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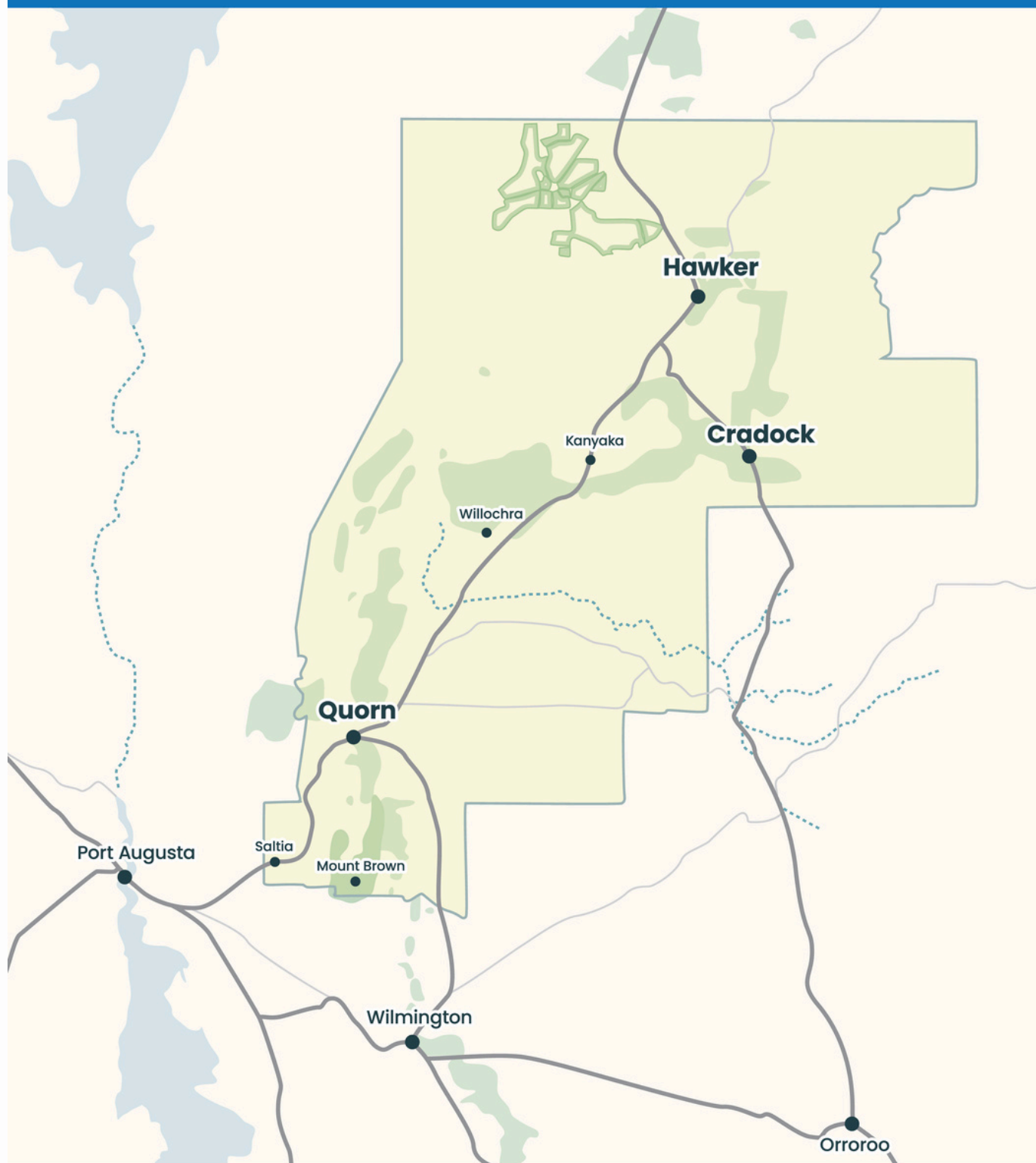
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STATE ELECTION PRIORITIES



THE FLINDERS RANGES COUNCIL BOUNDARY MAP



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INTRODUCTION

The Flinders Ranges Council is a resilient, forward-looking regional local government area positioned to play a critical role in South Australia's economic and social future. The region combines cultural significance, strong community identity and nationally recognised tourism assets. Think Quorn, Hawker and Cradock, get on the Pichi Richi Railway, walk the timeless, ancient and iconic Flinders Ranges, climb Devil's Peak, come to the Quorn Quandong Festival, see the Silo Show but don't drink our water!

Please find our FIVE top priorities that we are seeking commitments from those looking to represent us in State Parliament. We welcome the opportunity to speak personally to our elected members and community at any time. The Flinders Ranges is going places so get on board and be part of the journey.



OUR TOP 5 PRORITIES



WATER



CHILDCARE CENTRE



COMMUNITY GYM



BLUE BURT
PRECINCT



QUORN MAIN
STREET STRATEGY

1 WATER

The Flinders Ranges Council and the town of Quorn are and have been frustrated for some time, around 40 years, at the poor quality of water supplied by SA Water.

This boiled over in 2023 with the launch of the *Undrinkable. Unthinkable.* campaign which led to considerable pressure exerted on the then Minister responsible. This in turn generated a great deal of interest for the media, and water quality experts and firms to come up with a solution.

The Flinders Ranges Council seeks short-term funding from the South Australian State Government to engage a consultant to develop a comprehensive Water Management Plan for the region. This plan will address water quality, supply, treatment, reuse, capture, and recharge options. Quorn has been identified as the *highest priority in SA Water's Long-Term Plan for Improving Drinking Water Aesthetics* (part of the 2024–2028 Regulatory Business Proposal to ESCOSA), with the poorest drinking water quality in South Australia. The plan will identify problems and outline viable solutions, ensuring water security critical for liveability, economic prosperity, and climate change adaptation.



Undrinkable. Unthinkable.

The water in Quorn severely rusts taps, shower heads, pipes and hot water systems.

People report skin irritations and rashes from showering in it.



In the medium term, the Council proposes interim solutions to improve water quality. These include a \$2.5 million reverse osmosis portable desalination plant to demonstrate feasibility, and/or a four-year program installing filtration systems at key infrastructure, including the hospital, schools, aged care home, swimming pools, and tourist accommodation. A subsidised program would allow residents to install domestic filtration systems before water enters the home and damages vital equipment.

Long-term solutions involve a permanent desalination plant, potentially integrated with projects for irrigation, recreation, and community beautification. Quorn's current drinking water contains an average 387 mg/L chloride, far exceeding the maximum allowable 250 mg/L, while commercially available spring water contains just 51 mg/L. This stark difference highlights the urgent need for investment to provide safe, clean, and reliable drinking water for the community.



CHILD CARE

Quorn presents the strongest and immediate case for childcare investment across the Far North region, supported by demographic, economic, and strategic factors.

Child Population Concentration

Of the 95 children aged 0–4 years across The Flinders Ranges Council area, 67 (70%) reside in Quorn. This makes Quorn the only town in the Local Government Area with sufficient critical mass to sustain a standalone long day care service.

High Unmet Demand

Recent surveys and community consultations indicate significant childcare gaps such as:

- 90% of families in Quorn currently lack access to the childcare they need.
- 95% anticipate increased childcare requirements over the next three years.
- Preferred service models include long day care (60%), sessional care (57%), and wrap-around preschool care.

Regional Hub Function

Quorn serves as a key service hub for surrounding communities, including Hawker, Cradock, and Wilmington. With strong transport links and a stable residential base, it also supports Port Augusta as the major regional centre. Quorn is an attractive location for families seeking a “country town” lifestyle while working in Port Augusta.



In Quorn:

- 95% of families cannot access suitable childcare
- 42% have delayed returning to work
- 73% report negative impacts on wellbeing.

Potential Solutions

- Programs enabling capital funding contributions should consider different delivery methods (including Rural Care) to ensure funding is used as efficiently and effectively as possible, making use of existing assets and organisations where possible.
- Consideration of a 40-place long day care facility in Quorn requiring:
 - 130m² of indoor space
 - 280m² of outdoor play area
 - estimate construction and fit-out cost of \$1.36m
 - 12.5-13.5 FTE staff, aligned with national ratios.



COMMUNITY GYM

The current community gym, located on the grounds of the Quorn and District Hospital, is inadequate.

It suffers from limited space, outdated equipment, and restricted access. Despite these challenges, it remains well-utilised, demonstrating strong community demand for accessible health and fitness facilities.

To address this need, The Flinders Ranges Council established the Quorn Health and Wellbeing Hub Reference Committee under Section 41 of the *Local Government Act 1999*. Comprising community representatives and health practitioners, the Committee has undertaken consultation to identify suitable locations and design features for a new facility. The community's message has been clear: "When are we getting a proper gym?"

Potential sites include the Quorn Oval Precinct or the former tennis and netball courts on Railway Terrace. The proposed facility would operate 24/7, featuring cardio and weight-training areas, a dedicated space for Pilates, yoga, and dance, and consulting rooms for allied health professionals.



BLUE BURT PRECINCT

Blue Burt Park is a centrally located community green space in Hawker, South Australia, named in honour of Allan A.W. “Blue” Burt, an eminent local citizen and long-serving member of the former local council.

Mr Burt was a strong advocate for recreational facilities and public spaces that supported community wellbeing, with the park established to reflect this commitment to community life, providing a landscaped area for recreation, social interaction, and informal gatherings.

Over time, Blue Burt Park has become an important focal point within Hawker, incorporating recreational elements such as a playground and open green space, and serving both residents and visitors to the Flinders Ranges.

The plan is to redevelop the area to also incorporate a stage, arbors, caravan parking etc that will make it more accessible for visitors and locals for minor and major functions.





Quorn is uniquely positioned as the gateway to one of Australia's most iconic landscapes—the Flinders Ranges.

However, First Street currently does not reflect this role. It lacks a cohesive high street, a sense of arrival, and clear signals that visitors have reached a distinctive regional destination. This represents both a challenge and a significant opportunity.

The Quorn Main Street Strategy proposes a staged revitalisation of First Street into a vibrant, walkable and climate-responsive main street precinct.

Tourism will act as a key growth driver, supporting increased visitor dwell time and spend, attracting private investment, creating local jobs, and strengthening Council's long-term revenue base.

Phase One focuses on precinct planning, including a retail and service gap analysis, a comprehensive masterplan, improved pedestrian connectivity, and an investment prospectus to attract commercial and tourism operators.

The planning phase will also establish governance arrangements to support staged delivery.

5 MAIN STREET STRATEGY



Phase Two will deliver physical transformation through streetscape upgrades that prioritise greening and amenity. This includes expanded tree canopy, shaded footpaths, water-sensitive urban design, improved drainage, and cooler microclimates.

Smart technologies, such as energy-efficient lighting, public Wi-Fi, visitor analytics, digital wayfinding, and smart irrigation, will enhance safety, usability, and sustainability. Heritage-sensitive façade upgrades, public art, interpretive signage, and new gateway elements will reinforce Quorn's identity.

Together, these actions will create a greener, smarter, and more welcoming First Street—establishing a resilient civic and commercial heart that reflects Quorn's role as the front door to the Flinders Ranges.



CONCLUSION

These 5 priority projects represent a coordinated, place-based investment in the liveability, resilience, and identity of the Flinders Ranges communities. Each responds directly to demonstrated local need, community consultation, and strategic opportunity, while collectively strengthening civic infrastructure, health and wellbeing outcomes, and regional attractiveness.

The proposed initiatives—ranging from the creation of contemporary civic and cultural spaces to improved access to health, recreation, and water security—are grounded in local context and heritage yet designed to meet future needs. They support social connection, economic participation, tourism, and climate resilience, while reinforcing the unique characters of vibrant regional towns.

Importantly, these priorities are not standalone projects. Together they form an integrated vision for community renewal: enhancing public spaces, supporting active and healthy lifestyles, strengthening civic pride, and ensuring essential infrastructure keeps pace with population needs and expectations. Investment across these priorities will deliver long-term value, maximising community benefit while leveraging existing assets and partnerships.

By supporting these priorities, funding bodies have the opportunity to make a tangible, lasting contribution to the wellbeing and sustainability of small regional communities. This integrated approach ensures that The Flinders Ranges Council can continue to support inclusive, connected, and resilient towns that are well-positioned to thrive into the future.

