



Our Flinders Ranges

Community Plan 2019 - 2028



OUR VISION

Our community shares 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.

OUR 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.
- Pursue opportunities for social inclusion and enhancing community wellbeing.
- Encouraging sustainable economic development and tourism in support of attracting a growing population and provide opportunities for all.

OUR COMMUNITY'S PRIORITIES

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 PLAN

LEAD

Pillar 1: Demonstrate leadership and engage with our community.

PROTECT

Pillar 2: Protect our environment for current and future generations.

SERVICE

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

ENHANCE

Pillar 4: Encourage economic development & a growing population.

Our Community

We acknowledge the indigenous people who first occupied our region, especially the Adnyamathanha who are most closely aligned to our area. 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 communities, 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.

FROM THE MAYOR

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. 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 Strategic 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!

Mayor Peter Slattery
The Flinders Ranges Council



This Community Plan

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 2019 - 2028.

This Plan reflects work undertaken by the Council in consultation with the Flinders Ranges community on priorities for the region and Council, the relevance of priorities within the Council's previous Strategic Plan 2012-2022 and how they rated Council's progress against these, as well as Council's general performance.

In addition to conducting a community survey, (see adjacent commentary), community consultation workshops were held within the Quorn and Hawker townships to inform this Community Plan.

A draft of the Community Plan was also distributed to a large number of Government and NGO (non-Governmental organisation) stakeholders along with neighbouring Councils for their feedback.

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

- Annual Business Plans
- Long Term Financial Plan 2018 - 2038
- Annual Budgets
- Asset Management Plans

The Plan is structured around 4 strategic pillars that reflect priorities identified by Council. The following pages detail the definition of success, strategy and performance measures against each of these strategic pillars.

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



WHAT YOU SAID IS IMPORTANT TO YOU

Between December 2018 and February 2019 The Flinders Ranges Council conducted a survey asking members of the Community to share what is important to them, their aspirations, issues and priorities for the community. Here are some of the key results.

'Preserving the unique and natural state of the Flinders Ranges region' was ranked as the single highest community priority by Respondents.

Taking into account first, second and third priority rankings

'An economically sustainable and vibrant community' was identified by Respondents as what is most important to them about their community.

84% of Respondents indicated they **'live in and own property in the area'**.

61% rated **'Supporting economic development to achieve a sustainable population and local economy'** as the function Council performs that is most important to them.

Respondents were split in their satisfaction and dissatisfaction with Council's progress against the objective 'We have the essential infrastructure necessary to grow our communities' contained in the previous 2012 - 2022 Strategic Plan.

In respect of the objective **'We conserve our surrounding unspoilt natural environment and built heritage'** also contained in the previous Strategic Plan, 61% of Respondents were satisfied while 26% of Respondents were dissatisfied with Council's progress against this objective.

The potential Nuclear Waste Repository, maintenance of Council assets and infrastructure and ensuring hospital & medical services remain within the community were the most commonly identified immediate priority issues for the community.

70% of Respondents indicated they had interacted with a staff member of Council in the past month.

73% rated their satisfaction with the level of service received as between 'very satisfied' and 'reasonably satisfied'.

47% of Respondents indicated they were reasonably satisfied with the **balance between Council rates and the general level of services** and infrastructure provided by Council appreciating the challenges of resourcing a modest, remote Council that supports a vast land area and a small population. 27% indicated they were somewhat dissatisfied with this balance.

Maintenance of Council assets and infrastructure ranked significantly ahead of all other views as a priority for Council over the next 8 years, receiving approximately 2.5 times as many responses as the next priority (tourism-related).

OUR PLAN: BRINGING VISION TO LIFE FOR OUR COMMUNITY



We LEAD

Pillar 1: Demonstrate leadership and engage with our community.

Success means:

- Beyond simply consultation, we engage with our community and our stakeholders.
- Being accessible with a genuine willingness to listen to and acknowledge community and stakeholders 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 community and being proactive in communication of community-wide issues.
- Being proactive in addressing identified risks to the region such as continued provision of health and medical services.

Strategy:

- Maintain and develop productive networks within Government, NGOs and other stakeholders.
- Forcefully advocate for the region by lobbying Government in relation to essential services, both their continuation and enhancement.
- Remain neutral to significant community issues, facilitating mechanisms for community consultation and then acting with the community voice.
- Maintain the pulse of the community through robust feedback mechanisms including: a) community consultation, b) social media platforms and c) 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.

Measures:

- No loss of essential services including hospital, medical, school, police, ambulance, CFS and SES in our communities.
- Increase in economic activity within Council region.
- Increase in 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.



We PROTECT

Pillar 2: Protect our environment 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:

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

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.



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.
- Enhance services provided, prioritising in line with Community needs.

Strategy:

- Advocate at all levels of Government for financial support to ensure the infrastructure and services needs of the community are met.
- Implement a program of infrastructure and asset management that delivers sustainable and enhanced services and infrastructure.
- Invest in, and advocate for, community facilities that support cultural and community participation.
- Foster improved relationships with neighbouring Councils in sharing of resources to enable more efficient and cost-effective delivery of services.
- Continue to explore and develop innovative solutions to meeting service needs.
- Provide a high standard of customer experience and service.
- Encourage and support volunteering and community participation against Council's strategic outcomes.

Measures:

- Development and implementation of: 1) Council customer service standards and 2) 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:
 - a) support a vibrant and growing arts, cultural, heritage and events community
 - b) support healthy living, sporting, recreational and community organisations to grow and be sustainable.



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:

- Engage with State Government, Federal Government and other stakeholders to support economic growth and development.
- Have the region appropriately recognised as a primary production community.
- Develop policies to make doing business in the region attractive, such as rates incentives.
- Encourage and support the agricultural sector.
- Work with stakeholders in building the capacity of the tourism sector.
- Develop relationships to attract tourists and promote recognition of regional tourism assets including improvements to existing buildings and infrastructure.

Measures:

- Increased employment opportunities in the region.
- Increase in population.
- Achieve formal recognition of the region as primary production community
- Increase in arts activity and community events across the region.
- Partner with relevant agencies and influencers in promoting tourism.