

Alexandrina Advocates

Federal Election 2019



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES



Message from the Mayor and CEO

Alexandrina Council takes its legislative role to represent the interests of the wider community very seriously and in 'Alexandrina Advocates: Federal Election 2019', we are putting forward not only a wish list for funding, but a contribution to policy development at the national level.

Our Elected Members have identified twelve issues of national significance and considered the Alexandrina community's needs and interests:

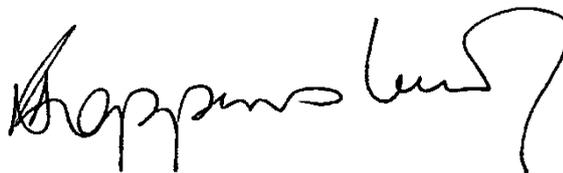
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This is an opportunity to convey key messages about these issues that we hope candidates and parties involved in the Federal Election will consider in their own policy development and expression of election commitments.

Alexandrina Council will continue to proactively advocate on these issues following the 2019 Federal Election, working collaboratively with the elected government and representatives for Mayo and South Australia. In progressing the interests of the Alexandrina community, which shares many characteristics with communities around Australia, we are doing our part to contribute to the nation's prosperity and wellbeing.



Mayor Keith Parkes



Glenn Rappensberg, Chief Executive Officer

Ageing and Aged Care

Council Resolution of 15 April 2019

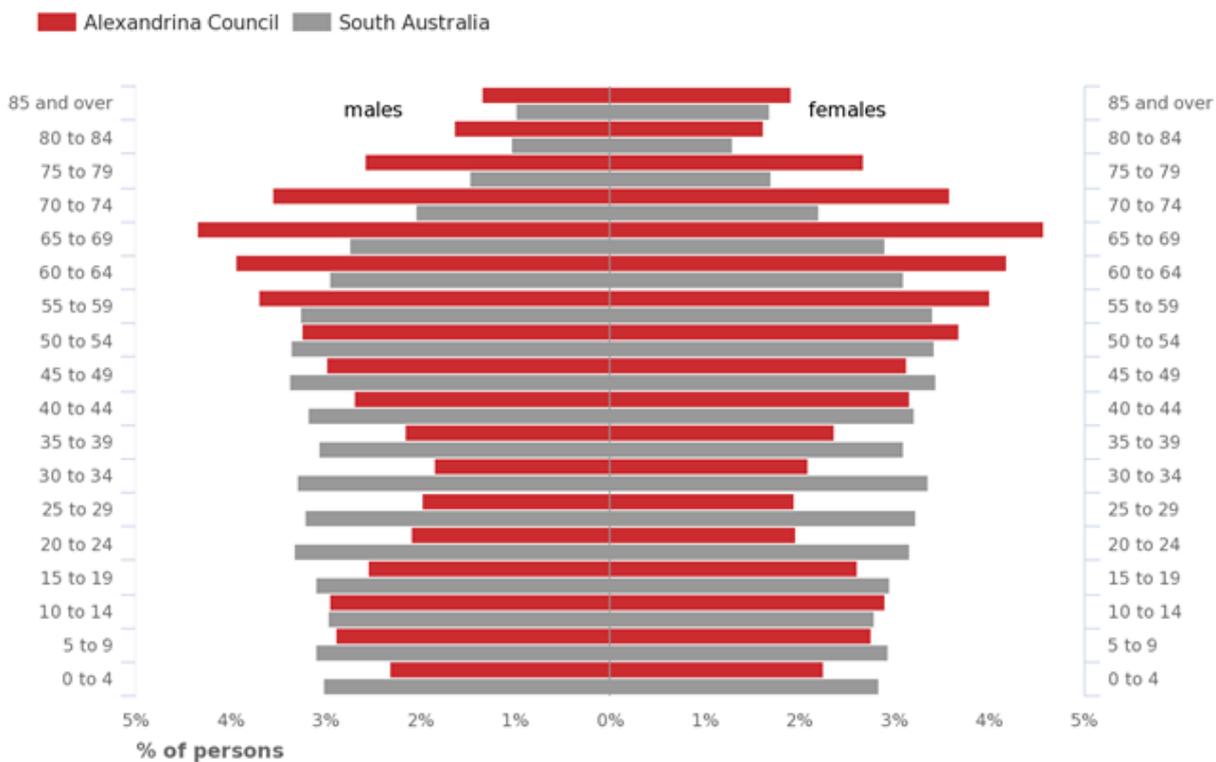
Alexandrina Council is a region with an increasingly ageing demographic, higher than many communities in Australia, in what is the fastest ageing state in mainland Australia. This trend has seen the rise of the Health and Social Services sector as our strongest employing industry. This presents opportunities for Alexandrina to be a national leader in ageing well, and caring for our aged well, and for attracting younger demographics to reside and find employment locally. We call on all parties and candidates in the 2019 Federal Election to identify how Alexandrina can be supported in this aspiration to drive policy and funding innovation at a national level, particularly how to better support local and community-driven care delivery in our remoter communities.

Alexandrina Council encourages candidates and parties to support the continuation of the Commonwealth Home Support Program in future budgets, noting the importance of this program to local community and the holistic benefits derived from local government and local community groups as the delivery partners in this program.

Background

Australia is a nation with an increasingly ageing demographic and South Australia is the fastest ageing mainland State. Indeed, Alexandrina has an older age structure than the State average with a median age of 51 years (being 11 years above State average of 40 years).*

Age-sex pyramid, 2016



Since the 2011 Census, the majority of change in age structure in Alexandrina has been an increase in those aged between 50 – 74 years (the ‘sea change’ phenomena). The 2016 Census found that the 60-69 age group was the largest age demographic in Alexandrina, making up over 18% of our population. The 70-84 age group makes up almost 16%. Indeed, Seniors aged 70-84 years are the fastest growing age demographic in Alexandrina.

Southern Alexandrina, with its coastal lifestyle, has an older demographic profile than Northern Alexandrina being within easier commuting distance to Adelaide. But, there is also some evidence of growth in young families since the 2011 Census, demonstrating the need to support intergenerational approaches in our communities and to collaborate across generations.

There has been strong growth in the Health and Services industry sector in Alexandrina, which is now the community’s largest employer and with recent funding announcements, looks to be in a position to grow even more.

Alexandrina has seen recent announcements of Australian Government and private sector funding support for facilities in Coorong Quays, Hindmarsh Island and Federal and State Government funding for aged care facilities in Strathalbyn. The State Government, in particular, is supporting an initiative in Strathalbyn for ‘co-designing aged care’ – that is exploring how world-leading aged care can be delivered to support the local community to age well, whether that be through supporting people at home, connecting them with others, providing respite care, dementia care or day care, or providing a home in an aged care facility.

These are great initiatives for our region – not only in the direct care enhancements that they provide for our community, but also in employment and economic development opportunities. And encouraging the growing employment of workers in the Health and Social Services sector, may also influence decisions such as making their home in Alexandrina, thereby further contributing to the prosperity of our population and community.

Alexandrina Council’s contribution and focus is in community capacity building – such as providing local leadership, promoting inclusion and social justice, supporting organisations in the delivery of services, and facilitating partnerships that improve services. We concentrate on general wellbeing and resilience, aiming to support our community to age in place, encourage activity, social interaction, healthy lifestyles, and provide fit for purpose community facilities. We also support independence through the delivery of basic services to assist the aged to be independent in their own homes through the Commonwealth Home Support Program. This includes provision of information, social interaction, medical and social transport, domestic assistance and home modifications.

Alexandrina Council welcomes the announcement in the 2019 Federal Budget of a further two years of funding for the Commonwealth Home Support Program and seeks further assurances of its continuance in future budgets.

We do note that access to public and community transport is a critical aspect of ageing well and that this is an area of need for the regions. While local government does what it can with community transport, the scale of the issue is significant and the impact it can have on accessibility to services and social inclusion is profound.

Therefore, it is fair to say that the national aged care policy and funding framework has a major influence on Alexandrina and furthermore, it is critical that policy-makers consider our regional context, especially for remoter communities who experience accessibility and isolation issues and rely on local community service providers.

Ageing and aged care in Alexandrina, is a real opportunity for the three tiers of government, the private sector and community to work together to be a national and global leader in ‘ageing well’ but also caring for our ageing demographic as ‘well’ as we can.

**Source: ID Profile – Alexandrina Council at <https://profile.id.com.au/alexandrina>*

Arts, culture and heritage

Council Resolution of 15 April 2019

Alexandrina Council recognises the cumulative impact of social and cultural capital and economic contribution of the arts, culture and heritage sector to our region, especially with respect to tourism and attracting new residents to make our community their home. Alexandrina Council continues to support the sector through annual funding for programs and events and capital expenditure on heritage assets. We call on all parties and candidates in the 2019 Federal Election to commit to maintaining or expanding funding opportunities for these significant functions and demonstrate how they will support the local government sector, and our communities, to catalyse artistic and cultural endeavour and protect our heritage for future generations.

Background

In 2012 the Alexandrina Council hosted the third Regional Centre of Culture (RCC) program in South Australia. Managed by Country Arts SA on behalf of the South Australian government, the RCC model aimed to contribute to building a strong and resourceful community and improving wellbeing through arts and cultural development. In Alexandrina the program was named Just Add Water, reflecting the community's unique and precious relationship with the rivers, lakes, sea and wetlands in the region. Based on the success of Just Add Water in 2012 it was nominated for a further two years funding by the Australia Council for the Arts, Cultural Places Initiative as one of two pilots, the other being Rockhampton in Queensland.

Total investment over the three years included contributions of \$600,000 from the Australia Council for the Arts, \$1.6 million from the South Australian government through Country Arts SA, and \$1.5 million from Alexandrina Council. In addition, a total of \$2.7 million was invested in capital development of facilities (\$800,000 from State government and \$1.9 million from Council) without which many of the program events would not have been possible.

Since that time, Council has continued to invest in, and foster, our support for the arts with an annual program of visual and performing arts that is extremely well-received and well-attended by our community. The Just Add Water Program has over time with events and activities expanded to occur throughout the Alexandrina region, including in small communities. The 2018-19 budget for the arts in Alexandrina was \$669,410 (including contributions to public art). This has included more than 120 arts events over multiple locations throughout Alexandrina.

Cultural heritage is a major drawcard and critical to the identity and social fabric of our community. From agricultural history in Milang, to foraging for antiques in Strathalbyn, to experiencing our rich river history in Goolwa, there is something for everyone. Furthermore, we celebrate Ngarrindjeri culture at important sites like Ratalang-Basham Beach at Port Elliot-Middleton. Council has also financially supported cultural and heritage events throughout region including the Bi-ennial SA Wooden Boat Festival and many fabulous local events through a community grants program.

Council is also the owner, on behalf of our community, of many heritage assets, in many villages. We invest renewal and maintenance expenditure to see our heritage assets add to the character of our towns. Our planning policies are also sensitive to the rich heritage of Alexandrina. But this is expensive and other sources of support to help us embrace a continuum of culture is critical.

And this effort in cultivating our arts, culture and heritage sector is showing a return on investment.

We receive anecdotal feedback that people are attracted to visit, and move to the region, just to experience our arts, culture and heritage. Furthermore, economic statistics demonstrate strong productivity in the Arts and Recreation sectors in Alexandrina. For example, we have experienced a growth in employment in this sector from 2015-16 to 2017-18 by 2.1%, noting this is stronger than both regional (1.2%) and state (1.6%) averages for the same period.

Carers and disability services

Council Resolution of 15 April 2019

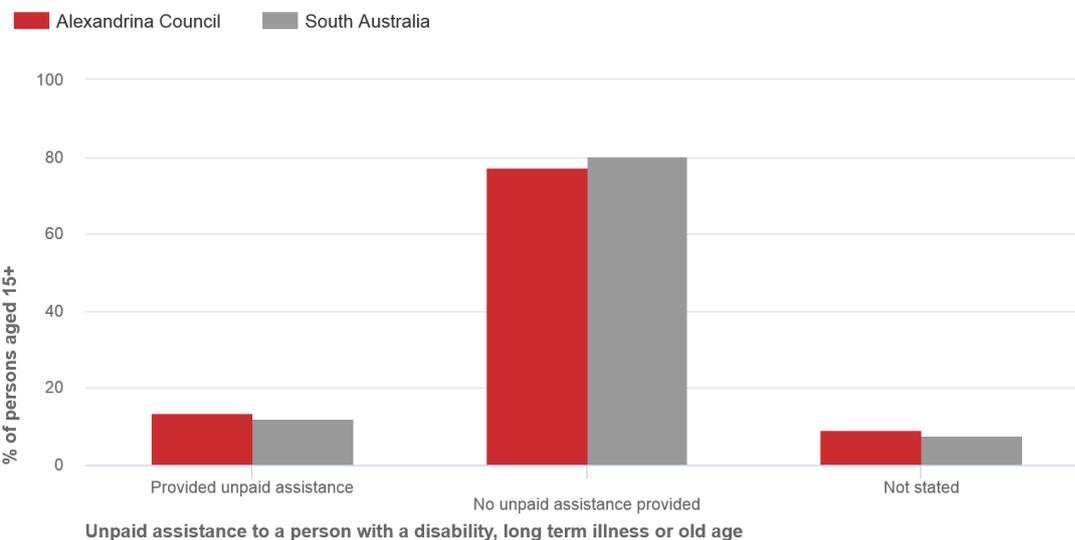
With a growing and ageing population and indicators that show higher rates of unpaid assistance than the State average within our community, Alexandrina Council has an interest in the policies and funding that supports those with disabilities in our community and their carers. We call on all parties and candidates in the 2019 Federal Election to put forward ideas about how local government and local community centres/groups can be supported to play a role in regional connectivity and/or delivery of disability services in the regions.

Background

The Alexandrina community experienced a higher growth in the percentage of persons providing unpaid care assistance in the 2016 Census, compared to the State average. This suggests the role of carer is an important one in our community.

Unpaid care, 2016

Total persons



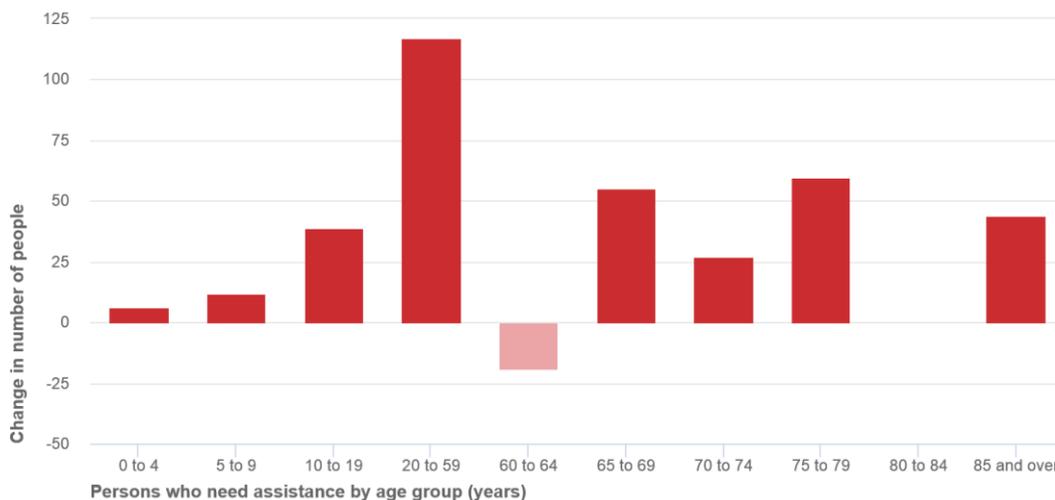
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2016 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.

.id the population experts

Furthermore, between the 2011 and 2016 Census, Alexandrina experienced growth in assistance needs for core activities particularly in the 20-59 year age group.

Change in need for assistance with core activities, 2011 to 2016

Alexandrina Council - Total persons



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 and 2016 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.



We note Mission Australia is the National Disability Insurance Scheme Local Area Coordinator for the Fleurieu and also, that community centres are already delivering programs for participants who receive NDIS funding.

As a regional community, local government and local community centres/groups can play a vital role in connecting people in need with services, but funding support for this is crucial. The Community Centre in Goolwa has a growing group of people with disabilities seeking access to mainstream community programs, and is becoming a known place to provide meaningful services for all community members. The Centre also provides transport for some clients otherwise it becomes a responsibility of the relative/carer. Most of these clients are under 59 years of age. As the Community Centre is an Intergenerational Centre it is hoped that once they have better facilities, those over 65 years will find services which suit them, and their Carers will find respite more often.

Climate change and the ‘climate emergency’

Council Resolution of 15 April 2019

Alexandrina Council expresses significant concern about the continuing vulnerability of its communities to the impacts of climate change, particularly the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth and coastal localities as well as industries critical to our economic wellbeing such as agriculture. Alexandrina Council calls on all parties and candidates in the 2019 Federal Election to demonstrate how they will support our community to navigate the unfolding climate emergency, including their positions on global and national plans and associated emissions targets as well as specific ideas for funding and policy support at a local level.

Background

Alexandrina, like many other communities around the globe, is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and seeks concerted and immediate action by our leaders to remedy this.

Internationally, the Paris Agreement seeks to limit global warming this century to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. To achieve this global target, carbon emissions must reach net zero by 2050 i.e. within the next 30 years.

South Australia (under the former Labor government) has committed to net zero emissions by 2050 but at a national level, Australia does not yet have a 2050 emissions target.

Global temperature rise of 1.5°C is now largely inevitable and on the current global emissions trajectory (i.e. even if all national commitments made under the Paris Agreement are met) the world can expect average warming of more than 3°C by 2100.

In order to achieve the Paris Agreement goal, Australia has an international shared responsibility to articulate a post-2030 emissions pathway with a view to achieving a suitably ambitious 2050 emissions target.

If this is not met, science has demonstrated that a 3°C rise in global temperature will have catastrophic impacts on agriculture, natural resources and water. A 4°C rise is predicted to have unbearable elements for human inhabitants.

As we are currently tracking under a high emissions scenario, by 2090 the Alexandrina region can expect up to: 4.3°C warming, 35% increase in fire danger days, a 30% reduction in rainfall a 45% reduction in streamflows and sea level rises of up to 0.84m above 1986-2005 levels.*

For our local situation, the national and global context is critical. But there is local energy and commitment and with strong leadership at the national level, it can be optimised to respond to this climate emergency.

The Alexandrina 2014-23 Community Strategic Plan represents our community’s aspiration to ‘thrive in clean, green futures’ through progressive approaches to climate change. The Alexandrina community are highly environmentally aware and willing to mitigate with high solar uptake, proven waste reduction to landfill and pursuit of agricultural innovation to reduce emissions. Council is pursuing climate pledges to invest in greater uptake of renewable energy and reduction in emissions. We support our region to adapt through strong water conservation practices, fire preparedness, land use planning and innovation.

Alexandrina Council is also a member of Resilient Hills and Coasts, a regional climate change adaptation partnership for the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island region.

The 2016 Resilient Hills and Coasts Climate Change Adaptation Plan identifies climate ready homes and buildings, open space and infrastructure design, diversification of agriculture and adaptive management of biodiversity assets as priority adaptation options for the region.

Current project priorities being actioned by Resilient Hills and Coasts via a combination of council-funded and grant-funded projects include community energy, coastal adaptation, water-sensitive urban design, climate risk governance, and “Where We Build, What We Build” – a keystone project focused on developing the evidence based for, and encouraging the uptake of, climate-ready housing.

Alexandrina Council is a member of Australian Coastal Councils and supports their advocacy efforts to bring attention to the vulnerability of coastal communities to climate change and drive appropriate policy frameworks and funding support across the nation.

Council has also invested in a local Farming Systems Group to sequester soil carbon by funding soil health projects.

Our community is ready and willing to do its part – and we want to work with leaders who will set in place the framework and funding support to help us achieve reduced emissions and support our community to adapt to change and manage our vulnerabilities.

**Source: 2018 State of the Environment Report and CSIRO Climate Change in Australia re Murray-Darling Basin region*

Economic development and infrastructure funding

Council Resolution of 15 April 2019

Alexandrina is a \$1 billion regional economy reliant on seasonal industries like agriculture and tourism as well as the many sole traders and micro-businesses that comprise the overwhelming majority of our businesses. Using our modest ratepayer funding base, we also build and maintain infrastructure that supports two-three times our population base during high visitation seasons. We call on all parties and candidates in the 2019 Federal Election to maintain and extend regional funding programs for infrastructure and develop sound policy that supports industries critical to the regions, as well as tailored support for small business.

Background

Alexandrina punches above its weight for a population of almost 27,000 people. We have now surpassed \$1 billion in gross regional product, generating \$1.03 billion to June 2017. Our key economic drivers are agriculture, tourism and health services and we believe our contribution to the prosperity of the state and the nation has the potential to grow, with the right investment, access to funding and collaborative policy conditions.

Alexandrina Council's Economic Development Strategy states the following vision:

'Growth in Alexandrina's economy will deliver an improved standard of living to its communities and will be driven by continuing enhancements in productivity and innovation. The opportunities provided by the unique characteristics of Alexandrina's towns, the environment, our history, our quality produce, and the skills and experience of our labour force, will attract businesses and investment to Alexandrina. Alexandrina will retain its distinctive identity, will be well-connected to the surrounding region and will be the location of choice for new businesses and investment.'

It identifies nine action areas:

1. Investment and Business Attraction: To be the location of choice for new businesses and investment in the region
2. Infrastructure: To ensure sufficient quality infrastructure is provided that supports business efficiency and contributes to the quality of life of residents
3. Retaining and Training our Workforce and Businesses: To support local businesses so that they have the skills required to operate viably and are well-informed of relevant business trends and opportunities
4. Tourism – Create Memorable Experiences: To expand and improve the local tourism offer and create memorable experiences for visitors
5. Primary Production and Value-adding: Alexandrina will be renowned and acknowledged for its high-quality primary produce
6. The Local Wine Industry: To improve the global awareness of the local wine industry to a level where it is comparable with the competing wine regions
7. Alexandrina's Town Centres: To support Alexandrina's town centres as locations for employment and drivers of economic activity
8. Role of Place Management: To implement a place management process which builds upon existing place management activities and delivers sustainable and resilient town centres and communities in Alexandrina
9. Lifestyle: To protect and enhance the 'lifestyle' associated with living in Alexandrina.

Alexandrina Council is progressively pursuing these nine action areas and evolving in its role as a local government body relying on with resources drawn largely from a ratepayer base. We also acknowledge the dedicated effort made by local business, tourism and industry associations (driven by volunteers), to progress our prosperity. In this environment, even modest investment from the Australian Government can greatly assist a community such as ours and we believe such investment would see a strong return across many areas of social and economic wellbeing.

Over the last few years, the Alexandrina community (in collaboration with the City of Victor Harbor) has benefited from \$7 million in Australian Government infrastructure investment in the Fleurieu Aquatic Centre and it has every sign of becoming an impressive success story in terms of membership trends, social inclusion and health and wellbeing outcomes.

Continued infrastructure investment of this magnitude, in key tourism and lifestyle precincts, will drive regional visitation and economic development, and also wellbeing. We have a portfolio of projects across the district suitable for Australia Government investment including the revitalisation of the Goolwa Wharf Precinct, major upgrades to the Goolwa Sports Complex, the creation of an eco and cultural tourism hub at Sugars Beach on Hindmarsh Island and streetscape improvements which will reinforce the town centre as the economic, cultural and social heart of Strathalbyn. It is critical that the Australian Government maintain, and even extend, regional infrastructure funding programs to enable Alexandrina to apply for the major investment that is pivotal to seeing these projects realised as our ratepayers cannot do it alone.

Furthermore, our \$1 billion economy is driven by hard-working sole traders and micro and small business. Of the 2164 businesses in Alexandrina, 1431 are non-employing – that is 66%. This means that taxation structures and small business policy frameworks are highly influential to Alexandrina's economic development.

Two of our major industries are seasonal – agriculture and tourism – meaning our economy is vulnerable to downturns in visitation or exports for example, and relies on factors like robust environment conditions to succeed. The Australian Government has many policy levers that can influence these sectors and we encourage consideration of regional needs in the development of these policy frameworks.

Financial assistance grants to local government

Council Resolution of 15 April 2019

Alexandrina Council receives a similar amount of financial assistance grants as metro Councils, yet have regional obligations and disadvantages that metro Councils do not. Furthermore, with high seasonal visitation, the Alexandrina ratepayer is funding infrastructure and services capacity for twice to three times the population base. We call on all parties and candidates in the 2019 Federal Election to:

- *commit to advocating for the restoration of Financial Assistance Grants to 1% of GDP;*
- *look at the model of Financial Assistance Grants being based on a per capita formula and how a more equitable and efficient distribution framework can be implemented to alleviate the burdens of regional communities with high seasonal visitation;*
- *a formula that takes into account the vulnerability of communities, particularly coastal communities, to the impacts of climate change; and*
- *the inclusion of a question in the 2021 Census that collects data on non-resident landowners) in the Census.*

Background

In 2012-13, the Federal Government collected around 81 per cent of tax revenue in Australia, mainly from income taxes levied on individuals and corporates. State and territory governments collected around 15 per cent of tax revenue, largely through payroll taxes and property taxes (especially stamp duties). Local governments collected around 3 per cent of tax revenue through municipal rates.*

The Australian Government has provided over \$52 billion under the Financial Assistance Grant program to local government since 1974–75 (including 2018–19).*

Along with Federal grant programs, its one of the primary ways the Australia Government can distribute taxation revenue (collected from individuals through income tax) back to communities (via the tier of local government).

The Financial Assistance Grant program includes:

- a general purpose component which is distributed between the states and territories according to population (i.e. on a per capita basis), and
- an identified local road component which is distributed between the states and territories according to fixed historical shares.*

Councils may spend the grants according to local priorities.*

Local government grants commissions in each state and the Northern Territory recommend the distribution of the funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program to local governing bodies in accordance with the Act and the National Principles for allocating grants.*

The per capita principle means that South Australia's proportion of the total Financial Assistance Grants is declining over time, as our population growth is slower compared to other mainland States.

The per capita principle is also challenging for councils with high second home ownership – as on Census night – the source of estimated resident population (ERP) embedded in per capita formulas – many non-resident land and property owners are absent (given it is held in the middle of winter). Furthermore, ERP does not account for the impacts of high seasonal visitation.

In 2018-19, Alexandrina Council received \$1.424m in financial assistance grants, similar to a number of metropolitan Councils. To compare, as a regional Council, Alexandrina has obligations that metropolitan Councils do not (such as maintaining local roads, new infrastructure requirements including lack of footpaths, kerbing and stormwater) – which

ultimately affects the bottom line burden for the ratepayer. In addition, the high seasonal visitation (which is not taken into account in formulas based on per capita) means that the Alexandrina ratepayer must fund additional capacity in infrastructure to cope with spikes in population growth. The net effect is that metropolitan Councils have a greater ability to offset rate increases with financial assistance grants. This often leads to confusion and complaints from ratepayers with property in Alexandrina and metropolitan Adelaide who cannot understand why their rates are higher in a regional Council with a perceived reduction in services.

Coastal councils around Australia are also particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and recognition of this at a national level in formula development would be welcomed.

In 2014-15, the Australian Government froze indexation of financial assistance grants thereby causing strain to local council's around the nation. Alexandrina Council urges candidates to see financial assistance grants as an efficient opportunity to redistribute income taxation fairly for the benefit of communities.

Financial Assistance Grants have also lost ground as a proportion of Australia's Gross Domestic Product. We encourage the restoration of Financial Assistance Grants to 1% of GDP.

Alexandrina Council is also participating in joint advocacy through Southern and Hills Local Government Association to lobby the SA Grants Commission to adjust aspects of its distribution model. We consider that the principal of 'horizontal fiscal equalisation/equity' is not as well served in South Australia as it could be.

**Sources: Australian Government, Rethink: Better tax system, Better Australia; Australian Government website, Financial Assistance to Local Government*

Key Alexandrina projects for Federal funding

Council Resolution of 15 April 2019

Alexandrina Council seeks the consideration of parties and candidates to expressly commit to Federal funding investment in key Council projects across the district spanning iconic environmental, cultural heritage and sporting sites to community driven projects depicting local passion. We believe such investment will add to the regional offering for tourism as well as a preferred place of residence, thereby driving economic development. They are exciting projects in iconic locations, investment for which, will add to the national story of our great regions.

Background

Alexandrina is an area containing 11 townships surrounded by farmland and bordering the Southern Ocean and the River Murray. This distributed environment creates many challenges for Council to provide services. However, Alexandrina Council is still known for its commitment to developing its communities with new and innovative infrastructure. Yet, Alexandrina Council ratepayers can't bear the burden of innovation in our community alone – we need Federal Government investment support to drive major infrastructure and development projects across the district.

We have many projects in the pipeline, including several that are shovel-ready, that would be ideal for Federal election commitments.

Council-driven key projects that are shovel ready

Goolwa Wharf Revitalisation Project – The historic Goolwa Wharf Precinct is unique in South Australia, and is recognised as being of national significance. The Revitalisation Project will upgrade infrastructure within the Precinct to improve access and amenity, and create additional opportunities for economic activity and employment. The infrastructure will provide a unique platform on which to launch a place making strategy, encouraging locals and tourists alike to stay, enjoy and learn about our region. Our plan is to complement cultural, environmental and heritage stewardship with innovative activation and experiential learning programs. Already, the Goolwa Wharf Precinct is a significant driver of economic and tourism activity in the Fleurieu region. The Fleurieu Peninsula is the second most visited region in South Australia, outside of metropolitan Adelaide. The Precinct presents enormous potential to further capitalize on the growing eco-tourism market, and the Revitalisation Project aims to create quality, fit-for-purpose and state-of-the-art facilities for business expansion and attraction. A \$5 million project (seeking \$2.5m in Federal funding).

Strathalbyn Streetscape - Strathalbyn is an historic town, being the second oldest rural township in South Australia and having the most heritage listed buildings of any town in the State. Many of the buildings would be enhanced by the revitalisation of the streetscape which has had little attention over the past 30 years and now is in need of a facelift. It also has a very distinctive character due to its unique setting on the River Angas and being nestled amongst the wine producing region of Langhorne Creek and the grain region of the Strath Plains. Collaborating with community, Alexandrina Council has identified a once-in-a generation opportunity to improve amenity and enhance the liveability and the vibrancy of the town as a tourism destination. The Traffic, Parking and Streetscape Plan includes revitalised streetscapes on Albyn Terrace, High Street, Sunter Street and Dawson Street to improve pedestrian safety and experience; new landscaping, wider paths and car parking adjacent the historic St Andrews Church to improve links between High Street and Dawson Street and further enhance the importance of St Andrews Church in the town as well as wayfinding signage to enhance the communities understanding and experience of Strathalbyn. A \$2.2 million project (seeking \$1.4m in Federal funding).

Business Enterprise Centre, Goolwa - The Alexandrina Council currently owns a property at 12 Cadell Street, Goolwa which has been tenanted by the ANZ Bank. The property is some 115 square metres in size and fronts onto Goolwa's main-street. The ANZ Bank has terminated its lease arrangements with Council, which now provides an ideal opportunity to realise the opening of a Business Enterprise Centre (BEC) at a significantly reduced cost. To establish a Business Enterprise Centre inclusive of a three (3) year business support program within existing office space that will need significant modifications to create fully serviced private and communal operating spaces with internet and Wi-Fi connectivity, \$275,000 is required (seeking \$215,000 in Federal funding).

Goolwa Beach Precinct - Goolwa Beach, located on the Fleurieu Peninsula, is renowned as a long, sandy stretch of coastline with beautiful views and easy access. Both locals and tourists alike, enjoy visiting Goolwa Beach and the surrounding environment of Sir Richard Peninsula. It is an area of great cultural, environmental, social and economic significance. Collaborating with key stakeholders including Ngarrindjeri, tourism operators, business and sporting

associations, Surf Lifesaving SA and community, Alexandrina Council has developed a masterplan to guide the sensitive and sustainable development of the Goolwa Beach Precinct to provide a memorable visitor experience, and importantly, to balance its use with the protection of the natural and cultural significance of the area. A \$6 million project (seeking \$1 million in Federal funding).

Others:

Milang Foreshore Masterplan – an environmentally sensitive approach to this lakeside community space. A \$1 million project (seeking \$500k in Federal funding)

Council-driven projects that are undergoing additional design/consultation

Goolwa Sports Precinct – The ‘Goolwa Oval’ is the primary sporting facility within Alexandrina Council’s southern area, providing sporting infrastructure to the townships of Goolwa, Middleton, Port Elliot and surrounds, which have a combined population of approximately 15,000 people. The oval is home to many sporting clubs and associations, including the Goolwa – Port Elliot Football Club, Goolwa Netball Club, Goolwa Tennis Club, Goolwa Cricket Club, Goolwa Bowls Club, Goolwa Lions Club, and Goolwa Croquet Club. Club membership numbers have been steadily expanding due to continuing population growth within the region. The uniquely-positioned Goolwa Sporting Precinct is investment ready, and demonstrates significant return on that investment given it will deliver:

- economic benefits through construction, maintenance and ongoing operation of the infrastructure;
- social benefits including community cohesion and mental wellbeing, as well as youth development; and
- health benefits through the promotion of physical activity and sport.

A \$7.5 million project (seeking \$5 million in Federal funding).

Sugars Beach, Hindmarsh Island - Sugars Beach, situated on Hindmarsh Island opposite the Murray Mouth, is an iconic setting of cultural, environmental and economic significance. The gateway to the internationally recognised Coorong National Park, and adjoining South Australia’s newest observation park, Lawari, Sugars Beach is undoubtedly a special place. Sensitive development of Sugars Beach represents an immediate opportunity to capitalise on the growing eco-tourism and experience-based market. Sugars Beach provides one of the only land / water based locations for viewing the Murray Mouth. Other than a car park, there is currently no amenity for visitors to Sugars Beach. Recognising the very real opportunity before us, and acknowledging that tourist infrastructure in the immediate area is extremely limited, Alexandrina Council, with input from key stakeholders, has developed the Sugars Beach Masterplan to guide the Sugars Beach – Murray Mouth Icon Project. The Masterplan sets out the infrastructure required to improve visitor amenity and access, enhance visitor experience, and importantly, create opportunity for cultural and environmental education and tourism activity, and private sector enterprise. Connection to Country for Ngarrindjeri is at the forefront of the Icon Project and the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority supports the concept to develop the area under a partnership, that as a fundamental principle, acknowledges and respects the importance of a culturally appropriate approach. A \$3m project (with Council in-kind support).

Council-driven projects for the forward agenda

2026-27 – Strathalbyn Sport and Recreation Centre - \$10 million (seeking \$5 million in funding). This includes the relocation of the Strathalbyn Harness Club to the Recreation precinct, injecting substantial financial investment in the facility. Council will also be partnering with other local sporting organizations.

Community-driven key projects

Milang Lakeside Butter Factory – Recent news of \$ \$308,000 to restore the historical Milang Lakeside Butter Factory follows a Council grant to purchase the site some years ago. The recent funding acquisition will repair roofing, gutters, stonework and flooring, and help with other renovations. The goal is to hire or rent spaces out to organisations, companies or individuals for events and activities to attract tourists to the Milang community that will provide employment and training opportunities as well. Further investment to enable programs of that type into the future would be welcomed.

Mount Compass ANZAC Day memorial infrastructure – Mount Compass is one of the few significant townships in South Australia that does not have a suitable location enabling people to commemorate the men and women who served Australia in times of conflict. Indeed some 81 are on the district’s Honour Roll serving in World Wars I and II, Malayan Conflict, the Vietnam and the Gulf Wars. Sadly, ten were killed in action. On ANZAC Day 2018 the first ever Dawn Service in Mount Compass was held in the car-park of the local War Memorial Community Centre. All tiers of government were represented

with almost 400 attending the service, which was followed by a hearty breakfast in the nearby hall. The project is seeking \$300,000 (estimated) to plan and construct a permanent and dedicated outdoor memorial in Mount Compass. This will then allow the people of the district to come together on ANZAC and Remembrance days each year and commemorate those who served Australia in times of conflict. The memorial will also allow people to visit at other times for reflection.

Coorong and Lower Lakes Centre for Wetland Ecology - Our community has long recognised the opportunity and need for a local research institute which could play a key role in coordinating the large body of scientific work required to identify, understand and respond to the 21st century threats and opportunities associated with the sustainable use, management and protection of freshwater and estuarine wetlands with a particular focus on the Coorong and Lower Lakes. Using a cooperative research and/or centre for excellence type model, a local facility such as this could support not only the research and monitoring necessary to facilitate an ecologically sustainable future for our region and the many threatened species which call it home, but also act as an interpretive and educational resource for promoting the environmental and cultural heritage of our region to visitors from around the world.

Murray Darling Basin Advocacy

Council Resolution of 19 December 2016

Alexandrina Council reaffirms its support for the Basin Plan and for the following core principles embedded in previous submissions made to the Murray Darling Basin Authority (2012) and the Senate Select Committee on the Murray-Darling Basin Plan (2015):

- a. Alexandrina Council supports full and timely implementation of the Basin Plan and commits itself to work for the good of all that rely on a healthy, working Murray-Darling Basin.*
- b. Basin Plan implementation must recognise the international importance of the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) through the achievement of end-of-system environmental objectives, targets and outcomes. Achievement of these targets is critical to the long-term wellbeing of our community.*
- c. The base water recovery target of 2750GL will be inadequate to meet the CLLMM region's environmental watering requirements. Given the direct link between the ecological health of the CLLMM region and the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of our people, it is imperative that the Federal Government continues to proactively prioritise achievement of the 3200GL recovery target.*

Background

Alexandrina Council has a long history of advocacy with respect to the health of the Murray Darling Basin, working alongside our community to bring attention to the needs of the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) region.

Over the past 10 years, our advocacy has been focused on the creation and implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan (the Basin Plan). The Basin Plan was developed in response to the Millennium Drought with the aim of managing the basin as one connected system, and to set a limit on the amount of water that can be taken from the Basin each year for critical human water needs and productive use, whilst leaving enough to sustain a healthy environment.

In 2012, Alexandrina successfully advocated for the inclusion of end-of-system, locality-specific targets to be included in the Basin Plan. These targets include environmental watering objectives regarding the ecological character of Ramsar wetlands, minimum lake levels and flows through the Murray Mouth, a salt export objective and a salinity target for Milang.

Since that time, Alexandrina has been a vocal and consistent supporter of the Basin Plan, whilst also acknowledging its imperfections and continuing to speak up for the interests of the CLLMM region.

In December 2016, in response to political developments of the time, Council resolved to reaffirm its support for the Basin Plan as outlined above.

Subsequent to this, in July 2017, media reports of upstream non-compliance with water rules and an ineffective enforcement response by New South Wales in particular, triggered the South Australian Government to establish the Murray Darling Basin Royal Commission.

The Commissioner handed down his report in January 2019, and many of his findings reflect the concerns raised by Alexandrina during the consultation period.

These concerns include a failure to appropriately consider the impacts of climate change when modelling an environmentally sustainable level of take, the increasing number of legislative and policy limitations being placed on the recovery of environmental water, and concerns about the ability of proposed infrastructure projects to deliver equivalent environmental outcomes as compared to further environmental water recovery achieved via buy-backs.

The administration's response to the MDB Royal Commission, and our associated advocacy approach in the lead up to the 2019 Federal Election, has been, and will continue to be, guided by the policy principles endorsed by Council in December 2016.

The historic nature of the Basin Plan, and its importance to the environmental, social, economic and cultural wellbeing of our community, demands that Alexandrina Council adopt an ongoing and consistent advocacy approach with respect to Basin Plan implementation.

The intergovernmental political compact giving rise to the Basin Plan was hard won, and would not be easily re-established should there be a decision to either pause or rewrite the Plan.

In a changing climate, our community has legitimate concerns that the existing 3200GL water recovery target will not be enough to secure the long-term health of the CLLMM region, particularly if current drought conditions continue through the winter of 2019.

Nonetheless, in the face of calls from some upstream communities to "pause the plan" and based on an assessment of the associated political risks, it is advisable and pragmatic that Alexandrina continue to support the Basin Plan as written, on the basis that having all Basin States working toward an agreed outcome is better than no plan at all.

Ahead of the 2019 Federal election, Council administration is continuing to support, and work in partnership with, the membership of Murray-Darling Association Region 6. The collective aim is to actively represent the interests of the CLLMM region with a view to ensuring that implementation of the Basin Plan over the next five years to 2024 and beyond will in fact deliver sustainable and equitable management of the river system all the way from Queensland through to the Murray Mouth and Coorong.

Key focus areas for continued advocacy include:

- Calling on the South Australian and Federal Governments to respond in full to the findings and recommendations of the Murray Darling Basin Royal Commission;
- Calling on all Basin Governments to remain focused on the achievement of a full 3200GL of environmental water recovery as required by the Basin Plan, including via further water buy-backs if necessary;
- Seeking to have the recently adopted socio-economic neutrality criteria for environmental water recovery reconsidered, to ensure that the bar for recovery of the final 450GL via efficiency measures is not set so high as to be effectively unachievable;
- Reinforcing the importance of ensuring that future iterations of the Basin Plan properly account for projected climate change impacts including trends and associated risks;
- Seeking immediate investment in the development of a comprehensive climate change adaptation plan for the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Barrages; and
- Urging all Basin governments to co-invest in research and programs which will improve the long-term adaptive capacity of the Basin's agricultural sector and regional townships to respond to climate change and adjust to a future with less water.

Population growth

Council Resolution of 15 April 2019

Alexandrina Council recognises the Australian Government interest in national population and planning frameworks and notes the Alexandrina community as an example of a fast growing region in proximity to a capital city (and also one with high visitation). We call on all parties and candidates in the 2019 Federal Election to consider the impacts of population growth on infrastructure and amenity (as well as the ensuing community expectations) and demonstrate how they will support the local government sector, and our communities, to optimise and manage this growth for our continuing prosperity.

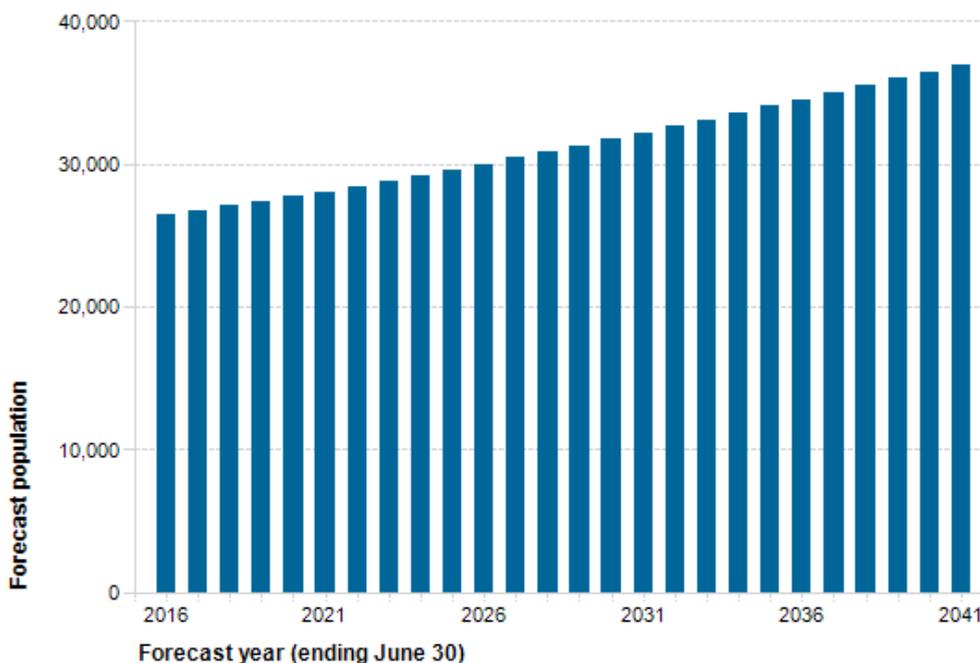
Background

The Australian Government is undertaking policy development to plan for Australia's future population including 'delivering a national population and planning framework' that will 'help all levels of government and the community better understand how states, cities and regions' populations are changing and the challenges that change presents.'*

The Alexandrina Council district is a growing region within one of the slowest growing States. Sea change and tree change trends both influence population growth given we traverse coasts, rivers and hills. Our proximity to a capital city, appealing environments and lifestyle and peri-urban characteristics see us projected to grow by more than 10,000 people from 27,418 in 2019 to 36,907 by 2041. This is an anticipated increase of 39.09% at an average annual rate of 1.33%. The majority of this growth is expected in the Goolwa North Future Urban Growth Area plus Hindmarsh Island and Strathalbyn.

Forecast population

Alexandrina Council



Population and household forecasts, 2016 to 2041, prepared by .id, April 2018.

.id the population experts

Other trends include the influence of climate change on residential living choices – which are likely to see more people select moderate climates such as those in Alexandrina. Furthermore, should our road conditions improve and commuting times to Adelaide be reduced, we may see further population and visitation growth than that projected.

It is therefore timely to ensure that national policy development and planning frameworks account for growth in the regions as well as growth in major cities.

Alexandrina experiences impacts such as metropolitan service expectations in a regional context as well as infrastructure and amenity pressures from also being a high visitation region.

Opportunities for Alexandrina include technology given we are NBN-enabled and strategies for supporting mobile or hybrid populations who may use technology to 'work anywhere'. Our human and social services sector is also the fastest growing employer and strategies to encourage skilled migration to the regions may be incentivised by this growth.

**Source: Australian Government, Planning for Australia's Future Population,*
https://www.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/planning-for-australias-future-population_1.pdf

Roads and road funding

Council Resolution of 15 April 2019

Alexandrina Council has one of the largest road networks in regional South Australia – they are the arteries of economic development servicing the agricultural and tourism industries, as well as fundamental to the substantial commute of daily life, given their proximity to Adelaide and the regional centres of Victor Harbor, Mount Barker and Murray Bridge. Alexandrina Council seeks continued Federal funding support for safer, more productive roads in, and surrounding, our district through maintaining a fair share of national road funding for South Australia (such as through the reinstatement of Supplementary Road Funding ongoing).

Alexandrina Council seeks consideration of parties and candidates to build on the 2019 Federal Budget commitment re duplication of the Victor Harbor Road (from South Road to McLaren Vale) with further extensions past McLaren Vale to the base of Willunga Hill, and any related and necessary improvements to upgrades of roads beyond this point such as through to Mount Compass, on to Goolwa, to Port Elliot and to Victor Harbor, so as to appropriately plan and manage for the likelihood of increased traffic volumes.

Alexandrina Council seeks consideration of parties and candidates for investment in upgrades to the Strathalbyn – Goolwa Road to ensure a safe arterial corridor for tourism traffic linking through to the Melbourne to Adelaide touring route and freight heading to regional centres.

Alexandrina Council seeks consideration of parties and candidates for investment in constructing a bypass behind Middleton from the intersection of Airport Road and Flagstaff Hill Road to Waterport Road to build on the South Coast Freight Corridor, thereby supporting regional economic development as well as safety around a key coastal town.

Background

The Alexandrina region is a preferred location for new residents with average annual population growth above 1.3% as well as the Fleurieu Peninsula being the most visited day trip destination outside Adelaide. It is imperative that both residents and visitors can trust the roads that lead them to, and from, Alexandrina.

Investment in safe and efficient regional road networks which reduce travel times to the metropolitan area are a priority for economic development in the regions.

The Fleurieu Peninsula is the State's top day-tripping destination outside of metropolitan Adelaide and tourism and primary production are key employers and drivers of economic activity. Shorter commutes will bolster population growth.

Importantly, arterial roads play a serious role in transporting our children to regional high schools, especially with no current public high school in Goolwa. In addition, safe and efficient road networks are critical to the continued growth of our agricultural and tourism industries.

The Alexandrina Council has a long history of advocacy for our major roads due to concerns raised by elected members and community about the conditions they are finding as they commute daily, and as population and visitation increases, including to the recently elected South Australian State Government noting:

- The need to prioritise 'road safety improvements for a number of Alexandrina's main arterial and collector roads.'
- Council's resolution of 25 June 2018 to advocate specifically about the state of Long Valley Road from Strathalbyn to Mount Barker, the Goolwa to Strathalbyn Road and the Mount Compass to Goolwa Road.
- That as well as road widening, other improvements like overtaking lanes, are badly needed.

Alexandrina Council is well placed to comment on roads in our district. We currently maintain 1348 km of local roads (both sealed and unsealed; in built up and non-built up areas). We regularly apply for funding to assist us maintain the quality of roads for our community, for industry and visitors.

The 5.5km Nine Mile Road runs between Strathalbyn and Milang and was sealed in 2016-17 providing important safety and efficiency benefits for local commuters and the primary production sector. This \$1.35 million project was part funded by State Government via the Commonwealth's Special Local Roads Program.

Alexandrina roads that might benefit from funding support for upgrades include:

- Quarry Road, Tooperang;
- Airport Road and Flagstaff Hill Road as part of the South Coast Freight Route; and
- Dry Plains Road, Strathalbyn.

We also want to see the continuation of the Australian Government road funding through Supplementary Local Roads program – which is an additional allocation of funding provided only to South Australia. South Australian Councils maintain 11.8% of the nation's road network, support 7% of the nation's population and received only 5.5% of the national pool of grant funding. The Program is worth an additional \$40 million in road funding to the State by June 2019. It is imperative that this funding continue in the forward estimates and we welcome the 2019 Federal Budget announcing a further two years of funding.

Further, we look regionally to possible investment and innovation for major feeder roads to the district to reduce travel times and improve safety. For example, one of the State's busiest roads – Victor Harbor Road – is highly influential to Alexandrina's residential and visitor growth and we encourage candidates and political parties to consider major works that can only occur with the support of the Australian Government. We see it as critical, the extension of the Southern Expressway from Old Noarlunga along Victor Harbor Road past McLaren Vale and to the base of Willunga Hill, and related improvements to Mount Compass and beyond.

We welcome the 2019 Federal Budget announcement for duplication of the Victor Harbor Road from South Road to McLaren Vale as a key step in this direction.

Statistics from the State Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure database show that daily traffic movements range from 21,900 in Old Noarlunga to 10,200 through Mount Compass. Indeed Mount Compass has a higher daily traffic movement than any other rural road in the Alexandrina Council area.

Alexandrina's other main arterial feeder road is the Strathalbyn-Goolwa road which is a key link to the Melbourne-Adelaide touring route and freight routes to Murray Bridge and the A1 Freeway. It is in dire need of upgrade as it lacks passing or turnout lanes and includes narrow bridges and shoulders.

Alexandrina Council has also been involved in defining the South Coast Freight Corridor to improve access for B-doubles. The original Greater Adelaide Plan included a reference to a bypass of Middleton from the intersection where Airport Road meets Flagstaff Hill Road to Waterport Road. Investment in a bypass would support the South Coast Freight Corridor as well as providing emergency vehicles with another option, therefore lifting singular reliance on the Goolwa to Port Elliot road through Middleton.

Alexandrina Council is keen to continue to work with government partners and key stakeholders to assist with improving the conditions of our roads.

Women in our region

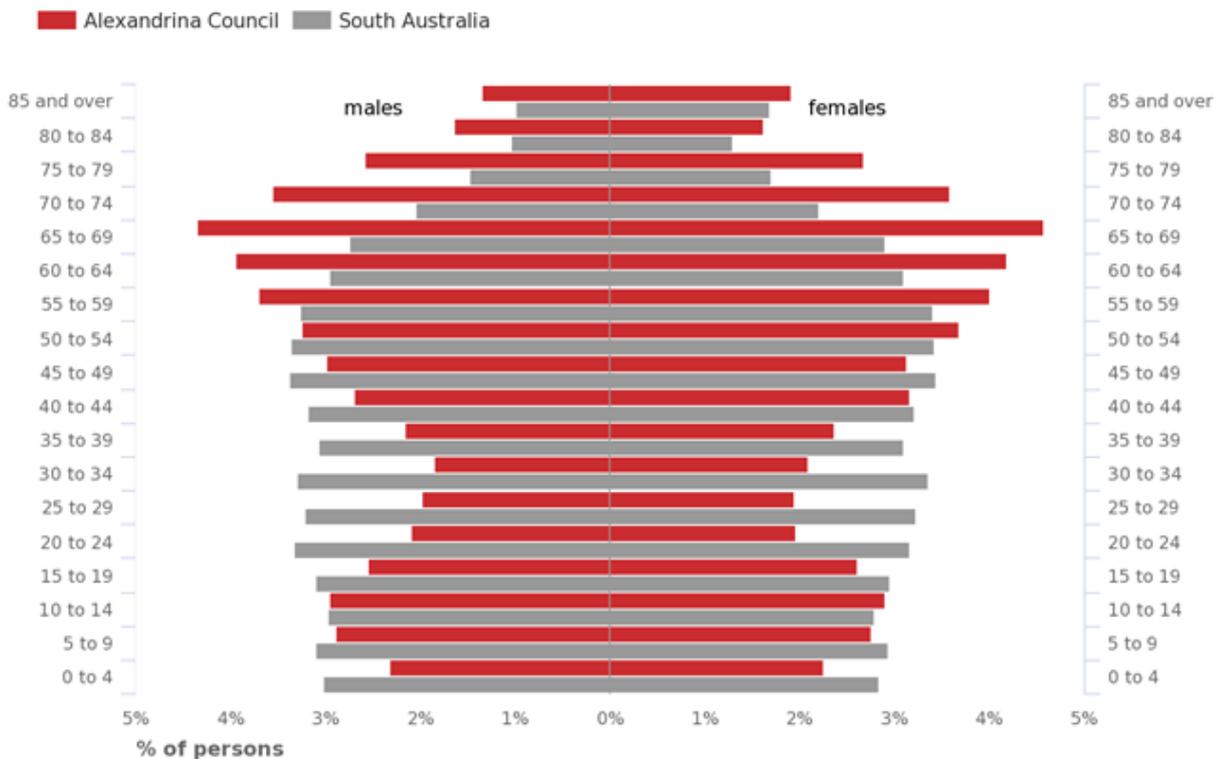
Council Resolution of 15 April 2019

Alexandrina Council expresses a growing concern for the economic and social wellbeing of women in our district, particularly older women who will comprise a growing proportion of lone person households as we age faster than state and national averages. We call on all parties and candidates in the 2019 Federal Election to commit to policies that redress inequity in the gender pay gap and superannuation accumulation, as well as funding programs that can assist communities to limit, and respond to, social isolation and homelessness.

Background

Alexandrina Council is seeing a greater proportion of women in higher age brackets as we age as a region. The 2016 Census age structure pyramid shows a higher proportion of women to the top right of the graph as compared to men of the same age.

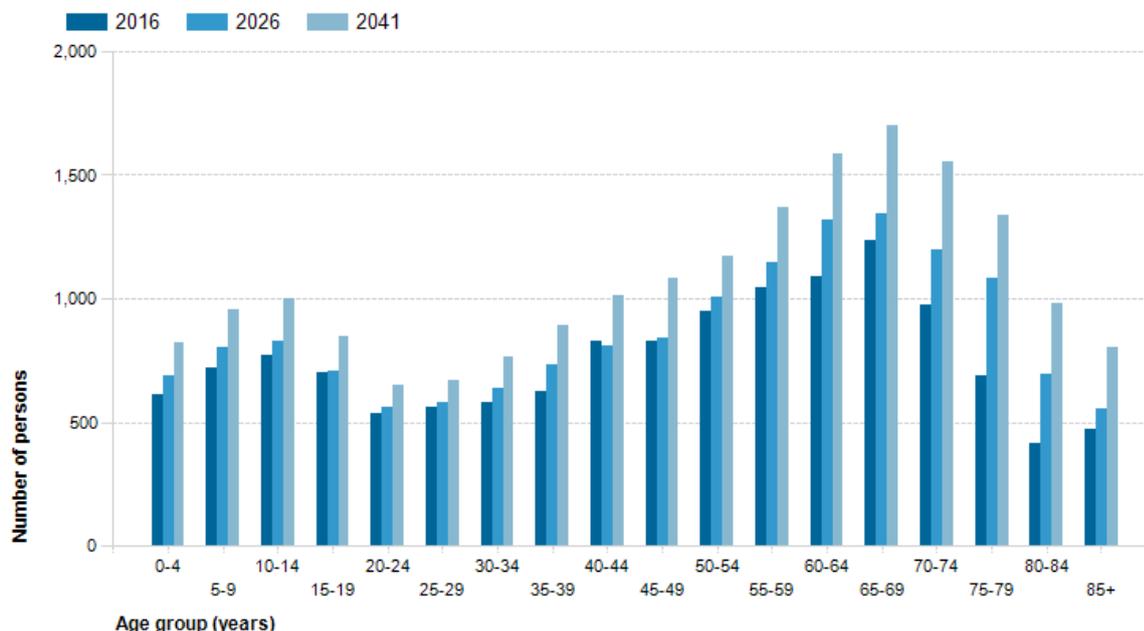
Age-sex pyramid, 2016



Further our projections to 2041, show increasing gaps between men and women as we age. For the 70-74 year age group, there will be 56 more women than men and the over 85 age group will see 151 more women than men in 2041.

Forecast age structure - 5 year age groups

Alexandrina Council - Total females



Population and household forecasts, 2016 to 2041, prepared by .id the population experts, April 2018.



In Alexandrina, Lone Person households are also rising and will almost match Couples without Dependents by 2041. This coupled with lower than State average incomes suggest that women in Alexandrina will be increasingly vulnerable to higher costs of living and social isolation as they age.

In a national context, there is concern about the inequity in superannuation accumulation and the gender pay gap, which is closing very slowly. There are also indicators of women being at forefront of the homelessness crisis.

With regard to addressing the homelessness crisis, there is a strategic opportunity for cross-sectoral collaboration where not for profit organisations, developers and government of all levels work together to create pilot programs in places like Alexandrina and the greater Fleurieu – we need national leadership to drive such a collaboration.

Alexandrina Council is concerned about these trends as indicating challenges for women in the regions that will need national attention.

Locally, women are outstanding contributors to our community including as volunteers and carers in our region. Their skills are also in high demand particularly in growing sectors like Health and Social Services which is our largest and fastest growing employer.

It is in the interests of our nation and our communities, to consider policies and funding that support women lead their very best lives.

Youth in our region

Council Resolution of 15 April 2019

Alexandrina Council is acutely aware of the demographic imbalance that occurs in regions through the loss of older youth to more metro localities. Alexandrina's proximity to Adelaide and strong internet usage means we have the opportunity to offer our youth more options in terms of staying longer in our district. We call on all parties and candidates in the 2019 Federal Election to demonstrate how they will support improved choices, flexibility and accessibility for youth in Alexandrina through access to jobs, training and career pathways in strong local industries such as the health and services sector, tourism and agriculture.

Background

The importance of providing young people living in regional areas with access to appropriate education, training and employment opportunities that enable them to remain in their own communities should they so wish, is a key plank of the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition's national policy platform.

This platform recognises that young people living in regional areas need greater support to stay in their communities so they are not compelled to move away for further educational or employment opportunities, unless that is their preferred choice.

Young people in regional areas are also more at risk from contemporary labour market changes and therefore require special attention so they can be properly supported to enter or re-enter the workforce.

Alexandrina is home to some of the fastest growing regional townships in South Australia. Between 2016 and 2026, the population for Alexandrina Council is forecast to increase by 13% or almost 3500 people and this is likely to include an additional 200+ school age students in the Goolwa/Middleton/Port Elliot area and an additional 125+ students in the Strathalbyn area.

To date however, the majority of Alexandrina's population growth has been in the retiree and senior population. As a result, Alexandrina has a lower proportion of people in the 0-24 age cohort (24.5%) as compared to both Regional SA and South Australia as a whole (28.1% and 30% respectively), with a significant net migration trend of residents in the 18-24 age bracket.

This data reflects two of our key challenges, being first a lack of local jobs growth (meaning our population has to travel elsewhere for employment) and correspondingly, a significant number of young people leaving the region for tertiary education and employment.

There were 7542 jobs located within the Alexandrina Council district in the year ending June 2018 (0.90% of South Australian jobs). This compares to 7586 jobs in the year ending 2011 (0.93% of South Australian jobs).

To address this challenge, a top priority for Alexandrina is improving regional accessibility to higher education opportunities which are matched to the needs of local industry, building on our strengths in health, agriculture and tourism.

Improving local and regional access to tertiary education opportunities will retain more young people within the region and provide them with the skills they need to start businesses, innovate and contribute to our economy. Access to quality education is also essential for community wellbeing and resilience, and is a critical factor in attracting and retaining young families as long-term residents. For these reasons, we place a high priority on working with the State and Federal governments to ensure that the educational needs of our community are being appropriately planned for and delivered.

Associated issues of key concern to young people in our region as expressed to us by the Southern Fleurieu Youth Advisory Committee include equality of access to information (especially via the internet) and access to functional and cost-effective public transport.

Addressing these challenges might include consideration of national schemes for subsidised transport options for regional youth or incentives to volunteer with local community groups to build skills that might enhance opportunities with potential employers.