Delivering A2040

Six-Monthly Progress Report

July 2024 – December 2024

Contents

A2040: Our Plan To Thrive **3**

Our Planning Framework **5**

Monitoring and Reporting **6**

Liveable **7**

Green **17**

Connected **22**

Enabled **27**

A2040: Our Plan To Thrive

A2040 is our plan to thrive now and over the next 20 years. Across this period, the community's vision for Alexandrina to be more liveable, green and connected is addressed in plans with long-term strategic and resourcing requirements.



A2040 Documents;

The A2040 Narrative - A 'future thinking' story celebrating our 20 year vision through strategic storytelling and reflective of over 2,000 community voices

The A2040 Four Year Plan – Is our Community Strategic Plan which introduces a new approach to community engagement and consultation through annual Village Conversations and Annual Village Innovation Plans that will help guide and influence future Long Term Financial Plans (LTFPs) and Strategic Asset Management Plans (SAMPs)

The A2040 'plan on a page' – a quick reference guide and summary.

To bring the A2040 vision to fruition, three aspirational themes have emerged from extensive consultation with our community:

Liveable Alexandrina is defined by distinctive villages, places and spaces, unique natural environments and transport networks that support active lifestyles, employment, vibrant cultures and productive enterprise.

Green Alexandrina is climate-ready, a place where nature is valued and resources are managed sustainably and creatively for a new economy Connected Alexandrina is an inclusive, friendly region with strong community spirit, where all people are empowered to achieve their potential, and inspired to get involved.

Connected Alexandrina is an inclusive, friendly region with strong community spirit, where all people are empowered to achieve their potential, and inspired to get involved.

A2040 sets out the **five action areas**, each has three supporting activities and measures for the community's aspirations to be more Liveable, Green and Connected.



Climate Response

Climate Change is the issue of greatest concern to the people of Alexandrina. Increasingly frequent adverse events, the fragility of our ecosystems and the security of our water supplies led to our Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.



Appropriate Growth

Well managed development relies on the best available social and physical infrastructure and services. Appropriate growth supports residents, farmers, businesses, community organisations and the many visitors central to job creation and our economic destiny.



Community Inclusion

Bringing generations and communities together, welcoming visitors into our region and embracing diversity will support our growing population, stimulate spending and attract investment.



Transport Connections

Our community needs a high-quality road, water, rail and trail network that is safe, well maintained and supportive of healthy lifestyles and environmental sustainability. Better transport connections within the region and with major centres and cities like Mount Barker and Adelaide requires focused advocacy, planning and investment.



Environmental Innovation

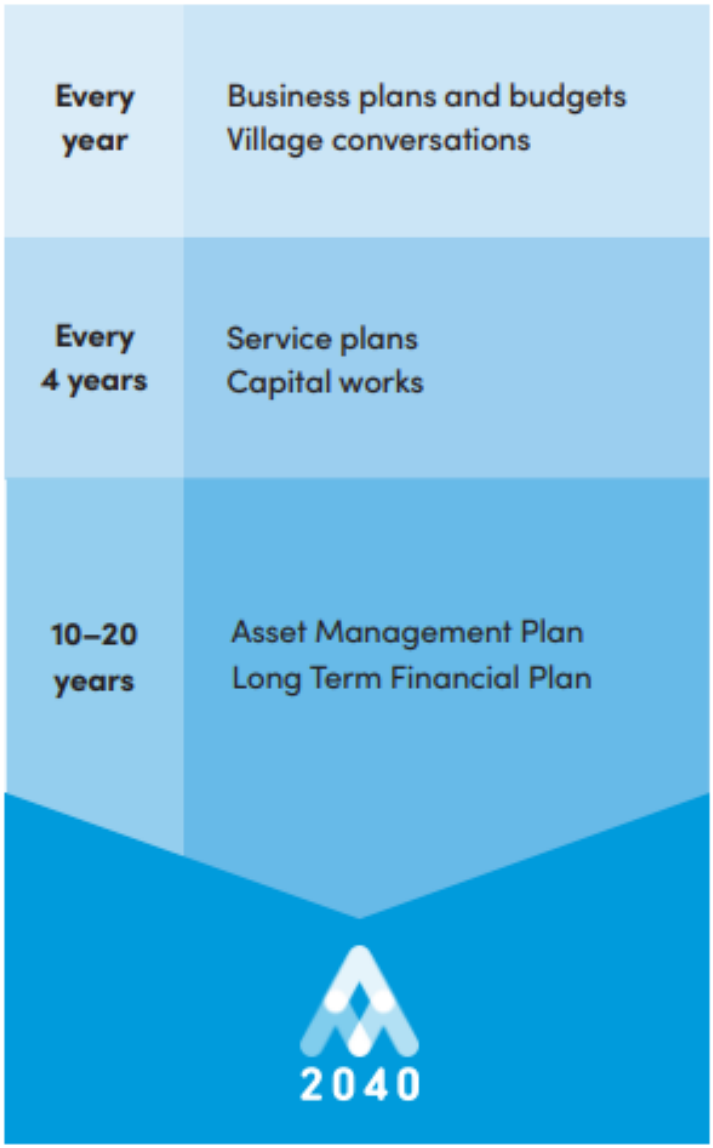
It is clear that we can go well beyond the management of waste, water and energy and extend to circular resource systems, regenerative farming, aquaculture and nature-based recreation and ecotourism.

Our Planning Framework

A2040 is a different approach to traditional local government planning and was developed using a ‘place led, community fed’ approach as a model for Council to transition to ways of working differently, while honouring existing obligations, that empower local people and communities to participate in the decisions that affect them and the places they care about.

Alexandrina Council’s Annual Business Plan and Budget demonstrates how our plans connect together to deliver the A2040 visions of a liveable, green and connected future for the Alexandrina region.

The A2040 suite of plans



Monitoring and Reporting

At the end of each financial year, Alexandrina Council produces an Annual Report, which details what the Council has achieved for the community it serves.

The Annual Report has been Council's primary means of reporting back to the community on progress in achieving the aspirations of A2040, as it relates to the financial year in question.

Monitoring performance is an important factor in ensuring Alexandrina Council is delivering on the community's aspirations as expressed in A2040. The Council measures its performance and achievements through the following processes:

- Regular financial reporting to Council and Council's Audit and Risk Committee
- Annual review of the Long Term Financial Plan
- Customer Satisfaction Surveys
- Customer requests and complaints
- Regular project reporting.

The Chief Executive Officers Key Performance Indicators (KPI) set the goal for a regular six-monthly Strategic Plan Update Report to be implemented.

This report 'Delivering A2040 – Six-monthly Progress Report' forms the fifth progress report which brings our reporting period to the end of the 2024 calendar year.

Liveable

Liveable	**Climate Response** 	1.1 Increase township greening and tree planning for canopy cover	On track
Service areas:	• Recreation Open Space & Reserves • Environmental Strategy & Climate Change Strategy	• Strategic Planning • Regional Development • Strategy	

July to December 2024 Progress:

- **Old Goolwa Cemetery** – Council has approved an agreement with the Natural Burial Trust of Australia to begin natural burials at the site. As part of the agreement, the Trust will work with the Nature Foundation to help restore and manage the Old Goolwa Cemetery, focusing on protecting and expanding the native habitat.
- **Tree Planting** – Field Services implemented a tree planting team to streamline the tree planting program for 2025, which includes resident communications prior to planting.
- **Depot Nursery** – Field Services has created a small-scale nursery to grow trees from locally sourced tube stock to a semi-advanced stage, hardened to local conditions to improve the success and longevity of these plantings.
- **Alexandrina Greening and Wildlife Project** – Collaboration with Second Nature Conservancy (formerly known as Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning [GWLAP]), included:
    - Offering discounted locally grown indigenous plants to Alexandrina residents ($10 for 10 local plants; totalling 1,000 plants) with information on each plant. This initiative sold out.
    - Several community workshops on environmental topics in October and November.
    - Scheduling of 2025 events, including a seminar on plants for bees and pollinators.
- **Street Tree Watering** – Approximately 1,800 street trees watered fortnightly over the summer season.
- **Township Greening Strategy Action Plan** – Council resolution C24592 resulted in:
    - Increased street tree planting by Field Services
    - Micro grants to community organizations for tree planting projects

- Adopt-a-tree program.

- **Hindmarsh Island Revegetation –** Close collaboration with Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation (NAC) to revegetate with native plant species on Native Title Land along the banks of the Murray River adjacent to the Hindmarsh Island bridge.
- **Roadside Markers System (RMS)** – Continuation of the RMS audit and replacement program with a focus on the South Ward.
- **Woody weeds removal** – Focus areas Ratalang/Basham Beach Conservation Reserve, Murray River (under Hindmarsh Island bridge), Beacon 19 area, Liverpool Road (near Currency Creek Road).
- **Ratalang/Basham Beach Conservation Reserve –** Continued Native Grasslands Project: Two broad sprays were applied to the 'old grazing paddock' area to prepare the soil for native grass seeding, planned for mid-2025.

Liveable	**Appropriate Growth**	**1.2** Attract and retain younger residents to live, work and play in Alexandrina	Ongoing
Service areas:	Planning & Development Economic Development Community Development • Community Facilities	• Arts, Culture & Events • Project Design • Communications • Strategy • Strategic Development	

July to December 2024 Progress:

- **Addressing Childcare Shortage –** Alexandrina Council and the City of Victor Harbor continued working with local stakeholders including childcare centres, TAFE SA, and the Department for Education to find solutions to address the childcare shortage in the region.
- **Family Daycare Events –** Council supported Family Daycare Programs (Department of Education) to deliver region-wide morning tea events to promote family daycare as a viable and rewarding career path.
- **Continuation of Alexandrina Local Drug Action Team (LDAT)** – Council has supported accessing funding through LDAT and coordinating evaluation. Local schools found the 'Our Futures' program a valuable addition to the curriculum. The program will now continue through 2025.

- **2024 Mayors' Short Story Challenge –** The Challenge is an initiative of Alexandrina Council, the City of Victor Harbor, and the District Council of Yankalilla. With an impressive 446 entries, Alexandrina Council school students showcased their creative skills, surpassing last year's record of 406 entries.



Mayors' Short Story Challenge winners for 2024

- **Recreation, Open Space & Sport Strategy (ROSS)** – Community consultation to help inform the development of the ROSS received 123 online responses. The ROSS will aim to review the current supply and assess future demand for all recreation, open space, and sports facilities within the council area. When finalised, we will have an approved level of service and hierarchy, which will include attributes with regard to access and how this is provided to the community.
- **School Holiday Program** – Delivery in October with a focus on nature activities in conjunction with the Nature Festival SA and the summer holiday period (most extensive program to date) featuring a more diverse range of activities and locations to increase reach.
- **Nunga Youth Group –** In partnership with the City of Victor Harbor and Fleurieu Families to see how the Nunga Youth Group could be more accessible to First Nations young people in Alexandrina. Resulting in an agreement to facilitate sessions alternating between Victor Harbor and Goolwa.
- **Alexandrina Libraries:**
    - Class visits from local schools to the library
    - Implemented Dungeons and Dragons program at Strathalbyn to meet demand. This session is consistently booked out.
    - Upskilling of staff to provide customer support for the 3D printer

    - Nintendo Switch permanently set up at both libraries (before it was just school holidays)
    - Expanded Nintendo Switch collection due to popular demand (60 titles)
    - Hosted six high school students for work experience
    - Created teen flyer for joining the library for the digital collection and promoted through schools.
- **Nature Festival SA** – Hosted several events in collaboration with partners as part of the 2024 Nature Festival:
    - Awe Under the Stars: Discovering our Local Microbats – part of the Alexandrina Greening and Wildlife project in collaboration with Second Nature
    - What Bird is This? Council-led bird identification workshop for beginners (for ages over 15)
    - What Bird is This? Council-led workshop for kids and early teens
    - What Bird is This? Council-led morning bird walk for beginners
    - Soar Like A Shorebird – in collaboration with Fleurieu Marine Education.
- **Letter of Support –** Handpicked Festival, REVIVE LIVE grant application
- **Future Living Code Amendment** – Partnered with the State Planning Commission in the Future Living Code Amendment to introduce planning policies to provide for alternative potentially more affordable accommodation options. Assisted with the delivery and promotion of localised engagement.
- **BMX Track Upgrades –** Council is procuring various professionals to undertake upgrades to the BMX tracks at Goolwa and Mount Compass.
- **Mount Compass Recreation Park Half-Court, Shade Sail, and Public Toilet –** This project included the construction of a half-court basketball facility according to International Basketball Federation (FIBA) basketball guidelines, the installation of a playground shade sail to cover selected equipment and play zones, and a single cubicle public toilet.
- **Activities for Mount Compass Young People –** Consulted with stakeholders in Mount Compass around how to connect young people and offer opportunities to socialise that sit outside sporting communities. In collaboration with the Mount Compass Memorial Hall Association, Council has been running school holiday activities, activating the Memorial Hall, and planning the commencement with Headspace for a fortnightly afterschool youth program to begin in term 1, 2025.
- **Milang Playground –** Shade sail installed.
- **Milang Youth Hub –** Partnership with Milang Old School House Community Centre, Reclink Australia, and funding from Alcohol and Drug Foundation:
    - Averaging 14 young people each session (weekly)

- Increased to five volunteers
- Secured $6,000 for program activities with donations from the Stirling Community Shop and Milang Tennis Club
- The young group has been connecting with local community groups to learn about volunteering in their community (e.g., Milang CFS and Milang Bowls Club)
- Completed evaluations for the Milang Youth Hub and measured social connection and community for the young people. 91% said they made new friends or strengthened existing friendships. 100% felt that they were more connected to their community and felt like they belonged.

- **Middleton Skate Park (Concept Design and Proposed Location)** – Completed community consultation and received over 676 online responses.



Concept design for proposed Middleton Skate Park

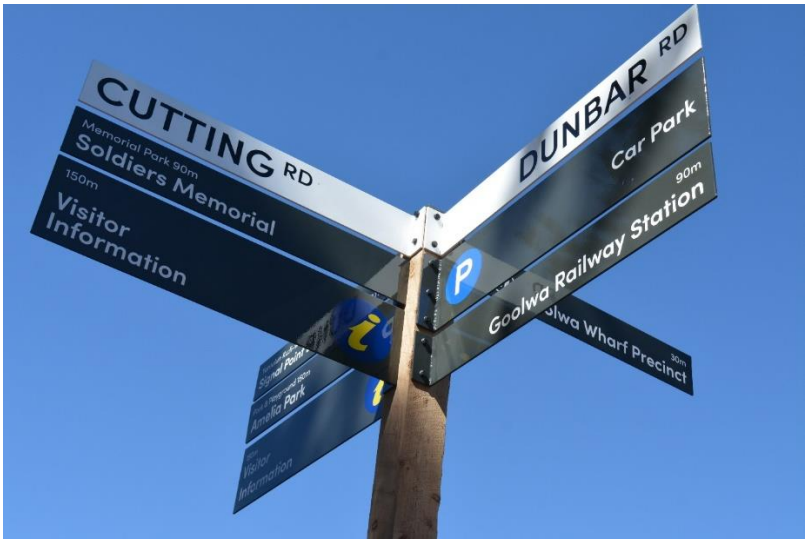
- **Goolwa Community Centre Partnership –** Supported term-based (terms 3 and 4) 'Little Picassos Youth Arts Program' to learn different art mediums.
  - Young people from five different schools attended.
  - Successfully received grant funding of $12,000 (CARCLEW) for the delivery in term 1, 2025.
  - As part of the grant submission, it will feature a family-focused arts workshop and youth exhibition outcome to be displayed at the 2025 SA Wooden Boat Festival.
- **Bristow Smith Reserve Playground –** Condition assessment.
- **SA Wooden Boat Festival 2025 –** Preparations including becoming a National Tourism Accredited Business.

Liveable	**Community Inclusion** 		**1.3** Design and locate community infrastructure to ensure safe, inclusive, and convenient access for communities and individuals	On track
Service areas:	• Planning & Development • Economic Development • Community Development	• Arts, Culture & Events • Project Design • Communications • Recreation, Open Space & Reserves\ • Community Facilities • Strategy		

July to December 2024 Progress:

- **Consultation on Use of Open Spaces –** Council is developing a Recreation, Open Space, and Sport Strategy (ROSS). When completed, this strategy will help guide the future development of open space and facilities within the district. Consultation closed at the end of 2024.
- **Digital Accessibility –** Communications Team completed a free webinar from Vision Australia on Digital Access: 'Accessible Social Media: Tips and Tricks to Reach a Wider Audience.'
- **Advocacy Letter –** Heritage Standard for the Goolwa State Heritage Area (Heritage South Australia).
- **State Government Advocacy and Feedback:**
    - Facilitating affordable housing in our region
    - Planning policy changes including introduction of new definitions for accommodation types.
- **Milang Library –** Alexandrina Council's library depot in Milang moved to the Milang Old School House Community Centre (MOSHCC).
- **Milang Toilet –** Council engaged a wastewater engineer to design an upgraded wastewater system to process the higher usage at the public toilet and waste dump point at the rear of the Milang Memorial Hall on Bridge Road.
- **Shower Facility –** Installed at Lorranie Avenue, Middleton.
- **Pride Party –** The Goolwa Pride Party 2024 was held in the town's Centenary Hall in late 2024 to foster connection and inclusion with the LGBTIQA+ community and the wider community.

- **Langhorne Creek Cemetery –** Council contractors began work on the Langhorne Creek Cemetery Shelter in November 2024, installing concrete footings and the shelter's framework.
- **Langhorne Creek Toilet –** Council engaged a wastewater engineer to design an upgraded wastewater system to process the higher usage at the public toilet and waste dump point at the rear of the Langhorne Creek Memorial Hall on Bridge Road.
- **Goolwa Wharf Precinct:**
    - Restoration work at the historic Goolwa Wharf and Wharf Shed is complete.
    - The Friends of the PS Oscar W are setting up the riverboat centre in their portion of the Wharf Shed.
    - Renovations to the wharf are finished, with the paddle steamer Oscar W returning to its traditional berth beside the Wharf Shed.
    - The new public toilet near the Wharf Shed is open, and work on the car parks and new paved paths is finished.
    - Directional signs installed across the precinct.
    - External work to the Signal Point Experience Centre complete.
- **Phase 2 Wharf activation campaign progressing –** New hospitality tenancy been secured for the Wharf Shed (commercial side), following community engagement. Preparations for the Customs House community consultation.



New directional signage at the Wharf Precinct

- **Aged Care Information Hub at Goolwa Library –** Alexandrina Council Libraries partnered with the Department of Health and Aged Care and the Australian Library and Information Association in a community engagement initiative to promote changes to aged care services.

- **The Haven** (located in the Goolwa Library) updates:
    - Visitation July – December 2024: 273
    - On The International Day for Ending Violence Against Women, the Haven Choir hosted a small concert and afternoon for the general public. Approximately 50 attended.
    - The Haven now has free phones for victims of Domestic Abuse; these are provided by Safe Phones. (The Haven also has a collection point for phones donated by the public—they are sent to Safe Phones for clearing and redistribution).
    - The Haven collaborated with MOBO Group (Disability Employment Service) on an eight-week Women's Program "Stepping Stones" to address barriers to employment: to reduce isolation, improve confidence, and build support networks for the participants (this included introducing them to some local service providers).
    - The Haven assisted with planning and organising (including accessing a venue provided by Alexandrina Council) for a men's social connection and support group.
    - 'March for Change' was part of the international campaign - 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. Junction Australia and the Goolwa Haven raised awareness by holding a march and candle vigil in Goolwa.
- **Proposed Footpath - Billabong Road, Goolwa South –** Completed community consultation and received over 72 online responses.
- **Goolwa Beach Public Toilet –** Maintenance repairs on the Goolwa Beach Ground Floor Disability Access Toilet & Storeroom completed.
- **Free Cat Microchipping Day** – Council hosted a free microchipping day for cats in Goolwa.
- **Strathalbyn Pool –** The Strathalbyn Community Swimming Pool season was extended from 1 October 2024 to 30 April 2025.
- **Clayton Bay Toilet –** Council was successful in obtaining grant funding from the Australian Government through the Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program to upgrade the public toilet at Clayton Bay. Clayton Bay currently has no accessible public toilet.
- **Ashbourne Stormwater Mitigation Program** – As part of Alexandrina Council's ongoing commitment to finding long-term solutions for the stormwater challenges in Ashbourne, Council continues to work with landowners to secure their support for the construction of proposed stormwater mitigation infrastructure.

- **Draft South Coast Growth Strategy –** Council received the community engagement submissions for the draft South Coast Growth Strategy. Council Members also asked for a Council Information Session on the draft strategy which was held on 9 December 2024 and for a subsequent report to be presented to Council in early 2025. Council received 365 survey responses on its My Say Website and 205 attended three drop-in sessions hosted by Council at Goolwa and Middleton.

Liveable	**Transport Connections** 	**1.4** Advocate for a rethink of transport planning to focus on needs identification for improving accessibility, social inclusion, and wellbeing	Ongoing
Service areas:	• Planning & Development • Economic Development • Community Development • Community Facilities	• Economic Development • Strategy • Strategic Planning • Regional Development	

July to December 2024 Progress:

- **Advocacy letter –** Transport Strategy Submission (Department for Infrastructure and Transport)
- **Advocacy letter –** Middleton Bypass Rd and Stormwater Management (The Hon Tom Koustantonis MP).
- **Strathalbyn Speed Limit Review - 40km/h Precinct in Town Centre –** Completed community consultation and received over 676 online responses.
- **School safety upgrade** – Following community advocacy and support from Council, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport installed a second Koala Crossing on East Terrace in Strathalbyn adjacent to the Tyndale Christian School.
- **Increase active transport for the community –** Exploring actions and strategies to increase use of the encounter bikeway and other opportunities to increase active transport including, the 'Schools Open Streets' trial, which will be undertaken in term 1 2025 (Way2Go Program through the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure).
- **South Australia's Transport Strategy** – Promoted the Department for Infrastructure and Transport 30-year Transport Strategy on Council social media and provided a formal response.
- **The Department for Infrastructure and Transport, Transport Strategy** – Promoted State Government consultation on social media.

Liveable	**Environmental Innovation**	**1.5** Commit to purchasing recycled material in our public spaces	Delays/ Challenges
Service areas:	• Planning & Development • Economic Development • Community Development • Community Facilities	• Project Design • Strategy • Strategic Planning	

July to December 2024 Progress:

- **Council newsletter –** Printed on 100% recycled paper.
- **Masonry works –** Various projects where stone walls were reconstructed using existing stone.
- **Amelia and Dunbar Carpark, Goolwa –** Use of recycled timber from the original wharf for wheel stops.



Green

Green	**Climate Response** 	**2.1** Reduce Council greenhouse gas emissions and advocate for the uptake of renewable energy	On track
Service areas:	• Environmental Strategy & Climate Change Strategy • Assets • Fleet & Plant Management • Procurement		

July to December 2024 Progress:

- **Council Building Solar Panels –** Implemented ongoing solar panel cleaning and maintenance to maximise solar efficiency (Council Depots, Goolwa Office, Strathalbyn office)
- **Fleet vehicles –** Continued fleet renewal to electric vehicles. Three replacements over reporting period.
- **Annual emissions –** Continue reporting of greenhouse gas emissions.
- **LGA Net Zero (part 2 program)** – Preparation to join in 2025.
- **Renewable energy programs –** Continuing investigations into programs that support residents to take up renewable energy, will require a business case to be put forward to Council.
- **Heat reduction –** Community Wastewater Management Scheme (CWMS) team undertaking research and development on using reflective paint to reduce heat exposure to essential service assets and keep assets cooler to reduce cooling costs.

Green	**Appropriate Growth** 	**2.2** Work with industry partners to identify and embed nature-based tourism experiences to secure funding to protect, conserve and enjoy our natural environment	Delays/ Challenges
Service areas:	• Economic Development • Tourism & Events • Visitor Information Services		

July to December 2024 Progress

- **Public artwork –** A public artwork titled ‘Hearthstone’ celebrating family and connectedness is now located at the redeveloped Goolwa Wharf Precinct.

- **Wine region imagined in Ngarrindjeri artwork –** With funding support from Council, the Langhorne Creek wine region has launched an updated tourism information bay featuring an original painting by Ngarrindjeri artist Kath Moore.
- **Recreational Vehicle (RV) Parks in Alexandrina** – Completed community consultation and received over 320 online responses.
- **Advocated for Climate Risk Assessment and Planning training** for Council Members, Executive and management staff.
- **Sandergrove Water Reserve –** Officially listed as a State Heritage Place.
- **Ratalang Buildings Basham Beach –** Repairs completed on the historic poultry and farm structures at Ratalang Conservation Reserve, Basham Beach.

Green	**Community Inclusion** 	**2.3** Encourage community participation and partnership with key stakeholders for greater involvement in sustainability issues and promote the adoption of a sustainable lifestyle	On track
Service areas:	• Environmental Strategy & Climate Change Strategy • Environmental Assets • Community Development • Economic Development • Communications		

July to December 2024 Progress:

- **Letter of support –** Institute of Public Works Engineering Association Asset Management for Green Infrastructure Project, Local Government Research and Development Scheme
- **Sustainable living – @HOME** Council partnered with sustainable education providers 'Good for the Hood' to bring an online and in-person education series to help Alexandrina residents live more sustainably.
- **Supporting food and farming on the Fleurieu –** Alexandrina partnered with neighbouring councils, peak bodies and community organisations to find ways to connect farmers and producers with consumers through the Hills and Fleurieu Local Food Future project.

- **Partnering with local groups –** Continued collaboration and capacity building with community groups Cittaslow and Second Nature Conservancy, to support and educate environmental and climate change education talks.
- **Partnership with Resilient Hills & Coasts Partnership –** Continued collaborative, cross-sector partnership between councils, Landscape Boards, Regional Development Australia and the South Australian Government, working to strengthen the resilience of our communities, economies and natural and built environments to a changing climate.
- **Sustainable living program –** Joined the citizen science program, 'Living Lightly Locally', which could help deliver strategic sustainability actions across the both the Climate Emergency Action Plan and the Environmental Action Plan.
- **Community Coastal Flood Emergency Plan** – Goolwa and Mundoo Channels – finalised and sent out hard copies of the plan and fridge magnet to each of the residents in the Goolwa and Mundoo Channels.
- **Alexandrina Greening and Wildlife project** – Community workshops and nature education in collaboration with Second Nature:
    - Turtle Tales: Protecting our Local Species: November 2024
    - Upcoming: Bees and pollinator workshop February 2025 – including 150 native bee and pollinator friendly plants give away
- **Resilient Hills & Coasts (RH&C)** – RH&C is one of eleven regional climate partnerships across the state, underpinned by a Regional Sector Agreement that formally affirms each partner's commitment to work together on climate action. The Steering Committee secured grant funding of > $110,000 to develop a new regional climate action plan. Executive managers and Council Member workshops were undertaken late 2024.
- **Alexandrina (Alex) Climate Champions** – The Alex Climate Champions are a dedicated group of staff members who are driving change within Council through climate action initiatives including three lunchtime events:
    - Home energy solutions and strategies
    - Clothes swap
    - Low carbon Christmas

Green	**Transport Connections** 	**2.4** Explore opportunities to integrate eco-friendly and sustainable materials into the procurement process and practices to road management	Ongoing
Service areas:	• Environmental Strategy & Climate Change Strategy • Procurement • Assets		

July to December Progress 2024:

- **Road management –** Exploring opportunities to utilise recycled water for all road activities including dust suppression.
- **Nangkita Road –** The final seal on the previously upgraded 1.27km section of Nangkita Road was applied November 2024. Pavement/ rubble recycled and reused.

Green	**Environmental Innovation** 	**2.5** Contribute to the development of a long-term approach to waste management on the Fleurieu Peninsula	On track
Service areas:	• Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority • Infrastructure • Sustainable Resources		

July to December 2024 Progress:

- **Summer recycling –** Weekly yellow and green bin collections returned in Alexandrina from Tuesday 17 December 2024 to Friday 24 January 2025.
- **Public Place Waste Management Policy –** Continued to develop draft.
- **Kitchen caddy giveaway –** In collaboration with Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority, Council gave away 100 kitchen caddies to the community via the customer service desks in Goolwa and Strathalbyn.
- **Goolwa Irrigation Expansion Scheme** – As part of the scheme, successfully irrigated, seeded and used for cropping with recycled water (Boettcher Road, Goolwa).

- **Milang Storage Lagoon** – Commenced major project in Milang for expanded water storage.
- **Sustainable Resources data:**
    - Utilised more than 20 megalitres of stormwater/ reclaimed water across region.
    - Recycled approximately 326 megalitres of treated water across the region (increase of approx.. 17% since last year).
- **Beyond Development** – Requested by the Nature Glenelg Trust and their subsidiary Aquasave, Council removed floating weed from the stormwater ponds to create a healthier environment for native fish species. Aquasave staff were on-site to assist in safe retrieval and release of fish entangled in the weed.



Technical Officer Parks and Gardens at the Beyond Development in Chiton

Connected

Connected	**Climate Response** 	**3.1** Support prosperity and wellbeing in Alexandrina by building the resilience of our communities, the economy and the environment to a variable and changing climate	On track
Service areas:	• Community Development • Economic Development • Environmental Strategy & Climate Change Strategy		

July to December 2024 Progress:

- **Volunteer recognition –** Council recognised the contribution of 186 volunteers at its event late last year, including nine people who clocked up 125 years of combined service for the community.
- **Pilot project partnership with three other councils –** 'Homes for Tomorrow' is a collaboration between Alexandrina, District Council of Mount Barker, Light Regional Council and the City of Onkaparinga. The project encourages communities to build sustainable and climate-ready housing.
- **Community resilience support:**
    - Council continued support to communities to action their disaster resilience plans as well as, supporting community training and events for emergency and bushfire preparedness, social events to connect their communities and activating local venues as community support hubs after a disaster.
    - Assisting the Ashbourne group to develop a welcome pack containing key community information.
    - Ashbourne, Woodchester and Mount Compass communities who have been working with the Australian Red Cross, Alexandrina Council and other local councils to strengthen connection and improve disaster resilience attended a Celebration Dinner in Mount Barker late 2024.

Connected	**Appropriate Growth**	**3.2** Partner with community-led Village Innovation Plans to identify and enhance sustainable social, economic, and environmental outcomes for Alexandrina	Delays/ Challenges
Service areas:	• Strategy • Communications • Environmental Strategy & Climate Change Strategy • Strategic Development		

July to December 2024 Progress:

- **Draft South Coast Growth Strategy –** Identified options for the future growth of the South Coast area and sought input from the community via an extensive engagement process, which will help inform a final South Coast Growth Strategy.
- **Greater Adelaide Regional Plan –** Provided input into the draft Greater Adelaide Regional Plan, which sets the broader framework for the future of the Fleurieu.
- **Township Visions and community Ideas** – Information gathered from the 2021 and 2023 Village Conversations guided the 'Township Visions and Community Ideas' sections within the draft A2040 Four Year Delivery Plan. Each township section was extracted and presented visually to ease accessibility at engagement events.
- **Milang Local Heritage Code Amendment** – Progressed the process for the protection of local heritage places in the township of Milang for the long-term preservation of the area's character.
- **Port Elliot and Waterport Local Heritage Code Amendment – I**nitiated and commenced the background documentation for the protection of places of local heritage significance.
- **Middleton and Goolwa Local Heritage Code Amendment** – Commenced a process for the identification and future protection of places of local heritage significance.
- **Goolwa State Heritage Design Guidelines** – Contributed to Heritage SA's preparation of design guidelines for future development within the Goolwa State Heritage area.



CEO, Andrew MacDonald, Mount Compass resident, Stewart Glass, Councillor Bill Coomans at the Mount Compass Strategic Management Plan drop-in session

Connected	**Community Inclusion** 	**3.3** Leverage Business Alexandrina to increase opportunities to co-design innovative solutions for industry	Delays/ Challenges
Service areas:	• Economic Development • Strategic Planning		

July to December 2024 Progress:

- **Completion of the Rural Living Handbook –** The handbook was initiated by Council's Alexandrina Sustainable Agricultural Round Table (ASART), a group of leading local industry representatives and agribusinesses
- **Business Services Review –** Completed recommending a series of changes to the Alexandrina Business Services model including investigating the expansion of business services into the North and West Wards.

Connected	**Transport Connections** 	**3.4** Advocate for multiple modes of public transport that connect communities to Adelaide and across our region	Delays/ challenges
Service areas:	• Strategy • Governance • Communications • Community Development		

July to December 2024 Progress:

- **Public transport advocacy –** Alexandrina Council joined with the City of Victor Harbor to deliver a workshop for Council Members on public transport options on the Fleurieu Peninsula. The District Council of Yankalilla was invited and Council Members attended.
- **Country Cabinet Advocacy –** In partnership with City of Victor Harbor and District Council of Yankalilla to advocate for needs across our communities including; growth and sustainability, transportation, healthcare and childcare, housing, coastal infrastructure and climate protection, funding gap, innovation/ collaboration and State support.

Connected	**Environmental Innovation** 	**3.5** Support local industry to connect, explore and pilot new initiatives	On track
Service areas:	• Economic Development • Infrastructure	• Governance • Community Development	

July to December Progress:

- **Small Grants Program –** Opened in October providing funding opportunities for community projects or individual projects. Financial support up to the value of $1,000.
- **2024-2025 Grants Program –** Council awarded $118,000 worth of community grants to 44 artists, clubs, organisations, events and businesses to protect local heritage, improve the local environment and build community wellbeing and resilience.
- **Smart Street Lighting Project wins award –** Council's Assets Team collected the 'Excellence in Project Innovation Award' for the Clayton Bay Smart Street Lighting Project at the 2024 Institute of Public Works Engineering Association (IPWEA) SA Excellence Awards.
- **Partnership with Regional Development Australia** – Continue to be a key partner in the development of an accommodation gaps project for Langhorne Creek.
- **Hills and Fleurieu Local Food Future project**:
    - Council is supporting the trial of a shared delivery model with a group of local farmers, piloting a project called the 'Cool Road Collective', helping local producers reduce food miles/emissions, money and time spent delivering their products.
    - Continued working with First Nations advisory group and opportunities for First Nations-led food projects and enterprises and exploring funding opportunities to support.
- **The 'Healthy Minds, Healthy Farmers, Healthy Landscapes' Initiative –** In partnership with the Breakthrough Mental Health Research Foundation, the initiative aims to break down stigma, increase awareness and skills around mental health and facilitate the creation of a community network to support the farming community.
- **South Australia Police (SAPOL) Road Safety Team sessions –** In partnership with SAPOL, Council hosted information sessions designed for older road users in Goolwa and Strathalbyn.

- **Coorong Quays Wastewater Scheme** – A separate utility provider approached our CWMS team to explore the implementation of SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) at Coorong Quays. After interviews and knowledge sharing, the insights gained led to the decision to implement a similar approach and solution.
- **International students explore health and care career opportunities –** Through the collaboration with Alexandrina, StudyAdelaide, Regional Development Australia, Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island, City of Victor Harbor, District Council of Yankalilla and Workforce Australia's Local Jobs Program. Over 40 international students attended, and 17 organisations were involved in this one-day showcase.



Students exploring Yuntulun Ku:li-war at the Fleurieu showcase

Enabled

Enabled Governance	**6.1** Enhance organisation capability through innovative practices, regional and community partnerships	On track
Service areas:	• Customer Service • Library Service • Subsidiary Reporting • Governance • Business Solutions • Infrastructure	

July to December 2024 Progress:

- **Letter of support –** Sponsorship Opportunity for the 2025 SA Wooden Boat Festival (Bendigo Bank)
- **Section 41 Reforms –** Following review of all Council's committees and advisory groups, Council continued to review the terms of reference. Administration worked with committees to become established as Section 41 to ensure consistency.
- **Public Health Award –** Council's Environmental Health Team was part of a working group of seven councils that collected an 'Excellence in Public Health Award' for Building Regulatory Excellence for Sustainable Onsite Wastewater System Management at the Local Government Association Conference.
- **Fleurieu Regional Aquatic Centre –** After almost 8 years, the Authority charged with overseeing the Fleurieu Aquatic Centre has handed oversight back to its constituent councils, Alexandrina Council and the City of Victor Harbor.
- **PS Oscar W Leases –** Alexandrina Council has signed three leases with the Friends of the PS Oscar W to formally hand over the day-to-day operations of the heritage-listed paddle steamer.
- **Customer Service improvements:**
    - Choice for customers to receive email receipts or not print at all (previously automatically printed).
    - Implementation of integrated EFTPOS (Council systems works directly with EFTPOS machine terminals)
- **Visitor Services statistics:**
    - Goolwa Visitor Information Centre: over 5,000 visitors
    - Strathalbyn Visitor Information Centre: just under 3,000 visitors
- **SA Power Networks Industry Forum** Assets team presented the Clayton Bay Smart Lighting Trial case study

- **Community partnerships** have been fostered with continued support of the Goolwa Rotary Club and the Beach Road Reserve, and Goolwa Cittaslow licence agreement to adopt the reserve on Birchall Road.
- **Volunteers –** Ongoing management and support of community volunteers such as Goolwa Tidy Towns, and Beyond Volunteers – Chiton.
- **2024 National Economic Development Awards for Excellence** – Finalist in the category of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Entrepreneurship and Inclusive Economic Development. This recognition highlights our collaborative efforts with the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation at the Signal Point Experience Centre, a key Council building within the Goolwa Wharf Precinct.
- **Goolwa Wharf Precinct Operators –** Formalised quarterly meetings of Goolwa Wharf Precinct operators within the Alexandrina Business Hub.
- **Septic Tank Study –** Partnering with the City of Onkaparinga, to develop a study to test the effectiveness of septic tanks and explore opportunities for optimisation.
- **Plover protection –** The Hooded Plover Program is part of BirdLife Australia's national beach-nesting bird program and is supported regionally by Green Adelaide, Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu, local councils and volunteers. Alexandrina is home to four breeding sites.

Enabled Governance	**6.2** Ethical and efficient management of resources. Improve planning and financial performance through regular review, alignment with strategic goals and budgets, and efficient communication and reporting	On track
Service areas:	• Finance • Subsidiary Reporting • Procurement • Strategy • Communications • Governance • Human Resources • Business Solution • Information Services	

July to December 2024 Progress:

- **Strategic Management Plan Review –** Conducted review of the Long Term Financial Plan, Strategic Asset Management Plan and Community Strategic Plan.
- **Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget (ABP)** – Preparations commenced for the 2025/26 ABP.
- **Visitor Services Review –** Completed.

- **Finance improvements:**
    - Improved, processes and communications utilising new core business software, which has increased efficiency for teams to manage their budgets.
    - Cross- collaborative relationship between the Finance Team and team divisions through the regular quarterly review.
- **Elected Member** Mid-term refresher training.
- **Recognition for planning excellence –** Council won two awards and collected two commendations at the Planning Institute of Australia's (PIA) 2024 State Awards for Planning Excellence.
- **Core business system updates:**
    - Continued implementation of new core systems, including records and information management
    - Organisation-wide training and upskilling of all staff
    - Rollout of hardware to replace degraded computer equipment
    - Launched software for sourcing and contracts modules in core business to enhance best practice procure processes.
- **Business Services Review –** Completed informing next step to create implementation plan for 12-24 months.
- **Environmental partnerships –** Continue to be a vital partner of the Resilient Hills & Coasts Partnership: collaborative, cross-sector partnership between councils, Landscape Boards, Regional Development Australia and the South Australian Government, working to strengthen the resilience of our communities, economies and natural and built environments to a changing climate.
- **Communications Strategy –** Developed draft strategy to create a framework for Council to live out its values of being a capable, transparent, and community-focussed organisation through the application of consistent messaging and branding through a wide range of channels.
- **Communications review –** Reviewed technology platforms to find efficiencies and savings.
- **Dedicated Building Maintenance Team** – Established to reduce reliance on contractors by developing an in-house team to handle routine building maintenance and repairs.
- **Recruitment and employee engagement:**
    - Alexandrina has reduced recruitment costs and increased applicants per role through a more structured hiring process

- Enhanced internal resources and improved recruitment processes
- Council have been placing greater emphasis on developing its employee value proposition (EVP).
- Focus on developing and embedding Council's collective behavioural Values of: Respect, Empowerment, Fun, Impact and Teamwork
- Greater focus on employee professional development through a dedicated budget allocation
- Evolution of Councils procedural framework with clearly mapped processes.
- Within the last year, Council have seen a slight reduction in employee turnover creating financial savings, as well as improving psychological outcomes for Council and its employees.

Enabled Governance	**6.3** Enhance trust and accountability through open transparent leadership. Engage, inform and involve the community in decision making and communication.	On track
Service areas:	• Governance • Office of CEO • Community Engagement • Communications	

July to December Progress:

- **CEO –** New Chief Executive Officer, Andrew MacDonald commenced December 2024.
- **Strategic Plan Review –** Council endorsed the reviewed Draft Long Term Financial Plan, Draft A2040 Community Plans and Draft Strategic Asset Management plan for consultation. Consultation involved three face-to-face drop-sessions (one in each ward). Consultation concluded December.
- **Media releases –** 24 completed and shared with local media.
- **Use of video** – Increased use of videos on both social media and two video presentations to assist community consultations.
- **Events promoted via Council's webpage:**
    - What's On (Council events): 86
    - Community Noticeboard (events submitted by community members): 57

- **Social media – Continual posting to:**
    - Corporate Facebook (8k followers)
    - Corporate Instagram (1.5k followers)
    - Corporate LinkedIn (2k followers
    - Visit Alexandrina Facebook (2.7k followers)
    - Visit Alexandrina Instagram (1.5k followers)
    - Alexandrina Libraries Facebook (951 followers)
    - Alexandrina Arts, Culture and Events (91 followers)
    - SA Wooden Boat Festival Facebook (4.1k followers)
    - SA Wooden Boat Festival Instagram (1.1k followers)
- **Community consultations:**
    - Three My Say Alexandrina e-newsletters sent
    - 44 new participant registrations on My Say platform
    - Council delivered 13 community consultations in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999*
    - Council Meeting resolution updates posted on My Say project site and included in e-newsletter.
- **Freeman's Knob Reserve Shelters, Port Elliot** – A My Say project site was established to host updated communications.
- **Port Elliot Pontoon Communications** – Throughout the Port Elliot pontoon deliberations, Council worked to update the community in a timely manner, including media releases and responses, website updates, scheduling of Special Council Meeting and social media.
- **Annual Report –** Council adopted the Annual Report 2023/24, a document of accountability that shows how Council has performed during the past financial year.

- **Increased visibility of Finance Team** – As part of the Draft Long Term Financial Plan consultation, the Chief Financial Officer and/or Team Leader Strategic Financial Performance were available to answer questions at all engagement events and contributed to an online video presentation.

- **Significant website updates:**

    - Rates: Includes useful tutorials (e.g. payment service set up).

    - Dogs and Cats: consolidated information and improved usability

    - Grants: Content updated to align with recent grants program changes and the inclusion of frequently asked questions

    - Environment and Climate Change pages: comprehensive review and update.

    - Creation of Goolwa Wharf visitor information page.

- **Community Wellbeing industry presentations:**
    - Food Systems Network – How Alexandrina has been advancing food systems strategies in our region.
    - Preventive Health SA webinar and the Social Planners Network – Development of the Community Wellbeing Action Plan.
- **Alexandrina Alive Newsletter:**
    - Average 65% open rate for online e-newsletters
    - Ongoing focus on featuring a diverse range of newsletter articles that represent the entire region.
- **Goolwa Beach safety –** During deliberations of its 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget, Council decided not to fund $28,000 for a Surf Life Saving Australia lifeguard service at Goolwa Beach over the summer holiday period. Delivered advertising campaign (signage and social media) as per Council resolution.