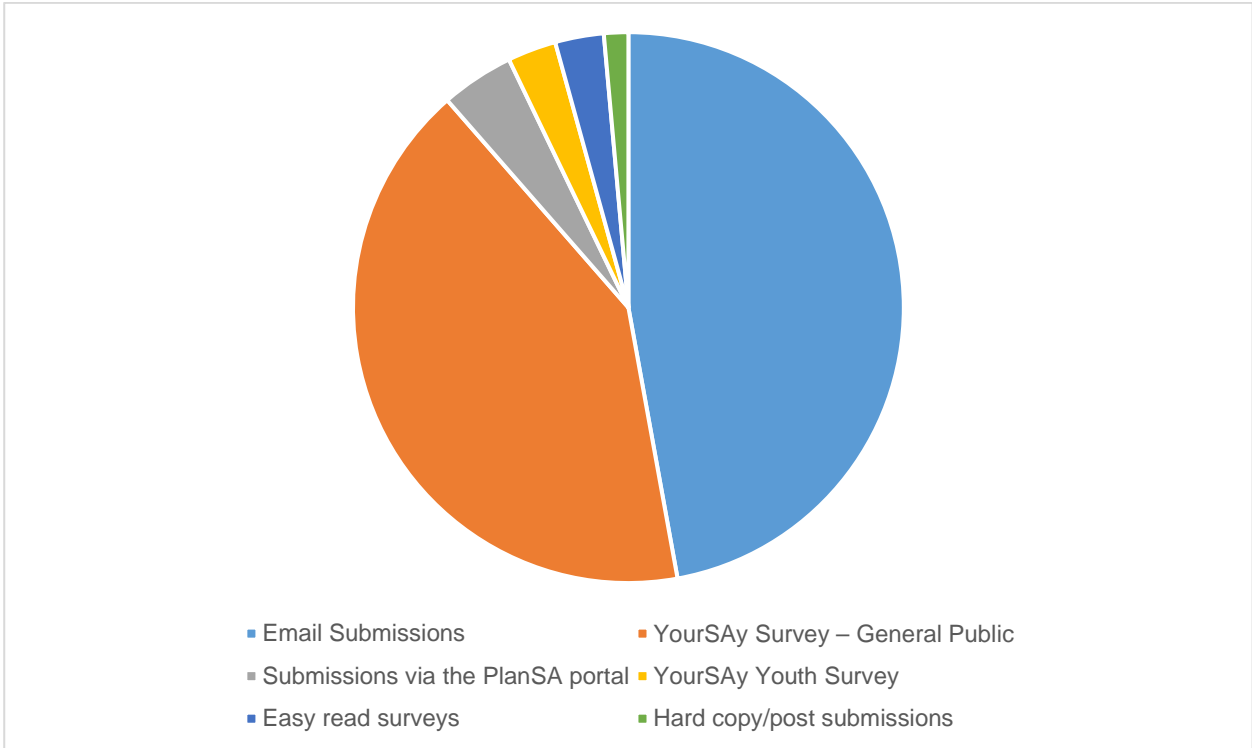


Figure 1 Feedback types and distribution

#### 4.1 Feedback received – YourSAy survey

This section summarises feedback received through the following means:

- YourSAy survey – general public (29)
- YourSAy youth survey (2)

4.1.1 About survey participants

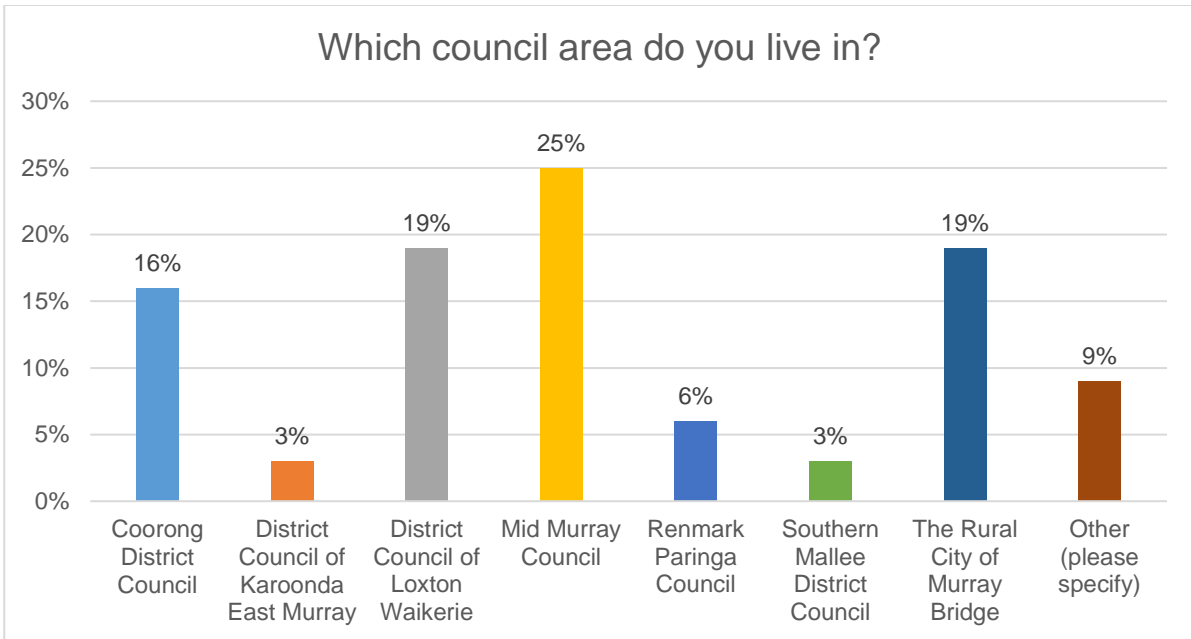


Figure 2 Council area locations for respondents

Survey respondents resided predominantly in seven Local Government Areas across South Australia. The most common council areas that survey respondents lived in were the Mid Murray Council, the Rural City of Murray Bridge and the District Council of Loxton Waikerie.

Nearly three quarters of respondents were aged between 45 and 74, with around 11% aged under twenty- four and below (refer Figure 3).

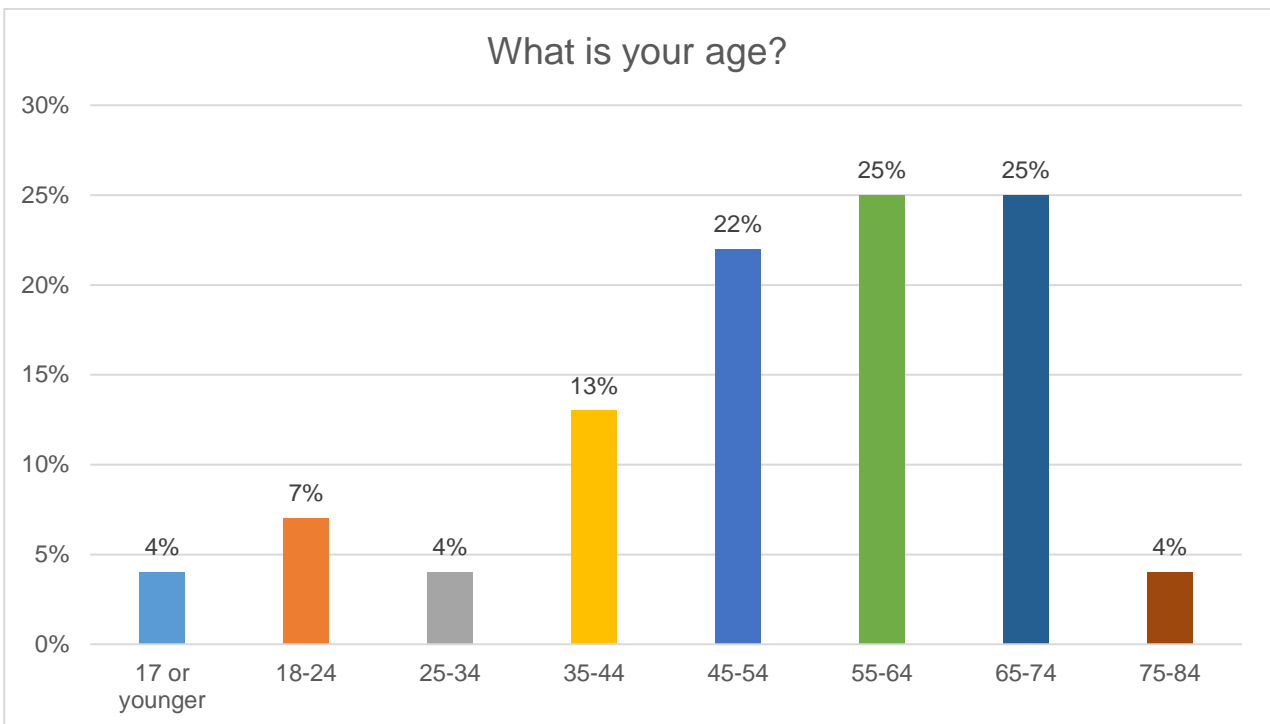


Figure 3 Age distribution of survey respondents

### 4.1.2 The Murray Mallee Regional Plan themes

When asked to rank the five themes of the Plan in order of importance, *people, housing, and liveability* was most commonly ranked first by survey respondents, with *transport and infrastructure* second. *Implementation and delivery* was clearly the lowest ranked theme in order of importance to survey respondents.

Figure 4 shows the proportion of ranked scores across all themes.

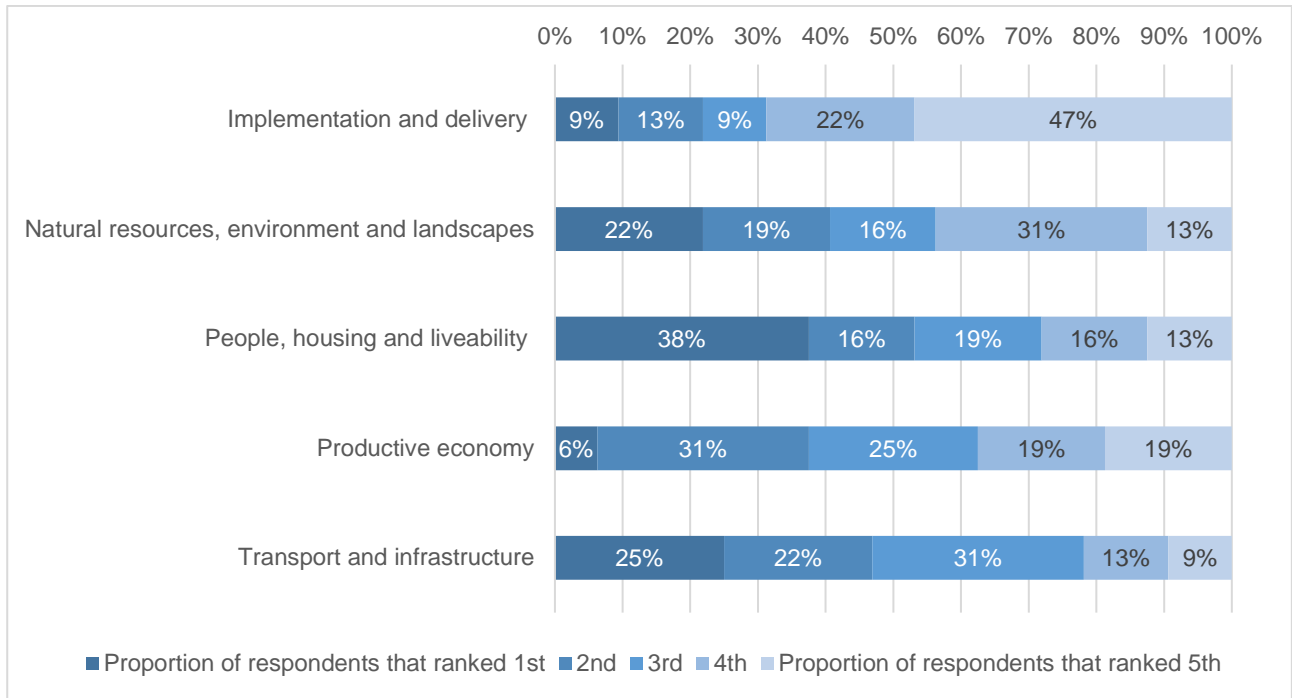


Figure 4 Plan themes – ranked by importance

### 4.1.3 People, housing and liveability

The survey asked respondents to choose two of five statements that were most important to them relating to the theme of *people, housing, and liveability*.

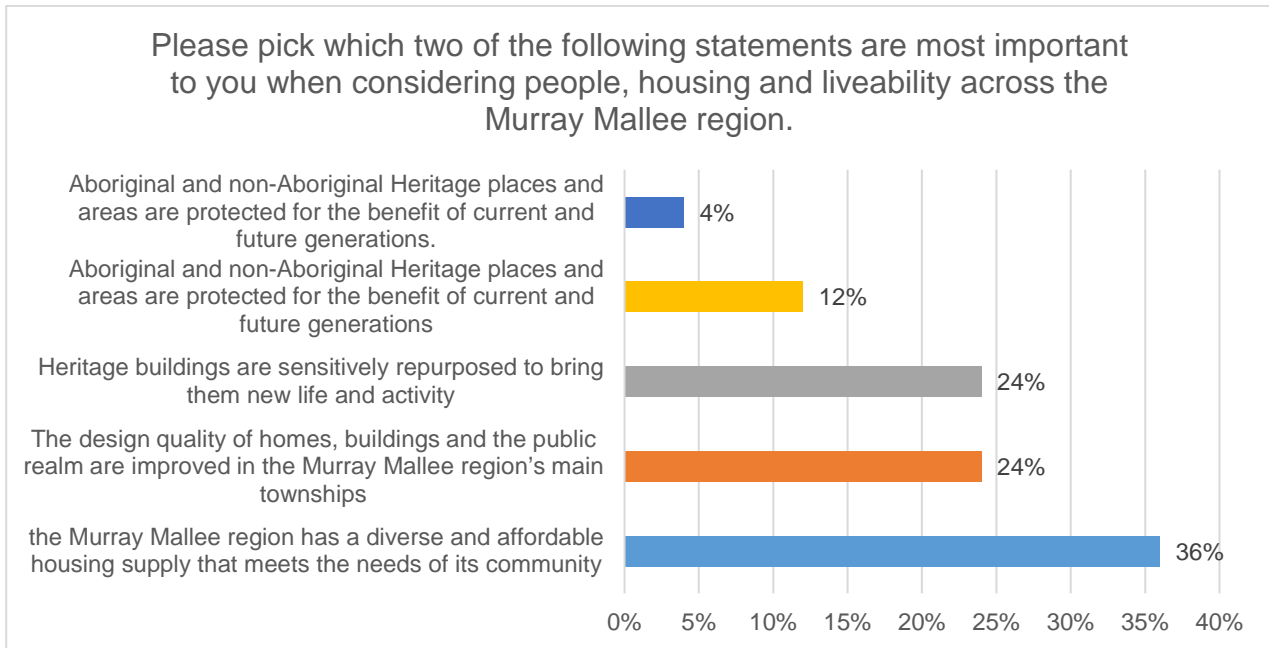


Figure 5 People, housing and liveability – statements of importance

Ensuring that the Murray Mallee has a diverse and affordable housing supply that meets the needs of its community was the most important statement to survey respondents in this theme. This was followed by the design quality of homes, buildings, and the public realm and the sensitive repurposing of heritage buildings (see Figure 5).

When prompted to suggest what was missing from the Plan or what other comments respondents had relating to this theme, feedback included:

- Housing and population growth must be supported by essential infrastructure and services, including roads, healthcare (especially paediatrics and aged care), public transport, schools, and utilities. Communities stressed that development is unsustainable without these foundations, particularly in the Mallee and Murraylands.
- Affordable and diverse housing is in critical short supply, with calls for more retirement homes, crisis accommodation, housing infill on vacant land (not large blocks), and alternatives like tiny homes or converted buildings. Many fear local people are being priced out, and that social cohesion will suffer without balanced housing.
- Environmental sustainability and land use planning are key concerns, including protecting the River Murray, conserving water, avoiding inappropriate development on flood-prone or contaminated land, and ensuring that prime food-producing land isn't rezoned. Community members called for realistic growth strategies and better integration of regional settlements.

#### 4.1.4 Productive economy

The survey asked respondents to choose three of five statements that are most important to them relating to the theme of *productive economy*.

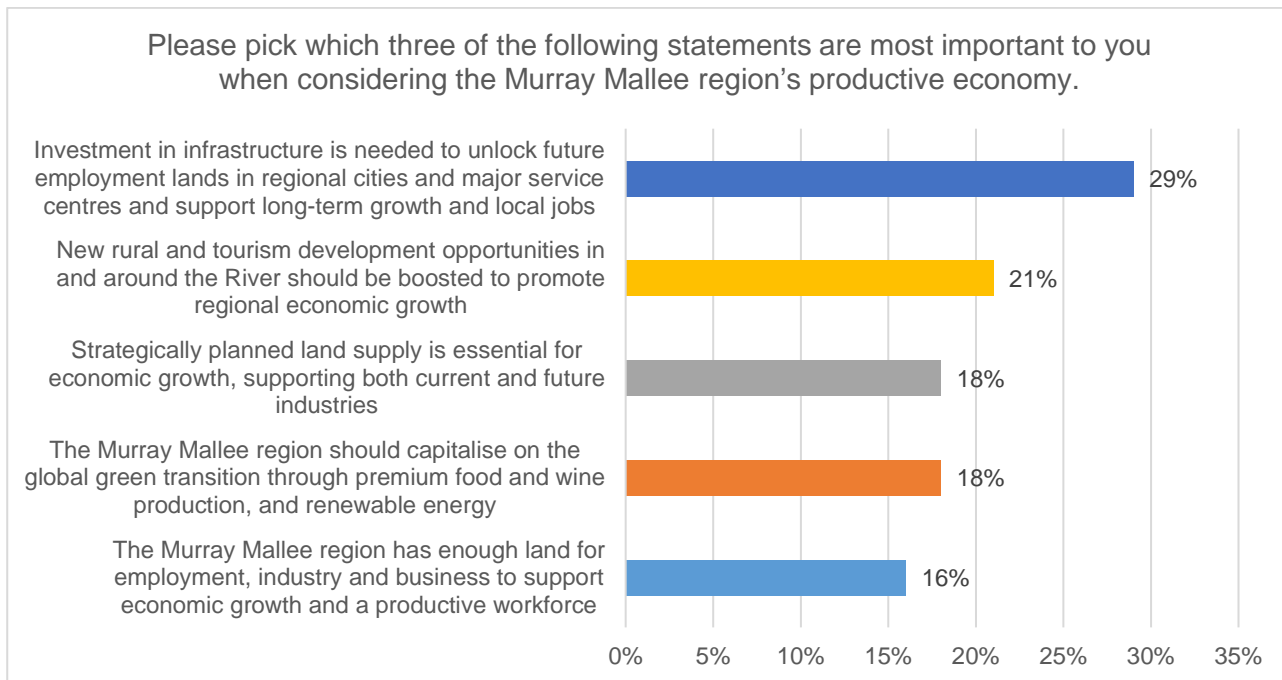


Figure 6 Productive economy – statements of importance

Survey respondents most prioritised the need for infrastructure investment to support long-term growth and local jobs. The next most popular statement was focussing on new rural and tourism development to boost economic growth.

When prompted to suggest what was missing from the Plan or what other comments respondents had relating to this theme, feedback included:

- Strategic infrastructure investment is critical, including improved freight routes, mobile and internet coverage, housing rezoning, community transport, and utilities to support both existing needs and future growth across diverse townships.
- Economic development must recognise both traditional and emerging sectors, such as agriculture, aquaculture, trade services, renewable energy, social enterprise, and the community services sector - all of which offer employment and economic resilience.
- Place-based planning and regional identity matter, with strong calls for localised strategies that reflect the distinct strengths, industries, and potential of individual areas, rather than treating the region as a single, homogenous zone.
- Communities want inclusive growth and meaningful participation, including better paid jobs, First Nations economic inclusion, support for young people and small businesses, and more transparency in how government decisions are made and implemented.

#### 4.1.5 Natural resources, environment and landscapes

The survey asked respondents to choose four of six statements that are most important to them relating to the theme of *natural resources, environment, and landscapes*.

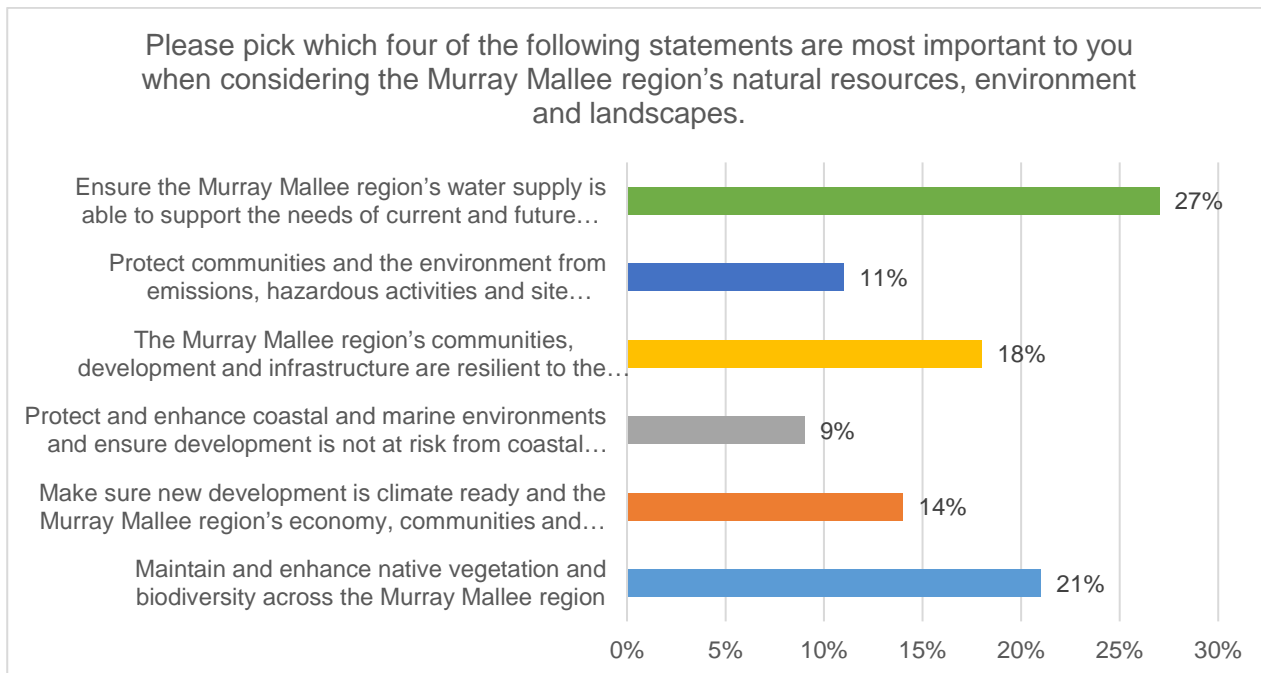


Figure 7 Natural Resources, Environment and Landscapes – statements of importance

Survey respondents most commonly prioritised the need to ensure the regional water supply can meet future needs. This was followed by enhancing native vegetation and biodiversity.

When prompted to suggest what was missing from the Plan or what other comments respondents had relating to this theme, feedback included:

- Environmental protection and restoration are essential, with strong community support for conserving national parks, rare species habitats, native vegetation, and biodiversity corridors. This was alongside calls for better weed management and investment in ecosystem restoration, including walking and cycling trails.
- Water security and climate resilience are urgent regional priorities, with concerns about sea-level rise, outdated barrage infrastructure, water scarcity, and the future of water-intensive agriculture.
- Community-led environmental stewardship must be recognised, including the roles of Landcare, cultural educators, and volunteers.

#### 4.1.6 Transport and infrastructure

The survey asked respondents to choose two of three statements that are most important to them relating to the theme of *transport and infrastructure*.

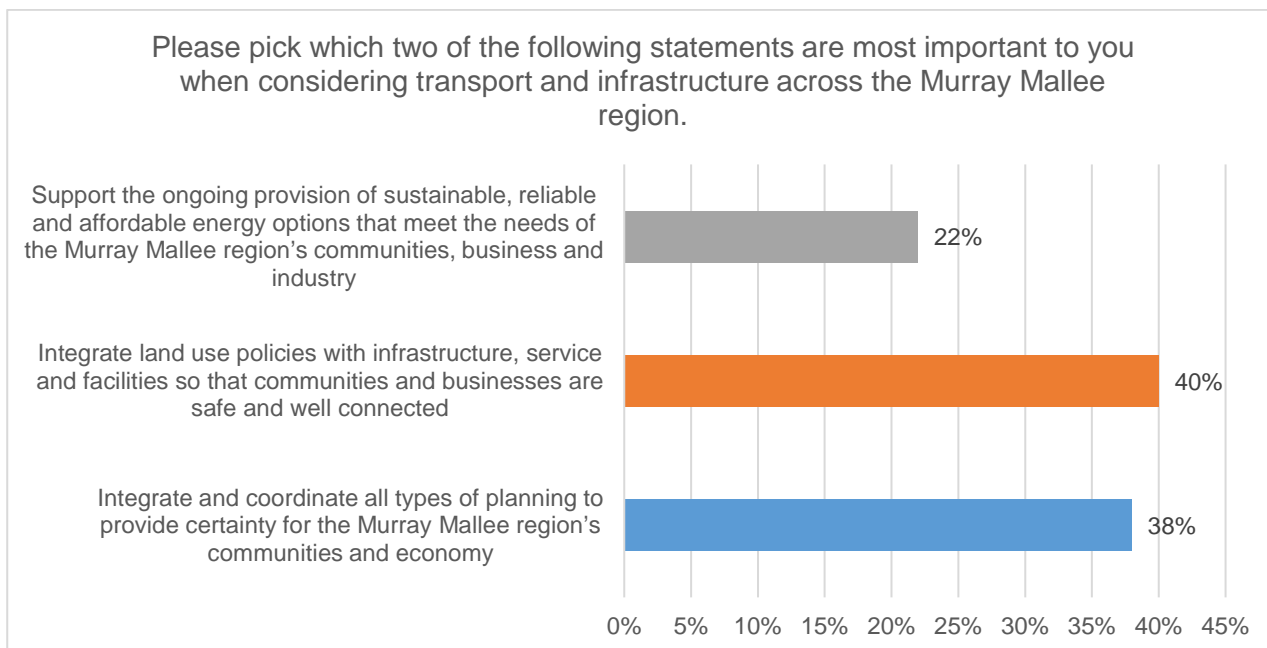


Figure 8 Transport and infrastructure – statements of importance

Survey respondents most commonly prioritised integration of land use policies with infrastructure, services and facilities so communities and businesses are safe and well connected.

When prompted to suggest what was missing from the Plan or what other comments respondents had relating to this theme, feedback included:

- Public and rail transport investment is urgently needed, with strong calls for daily passenger rail to Adelaide, scheduled bus services across all towns (including underserved areas like East Murray Bridge), and greater support for community transport providers to improve access to work, healthcare, and services.
- Freight and road infrastructure must be rethought to support safety, economic growth, and environmental protection. Concerns were raised about bypass routes near schools and communities, poor highway quality, and the lack of a coherent long-term freight and regional road network.
- The proposed Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass is strongly opposed in its current form, particularly due to its impact on the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve and small towns like Cambrai and Sedan. Residents urge rerouting to protect significant community assets, tourism, astronomy investment, and public safety.

#### 4.1.7 Delivery and implementation

The survey asked respondents to choose four of six statements that are most important to them relating to the theme of *delivery and implementation*.

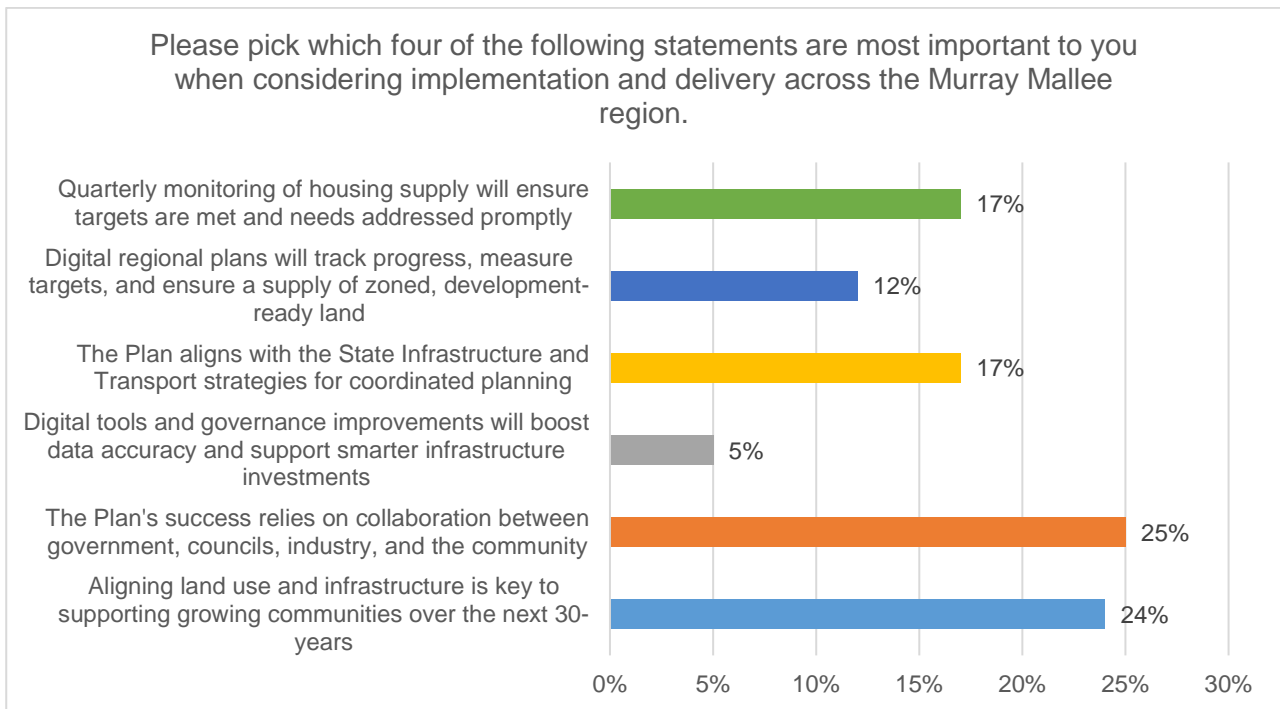


Figure 9 Delivery and implementation – statements of importance

Survey respondents most commonly prioritised that the success of the Plan relies on collaboration between government, councils, industry and the community. Closely followed by the alignment of land use and infrastructure to support growing communities, which was also a high priority for respondents.

When prompted to suggest what was missing from the Plan or what other comments respondents had relating to this theme, feedback included:

- Planning and growth must be community-led and locally responsive, with strong calls for better communication, local input into decision-making, and a dedicated regional growth office to ensure developments reflect the needs and safety of communities like Murray Bridge, Monarto, and smaller towns.
- Infrastructure and climate resilience need long-term, integrated solutions, including keeping housing away from major transport corridors, protecting productive and scenic land, addressing sea-level rise risks, and aligning growth with transport, energy, and environmental priorities.

#### 4.1.8 Youth survey

While there were only a small number of survey respondents in the youth age range (up to age 25), the key insights comprise:

Concerns of biodiversity loss with infrastructure development:

- Desire to ensure infrastructure benefits *'community not just corporations'*.
- Ensure public transport infrastructure grows to reduce climate emissions from personal cars.

## 4.2 Feedback received - submissions

This section summarises feedback received through the following means:

- Email submissions (33)
- Submissions via the PlanSA portal (3)
- Easy read surveys (2)
- Hard copy/post submissions (1).

With the exception of the easy read surveys, submissions allowed respondents to provide feedback of any length or depth and on any subjects or issues of their choosing. As identified previously, most submissions were detailed and extensive in the issues raised and suggested changes to the Plan. This section provides a higher-level summary of the common and frequently raised themes and issues. More detailed analysis of submissions is an ongoing task for the Commission.

### 4.2.1 The Murray Mallee Regional Plan themes

All submissions were reviewed and where applicable, one or more of the five themes of the Plan were allocated to the submission. This highlights the frequency and significance of these themes across all submissions. Figure 10 below shows that *people, housing and liveability* was the most referenced theme in submissions. This was followed almost evenly by *transport and infrastructure* and *productive economy*.

Some submissions had multiple key themes; therefore, the percentages below will be greater than 100.

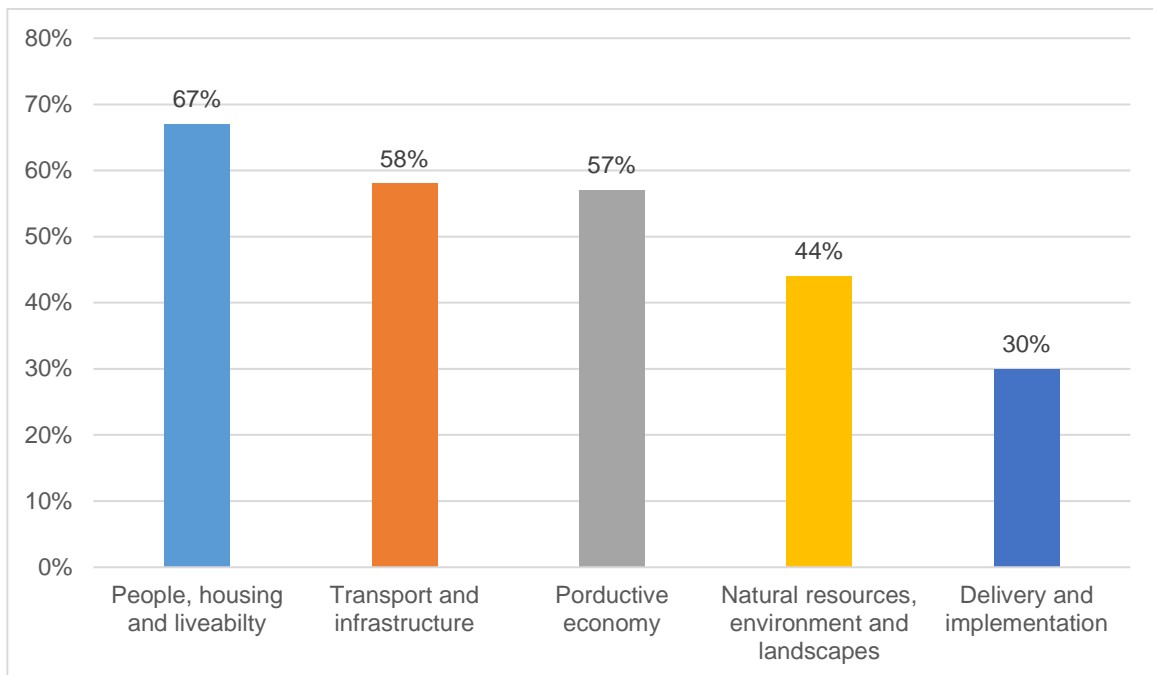


Figure 10 Plan themes included in submissions

To better understand the common subjects and issues raised in submission, a series of subthemes were identified and allocated to submissions. The following figure shows the top ten most frequently mentioned subthemes in submissions.

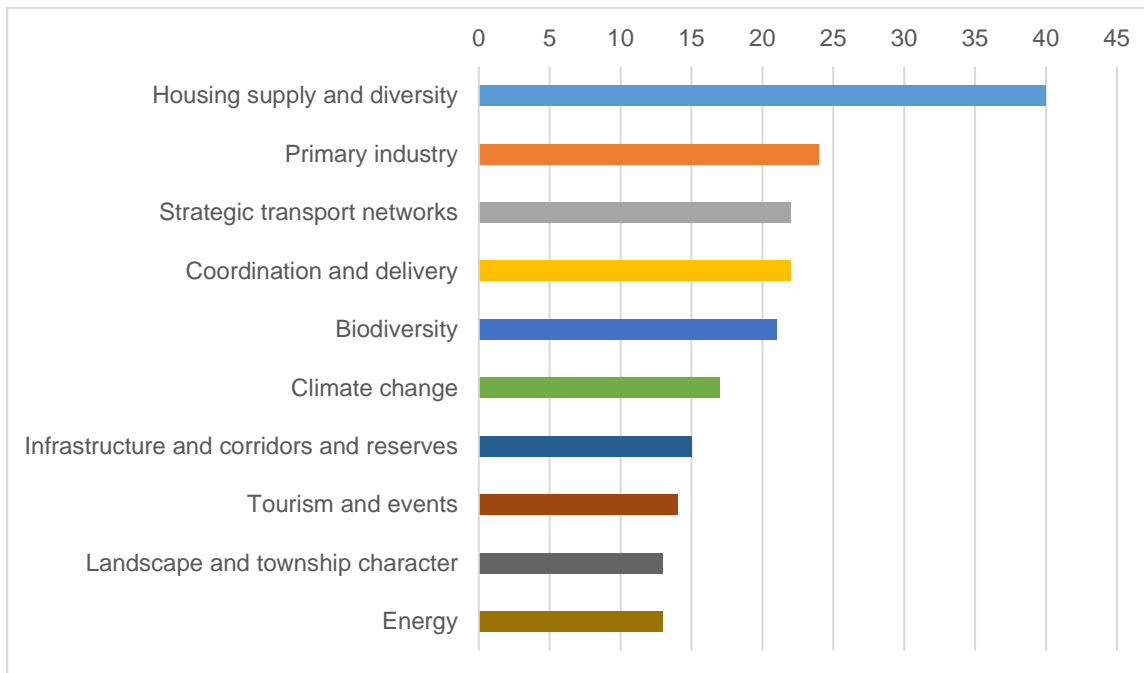


Figure 11 Plan subthemes included in submissions

This shows that issues and commentary around *housing supply and diversity* was clearly the most frequently raised. Interestingly, the next four issues were raised with almost identical frequency. This included *primary industry*, *strategic transport networks*, *coordination and delivery* and *biodiversity*.

### 4.3 Key submission themes – all formats

An overview of key information contained within all submissions based on key themes is outlined below

#### 4.3.1 People, housing and liveability

- Emphasis on diverse and affordable housing to meet growth needs, especially for ageing populations, seasonal workers, and key workers; calls for measurable commitments to social and affordable housing.
- Concerns about housing affordability impacting workforce attraction and retention in health and community services; need for improved housing quality with sustainable, climate-resilient design features.
- Strong focus on protecting town character and regional identity, including meaningful engagement with Aboriginal groups to embed cultural heritage and ecological knowledge in planning.

#### 4.3.2 Productive economy

- Strong support for protecting high-value agricultural land to sustain primary production and long-term economic viability, with calls for clear zoning and protection frameworks.
- Recognition of renewable energy (solar, wind, battery storage) and mining as key economic sectors, alongside tourism centred on unique assets like the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve.
- Importance of integrating transport infrastructure and workforce availability in economic strategies, with stronger support for Aboriginal economic participation and diversification into emerging sectors.

### 4.3.3 Natural resources, environment and landscapes

- Broad support for biodiversity protection, native vegetation retention, and inclusion of threatened ecological communities in planning; calls for stronger climate change adaptation and resilience measures.
- Need to protect coastal and riverine environments from erosion, flooding, and pollution, with promotion of nature-based solutions and updated hazard management (floodplains, bushfire risk).
- Concerns about cumulative environmental impacts from development, emissions, and pollution; emphasis on integrated regional environmental management approaches.

### 4.3.4 Transport and infrastructure

- Priority for improving transport network reliability, including public transport, active travel infrastructure, and safety on freight routes, with infrastructure upgrades on key highways supported.
- Digital connectivity gaps, particularly after 3G network shutdown, hinder farming, education, health, and economic participation; calls for better integrated water management due to groundwater constraints.
- Highlighted social infrastructure deficits (health, aged care, childcare, emergency services) requiring enhanced coordination and funding to support sustainable growth and liveability.

### 4.3.5 Delivery and implementation

- Calls for enhanced cross-government collaboration with clearly defined roles, accountability, and regular progress monitoring on housing, infrastructure, environment, and economy.
- Need for improved transparency and usability of digital planning tools and data, along with structured Aboriginal and community engagement frameworks for meaningful participation.
- Support for five-year review cycles, policy alignment with local Growth Strategies, flexible and enforceable planning instruments, and funding models prioritising coordinated infrastructure delivery.

## 4.4 Submission summaries

The below tables summarise written submissions from a range of stakeholder groups.

### 4.4.1 Community groups

Community groups	
<p><b>Natural History Society of South Australia (trading as Wombats SA)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for updating hazard mapping and management of natural hazards.</li> <li>• Support for the Riverbend Energy Hub and recognition of climate change within the plan.</li> <li>• Calls for greater emphasis on promoting activities such as birdwatching along the Murray River and within the Mallee scrub.</li> <li>• Support for investment in the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve, including funding for infrastructure—particularly off major roads—as there is currently insufficient access and interpretive signage to parks and reserves</li> </ul>

Community groups	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for education for drivers about being aware of, and caring for, wildlife.</li> </ul>
<b>Rainforest Reserves Australia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stresses that the Plan offers minimal protections against habitat loss due to industrial infrastructure and offers minimal enforceable provisions to protect biodiversity.</li> <li>• Calls for the withdrawal of the Murray Mallee Regional Plan for the purpose of being rewritten in full collaboration with First Nations leaders, primary producers and regional communities.</li> <li>• Specific flaws include the absence of mapping for threatened ecological communities, enforcement on vegetation removal, and regulations on emerging contaminants like PFAS, and failure to require site-specific assessments under EPBC.</li> <li>• The draft fails to account for the cumulative effects of multiple infrastructure projects, leading to systemic environmental degradation.</li> <li>• Recommendations include protecting strategic agricultural land, safeguarding soil health, and ensuring water security amid increased infrastructure demands.</li> <li>• Opportunities to protect landscape connectivity (wildlife corridors).</li> <li>• Lack of community veto, appeal rights or binding obligations - current Plan centralises power to government, rather than the community.</li> <li>• Concerns regarding farmland fragmentation</li> <li>• The <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1998</i> is not meaningfully integrated into the rezoning process.</li> </ul>
<b>River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve &amp; Mid Murray Landcare SA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Careful and thoughtful planning is required for the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve as it is a vital asset for the region</li> <li>• The River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve has the potential to create well paid careers in science, astro-tourism and astronomy to boost the local economy and opportunities for young people to stay in the region.</li> <li>• The proposed Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass through Cambrai and Sedan raises serious safety, environmental, and community wellbeing concerns.</li> <li>• Concerns that increased heavy vehicle traffic poses further safety risk and noise, and vibration impacts to schools and children, local drivers, and pedestrians—especially in front of Cambrai School and the Sedan Supermarket and Hotel.</li> <li>• Raises community concerns over impact to the Dark Sky Reserve. The proposed route cuts through the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve, threatening astronomical research, astrophotography, and space industry investments.</li> <li>• The bypass poses economic and environmental tourism threats, risking damage to a growing astro-tourism industry and the potential loss of international accreditation, which could harm local jobs and tourism income.</li> </ul>

4.4.2 Industry

Industry	
<p><b>Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AMEC and industry support the inclusion of Mineral and Energy Resources as a key sector within the Productive Economy section.</li> <li>• AMEC urge the State Planning Commission to continuously update the Plan with new projects as they arise. Suggest collaboration with the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) to ensure all relevant mining projects are captured in the Plan.</li> <li>• Request that further details on the future value of mining, emphasising its social contributions and role in achieving net-zero targets are included in the Plan.</li> <li>• Suggest the development of mineral resource potential maps to prevent sterilisation by renewable energy projects.</li> <li>• Ensure planning supports mining, mineral processing, and transport corridors.</li> <li>• AMEC supports the infrastructure considerations in the Plan, including strategies for land allocation for future infrastructure, efficient transport networks connecting businesses to markets, and timely consultation regarding infrastructure upgrades.</li> <li>• Highlights the importance of sustainable water supply for mining operations and the need for a balanced approach to resource use.</li> <li>• Calls for a clear legislative framework to manage risks associated with the coexistence of mining with other industries.</li> <li>• Calls for provision of an updated Multiple Land Use Framework (MLUF) to provide fair access across user groups while considering contemporary land uses.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Grain Producers SA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerned about the encroachment of housing on productive agricultural land.</li> <li>• Endorses prioritisation of infill development within township boundaries over expansion onto prime agricultural soils.</li> <li>• Recommends mapping and implementation of Primary Production Priority Areas (PPPAs) to protect valuable grain-producing land, rigorous planning review for rezoning and ongoing engagement with agricultural stakeholders.</li> <li>• Stresses the importance of the High Productivity Vehicle Network and the need for consistent funding. Notes that South Australia’s road maintenance backlog has increased from \$700 million in 2019 to over \$2 billion by mid-2024.</li> <li>• Highlights the closure of the regional rail line has limited bulk grain transport to heavy vehicles. Calls for urgent improvements to the Sturt Highway to enhance heavy vehicle access and increase productivity.</li> <li>• Concern for connectivity of communities and emphasises the need for full-season digital connectivity for modern farming practices currently impacted by the 3G switch-off.</li> </ul>

Industry	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highlights the need for the expansion of regional health services due to projected population growth and existing inadequate access to GPs and mental health services.</li> </ul>
<b>Master Builders Association SA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urges rezoning of portions of townships to Employment and Strategic Employment zones and removal of the Native Vegetation Overlay over the relevant land (such as Swan Reach).</li> <li>Urges Code Amendments and policy review driven to review Dwelling Excision Overlay and support for additional dwellings and tourist accommodation in Rural Zone to allow flexibility for setbacks and distance between dwellings.</li> </ul>
<b>Renmark Irrigation Trust</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retention of a critical mass of rural horticulture zoned land is essential to maintain the viability and prosperity of Renmark as an irrigation community.</li> <li>Concerns relating to the over-development or rezoning of productive Rural Horticultural Zoned land.</li> <li>Support for residential development in appropriately zoned land in adjacent townships (such as Jane Eliza development in the Renmark Paringa Council area). Such residential developments result in service efficiencies and decreases zone creep into horticulture and primary production zoned land.</li> <li>Supportive of regional plan aims to protect primary agricultural land.</li> <li>Urges consideration of further protections for primary production land, including through the investigation of policy options that protect horticultural land and create sustainable economies through industry support.</li> </ul>

#### 4.4.3 Non-government organisations

Non-government organisations	
<b>Council of the Ageing (COTA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocates for ageing in place and diverse housing supply to support diverse living choices (i.e. intergenerational, retirement villages, downsizing). Supports strategic infill development for older people.</li> <li>Encouraged the Plan's recognition of the need for increased housing supply and its stated intention to support diverse housing options that meet the needs of people at different stages of life.</li> <li>The Plan does not address the lack of housing supply and older people diversity housing (and being forced to leave due to insufficient housing supply).</li> <li>Identifies need for setting measurable targets for social and affordable housing, infrastructure and services (especially Renmark, Murray Bridge, Loxton, Berri).</li> <li>Supports acknowledgement of increased demand for healthcare services due to the demographic shift, but requests strategies are included that build and sustain a mobile and regionally based care workforce to meet the needs of smaller townships and more isolated communities.</li> </ul>

Non-government organisations	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlights the need for regional infrastructure planning to align with national aged care reforms, including the Support at Home program, to allow older people to receive coordinated care in their communities.</li> <li>• Call for stronger emphasis on supporting cooler, greener and more age-inclusive communities especially investment in accessible cooling infrastructure, such as shaded rest areas, community cooling centres, and early warning systems tailored to the needs of older residents.</li> <li>• Urges investment in accessible, diverse and flexible transport solutions, including public, community, private and active transport, and infrastructure to support a growing ageing population and mobile care workforce.</li> <li>• Calls for improved digital inclusion in regional areas through infrastructure investment and structured programs to support older people with skills, confidence and affordable access.</li> </ul>

#### 4.4.4 Councils

Seven submissions were received from Councils in (or in proximity to) the Murray Mallee region.

Councils	
<b>Berri Barmera Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council notes limitations to infrastructure provision and absence of coordinated funding as constraints to Berri Barmera despite ability to support new housing and development, with significant land availability and clear signs of community and market interest.</li> <li>• Considers regional planning boundaries represented in the Plan do not accurately reflect the distinct growth profiles and strategic planning needs across the Murraylands and Riverland.</li> <li>• Raises concern that the inclusion of the Rural City of Murray Bridge in both the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan and the Murray Mallee Regional Plan skews growth data and distorts the distribution of regional priorities, overshadowing the development potential of other towns and councils within the Murray Mallee region. This may lead to underinvestment in infrastructure, housing, and services where they are most needed.</li> <li>• Urges the department to review the assumptions and methodologies used in the Plan and ensure regional growth is supported by realistic, place-based forecasting and a consistent policy framework that does not disadvantage rural areas.</li> <li>• Ensure that State-level infrastructure planning and funding responds to on-the-ground demand and does not overlook regional cities like Berri and Barmera as critical growth nodes.</li> <li>• Highlights research showing sustained interest from Millennials and young families in relocating to regional areas, driven by lifestyle, affordability, and employment. Notes this trend reflects a broader population shift enabled by remote work, digital infrastructure, and government policy.</li> </ul>

Councils	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specifically, council suggests reassessment of population and dwelling forecasts in light of recent development activity and strategic planning undertaken by council, and revise population projections to reflect emerging regional migration patterns observed since the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• Lack of suitable housing options limits the ability of health services and childcare services to expand or recruit additional staff. The hospital continues to report difficulties in attracting and retaining skilled healthcare professionals due to the shortage of affordable and available housing.</li> <li>• Urgent support is required through Renewal SA and the Office for Regional Housing and/or other State Government investment to deliver purpose-built worker accommodation in Berri for government and essential service workers.</li> <li>• Council calls for acknowledgement of the defining environmental and economic assets of the Murray Mallee, particularly the significance of the River Murray and the region’s extensive horticultural and agricultural production.</li> <li>• Council strongly encourages the Plan to address the ongoing tension between the need to preserve productive horticultural land and the increasing pressure from landowners seeking to subdivide for rural living.</li> <li>• Consideration of land capability, soil quality, water access, and vegetation coverage and policy guidance could support an assessment of productive land and transitions to support alternative investment or growth options and help provide more certainty to all stakeholders.</li> <li>• Unlike other councils in the region, future Code Amendments relevant to Berri Barmera Council do not appear to have been identified. This omission may limit Council’s ability to pursue a streamlined approach to rezoning and development facilitation.</li> <li>• Stronger policy provisions and clear requirements around green infrastructure delivery will provide the consistency and certainty needed to support councils and developers in achieving meaningful environmental outcomes.</li> <li>• Council strongly recommend that the final Plan explicitly recognise Aboriginal land rights, cultural landscapes, and the importance of Traditional Owner partnerships in all aspects of land use planning, infrastructure development, and natural resource management. Meaningful engagement with River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation (RMMAC) must be undertaken as a priority.</li> <li>• While council supports the modernisation of the Draft Plan’s presentation, there are significant concerns regarding both the accessibility of growth-related data and the functionality of the web-based mapping interface.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Coorong District Council</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong support for continued investment in digital based strategic land use planning through instruments such as regional plans and housing supply and demand data.</li> <li>• Encourage use of the digital regional plans as vehicle to educate communities and school students more broadly about integrated planning.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Councils</b></p>	
	<p>This could be done in partnership with Councils. The digital and interactive format has the power to be more engaging than previous regional plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Draft Plan largely reflects the content of the Coorong Growth Strategy and Council’s current key objectives.</li> <li>• Emphasise the importance of spatial and economic relationship between Monarto, Murray Bridge and Taillem Bend and promotion of a collaborative strategic land use planning process involving State and Local Government stakeholders for this part of the region.</li> <li>• Stresses the importance of a comprehensive land use vision for the future duplication of Swanport Bridge and the Gifford Hill development to ensure integrated planning for housing and efficient transport</li> <li>• Requests a review of the annual target of 4 for Taillem Bend, suggesting a more realistic figure that reflects its proximity to the growing centres of Mt Barker and Murray Bridge.</li> <li>• Council stresses the need for a thorough examination of demand and supply for serviced Strategic Employment lands in the Taillem Bend area. The town is strategically well-placed to benefit the State and National economy taking advantage of proximity to National Highway and Railway, gas, water, renewable energy, Adelaide and Murray Bridge and affordable, developable land. Council seeks state government assistance to undertake this strategic employment lands review.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan (CTLAP)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CTLAP is a partnership between the Coorong and Tatiara District Councils focused on promoting sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation in the Upper South East region of South Australia.</li> <li>• The Plan is urban focussed despite the majority of area covered is rural.</li> <li>• The Plan places a greater emphasis on visitor experiences, tourist accommodation, farm stays and other tourist ventures in the primary industries section. Although these themes should remain, current forms of primary production should be given a greater emphasis.</li> <li>• Threat of natural hazards including coastal flooding, erosion, and bushfires is expected-to increase. Drought, sea level rise, dryland salinity, acid soils and loss of biodiversity could also be included in this discussion.</li> <li>• Suggests that coastal environments should also refer to riverine environments, and the Coorong and Lower Lakes. Blue carbon relates to carbon stored in coastal and marine ecosystems like mangroves, seagrass, and salt marsh. In the Murray Mallee region, it may be considered more relevant to discuss Teal carbon ecosystems in this Plan area (fresh water non tidal).</li> <li>• Natural hazards captured include drought, storms, flooding &amp; bushfires but could be expanded to include plagues (mice, locusts and rabbits). The Plan would benefit from more discussion on fire and impacts including loss of biodiversity (flora and fauna).</li> </ul>

<p><b>Councils</b></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed highway upgrades, such as changing the Dukes Highway to a dual carriage way, would have major impacts to the towns that would be bypassed, dramatically impacting small business.</li> <li>• Integrated Water Management topics should be expanded to include Water Allocation Plans to protect groundwater (allowing for sustainable water use and productivity), rainwater capture in dams, lined catchments, tanks and desalination of brackish or saline groundwater.</li> <li>• Highlight childcare and health care provisions as critical infrastructure to maintain and grow population in the Murray Mallee region.</li> </ul>
<p><b>District Council of Loxton Waikerie</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council supports the principle of planned growth, particularly for Loxton and Waikerie as key townships.</li> <li>• Requests better recognition of local growth strategies and future residential land supply.</li> <li>• Expanded township boundaries to accommodate future population and economic growth.</li> <li>• Suggest flexibility in zoning to respond to emerging opportunities and constraints.</li> <li>• Emphasises that infrastructure development must align with the region’s growth ambitions, noting that without improvements, planned growth may be constrained. Highlights the need for upgrades to water, wastewater, energy, and digital infrastructure.</li> <li>• Advocate for State and Federal investment to support regional infrastructure demands.</li> <li>• Protecting the region’s productive agricultural land while managing environmental assets is critical. This could be achieved through mapping of high-value agricultural areas to guide land use decisions, achieving better balance between environmental protection and food production, and a more nuanced approach to managing land in the Environment and Food Production Areas (EFPA).</li> <li>• Council calls for proactive responses to regional risks and opportunities through clearer climate adaptation planning for dryland and irrigated farming.</li> <li>• Proactive responses also include recognition of renewable energy zones and innovation hubs, like those linked to agriculture and bioenergy, and integration of risk mapping (e.g., fire and flood) more clearly into land use planning frameworks.</li> <li>• Loxton Waikerie requests closer collaboration with state agencies on implementing the Plan. This includes provision of more flexibility and input in defining local policy areas, development priorities and stronger recognition of the role of councils in regional planning.</li> <li>• A one-size-fits-all approach is not effective for unique regional contexts.</li> </ul>

Councils	
<p><b>Mid Murray Council</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council is currently preparing its own Growth Management and Housing Strategy (the Strategy) to provide well-located housing and potential employment land might be located over the next 20 years. This includes to ensure that council assets and infrastructure can support planned growth, expediate housing construction, achieve greater housing choice and diversity.</li> <li>• Council has received multiple requests for inclusion of details relating to the significance of the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve.</li> <li>• Suggest specific inclusion of Mid Murray Council renewable projects such as the Mannum Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage Systems facility (BESS), as well as additional projects currently in the planning and development phases (i.e. Palmer Wind Farm, Summerfield BESS).</li> <li>• Suggestion to spatially identify (spatial layer) areas favourable to solar and wind farms strategically aligned with existing and future distribution lines ('go zones', consistent with a Release Area gazetted pursuant to the <i>Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023</i>).</li> <li>• Essential to acknowledge the increasing pressure on the region's water resources. The current reliance on the River Murray and, to a growing extent the Marne River, is not sustainable in the long term. Water scarcity is becoming more acute due to climate variability, competing demands, and ecological stress.</li> <li>• Suggest greater emphasis should be placed on where the Murray Darling Basin Plan currently stands, particularly in relation to environmental flows and water buy backs.</li> <li>• Supports emphasis on long-term protection of productive land.</li> <li>• Support a focus on renewable energy, biodiversity, and particularly nature-based tourism on land that is non-productive agricultural, which are vital to supporting a diverse regional economy.</li> <li>• Local planning should reinforce the prioritisation of high-value agricultural areas, especially irrigated land along the River Murray, and avoid rezoning that may compromise this. Particular attention should be given to designated areas of primary production significance (agricultural and horticultural).</li> <li>• The point above should align with data provided by PIRSA to support evidence-based decision-making. Planning that preserves parcel sizes and discourages incompatible rural-lifestyle subdivision in key growing areas is critical for maintaining long-term agricultural viability and economic resilience.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Renmark Paringa Council</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council is generally supportive of the priorities, outcomes and long-term strategic objectives of the Plan.</li> <li>• Seeks a greater alignment between the Plan and the Council Growth Strategy, and more specifically anticipate a higher proportion of growth in the Plan to be accommodated within the Renmark Paringa Council area.</li> <li>• Council notes that there is adequately zoned land to meet demand with no immediate need to bring further land to market.</li> </ul>

Councils	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council supports the intention in the Plan to apply the Affordable Housing Overlay to specific areas (such as Jane Eliza, Rural Neighbourhood Zone west Renmark and Paringa).</li> <li>• Council has not identified any immediate need for additional growth areas to be included for the Paringa Township.</li> <li>• Council is supportive of the expansion of the existing employment hub adjacent the airport (Strategic Employment Zone). Council's Growth Strategy to be updated to align with the Plan.</li> <li>• The existing and future employment area at Old Calperum is of high value and importance to support the growth aspirations of the council area.</li> <li>• Council supports opportunity to expand existing community facilities in Renmark through formal Community Facilities Zone with view to deliver future (local) social infrastructure.</li> <li>• The Plan identifies this land for future expansion of the Community Facilities Zone. Council is supportive of formalising this area (outlined in attached document) as a community hub with a view to delivering future (local) social infrastructure.</li> <li>• Supports actions to prepare productive land value mapping and investigate policy options for greater protection of environment and food production areas and welcomes the opportunity to provide input to this project.</li> <li>• Supports the High Productivity Vehicle Network and the opportunities it creates for the region and Renmark Paringa. Specifically, council would like to highlight the key role that this network plays in supporting the main economic driver of the community, Primary Production.</li> <li>• As a priority, council supports the duplication and delivery of the Truro Freight Bypass and duplication of the Sturt Highway to the SA / VIC border into the future.</li> <li>• Council identifies the need for upgraded water services by SA Water to accommodate for existing and future growth whilst providing adequate and consistent pressure for firefighting services.</li> <li>• Current limitations in the provision of consistent water, power and telecommunications, constrains economic growth. Suggests additional action be included in the delivery and implementation of the Plan that service providers (SA Water, SAPN and telecommunications providers) investigate improved water supply, power supply and telecommunications availability throughout the council area.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rural City of Murray Bridge</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is important that the key role played by the Rural City of Murray Bridge is recognised across both the Murray Mallee Regional Plan and the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan documents. This is currently not emphasised.</li> <li>• Request for consideration of Murray Bridge being considered a satellite city across both documents (currently only in the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan).</li> </ul>

Councils	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council considers that the priorities and outcomes identified within the Plan broadly align with council's aspirations for the future of the Murray Bridge region.</li> <li>• "Coordinated delivery of land use and infrastructure planning" is of particular interest to the council as it finalises its Residential Growth Areas Code Amendment, contributes to the pilot of a Basic Infrastructure Scheme and seeks to implement the growth opportunities identified both within the Murray Bridge Structure Plan and the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan.</li> <li>• Recognises importance of infill development, though urges PLUS to consider opportunity for growth beyond current township boundaries - including anomaly in Mypolonga where land owned by DEW is zoned Township, however, is not likely to be developed.</li> <li>• Introduction of Affordable Housing Overlay across Murray Bridge needs to consider constraints that impact ability to deliver affordable housing in line with the current policy guidelines, for example no access to Community Wastewater Management Systems or sewers leading to onsite waste control requirements and larger minimum allotment sizes.</li> <li>• Council suggests investigations into its Outer Townships (Murray Bridge surrounds and Monarto) project to identify opportunity for economic growth options over the next 30 years that these also be incorporated into the Plan.</li> <li>• Council supports the review of the Planning and Design Code policies that relate to tourism development to ensure that they stay relevant and meet market demands while still protecting agricultural productivity, the environment and scenic amenity.</li> <li>• Council supports the need for strong biosecurity policies and would welcome ongoing consultation to understand the implementation mechanisms.</li> <li>• Council supports the inclusion of 'reference layers' such as climate change impact and average rainfall prediction under the theme of Natural Resources, Environment and Landscapes to assist in highlighting these issues and protecting from erosion and land degradation.</li> <li>• Council considers that interface management plays a significant role within the inevitable land use conflict within peri-urban areas. Council anticipates that interface management policies will also apply to the River Murray Dark Sky Reserve within the Mid Murray Council.</li> <li>• Council reinforces need for improved public transport throughout the region and review the <i>Passenger Transport Act 1994</i> and opportunity to encourage more point-to-point operators within the region.</li> <li>• Council supports the Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass given the significant role that food production industries play within the Murray Bridge economy and community.</li> <li>• The proposed location of the freight bypass is near land identified within the Employment Lands Code Amendment and council is keen to ensure any potential benefits are recognised.</li> </ul>

Councils	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council highlights the lack of existing water infrastructure which has led to the introduction of fixed charges and suggests the government will consider further legislative change around water pricing if necessary.</li> </ul>

#### 4.4.5 State and commonwealth agencies / bodies

State government	
<b>Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (AGD)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlights inadequate acknowledgement of South Australian Traditional Owners through the not naming of cultural groups of the regions or mention of association with the Lands.</li> <li>• Requests development of region-wide guidelines on Aboriginal engagement where code amendments are sought.</li> <li>• Highlights importance of early engagement with Aboriginal people prior to rezonings within growth areas.</li> <li>• The Committee supports the development of guidelines should they become law that support the integration of Aboriginal knowledge into structure planning and rezoning proposals, provided that there is respect and awareness that Aboriginal people may not be able to share all information.</li> <li>• Consider that Aboriginal heritage and native title are not the same thing, and that Aboriginal heritage interests may extend beyond any native title group (with regard to Prescribed Body Corporate engagement).</li> <li>• Concern over removal of long-term strategic objective to “Investigate ways to ensure that First Nations groups perspectives, values, cultural information and intellectual property is respected and protected in planning processes”.</li> <li>• The Committee appreciated the rendition of how the Traditional Owners of the Murray and Mallee region are connected to their culture and Country and would appreciate the same for all regional plans.</li> <li>• Concern over inclusion of reference obtaining “permission” to impact heritage (by the Minister).</li> <li>• Concern over localisation of engagement and exclusion of Aboriginal people who speak to Country.</li> <li>• Accessibility for some Aboriginal people to a digital platform is a concern.</li> <li>• A guideline on Aboriginal engagement is not included in the five draft regional plans open for comment. The Committee supports the development of a guideline to require and inform engagement with Traditional Owners where code amendments are sought.</li> <li>• General support for cultural mapping. Though members noted that cultural mapping has not yet commenced within their regions, and that many had no knowledge of these initiatives.</li> </ul>

State government	
<b>Department for Energy and Mining (DEM)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEM notes the long-term strategic objectives are consistent across each of the regional plans.</li> <li>• South Australia has a number of projects and developments in hydrogen and other low carbon liquid fuels, and renewable energy across the state, including across the Limestone Coast and Murray Mallee regions. However, references to these require updating in general across all of the documents. Consider inclusion of large-scale renewable energy projects that have received development approval in the Murray Mallee.</li> <li>• Natural gas has a role in supporting the transition to net zero and ensuring stable, secure supply of energy. In particular natural gas, renewable gas blends can support industrial energy use.</li> </ul>
<b>Department for Environment and Water (DEW)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support growth within existing areas and reuse of buildings to protect native vegetation.</li> <li>• Avoid 'development-ready' language that may be misleading regarding regulatory requirements, especially regarding vegetation clearance.</li> <li>• Suggest biodiversity mapping to identify protection and restoration areas, including Heritage Agreements.</li> <li>• Murray Mallee Regional Plan should explicitly reference the climate emergency, as the Limestone Coast Regional Plan does, given projected rainfall declines and temperature rises.</li> <li>• DEW planning systems include climate adaptation measures but need more urgent action to meet emission targets and ensure resilient development.</li> <li>• DEW stresses need for robust policies as it is not routinely consulted on climate-related development matters.</li> <li>• Highlight the need for inclusion of practical actions to reinforce strategic climate objectives. Suggests a current inadequacy of actions to address climate change impacts on vulnerable communities and promotion of carbon-efficient, climate-ready living.</li> <li>• DEW urges adding actions to assess and update the Planning and Design Code and Design Standards for climate resilience. Urge review of Code's climate resilience outcomes and introduction of clearer Deemed-to-Satisfy (DTS) criteria to allow applicability and measurable success metrics for all development types.</li> <li>• Suggest model DTS criteria on rating schemes like Green Star, NaTHERS, and NABERS; apply standards to developments and land divisions.</li> <li>• Recommend adopting the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan's tree protection, canopy targets, and urban heat investigations.</li> <li>• Aim to avoid locating growth/infrastructure in high-risk flood areas where mitigation is insufficient.</li> <li>• Avoid development in floodplains and review flood warning thresholds when significant development alters floodplain conditions.</li> <li>• DEW suggests linking housing supply objectives more strongly with climate risks and emissions reduction. This includes consideration of rising climate risks,</li> </ul>

State government	
	<p>including flood exposure and insurance challenges, currently absent from the regional plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestion that the definition of 'well-located and well-designed' housing should extend to being socially inclusive, environmentally sensitive, having low emissions, and being climate ready.</li> <li>• Call for the protection of landscape, employment lands, and key resources in line with climate goals.</li> <li>• Planning decisions in hazard-prone areas should use climate projections extending to 2100 or beyond.</li> <li>• DEW recommends inclusion of a mapping layer for registered carbon farming projects in the regional plans, consistent with other spatial layers such as renewable energy suitability and resource extraction protection.</li> </ul>
<b>Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The department considers that structure planning for the future growth of the key townships should be undertaken prior to any rezoning of land for residential purposes being undertaken so that growth occurs in a logical and sustainable way that does not adversely impact on the transport network (Murray Bridge, Renmark, Loxton, Waikerie, Berri, Barmera, Mannum and Taillem Bend).</li> <li>• Highlights importance of ensuring any future residential areas are well located in terms of both current and potential future transport opportunities, particularly in relation to public and active transport.</li> <li>• DIT encourages a continued focus on master-planning of these areas and supports investigations into the development of a suitable Infrastructure Scheme within Murray Bridge to ensure provision for improvements to the transport network are appropriately designed, costed and funded.</li> <li>• DIT supports the intent to provide for future growth in Truro and would encourage further consideration of whether further opportunities for additional growth are likely to occur in the event of the Truro Bypass being constructed.</li> </ul>
<b>Department of Primary Industries and Regions, South Australia (PIRSA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PIRSA supports Productive Land Value mapping.</li> <li>• PIRSA supports the Plan for the Murray Mallee region, priorities including retention and protection of primary agricultural land, increased housing choice to meet the changing needs of communities, the protection and enhancement of the River Murray as a valuable resource and asset, and the coordinated delivery of infrastructure to support strategic residential and employment growth.</li> <li>• PIRSA supports the proposed long-term strategic objectives for primary industry, and the aim of the Plan to prevent the encroachment of development onto environmentally sensitive areas or high value agricultural land.</li> <li>• The draft Murray Mallee Planning Region Map does not appear to encompass all coastal waters of the state which the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i> applies to. This is critical for planning of all regions of the state (land-based and marine-based) and should be included.</li> </ul>

State government	
<p><b>Environment Protection Authority South Australia (EPA)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlights concern over interface management between industrial and residential land uses and seeks to ensure these will be appropriately addressed when delivering the new regional plans.</li> <li>• EPA notes the long-term strategies for Integrated water management, security and quality. As a general principle, the EPA has a strong preference for connection to communal wastewater systems instead of individual onsite disposal systems especially in higher density populated areas.</li> <li>• Suggests integrated water management in the region should focus on reducing reliance on surface water (rivers and streams) and groundwater, instead focusing on stormwater harvesting and re-use where possible.</li> <li>• EPA supports the Plan statements that planning is effective in relation to noise and air quality using appropriate zoning controls, ensuring effective separation distances between incompatible land uses.</li> <li>• The EPA also agrees with the statement that an appropriate supply of land for waste and resource recovery, as well as other related green industries, should be identified to maximise resource use, support economic growth, and serve communities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Green Industries South Australia (GISA)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggests alternative wording around investment in waste management and resource recovery (all regional plans).</li> <li>• Highlights that consigning residual waste to an Energy from Waste (EfW) process is not regarded as a circular pathway for waste materials in the same way that disposal to landfill is not circular (though preferential to landfill).</li> <li>• Supports the recognition provided in the regional plans of taking action to reduce climate change impacts and build resilience of natural systems to prevent disaster risks such as bushfires and flood.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggests that as a key agricultural region with significant input to the State's economy, the development pressures placed on the region through renewable energy developments should be represented clearly and effectively by the Plan.</li> <li>• Raises concern that the current Plan does not include measures to safeguard prime agricultural land.</li> <li>• Suggest that digital mapping does not adequately reflect planning for water availability in certain areas and there is opportunity for mapping of areas with water availability as a potential risk to future development or land use change.</li> <li>• Suggest that mapping should indicate critical water offtakes managed by SA Water from the River Murray, which require consideration of upstream land use and potential development impacts. Mapping should indicate drinking water offtake as a water security risk.</li> <li>• The Plan needs to consider that growth relies on an available water supply, and in the Murray Mallee region, the native water source is already fully allocated. This means that water for expansion needs to come from alternative sources such as the existing SA Water supply (locally), reuse of wastewater treatment works discharge water and transfer of water use entitlements.</li> </ul>

State government	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water sensitive urban design must be specified, implemented and operated effectively to deliver beneficial outcomes, to avoid consequences for receiving aquatic ecosystems.</li> <li>• The Plan should recognise that water available for all uses from our native water supply is going to continue to decline. Change in the rainfall-runoff relationship means that for any long-term reduction in rainfall, there is an exponentially larger reduction in water availability.</li> <li>• The expansion of townships such as Murray Bridge, into the Environment Food and Production Area (EFPA), can erode productive land values through greater incursion of pests, and create pathways for biosecurity risks.</li> <li>• The Landscape Board notes that Dryland agriculture will need to be more adaptive as aridification becomes an increasing threat to South Australia’s northern landscapes and anticipates that landscapes around Waikerie and the northern Mallee, for example, are likely to become more corporately run ventures, employing less people and supporting less local industry (and therefore reducing growth).</li> <li>• Suggests the planning system explore the setup of horticultural blocks in the Riverland and engage with irrigation trusts to support changes that enable larger, more viable block sizes.</li> <li>• Support updates to soil productivity mapping. This will be useful for mapping where soil productivity is at, as opposed to the historical mapping.</li> <li>• Potential to add more detailed mapping of threatened species within the portal. The Landscape Board notes that the new Biodiversity Act may change how biodiversity mapping is used.</li> <li>• Note that agricultural land use change activities have a cumulative impact on the viability and resilience of many remnant landscapes and vegetation. Cumulative losses of native vegetation is not a metric that is currently available to the public, but the Biodiversity Act and subsequent legislation aims to change this. This could be added to the Plan to monitor development impacts across landscapes.</li> <li>• Given that the regional planning system has been designed to be flexible and updatable, it is expected that the new information can be added to the digital data and that there will be work undertaken by PLUS and DEW to develop policy to support it.</li> <li>• Ideally the Riverland Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) should be developed to its full capacity before other applications are considered outside of this zone. Without direction from the Plan, it is becoming increasingly difficult to preserve the remaining native vegetation and accommodate solar development where the land has capacity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Native Vegetation Council (NVC) / Department for Environment and Water (DEW)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NVC provided joint submission for the Murray Mallee Regional Plan and the Limestone Coast Regional Plan. A key focus is the importance of preserving native vegetation for biodiversity, climate resilience, and environmental sustainability.</li> </ul>

State government	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for the Plan’s recognition of native vegetation, biodiversity outcomes, and focus on concentrating growth within existing townships to reduce vegetation impact.</li> <li>• Strong encouragement to include Heritage Agreements in environmental significance discussions and to integrate the plans with other relevant strategies like the <i>Landscape South Australia Act 2019</i> and future State Biodiversity Plan.</li> <li>• Recommendation to protect native vegetation regardless of perceived biodiversity value, emphasising its role in habitat provision, conservation, and potential offset sites.</li> <li>• Suggestion to improve accessibility by linking interactive biodiversity and vegetation mapping within the plans and partnering with the Department for Environment and Water to enhance mapping layers.</li> <li>• Suggest clarification of regulatory requirements for development approvals, especially relating to native vegetation clearance, to manage proponent expectations.</li> <li>• Advocacy for strengthening tree protection legislation and conducting further research on plant species suited to future climate conditions.</li> <li>• Highlighting the benefit of native vegetation in controlling land degradation, supporting ecosystem services, and contributing significantly to the state’s economy and biodiversity.</li> </ul>
<b>Office for Design and Architecture SA (ODASA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for the Regional Planning Portal - clear and intuitive use.</li> <li>• Supports the commitment to partner with the local Aboriginal Peoples across the region to inform planning strategies, desired outcomes and actions. Suggests further identification of different language groups and areas, in-line with existing mapping undertaken by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.</li> <li>• Suggests an emphasis on high-quality design outcomes for buildings, places and communities (as per Principles of Good Design in the State Planning Policies) for the regional plan design quality.</li> <li>• Highlights an elevated importance of urban design in promotion of physical, mental and social wellbeing; support sustainable development; build resilient communities; and protect and enhance the natural environment.</li> <li>• The Plan should ensure the integration of employment lands and transport networks with regional towns and communities to support well-connected, sustainable and liveable regional communities.</li> <li>• Encourages collaboration with Department of State Development and regional stakeholders for region-specific economic opportunities.</li> <li>• ODASA encourages incorporating long-term strategic objectives for urban greening and cooling, including tree canopy targets for regional towns to help reduce the impacts of climate change and improve liveability, including mapping and tree planting requirements for new dwellings.</li> </ul>

State government	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the development of design standards for public realm based on principles that prioritise public safety, active travel, public transport, green infrastructure and blue infrastructure.</li> <li>• Suggests refining GIS layer for trains and freight train transport network.</li> <li>• ODASA suggests an expansion of scope of the Transport and Infrastructure theme within the Plan to include increased connectivity to regional cities and towns.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Premier's Climate Change Council / Department for Environment and Water (DEW)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls for inclusion of specific actions to deliver on these climate change objectives and have provided recommendations to address the issues.</li> <li>• Recent work to update overlays and policies for flood and bushfire hazard are acknowledged, however, measures are not sufficient with stronger action required for the extent of climate change and level of risk.</li> <li>• Suggest investment in new and integrated climate hazard risk assessment and mapping, integrating data and information on flood, bushfire and heat as a minimum, to identify priority 'at risk' areas.</li> <li>• Call to identify where changes to the Planning and Design Code are required to progress the climate change long term strategic objectives, and to support subsequent Code amendment processes and other implementation arrangements.</li> <li>• Suggest co-commission with the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) to develop a biodiversity overlay that also takes into consideration critical conservation areas, ecological services and opportunities for carbon sequestration (storage).</li> <li>• 'Living Locally' for regional centres could encompass a new strategic objective under Landscape and Township Character to: 'Create neighbourhoods in regional centres that are close to jobs and services, with a variety of transport options and high quality public open spaces'.</li> <li>• Provide clearer guidance, including targets where practical, for greening and tree canopy cover in the Plan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SA Water</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SA Water encourages establishing a single point of responsibility for generating demand projections for all utilities and service providers. This centralisation ensures information and insights are shared openly and in a timely manner, promoting coordinated and efficient planning across different sectors.</li> <li>• Support the development of contemporary benchmarks and trigger points for infrastructure investment to inform planning and investment decisions.</li> <li>• Suggest that new land releases should be encouraged where water and wastewater network infrastructure is located and capacity is available to avoid significant augmentation costs.</li> <li>• The regions are at times subject to increased demand over peak tourism periods and SA Water sees the need to encourage sustainable, water efficient developments and housing to ensure capacity exists to support temporary demand uplift.</li> </ul>

State government	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SA Water seeks to encourage Integrated Water Management across the state. Supports holistic consideration of drinking water, wastewater, recycled water and stormwater services in a way that is integrated with urban development, and the broader land and resource management processes.</li> <li>• SA Water supports water sensitive urban design and suggests expanding the benefits to include drinking water quality, water conservation, and protection of waterways.</li> <li>• Consideration must be given to water demand requirements to support urban greening and any future government water policy development.</li> <li>• Environmental factors are important to decisions about future growth, balancing infill and greenfield developments. Long-term, robust planning across government sectors is necessary to maintain water security and highlight the importance of fit-for-purpose water to meet community needs.</li> <li>• SA Water recognises water services must adapt to the impacts of extreme weather events and long-term climate changes. Reiterate the Plan should consider the spatial distribution of development, available water sources, flood mapping, and existing infrastructure to avoid high-risk areas and manage costs effectively.</li> <li>• SA Water sees an opportunity for greater emphasis on investigations for wastewater solutions that meet appropriate service standards with treatment and capacity of wastewater to be equally considered when supplying water to growth areas.</li> <li>• A challenge exists when augmenting existing wastewater networks which can impact customer service levels.</li> <li>• SA Water suggests the Plan also considers key townships in the region that are reliant on groundwater, such as Pinnaroo, Lameroo, Geranium and Parilla. Of note, groundwater resources for the Murray Mallee region are shared with Western Victoria and governed through the Borders Agreement.</li> <li>• Important the Plan ensures that the region’s water supplies are resilient and able to meet the needs of the community into the long-term. This includes planning ahead to address network constraints and limiting reliance on a single water source, where possible.</li> </ul>
<p><b>South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SATC support the investigation and implementation of planning policies which seek to protect the Dark Sky Reserve for future generations. However, due to the importance of the reserve to the visitor economy, it is recommended that the action be updated to consider tourism developments that showcase reserve.</li> <li>• Suggest inclusion of action within the Plan that relates to the Tourism Development Code Amendment, such as: ‘Undertake a Code Amendment to facilitate appropriate tourism development within the Murray Mallee tourism region, whilst protecting valued landscape character’.</li> <li>• SATC request that the DHUD collaborate with First Nations representatives as part of the preparation of this Code Amendment to ensure that opportunities to facilitate tourism support the protection and potential of culturally significant areas.</li> </ul>

State government	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewed the Plan to ensure it aligns with key state government strategies relating to tourism. Has some recommendations to better align the Plan with these documents and support tourism.</li> <li>• Noting limitations of the impact assessment pathway to large-scale tourism enterprises, as there is ambiguity around whether a development is of economic, social or environmental importance, which does not provide certainty to investors or applicants.</li> <li>• The SATC would like to ensure that any actions relating to the Character Preservation Districts (CPDs), do not undermine the intent and opportunities created by the Tourism Development Code Amendment.</li> <li>• Housing for workers is critical for supporting the growth of the economy in all regions and has impacts on the visitor economy. SATC support the action to investigate amendments to the Planning and Design Code to facilitate worker's accommodation in regional areas.</li> <li>• Support for inclusion of Key Tourist Routes and suggests that these are expanded to include the links between Morgan and Mannum, as shown on the Mighty Murray Way Road trip.</li> </ul>

## 5 Evaluation of engagement

To ensure the principles of the Community Engagement Charter (the Charter) are met, an evaluation of the engagement process for the engagement is required.

### 5.1 Performance indicators for evaluation

The minimum mandatory performance indicators have been used to evaluate engagement. These measures help to gauge how successful the engagement has been in meeting the Charter's principles for good engagement.

#### *Evaluation of engagement by community members*

The following performance indicators required an evaluation of responses from members of the community on the engagement. This includes an evaluation of whether (or to what extent) community members felt:

1. That the engagement **genuinely sought** their input to help shape the draft plan.
2. They were given an adequate **opportunity to be heard**.
3. They were given **sufficient information** so that they could take an informed view.
4. **Informed** about why they were being asked for their view, and the way it would be considered.

This evaluation was undertaken through an online survey, sent to people who provided feedback about the engagement on the plan. There were 12 responses to the engagement evaluation survey.

#### *Evaluation of engagement by the designated entity*

A further evaluation of the engagement process is required to be undertaken by (or on behalf of) the designated entity. The minimum performance indicators require an evaluation by the designated entity of whether (or to what extent) the engagement:

1. **Occurred early enough** for feedback to genuinely influence the planning policy, strategy or scheme.
2. **Contributed to the substance** of the draft plan.
3. **Reached those identified** as communities or stakeholders of interest.
4. **Provided feedback to community** about outcomes of engagement.
5. Was **reviewed throughout** the process and **improvements put in place**, or recommended for future engagement.

The evaluation of the engagement was undertaken by the Department for Housing and Urban Development’s Engagement team, on behalf of the designated entity. The results of the evaluation are contained in Attachment 2 to this engagement report.

## 5.2 Evaluation against the Charter principles

The following is a summary of the evaluation of the engagement against the five principles of the Charter. The full results of the evaluation can be found in Attachment 2 to this engagement report.

### 5.2.1 Engagement is genuine

*People had faith and confidence in the engagement process*

Public consultation ran for 12 weeks, providing sufficient time for affected and interested stakeholders and community to learn of the opportunity to have their say, learn about the proposed changes and provide informed feedback.

Detailed stakeholder mapping during the engagement planning process identified a wide range of affected and interested stakeholders and engagement methods were tailored to ensure each audience was able to easily access information and provide feedback.

A wide variety of targeted methods were used to actively seek participation from stakeholders and communities. These ranged from directly notifying key stakeholders and affected and adjacent landowners/occupiers, to broad communication methods such as media, social media and website content that invited interested community to participate in the consultation.

Engagement participants were well informed and honest in their feedback, which was displayed through the considered feedback received on a wide range of topics. All feedback received was reviewed carefully and considered in finalising the regional plan.

The majority of survey respondents indicated they felt the engagement genuinely sought their input, they were informed about why they were asked for their view and had sufficient information and opportunities to provide informed feedback.

This indicates that the engagement was genuine and meets this Charter principle.

It is noted there were mixed responses to whether survey respondents felt confident that their input would be considered and help shape the plan. Evaluation of the engagement process is carried out prior to completing the engagement report and finalising the regional plan, which can make it difficult for engagement participants to be confident about their level of influence over the final outcome.

Evaluation statement	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree

I feel there was a genuine effort to seek input from the community	25%	41.67%	0%	8.33%	25%
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### 5.2.2 Engagement is inclusive and respectful

*Affected and interested people had the opportunity to participate and be heard*

Stakeholder mapping was used to identify the stakeholders affected by and interested in the draft regional plan, and the most appropriate channels for communication and engagement to meet their needs. All key stakeholders were directly contacted and invited to participate in the consultation, as per the engagement plan.

The consultation focussed on digital methods to ensure stakeholders and community across the region were able to easily access information and participate in the engagement at a time that suited them. However, in-person drop-in information sessions were also held at regional centres across the region to ensure affected community and stakeholders could engage in a way that meets their needs.

The YourSAy website was used as the primary community consultation website, focussing on easy-to-understand information, with more technical information available on YourSAy and the Regional Planning Portal for people wanting further details.

People were able to view information on the YourSAy website in more than 200 languages, making information available to South Australia's culturally and linguistically diverse communities. An Easy Read summary document and survey were also developed to provide greater opportunities for the broader community and particularly culturally and linguistically diverse communities to participate in the engagement.

Stakeholder and public information sessions were scheduled early in the engagement to ensure people could learn about the proposed changes, have time to consider the draft regional plan further and prepare their responses.

The 12-week consultation period provided sufficient time for people to learn of the opportunity and have their say.

Information sessions were held on different days of the week and different times of day to ensure interested people could attend.

Stakeholders and community could provide feedback on the draft regional plan in multiple ways, including online and written submissions via email and mail. All submissions were acknowledged and considered.

The majority of engagement evaluation survey respondents felt they were given sufficient opportunities to provide feedback. However, there were mixed responses regarding their confidence that their feedback was considered and helped shape the plan.

The large number of responses received from a wide range of stakeholders and community members; the range of channels used during the consultation based on stakeholder mapping and the majority of survey respondents feeling they were given sufficient opportunities to provide feedback demonstrates that affected and interested people had the opportunity to participate and be heard.

Evaluation statement	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
I was given sufficient opportunities to provide feedback during the consultation	41.67%	33.33%	8.33%	0%	16.67%

I feel confident that my input was considered during the engagement process and helped shape the plan	25%	16.67%	33.33%	0%	25%
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### 5.2.3 Engagement is fit for purpose

*People were effectively engaged and satisfied with the process*

*People were clear about the proposed change and how it would affect them*

The information available, including website content, social media posts, direct mail/email, e-newsletter articles, FAQs and fact sheets, clearly outlined the changes to the planning rules proposed by the draft regional plan. Information was also targeted to the audience.

Communication and engagement activities focussed on technology-based engagement to ensure all stakeholders and interested community could access information and participate in the engagement, and to deliver flexibility for community participation and value for money.

Stakeholders were directly provided with information and invited to attend information sessions to find out more and to participate in the engagement via online survey, online submission form, email or writing. They were also invited to contact PlanSA Service Desk directly for further information.

The evaluation survey demonstrated the majority of respondents felt genuine effort was made to seek input from the community, they were given sufficient opportunity and information to provide informed feedback and understood why they were asked for their feedback.

There were mixed responses regarding whether respondents felt their feedback would be considered during the engagement process and help shape the plan. As noted above, evaluation of the engagement process is carried out prior to completing the engagement report and finalising the regional plan, which can make it difficult for engagement participants to be confident about their level of influence over the final outcome.

This demonstrates the engagement was fit for purpose.

Evaluation statement	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
The information provided about the Murray Mallee Regional Plan allowed me to make an informed view	41.67%	25%	16.67%	0%	16.67%
I was given sufficient opportunities to provide feedback during the consultation	41.67%	33.33%	8.33%	0%	16.67%

### 5.2.4 Engagement is informed and transparent

*All relevant information was made available, and people could access it*

*People understood how their views were considered, the reasons for the outcomes and the final decision that was made*

A range of tactics were identified through detailed stakeholder mapping and delivered to ensure information was available at a level of detail and in a way that was tailored to the needs of all affected and interested stakeholders and community.

Plain-English communication materials were developed to provide information that was easy to understand for interested community, including YourSAy website content, fact sheets and frequently asked questions. An Easy Read summary and survey was also available to further enable broad engagement and meet the needs of all community members. This information clearly outlined what the proposed changes were and how community could influence the final draft regional plan.

Information was available online and in hard copies, in written form, in-person and through online presentations, to ensure all interested and affected people could access information and understand the draft regional plan and participate in the engagement. People could also directly call or email the PlanSA Service Desk if that was their preferred method of gaining information and providing feedback.

Detailed and technical information was also available for stakeholders and people with an in-depth interest in the draft regional plan, including via the online Regional Planning Portal.

Communication materials and the online survey guided community to understand what the draft regional plan aimed to achieve and how and what their feedback could influence.

All submissions were acknowledged, and all engagement participants received a 'what we heard' document providing a high-level summary of feedback received and the next steps, along with the engagement evaluation survey.

Participants were advised that their feedback would be summarised and published at the conclusion of the engagement period.

The majority of evaluation survey respondents felt informed about why they were asked for their view and felt sufficient information was available for them to take an informed view, indicating the engagement was informed and transparent.

*Note: closing the loop engagement activities are still to be actioned, following a final decision regarding the Murray Mallee Regional Plan, including publishing the engagement report and providing it to all engagement participants.*

<b>Evaluation statement</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Somewhat agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
The purpose of gathering my feedback and its intended use was clearly explained	41.67%	33.33%	16.67%	8.33%	0%

### 5.2.5 Engagement processes are reviewed and improved

*The engagement was reviewed and improvements recommended*

Engagement was reviewed throughout the consultation process, and it was found that the engagement activities did not need to be adapted from the process outlined in the engagement plan.

Additional opportunities to engage with school communities will be explored in response to feedback received in the engagement evaluation survey, to improve future regional engagement activities.

No engagement evaluation survey respondents heard about the consultation opportunity via print media or radio, indicating that media promotion of the consultation could have been improved. A new process for departmental media releases is being implemented to provide greater opportunities to promote consultations, particularly in regions.

### 5.3 Summary

The engagement process for the draft Plan was evaluated against the five principles of the Community Engagement Charter and found to meet each one, demonstrating a genuine, inclusive, informed, and fit-for-purpose approach.

A 12-week consultation period provided sufficient time for stakeholders and community members to learn about the proposed changes and contribute informed feedback. Stakeholder mapping guided tailored engagement methods, ensuring that affected and interested parties were identified and reached through appropriate channels, including digital platforms, direct communications, and in-person sessions.

Survey responses indicated that most participants felt the engagement genuinely sought their input, provided sufficient opportunities to be heard, and offered clear information to support informed views. While some respondents expressed uncertainty about the influence of their feedback on the final Plan, this was acknowledged as a common challenge when evaluation occurs prior to final decision-making.

Information was made available in multiple formats and languages, including Easy Read materials and multilingual website access, supporting accessibility for culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Participants were kept informed about how their feedback would be used, and all submissions were acknowledged.

The engagement process was reviewed throughout and found to be effective as planned. Opportunities for improvement were identified, including enhancing media promotion and exploring additional engagement with school communities in future consultations.

Overall, the engagement successfully reached a broad and diverse audience, gathered meaningful input, and aligned with the Charter principles. A detailed analysis of the evaluation results is provided in Attachment 2 of this report.

## 6 Summary of key themes and responses

The following themes have been derived from all methods of feedback.

The summary below highlights the key themes from the community feedback received. It is important to note that while it captures what are perceived as the most significant points, it does not encompass every individual response or piece of feedback, as is common with qualitative data. All submissions, including those not reflected here, will be thoroughly reviewed, and analysed by PLUS' technical team.

### 6.1 People, housing, and liveability

Over 38% of YourSAy respondents ranked *people, housing, and liveability* as the most important theme in relation to the Plan. Over 67% of all submissions (YourSAy and other formats) focussed on *people, housing and liveability* as a key theme and issue in submissions. Common issues raised relating to this theme included diverse and affordable housing, design quality, and repurposing and protecting heritage buildings.

### 6.1.1 Housing supply, diversity and affordability

- A significant number of respondents highlighted the need for specific targets for social and affordable housing, including a strong prioritisation for housing needs for aging populations, long-term rental tenants, seasonal workers, and key service workers.
- Respondents stated that housing shortages (to both buy and rent) are limiting health service workforce recruitment, agricultural services and in some cases tourism. There was a strong focus on housing affordability as a pressing issue, noting that high costs and limited availability restrict workforce attraction and retention, especially in health and community services sectors.
- A need for coordinated housing and infrastructure planning, including locating housing near public transport corridors, open spaces and jobs, was another key issues raised in submissions.

### 6.1.2 Community identity and heritage

- Respondents called for consistent recognition and integration of Aboriginal cultural heritage in planning processes and meaningful engagement with Traditional Owners, including detailed cultural and language group mapping, and the embedding of Aboriginal ecological knowledge and heritage protection into all land use, development policies, and future plans.
- Respondents wanted to ensure the character and heritage of towns (e.g., Renmark, Loxton, Murray Bridge) is protected.

### 6.1.3 Liveability and community well-being

- There was strong feedback in relation to concerns about overdevelopment, traffic growth, and infrastructure strain as the region grows. Respondents wanted to ensure that development enhances overall quality of life and social connectivity, not takes away from it.
- Respondents encouraged infill and well-planned growth within existing town boundaries alongside strong calls to minimise “zone creep” to protect productive agricultural land and retain town identity. There were concerns that new residential developments may encroach into productive lands and conservation areas.
- There was general support across the board for proposed expanded residential development in Murray Bridge.

### 6.1.4 Design quality

- Some respondents focussed on design quality of housing, ensuring that housing design standards for sustainability and thermal efficiency are delivered, incorporating green infrastructure to support occupant well-being and climate resilience.

#### Commission’s response

The Plan provides a long-term strategic framework to guide sustainable development and maintain the Region’s unique liveability over the next 30 years. The Plan acknowledges the community’s connection to the region and includes further enhancements and additional content to ensure it focuses on the key challenges unique to the Region.

#### Housing supply, diversity, and affordability

We heard strong support for increased housing options across the region, particularly for older people, people living with disability and essential workers, including the seasonal/temporary workforce. We acknowledge the increasing demand for housing diversity and different tenure options to allow older people to downsize within their communities, young people to stay near their families, and attract key workers and new families to the region.

The protection of existing townships and localities is also strongly supported. In response, the Plan includes revised long term strategic objectives, new spatial enhancements to provide better legibility of townships while improving spatial data.

The Housing Roadmap (2024) is supported by the Plan by outlining near-term actions that will deliver policy improvements to promote the outcomes sought. It also seeks to work across government to address barriers such as construction labour shortages, small development scales, and rising material costs.

To ensure long-term responsiveness, the Plan supports a high-growth planning scenario, which allows infrastructure and land supply to keep pace with emerging housing needs. The Land Supply Dashboard when expanded to regional areas will provide real-time monitoring of available land to guide future zoning amendments.

### **Community identity and heritage**

The Murray Mallee region comprises many towns and communities, each with its own distinct identity and history. We understand the importance of ensuring the identity and 'feel' of each community is appreciated and protected while allowing for growth at the right pace and in the right places. Aboriginal culture plays an incredibly important role in the history to the region, given the significance of the lands and waters of the River Murray to the Traditional Owners. The Plan has been revised to more clearly acknowledge the importance of maintaining a continued connection to Country and how this can be supported by the planning system.

### **Liveability and community well-being**

The region is projected to grow by approximately 28,000 permanent residents over 30 years - around 930 people per year – which equates to the need for approximately 13,900 additional dweA majority of councils within the region has prepared recent growth strategies, which have been used to identify areas where future growth could occur in an orderly and economic manner.

We have heard there is a preference for urban infill over the extension of town boundaries, and the better management of land use interfaces between residential, environmental and primary industry sites. In response, the Plan includes revised actions relating to strategic land use planning and interface management.

In addition, the Plan identifies infrastructure actions to be refined through partnerships with state agencies and utilities over the next 1–5 years. These will ensure new residential areas are appropriately serviced, reducing costs to homebuyers and communities over the life of housing assets. A staged infrastructure delivery approach also helps manage public investment effectively.

Importantly, the Plan is not static. It includes actions to review and amend zoning and strategic directions as new data and projects emerge, ensuring the Region can remain adaptive and resilient.

### **Design quality**

We have responded to feedback regarding design quality by including additional wording to emphasise the importance of dwelling design in a region that is subject to weather extremes and natural hazards; as to recognise the role that well located housing plays in building resilient, connected communities. The Plan now includes a revised long-term strategic objective to reinforce the need for housing to be well-located, well-designed and environmentally sensitive to meet the diverse needs of communities and respond to climate change.

## **Amendments to the Plan**

*Theme: People, housing and liveability*

Note: spatial amendments are in Section 6.6 of this report.

General edits made to theme include additional content, to remove spelling and grammatical errors and to improve readability.

Sub-theme	Heading	Change
	<i>Content</i>	Additional contextual commentary added that strengthens the people, housing and liveability theme, with a focus on delivering housing that meets the needs of the Region, promotion of more sustainable living options, compact township and settlement development and balanced development outcomes.
	<i>Regional Key Worker Scheme</i>	Added breakout box with details on Renewal SA Office for Regional Housing – Regional Key Worker Scheme.
	<i>Townships</i>	Added detailed descriptions for each Regional City, Major Service Centres and Supporting Service Centres in the region to enhance localised content.
<b>Housing supply and diversity</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined previous ‘Long-term strategic objectives’ in response to feedback including strengthening township greening and tree canopy outcomes.
	<i>The Housing Roadmap</i>	Added breakout box with details South Australia’s Housing Roadmap.
	<i>Local infill investigation areas</i>	Added a subheading addressing local infill investigation areas and the role of local councils in identifying areas within established townships where infill may be appropriate to increase housing diversity in well serviced locations. This substitutes the sub theme from the draft version of the plan.
	<i>Rural living</i>	Added a subheading providing context on the role of rural living development in regional areas. Added a breakout box outlining the State Planning Commission’s adopted principles for rural living.
	<i>Townships</i>	Added housing activity and residential land supply data for each Regional City, Major Service Centre and Supporting Service Centre in the region to enhance localised content which is region specific.
<b>Aboriginal cultural heritage and values</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined previous ‘Long-term strategic objectives’ and added an additional objective in response to feedback.
	<i>First Nations Voice to Parliament</i>	Added breakout box with details on South Australia’s First Nation’s Voice to Parliament in response to feedback.

	<i>Aboriginal sites and objects</i>	Added breakout box with details on Aboriginal sites and objects in response to feedback.
	<i>Action</i>	Action Added – “Develop Planning with Country guidelines that support the integration of Aboriginal knowledge in structure planning and rezoning proposals.”  Reason: Feedback suggested that this action, which applies to the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (published 17 March 2025) also has application to the other Country regional plans for future structure planning and Code Amendments.
<b>State and local heritage</b>	Content	Additional contextual commentary added that strengthens the sub-theme and highlights the historic significance of settlements across the region.
<b>Landscape and township character</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined previous ‘Long-term strategic objectives’ and added additional objective in response to feedback.
	<i>Content</i>	Additional contextual commentary added that strengthens the sub-theme, providing clarity on key issues including township greening.

## 6.2 Transport and infrastructure

*Transport and infrastructure* was ranked as the second most important issue by YourSAy respondents. Over 58% of all submissions (YourSAy and other formats) focussed on *people, housing and liveability* as a key theme and issue in submissions. The most common issues raised relating to this theme was the need to increase and improve network reliability.

### 6.2.1 Transport network reliability

- The main theme from respondents was calls for improvement in public transport accessibility and reliability, especially for older adults and non-drivers whilst also focussing on improvements to active travel infrastructure including cycle lanes and pedestrian pathways
- There was general support for strategic transport projects like the Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass, duplication of key highways but with calls for alternative routes that minimise community disruptions and impacts to key areas like the proposed route cutting through the *River Murray Internation Dark Sky Reserve*
- Some feedback focussed on the need to address congestion, heavy vehicle safety near schools, and maintenance deficits on key freight routes.

### 6.2.2 Digital connectivity

- Some respondents focussed on the lack of connectivity following Telstra’s 3G network shutdown causing issues for businesses, reflecting their desire to increase broadband and mobile coverage that is essential for farming, education, health, and economic sectors.
- The need to plan and prioritise digital infrastructure upgrades in rural and regional areas was highlighted in multiple submissions.

### 6.2.3 Integrated water management (IWM)

- Respondents wanted all development to support sustainable water supply, stormwater, and recycled water management practices, highlighting a need to recognise groundwater depletion and climate variability constraints and incorporate IWM strategies in regional planning documents.

### 6.2.4 Social infrastructure

- Respondents wanted to ensure there was enhanced coordination and funding for health services, aged care, childcare, and emergency services and that any development needs to include the expansion of community facilities to support growing populations and address infrastructure bottlenecks limiting liveability and growth.

#### Commission's response

The Plan prioritises reliable transport networks, digital connectivity, integrated water management, and strategically located social infrastructure to support sustainable growth and community wellbeing. It aligns with state policies by promoting coordinated infrastructure planning, climate resilience, and equitable access to essential services, particularly in areas facing challenges such as ageing infrastructure, limited transport options, and service shortages.

#### Transport network reliability

The Commission is acutely aware that reliable transport networks are fundamental to the economic vitality and social connectivity of the Murray Mallee region. Aging infrastructure, limited public and active transport options, and challenges at River Murray crossings highlight the need for targeted investment and planning. A coordinated approach to strategic and local transport planning – balancing movement and place – will be essential to future-proof the region's connectivity and economic competitiveness. The Plan includes a number of actions for the Department of Infrastructure and Transport, including the preparation of a transport network resilience strategy and framework to inform network planning and investment in the region.

#### Digital connectivity

We have heard of the difficulties caused by sporadic internet coverage and the wide-reaching effect this can have on communities. Connection to a reliable mobile phone service is needed to enable residents and businesses to access online services, participate in remote education and telehealth, and engage in e-commerce and digital agriculture. In a region that is vulnerable to natural hazards, digital connectivity enhances emergency response capabilities and community resilience by allowing timely communication and access to critical information. As the region transitions toward smart infrastructure and zero-emission technologies, digital networks will be essential for managing electric vehicle charging, freight logistics, and data-driven planning.

Additional content has been added to the Plan to address this issue, including two long-term strategic objectives that seek to support the expansion and upgrading of mobile and broadband networks across the region; and facilitate the development of digital infrastructure that supports emerging industries, smart agriculture, regional entrepreneurship, and innovation hubs.

#### Integrated water management

The Plan outlines a holistic approach to the delivery of water, wastewater, and stormwater services in the region to ensure long-term sustainability, resilience, and affordability. The region currently relies heavily on the River Murray and, increasingly, the Marne River for its water supply, which is not sustainable in the long term. To address this, the Plan promotes a diversified water strategy that includes surface water, groundwater, desalinated water, stormwater harvesting, recycled water, and purified recycled water.

The Plan also encourages the use of water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) principles to manage water quality and reduce environmental risks. These principles support urban greening, cooling, and stormwater reuse, which are especially important given the region’s hot, dry climate. The Plan also highlights the importance of adaptive planning, using modelling to project future water supply and demand under various scenarios to ensure infrastructure investments are timely and responsive to changing conditions. Coordination among SA Water, local councils, and state agencies will be essential to deliver integrated water services that support housing and employment growth.

**Social infrastructure**

The content of the Plan has been strengthened to highlight key challenges facing the region, including a shortage of general practitioners and mental health services, widespread ‘childcare deserts’ that limit workforce participation, and ageing infrastructure across schools and sporting facilities. The Plan emphasises the importance of strategically locating social infrastructure—such as schools, hospitals, aged care facilities, childcare centers, recreation spaces, and emergency services—where it is most needed, and planning for it ahead of demand.

The Plan closely reflects the goals of the South Australian Housing Roadmap by promoting housing diversity and affordability, especially for key workers, and encouraging co-location of housing with essential services.

**Amendments to the Plan**

*Theme: Transport and Infrastructure*

Note: Spatial amendments are in Section 6.6 of this Report.

General edits made to theme include additional content, to remove spelling and grammatical errors and to improve readability.

Sub-theme	Heading	Change
<b>Strategic transport networks</b>	<i>South Australia’s Transport Strategy</i>	Added breakout box with details on DIT’s South Australia’s Transport Strategy to enhance visibility within the sub-theme.
	<i>Public Transport Strategy</i>	Added breakout box with details on DIT’s Public Transport strategy to enhance visibility within the sub-theme.
	<i>Action</i>	Added Action – “Incorporate any planning and land use related outcomes from the Remote and Regional Aviation Strategy such as any Code Amendments.”  Reason: To align the with the DIT Transport Forward Works Plan 2024-27 which has application for the region.
<b>Water security and Integrated Water Management</b>	Sub-theme	Refined sub-theme name to improve clarity.

	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined previous 'Long-term strategic objectives' and added an additional objective promoting innovative approaches to facilitate water infrastructure delivery.
	<i>Murray Darling Basin Plan</i>	Added breakout box with details on the Murray Darling Basin Plan for the region,
	<i>Action</i>	Added Action – “Development of a water strategy for the Murray Mallee region which will address the demands of SA Water’s existing and potential future customers and consider all sources of water.”  Reason: In relation to feedback from SA Water which has application for the region.
<b>Social infrastructure</b>	<i>Content</i>	Additional content added to provide additional contextual commentary and emphasise the importance of ensuring population and housing growth is promoted in locations where there is access to services and where population will support the ongoing viability of social infrastructure.
	<i>National Agreement on social housing</i>	Added breakout box with details on the National Agreement on social housing to enhance visibility within the sub-theme.
	<i>Action</i>	Added Action – “Establish and maintain publicly available social infrastructure benchmarks to assist with planning for new growth areas.”  Reason: To align the with the Action in the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (published 17 March 2025) which has application for the region.
<b>Energy and telecommunications</b>	<i>Sub-theme</i>	Sub theme expanded to address telecommunication infrastructure in response to strong feedback on this important part of regional infrastructure.
	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Two new strategic objectives have been added to the sub-theme addressing digital connectivity.
	<i>South Australia’s renewable energy generation</i>	Added breakout box with details on South Australia’s renewable energy generation to enhance visibility within the sub-theme.
	<i>Transmission development priorities</i>	Added breakout box with details on Transmission development priorities to enhance visibility within the sub-theme.
	<i>Mobile black Spot Program</i>	Added breakout box which details the federal initiative that invests in telecommunications infrastructure to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia with reference recent priorities and investment across the region.

	<i>Intercity Fibre Network</i>	Added breakout box with details on the intercity fibre network infrastructure project designed to deliver high-speed, high-capacity internet across the regions.
<b>Infrastructure corridors and reserves</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined previous 'Long-term strategic objectives' and added additional one in response to feedback

### 6.3 Natural resources, environment and landscapes

*Natural resources, environment and landscapes* was ranked as the third most important issue by YourSAy respondents. Approximately 44% of all submissions (YourSAy and other formats) focussed on *natural resources, environment and landscapes* as a key theme and issue in submissions, this was the second lowest across all five themes. The most common issues raised relating to this theme was the need to protect biodiversity and the link between healthy natural environments with regional liveability, economic sustainability and community well-being.

#### 6.3.1 Native vegetation and biodiversity protection

- There was strong support from a range of respondents on the importance of protecting and increasing tree canopy for amenity, cooling, biodiversity and sustainability. The importance of protecting native vegetation and recognition of the role the vegetation plays in the local areas were also key themes provided by some respondents.
- A number of respondents wanted the Plan to incorporate threatened ecological community mapping in planning tools and policies and to support habitat restoration through green infrastructure and natural solutions.

#### 6.3.2 Climate change adaptation

- There is strong call to update climate risk projections extending beyond 2100 with a need for strategies relating to climate change resilience to underpin all planning frameworks noted in the Plan.

#### 6.3.3 Coastal and riverine preservation

- Feedback highlighted community concerns around stronger policies to protect coastal and riverine environments from inappropriate development, erosion and pollution and ensuring the Plan recognises "blue" and "teal" carbon ecosystems for nature-based coastal defenses and incorporate nature-based solutions for coastal defence.

#### 6.3.4 Natural hazards management

- Key organisations stated there should be updates made to floodplain, bushfire risk, and emergency planning maps and data.
- Some respondents want the Plan to address outdated levee systems and infrastructure gaps, with calls to incorporate hazard avoidance and risk reduction into land use policies.

#### 6.3.5 Emissions and pollution control

- There were some concerns regarding lack of policies to manage emissions related to agricultural practices, spray drift, and dust storms.

### 6.3.6 Environmental impact coordination

- Respondents raised the need for better assessment system to measure cumulative impacts of multiple simultaneous developments in the region, managed through a coordinated regional approach. This would support and strengthen regulatory frameworks that support sustainable growth.

#### Commission's response

In response to the feedback received, the Plan content has been significantly bolstered to highlight the need to manage and protect the region's natural resources, environment and landscapes, with a strong emphasis on climate resilience, biodiversity, and sustainable development.

#### Native vegetation and biodiversity protection

The Plan acknowledges the increasing risks posed by climate change, such as heatwaves, bushfires, droughts, and flooding, and promotes proactive planning to mitigate these impacts. It supports climate-ready development, low-emissions living environments, and the integration of green technologies and industries. The Plan prioritises the protection of native vegetation and biodiversity corridors, encouraging regenerative agriculture and offsetting impacts through habitat restoration.

#### Climate change adaptation

The Plan outlines a comprehensive strategy for climate change adaptation, emphasising resilience, sustainability, and proactive planning. It recognises the significant climate challenges facing the region, and the propensity for this to intensify the frequency and severity of extreme weather events such as heatwaves, bushfires, floods, and droughts.

To address these challenges, the Plan promotes climate-ready development and encourages low or net-zero greenhouse gas emissions across townships and settlements. It integrates climate adaptation strategies into early planning stages, supports green technologies and industries, and calls for the protection and enhancement of natural carbon storage areas. The Plan also highlights the importance of biodiversity protection, advocating for the preservation of native vegetation and ecological corridors to support climate resilience. Renewable energy development is encouraged, particularly in isolated locations, to reduce reliance on carbon-based energy. The Plan supports circular economy principles, including the adaptive reuse of buildings and sustainable construction practices, to minimise environmental impact and promote long-term sustainability.

#### Coastal and riverine preservation

The wording within the Plan has been strengthened to place strong emphasis on the preservation and enhancement of both coastal and riverine environments, recognising their ecological, cultural, and economic importance to the region.

Environmental protection is a central theme, with specific focus on safeguarding estuaries, wetlands, sand dunes, and marine-protected areas, recognising that these ecosystems contribute significantly to biodiversity and scenic amenity while helping mitigate natural hazards. The Plan highlights the importance of blue carbon—stored in coastal ecosystems like salt marshes and seagrasses—and teal carbon—stored in freshwater ecosystems such as wetlands and rivers—as critical tools for climate change mitigation.

Future development in these areas is encouraged to incorporate nature-based solutions, such as living shorelines, which use natural ecosystems to reduce erosion rather than relying solely on hard infrastructure like seawalls. The Plan also stresses the need to identify and manage areas at risk from sea level rise, coastal erosion, and storm surges, ensuring that new development includes appropriate adaptation strategies.

#### Natural hazards management

We know that South Australia's climate and geography expose communities and infrastructure to events such as bushfires, flooding, drought, erosion, acid sulphate soils, and sea level rise. These hazards are expected to intensify, making it essential for the land use planning system to evolve and safeguard people, property, and the environment.

To address these challenges, the Plan promotes a risk-based planning hierarchy—avoid, accommodate, and adapt. This means future growth and sensitive developments, such as hospitals and major transport infrastructure, should be avoided in high-risk areas where mitigation strategies cannot reduce risks to acceptable levels. Where development is necessary, it should be designed to accommodate and adapt to potential hazards.

Maintaining contemporary data and mapping is a key priority, particularly for bushfire and flood-prone areas. This data will inform strategic planning decisions and guide zoning to ensure development occurs in safer locations. The Plan also supports a consistent, state-wide approach to identifying and spatially representing natural hazards, which will help determine suitable locations for essential infrastructure and future growth. By integrating hazard overlays into the Planning and Design Code and aligning development with updated mapping and best practices, the Plan aims to reduce the economic, social, and environmental costs of natural disasters, build more resilient communities, and shorten recovery timeframes.

**Emissions and pollution control**

In response to feedback, we have included additional wording in the Plan to recognise other forms of emissions that can have an impact on the environment and agriculture, such as dust from dust storms, spray drift and smoke from bushfires and controlled burns.

**Environmental impact coordination**

The Plan introduces a smarter and more coordinated way to manage growth across the region. As more development take place, it's important to understand not just their individual impacts, but how they collectively affect our communities, environment, and infrastructure. The Plan responds to this need by bringing together councils, state agencies, and service providers to plan growth in a way that is fair, efficient, and sustainable.

To guide this process, the Plan supports the creation of structure plans to guide development in certain towns and areas. These plans will show where housing, employment activities, social infrastructure and services should go, helping ensure development happens in the right places and at the right time. The new digital planning portal will allow councils and the state government to monitor development activity and infrastructure needs in real time, enabling quicker responses to emerging issues and better long-term decisions.

**Amendments to the Plan**

*Theme: Natural resources, environment and landscapes*

Note: Spatial amendments are in Section 6.6 of this Report.

General edits made to theme include additional content, to remove spelling and grammatical errors and to improve readability.

Sub-theme	Heading	Change
	<i>Outcome 3</i>	Amended Outcome to more clearly guide the aspirations of the Theme

<b>Biodiversity</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined previous 'Long-term strategic objectives' and added additional two in response to feedback
	<i>Native vegetation legislation</i>	Added breakout box with details on Native vegetation legislation to enhance visibility within the sub-theme.
<b>Climate change</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined previous 'Long-term strategic objectives' in response to feedback
	<i>Action</i>	Added Action – “To aim for carbon neutrality, investigate policy approaches that enable the consideration of embodied carbon.”  Reason: In relation to feedback and to align the with the Action in the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (published 17 March 2025) which has application for the region.
<b>Coastal and riverine environment</b>	<i>Sub-theme</i>	Sub-theme expanded to address riverine environment.
	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined previous 'Long-term strategic objectives' to ensure alignment with both coastal and riverine environments.
	<i>Algal Bloom affecting coastal areas</i>	Added breakout box with details on the emerging disaster affecting coastal eco systems and communities.
	<i>Action</i>	Amend wording – “Update coastal processes and hazard mapping including coastal flooding and storm surge, dune drift and coastal mangrove and saltmarshes to inform spatial amendments to the Coastal Areas Overlay and Coastal Flooding Overlay, to incorporate additional Flooding Site and Floor Levels Technical and Numeric Variations”  to  “Initiate a Code amendment to amend the Coastal Areas Overlay, to update coastal flooding policy and associated finished ground and floor level Technical and Numeric Variations.”  Reason: To align the with the Action in the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (published 17 March 2025) which has application for the region.
<b>Natural hazards</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined previous 'Long-term strategic objectives' in response to feedback

	<i>Action</i>	Added Action – “Update the bushfire mapping in the Regional Plan to align with the finalisation and publication of the Statewide Bushfire Hazards Overlay Code Amendment.”  Reason: In relation to feedback and to align the with the Action in the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (published 17 March 2025) which has application for the region.
	<i>Action</i>	Added Action – “Finalise the State-Wide Flood Hazard Code Amendment, and update floodwater mapping in the Regional Plan to align with the finalisation and publication of the Code amendment.”  Reason: In relation to feedback and to align the with the Action in the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (published 17 March 2025) which has application for the region.
<b>Emissions and hazardous activities</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined previous ‘Long-term strategic objectives’ and added additional one in response to feedback

## 6.4 Productive economy

Approximately 57% of all of all submissions (YourSAy and other formats) focussed on *productive economy* as a key theme and issue in submissions. The most common issues raised relating to this theme were the need to protect primary industries, manage renewable energy development and ensure there is an ongoing focus on developing the tourism industry.

### 6.4.1 Agricultural land protection

- Respondents called for the protection of high-value irrigated horticulture and dryland farming zones from rezoning pressures wanting the prevention of infrastructure encroachment (e.g., renewable energy) on productive farmland
- There was a request by some respondents to establish mapping and protection frameworks for agricultural land sustainability.

### 6.4.2 Renewable energy development

- Many respondents highlighted the importance of the the Plan identifying and designating spatial “go zones” for solar, wind, battery storage projects – with a need to balance renewable development projects with the existing land uses and environmental considerations
- Suggestions to include existing key renewable energy projects to the Plan and Integrating energy and mining infrastructure corridors to promote economic diversification

### 6.4.3 Tourism growth

- A range of separate respondents saw an opportunity to capitalise on the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve for tourism and science careers.
- Recommendations to update tourism data and facilitate aligned tourism-related development were encouraged, as was the incorporation of further and deeper Aboriginal consultation through Tourism Development Code amendments.

#### 6.4.4 Mineral and energy resources

- Some respondents saw opportunities to ensure mining and exploration sectors are included in updated planning processes - identifying key mineral and energy projects for regional economic development.
- Others wanted to ensure the prevention of resource sterilisation from mineral and energy projects, while enabling coexistence with agriculture and conservation

#### 6.4.5 Aboriginal economic inclusion

- Some feedback highlighted a want for enhanced support for Aboriginal cultural tourism, arts, and broader economic participation - opportunities to foster partnerships to empower the Aboriginal community's economic development by addressing gaps in economic inclusion within regional planning.

#### Commission's response

The government is committed to developing a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy that is tailored for the future, ensuring everyone can enjoy a higher standard of living while attracting and retaining skilled workers. This forms the basis of the South Australian Economic Statement (Economic Statement).

#### Agricultural land protection

The Plan recognises that primary production is the cornerstone of the Region's economy, supporting not only jobs and exports, but also food security, landscape management and cultural identity. In response to community feedback, the Plan strengthens the strategic intent to protect productive agricultural land from incompatible development.

Land use conflict between farming and other uses is addressed through updated spatial tools and overlays, while planning principles promote interface management and rural zone integrity.

#### Renewable energy development

The Plan positions renewable energy as a key driver of economic diversification, particularly in areas where traditional industries face challenges. It encourages the co-location of renewable energy infrastructure with compatible land uses and supports innovation through hubs like Loxton ThinCLab. This integrated approach aims to foster a smarter, cleaner future for the Murray Mallee region while safeguarding its natural and economic assets.

In response to feedback, a new long-term strategic objective has been added, seeking to minimise the encroachment of energy supply infrastructure into productive agricultural land and areas of remnant native vegetation.

#### Tourism growth

The Plan responds positively to the opportunities and recommendations raised by respondents regarding the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve and broader tourism development.

The Plan recognises the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve as a unique and globally significant asset, highlighting its potential to support not only tourism but scientific research, education, and astro-tourism careers. The Plan outlines a future vision that includes infrastructure such as a planetarium or observatory, and emphasises the importance of protecting the Reserve from light pollution and urban encroachment to maintain its accreditation and ecological value. This protection is seen as essential for both tourism and biodiversity, particularly for nocturnal species.

In response to calls for updated tourism data and better alignment of tourism-related development, the Plan commits to facilitating sustainable tourism growth through improved infrastructure, regional collaboration, and planning system reforms. Importantly, the Plan also addresses the recommendation for

deeper Aboriginal consultation in tourism development. It calls for respectful engagement with Traditional Owners and the incorporation of Aboriginal cultural values into planning processes.

### **Mineral and energy resources**

The Plan recognises that mining and energy projects can bring jobs and investment to the region. It supports identifying and planning for these key projects to help grow the local economy while encouraging coexistence with agriculture and other compatible uses.

To protect both people and the environment, the Plan calls for separation between mining operations and homes, and for careful management of land use around energy infrastructure. It also supports post-mining land use planning, so that areas can be safely and productively used after mining ends.

### **Aboriginal economic inclusion**

The Plan responds to feedback by promoting cultural tourism, protecting Aboriginal heritage, and supporting partnerships with Traditional Owners. It encourages early engagement in planning, celebrates Aboriginal cultural experiences, and aligns with initiatives like the First Nations Voice and Housing Roadmap to improve economic participation, housing, and tourism opportunities for Aboriginal communities.

### **Productive land and economic diversification**

We heard there is strong support for the protection of high value productive lands and the diversification of primary production activities. In response, the Plan includes revised long term strategic objectives and actions to strengthen focus on primary production support, diversification of employment lands, workers accommodation and balanced development outcomes.

The Plan also recognises that not all land zoned for agriculture is high value productive land and can therefore be used for other purposes, such as tourism and other value-adding enterprises consistent with the intent of the zone.

## **Amendments to the Plan**

*Theme: Productive economy*

Note: Spatial amendments are in Section 6.6 of this Report.

General edits made to theme include additional content, to remove spelling and grammatical errors and to improve readability.

<b>Sub-theme</b>	<b>Heading</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Employment Lands</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined and consolidated strategic objectives to improve clarity and focus on key outcomes.
	<i>Content</i>	Additional contextual commentary added that strengthens the Productive Economy theme, with a focus on primary production support and diversification, workers accommodation, sustainable tourism and balanced development outcomes.
	<i>Broad industry categories</i>	Introduced broad industry category commentary supported by infographic in response to feedback.

<b>Activity centres and township main streets</b>	<i>Sub theme</i>	Added a 'Activity centres and township main streets' sub theme. To recognise and identify the specific role, function and infrastructure needs of new or existing activity and township centres and to optimise the distribution of retail and service businesses and supports liveability, convenience and choice across the region.
	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Added seven 'Long-term strategic objectives' for the sub theme to align with the Outcome for Productive Economy.
	<i>Township settlement hierarchy</i>	Added table outlining township settlement hierarchy principles.
<b>Tourism and events</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Amended 'Long-term strategic objectives' in response to feedback.
	<i>Content</i>	Additional content added to sub-theme addressing the significant contribution and opportunities for cultural, heritage and nature-based tourism across the region.
<b>Primary Industry</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined previous 'Long-term strategic objectives' and added additional objective addressing soil protection and promoting regenerative agricultural practices in response to feedback.
	<i>Action</i>	Deleted Action:  "Identify areas throughout the Limestone Coast that are high value food producing agricultural areas, including key natural landscapes, and tourism and environmental resources. Explore policy options to provide greater protection to these areas through the planning system."  This draft action duplicated outcomes being sought under related actions including, land capability mapping updates, scenic landscape investigations and buffer management investigations.
	<i>Action</i>	Added action:  "Review interface management policies in the Planning and Design Code to ensure the ongoing viability of primary industries at the edge of urban areas and undertake a Code amendment as necessary"  Reason: To reflect feedback regarding interface management between urban and primary production areas.
<b>Waste and resource recovery</b>	<i>Sub-theme</i>	Added a 'Waste and resource recovery' sub theme  Reason: To reflect feedback and to recognise the specific role waste resource and recovery has across the region and as it relates to land use planning.
	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Added seven 'Long-term strategic objectives' for the additional sub theme to support the Outcome for Productive Economy.

<b>Mineral and energy resources</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined previous ‘Long-term strategic objectives’ and added additional two in response to feedback.
	<i>Sand Mine Project</i>	Added breakout box with details on a significant sand mine project in the region.
	<i>Actions</i>	<p>Removed Action – “Identify and protect key resource sites across the State including investigating the application of the Resource Extraction Zone and Resource Extraction Protection Overlay and new policy that addresses urban interface issues”</p> <p>Reason: In accordance with feedback received from the Department for Energy and Mining during engagement.</p>

## 6.5 Delivery and implementation

*Delivery and implementation* was ranked as the least most important issue by YourSAy respondents and was also the issue that was mentioned the least (30%) in all submissions (YourSAy and other formats). The most common issue raised relating to this theme included a focus on cross-governmental collaboration

### 6.5.1 Governance and collaboration

- There were requests to clarify roles, responsibilities, and accountability between state agencies, councils, utilities, and communities, highlighting strong support for cross-government and inter-agency collaboration.

### 6.5.2 Monitoring and reporting

- Respondents were concerned with transparency, with some stating there should be comprehensive frameworks to track progress on housing supply, infrastructure delivery, environmental outcomes, and economy development
- Reporting should provide transparent and accessible reporting mechanisms for stakeholders.
- Respondents outlined that mapping portals require improvement, addressing usability issues and ensuring the data layers are up to date
- There was feedback that the Plan must be monitored and updated as per the five-year review cycle to stay consistent and up to date with the regional needs.

#### Commission’s response

The Plan is a strategic document that seeks to shape the future of the region by identifying land use and long-term infrastructure needs to support sustainable growth over the next 15 to 30 years. The Plan must be consistent with relevant State Planning Policies and include a long-term vision (over a 15-to-30-year period) for the region, maps and plans that relate to the long-term vision, contextual information about the region including forward projections and statistical data and analysis and include recommendations (actions) about the application and operation of the Planning and Design Code.

The Commission has worked closely with other state government agencies, utility providers and councils to ensure that projected future growth planning considers current and future capacity of both physical and social infrastructure. To ensure greater alignment between land use planning and infrastructure needs, the Plan includes actions for relevant state government agencies, utility providers and council’s which have a

1–5-year time frame, for greater accountability and transparency, for future investigations, Code Amendments and spatial mapping data enhancements.

Developed in collaboration with councils, industry, and the community, the Plan responds to key challenges such as housing supply, climate resilience, and infrastructure planning. Councils are at the forefront of their communities, and drive future zoning changes and growth planning by undertaking strategic planning for their local area, to plan for future projected housing and employment growth and identify requirements and timing for local infrastructure and services. This work will inform future updates to the Plan.

The Plan’s format is fully digital, dynamic, and interactive and enables more regular updates, ensuring it remains a living document that evolves as new pressures emerge. Enhancements have been made to improve user interface and legibility.

**Amendments to the Plan**

*Theme: Delivery and Implementation*

Note: Spatial amendments are in Section 6.6 of this report.

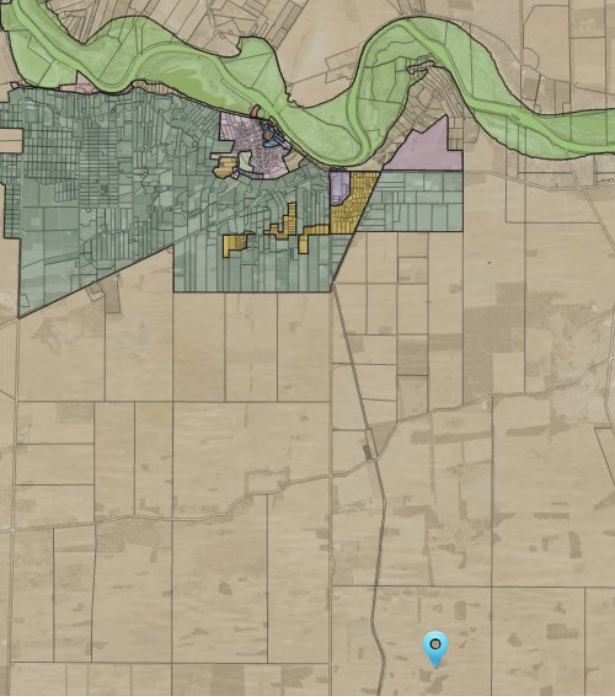

General edits made to theme include additional content, to remove spelling and grammatical errors and to improve readability.


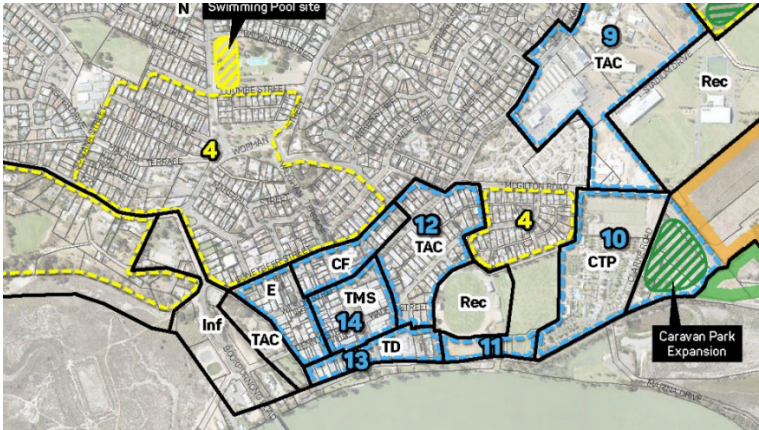
Sub-theme	Heading	Change
<b>Coordination and delivery</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined previous ‘Long-term strategic objectives’ and removed two objectives in response to feedback.
	<i>Actions</i>	Removed ‘Integrated structure plans and infrastructure schemes’ as this relates to the Greater Adelaide context.
	<i>Actions</i>	Removed ‘Develop regional infrastructure plans’ as this action is not identified as a priority in the next 0-5 years.
<b>Infrastructure charging</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Incorporated and refined previous ‘Strategies for the Region’ into six ‘Long-term strategic objectives’.
	<i>Investigate Alternative Infrastructure Approaches</i>	Added Action “Investigate the opportunity for low-density, off-grid housing utilising alternative energy, water, and waste systems to reduce reliance on public infrastructure and unlock housing development in regional and remote locations”.  Reason: To enable innovation and flexibility in infrastructure delivery

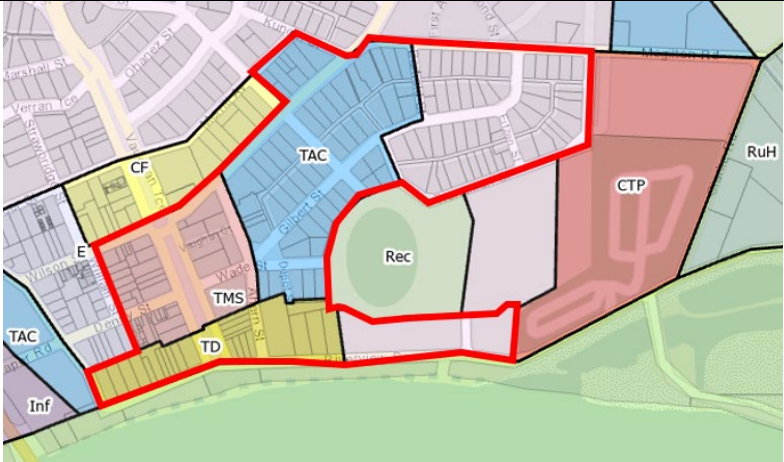
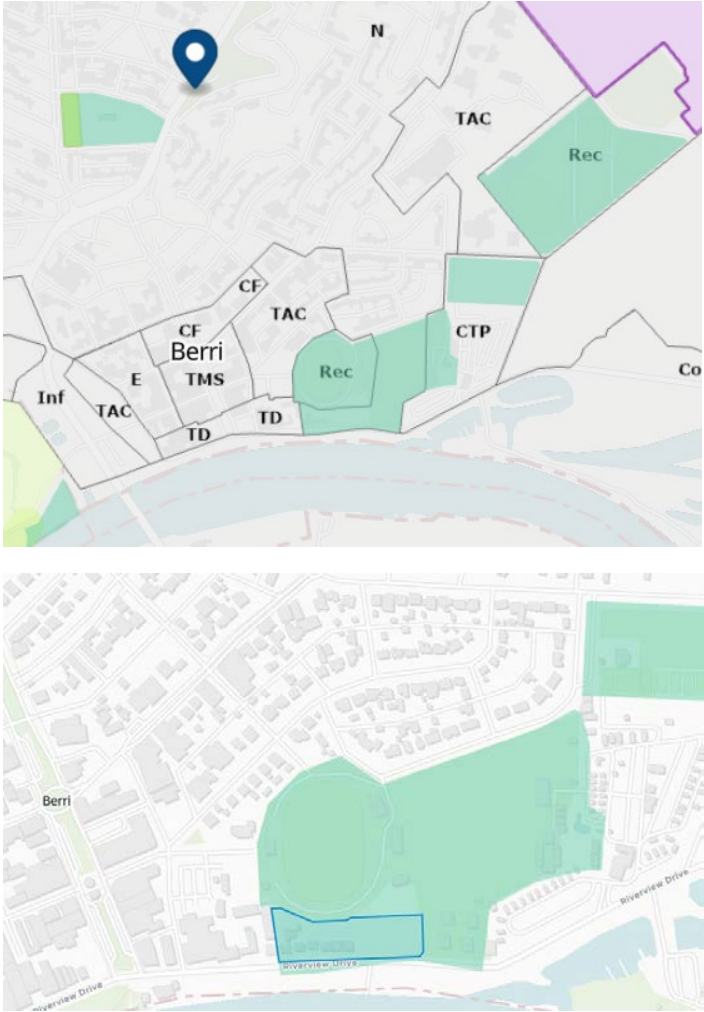
**6.6 Summary of recommended changes**



The following table provides a summary of changes proposed to the Murray Mallee Regional Plan following statutory engagement:

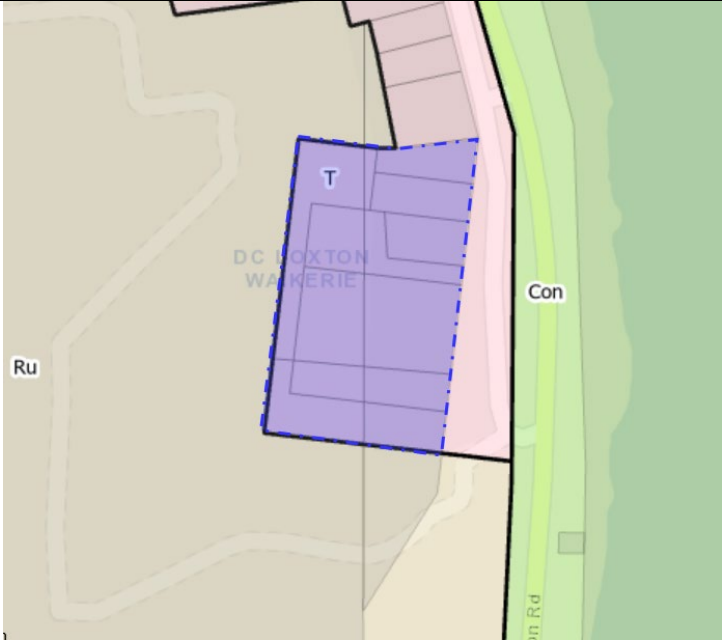
Proposed change	Reason
Spatial amendments	

Proposed change	Reason
<p data-bbox="167 293 272 320"><i>Waikerie</i></p> <p data-bbox="167 349 577 376">1083 Maggea Road, Holder Siding</p>  <p data-bbox="167 1128 312 1155">Site in pink:</p> 	<p data-bbox="979 293 1214 320"><u>Future employment</u></p> <p data-bbox="979 349 1362 712">During the engagement period, the site was identified in a submission which provided investigations for the lodgement of a code amendment. Upon checking with council, support was provided for identifying the site for potential employment land use, noting RDA support and economic studies indicating demand.</p> <p data-bbox="979 741 1294 804">Site identified as Future Employment, Rural Areas.</p>
<p data-bbox="167 1787 248 1814"><i>Loxton</i></p>	<p data-bbox="979 1787 1198 1814"><u>Future Residential</u></p> <p data-bbox="979 1843 1350 2004">During the engagement period, the site was identified in a submission from council which noted allotments that were not captured along Gratwick Road</p>

Proposed change	Reason
	<p>with their endorsed growth strategy.</p> <p>Site expended to include additional allotments as per the growth strategy</p>
<p><i>Berri</i></p> 	<p><u>Future Residential</u></p> <p>During the engagement period, the site was identified in a submission from council which noted a number of sites identified in their growth strategy for further investigation for zoning/TNV changes. This was considered appropriate for identification as a local infill investigation area.</p> <p>Sites 4, 11, 12, 13 and 14 included in the Berri Local Infill Investigation Area layer as per the growth strategy.</p>

Proposed change	Reason
	
<p><i>Berri</i></p> 	<p>Potential Open Space Investment</p> <p>During the engagement period, the site was identified in the Infill Investigation Area layer and should be removed from the Potential Open Space Investment layer.</p> <p>Remove parcel identified from the Potential Open Space Investment layer</p> <p>CT6155/911</p>
<p><i>Tintinara</i></p>	<p><u>Future employment</u></p> <p>During the engagement period, the site was identified in a submission from council for</p>

Proposed change	Reason
	<p>identifying the site for potential employment land use, identified in the growth strategy.</p> <p>Site identified as Future Employment.</p>
<p><i>Moorook South</i></p> 	<p>Local Infill Investigation Area layer</p> <p>During the engagement period, the site was identified in a submission from council, noting as identified in the growth strategy the Township Zone needed to capture for the full extent.</p> <p>Amended site to cover the full extent of the zone.</p>

Proposed change	Reason
 <p>The map displays a zoning district labeled 'DC DORSET WALKERIE'. A specific area within this district is highlighted in purple and outlined with a dashed blue line, indicating a proposed change from 'Ru' (Residential Single-Family) to 'T' (Townhouse). The map also shows a pink-shaded area labeled 'Con' (Community Center) and a road labeled 'W. Rd.' (Walkerie Road). The surrounding area is colored in shades of green and brown, representing different land uses or topography.</p>	

## 7 Refer to the Minister

On 2 October 2025 the Designated Entity approved the Murray Mallee Regional Plan and this engagement report to be furnished on the Minister for Planning.

### Attachments

1. Copy of submissions received
2. Designated entity evaluation
3. Phase 2 visioning engagement evaluation
4. Communication materials

#### Attachment 1 – Copy of submissions received

Submissions can be viewed on the PlanSA Website by clicking on the links below.

[https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/1535132/MMRP-Community-Groups-submissions.PDF](https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1535132/MMRP-Community-Groups-submissions.PDF)

[https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/1535133/MMRP-Council-on-behalf-of-a-Constituent-submissions.PDF](https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1535133/MMRP-Council-on-behalf-of-a-Constituent-submissions.PDF)

[https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/1535134/MMRP-Council-submissions.PDF](https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1535134/MMRP-Council-submissions.PDF)

[https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/1535135/MMRP-Industry-submissions.PDF](https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1535135/MMRP-Industry-submissions.PDF)

[https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/1535136/MMRP-Landowner-Submissions.PDF](https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1535136/MMRP-Landowner-Submissions.PDF)

[https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/1535137/MMRP-Member-of-Public-submissions.PDF](https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1535137/MMRP-Member-of-Public-submissions.PDF)

[https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/1535138/MMRP-Non-Government-Organisations-submissions.PDF](https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1535138/MMRP-Non-Government-Organisations-submissions.PDF)

#### Attachment 2 – Evaluation against the Charter principles

The engagement evaluation was undertaken by the Department for Housing and Urban Development's Engagement team, on behalf of the designated entity.

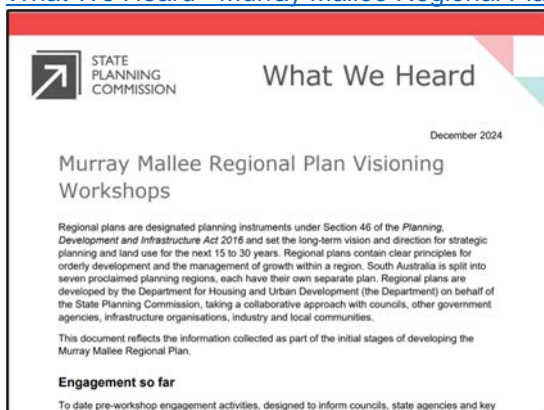
	Evaluation statement	Response options
1	The <b>engagement reached</b> those identified as the community of interest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Representatives from most community groups participated in the engagement <input type="checkbox"/> Representatives from some community groups participated in the engagement

	Evaluation statement	Response options
		<input type="checkbox"/> There was little representation of the community groups in engagement
	<i>The engagement reached a broad and diverse audience, including key stakeholders, adjacent landowners, and diverse communities. A mix of digital and in-person methods, including Easy Read materials, ensured accessibility and inclusivity.</i>	
2	<b>Engagement was reviewed</b> throughout the process and improvements put in place, or recommended for future engagement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reviewed and recommendations made in a systematic way <input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed but no system for making recommendations <input type="checkbox"/> Not reviewed
	<i>Engagement activities were monitored throughout the consultation. While no major changes were required, feedback led to recommendations for future improvements, including enhanced media promotion and targeted engagement with school communities.</i>	
3	Engagement <b>occurred early enough</b> for feedback to genuinely influence the planning policy, strategy or scheme	<input type="checkbox"/> Engaged when there was opportunity for input into scoping <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engaged when there was opportunity for input into first draft <input type="checkbox"/> Engaged when there was opportunity for minor edits to final draft <input type="checkbox"/> Engaged when there was no real opportunity for input to be considered
	<i>The 12-week consultation period provided sufficient time for stakeholders and community members to provide meaningful feedback. This followed earlier engagement phases that helped shape the scope and vision of the draft Plan.</i>	
4	Engagement <b>contributed to the substance of the final Plan</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In a significant way <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In a moderate way <input type="checkbox"/> In a minor way <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all
	<i>Feedback received during the engagement was carefully reviewed and considered in finalising the Plan. Input from councils, residents, and community groups influenced the refinement of objectives and strategies.</i>	

	Evaluation statement	Response options
5	Engagement provided <b>feedback to community about outcomes</b> of engagement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formally (report or public forum) <input type="checkbox"/> Informally (closing summaries) <input type="checkbox"/> No feedback provided
<p><i>A What We Heard Report and engagement survey was sent to all submitters after consultation, summarising feedback and outlining input. The Section 73 Engagement Report outlines all engagement activities, includes copies of submissions, and explains how feedback was used to update the Plan. This helps the community see how their input shaped the final Plan.</i></p>		
6	Identify <b>key strength</b> of the Charter and Guide	
<p><i>A key strength of the Community Engagement Charter and Guide is its emphasis on inclusivity. The Charter supported an engagement process that used a range of accessible tactics to reach a broad audience, including those who may not typically engage in planning processes.</i></p>		
7	Identify <b>key challenge</b> of the Charter and Guide	
<p><i>A key challenge of the Charter and Guide is ensuring confidence in the influence of feedback. While participants felt informed and heard, some were unsure whether their input shaped the final Plan. This highlights the need for stronger closing-the-loop practices and clearer communication of outcomes.</i></p>		

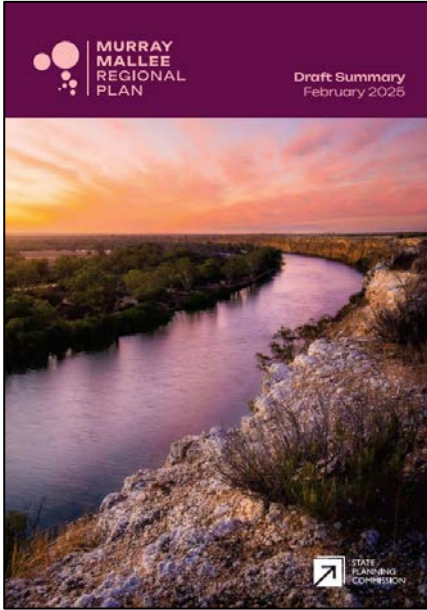
### Attachment 3 – Phase 2 (visioning) engagement

[What We Heard - Murray Mallee Regional Plan Visioning Workshops](#)



### Attachment 4 – Communication material

[Regional Plan Summary](#)



Fact Sheet

**MURRAY MALLEE REGIONAL PLAN**

**STATE PLANNING COMMISSION**

### What is the Murray Mallee Regional Plan?

The Murray Mallee is a highly productive agricultural region, known for wheat, barley, and livestock. The Murray River plays a vital role in supporting irrigation for crops, stock feed, and wine production. The region is also home to unique Mallee vegetation, conservation parks, and significant First Nations cultural heritage. Tourism is a key industry, with houseboat/touring fishing, and nature-based experiences drawing visitors to the river and surrounding landscapes.

The Murray Mallee Regional Plan (the Plan) identifies land and long-term infrastructure needs to support sustainable growth within the region, over a 15 to 30-year period. It reflects the unique and changing profile of the region's population, environment and economy across its vast rural areas and varied townships.

#### What is in the Plan?

The Plan focuses on five key themes that are critical to the region's future:

- People, housing and livability**
  - Expanding housing supply and diversity to meet the needs of a growing and ageing population.
  - Enhancing design quality to improve livability and community wellbeing.
  - Tackling affordable housing challenges, especially in growth areas.
  - Ensuring housing suits various household types, including seasonal workers, seniors, and young families.
  - Preserving the region's cultural and heritage identity.
- Natural resources, environment and landscapes**
  - Protecting biodiversity and ecological assets, including Ramsar listed wetlands and coastal ecosystems.
  - Strengthening climate resilience through adaptation strategies, including updated hazard mapping for flooding, bushfires, and more.
  - safeguarding the Murray River and surrounding environments from degradation.
  - Ensuring water security and quality for agriculture, industry, and communities, particularly with climate change in mind.
  - Managing natural hazards such as floods, bushfires, and extreme weather.
  - Reducing emissions and mitigating the impact of hazardous activities on the environment.
- Productive economy**
  - Strengthening primary industries such as agriculture, viticulture, and renewable energy to drive economic growth.
  - Supporting employment levels development to meet future workforce needs.
  - Promoting innovation in agriculture, tourism, and renewable energy.
  - Overseeing the economy with investments in tourism and initiatives like the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve.
  - Addressing the ageing workforce and attracting young talent to key industries.
- Transport and infrastructure**
  - Promoting integrated planning for coordinated land use and infrastructure development.
  - Investing in strategic transport infrastructure to enhance regional connectivity.
  - Expanding energy infrastructure to support renewable energy zones and ensure energy security.
  - Strengthening integrated water management to secure and improve water quality.
  - Preserving infrastructure reserves and transport corridors for future growth.
- Delivery and implementation**
  - Launching the Regional Planning Panels for tracking and reporting progress.
  - Setting measurable targets and actions to guide regional development and assess success.
  - Prioritising short-term actions, especially in infrastructure and housing, to address immediate needs.
  - Ensuring long-term regional growth through effective land use policies and planning processes.

### Where is the Murray Mallee planning region?

**Get involved**  
 Consultation is open for 12 weeks until 11.59pm on Tuesday 17 June 2025. To provide feedback:

- Visit <https://www.sa.gov.au/murray-mallee-regional-plan> to take our survey or complete our [Feedback survey](#).
- Complete the [public consultation form](#).
- Email [plansa@sa.gov.au](mailto:plansa@sa.gov.au)
- Submit Submission - Murray Mallee Regional Plan
- Post your submission to: Planning and Land Use Services, Attention: Strategic Planning Team, Department for Housing and Urban Development, GPO BOX 1810, ADELAIDE SA 5001

**Need help?**  
 Register for an online information session: [plansaevents.eventbrite.com](https://plansaevents.eventbrite.com)

**Visit**  
[regional.plan.sa.gov.au](https://www.sa.gov.au/murray-mallee-regional-plan)

**Email**  
[PlansA@sa.gov.au](mailto:PlansA@sa.gov.au)

**Call**  
 PlansA Service Desk on 1800 752 664

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA** Government of South Australia Department for Housing and Urban Development

**STATE PLANNING COMMISSION**

FAQ

**MURRAY MALLEE REGIONAL PLAN** STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

## Frequently Asked Questions Murray Mallee Regional Plan

**Who is the State Planning Commission?**  
The State Planning Commission (SPC) Commission is South Australia's leading development assessment and planning advisory body. It provides independent advice on all aspects of planning and development and is responsible for preparing regional plans.

**What is a regional plan?**  
Regional plans set the direction for future planning and development in South Australia, tailored to each region. These plans map out a 15 to 30-year vision, including:

- where new housing and jobs should be located
- strategies to protect key areas while allowing others
- how transport networks should evolve to improve connectivity to major centres and smaller townships
- the essential infrastructure needed to support growth
- how we can protect biodiversity, cultural heritage and ecosystems
- what climate risks to mitigate risks from extreme weather events

The Commission, in partnership with Planning and Land Use Services, is developing six new Murray regional plans for South Australia, including the Murray Mallee region. Planning for the growth and change is essential to ensure that all regions remain sustainable and prosperous.

**Did you know?**  
South Australia has the only fully digital planning system in the country, featuring the Regional Planning Portal. This platform provides interactive maps, online plans, and real-time data, helping you planning decisions with regional needs and supporting infrastructure, land use, and transport development across the state.

### Where is the Murray Mallee planning region?

**What is the Murray Mallee Regional Plan?**  
The Murray Mallee Regional Plan (the Plan) maps the government's long-term planning vision for the region to 2037 and beyond. It provides governments, businesses, industry and civil society organisations with the data and direction to better plan for and respond to growth and change in our community and towns, while achieving our conservation goals. This is delivered within an electronic platform that can be tailored to the user's requirements.

**What are the Plan's key themes?**  
The Plan focuses on:

- Productive housing and locality
- Productive economy
- Natural resources, environment and landscapes
- Transport and infrastructure
- Delivery and implementation

**What are some of the key themes that I can provide input on?**  
We are particularly interested in your views on how we can:

- Support housing growth in response to migration and changes in agriculture and manufacturing
- Focus development with existing towns to maintain access to essential services
- Protect water resources and biodiversity through conservation and sustainable land use
- Strengthen the regional economy by safeguarding agricultural land and supporting emerging industries like renewable energy
- Use climate data to manage risks from heat, drought, and extreme weather

### How can I learn more about the Plan?

Join one of our online information sessions to hear directly from our planners. Register at: [connect.sa.gov.au/plan](https://connect.sa.gov.au/plan)

You can also learn more by:

- Visiting** [regional.plan.sa.gov.au](https://regional.plan.sa.gov.au)
- Emailing** [Plan@sa.gov.au](mailto:Plan@sa.gov.au)
- Calling** PlanSA Service Desk on 1800 752 664

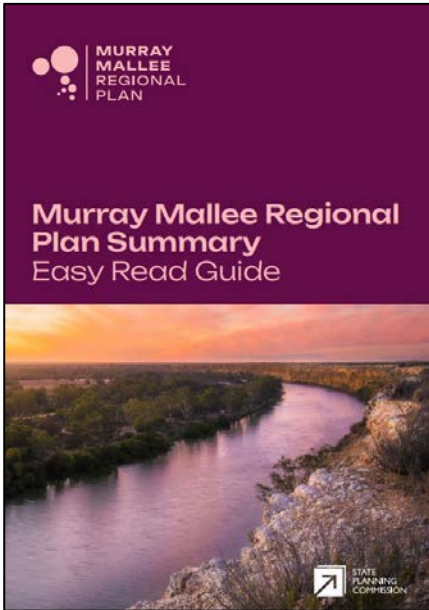
**How can I provide feedback on the Plan?**  
Consultation is open for 12 weeks until 11:59 pm on Tuesday 17 June 2025. Visit [YourSay](https://YourSay.sa.gov.au) to provide your feedback.

**When will the Plan be implemented?**  
After consultation, feedback will be considered, and the Plan updated and presented to the Commission for endorsement. The final Plan is expected to be released in late 2025 and will be accessible on the [Regional Planning Portal](https://regional.plan.sa.gov.au).

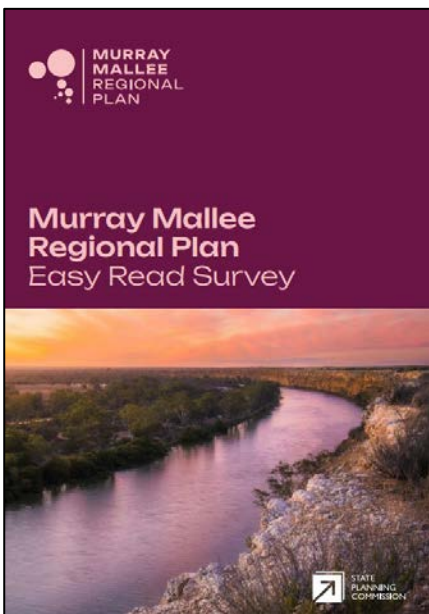
**Stay updated**  
Sign up for the [Planning Ahead](https://PlanningAhead.sa.gov.au) newsletter. Follow us on [Facebook](https://facebook.com/plan.sa.gov.au) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/plan.sa.gov.au) for regular updates.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA** **Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure** **STATE PLANNING COMMISSION**

[Easy Read guide](#)



[Easy Read Survey](#)



**Stakeholder toolkit items:**

- **Community Poster**



• DL Flyer



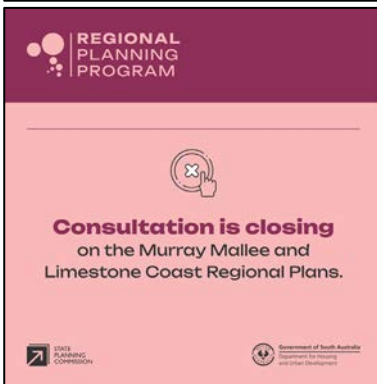
• Electronic signage



- **Email signature**



- **Social media tiles**



- **Web banner**



Print Advertising:

Two side-by-side print advertising posters. Both have a dark blue header with 'REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM' and 'STATE PLANNING COMMISSION' logos. The left poster has a light blue background and the headline 'Help shape the future of your region'. It includes a paragraph about public consultation, the website 'yoursay.sa.gov.au', a QR code, and a call to action: 'Consultation closes 11:59 pm, Tuesday 17 June 2025. Have your say and help shape your region's future!'. The right poster has a light green background and the same headline. It includes a paragraph about public consultation, the website 'yoursay.sa.gov.au', a QR code, and the same call to action. Both posters feature the Government of South Australia logo and 'plan.sa.gov.au' at the bottom.

A print advertising poster with a white background. It features the same header as the previous posters. The headline is 'Help shape the future of your region'. It includes a paragraph about public consultation, the website 'yoursay.sa.gov.au', a QR code, and the call to action: 'Consultation closes 11:59 pm, Tuesday 17 June 2025. Have your say and help shape your region's future!'. The bottom of the poster features the Government of South Australia logo and 'plan.sa.gov.au'.

Community information display boards:

**MURRAY MALLEE REGIONAL PLAN**

### Murray Mallee Regional Plan

The Murray Mallee is a highly productive agricultural region, known for wheat, barley and livestock. The Murray River plays a vital role in supporting irrigation for citrus, stone fruit, and wine production. The region is also home to unique Mallee vegetation, conservation parks, and significant flora and fauna heritage. Tourism is a key industry, with world-class fishing and water-based experiences offering visitors to the river and surrounding landscapes.

The Murray Mallee Regional Plan (MRP) sets the government's long-term planning vision for the region to 2051 and beyond. It provides government, business, industry and not-for-profit organisations with the data and direction to better plan for and respond to growth and change in our community and lands, while achieving our conservation goals. The MRP Plan will be hosted on the Regional Planning Portal, a flexible digital platform designed to address your needs.

### How to get involved

We invite you to provide feedback on the Murray Mallee Regional Plan. Consultation is open for 12 weeks until 11.59pm on Tuesday 17 June 2025.

- Register for an online information session**  
Visit [planningevents.vic.gov.au](https://planningevents.vic.gov.au/murray-mallee)
- Scan to give your feedback**  
Use your smartphone to scan the QR code to access the YourSay platform where you can complete the survey or submit an online submission form.
- Email your submission**  
Send your feedback to [planning@murraymallee.gov.au](mailto:planning@murraymallee.gov.au)  
(Please use the subject: Submission - Murray Mallee Regional Plan)
- Post your submission**  
Address your submission to:  
Planning and Land Use Services  
Murray Mallee Planning Team  
Department for Housing and Urban Development  
GPO BOX 1910  
ADULFCE VIC 3501

Once consultation has concluded, feedback will be analysed, summarised and the Plan will be updated. The updated Plan will be provided to the State Planning Commission for endorsement with the final version expected to be released late 2025. The Plan will be fully digital and accessible via the Regional Planning Portal.

DEPT FOR HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT FOR HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

**MURRAY MALLEE REGIONAL PLAN**

### What is the Murray Mallee Regional Plan?

The Murray Mallee Regional Plan is a long-term strategic plan to guide sustainable growth across the region over the next 35 to 50 years. The Plan will outline where new housing and employment areas should be located, how essential services will be delivered, and what infrastructure is needed to support liveable and resilient communities.

Planning ahead is vital to ensure the region remains sustainable and prosperous. The Plan will reflect the unique and changing profile of the Murray Mallee's people, landscapes and economy across its vast rural areas and diverse townships. It will provide a mix of housing to meet the needs of changing communities, support growing industries, and protect the region's productive land and environmental significance.

### The planning vision for the Murray Mallee region

The Murray Mallee is a productive and diverse region, known for its strong agricultural foundations, natural landscapes and close-knit communities. It plays a vital role in South Australia's economy and is a destination of choice for visitors seeking unique river, nature and outdoor experiences.

Theme and settlements are carefully planned to make best use of land and water resources, with growth directed away from flood-prone areas and prime agricultural land. A mix of housing options supports local lifestyle and workforce needs, with future growth focused on established centres.

Communities enjoy access to open spaces, parks and outdoor recreation areas, with walking and cycling trails promoting healthy, active living.

Towns and community facilities are designed to make the most of the region's riverfronts, wetlands and wide open landscapes.

The River Murray is central to life in the region—supporting agriculture, recreation and drinking water supplies, while sustaining vital ecosystems and holding deep cultural meaning for Aboriginal communities.

Primary production is a cornerstone of the economy, with the region renowned for its wine grapes, almonds, citrus, stone fruit, grains and livestock. Agriculture and food manufacturing continue to grow, supported by innovation, local know-how and access to national and global markets.

Reliable transport and digital connectivity link communities and support local industries, while tourism continues to expand with attractions like Murray to Sulfur Park, the Bend Motorsport Park and the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve drawing visitors from near and far.

DEPT FOR HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
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**MURRAY MALLEE REGIONAL PLAN**

### Murray Mallee planning region

- Regional City
- Major Service Centres
- Supporting Service Centres
- Local Service Centres
- National Parks and Conservation Reserves
- State Marine Park Network
- Local Government Areas
- Major Transport Route
- Railway

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**MURRAY MALLEE REGIONAL PLAN**

### A snapshot of the Plan

#### Population summary

Population Growth Scenario (2021-2051)	2021	2041	2051
Total population	100,000	150,000	180,000
2021-2041 population growth	0%	50%	80%
2041-2051 population growth	0%	33%	17%
2021-2051 population growth	0%	83%	97%

#### Project population

Actual and projected population (2021-2051)

#### Project population by age group

#### Housing land supply

- Total dwellings: 38,127
- Occupied dwellings: 30,872 (81%)
- Average number of people per household: 2.3
- Average dwellings built every year: 329

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DEPARTMENT FOR HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

**MURRAY MALLEE REGIONAL PLAN** 5

## Key themes of the Plan



**People, housing and liveability**

Expanding housing supply and diversity to meet the needs of a growing and ageing population. Enhancing design quality to improve liveability and community wellbeing.

Tackling affordable housing challenges, especially in growth areas.

Ensuring housing suits various household types, including seasonal workers, seniors, and young families.

Preserving the region's cultural and heritage identity.

**Productive economy**

Strengthening primary industries such as agriculture, viticulture, and renewable energy to drive economic growth.

Supporting employment and skills development to meet future workforce needs.

Promoting innovation in agriculture, tourism, and renewable energy.

Diversifying the economy with investments in tourism and industries like the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve.

Addressing the ageing workforce and attracting young talent to key industries.

**EVIS Planning Commission** | **Department of South Australia and Water Services**

**MURRAY MALLEE REGIONAL PLAN** 6

## Key themes of the Plan

**Environment, natural resources and landscapes**

Protecting biodiversity and ecological assets, including riparian-lined wetlands and coastal ecosystems.

Strengthening climate resilience through adaptation strategies, including enhanced hazard preparedness for flooding, bushfires, and more.

Reaffirming the Murray River and surrounding environments from degradation.

Ensuring water security and quality for agriculture, industry and communities, particularly with climate change in mind.

Managing natural hazards such as floods, bushfires, and extreme weather.

Reducing emissions and mitigating the impact of hazardous activities on the environment.

**Transport and infrastructure**

Promoting integrated planning for coordinated land use and infrastructure development.

Investing in strategic transport infrastructure to enhance regional connectivity.

Expanding energy infrastructure to support renewable energy zones and ensure energy security.

Strengthening water management to secure and improve water quality.

Preserving infrastructure reserves and transport corridors for future growth.

**Implementation and delivery**

Launching the Regional Planning Portal for tracking and reporting progress.

Setting measurable targets and actions to guide regional development and assess success.

Privileging short-term actions, especially in infrastructure and housing, to address immediate needs.

Ensuring long-term regional growth through effective land use policies and planning processes.

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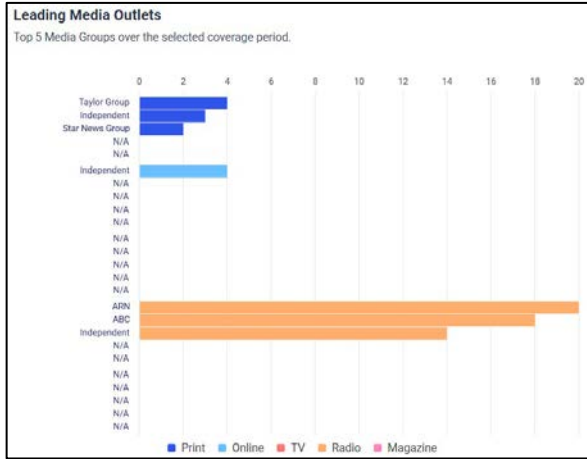
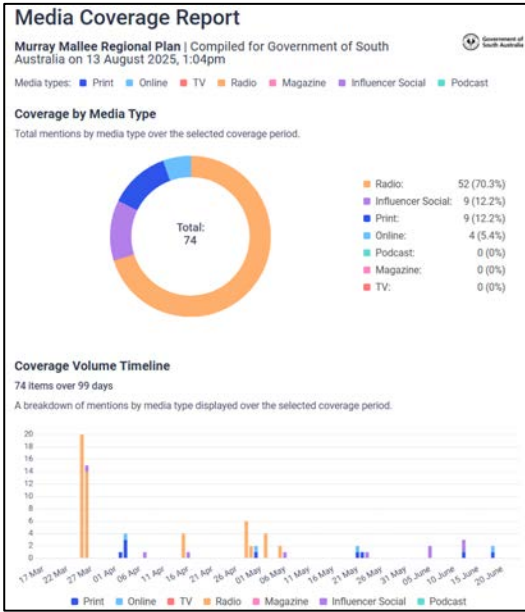
**MURRAY MALLEE REGIONAL PLAN** 7

## Key initiatives and projects

- High Productivity Vehicle Network Business Case**  
 Department for Infrastructure and Transport  
 This project seeks to align state and local government to improve the road freight network. The project identifies investment opportunities for road and rail from the Murray Bridge and Tabor Road to the extensive network for air transport and highway business to establish and take advantage of transport regional business.
- Greenhill Energy Riverbend Energy Hub**  
 The Riverbend Energy Hub will be an integrated processing facility covering landfill waste and waste-to-energy biomass gasification such as hydrolysis and pyrolysis. Fuel and other low-carbon clean hydrogen, adding the transition to a net-zero economy.
- River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve**  
 Incorporated by the Murray-Lambton SA and the Murray-Darwin, the 3,000 square kilometre reserve showcases exceptional dark skies and was awarded the International Dark Sky Association in 2019.
- Thinclab Loxton**  
 A collaboration between the University of Adelaide and the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA. The scale Loxton is regionally focused business incubator specializing in agtech, food innovation and regional business.
- Project EnergyConnect**  
 Renewable and thermal energy connection to deliver a new energy infrastructure between South Australia and New South Wales, with an initial connection through in Victoria. This project is currently under construction with more than 2000 kilometres of the South Australian segment already completed. This project presents a significant opportunity for renewable energy projects in the region as they offer sites to directly connect to the grid.

**EVIS Planning Commission** | **Department of South Australia and Water Services**

**Media Coverage Report:**



#### Leading Print Sources

Leading Print sources

#1 Murray Pioneer	4
#2 The Murray Valley Standard	2
#2 The SE Voice	2
#4 The Southern Argus	1
#5 N/A	0

#### Leading Online Sources

Leading Online sources

#1 Australian Rural & Regional News	3
#2 The SE Voice	1
#3 N/A	0
#4 N/A	0
#5 N/A	0

#### Leading TV Programs

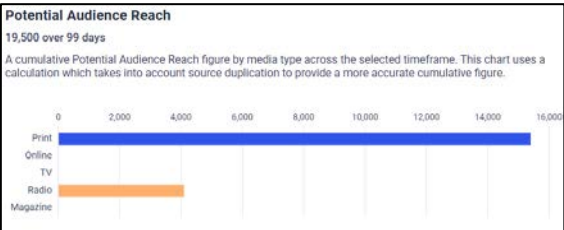
Leading TV programs

! We couldn't find any data to display

#### Leading Radio Programs

Leading Radio programs

#1 SA Regional Drive with Narelle Graham	12
#2 Mornings	11
#3 Around SA with Chris Guscott	5
#3 The 5RM Breakfast Show	5
#5 Afternoons	3



## Social media

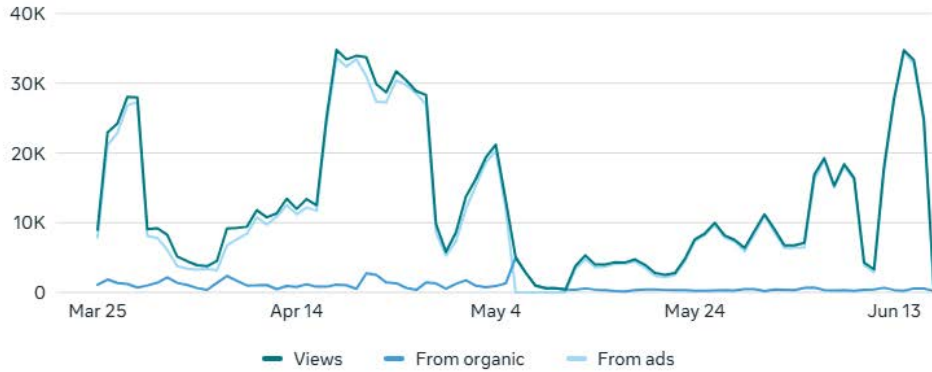
PlanSA Facebook

Content overview

Breakdown: Organic/ads

All Posts Stories Reels Videos Live

Views 1.1M ↑ 207.4% | Reach 264.6K ↑ 137.5% | 3-second views 8.1K ↑ 17.8K% | 1-minute views 4 ↑ 100% | Content interactions 3.3K ↑ 198.2% | Watch time 1d 8...



**Views breakdown**  
Mar 25 - Jun 17

Total  
**1,109,719** ↑ 207.4%

From organic  
**73,560** ↑ 42.2%

From ads  
**1,036,159** ↑ 235%

Top content by views

Boost content | See all content

<b>The Limestone Coast Regional Plan is open...</b> Wed Apr 16, 12:00am 133.7K views, 94 likes, 26 shares	<b>Consultation is Closing Very Soon!...</b> Thu Jun 12, 12:03am 123.6K views, 119 likes, 43 shares	<b>Have your say on the future of the...</b> Wed Apr 30, 7:03pm 114.7K views, 75 likes, 10 shares	<b>The Murray Mallee Regional Plan is open...</b> Wed Apr 16, 1:00am 111.5K views, 77 likes, 26 shares	<b>Community Engagement Closing...</b> Thu May 22, 11:49pm 71.9K views, 152 likes, 56 shares

Planning Ahead newsletter articles

[Newsletter April 2025 Edition](#) | [View Newsletter](#) | [PlanSA](#)

## South East Regional Plans - now open for consultation



Have your say on the future of the state's south east, with public consultation now open for both the Limestone Coast and Murray Mallee regional plans.

These plans will guide sustainable growth over a 15 to 30-year period by identifying land use priorities and long-term infrastructure needs.

They outline where new housing and employment areas will be located, how essential services will be delivered, and what infrastructure is needed while exploring different growth scenarios. Planning for this growth and change is essential to ensure that the regions remain sustainable and prosperous.

Consultation closes at **11:59 pm on 17 June 2025**.

[Find out more](#)

[Newsletter June 2025 Edition](#) | [View Newsletter](#) | [PlanSA](#)

## A message from the Chair of the State Planning Commission - Craig Holden




It's been fantastic to see so many people from across regional SA getting involved in shaping the future of their communities through the development of the draft country regional plans.

As mentioned in my last column, community consultation for the Upper Spencer Gulf regional plans earlier this year was hugely successful. This was followed by consultation for the Southeast regional plans – the Murray Mallee Regional Plan and the Limestone Coast Regional Plan – currently underway.

Over the past month Commission members and PLUS staff have hosted community information sessions in Robe, Mount Gambier, Renmark, Bordertown, and Tailem Bend, as well as online. The sessions were well-attended and featured thoughtful, constructive conversations with councils, elected members and community members. We've been encouraged by the strong interest and early feedback received so far and I encourage everyone with an interest in these areas to participate before consultation closes on 17 June. More information can be found at the [Murray Mallee Regional Plan](#) and the [Limestone Coast Regional Plan](#) YourSAy pages.

A critical point of discussion for all the regional plans has been how we can prepare for and mitigate against climate change while transitioning to net zero and driving sustainable practices. To this end, it was an honour to participate in a panel titled 'Future Cities - Challenges and Opportunities for SA' at the recent [SA Industry Climate Change Conference](#). The panel was hosted by Dr Ariella Helfgott, who has previously worked with the Commission on the Regional Planning Program, and comprised Jane Lomax-Smith, Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Chris Daniels, Chair of Green Adelaide and Larry Ng, Board of Architects Singapore. The discussion was rich and proved to me that if we act with intelligence and courage, we are well placed to chart a sustainable future for all South Australians, despite the challenges.

**YourSAy**



**MURRAY MALLEE REGIONAL PLAN**

STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

# Your region, your say.

Help shape the future of the Murray Mallee region.

[Home](#) / [Murray Mallee Regional Plan](#)

## Murray Mallee Regional Plan



Consultation has concluded

[Have your say on the Murray Mallee Regional Plan.](#)

### What's being decided?

The State Planning Commission (the Commission) has released the [draft Murray Mallee Regional Plan](#) (the Plan) and wants to hear from community, councils and industry on how we sustainably prepare for future growth.

#### Key Dates

-  Consultation opens  
25 March 2025
-  Consultation closes  
17 June 2025

#### Lifecycle