


# Limestone Coast Regional Plan

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

## Engagement Report



	<b>Name / Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Signature</b>
<b>Approved by the Designated Entity</b>	<b>Craig Holden / Chair, State Planning Commission</b>	02/10/2025	

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## Executive summary

### Overview

The Limestone Coast 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 addresses key priorities for the Limestone Coast, such as increasing diverse housing types and access, ensuring land supply, planning for climate change as a growth area and ensuring an integrated planning approach is delivered in the region. The Plan addresses key priorities for the Limestone Coast, such as increasing diverse accessible housing types, ensuring there is long-term land supply for residential and employment land uses, protection of land from incompatible land uses, planning for climate change and ensuring an integrated planning approach is delivered in the region. The Plan is a visionary 30-year roadmap for the Limestone Coast, aimed at fostering a resilient, prosperous, healthy and connected future for Limestone Coast communities. Housing in the right places, climate change mitigation, and coordinated and integrated land use and infrastructure planning will be integral to achieving this vision of sustainable growth and community wellbeing.

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 draft 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 250 submissions were received during the 12-week engagement period, comprising:

- email submissions (94)
- hard copy/post submissions (74)
- YourSAy survey (56)
- easy read surveys (18)
- submissions via the PlanSA portal (9)
- YourSAy youth survey (5).

### 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 theme in surveys and submissions. **Productive economy** was the next most rated theme by survey respondents, with **transport and infrastructure** 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 Limestone Coast Regional Plan

The Plan is a roadmap for the Limestone Coast 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 2023 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 as councils, the Local Government Association (LGA), the Regional Development Australia (RDA) Board and local industries such as primary producers, forestry, 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 a face-to-face visioning workshop in Naracoorte 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.

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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>367 letters</b> were sent to key stakeholders.</i></p>	All stakeholders
Stakeholder toolkit	<p>Sent to Limestone Coast 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>367 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 53</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 30</b> times from the YourSAy website during the consultation period.</i></p>	All audiences, with a focus on interested community.
Community information sessions	<p>Three 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>	Community

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Activity	Description	Stakeholders
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 May 2025: Robe – 3 attendees</li> <li>• 6 May 2025: Mount Gambier – 16 attendees</li> <li>• 12 May 2025: Border Town – 6 attendees</li> </ul> <p><i>In total <b>25 community members</b> attended face to face community information sessions.</i></p>	
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 – 21 attendees</li> </ul> <p><i>In total <b>21 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 <b>186 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. Additional briefings were also provided on request.</p> <p>Briefing sessions conducted during engagement:            Council staff and elected members - 31 attendees            Industry – 50 attendees            State agencies – 59 attendees</p> <p><i>In total <b>140 key stakeholders</b> attended online briefing sessions.</i></p> <p>Additional briefing sessions were conducted upon request for:            Naracoorte Lucindale Council            Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce/RDALC</p>	Peak industry bodies, peak planning bodies, utilities, state government agencies, community and business associations, RDA board, LGA board, council, community
Council workshop(s)	Delivered online session to present the draft Plan and opportunity to provide feedback inviting council.	Local government

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Activity	Description	Stakeholders
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>	State agencies Aboriginal Leaders First Nations groups
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>8 youth YourSAy surveys submitted.</b></p>	Youth groups including Youth Advisory Committee/council and Youth Affairs Council of SA
Ongoing meetings and communication as required	Ongoing face to face/online meetings to gather information and provide updates.	Council, agencies, RDA, LGA etc
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 19 email enquiries and 6 phone enquiries were handled during the engagement period.</b></p>	All
PlanSA website	<p>Information relevant to the Plan were available on the PlanSA website. This included the Plan, 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><b>The Plan's PlanSA website pages received 1,431 views and was visited by 860 people.</b></p>	All

Activity	Description	Stakeholders
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>2,300 visits</b> during the engagement period.</i></p> <p><i>Supporting material documents were <b>downloaded 346 times</b>.</i></p> <p><b>63 YourSAy survey submissions</b> were provided during the engagement period.</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 Limestone Coast Regional Planning Portal page received <b>1,365 page views</b> from <b>613 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>11 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>106 media items</b> across print, radio and online - achieving an <b>audience reach of 1.27 million</b> across the 12-week engagement period.</i></p> <p>See Attachment 4 for the full media report.</p>	Media outlets
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> </ul>	All stakeholders

Activity	Description	Stakeholders
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	

### 3.2 Mandatory requirements

The following requirements were 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 Limestone Coast region were notified via a letter. This included:

- Berri Barmera Council
- Tatiara District Council
- City of Mount Gambier
- District Council of Robe
- District Council of Grant
- Wattle Range Council
- Naracoorte Lucindale Council
- Kingston District Council

As the Limestone Coast is situated along the South Australia and Victorian border, two adjoining Victorian councils were also notified via letter, this included:

- Glenelg Shire Council
- West Wimmera Shire Council

A written submission was received from the Glenelg Shire Council.

#### Notice and engagement with the Local Government Association

1. 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 Limestone Coast councils, the Limestone Coast 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 250 submissions were received during the 12-week engagement period through the following feedback mechanisms (and shown in figure 1 below):

- Email submissions (94)
- Hard copy/post submissions (74)
- YourSAy Survey Online Submission (56)
- Easy read surveys (18)
- Submissions via the PlanSA portal (9)
- YourSAy Youth Survey (5)

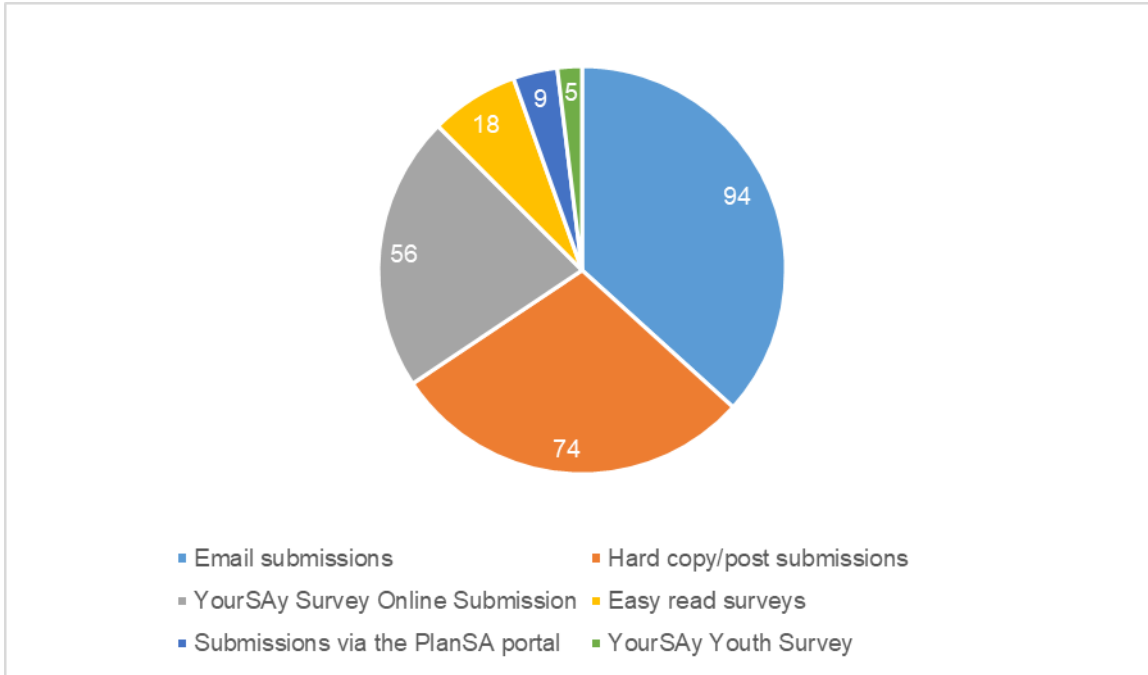


Figure 1 Feedback types and distribution

#### 4.1 Feedback received – YourSAy survey

This section summarises feedback received through the following means:

- YourSAy survey – general public (259)
- YourSAy youth survey (20)

#### 4.1.1 About survey participants

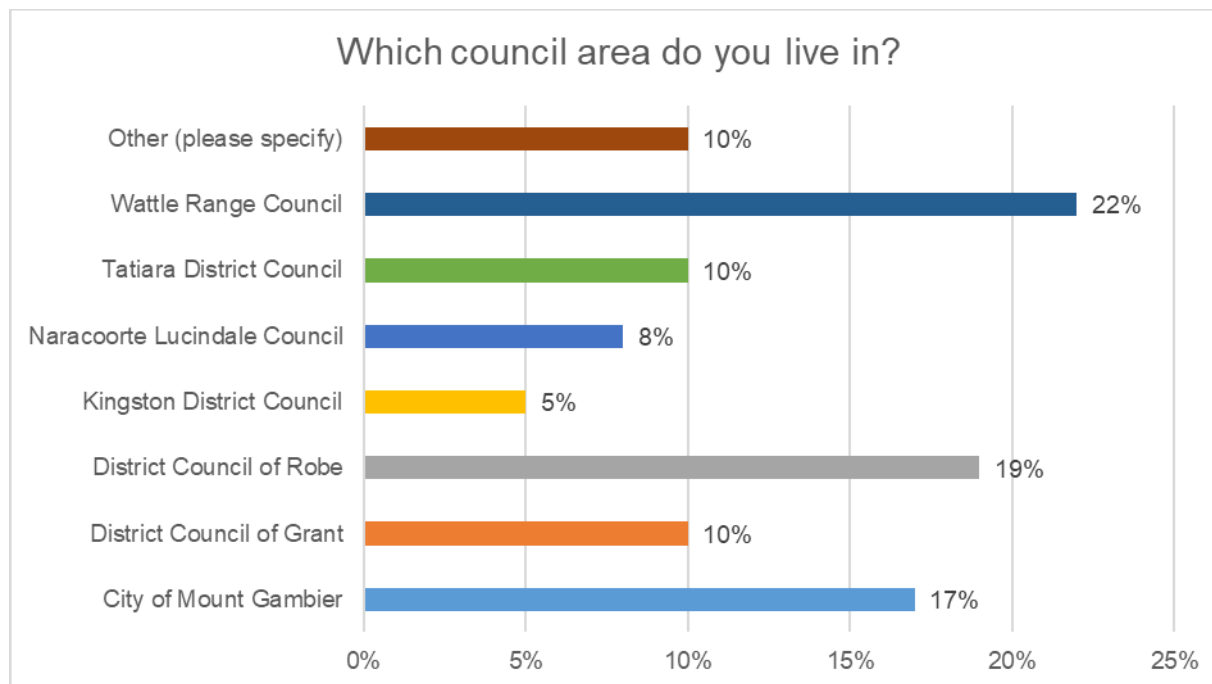


Figure 2 Council area locations for respondents

Most survey respondents identified themselves as living in the Limestone Coast region (90% of respondents). Of the respondents, 27% of indicated that they own a property in the Limestone Coast, 8% of own or operate a business in the Limestone Coast region and 5% represent community organisation or interest groups.

Survey respondents came from 11 local government areas across South Australia and two within Victoria. The most common council areas that survey respondents lived in are the Wattle Range Council, District Council of Robe and the City of Mount Gambier.

Of all respondents, 40% of were aged between 35-54 years of age, whilst ABS data<sup>1</sup> shows that around 24.5% of residents in the Limestone Coast are within this age bracket, highlighting that the 35–54-year-olds are overrepresented in responses.

<sup>1</sup> <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/40702>

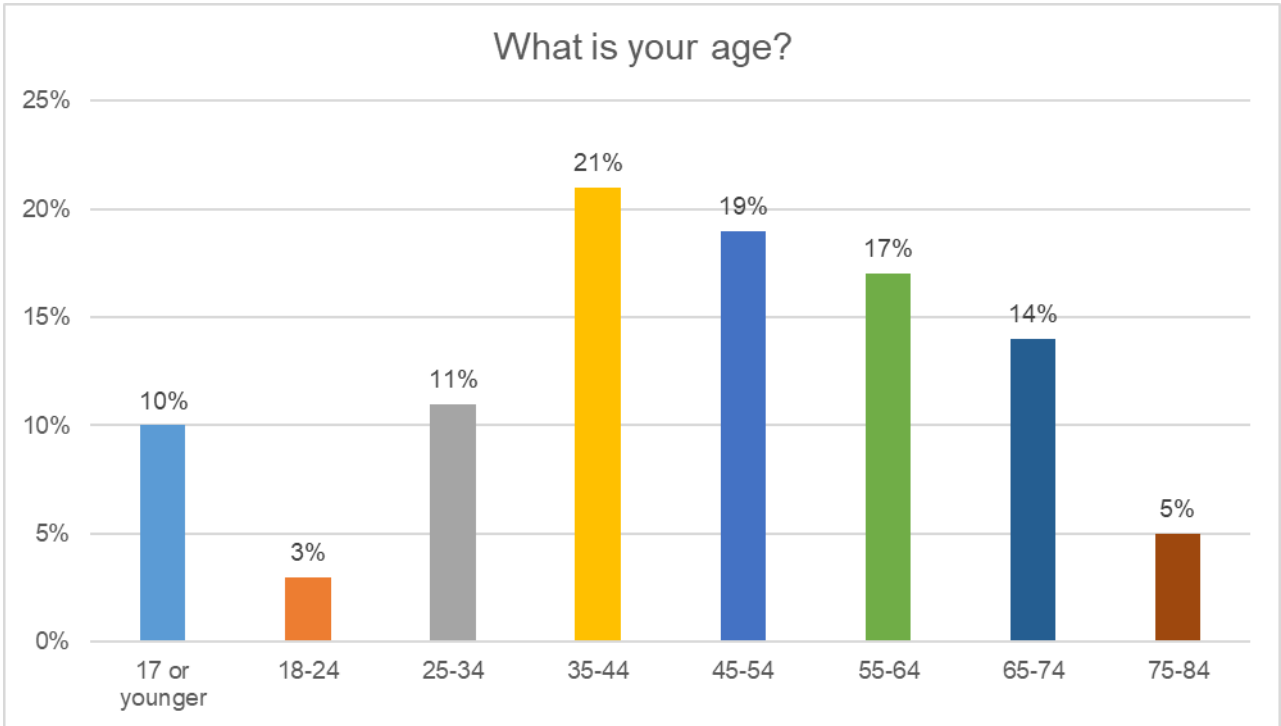


Figure 3 Age distribution of survey respondents

#### 4.1.2 The Limestone Coast Regional Plan themes

When asked to rank the five themes of the Plan in order of importance, *people, housing, and liveability* was the most commonly ranked in number one position by survey respondents. Figure 4 shows the proportion of ranked scores across other themes.

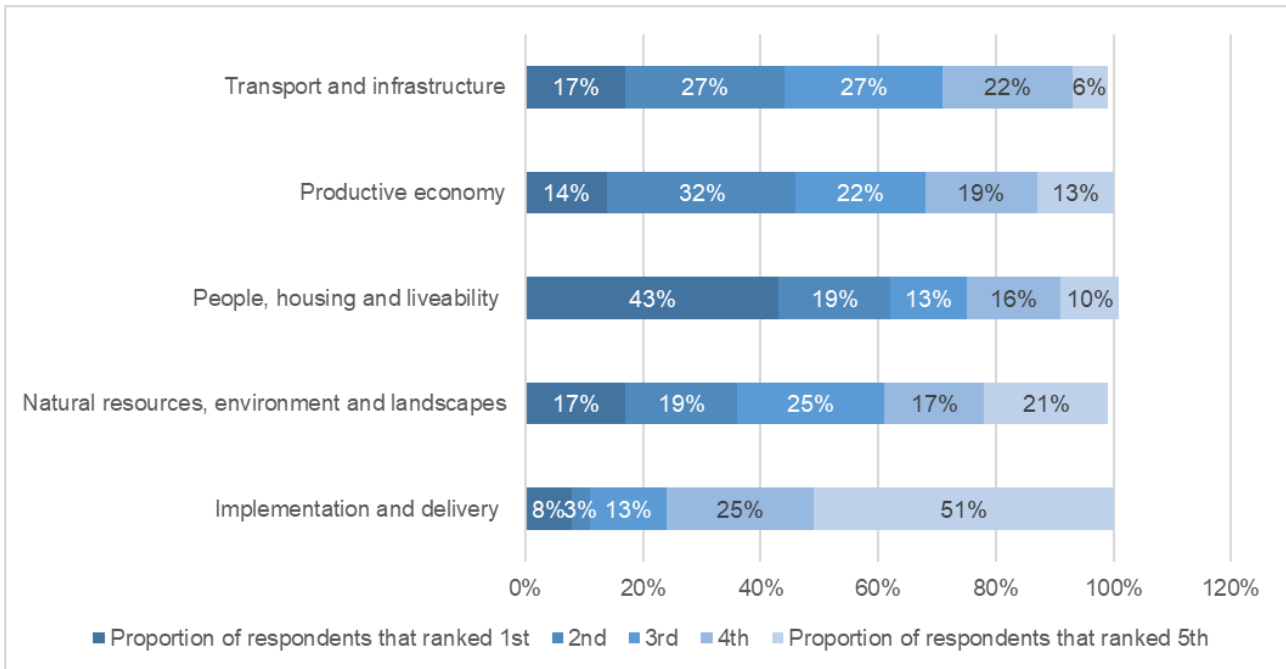


Figure 4 Plan themes – ranked by importance

### 4.1.3 People, housing and liveability

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

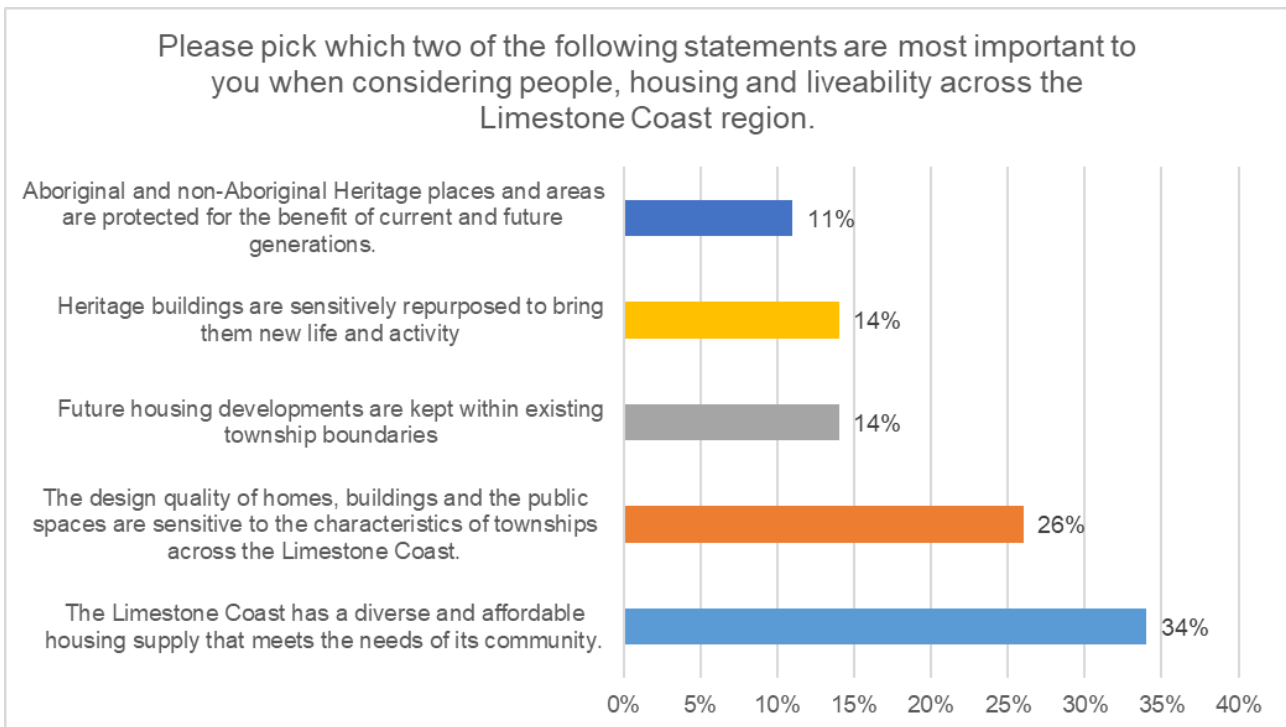


Figure 5 People, housing and liveability – statements of importance

Ensuring the Limestone Coast 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 closely followed by the design quality of homes, buildings, and the public realm (refer Figure 5).

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

- Many respondents highlighted a lack of adequate infrastructure (e.g. health care, transport, internet, shops, schools, waste management) to support current and future housing development, especially in smaller towns like Robe, Nangwarry, Tarpeena, and Padthaway.
- There is strong concern about the shortage of affordable, rental, aged care, accessible, and social housing. Seasonal workers, young people, and those with disabilities were noted as particularly vulnerable.
- Several responses opposed high-density developments in rural or heritage areas (e.g. Compton, Robe), citing concerns about noise, traffic, environmental degradation, and loss of rural identity.
- Respondents called for future-focused planning including sustainable development, energy-efficient building standards, mixed-use developments, green space, and more inclusive and intergenerational community facilities.

#### 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*.

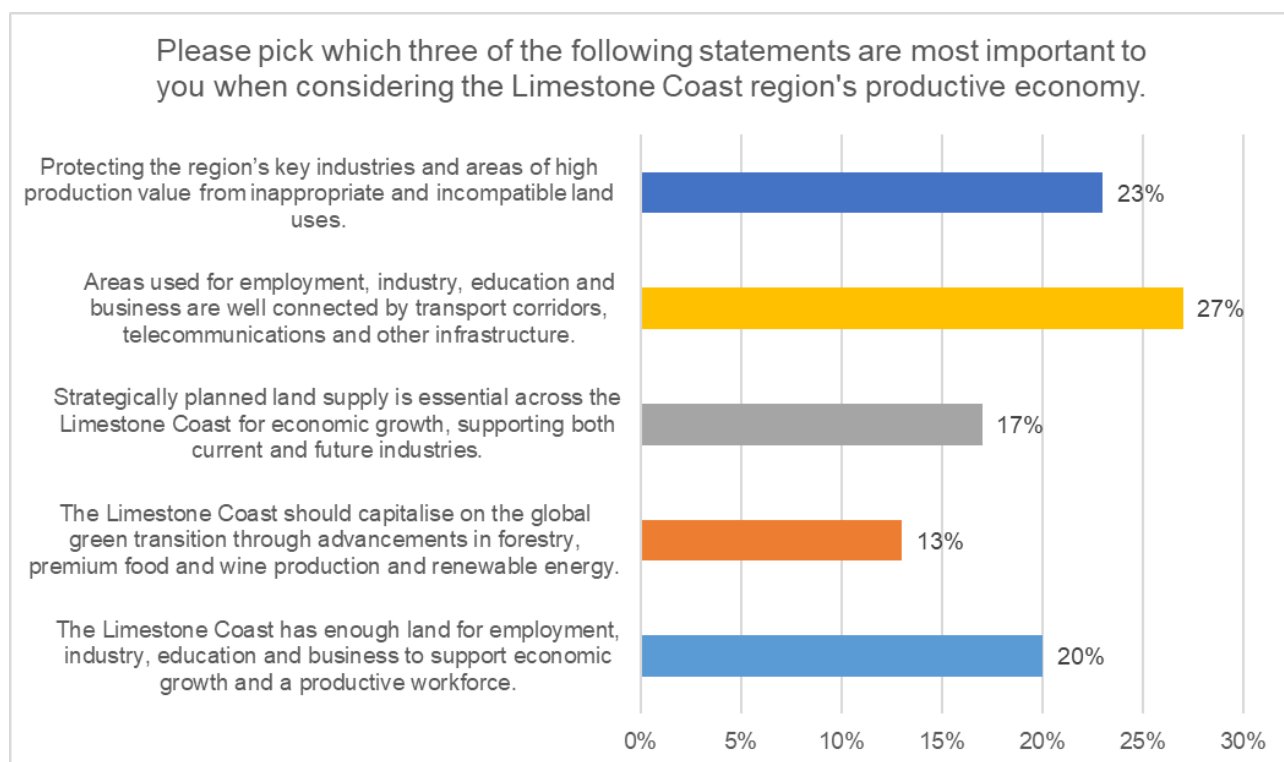


Figure 6 Productive economy – statements of importance

Survey respondents most prioritised the need for areas used for employment, industry, education and business are well connected by transport corridors, telecommunications and other infrastructure. Followed by protecting the regions key industries and areas of high production value from inappropriate and incompatible land uses.

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

- There is a strong need for upgrades to roads, freight corridors, rail links, telecommunications (including NBN, mobile coverage, and digital services), and utilities like electricity and water to support economic development and livability.
- Many respondents highlighted the potential of the Limestone Coast to lead in renewable energy (wind, solar, batteries) and circular economy industries, though there is concern about not using prime agricultural or marine areas for energy projects.
- Farming is viewed as the backbone of the region’s economy. Respondents stressed the need to protect water resources, prevent land use conflict, and provide better support to farmers, especially during drought.
- Suggestions included enhancing tourism through new attractions (like activities in and around the Crater Lakes Complex), preserving conservation parks and beaches, and promoting local food production and sustainable businesses.
- Labour shortages (both skilled and unskilled) are seen as a major issue, closely tied to housing availability, infrastructure, and liveability, particularly in smaller or remote towns.

#### 4.1.5 Natural resources, environment and landscapes

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

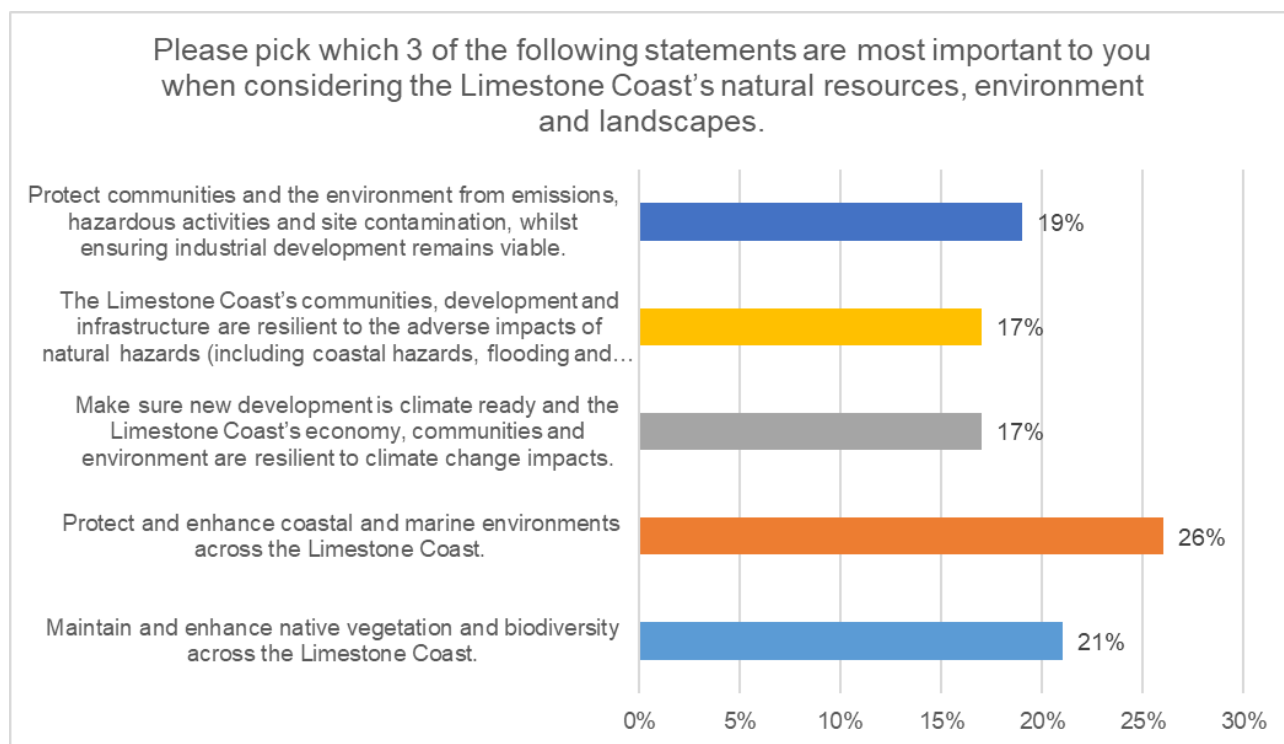


Figure 7 Natural Resources, Environment and Landscapes – statements of importance

Survey respondents most commonly prioritised the need to protect and enhance coastal and marine environments across the Limestone Coast. Another priority for respondents is to maintain and enhance native vegetation and biodiversity across the Limestone Coast.

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

- Respondents emphasised the importance of safeguarding underground water, restoring lakes like Lake Leake, and managing water sustainably, especially in the face of climate change and falling water tables.
- Many expressed concern about sea level rise, biodiversity loss, and extreme climate impacts. There were strong calls for regional climate adaptation planning and community education, including multilingual support for diverse populations.
- Support was shown for protecting both well-known and currently unprotected high-value environmental areas. Respondents also advocated for controlling invasive species and increasing revegetation and tree canopy coverage.
- Several responses linked environmental protection with tourism potential, recommending better support for national parks, coastal access, and nature-based tourism experiences that coexist with agriculture and community wellbeing.
- There was opposition to mining activities and industrial development that could impact the natural environment, along with calls to ban harmful chemicals and practices such as roadside spraying.

#### 4.1.6 Transport and infrastructure

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

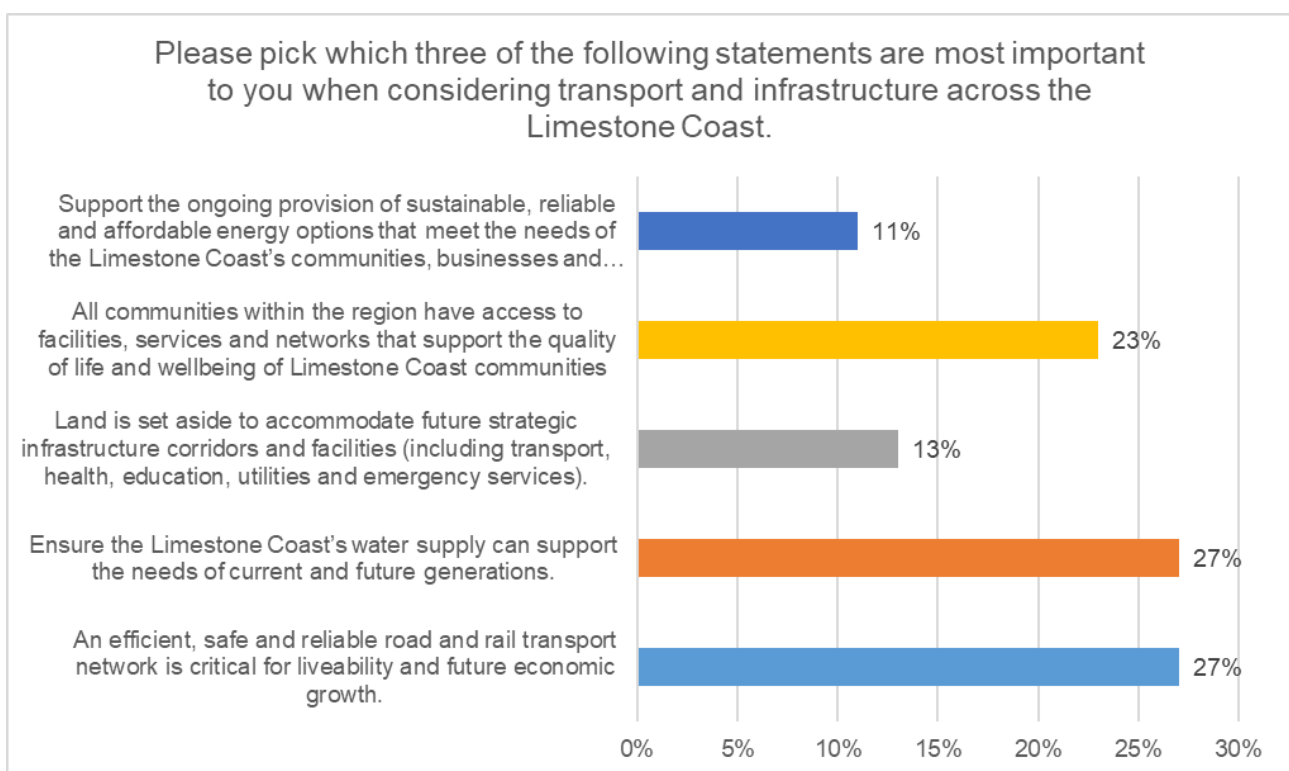


Figure 8 Transport and infrastructure – statements of importance

There were two responses that were commonly prioritised by survey respondents. An efficient, safe and reliable road and rail transport network is critical for livability and future economic growth and to ensure the Limestone Coast's water supply can support the needs of current and future generations.

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

- Respondents overwhelmingly stated that public transport is either non-existent or unaffordable in the region, particularly for older people, people without cars, and those needing to access health services in larger towns or cities. The comparison with Victoria's public transport system was frequently made.
- Many highlighted deteriorating roads and unsafe corridors (e.g. Bordertown–Naracoorte) as major issues, especially with increased truck and road train traffic. There were strong calls for improved road maintenance and planning for emergency access.
- A significant number of respondents noted that medical services (GPs, specialists, cancer treatment) are limited or overburdened, with long wait times and travel often required to Adelaide or Victoria for care.
- There was widespread demand for the return or introduction of rail services, both for passengers and freight, as a more affordable, sustainable, and inclusive transport option, especially for connecting Mount Gambier and other towns to Adelaide and Melbourne.
- Calls were made to ensure that transport and infrastructure planning takes into account aging populations, new technologies (like self-driving vehicles), and the need for inclusive, accessible services across all communities.

#### 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*.

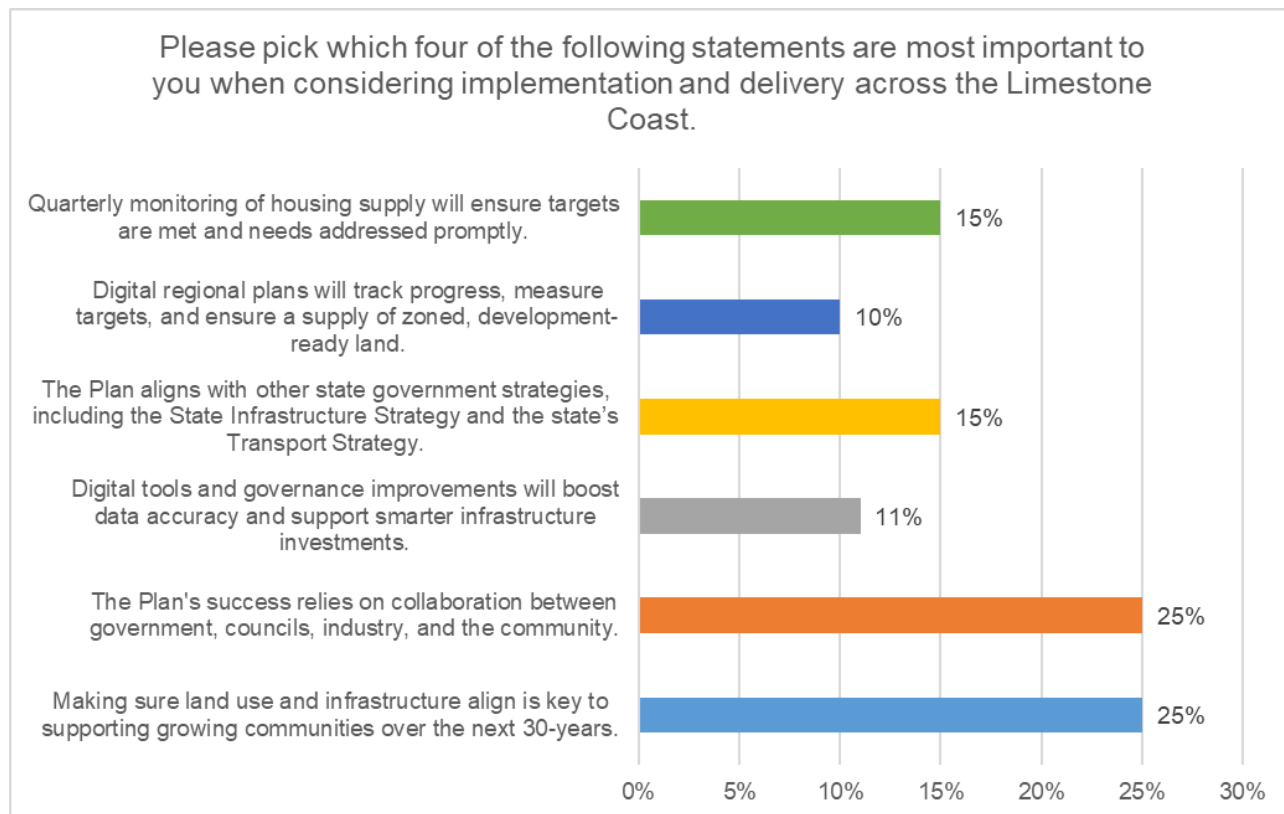


Figure 9 Delivery and implementation – statements of importance

Survey respondents most commonly prioritised that the success of the Plan relies on collaboration between government, councils, industry and the community. Alignment of land use and infrastructure to support growing communities 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:

- Many respondents strongly criticised the false claim that a functioning public transport system exists in the region. There were repeated calls to act quickly to buy buses, employ drivers, and deliver services immediately, particularly for smaller towns.
- Frustration was clear around long delays, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and perceived lack of follow-through on past plans. Respondents urged governments to stop delaying and start delivering infrastructure and services now, especially in healthcare, housing, and roads.
- Respondents felt that local voices were ignored in planning processes. Suggestions included direct communication methods like text message updates and ensuring councils are representative and responsive, especially regarding controversial decisions.
- There was strong sentiment that towns like Mt Gambier, Millicent, and others are already stretched in terms of services. Calls were made to fix medical services, water infrastructure, and retail loss before approving new housing estates or major developments.

#### 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:

- Youth survey respondents ranked *people, liveability and housing* as the most important theme to them in the Plan, followed by *natural resources* and *Implementation and delivery*.
- Three-quarters of youth respondents intend on staying living in the Limestone Coast in the future.
- Youth had concerns about the rising housing prices, poor housing availability, and lack of affordable education. Combined with fears of population decline, especially of young families.
- Youth survey respondents suggested strong community support for climate-conscious planning, including investment in renewable energy, eco-friendly infrastructure (like EVs and public transport), education on sustainability, and laws to protect the environment and ecosystems.
- Respondents suggested an appreciation for green spaces, a strong sense of community, local heritage and traditional community events.
- Youth survey respondents suggested a vision for the Limestone Coast as sustainable and with affordable housing, more diverse education and job opportunities. Improved infrastructure and protected natural landscapes and greenery.

## 4.2 Feedback received - submissions

This section summarises feedback received through the following means:

- Email submissions (94)
- Hard copy/post submissions (74)
- Easy read surveys (18)
- Submissions via the PlanSA portal (9)

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 Limestone Coast 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 commonly referenced theme in submissions. This was followed by *productive economy* and *transport and infrastructure*.

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

[OBJ]

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.

[OBJ]

Figure 11 Plan subthemes included in submissions

This shows that issues and commentary around *landscape and township character, primary industry and housing supply and diversity* were the key subthemes through submissions, clearly leading other subthemes.

### 4.3 Key submission themes – all formats

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

#### 4.3.1 People, housing and liveability

- Strong community concerns about housing supply and diversity, emphasising affordable and adaptable options for main towns and priority populations like older adults and essential workers.
- Support for urban infill and organised township expansion with calls for master planning and infrastructure upgrades, alongside opposition to medium/high-density subdivisions in rural areas to protect rural character.
- Importance of preserving town character, cultural heritage including Aboriginal values, and improving scalable services (health, education, emergency) aligned with population growth.

#### 4.3.2 Productive economy

- Mining and mineral exploration are seen as economic opportunities but face substantial community opposition due to environmental and agricultural risks.
- Protection of primary production lands is critical, with integrated planning to balance agriculture, forestry, mining, and tourism development.

- Emphasis on economic diversification through supporting local businesses in manufacturing, food/hospitality sectors, renewable energy projects, and circular economy principles.

#### 4.3.3 Natural resources, environment and landscapes

- High priority on protecting native vegetation, biodiversity, and landscape character, with calls for integration of detailed biodiversity mapping and heritage considerations.
- Strong demand for actionable climate change policies including urban greening, longer-term climate projections, nature-based coastal hazard solutions, and integrated water management.
- Concerns over mining impacts, land use conflicts with industrial sites, and need for robust environmental oversight and community engagement.

#### 4.3.4 Transport and infrastructure

- Concerns over adequacy of transport networks, with priorities on upgrading freight corridors, improving public transport accessibility, and enhancing active transport infrastructure.
- Digital connectivity improvements needed to address black spots and support economic and social inclusion.
- Infrastructure constraints include water supply and wastewater treatment; social infrastructure (health, education, aged care) requires better strategic planning to keep pace with growth.

#### 4.3.5 Delivery and implementation

- Stakeholders call for clear governance and cross-government coordination with defined roles and accountability for delivering the Plan.
- Recommendations for regular public reporting based on measurable performance indicators to ensure transparency and adaptive management.
- Funding strategies should ensure equitable cost-sharing without overburdening communities or industries and support coordinated infrastructure investments.

### 4.4 Submission summaries

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

#### 4.4.1 Community groups

Community groups	
Limestone Coast Sustainable Futures Association (LCSF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 community members provided submissions as members of the LCSF.</li> <li>• LCSF expresses strong opposition to the inclusion of the Australian Rare Earths Koppamurra Project as a regional priority in the draft Plan.</li> <li>• LCSF outlines the value of the Limestone Coast as a primary industry heartland</li> <li>• Community concerns are highlighted in relation to the project, as outlined by the community in 2024 Visioning Workshops and in DEM's 'Energy and mining on the Limestone Coast: Social research finding and reccomendations' report.</li> </ul>

Community groups	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LCSF has significant concerns about the economic, social and environmental risks associated with rare earth mining, particularly related to water security, land degradation, and trust in regulatory processes.</li> <li>• LCSF calls for the removal of the Koppamurra Project from the Plan and advocates for a renewed focus on supporting and enhancing existing primary industries.</li> <li>• LCSF suggest that the department look into the LCSF's #SAVEOURSOILS campaign to better understand local concerns regarding soil and water protection.</li> </ul>
<b>Rail Futures Institute</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports the staged reintroduction of rail services between Glenburnie (South Australia) and Heywood (Victoria) to enhance freight and passenger transport options.</li> <li>• The Institute highlighted the need for supportive land use policies, including provisions for an Intermodal Freight Terminal at the proposed Glenburnie industrial precinct, preservation of rail corridors between Wolseley, Mount Gambier, and Millicent, and flexibility in local infrastructure projects like cycling paths and a potential Mount Gambier northern bypass to accommodate future rail realignment.</li> <li>• The Institute acknowledges and supports Infrastructure SA's 20-Year Infrastructure Strategy recognising opportunities to revitalise retired rail lines to boost regional exports and economic activity.</li> </ul>

#### 4.4.2 Industry

Industry	
<b>Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) SA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AILA SA is generally supportive of the draft regional plans.</li> <li>• AILA SA stresses that regional plans play a crucial role in creating resilient and vibrant communities through integrating vegetation, public spaces, and sustainable landscape practices.</li> <li>• AILA SA commends the clarity, consultation, and digital innovation within the Regional Development Plans.</li> <li>• Highlight that 11 key issues previously raised for other regions (Eyre and Western, Far North, Yorke Peninsula, and Mid North) remain relevant for Murray Mallee and Limestone Coast, particularly the inclusion of urban green infrastructure, planning on Country with First Nations collaboration, and sustainable land use and urban design.</li> <li>• AILA SA supports public realm initiatives in towns and natural precincts that integrate green infrastructure and active transport networks. Support embedding green infrastructure to mitigate urban heat, improve air quality and biodiversity, with measures like Water Sensitive Urban Design (stormwater management) and a minimum 30% tree canopy cover in new suburbs.</li> </ul>

Industry	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retrofitting existing townships to preserve and enhance streetscape tree canopy and amenity is also prioritised to protect rural landscapes and reduce environmental impacts.</li> <li>• AILIA SA suggests densifying urban centres for liveability and encouraging slow tourism and active transport through regional cycling trails that engage visitors directly with the landscape and biodiversity of the Murray Mallee and Limestone Coast.</li> <li>• Identify that studies of coastal environments under sea-level rise as urgent, recommending biodiversity mapping linked to tourism (e.g., ecological cycling trails).</li> <li>• Emphasise the need for climate adaptation and mitigation plans focusing on flood- and bushfire-prone areas and linked to cooling towns via green infrastructure.</li> <li>• Note a lack of active transport mention in the Plan’s preamble despite its importance for liveable towns and regional connectivity, including by analogue and e-bikes.</li> <li>• Urge commitment to Water Sensitive Urban Design from street-level to the coast to bolster climate resilience.</li> <li>• Suggest increasing the density of existing towns to sustainably accommodate people, economy, and lifestyle.</li> <li>• AILA SA strongly recommend green infrastructure principles become fundamental objectives across all regional plans.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Australian Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industry appreciates recognition of key projects like the Koppamurra Rare Earth Element (REE) initiative and seeks ongoing updates and dialogue on emerging projects.</li> <li>• AMEC recommends articulating the social and economic value of mining more fully, including its importance to a net zero future.</li> <li>• Collaboration with Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) is advocated to enhance resource mapping, prevent sterilization of mineral areas by other developments (e.g., renewables), and promote mineral processing and infrastructure corridors.</li> <li>• Highlights the need for government investment in road, transport, and facility maintenance and upgrades to support mining operations safely and efficiently.</li> <li>• Stresses the compatibility of mining with agriculture, tourism, forestry, and renewable energy, supported by strong regulatory frameworks under the <i>Mining Act 1971</i> and environmental legislation.</li> <li>• Calls for an updated Multiple Land Use Framework (MLUF) to fairly allocate land access, balance competing uses, and manage risks.</li> <li>• Recognising increasing competition for land access, AMEC encourages government-led education and advisory services to assist landowners and</li> </ul>

Industry	
	<p>communities in understanding processes and rights related to mining and exploration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledges that the region’s unique geology contributes to local viticulture and geotourism, such as limestone caves and wetlands. AMEC emphasizes that these values and mineral exploration can coexist when thorough environmental and social assessments are conducted.</li> <li>• Supports planned reviews like the Key Resource Areas Code Amendment to protect mineral resources while balancing urban interface challenges.</li> </ul>
<b>Chamber of Commerce Mount Gambier</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlights priority for accelerated and diversified housing development, including fast-tracking the release of suitable land for diverse housing types to address the critical rental shortage and improve housing affordability for all demographics, including essential workers, students and new migrants.</li> <li>• Provision of an understanding of the demographic of the projected 18,000 population increase is needed to plan for services and how to support economically</li> <li>• Implement clear plans for the scalable provision of essential services (healthcare, education, childcare, emergency services) to accommodate the projected 18,000 population increase.</li> <li>• Suggest development and funding of targeted programs to attract skilled migrants and professionals, including settlement support.</li> <li>• Suggest investment in and protection of core liveability assets such as entertainment venues in the CBD, and support the development of community spaces, cultural facilities and recreational opportunities that enhance the region's appeal to youth, families and professionals.</li> <li>• Ensure planning policies and processes are efficient, transparent and responsive to the needs of businesses seeking to establish, expand, or innovate, minimising bureaucratic hurdles and facilitating timely approvals.</li> <li>• Implement dedicated programs and resources that actively seek to attract new businesses to the region, provide ongoing support for existing enterprises to grow and assist businesses facing challenges to ensure their retention.</li> <li>• Opportunity to safeguard, enhance and strategically promote the Limestone Coast's unique natural landscapes as a core asset for the tourism industry and overall regional liveability. This includes investing in ecotourism infrastructure and sustainable access.</li> <li>• Suggest it is essential to identify the core issue for public transport needs. Understanding the current reliance placed on other services, such as taxis, and how a robust public transport network could effectively address these gaps to implement a reliable, accessible and strategically connected public transport network that links key towns and employment centres.</li> </ul>

Industry	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement to accelerate investment in high-speed, reliable broadband and mobile connectivity across the entire Limestone Coast, addressing "black spots" and ensuring consistent access for businesses and residents.</li> <li>• Need to establish clear and unambiguous accountabilities for the delivery of the plan's objectives across all levels of government (federal, state and local) and relevant agencies.</li> <li>• Crucially, set clear, ambitious, yet achievable timelines for key initiatives and commit to regular, public reporting against measurable performance indicators.</li> </ul>
<b>Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome improved digital connectivity initiatives and would relish the opportunity to offer fresh perspectives on the potential for using new technologies and standards both to connect grape growers with grape purchasing entities and to connect wine producers with wine markets.</li> <li>• Support initiatives that allow growers and producers to continue taking rapid steps towards the 'sustainable growth' of the wine industry.</li> <li>• Sustainability initiatives should involve not only providing encouragement for the development of new viticultural, winemaking, packaging, and logistical practices, but it must also consider the interconnectedness of the wider ecological landscape and the need to collaborate with other industry sectors over the finiteness and preciousness of shared resources.</li> <li>• Suggest the Plan would benefit from clearly explaining how initiatives intend to achieve 'sustainable growth' of the industry - which is already committed to world-class wine in an ecologically responsible way.</li> <li>• Suggest the region embraces Sustainable Winegrowing Australia (industry standard), administered by the Australian Wine Research Institute. The Plan misses an opportunity to acknowledgement the initiative.</li> <li>• Apprehensive about the inclusion of the Australian Rare Earths Koppamurra project within the projects and initiatives of the Plan. Point to a confusing pattern of community and industry consultation involving rare earth mining.</li> <li>• Concerns regarding the extraction of 'critical minerals' from perspective of sustainability e.g. shared water resources, rising water table and loss of vegetation. Highlights the pressure on the resource applied by mines and potential for damage to soil health and the limestone geology.</li> </ul>
<b>Master Builders Association SA (MBASA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stresses it is not the lack of zoned land in many areas preventing growth, but the lack of viability in pursuing what the policy may intend (the case in each regional plan).</li> <li>• Expresses that a number of policy frustrations in the Planning and Design Code currently hinder development that is sought after in regional contexts generally, which should be the focus of future code amendments.</li> <li>• MBASA sees potential for improving the spatial application of Overlays, together with adding more flexibility to land uses in certain zones and</li> </ul>

Industry	
	<p>improving Technical and Numeric Variations (TNVs) to site areas and frontages in existing zones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of lower-value native vegetation from the Native Vegetation Overlay in areas earmarked and zoned for either new housing or employment growth would be of great assistance to allow for growth.</li> <li>• Suggests that a critical action arising from these strategic documents is a region wide infrastructure strategy to shape future budgeting and drive growth.</li> <li>• The Limestone Coast has one of the largest towns outside of Adelaide (Mount Gambier and Compton) and is earmarked for future expansion. South Australia lacks regional cities and emphasises the opportunity to make Mount Gambier a much larger township.</li> <li>• MBASA suggests that Mount Gambier should be earmarked as the major growth hub for the Limestone Coast with a target of a population of 40,000 people by 2051, with sufficient land allocated for urban growth. Highlights that Mount Gambier is not geographically constrained for growth.</li> </ul>

#### 4.4.3 Non-government organisations

<b>Purple Orange</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Plan acknowledges that the region will face increased temperatures, fire risk and extreme weather and outlines welcome steps like enhancing tree canopy and retrofitting original housing to benefit local communities. Heatwaves, bushfires, drought and floods pose serious risks to health and wellbeing of older people. A growing number of older South Australians have told COTA SA they fear that their home may become ‘uninsurable’, exposing them to the risk of housing insecurity.</li> <li>• Support the call for a transport review in the Limestone Coast and, given the significant, growing proportion of older people living in the region, COTA SA suggest that a gap analysis of older residents’ transport needs be specifically included in any future transport planning exercise.</li> <li>• Support for advancing telecommunications connectivity and access as a key priority for the Limestone Coast. Digital inclusion is not just about infrastructure - it also requires programs to build confidence, skills and access to affordable technology, especially for older people.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COTA SA welcomes the Plan’s commitment to accommodate projected population growth in the Limestone Coast regions.</li> </ul>

#### 4.4.4 Councils

8 submissions were received from councils in proximity to the Limestone Coast.

Councils	
<b>City of Mount Gambier</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of the Plan is welcomed by council. Council recognises the Plan’s strategic importance, though council calls for a commitment through</li> </ul>

Councillors	
	<p>the Plan to a scale and quality of infrastructure to meet growth and development potential.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan falls short in identifying the necessary and planned regional interventions and investments to meet the growth potential of the city and the region.</li> <li>• Developing a Masterplan or Growth Plan for Mount Gambier should be a priority, with greater focus on its role as the regional capital and a key urban centre.</li> <li>• The Plan should promote growth that supports liveability and community by reducing urban sprawl, addressing current inconsistencies that allow peripheral expansion.</li> <li>• Highlights importance of safeguarding water quality and quantity, requiring all development in the Blue Lake Catchment Zone to connect to the SA Water sewerage network.</li> <li>• The claim that public transport options have been strengthened is rejected; current services do not meet the population’s needs and are inadequate for projected growth.</li> <li>• The Plan overstates current transport connectivity; historic underinvestment in transport infrastructure limits growth and competitiveness, causing economic and job leakage to nearby Victorian centres.</li> <li>• Mount Gambier Regional Airport serves passenger and freight flights; however, regional air travel is disproportionately expensive, which hampers regional connectivity.</li> <li>• Digitised Regional Planning Portal is welcomed. The Plan’s success depends on robust infrastructure and coordinated government planning than on digital tools alone. Suggests current actions are insufficient to fully address challenges or seize growth opportunities.</li> <li>• Consideration of proximity to Victoria and the need for integrated cross-border planning within the Plan is essential. Regional competitiveness depends on understanding economic and policy influences from Victoria.</li> </ul>
<p><b>District Council of Grant</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council suggests that the Plan does not align or reflect a clear understanding of the District Council of Grants’ strategic direction and planning priorities.</li> <li>• Suggests that there are townships that present significant and underutilised opportunities for infill growth that are not highlighted within the draft Plan. The digital version largely omits spatial acknowledgement of the townships in the District Council of Grant entirely.</li> <li>• Request that That the term ‘Greater Mount Gambier Master Plan’ no longer be used. Rather utilising neutral or explicitly reference both the City of Mount Gambier and the District Council of Grant.</li> <li>• Council is encouraged by the inclusion of state actions focused on the mapping and protection of the Environment and Food Protection Areas</li> </ul>

Councils	
	<p>outside of Greater Adelaide and looks forward to further engagement with PIRSA on this matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploitation of resources needs to be appropriately balanced with the needs of communities, the protection of primary production land, urban interfaces, landscape character and environmental values.</li> <li>• Further clarity should be provided about the purpose of urban interface issues and policy, and the potential expansion to consider manner in which such activities may have impact on rural or environmental land uses.</li> <li>• Requests the Plan acknowledges the extensive strategic planning undertaken by council into the Mount Gambier Regional Airport. Council have included strategic recommendations for the consideration of inclusion.</li> <li>• Council has developed concept plans and strategic visions to accommodate a variety of industry types within distinct precincts at multiple locations. Includes code amendments for the creation of Strategic Employment Zones. Council urges their inclusion in the Plan.</li> <li>• Council requests inclusion of spatial recognition of multiple townships and acknowledgement of infill development as the primary growth strategy for these towns. Avoiding a proliferation of further fragmentation of land in the Rural Zone and Rural Horticulture Zone, protecting prime agricultural land and promoting a rural-residential character which is distinct from that in urban Mount Gambier.</li> <li>• The move toward digitalisation offers significant benefits, including improved access to mapping, real-time data, and interactive spatial planning tools.</li> <li>• Suggests a more holistic supporting commentary on identified future growth opportunities within the portal. The absence of contextual detail risks confusing readers and undermines the effectiveness of the Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>District Council of Robe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally supportive of the Plan, citing it is well aligned with the current District Council of the Robe Strategic Plan, particularly with regard to planning for liveability and diversity in housing.</li> <li>• Further detail and guidance is required to enable council to appropriately plan, resource and budget for works, particularly in relation to identification of areas where employment land is best suited/required will enable the efficient coordination of infrastructure and services.</li> <li>• Council views protection and conservation of its natural landscapes and environments as high priority, as is reflected in the Plan.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Kingston District Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall council is comfortable with the broad spatial design to guide future land uses within the district and acknowledges the themes identified to guide growth and development.</li> </ul>

<b>Councils</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council is updating its Coastal Adaptation Plan. An important piece of work aligned to the new regional plan and the key point of focus on coastal management and environmental impacts.</li> <li>• Highlights need for ongoing consultation with Department of Infrastructure and Transport on integration of transport and freight routes, and the likely impact across road networks.</li> <li>• Council points to initiatives such as the building of a new 83 place early learning and childcare centre that will trigger growth for the township and demand for a variety of housing options.</li> <li>• Council identifies a number of bespoke housing developments to recommend for inclusion in the Plan.</li> <li>• Council points to misalignment of land parcels (some privately owned) specifically identified in its current strategic plan, that are not currently captured in the draft Plan. Council proposes that inclusion of these land parcels in the Plan for future rezoning/code amendments.</li> </ul>
<b>Naracoorte Lucindale Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Plan provides a valuable strategic framework that highlights key priorities and opportunities for growth and development across the Limestone Coast region, while recognising the unique characteristics of each local government area.</li> <li>• Particularly welcome the plan's focus on coordinated infrastructure planning, sustainable land use, and the enhancement of regional connectivity.</li> <li>• Support is given on the understanding that the Plan remains a high-level, non-binding document that does not restrict council's ability to undertake future rezoning initiatives in response to emerging local needs and priorities.</li> <li>• Support the plan as a live document, which must be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect new information, changing conditions, and stakeholder input. Ongoing flexibility and the ability to amend the Plan as needed is vital to ensure it remains relevant and effective in guiding future growth.</li> </ul>
<b>Tatiara District Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The detailed submission is structured per township and includes tabulated recommendations for additions and amendments to be incorporated in the final Plan and does not support a number of proposals for rezoning of land. Spatial Visions for each town were supplied.</li> <li>• Concerned that growth opportunities beyond township boundaries appear to have been overlooked in the draft Plan.</li> <li>• Suggests current planning policies are outdated and overly restrictive, failing to adequately respond to the evolving dynamic of the region's primary industries.</li> <li>• Instead suggests consideration of amendments to the Planning and Design Code to better reflect the transformation of rural areas, to responsibly accommodate growth, and ensure long-term sustainability of both primary industries and the established communities in these areas.</li> </ul>

Councils	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request that development and infrastructure investment is explicitly included in state-led actions, recognising the immediate need for network planning and investment in the Tatiara. Failure to address this as a priority, risks further constraining growth across the region.</li> <li>• Urge the State Planning Commission to prioritise the functionality of the digital platform ensuring it is user-friendly, responsive and capable of effectively displaying spatial recommendations.</li> </ul>
<b>Wattle Range Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At a high-level, council is generally supportive of the outcomes and long-term strategic objectives.</li> <li>• Council has undertaken strategic planning which has informed land use and infrastructure planning. Detailed submission relates specifically to townships and strategic planning documents attached (Millicent, Penola, Glencoe and other areas identified in the 25 Year SLUP). Highlights additional need for Employment Land and Future Residential and Neighbourhood-type zoning.</li> <li>• Council requests that policies within any Future Mineral and Energy Resources Overlay ensure that longstanding mineral extraction can continue to occur while maintaining a suitable interface with existing lawful residential land.</li> <li>• Council supports the inclusion of policies to assist the provision of worker's accommodation. Calls for clear policy to inform the scale of development which triggers the requirement for Workers Accommodation, reinforces the temporary nature of developments and consider imposing minimum, yet practical design standards.</li> <li>• Acknowledges incorporation of new biodiversity and habitat mapping and welcomes the clear guidance on areas for protection and those appropriate for development.</li> </ul>
<b>Glenelg Shire Council (Victoria)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Glenelg Shire Council (GSC) emphasises the importance of cross-border collaboration between South Australia and Victoria to ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for the wider region, including the Shire of Glenelg.</li> <li>• Highlights support for increasing diverse housing in appropriate locations, noting that both regions face housing shortages despite having sufficient zoned land. Suggest that infrastructure constraints hinder development and exacerbate housing shortages, especially with strong demand from renewable energy projects' workforce.</li> <li>• The council emphasises collaborative opportunities in agriculture, manufacturing, renewable energy, and tourism across the border.</li> <li>• Supports climate resilience and sustainability goals and advocates for ongoing protection of key national parks and state forests along the South Australian border that support regional biodiversity.</li> </ul>

Councils	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls for strategic, long-term investment planning for road and infrastructure improvements on both sides of the border, including rail infrastructure.</li> <li>• Highlights the lack of commuter public transport between key regional centres within a one-hour radius and urges the Plan to incorporate goals aimed at improving integrated transport solutions to reduce isolation.</li> <li>• Recognition of expected strong growth in renewable energy and onshore gas projects impacting both states. Council supports managing growth with infrastructure investment, including grid storage and transmission, while ensuring rural communities benefit from these developments.</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>• Values the acknowledgement by name of the Traditional Owners of a region, as the Commission has done in the GARP. This has not been reflected within the subsequent draft regional plans.</li> <li>• The Committee seeks that the wording from the GARP be replicated in all the draft regional plans, providing a 'commitment on the part of the Commission and the Department for Housing and Urban Development to work alongside Aboriginal people to protect and preserve the cultural values' of a region.</li> <li>• The Committee seeks that 'Planning with Country models' are defined or otherwise explained. The reference is unclear. The Committee was unable to identify publicly available information on what the principles are, and what platform planning provides in South Australia to make the principles functional.</li> <li>• There is currently no suggestion that 'Planning with Country' has occurred within the draft Plan. Suggests this is aspirational and/or not a genuine interaction.</li> <li>• The Committee seeks reconsideration of identified statements to be reworded sensitively.</li> <li>• The council notes the following statement is omitted from the Limestone Coast Regional Plan (as reflected in all others): 'An integrated connecting with Country network is important in the early stages which will also help to avoid areas of cultural sensitivity and help to streamline cultural heritage processes in the proceeding stages'.</li> <li>• The Committee acknowledges the intent of identified statements in the Plan, however, seeks that some terms are explained so that they become meaningful.</li> </ul>
<b>Coast Protection Board / Department for Environment and Water (DEW)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board generally supports the regional plans.</li> <li>• Code amendments should consider sea level rise implications (for erosion and flooding) 'beyond the year 2100' (rather than 'to the year 2100'). Note, a code</li> </ul>

State government	
	<p>amendment may give rise to new residential areas or critical infrastructure with a design life beyond 2100.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggest the regional plans should recognise coastal hazard adaptation infrastructure alongside other critical infrastructure within the 'Transport and Infrastructure' theme, under 'Infrastructure Corridors and Reserves'. This will promote integrated planning and help to identify and set aside land required for future strategic infrastructure corridors to accommodate critical coast protection infrastructure.</li> <li>• Suggest that key coast protection infrastructure corridors abutting growth areas could also be mapped.</li> <li>• The Board suggests Objective 5 under 'Coastal Environment; be slightly amended as follows: 'Protect key coastal areas where critical infrastructure is at risk from sea level rise, coastal erosion and storm surges, and ensure new coastal development incorporates appropriate adaptation measures including nature-based solutions' (consistent with Objective 4 of the same section of the GARP).</li> <li>• Note that open space outcomes of the regional plans should ensure that development along the coast does not utilise coastal open space (public land) to offset site-specific open space requirements.</li> <li>• Note that public coastal open space may narrow in the long term due to coastal processes and sea level rise, making it important that nearby 'non-coastal' open space is maintained and enhanced.</li> <li>• Investigations for the future growth of townships and settlements, including greenfield development, should consider marine impacts associated with stormwater run-off as a priority given the proximity and potential impacts on the network of marine parks adjacent the south-eastern coast of South Australia.</li> <li>• Highlight importance that new or expanded growth areas minimise discharge to the coast by using techniques such as water sensitive urban design and stormwater retention, treatment and reuse.</li> <li>• Stress importance to consider the appropriate location and design of significant land uses in relation to the coast in order to minimise encroachment and impact on coastal and marine environments.</li> </ul>
<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> </ul>

State government	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>• DEW acknowledges that the Limestone Coast Regional Plan is framed in the context of a climate emergency, and the government's commitment to transforming the economy to net-zero emissions by 2050.</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 GARP'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>• Amend sea level rise considerations to extend beyond 2100 up to 2200 for large developments, aligning with current overlays.</li> <li>• Prevent use of coastal public open space to offset site-specific open space, preserving stormwater and cooling capacity.</li> <li>• Maintain adjacent non-coastal open space due to coastal narrowing risks.</li> <li>• Prioritise minimising stormwater discharge to protect marine parks.</li> <li>• Strengthen coastal hazard adaptation and environment protection references.</li> </ul>

State government	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognise nature-based adaptation methods like 'living shorelines' in planning instruments.</li> <li>• Amend coastal objectives to include nature-based solutions for protecting infrastructure from sea level rise, erosion, and storm surges.</li> <li>• DEW suggests linking housing supply objectives more strongly with climate risks and emissions reduction. This includes consideration of rising climate risks, including flood exposure and insurance challenges, currently absent from plans.</li> <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 protection.</li> </ul>
<b>Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The department encourages continued focus on master-planning of Bordertown, Kingston SE and Naracoorte to ensure provision for improvements to the transport network are appropriately designed and building setbacks are in place to facilitate good transport outcomes - particularly active and public transport systems.</li> <li>• Department has noted significant increase in freight movements across the road networks in the region which has led to increased pressure on both state maintained roads and council roads. The department supports the long-term strategic objective to identify and protect the operations of key strategic infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<b>Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PIRSA supports productive land value mapping.</li> <li>• Strongly suggest that the Renewable Energy section of the Plan is moderated to better reflect the aspirations of the community and suggest further direct engagement with local government, RDA Limestone Coast and Industry. Offshore wind proposals and related zoning have had mixed reactions.</li> <li>• Absent from Renewable Energy section is reference to the designation of potential AEMO Renewable Energy Zones (REZ).</li> <li>• Suggest that battery systems (installed and proposed) are integrated into the infrastructure planning layers in the Plan.</li> <li>• PIRSA supports DHUD-led review of interface management policies in the Planning and Design Code to ensure the ongoing viability of primary industries and undertake a code amendment as necessary (as reflected in the GARP).</li> </ul>

State government	
<b>Environment Protection Authority South Australia (EPA)</b>	<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>• Stresses the proposed township expansion adjacent to Blue Lake Milling, Bordertown which may lead to interface issues regarding noise. Notes that there is may already have been noise complaints from residents due to current operations.</li> <li>• Proximity of the Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) storage lagoon to the western end of Evans Cave Road in Robe may lead to future interface issues.</li> <li>• EPA has been and will continue working to ensure that assessments of interface issues such as noise and air quality are undertaken where appropriate, when rezoning of land to enable sensitive land uses are proposed near mineral resources.</li> </ul>
<b>Green Industries SA (GISA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggests alternative wording around investment in waste management and resource recovery (all regional plans).</li> <li>• GISA shows support for further exploration of regional waste and recycling centres and Regional Waste Management Plans.</li> <li>• GISA acknowledges the inclusion of circular economy and related principles in the regional plans. Particularly within the Limestone Coast region due to economic potential in the emerging circular economy sector, with unique opportunities through the region's largest industries (i.e. agriculture, forestry and fishing, and manufacturing) which are leading adaptation towards a net zero economy.</li> <li>• Note 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>• Encourage adaptive reuse of underutilised heritage buildings.</li> <li>• Acknowledge and support the recognition provided in the regional plans in taking action to reduce climate change impacts and build resilience of natural systems to prevent disaster risks such as bushfires and flood.</li> </ul>
<b>Limestone Coast Landscape Board</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern over a disconnect between optimistic housing and industry growth projections and water supply availability, especially in Bordertown.</li> <li>• Express that the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage section is generic and needs to reflect the specific values of the region's First Nations peoples.</li> <li>• Concerns the Mineral and Energy Resources objective about post-mining land use may conflict with legal requirements for rehabilitation under the Mining Act.</li> <li>• Concerns the Biodiversity objectives could conflict with the Biodiversity Act 2025, as areas of high biodiversity should be protected rather than developed.</li> </ul>

State government	
<b>Native Vegetation Council (NVC) / Department for Environment and Water (DEW)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NVC provided joint submission for MMRP and LCRP. A key focus is the importance of preserving native vegetation for biodiversity, climate resilience, and environmental sustainability.</li> <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> <li>• Acknowledges the Plan’s recognition of the Pygmy Blue Whale’s endangered status.</li> <li>• Advice to include omitted endangered flora species (Avenue Cassinia, Jumping Jack Wattle, Monarto Mintbush and various species of spider-orchids and sun-orchids - all categorised as Endangered at state and national levels.</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> </ul>

State government	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <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 Plans.</li> </ul>

State government	
<b>Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for move to greater transparency and accessibility with online mapping.</li> <li>• Acknowledge the Planning Vision for the Limestone Coast highlights the social, environmental, economic values of the region. It also recognises the current strengths, challenges and opportunities facing the development of the region.</li> <li>• The Outcomes are consistent with the findings from the Regional Growth Strategy.</li> <li>• Supports the Plan recognition of the importance of cross-border communities for employment, transport and social infrastructure.</li> <li>• Highlight that priority should be given to the need for diverse and affordable housing.</li> <li>• Local government to lead place based strategic planning for Activity Centres and Retail.</li> <li>• Strongly support the action plan with timeframes and clear responsibilities to ensure that the plan is iterative and evidence based.</li> <li>• The Plan could benefit from some commentary about the availability of infrastructure to service the zoned allotments, including any limiting factors such as the need for expansion of the Community Wastewater Management System in Kingston, or increased potable water supply in Bordertown. A discussion of recent trends in development and infrastructure could also add value.</li> <li>• Consideration could be given in the Employment Land Use section for identifying underutilised employment land, such as large industrial sites that are no longer operational (such as for wood processing), and could produce better regional outcomes than greenfield options.</li> <li>• Express that climate issues are not restricted to the environment and consideration needs to be given to planning, design and approval of housing solutions better suited to a hotter and drier climate with more intensive and sporadic rainfall.</li> <li>• Clarification of housing supply and diversity is required. Recognition is needed that not all areas within townships can be serviced by necessary infrastructure, whether from a feasibility or commercial viability perspective.</li> <li>• State that the definition of township character and amenity can be subjective and open to broad interpretation. Opportunity to build housing suitable for a changing climate could be severely limited by this Landscape and Township Character section.</li> <li>• Suggest the Tourism and Events section could provide greater discussion on balancing the need for holiday accommodation and residential rentals/ worker accommodation.</li> <li>• Strategic Transport Networks discussion is currently limited to Mount Gambier and should be expanded.</li> </ul>

State government	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggest further engagement with the Limestone Coast Landscape Board regarding Integrated Water Management should be undertaken to verify the current state of play for water allocation planning.</li> <li>• Wastewater is a limiting factor to growth in a number of areas in the Limestone Coast, therefore increasing reliance on recycled water may not be a feasible option.</li> <li>• Social infrastructure could include further discussion on development and extension of aged care services.</li> <li>• There are strong community and industry views about the potential impacts of offshore wind on coastal environments, the fishing industry, tourism and amenity.</li> <li>• The Plan needs to recognise that infrastructure may not simply be augmentation of existing systems, in some cases there is not sufficient capacity within the supply, transmission or treatment infrastructure for augmentation.</li> </ul>
<b>SA Water</b>	<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> <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> </ul>

State government	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SA Water recognises water services must adapt to the impacts of extreme weather events and long-term climate changes. Reiterate the Plans 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>• Blue Lake in Mount Gambier contains groundwater from local aquifer systems. However, vulnerable localised hotspots exist in townships such as Bordertown, where a limited groundwater source present challenges in township growth.</li> <li>• Mount Gambier's continued growth will likely require the addition of a new water source to augment the Blue Lake/Warwar.</li> <li>• In addition to water resources mention in the Plan, SA Water suggests inclusion of prescribed water resources (e.g. Padthaway, Tatiara, Morambro Creek and Nyroca Channel).</li> <li>• Groundwater in Lower Limestone Coast is shared with VIC and governed through the Borders Agreement.</li> <li>• Suggest the Plan identifies surface water sources servicing the region (in addition to groundwater), including water transferred from the River Murray to Keith via the Taillem Bend to Keith pipeline and Morambro Creek catchment.</li> <li>• Importance of implementing and maintaining stormwater quality improvement measures, and appropriately managing wastewater, is of particular significance given Mount Gambier city couples as the towns drinking water catchment.</li> <li>• Consideration of incompatible land uses as not to compromise efficient and safe delivery of community services. This applies to separation distances associated with groundwater extraction bores or proximity of development or other wastewater systems.</li> <li>• Capacity constraints exist in the wastewater network to accommodate for future growth.</li> <li>• Combined supply of wastewater from SA Water treatment plants and local government Community Wastewater Management Schemes, together with stormwater capture and reuse, are becoming increasingly important to meet water demand and reduce environmental impact for the Limestone Coast region.</li> <li>• Acknowledgement that water scarcity is becoming pronounced due to housing, climate change and agricultural and industrial demands.</li> </ul>

State government	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change impacts both demand (increasing) and water resource availability (decreasing) and we see an opportunity to group population demands with these related demands.</li> <li>• Aware of constraints relating to future groundwater extractions exceeding sustainable limits - currently working with Department for Environment and Water on groundwater investigations and modelling.</li> </ul>
<b>South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Importance of the tourism sector to the economy is evident and such is particularly relevant in regional areas, where opportunities to diversify income streams for primary producers can off-set the impact of natural events such as drought and rising salinity.</li> <li>• Multiple suggestions to introduce zones and subzones, such as application of a Visitor Experience Subzone to areas of the Conservation Zone in Mount Gambier that are suitable for tourism related development, and Rural Tourism Subzone which supports tourism development that is not necessarily associated with primary production.</li> <li>• Suggest creating a Practice Direction / Guideline and case management service for developers, to provide certainty about which forms of tourism development can utilise the impact assessed development assessment pathway.</li> <li>• SATC support the action to investigate amendments to the Planning and Design Code to facilitate worker's accommodation in regional areas to avoid necessity of workers occupying tourist accommodation.</li> </ul>
Members for Parliament	
<b>Member for Mount Gambier</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Member for Mount Gambier expresses overall support for the Plan with some key concerns and issues.</li> <li>• Suggests the Plan does not sufficiently address the region's demographic shift towards an ageing population. Calls for stronger planning provisions for age-appropriate housing, healthcare services, transport access, and social infrastructure, particularly in regional centres such as Mount Gambier, to support healthy and independent ageing.</li> <li>• Stresses the need to prioritise urban infill development within the city, focusing on well-serviced areas to maximise existing infrastructure, reduce urban sprawl, and improve housing diversity and affordability.</li> <li>• Identifies shortcomings in the consultation process, particularly noting that local priorities outlined in plans such as the District Council of Grant's Inner Township Master Plan for surrounding townships have been overlooked or underrepresented.</li> <li>• Calls for genuine and ongoing collaboration with local councils to ensure regional planning reflects grassroots needs.</li> <li>• Notes the limited capacity of existing SA Water infrastructure to support anticipated population and housing growth. Points out that no new funding has</li> </ul>

State government	
	<p>been allocated for infrastructure upgrades, which is essential to unlock residential development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highlights that without reliable water services, housing projects stall, hindering the attraction of essential workers including doctors, nurses, and teachers.</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 35 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 genuine effort to seek input from the community	22.86%	48.57%	8.57%	11.43%	8.57%

### 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, three 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.

<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>
I feel confident that my input was considered during the engagement process and helped shape the Plan	22.86%	14.29%	28.57%	22.86%	11.43%

### 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 Limestone Coast Regional Plan allowed me to make an informed view	20%	42.86%	20%	11.43%	5.71%
I was given sufficient opportunities to provide feedback during the consultation	31.43%	45.71%	5.71%	11.43%	5.71%

#### 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 Limestone Coast Regional Plan, including publishing the engagement report and providing it to all engagement participants.*

Evaluation statement	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
The purpose of gathering my feedback and its intended use was clearly explained	31.43%	37.14%	20%	2.86%	8.57%

### 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.

An engagement evaluation survey was sent to all engagement participants. As a result of feedback received in this survey, additional opportunities for culturally and linguistically diverse communities to contribute have been investigated, and a video recording of online information sessions will be shared online in future to provide visual, audio and transcribable content available.

Future opportunities to engage with school communities will also be explored in response to feedback received in the engagement evaluation survey.

Only one engagement evaluation survey respondent 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.

The engagement process was found to meet the Charter principles and successfully engaged stakeholders and interested community. This was demonstrated through receiving feedback from a strong mix of targeted stakeholders and broader community members and through positive feedback about the engagement process submitted by engagement participants.

### 5.3 Summary

The evaluation of the engagement process for the Limestone Coast Regional Plan demonstrates that it met the principles of the Community Engagement Charter, with positive outcomes across key indicators of inclusiveness, transparency, and effectiveness.

The 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 a tailored engagement approach, ensuring that affected and interested parties were identified and reached through appropriate channels. A mix of digital and in-person engagement methods—including Easy Read materials, and regional drop-in sessions—supported accessibility and inclusivity.

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, and participants were kept informed about how their feedback would be used. All submissions were acknowledged, and a 'What We Heard' report was shared with participants.

The engagement process was reviewed throughout and found to be effective as planned. Feedback from the evaluation survey led to several recommendations for future improvements, including:

- enhancing media promotion, particularly in regional areas
- providing video recordings of online sessions to improve accessibility
- exploring additional opportunities to engage with culturally and linguistically diverse communities and school communities.

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 (written submissions, online survey and face to face engagement).

### *Data assumption*

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 DHUD's technical team.

## 6.1 People, housing, and liveability

Over 196 submissions raised comments relating to the theme of *people, housing, and liveability* and 43% of respondents ranked this theme as the most important theme in relation to the Plan. Common issues raised relating to this theme included general liveability as areas develop and diverse and affordable housing.

### 6.1.1 Housing supply, diversity, and affordability

- There are strong concerns within the community about housing supply, diversity, and affordability, especially in key towns (Mount Gambier, Bordertown, Naracoorte, Kingston SE.)
- Respondents highlighted the need to prioritise housing for older people, essential workers, migrants, and address workforce housing shortages with worker accommodation policies (including short-term and seasonal housing overlays).
- There is strong feedback regarding the Plan to enhance accessibility for priority populations (living with disability and ageing) with age-inclusive housing, improved social and affordable housing targets, and accessible transport/connectivity.

### 6.1.2 Liveability and master planning

- The community emphasises the preference for urban infill and planned expansion within the existing township boundaries to protect the agricultural land and rural character, rather than growing infrastructure into agricultural land.
- There were calls for staged development of any master plans and growth plans with integrated infrastructure upgrades to ensure growth is supported and sustainable.
- There was community opposition to medium/high-density subdivisions in rural zones with local preferences for large lot rural living (e.g Compton).
- Respondents highlighted the need to implement clearer policies to manage interface conflicts between residential growth and environmental or industrial sites.
- Respondents note the opportunity to scale healthcare, education, emergency services and infrastructure (sewer, potable water, wastewater) in line with population growth, notably in Kingston, Bordertown, Mount Gambier.

### 6.1.3 Protect and repurpose heritage

- There are calls to protect town and cultural heritage, including better reflection of unique Aboriginal values and heritage in the Plan.

#### 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. 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.

**Liveability and master planning**

The region is projected to grow by approximately 18,048 permanent residents over 30 years, around 600 people per year. This will require a smarter, more efficient approach to land use and infrastructure investment.

We have heard there is a preference for urban infill over urban expansion, and the better management of land use interfaces between residential, environmental and industrial 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.

**Protect and repurpose heritage**

In response, a new sub-theme has been included in the Plan, dedicated to adaptive reuse principles and opportunities.

**Amendments to the Plan**

*Theme: People, housing and liveability*

Note: spatial mapping 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 commentary added that strengthens the people, housing and liveability theme, with particular focus on unoccupied dwellings, holiday homes and housing for identified groups (i.e. ageing and people with disability). delivering housing that meets the unique needs of the Island’s community, promotion of more sustainable living options, compact township and settlement development and balanced development outcomes.
	<i>Regional Key Worker Scheme</i>	Amended and updated commentary regarding the Office for Regional Housing's - Regional Key Worker Housing Scheme (break out box).

	<i>Content</i>	Addition of commentary to highlight anticipated housing needs, land supply and balanced development outcomes.
	<i>Key township profiles</i>	Added detailed descriptions for each Regional City, Major Service Centres and Supporting Service Centres in the region to enhance region specific, localised content.
<b>Housing supply and diversity</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined wording for 'long-term strategic objectives' based on feedback from agencies
	<i>Content</i>	Refined and updated housing data and figures.
	<i>Content</i>	Addition of commentary regarding housing choice, housing preference and identified groups. Specific reference made to the South Australia's Plan for Ageing Well 2020 – 2025 and the State Disability Inclusion Plan.
	<i>Local infill investigation areas</i>	Added a subheading providing context on 'local infill investigations areas'. Content from the local infill investigations areas subtheme.
	<i>The Housing Roadmap</i>	Added breakout box with details South Australia's Housing Roadmap
	<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 data' for each Regional City, Major Service Centres and Supporting Service Centres in the region to enhance region specific, localised content.
<i>Action</i>	<p>Amended wording for action - "Investigate appropriate land use outcomes in Compton to plan for future projected housing growth, identify suitable densities and locations for development to occur, local infrastructure and service requirements and delivery timing to inform updates to the regional plan."</p> <p>to</p> <p>"Initiate a code amendment to apply appropriate residential densities in Compton, based on projected housing demand for the greater Mount Gambier area and local infrastructure needs and service capacity. Use findings to guide development staging and inform any updates to the Plan".</p> <p>Reason: Based on feedback from the District Council of Grant and the need to better understand the infrastructure and servicing requirements for housing in the Compton area.</p>	

	<i>Action</i>	<p>Inclusion of additional action - "Identify suitable residential density/ies for Kingston based on projected housing requirements and local infrastructure and service requirements".</p> <p>Reason: Feedback from Kingston District Council seeking the inclusion of Kingston in the Plan, based on the council's Strategic Plan. Due to the timing of the council Strategic Plan and the preparation of the Plan, the identified sites and associated action were not included in the draft Plan.</p>
	<i>Action</i>	<p>Inclusion of additional action - "Identify suitable residential density/ies for Glencoe based on projected housing requirements and local infrastructure and service requirements, to inform updates to the regional plan and the Planning and Design Code."</p> <p>Reason: Feedback from Wattle Range Council seeking the inclusion of Glencoe in the Plan, based on the council's 25-year Strategic Land Use Plan. Action builds on the work currently being undertaken as part of the Wattle Range Council General Code Amendment.</p>
<b>Aboriginal cultural heritage and values</b>		Renamed the 'Cultural heritage' sub theme to 'Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Values' sub theme and added additional content to strengthen and enhance South Australia's Traditional Owners recognition in the region.
	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Incorporated and refined four 'Long-term strategic objectives'.
	<i>Content</i>	Entire sub theme reworded as per advice and feedback received.
	<i>First Nations Voice to Parliament</i>	Added breakout box with details on South Australia's First Nation's Voice to Parliament.
	<i>Aboriginal sites and objects</i>	Added breakout box with details on Aboriginal sites and objects.
	<i>Action</i>	<p>Added new action – "Co-design with key Aboriginal stakeholders a guide to assist proponents with sensitive and respectful Aboriginal engagement and negotiation with Aboriginal peoples, and update code amendment toolkit" to "Prepare a guideline in collaboration with First Nations representatives to assist proponents of code amendments with the sensitive and respectful engagement of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal peoples and update the code amendment toolkit."</p> <p>Reason: To align the wording with the relevant action in the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (published 17 March 2025) which has application for the region.</p>
	<i>Action</i>	Added new action – "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 Limestone Coast Regional Plan for future structure planning and code amendments.
<b>State and local heritage</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined wording for 'Long-term strategic objectives' based on feedback from agencies.
	<i>Content</i>	Refined wording and data/figures for State Heritage Places based on feedback from agencies.
	<i>Naracoorte Caves</i>	Added a breakout box to highlight UNESCO World Heritage Site – Naracoorte Caves.
	<i>DC Grant Local Heritage Survey Project</i>	Added a breakout box to highlight District Council of Grant's 'Local Heritage Survey Project'.
	<i>Adaptive reuse</i>	Section added to expand on adaptive reuse principles and opportunities.
<b>Landscape and township character</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined wording for 'Long-term strategic objectives' based on feedback from agencies.
	<i>Content</i>	Wording refined and additional commentary added based on feedback from agencies.
	<i>Content</i>	Wording refined to differentiate between current circumstances and vision aspiration.
	<i>Content</i>	Additional subheadings added to content to provide clarity and improve readability.
<b>Local infill investigation areas</b>		Sub theme removed and content integrated into the 'housing supply and diversity' subtheme.

## 6.2 Productive economy

There were 149 submissions that raised comments relating to the theme of *productive economy*. Common issues raised relating to this theme included diversification, the transition to renewable and the ongoing support and building of tourism in the region.

### 6.2.1 Productive land and economic diversification

- Some respondents called to support mining and mineral resource development whilst other respondents raised significant concerns on environmental impacts (e.g., Koppamurra project opposition). There were a range of responses who supported the growth of mineral and resource development but highlighted the need to do this safely and with minimal impact to the environment.

- Some organisations raised concerns regarding requirements to upgrade mapping systems and layers to protect productive agricultural lands and to manage interface between agriculture, forestry, mining, and other land uses.
- People wanted to ensure the Plan focussed on economic development by supporting local businesses, manufacturing, food/hospitality sectors and to reduce reliance on primary production and tourism alone.
- Some mentioned the requirement to expand and diversify tourism with emphasis on ecotourism, slow tourism, cultural experiences, and integration with primary production areas (e.g., wine regions, cycling trails).

### 6.2.2 Green transition

- There is strong support for renewable energy (hydrogen, batteries, wind farms) and community calls on the importance of compatibility with transport (road improvements) and existing industries
- Some respondents emphasised the need to incorporate circular economy principles with investment in waste management, resource recovery and adaptive reuse of industrial and heritage assets to boost sustainable development.

#### Commission's response

The government is committed to developing a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy which 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).

The Limestone Coast's agriculture, forestry and fishing industries make significant contributions to the state's economy, generating substantial revenue and employment. The emerging circular economy sector is becoming a key contributor to the Limestone Coast's economic landscape. The region has unique opportunities for circular economy and renewable energy, as the region's largest industries (i.e. agriculture, forestry and fishing, and manufacturing) are leading adaptation towards a net zero economy.

#### Productive land and economic diversification

The Plan recognises that primary production is a 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 and guides future infrastructure upgrades that support freight, water, energy and connectivity for rural industries.

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.

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.

#### Green transition

In response, a new sub-theme has been included in the Plan, dedicated to waste reuse and recovery and the circular economy. The Plan also highlights the decarbonisation projects and Safeguard Mechanism status of the Kimberly Clark Millicent Mill.

## Amendments to the Plan

Theme: Productive economy

Note: spatial mapping 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 Productive Economy theme, with a focus on primary production support and diversification, workers accommodation, cross-border tourism and balanced development outcomes.
	<i>Kimberly Clark Millicent Mill</i>	Added commentary to highlight the Mill's Safeguard Mechanism status and decarbonisation projects, based on feedback received.
	<i>Forestry Centre of Excellence</i>	Added commentary to highlight the state governments investment in the new Forestry Centre for Excellence, based on feedback received.
<b>Employment lands</b>	<i>Waste and resource recovery</i>	Content removed and replaced with a new sub-theme (refer to below).
	<i>Content</i>	Additional subheading added to content to provide clarity and improve readability.
	<i>Broad industry categories</i>	Commentary added to highlight the broad industry categories for employment land in the region.
	<i>Actions</i>	Amended wording for action - "Review current zoning of the identified Infrastructure (Airfield) Zone area in Wandilo and investigate opportunities to amend zoning to allow for land uses that support aviation activities and provide for broader employment land uses."  to  "Undertake a code amendment to the identified Infrastructure (Airfield) Zone area in Wandilo to amend zoning to allow for land uses that support aviation activities and provide a broader employment land use."  Reason: Based on feedback from the District Council of Grant.
<b>Activity centres and retail</b>	<i>Activity and township centres</i>	Subtheme heading amended for consistency with other country regional plans.
	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refinement of wording, based on feedback received.
	<i>Content</i>	Additional subheading added to content to provide clarity and improve readability.

<b>Tourism and events</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refinement of wording, based on feedback received.
	<i>Content</i>	Refined data and figures, based on feedback received.
<b>Primary industry</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Additional Long-term strategic objective added, due to feedback received.
	<i>Context</i>	Refined wording relating to groundwater and rainfall, based on feedback received.
	<i>Action</i>	<p>Deleted Action:</p> <p>“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.”</p> <p>This draft action duplicated outcomes being sought under related actions including, land capability mapping updates, scenic landscape investigations and buffer management investigations.</p>
	<i>Action</i>	<p>Added action:</p> <p>“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”</p> <p>Reason: To reflect feedback regarding interface management between urban and primary production areas.</p>
<b>Waste and resource recovery</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Added seven ‘Long-term strategic objectives’ for the additional sub theme to support the Outcome for Productive Economy.
		<p>Added a ‘Waste and resource recovery’ sub theme</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Mineral and energy resources</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined wording of Long-term strategic objectives based on feedback received.

## 6.3 Natural resources, environment and landscapes

Around 25% of submissions raised comments relating to the theme of *natural resources, environment and landscapes*. The key issue that was raised by respondents was the desire to protect and enhance coastal and marine environments across the Limestone Coast, closely followed by the need to address climate change and maintain biodiversity.

### 6.3.1 Biodiversity and landscape protection

- There were strong calls to strengthen the protection of native vegetation, biodiversity (endangered species, heritage agreements), and high-value landscapes.
- The community suggested that to enhance and maintain coastal reserves and marine parks there needs to be stronger regulating activities within the Plan.
- A range of responses provided firm feedback on the management of land use conflicts to prevent industrial encroachment near sensitive residential or environmental areas and to strengthen environmental oversight on mining impacts (acid drainage, land rehabilitation) with transparent community engagement.

### 6.3.2 Climate change adaptation

- Recommendations for the Plan to embed stronger climate change mitigation and adaptation policies including urban heat mitigation (urban greening), longer-term sea level rise projections and nature-based coastal hazard protections like living shorelines.

### 6.3.3 Water and air quality management

- Respondents pressed on the need to improve air and water quality management through integrated water management strategies that prioritise stormwater capture/reuse, reduce groundwater reliance, and upgrade wastewater infrastructure.

#### Commission's response

The Plan acknowledges the diverse natural environment as a fundamental pillar of the Limestone Coast's economy, liveability and identity. Submission feedback reinforced this strongly, with respondents identifying the protection of coastal and marine environments and scenic landscapes. Feedback also called for greater climate resilience, more nuanced growth planning, and improved protection of environmentally sensitive areas.

#### Biodiversity and landscape protection

The Plan maps native vegetation cover, conservation reserves, heritage agreements and threatened ecological communities to actively avoid or minimise impacts on high-value areas. These spatial layers are critical to shaping sustainable growth scenarios and will be regularly updated as vegetation and ecological condition data improves.

Content has been added to clarify the interface between the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* and the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*, particularly in anticipation of the proposed Biodiversity Act. This will ensure consistent application of vegetation policies across land use planning and environmental regulation.

#### Climate change adaptation

The Plan has been strengthened post-consultation to reflect a clearer and more actionable response to climate change. This approach supports a precautionary planning framework ensuring that future urban

expansion avoids high-risk areas and that the digital Plan can incorporate real-time updates as hazard risk science evolves.

Climate resilience will continue to be embedded across zoning and land use decisions, with a commitment to support future-proofed infrastructure, settlement patterns, and natural asset buffers.

The digital Plan includes enhanced environmental overlays and hazard layers to support informed, transparent decision-making. These layers will continue to evolve alongside new data and projections, helping to ensure development is climate-safe and ecologically responsible.

**Water and air quality management**

The ‘Integrated Water Management, Security and Quality’ sub theme has been enhanced and ensures an integrated approach to water infrastructure, climate hazards, and settlement growth.

**Amendments to the Plan**

Theme: Natural resources, environment and landscapes

Note: spatial mapping 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 wording to more clearly guide the aspirations of the Theme and ensure consistency with GARP and other country regional plans.
	<i>Content</i>	Refined wording and included additional commentary regarding endangered species, pest plants and animals, based on feedback.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refinement of long-term strategic objectives, based on feedback received.
	<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>	Refinement of long-term strategic objectives, based on feedback received.
	<i>Kimberly Clark Millicent Mill</i>	Added commentary to highlight the Mill’s Safeguard Mechanism status and decarbonisation projects, based on feedback.
	<i>Content</i>	Refined data and figures, based on feedback received.
	<i>Infographic</i>	Added climate change infographic explaining projected change and associated risks, in alignment with other country regional plans

	<i>Action</i>	<p>New action added “To aim for carbon neutrality, investigate policy approaches that enable the consideration of embodied carbon.”</p> <p>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.</p>
	<i>Action</i>	<p>New action added “Develop a regenerative planning framework and toolkit to assist state government, local government, and the private sector in applying regenerative approaches to planning.”</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Coastal environment</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined wording of long-term strategic objectives, based on feedback received.
	<i>Content</i>	Refined and included additional wording regarding coastal development, sea levels rise, and marine impacts associated with development, based on feedback received.
	<i>Learn more about the legislative framework</i>	Added breakout box with details on legislation to enhance visibility within the sub-theme.
	<i>Actions</i>	<p>Amended 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”.</p> <p>to</p> <p>“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.”</p> <p>Reason: To align the with the action in the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (published 17 March 2025) which has application for the region.</p>
<b>Natural Hazards</b>	<i>Actions</i>	<p>New action added “Update the bushfire mapping in the Plan to align with the finalisation and publication of the Statewide Bushfire Hazards Overlay Code Amendment.”</p> <p>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.</p>
	<i>Actions</i>	New action added – “Finalise the State-Wide Flood Hazard Code Amendment, and update floodwater mapping in the 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.
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## 6.4 Transport and infrastructure

A smaller number of submissions raised comments relating to the theme of transport and infrastructure with about a fifth of survey respondents (17%) ranking this as the Plan’s most important theme. Common issues raised relating to this theme included the need for infrastructure upgrades and improved strategic transport networks.

### 6.4.1 Infrastructure upgrades

- Respondents called for upgrades to the transport networks focusing on road conditions, critical freight corridors, and heavy vehicle infrastructure (e.g., overtaking lanes).
- A number of submissions focussed on strengthening regional connectivity via Mount Gambier Airport and road investments to improve cost, access, and reliability for the communities.
- Respondents said the Plan has the opportunity to close digital connectivity gaps by enhancing telecommunication infrastructure (4G/5G/NBN) by addressing blackspots, and ensuring social and business inclusion.

### 6.4.2 Public and active transport

- Residents strongly supported the development of active transport infrastructure like better pedestrian networks and bicycle lanes within townships.
- A large number of respondents outlined that public transport services are inadequate, especially for ageing, disadvantaged and dispersed populations. Recommendations included comprehensive transport reviews incorporating these demographics needs, improved accessible transport options, enhanced community transport and accessible taxi services.

### 6.4.3 Urban infrastructure

- There were a number of submissions in relation to the development of sustainable urban water systems, stormwater management, and expand wastewater treatment to support growth and climate resilience for all areas.

#### Commission’s response

Transport and infrastructure are deeply linked to the day-to-day experience of people across the Limestone Coast. Feedback from residents, businesses and stakeholders made it clear that access, cost, coordination, and safety must improve. It is noted the Limestone Coast is heavily dependant on its road network, a number of submissions called for the reintroduction of the rail network to service both passengers and freight.

The lack of public transport options and social infrastructure, particularly relating to digital connectivity and health services, is noted.

### Infrastructure upgrades

Feedback raised concerns about the condition and safety of road infrastructure, public transport and the need for improved essential infrastructure. The Plan details:

- 
- Identifying growth areas that require upfront infrastructure coordination, including wastewater networks and road improvements.
- Encouraging place-based infrastructure planning, where local road needs are considered alongside land use, population growth and emergency access.
- 

The Plan's 'Delivery and implementation' theme, identifies regional priorities will help guide future government and council investment strategies.

### Public and active transport

In response to submission feedback, Plan content has been refined to better reflect public and active transport within the region. Further, additional content has been added to the Plan highlighting the State Transport Strategy and Public Transport Strategy (Department for Infrastructure and Transport).

### Urban infrastructure

The Plan's digital format allows for more regular updates of infrastructure constraints, cost assumptions, and hazard overlays, ensuring it remains a living document that evolves as new pressures emerge. The Transport and infrastructure theme, now refined and expanded post-consultation, strengthens the region's long-term ability to plan, sequence and fund infrastructure that supports sustainable growth, protects liveability, and enhances safety and productivity.

Post consultation, amendments have been made to the long-term strategic objectives relating to Integrated Water Management, security and quality and Strategic Transport Networks sub-themes, to refine their focus and promote better outcomes for the Limestone Coast. Additional content has been included and refined in the Social Infrastructure sub-theme to provide clarity around social infrastructure provision in the Limestone Coast.

## Amendments to the Plan

Theme: Transport and infrastructure

Note: spatial mapping 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
	Jetties in the region	Addition of breakout box to highlight Jetty infrastructure
	Content	Refined wording regarding rail networks and digital connectivity in the region, based on feedback.
	Content	Added commentary regarding social infrastructure.

<b>Strategic transport networks</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined wording of long-term strategic objectives, based on feedback received.
	<i>Content</i>	Refined wording regarding public transport in the region, based on feedback received.
	<i>Content</i>	Refined wording regarding freight rail transport in the region, based on feedback received.
	<i>High Productivity Vehicle Network Project</i>	Added breakout box with details on DIT's High Productivity Vehicle Network Project to enhance visibility within the sub-theme.
	<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>Actions</i>	New action added – "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 action in other country regional plans, as it is relevant to the region.
<b>Water security and integrated water management</b>	<i>Water security and integrated water management</i>	Subtheme heading amended for consistency with other country regional plans
	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined wording of long-term strategic objectives, based on feedback received.
	<i>Content</i>	Additional subheadings added to content to provide clarity and improve readability.
	<i>Content</i>	Updated commentary regarding Regional Drought Resilience Plan, based on feedback received.
	<i>Content</i>	Updated commentary regarding water legislation and water allocation plans, based on feedback received.

	<i>Content</i>	Added new section with commentary regarding integrated water management.
	<i>Content</i>	Added new section with refined commentary regarding water sensitive urban design.
	<i>Actions</i>	New action added – “Development of a water strategy for the Limestone Coast region which will address the demands of SA Water’s existing and potential future customers and consider all sources of water.”  Reason: To align the with the action in other country regional plans, as it is relevant to the region.
<b>Social infrastructure</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refined wording of long-term strategic objectives, based on feedback received.
	<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>Content</i>	Added and refined commentary regarding social infrastructure to provide clarity around social infrastructure provision.
<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>Content</i>	Refinement of commentary regarding SA/VIC electricity interconnector, based on feedback received.
	<i>Content</i>	Wording refined to differentiate between current circumstances and vision aspiration.
	<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.
<b>Infrastructure corridors and reserves</b>	<i>Content</i>	Refined content regarding stormwater and digital connectivity, based on feedback received.

## 6.5 Delivery and implementation

Delivery and implementation was the theme that respondents deemed the least important in relation to the Plan. Common issues raised relating to this theme included general governance and collaboration to meet goals and sustainable infrastructure growth.

### 6.5.1 Governance

- Respondents recognised the importance of collaboration of all levels of government, especially in relation to the delivery of social infrastructure.
- There was a desire to establish clear governance structures with defined roles and accountabilities among state, local, federal and Indigenous bodies in relation to the planning, delivery and ongoing implementation of any outcomes of the Plan.
- Requirement for implementation of regular public reporting on progress using measurable indicators and transparent timeframes.
- Communities call for further investigations into equitable funding and investment strategies that balance costs fairly between government, industry, and communities.

#### Commission's response

The Plan is a strategic document which 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 council's 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. Council's 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 mapping amendments are in Section 6.6 of this Report.

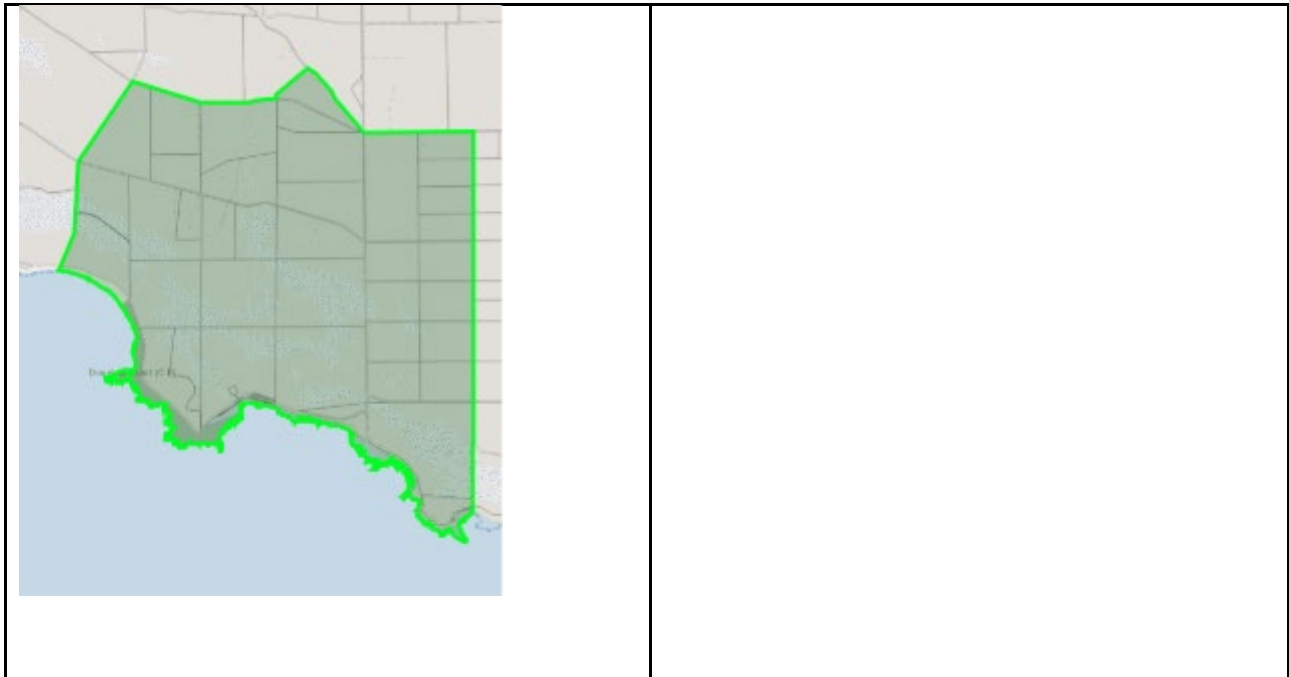
General edits made to theme include additional content, to remove spelling and grammatical errors and to improve readability.

<b>Sub-theme</b>	<b>Heading</b>	<b>Change</b>
	<i>Content</i>	Refined and updated commentary to ensure alignment with GARP and other country regional plans.
<b>Coordination and delivery</b>	<i>Long-term strategic objectives</i>	Refinement of long-term strategic objectives, based on feedback received and to ensure alignment with GARP and other country regional plans.
	<i>Greater Mount Gambier Master Plan</i>	Added breakout box with details of the Department’s action relating to the preparation of a new Greater Mount Gambier Master Plan.
	<i>Actions</i>	Amended wording for action - “Tatiara District Council to undertake strategic planning for Padthaway to plan for future projected housing and employment growth and identify requirements and timing for local infrastructure and services to inform updates to the Plan.”  to  “Tatiara District Council to undertake strategic planning for the council area to plan for future projected housing and employment growth and identify requirements and timing for local infrastructure and services to inform updates to the Plan”.  Reason: Through their submission, Tatiara District Council identified and requested corresponding code amendment actions for number of sites in Bordertown, Keith, Padthaway, Wolseley and Mundulla. This action encompasses strategic planning for the entire local government area.
	<i>Actions</i>	New action added – “Development of long-term water and wastewater master plans that will inform the Limestone Coast Regional Plan.”  Reason: To align the with the action in other country regional plans, as it is relevant to the region.
<b>Infrastructure charging</b>	<i>Content</i>	Additional commentary added regarding infrastructure schemes and other tools, to ensure alignment with GARP and other country regional plans.

## 6.6 Summary of recommended changes

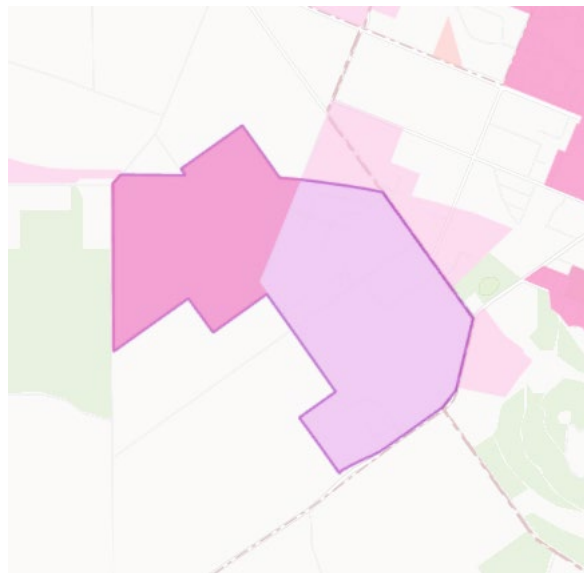
The following table provides a summary of spatial mapping amendments proposed to the Limestone Coast Regional Plan following statutory engagement:

Proposed change	Reason
<b><u>Township labels</u></b>	
<p>Racecourse Bay</p> <p>Draft LCRP:</p> <p>Not identified</p> <p>Revised LCRP (Post Engagement)</p> 	<p>Spatially represent Racecourse Bay locality in the LCRP, based on feedback from District Council of Grant.</p>
<p>Cape Douglas</p> <p>Draft LCRP:</p> <p>Not identified</p> <p>Revised LCRP (Post Engagement)</p>	<p>Spatially represent Cape Douglas locality in the LCRP, based on feedback from District Council of Grant.</p>



**Theme: People, housing and liveability**  
**Outcome 1: More housing in the right places**

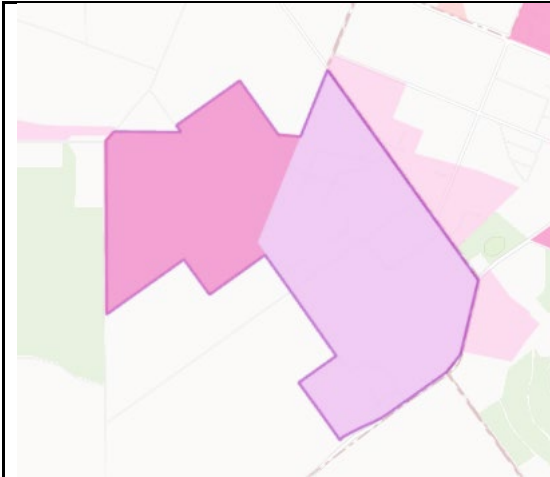
Compton  
Draft LCRP:



Revised LCRP (Post Engagement)

Correcting a mapping error.

Compton future residential extent to be increased, in alignment with the District Council of Grant Strategic Land Use Priorities Project.



Allendale East

Draft LCRP

Not identified

Revised LCRP (Post Engagement)



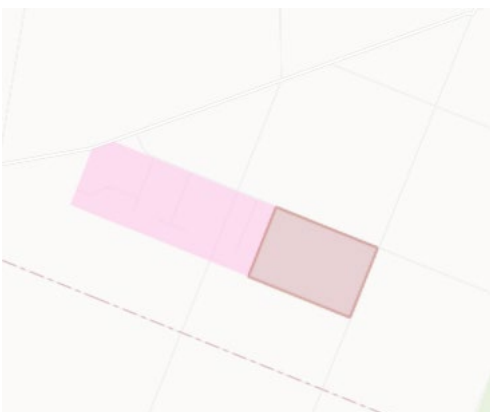
Allendale East

Apply Future Residential layer.

In alignment with the District Council of Grant Strategic Land Use Priorities Project.

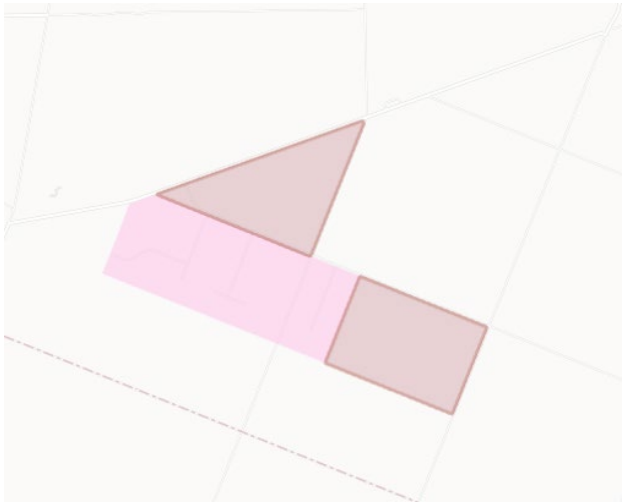
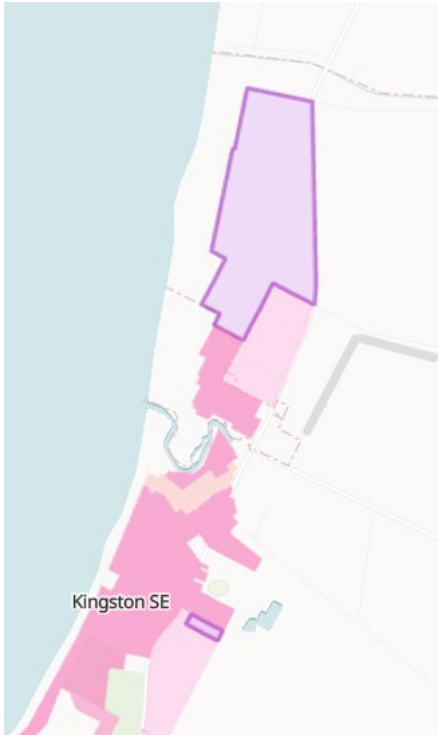
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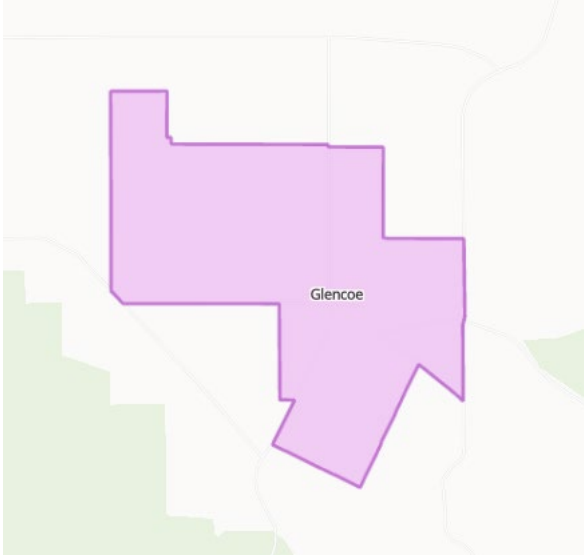
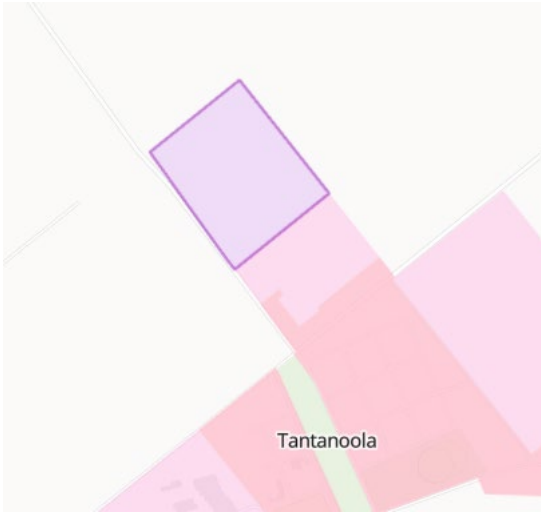
Draft LCRP

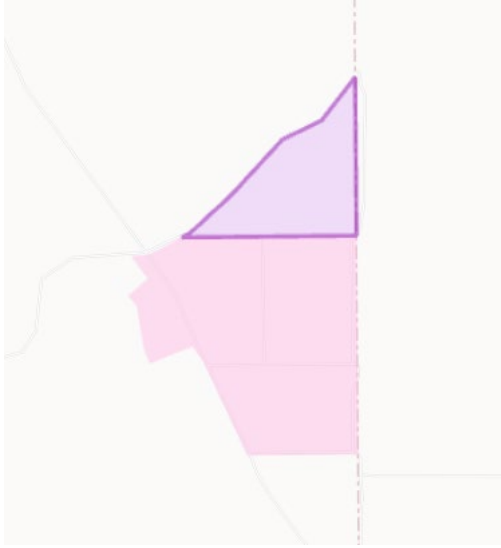




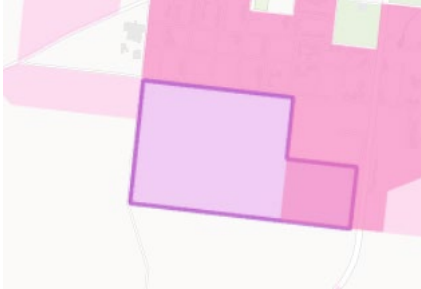

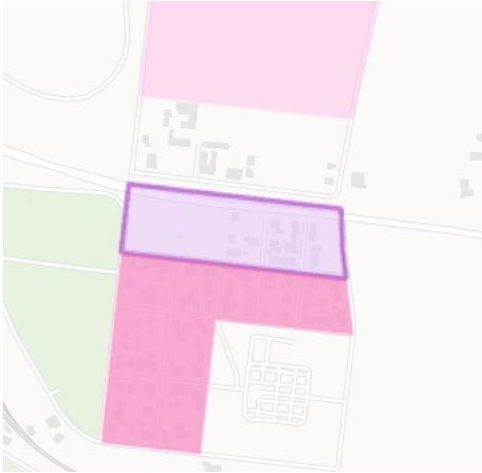
Apply Future Residential layer.

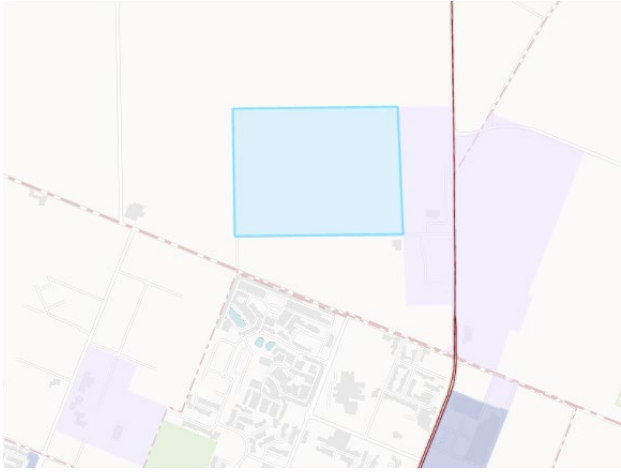

In alignment with the District Council of Grant Strategic Land Use Priorities Project.


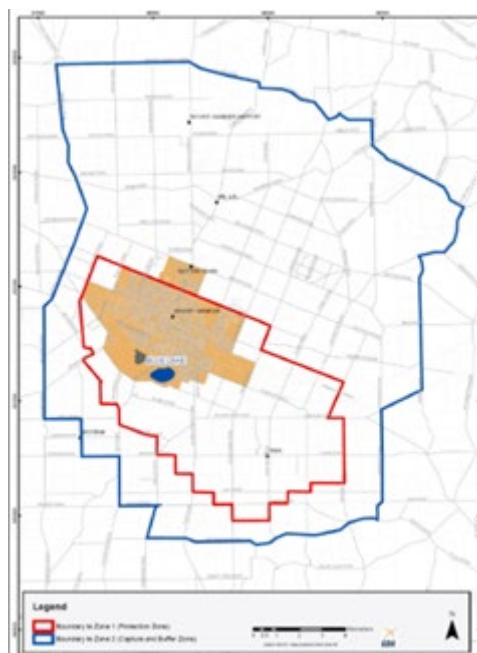
<p>Revised LCRP (Post Engagement)</p> 	
<p>Kingston SE Draft LCRP Not identified Revised LCRP (Post Engagement)</p> 	<p><u>Apply Future Residential layer.</u> In alignment with the Kingston District Council Strategic Plan.</p>
<p>Glencoe</p>	<p><u>Apply Future Residential layer</u></p>

<p>Draft LCRP</p> <p>Not identified</p> <p>Revised LCRP (Post Engagement)</p> 	<p>In alignment with the Wattle Range Council 25-year Strategic Land Use Plan.</p>
<p>Tantanoola</p> <p>Draft LCRP</p> <p>Not identified</p> <p>Revised LCRP (Post Engagement)</p> 	<p><u>Apply Future Residential layer</u></p> <p>In alignment with the Wattle Range Council 25-year Strategic Land Use Plan.</p>
<p>Rocky Camp</p> <p>Draft LCRP</p> <p>Not identified</p> <p>Revised LCRP (Post Engagement)</p>	<p><u>Apply Future Residential layer</u></p> <p>In alignment with the Wattle Range Council 25-year Strategic Land Use Plan.</p>

	
<p>Penola Draft LCRP</p>  <p>Revised LCRP (Post Engagement)</p> 	<p><u>Apply Future Residential layer.</u></p> <p>Site was identified as both future residential and employment land. This is to be identified as future residential, based on Wattle Range Council feedback.</p>
<p>Bordertown Draft LCRP</p>	<p><u>Removal of Future Residential layer</u></p> <p>Based on feedback received from Tatiara District Council – spatial recommendation not supported.</p>

 <p>Revised LCRP (Post Engagement) To be removed from LCRP.</p>	
<p>Bordertown Draft LCRP</p>  <p>Revised LCRP (Post Engagement) To be removed from LCRP.</p>	<p><u>Removal of Future Residential layer</u> Based on feedback received from Tatiara District Council – spatial recommendation not supported.</p>
<p>Bordertown Draft LCRP Revised LCRP (Post Engagement)</p> 	<p><u>Amendment of Future Residential layer.</u> Based on feedback received from Tatiara District Council.</p>
<p><b>Theme: Productive economy</b> <b>Outcome 2: A strong economy built on a smarter, cleaner future</b></p>	
<p>Suttontown</p>	<p><u>Apply Future Employment layer</u></p>

<p>Draft LCRP</p> <p>Not identified</p> <p>Revised LCRP (Post Engagement)</p> 	<p>Based on feedback received. To align with District Council of Grant's Strategic Land Use Priorities Project and Industrial Land Review.</p>
<p>Penola</p> <p>Draft LCRP</p> <p>Not identified</p> <p>Revised LCRP (Post Engagement)</p> 	<p><u>Apply Future Employment layer</u></p> <p>In alignment with the Wattle Range Council 25-year Strategic Land Use Plan.</p>
<p>Keith</p> <p>Draft LCRP</p>	<p><u>Removal of Future Employment layer</u></p> <p>Based on feedback received from Tatiara District Council – spatial recommendation not supported.</p>

 <p>Revised LCRP (Post Engagement) To be removed from LCRP.</p>	
<p>Theme: Transport and infrastructure Outcome: An integrated and connected region</p>	
<p><b>Mount Gambier and surrounds</b></p> <p><u>Draft LCRP</u></p> <p><u>Not identified</u></p> <p><u>Revised LCRP (Post Engagement)</u></p> 	<p>Additional reference layer – highlighting the Blue Lake Water Catchment Management Zone – based on feedback received.</p>

## 7 Refer to the Minister for Planning and Local Government

On 2 October 2025 the Designated Entity approved the Limestone Coast 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/0020/1535123/LCRP-Community-group-submissions.PDF](https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1535123/LCRP-Community-group-submissions.PDF)

[https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/1535124/LCRP-Council-Submissions.PDF](https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1535124/LCRP-Council-Submissions.PDF)

[https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/1535125/LCRP-Easy-Read-Surveys.PDF](https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1535125/LCRP-Easy-Read-Surveys.PDF)

[https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/1535126/LCRP-Industry-Association-Submissions.PDF](https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1535126/LCRP-Industry-Association-Submissions.PDF)

[https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/1535127/LCRP-Landowner-Submissions-part-1.pdf](https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1535127/LCRP-Landowner-Submissions-part-1.pdf)

[https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/1535128/LCRP-Landowner-Submissions-part-2.pdf](https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1535128/LCRP-Landowner-Submissions-part-2.pdf)

[https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/1535144/LCRP-Landowner-Submissions-part-3.PDF](https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1535144/LCRP-Landowner-Submissions-part-3.PDF)

[https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/1535129/LCRP-Member-for-Parliament.PDF](https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1535129/LCRP-Member-for-Parliament.PDF)

[https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/1535130/LCRP-Non-Government-Organisation-Submissions.PDF](https://www.plan.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1535130/LCRP-Non-Government-Organisation-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
2	<p><b>Engagement was reviewed</b> throughout the process and improvements put in place, or recommended for future engagement</p>	<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
3	<p>Engagement <b>occurred early enough</b> for feedback to genuinely influence the planning policy, strategy or scheme</p>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engaged when there was no real opportunity for input to be considered
	<p><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></p>	
4	<p>Engagement <b>contributed to the substance of the final Plan</b></p>	<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
	<p><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, helping to better reflect community values and priorities.</i></p>	

	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**

[Limestone Coast Regional Plan Visioning Workshop - What We Heard](#)





# Attachment 4 – Communication material

## Regional Plan Summary



## Fact Sheet

### What is the Limestone Coast Regional Plan?

The Limestone Coast region is known for its diverse landscapes, rich agriculture, and world-class wine production. The region's fertile soils support dairy farming, beef production, and cropping, while the Limestone Coast wine and food/wine wine regions produce premium wines. The coastline and unique geological features, including the Blue Lake and Limestone Caves, attract visitors, along with the region's strong First Nations cultural heritage. Fishing, forestry, and tourism also play a key role in the local economy.

The Limestone Coast 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 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 liveability

- Supporting population growth, with 18,043 more people expected by 2051.
- Accommodating growth in Mount Gambier, the region's primary city, while ensuring key townships like Naracoona, Millicent, Porton, and Bordertown also support growth.
- Addressing an ageing population, with a significant rise in people aged 65+.
- Ensuring well-located housing, connected to infrastructure, and suited to diverse household needs.
- Encouraging new housing within township boundaries to support affordability and choice.
- Building resilient, inclusive communities through land use, public spaces, and transport networks.

##### Productive economy

- Strengthening key industries, agriculture, forestry, fishing, health, and manufacturing, which contribute approximately \$4.7 billion to South Australia's Gross State Product.
- Protecting primary production land, particularly in agriculture, viticulture, and forestry, to sustain economic growth.
- Managing land use to prevent conflicts between primary production and other sectors.
- Supporting high-value industries by safeguarding key assets and creating local job opportunities.

##### Natural resources, environment and landscapes



- Protecting the region's unique natural assets, including coastlines, sand dunes, Bremer Island wetlands, and the Neaveville Coast, South Australia's only World Heritage site.
- Safeguarding 400 km<sup>2</sup> of coastline and marine environments that support fishing and tourism.
- Identifying 'steep' areas to prevent incompatible development on sensitive coastal sites, high-value farmland, and natural landscapes.
- Promoting collaborative land use planning to protect biodiversity, secure water resources, and address climate change.
- Managing residential and hazardous land use to prevent environmental and community impacts.
- Planning for climate change impacts, including rising temperatures, reduced rainfall, and more frequent bushfires, floods, and coastal erosion.
- Using climate risk projections to guide land use decisions and mitigate environmental, economic, and community impacts.

##### Transport and infrastructure


- Expanding infrastructure to support residential, commercial, and industrial growth.
- Ensuring development-ready land is available to meet housing and economic needs.
- Enhancing transport networks to improve regional connectivity.

##### Delivery and implementation

- Continuously monitoring and adjusting land use and infrastructure planning over a 15-to-30 year period.
- Conducting ongoing investigations to unlock land for development and ensure a steady supply of development-ready land.
- Implementing policies that address climate change impacts and support long-term sustainability and prosperity.

### Where is the Limestone Coast 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/limestone-coast-regional-plan> to view our survey or complete our [Feedback Questionnaire](#).
- Complete the [online submission form](#).
- Email [planning@planning.sa.gov.au](mailto:planning@planning.sa.gov.au) (Subject: Submission - Limestone Coast Regional Plan)
- Post your submission to: Planning and Land Use Services, Attention: Strategic Planning Team, Department for Housing and Urban Development, GPO BOX 1815, ADELAIDE SA 5001.

#### Need help?

Register for an online information session: [planningevents.sa.gov.au/register](https://planningevents.sa.gov.au/register)

- Visit [regionalplan.sa.gov.au](https://www.sa.gov.au/limestone-coast-regional-plan)
- Email [PlanSA@sa.gov.au](mailto:PlanSA@sa.gov.au)
- Call PlanSA Service Desk on 1800 752 664

## FAQ

**LIMESTONE COAST REGIONAL PLAN**

**STATE PLANNING COMMISSION**

## Frequently Asked Questions Limestone Coast Regional Plan

**Who is the State Planning Commission?**  
The State Planning Commission (the Commission) is South Australia's leading development assessment and planning authority. 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 10- to 30-year vision, including:

- where new housing and jobs should be located
- strategies to protect key areas while removing 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
- using climate data to mitigate risks from extreme weather events

The Commission, in partnership with Planning and Land Use Services, is developing the first country regional plans for South Australia, including the Limestone Coast 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, including the Regional Planning Portal. This platform provides interactive maps, local plans, and real-time data, helping our planning decisions with regional needs and supporting innovation, job loss, and transport development across the state.

### Where is the Limestone Coast planning region?

**What is the Limestone Coast Regional Plan?**  
The Limestone Coast Regional Plan (the Plan) maps the government's long-term vision for the region to 2051 and beyond. It guides governments, businesses, industry and not-for-profit organisations with the time and direction to better plan for and respond to growth and change in our community and built environment in line with our strategic goals. The Plan is developed within an iterative process that can be tailored to the user's requirements.

**How is the Plan developed?**  
Under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016, regional plans are prepared for each of the state's planning regions. Input from local councils, businesses, and residents gathered through workshops, surveys, and ongoing consultation shapes the Plan to ensure it meets regional needs.

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

- People, housing and livability
- 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:

- Plan for 18,000 more residents over 30 years, driven by population change and industry growth
- Support growth with diverse housing in townships, ensuring access to services
- Protect key industries, fishing, forestry, and agriculture through strategic land use planning
- Enhance tourism by improving transport and accessibility
- Prepare for extreme weather with climate projections and risk assessments

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

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

You can also learn more by:

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

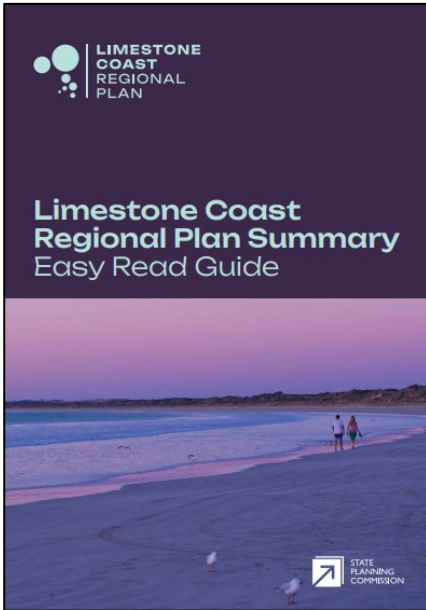
**How can I provide feedback on the Plan?**  
Consultation is open for 12 weeks until 11:59 pm on Tuesday 17 June 2025. Visit [YourSay](https://www.planning.sa.gov.au) to provide your feedback.

**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://www.planning.sa.gov.au).

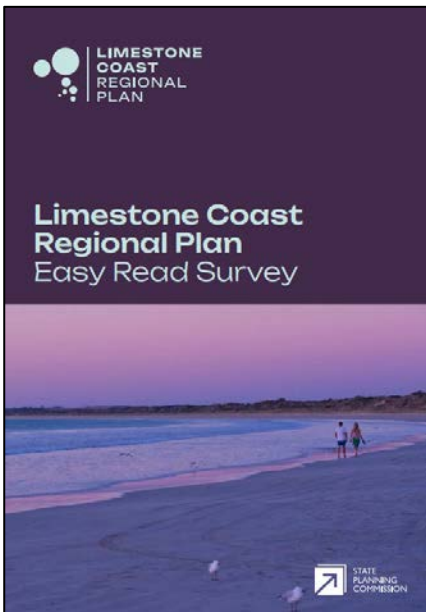
**Stay updated**  
Sign up for the [Planning Ahead](https://www.planning.sa.gov.au) Newsletter. Follow us on Facebook, email [Listeds](mailto:Listeds@planning.sa.gov.au) for regular updates.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA** | **Department of Planning and Infrastructure** | **STATE PLANNING COMMISSION**

[Easy Read guide](#)

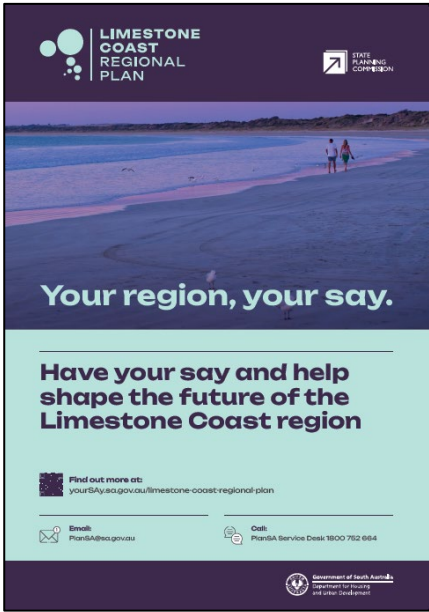


[Easy Read survey](#)

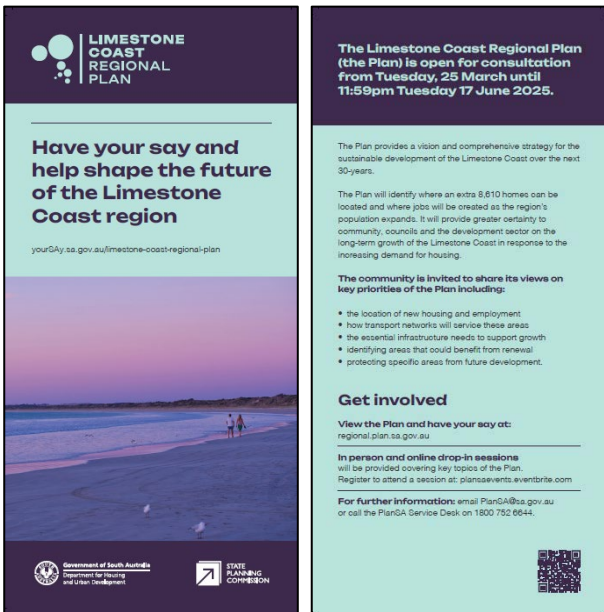


**Stakeholder toolkit items:**

- **Community Poster**



• DL Flyer



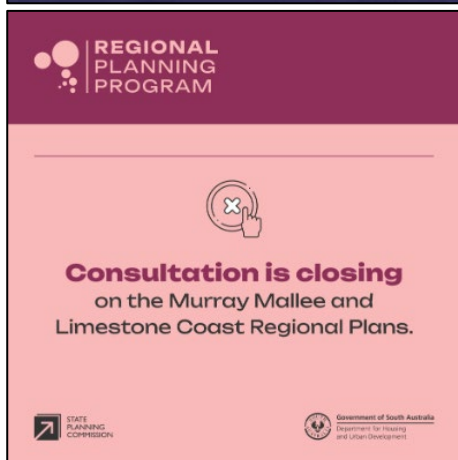
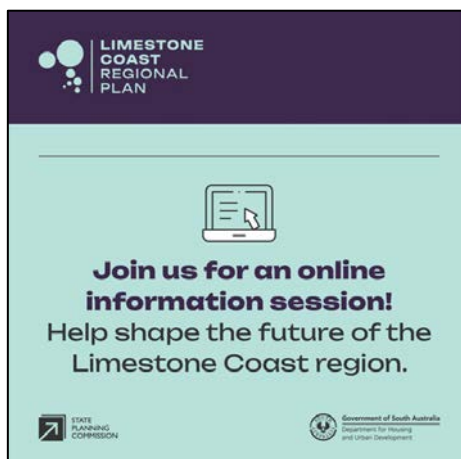
• Electronic signage



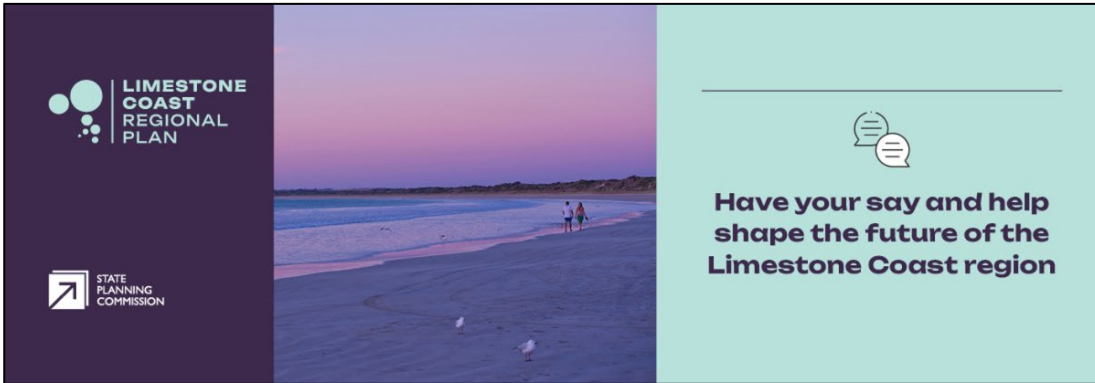
- **Email signature**



- **Social media tiles**



- **Web banner**



**Print Advertising:**



**Community information display boards:**

**LIMESTONE COAST REGIONAL PLAN** 1

### Limestone Coast Regional Plan

The Limestone Coast region is known for its diverse landscapes, rich agriculture, and world-class wine production. The region's fertile soils support dairy farming, beef production, and cropping, while the famous coastline and unique panoramic views provide premium wines. The Coast's rich and diverse natural resources, including the Blue Lake and Mt. Remarkable National Park, along with the region's strong First Nations cultural heritage, fishing, forestry, and tourism also play a key role in the local economy.

The Limestone Coast Regional Plan (Plan) maps 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 communities and towns, while achieving our strategic goals. The Plan will be based on the Regional Planning Panel, a flexible digital platform designed to listen to users.

#### How to get involved

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

- Register for an online information session**  
Visit [plancocvents.eventbrite.com](https://plancocvents.eventbrite.com)
- Scan to give your feedback**  
Use your smartphone to scan the QR code to access the YouSify platform where you can complete the survey or submit an online submission form.
- Email your submission**  
Send your feedback to [plancocsubmissions@sa.gov.au](mailto:plancocsubmissions@sa.gov.au) (Please use the subject: Submission - Limestone Coast Regional Plan)
- Post your submission**  
Address your submission to:  
Planning and Land Use Services  
Regional Growth Management Team  
Department for Housing and Urban Development  
GPO BOX 1010  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Once consultation has concluded, feedback will be collated, 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 aligned and accessible via the Regional Planning Panel.

STATE PLANNING COMMISSION | Department of South Australia

**LIMESTONE COAST REGIONAL PLAN** 2

### What is the Limestone Coast Regional Plan?

The Limestone Coast Regional 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.

The Plan promotes diverse housing for our changing communities and seeks to support industries, while protecting our key productive and environmentally significant assets.

#### The planning vision for the Limestone Coast region

The Limestone Coast is a vibrant and resilient region, rich in productive land and unique natural assets. It plays a key role in South Australia's economy and is home to thriving, connected communities.

Towns and centres are contained within defined urban boundaries, protecting the coastline and valuable agricultural land from sprawl. A range of affordable, sustainable housing options supports diverse lifestyles, with larger townships embracing higher residential densities.

Communities enjoy high-quality public spaces that are green, open and accessible, fostering strong connections and a sense of belonging. Towns are linked by safe walking and cycling networks.

The region's clean, green environments are preserved through careful land management, with national parks, marine parks, UNESCO World Heritage sites and RAMSAR wetlands protected. Bio-tourism and renewable energy industries are growing alongside conservation efforts.

Primary production remains a pillar of the economy, with the Limestone Coast becoming South Australia's food bowl. Increased value-adding in agriculture, aquaculture and forestry is strengthening the region's export markets, particularly in wine. Improved digital connectivity has opened new global partnerships.

Transport is reliable and efficient, with strengthened public transport, regular air services from Mount Gambier Regional Airport, and integrated autonomous road, air and rail networks making the Limestone Coast an attractive place to live, work and visit.

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**LIMESTONE COAST REGIONAL PLAN** 3

### Limestone Coast planning region

- Regional City
- Major Service Centre
- Supporting Service Centre
- Local Service Centre
- National Parks and Conservation Reserves
- State Marine Park Network
- Local Government Area
- Major Transport Routes
- Railway

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**LIMESTONE COAST REGIONAL PLAN** 4

### A snapshot of the Plan

#### Population summary

Category	2021	2025
Total population	102,000	102,000
2021 population	92,000	92,000
2025 population	102,000	102,000
2021-2025 population change	10,000	10,000
Average annual change	2,000	2,000

#### Project population

Actual and projected population 2021-2025

#### Project population by age group

Age Group	Projected population
0-4	~10,000
5-14	~15,000
15-24	~18,000
25-34	~20,000
35-44	~22,000
45-54	~25,000
55-64	~28,000
65-74	~30,000
75+	~32,000


#### Housing land supply

- Total dwellings: 33,325
- Occupied dwellings: 27,742 (83%)
- Average number of people per household: 2.3
- Average dwellings built every year: 248

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**LIMESTONE COAST REGIONAL PLAN** 5

## Key themes of the Plan



**People, housing and liveability**

Supporting population growth, with 18,045 more people expected by 2051.

Accommodating growth in Mount Gambier, the region's primary city, while ensuring key towns like Naracoorte, Millicent, Penola, and Bowdenboro also support growth.

Addressing an ageing population, with a significant rise in people aged 65+.

Ensuring well-located housing, connected to infrastructure, and suited to diverse household needs.

Encouraging new housing within coastal boundaries to support affordability and choice.

Building resilient, inclusive communities through land use, public spaces, and transport networks.

**Productive economy**

Strengthening key industries, agriculture, forestry, fishing, health, and manufacturing, which contribute approximately \$6.7 billion to South Australia's Gross State Product.

Protecting primary production land, particularly in agriculture, viticulture, and forestry, to sustain ongoing growth.

Managing land use to prevent conflicts between primary production and other sectors.

Supporting high value industries by safeguarding key assets and creating local job opportunities.

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION | GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**LIMESTONE COAST REGIONAL PLAN** 6

## Key themes of the Plan

**Environment, natural resources and landscapes**

Protecting the region's unique natural assets, including coastlines, sand dunes, former test watersheds, and the Naracoorte Caves, South Australia's only World Heritage site.

Safeguarding 400+ km of coastline and marine environments that support fishing and tourism.

Identifying 'no-go' zones to prevent incompatible development on sensitive coastal sites, high value farmland, and natural landscapes.

Promoting sustainable land use planning to protect biodiversity, secure water resources, and address climate change.

Managing industrial and resource land uses to prevent environmental and community impacts.

Planning for climate change impacts, including rising temperatures, reduced rainfall, and more frequent bushfires, floods, and coastal erosion.

Using climate risk projections to guide land use decisions and mitigate environmental, economic, and community impacts.

**Transport and Infrastructure**

Expanding infrastructure to support residential, commercial, and industrial growth.

Ensuring development-ready land is available to meet housing and economic needs.

Enhancing transport networks to improve regional connectivity.

**Implementation and delivery**

Continuously monitoring and adjusting land use and infrastructure planning over a 10 to 30-year period.

Conducting targeted investigations to unlock land for development and ensure a steady supply of development-ready land.

Establishing policies that address climate change impacts and support long-term sustainability and prosperity.

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION | GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**LIMESTONE COAST REGIONAL PLAN** 7

## Key initiatives and projects

**1. Limestone Coast Transport Study**

Department for Infrastructure and Transport The Limestone Coast Transport Study will explore key issues and opportunities to improve efficiency across the region, including freight, road safety, and efficiency. The study will also consider how transport can better support healthy economic growth and population expansion in the Limestone Coast.

**4. Pacific Green Limestone Coast Energy Park**

The Limestone Coast Energy Park will significantly boost energy capacity, contributing to 80% of South Australia's residential water needs. Expected to be operational in 2026, the park will enhance the state's energy stability and support its transition to net zero emissions, providing an average of 80,000 tonnes of carbon abatement annually.

**2. BORG Manufacturing Mill Expansion**

The BORG mill expansion project, currently under construction, is expected to increase the existing mill's 300 tonnes per annum capacity by 10% when in operation. The mill is expected to produce 270,000 tonnes per annum of high quality paper.

**5. Australian Rare Earths Koppamurra Project**

A significant rare earths resource sits beneath the hills in the region, needed for electric vehicle motors and wind turbines. As a first step in investigation and potential development, the Government of South Australia has approved a \$25 million feasibility study, contributing to the state's \$650 million for the transition to a net zero economy.

**3. Mount Gambier Technical College**

Department for Education Expected to open in 2026, the government is building a new technical college in Mount Gambier to cater students for careers in key industries across the region, including:

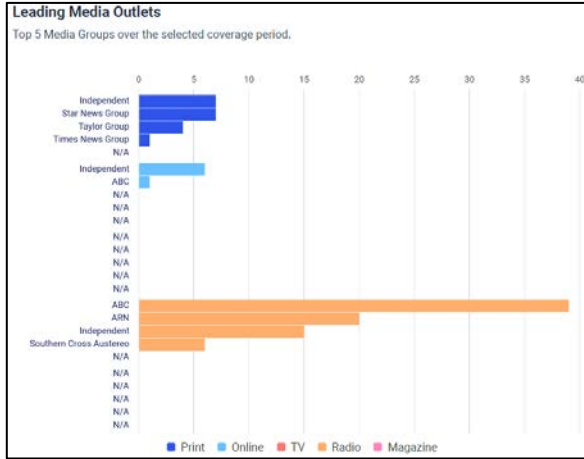
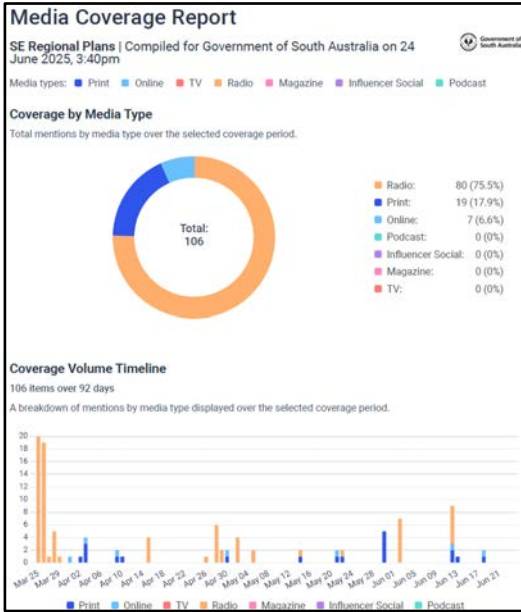
- agriculture, forestry and manufacturing
- early childhood and education
- health and social support
- multimedia such as gaming, building and electrical.

**6. Albioma Wood Pallet Facility**

The BORG mill's wood will use the region's forestry to create 300,000 tonnes of biomass pellets each year and supply pellets for the export market. The development will generate an additional \$60 million for the region and is expected to create more than 270 jobs during construction and 30 full-time jobs in operation.

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION | GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

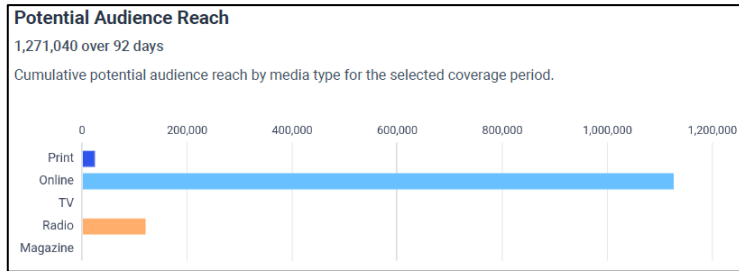
**Media Coverage Report:**



Leading Print Sources		Leading Online Sources	
Leading Print sources		Leading Online sources	
#1 Murray Pioneer	4	#1 Australian Rural & Regional News	3
#1 The SE Voice	4	#1 The SE Voice	3
#3 Naracoorte Community News	2	#3 ABC News	1
#3 The Murray Valley Standard	2	#4 N/A	
#5 Border Chronicle	1	#5 N/A	

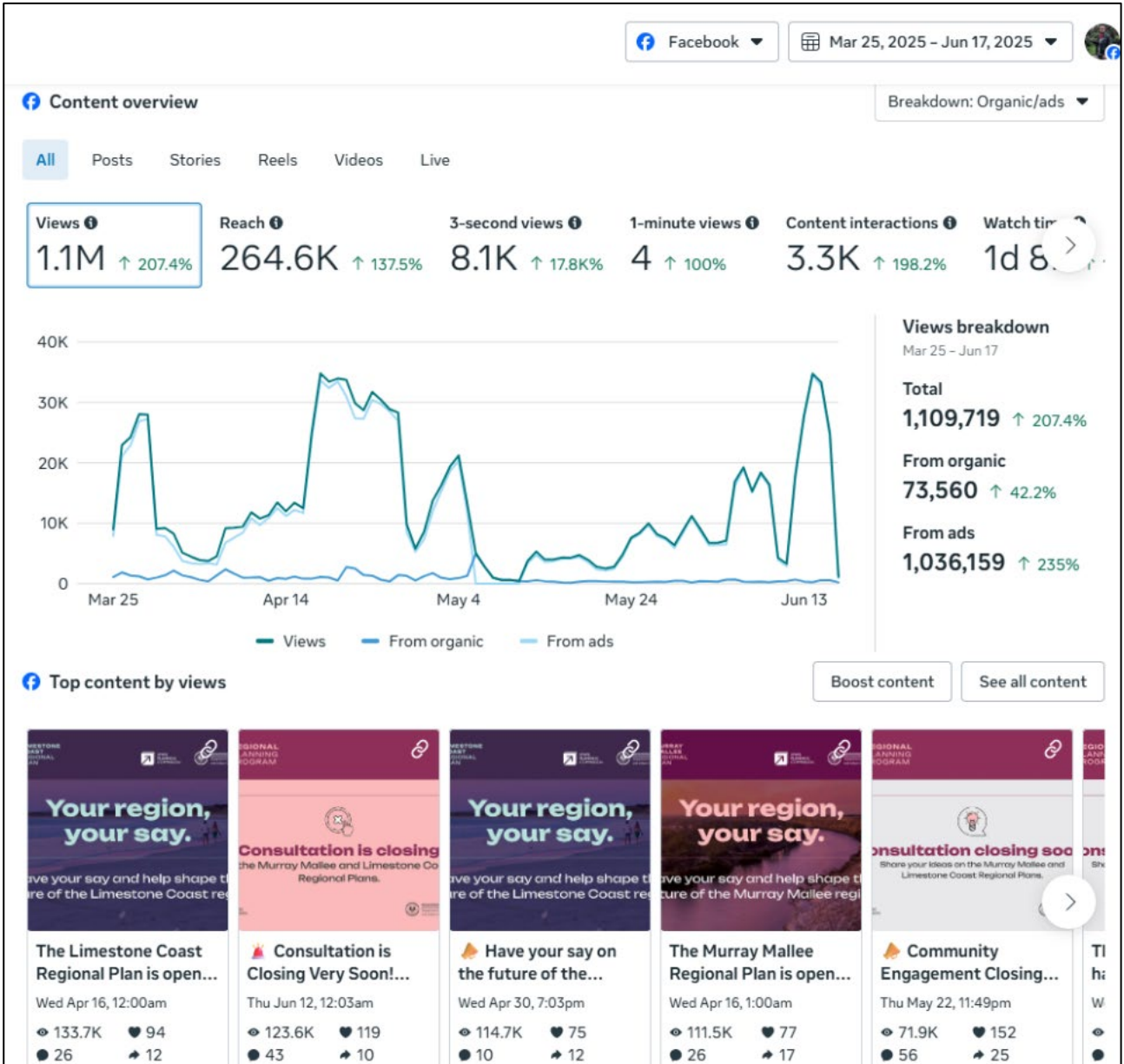
  

Leading TV Programs		Leading Radio Programs	
Leading TV programs		Leading Radio programs	
We couldn't find any data to display		#1 Breakfast with Conor Burke	19
		#2 SA Regional Drive with Narelle Graham	12
		#3 Mornings	11
		#4 Around SA with Chris Guscott	5
		#4 The SRM Breakfast Show	5



## Social media

PlanSA Facebook



## 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.

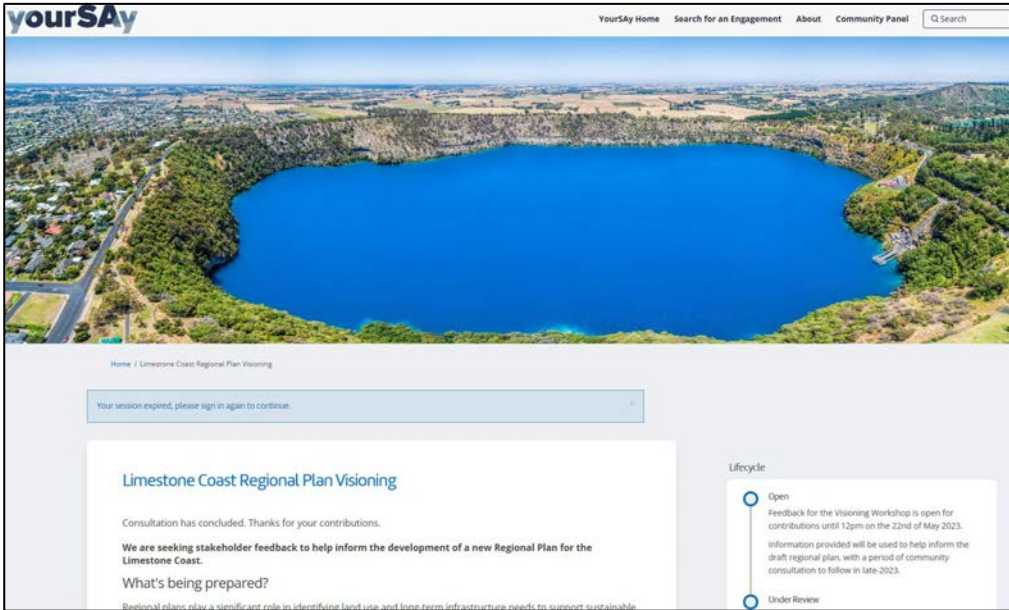
As mentioned in my last column, community consultation for the Upper Spencer Gulf regional plans earlier this year was hugely successful. This was followed by consultation for the Southeast regional plans – the Murray Mallee Regional Plan and the Limestone Coast Regional Plan – currently underway.

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

[Limestone Coast Regional Plan Visioning](#) | [YourSAy](#)



[Limestone Coast Regional Plan | YourSAY](#)

