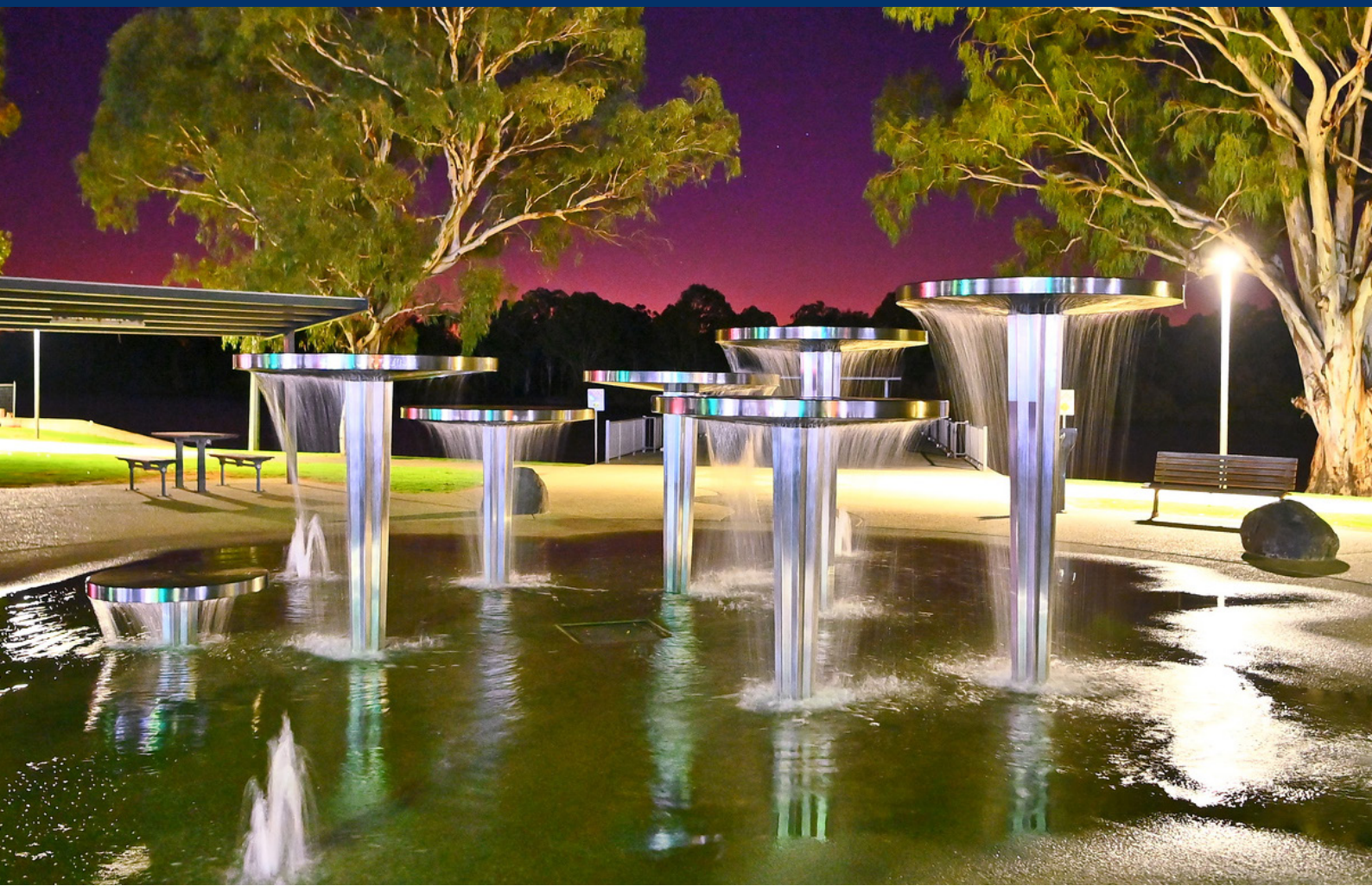
2025 -2027
Advocacy Plan



Renmark
Paringa
Council

Love where you live



Acknowledgement of Country

Renmark Paringa Council acknowledges the First Peoples of the Murray and Mallee region as the traditional custodians of the Renmark Paringa area, and acknowledges their cultural and spiritual connection to land, water and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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The photos that appear in this document are thanks to Grant Swartzkopff, staff and community members.



A conductor alone cannot produce a full symphony. They need an orchestra of skilled musicians to bring the music to life. Similarly, achieving complex goals requires teamwork.



Mayor's foreword

There is so much to love about Renmark Paringa. As Mayor, I'm fortunate to speak with people every day who share their pride in our region and their hopes for our future.

They also talk to me about the challenges they face and the improvements they would like to see.

Our response to this is our Community Plan 2024-2034.

This Advocacy Plan outlines how Council will work with our strategic partners on high level initiatives that help to address areas of focus in our Community Plan to deliver greater benefit for Renmark Paringa.

I look forward to working with our partners and decision makers to deliver these important initiatives.



Peter Hunter



2.3

Council's advocacy priorities outlined in this plan are aimed at harnessing our growth potential whilst at the same time addressing the challenges that threaten the prosperity of our community

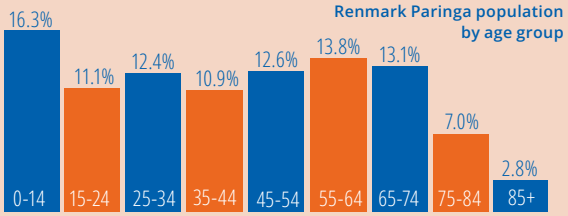
Renmark Paringa **today**

Resident **population**

10,107 residents

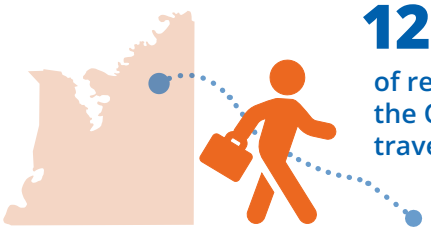
3.2% are Aboriginal people

median age **44**



22% of people born overseas

7.1% of people live with a disability

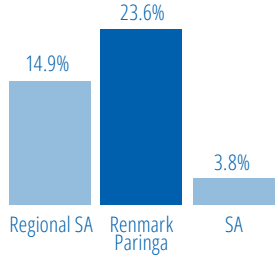


12.8 % of residents live in the Council area but travel outside to work

Our **economy**

Agriculture

is our region's largest employer representing **23.6%** of all jobs in the Council area



Total tourism sales represents **6.7%** of the tourism industry in SA

Gross Regional Product (GRP)

$0.62 billion

966 local businesses

1,055 local jobs

Housing

37% own their own home

26.4% renting

29.4% live alone

$1000 - $1399 median monthly mortgage payment

$380 ave. weekly rent

Projected **resident population**

Predicted population growth by 2041

12,657 residents

Statistics from 2021 Census data

Confidence and trust

The Renmark Paringa community has a high level of trust and confidence in Council to deliver vital services.

This is measured every four years through Council's *2023 Community Satisfaction Survey* which measures Council's performance in the following areas:

- Engagement and communication
- Service provision and facilities
- Community connection and programs
- Support for the environment
- Planning and economic development
- Tourism and events
- Public safety and amenities

In addition, Council's *2023 Community Satisfaction Survey* benchmarks respondents propensity to recommend Renmark Paringa as a place to live in given Council's current provision of all its services and amenities, against other Council benchmarks.

The more trust and confidence a community has in Council, the more belief they have in Council across all measures. Strategic advocacy can enhance community confidence in Council by strengthening relationships, building capacity and attracting funding to delivery community outcomes.

Renmark Paringa is the *only* South Australian Council, when compared against other benchmarks, to have a positive Net Promoter Score*, indicating a positive overall satisfaction with Council.

Benchmark	Net Promoter Score*	Average likely to recommend score
Renmark Paringa	**18**	**7.76**
Total SA Councils	-15	6.90
Regional	-26	6.41
Metro	-11	7.04

*A Net promoter score (NPS) is a market research metric that is based on a single survey question asking respondents to rate the likelihood that they would recommend a company, product, or a service to a friend or colleague.

Roles in supporting advocacy

Mayor

To lead Council's advocacy initiatives and be the 'voice' of Council.

To seek to build and maintain productive relationships with other decision-makers in community and government.

Elected Members

To promote advocacy on matters collectively supported by the Chamber.

To utilise networks and other community/representative roles to support Council's strategic advocacy positions.

Chief Executive Officer

To support the Mayor in the advocacy role.

To utilise networks amongst key bodies to influence achievements of Council's advocacy agenda.

To guide and oversee staff efforts to support advocacy initiatives.

Council Workforce

To research and prepare advice, documentation and communications to support advocacy.

To maintain awareness of Council's Strategic Advocacy priorities and provide support in conveying that message to the community and other levels of government.

Strategic context

Our advocacy priorities are closely aligned with our Community Vision and Aspirations, leveraging our unique attributes and addressing our current and emerging challenges.

Community **Vision**

We strive to protect and enhance our region as it is a unique place, underpinned by a rich heritage and enviable river lifestyle.

We are proud to share and nurture this natural beauty, welcome visitors and drive growth and investment to sustain our vibrant community long into the future.

We lead healthy, active and fulfilling lives, with a committment to support and respect each other and our environment. Together, we're building a brighter future.

Community **Aspirations**



Liveable

A safe and welcoming place to live and enjoy a healthy and active lifestyle.



Leadership

A Council that is a trusted partner that delivers what it promises in an efficient and effective way.



Prosperous

A place that attracts, retains and supports talented people, underpinned by diverse regional industry, tourism and access to infrastructure and housing.



Environment

A place that is resilient to the effects of extreme weather, protects its river and flood plains, is green and limits its impact on the natural environment.

Renmark Paringa's priorities

Renmark Paringa Council's 2025 -2027 priorities are outlined on the following pages. They are listed in order of community aspiration, rather than priority order.

1. Preventative and Rural Mental Health
2. Housing and urban development Jane Eliza Development
3. Housing and urban development
4. Industry transition
5. Greater Adelaide Freight By- pass (GAFB) including Truro by-pass
6. Biosecurity
7. River Murray lifestyle
8. Financial sustainability



1 Preventative and Rural Mental Health

THE ASK

Renmark Paringa Council is advocating for action by SA Health to address the poor mental health services currently provided to regional SA, as detailed in the *Review of Rural Mental Health Services in SA Report* (May 2023).

WHAT WE ARE SEEKING

Adoption of a single state-wide Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system which links with Community Mental Health Services.	✓ Completed October 2024
Improved access to consultant psychiatrists across regional SA.	! High Priority
Strategies to access social workers, psychologists and trained mental health nurses in Regional SA.	! High Priority
Improved service planning and co-ordination between services, especially with regard to suicide prevention.	! High Priority
Implement remaining recommendations from the *Review of Rural Mental Health Services in SA Report* (May 2023).	> Long Term Priority

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

A 27-year-old Riverland man, living in Renmark North, who was just beginning to build a business was suffering depression and suicidal thoughts. He visited local doctors and went to the Riverland General Hospital on many occasions after years struggling with mental health issues.

He took his own life in 2016. His death was preventable and would not have occurred if even basic mental health services were available.

His treatment was substandard on many levels and there are a significant number of critical points in which the coroner was very scathing in his treatment.

A review was requested by the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist on behalf of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing SA, to comply with recommendations from the Deputy State Coroner as outlined in the recommendations of the inquest into the death.

The Deputy State Coroner recommended a comprehensive review be conducted in relation to the clinical resources in respect of mental health services in all rural regions in South Australia.

The result of this was the *Review of Rural Mental Health Services in SA* Report (May 2023). While some progress has been made into implementing the report (a single state-wide Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system has been implemented) there is still work that needs to be done.


SHORT-TERM ACCOMODATION
RESIDENTIAL
RETAIL + COMMERCIAL
TAVERN + RETAIL
MARINA
MARINE PRECINCT
Inc. Boatslip, storage, drydock facilities

2 Housing and urban development

Jane Eliza Development

THE ASK

The Renmark Paringa Council is seeking investment towards the activation of the Jane Eliza Development, and more specifically towards a nationally significant tourism marina asset and supporting infrastructure to drive long term population growth and unlock economic development and new industry development.

WHAT WE ARE SEEKING

State and Federal funding to unlock a nationally significant tourism marina asset and supporting infrastructure to drive new industry development.

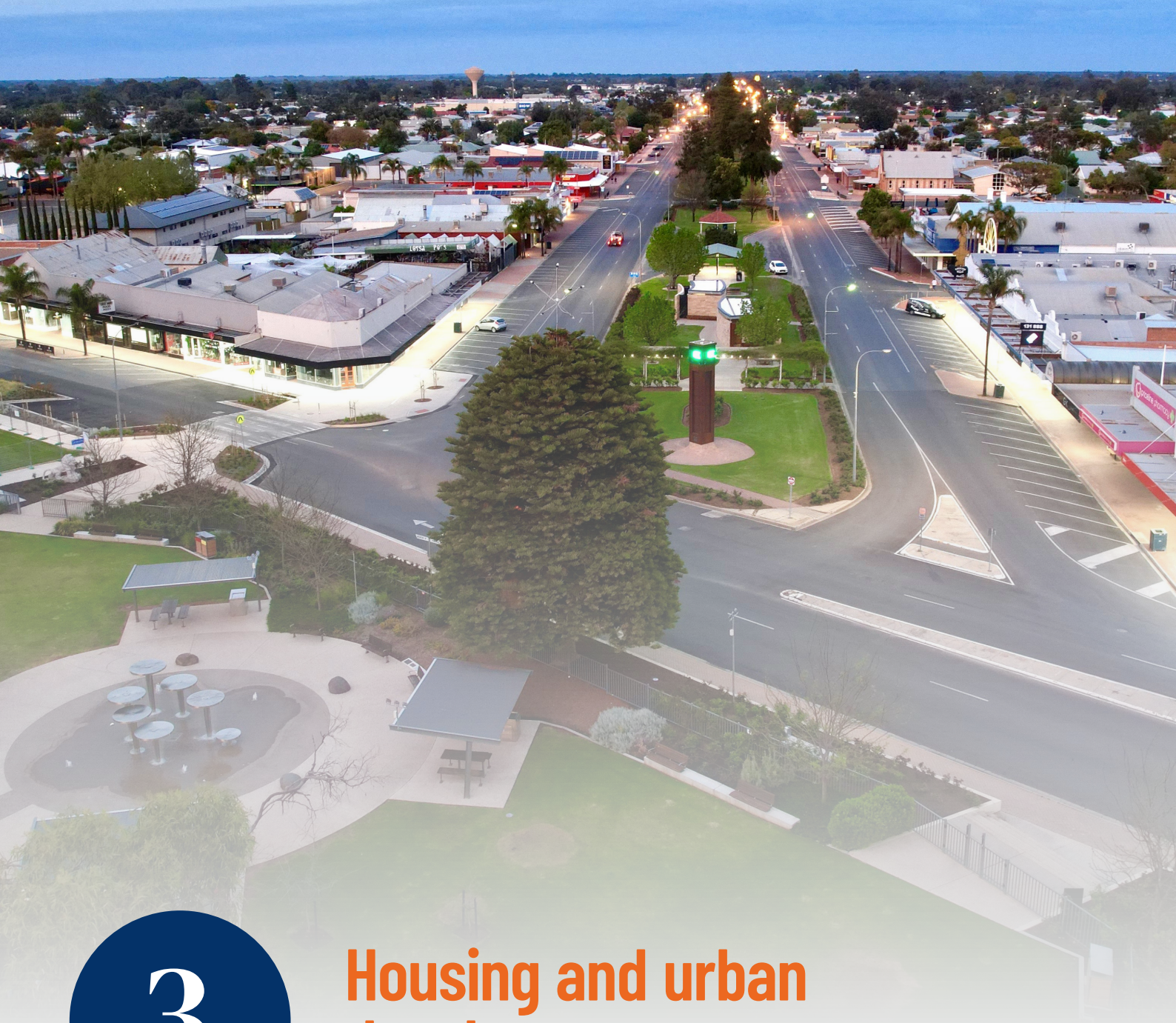
$25-30 million

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

The vision for the Jane Eliza Development Project is to provide Renmark with long-term sustainable population, tourism and economic growth through a high-quality master planned estate.

The Project will:

- Assist in resolving Council's current housing supply constraints. The Jane Eliza development represents 45% of the available land supply in the Renmark Paringa Council area.
- Future proofing long-term population and economic development opportunities for Renmark.
- Deliver a nationally significant tourism marina asset and supporting infrastructure.
- Deliver superior level of township and region-wide amenity in a high-quality, master-planned estate.
- Build on the livability of Renmark making it a destination for tourists, but also a place locals are proud to call their home.



3

Housing and urban development

THE ASK

The Renmark Paringa Council is seeking investment to unlock residential and industrial growth as outlined in the *Renmark Paringa Growth Strategy.*

WHAT WE ARE SEEKING

Council is seeking external funding for infrastructure to unlock land for development, as outlined in the *Renmark Paringa Growth Strategy.*

Bookmark creek subzone expansion	$ 2.5 million
Calperum Industrial Estate/ Renmark Golf Course Estate expansion	$ 5 million

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Council's recently completed *Renmark Paringa Growth Strategy* sets out the long term vision (over a 15 to 30 year period) for our community including provisions about integration of land use, transport, infrastructure and public realm.

The *Growth Strategy* has outlined Council's potential to increase its population from the 2021 Census figure of 9,783 to an estimated population in 2041 of 12,657 under a stretch growth scenario.

Given the Growth Strategy has identified enough land for 32 years of supply, this stretch target is considered very achievable.

The blocker to this development occurring is the provision of infrastructure to service these allotments, something Council will seek to address through external grant funding.

Under a strategic program of projects titled Renmark Water Resilient Futures Council has identified several infrastructure blockers which if removed will open up 1,000 rural living and residential housing allotments.

In addition the projects will increase re-use wastewater and assist with reducing the communities reliance on the River Murray. As the first local government body in the world to receive Alliance for Water Stewardship for our water policies and stewardship practices further reducing our reliance on the River Murray is important to our community.



4 Industry transition

THE ASK

The South Australian Government establish a dedicated, cross-agency working group led by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) to coordinate a whole-of-government approach to industry transition for the Riverland region.

WHAT WE ARE SEEKING

A whole-of-government approach to industry transition for the Riverland region including regional development, skills and training, primary industries, environment and social services.

High priority

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

South Australia has a strong record of leading coordinated responses to regional transition challenges. The establishment of the Whyalla Special Economic Zone (WSEZ) under the South Australian Industry Participation Policy (SAIPP) and the designation of Economic Participation Regions in Kangaroo Island and the Adelaide Hills following bushfires, are proven examples of how government intervention can stabilise local economies and create pathways for long-term resilience.

Irrigation communities in the Murray-Darling Basin now face a comparable transition. The Basin Plan water recovery process, together with mounting pressures on irrigator industries, is reshaping the Riverland economy, where the majority of South Australia's irrigation water is located. This will have profound implications for growers, industries, and the wider community, with flow-on effects for employment, exports, and regional vitality.

The Riverland holds a unique and strategic position within South Australia's economy. It is not only the heart of the state's irrigated food production supplying fresh produce, wine, and almonds to national and international markets, but is also renowned for its agri-innovation and value adding as well as water stewardship. The region's capacity to contribute to South Australia's food security, export competitiveness, and sustainable water and agricultural management makes its stability and prosperity vital to the state's long-term economic and environmental resilience.

The Murray River flood of 2022–23 has already highlighted the vulnerability of Riverland communities to economic and environmental shocks. Just as the State responded to fire-affected regions with targeted economic participation mechanisms, we need similar proactive coordination to ensure the Riverland can adapt to Basin Plan recovery with strength and resilience.



5

Greater Adelaide Freight By-pass (GAFB)

including Truro by-pass

THE ASK

A commitment from both Federal and State Government to deliver the Greater Adelaide Freight By-pass.

WHAT WE ARE SEEKING

A commitment from State and Federal Government to fund the Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass.	High Priority
A commitment from the Department for Infrastructure and Transport that the Truro bypass will be dual lane.	High Priority

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

In June 2021, the three Riverland Councils collectively resolved to endorse the upgrade of the Sturt Highway to dual lane from Nurioopta to the Victorian border as the region's highest infrastructure priority to achieve freight productivity gains and road safety.

The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) developed a Strategic Business Case for a High Productivity Vehicle Network (HPVN) which encompasses a corridor stretching from the South Australia and Victorian border to the South Australian and Western Australian border.

In November 2023, the Federal Government announced the removal of federal funding for five prominent road projects in South Australia following an infrastructure review, including the Truro By pass project – a pivotal step toward the realisation of the GAFB project.

In forming the 2025 Federal budget the Albanese Labor Government has committed $525m to stage one of the Greater Adelaide Freight by-pass namely

- Building a by-pass around the Truro township
- Duplication of the Swanport Bridge near Murray Bridge
- Various upgrades between Monarto and the Sturt Highway

This project will not proceed without funding from the State Government, most likely based on a 50:50 funding model.



6 Biosecurity

THE ASK

A long-term commitment to adequately fund, reinstate and retain the Riverland's Pest Free Area status.

WHAT WE ARE SEEKING

A long term commitment from the State Government to dedicate adequate resources to reinstate and retain the Riverland's Pest Free Area status.

> **Long Term Commitment**

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

The Riverland region of South Australia is a recognised Pest Free Area (PFA) internationally, meaning it is free from established fruit fly populations. The region is the only area on mainland Australia recognized as a PFA for fruit fly.

This PFA status allows for the export of high-quality fruit and vegetables without phytosanitary treatments. To maintain this status, certain fruit and vegetables are restricted from entering the Riverland.

The Riverland region in South Australia lost its PFA status due to a series of Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) outbreaks that began in December 2020. Since then, over 50 outbreaks have been declared.

The PFA status is temporarily suspended during such outbreaks and can only be reinstated after a minimum of 12 months without any new detections, subject to approval by domestic and international trading partners . As of May 2025, the earliest anticipated reinstatement date for all outbreaks is 20 December 2025 .

The Riverland region is commonly referred to as the Fruit Bowl of Australia and therefore has so much to lose by not having it's PFA status reinstated and is seeking a long term commitment towards fighting to retain this export market advantage.



7

River Murray lifestyle

THE ASK

Following the 2022 River Murray floods we have seen a restoration and rejuvenation of the river's biodiversity, native fish stocks and improved water quality. Council is seeking long term measures to protect the health of the river as well as ensure its safe use.

WHAT WE ARE SEEKING

A clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Flood Levee Bank maintenance and who is responsible for funding this function.	Medium Priority
To work with PIRSA and Rec Fishing SA to understand the appetite of a native fishing license.	Medium Priority
Seek a Government commitment to develop a home port system for a better regulated houseboat sector (Homeport SA).	High Priority
Environmental flows for South Australia and water entitlements for our irrigators.	High Priority

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

The River Murray is the lifeblood of the Murraylands and the Riverland.

2022 saw the second biggest flood in the last 152 years which caused significant damage in certain areas of the state. While Renmark, Paringa and Lyrup's levee bank network performed very well, the roles and responsibilities in relation to levee banks are still not clearly defined and should be for future flood events.

The 2022 flood also delivered numerous long-term benefits for the environment, local economies, and communities. The major positive effects include:

- Restoration of wetland habitats crucial for biodiversity.
- Rejuvenation of native fish stocks and better conditions for recreational fishing.
- Improved water quality through the dilution of salinity and recharging of ecosystems.
- Enhanced resilience of the Murray-Darling system against future droughts and low-flow periods.

Currently South Australia is the only state in Australia without a general recreational fishing license. In contrast, the Victorian government generates millions of dollars which is hypothecated for fisheries- related projects such as fish stocking, habitat restoration and research and monitoring.

Renmark is generally recognised as the home of houseboats in South Australia due to the idyllic location and integration of the township to the River.

In the last decade, Renmark has seen the construction of new houseboats as well as existing houseboats moored in our Council area, often without any mooring permit. Unlike other states, South Australia does not require a home port registration which has resulted in an influx of illegally moored houseboats, many which never move, potentially discharging black and grey water into our recently rejuvenated river.


WELCOME TO RENMARK

8 Financial sustainability

THE ASK

A review of the distribution of the Financial Assistance Grants in South Australia.

WHAT WE ARE SEEKING

A review of the way Financial Assistance Grants are distributed in South Australia, in particular the 30% per capita minimum funding requirement.

High priority

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Local Government only receives 4% of taxation revenue and must therefore be very strategic with its resources, and advocate for more to deliver outcomes for their communities.

Putting more pressure on Local Government, in the 1990s, Financial Assistance Grants (FA Grants) constituted approximately 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue. By 2023–24, this figure had halved to around 0.5%. This trend indicates that, despite increases in absolute terms, the grants have diminished in significance relative to the federal government's overall revenue.

Local government plays a vital role because it is closest to the people, most responsive to their needs, and has a direct influence on their quality of life.

Critical services provided by local government such as local roads, footpaths, waste management and libraries are becoming increasingly difficult to deliver with reduced FA Grants.

This is further exacerbated for regional councils who has to deal with lower population density, geographical challenges, smaller budgets and the challenge of attracting and retaining a skilled workforce.



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Opening Hours

Monday	9am – 5pm
Tuesday	9am – 5pm
Wednesday	9am – 5pm
Thursday	9am – 5pm
Friday	9am – 5pm

Social Media

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