



**The Flinders
Ranges Council**



Community Plan

2023 - 2033



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Message from the Mayor

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I am pleased to present to you - on behalf of the community, Elected Members, and staff of The Flinders Ranges Council – our new Community Plan. This is the high level, Strategic Plan document which will inform Council's objectives, ideals and aspirations for our community in the coming years. We have used a different consultation strategy and have included more interest groups in community forums and feedback and I am pleased to note this strategy has increased community participation in the development of the plan. In future years this strategy will be further improved upon to give a better outcome of inclusion in consultation for the years to come. In developing this Plan as our leading guide, we strive for a consistent and targeted approach to providing the necessary services, and desired facilities, for the long term enhancement of our Flinders Ranges community. The magnificent Flinders Ranges define the environment in which we live, and are a key part of what brought us here and keeps us here. Respectful custodianship of this environment for all of us, and for future generations, is a key driver emerging from the community feedback survey and is a natural goal. Another strong theme emerging from the community survey was a recognition of the need for Council to invest in maintenance of our public buildings and community facilities. Whilst we are indeed fortunate to have a number of grand old public buildings, costs to maintain them are high and we are encouraged by the community support for this. The look and feel of our towns is valued and must be retained. The underlying values and expectations which supported the previous iterations of The Flinders Ranges Council Community Plan remain current and valid. Our community has a strong sense of identity and place. We have a tremendous amount to offer others looking to relocate to our region. We look to the future with optimism and confidence in our region, our people, and with open arms to those who wish to join us!



Ken Anderson, Mayor

Mission and Vision

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Vision

Our community has a deep respect for the Flinders Ranges region, history and people, and a commitment to its social, economic and environmental sustainability for both current and future generations.

Together the people and places that comprise the Flinders Ranges community make this a great place to live, raise a family, conduct business, visit and stay a while.

Mission

To support the on-going development of the Flinders Ranges as a secure, sustainable and vibrant community by:

- Demonstrating leadership while consulting with our community
- Advocating for the retention and enhancement of essential services
- Acting for the preservation of the unique and natural state of the Flinders Ranges for current and future generations
- Providing quality services and infrastructure whilst demonstrating fiscal responsibility in our decision making
- Pursuing opportunities for social inclusion and enhancing community well being
- Encouraging sustainable economic development and tourism in support of attracting a growing population and provide opportunities for all.



Community Priorities

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Preserving the
unique and natural
state of the Flinders
Ranges region
including the cultural
and built
environment



An economically
sustainable and
vibrant community



Provision of a high
standard of services
and infrastructure to
the community

Our Community

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We acknowledge the Indigenous people who first occupied our region. In recognising the history of our region, we respect the heritage and diversity of our past from traditional land owners, through to European settlers and today's growing multi-cultural community who shape our future.

We live amongst an environment of natural wonder, rich in history and culture. A region that is renowned the world over - an enduring tourism proposition and our backyard.

We value our rural location and lifestyle and the opportunities it offers. Affordable housing, a low cost of living, a peaceful and more relaxed lifestyle. The opportunity to really know the people in your community, and equally the opportunity to embrace the isolation if you choose.

We are a community that has proven its resilience and adaptability to environmental and economic factors time and time again. We are a small community, but one that is passionate and caring for each other.

The sustainability and vibrancy of our community, the continued provision of essential services such as hospital, medical services and schooling, along with economic development that is sensitive and sympathetic to our region, and a growing population is at the forefront of our minds.

This is our Flinders Ranges community.



This Community Plan

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This Flinders Ranges Community Plan has been prepared by The Flinders Ranges Council to outline the vision, mission, priorities and strategies for our area, communities and people over a ten year period between 2023-2033.

This Plan reflects work undertaken by the Council in consultation with the Flinders Ranges community on priorities for the region and Council and the review of priorities within the Council's previous Community Plan 2019-2028.

Community workshops were held within the Quorn, Hawker and Cradock townships along with specific sessions for businesses, farmers and pastoralists, volunteers, wellbeing and health, staff, and range of government and non-government stakeholders.

The implementation of strategies contained within this Plan is supported by several specific strategies and associated plans developed by Council including:

- Annual Business Plans
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Annual Budgets
- Asset Management Plans

This Plan is structured around four strategic pillars that reflect priorities identified by Council as a result of its consultations. The following pages detail the definition of success, strategy and performance measures against each of these strategic pillars. Also included are "Key Initiatives" providing a specific focus to key matters raised during the consultations.

This Plan will be reviewed throughout its lifetime to ensure its relevance to our changing community.

Our Plan:

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Bringing Our Vision to Life
For Our Community

We Lead:

Pillar 1: Demonstrate leadership through advocacy and engagement with our community

Success Means:

- Beyond simply consulting, we engage with our community and stakeholders.
- Being accessible, with a genuine willingness to listen to and acknowledge community and stakeholder issues, concerns and ideas.
- Advocating for the region and communities with all levels of government.
- Having the trust and confidence of the community.
- Recognising the important issues for the community and being proactive in communicating with community-wide issues.
- Being proactive in addressing identified risks to the region such as continued provision of health and medical services.

Strategy:

- Maintaining and developing productive networks within government, Non-Government Offices and other stakeholders.
- Forcefully advocate for the region by lobbying government in relation to essential services, both their continuation and enhancement.
- Continued focus on authentic communication with all community and industry sectors in the community and then acting with a community voice.
- Maintaining the pulse of the community through robust feedback mechanisms including community consultation, social media platforms and conducting a bi-annual community survey as a means of soliciting feedback from community and monitoring performance as a leader, advocate, facilitator and provider to the community.
- Maintaining a part-time office in Hawker to support engagement with the community.

Our Plan:

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Bringing Our Vision to Life
For Our Community

Measures:

- No loss of essential services including hospital, medical, school, police, ambulance, CFS and SES in our communities.
- Increasing economic activity within Council region.
- Increasing population growth within Council region.
- Results of bi-annual community survey illustrating high level of community satisfaction with Council's role and performance.
- Open and transparent communication and engaging with community on key decisions.
- Continuing representation at Legatus, Flinders Alliance and other advocacy opportunities



Our Plan:

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Bringing Our Vision to Life
For Our Community

We Protect:

Pillar 2: Protect our environment and natural heritage for current and future generations

Success Means:

- Advocating for the protection, care and recognition of environmental, cultural and built assets throughout the region.
- Ensuring the unique character of the rural landscape is appropriately managed.
- Development that is sensitive and sympathetic to the region.

Strategy:

- Working with Government and non-Governmental stakeholders to ensure a dedicated regional approach to the management of natural resources.
- Supporting the Streetscape and Public Arts Committee in greening and community arts initiatives that reflect the character and heritage of the region.
- Maintaining development and environmental health shared service arrangements.
- Lobbying SA Water and advocating to the State Government for improved water quality.
- Advocating and assisting with the application for World Heritage status for the Flinders Ranges.

Measures:

- Advocacy for planning and development controls appropriate to our region and communities.
- Improved water quality in the area.
- Implementation of a greening program.
- Support for World Heritage status.

Our Plan:

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Bringing Our Vision to Life
For Our Community

We Service:

Pillar 3: Provide quality services and infrastructure whilst demonstrating fiscal responsibility in our decision making

Success Means:

- Ensuring the service and infrastructure needs of the community are met to a high standard.
- Providing well maintained public buildings and facilities that meet the community, sport and recreational, cultural and historic needs of residents and tourists.
- Enhancing services provided, prioritising in line with Community needs.

Strategy:

- Advocating at all levels of Government for financial support to ensure the infrastructure and services needs of the community are met.
- Implementing a program of infrastructure and asset management that delivers sustainable and enhanced services and infrastructure.
- Investing in, and advocating for, community facilities that support cultural and community participation.
- Fostering improved relationships with neighbouring Councils in sharing of resources to enable more efficient and cost-effective delivery of services.
- Continuing to explore and develop innovative solutions to meeting service needs.
- Providing a high standard of customer experience and service.
- Encouraging and supporting volunteering and community participation against Council's strategic outcomes.
- Supporting community groups to access Council, State and Federal Government and other grants to engage in community projects.

Our Plan:

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Bringing Our Vision to Life
For Our Community

Measures :

- Development and implementation of Council customer service standards and works services standards.
- Results of bi-annual community survey illustrating high level of community satisfaction with Council's role and performance in the area of service provision.
- Provision of placemaking, cultural and arts community events.
- Implementation of community grants program to support a vibrant and growing arts, cultural, heritage and events community and to support healthy living, sporting, recreational and community organisations to grow and be sustainable.
- Enhanced access by community groups to grants for their projects



Our Plan:

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Bringing Our Vision to Life
For Our Community

We Enhance:

Pillar 4: Encourage economic development and a growing population

Success Means:

- An economically sustainable and vibrant community across the short, medium and longer term.
- Preservation and greater success of current industry and employers within the region.
- Development of new industries and attraction of new employers to the area.

Strategy:

- Engaging with State and Federal Government and other stakeholders to support economic growth and development.
- Having the region appropriately recognised as a primary production community.
- Developing policies to make doing business in the region attractive, such as rates incentives.
- Encouraging and supporting the agricultural sector.
- Working with stakeholders in building the capacity of the tourism sector.
- Developing relationships to attract tourists and promoting recognition of regional tourism assets including improvements to existing buildings and infrastructure.
- Supporting the current and growing population to have access to health and wellbeing services
- Supporting and advocating for new housing developments aligned with population growth and a changing demographic profile
- Participating in programs and initiatives to assist the development of industries and businesses to better manage the impact of drought and climate change, including through adopting energy efficiency measures

Economic Development and Housing

- Review the Economic Growth and Investment Strategy to target support of existing and development of new industries.
- Complete a zone amendment to include rural lots around Quorn and Hawker into the rural living/rural residential zone.
- Develop a housing strategy, including use of Council held land for development.
- Consider opportunities and strategies to promote the Quorn and Hawker areas to be “feeder” towns to new developments in the region and home to workers on these projects.
- Seek funding to develop access to the industrial area on the west side of the Highway in Hawker (Barndioota Road) and review zoning in this area to expand the industrial zone.
- Workshop a new list of grant funded key projects to target grant funding applications.



Tourism

- Support the continued development and provision of the Pichi Richi Railway, including its volunteer organisation.
- Develop a strategy to increase the number of camping areas outside of the main centres (e.g. Saltia) and review camping solutions in Quorn, Hawker and Cradock townships to prevent illegal camping.
- Develop a strategic plan for cycle trails between Quorn and Hawker and rail trails between Wilmington and Hawker.
- Continue to focus on supporting businesses to fill vacant shops within the main town centres.
- Establish a new section 41 Committee to focus on extreme sports (e.g., cycling, walking trails, rock climbing etc).

Volunteering

- Continue to provide an annual allocation of community grants to support volunteer organisations and review program guidelines to include allocation for facility upgrades for Council facilities used by volunteers.
- Review Council's volunteer management process and seek additional opportunities to encourage volunteering and develop volunteers' capacity.



Health and Wellbeing

- Continue to focus on completion and regular review of Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan and in particular finalise the assessment of disability access to recreation, tourism, main street and other key infrastructure in the community.
- Identify events and information that can be provided to key sectors of the community regarding health and wellbeing matters.
- Explore opportunities for enhanced wellbeing centres and aged care facilities, in particular a community run Gym in Quorn.
- Complete a lighting plan for Quorn, Hawker and Cradock townships.
- Support the ongoing access to GPs in Quorn and Hawker and for a presence/ access to ancillary services.

Farming and Pastoralists

- Address roadside vegetation clearance and road management on roads leading to farming properties.
- Develop a Heavy Vehicle Route gazettal plan to complete the gazettal of key routes for farmers in an affordable and safe manner.
- Undertake a rate review to ensure that rates are equitably spread across rating land users (particularly in an environment of price pressures on livestock sales).



Young People and Families

- Advocate for and/or influence the provision of suitable and accessible childcare for families.
- Continue to develop and support community focused events such as the Fringe in the Flinders, Shows and Races, and in particular events in the public square and Blue Burt Park.
- Continue with Council's regreening and streetscape improvement program to make communities more liveable and attractive.
- Pursue the development of a significant statement playground attraction behind Thompson Park.

Council

- Develop a 10-year plant replacement program.
- Finalise a full review of Council's Asset Management Plans.
- Complete a review of Councillor representation on Council and Community committees and boards



