



December 2024

Murray Mallee Regional Plan Visioning Workshops

Regional plans are designated planning instruments under Section 46 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* and set the long-term vision and direction for strategic planning and land use for the next 15 to 30 years. Regional plans contain clear principles for orderly development and the management of growth within a region. South Australia is split into seven proclaimed planning regions, each have their own separate plan. Regional plans are developed by the Department for Housing and Urban Development (the Department) on behalf of the State Planning Commission, taking a collaborative approach with councils, other government agencies, infrastructure organisations, industry and local communities.

This document reflects the information collected as part of the initial stages of developing the Murray Mallee Regional Plan.

Engagement so far

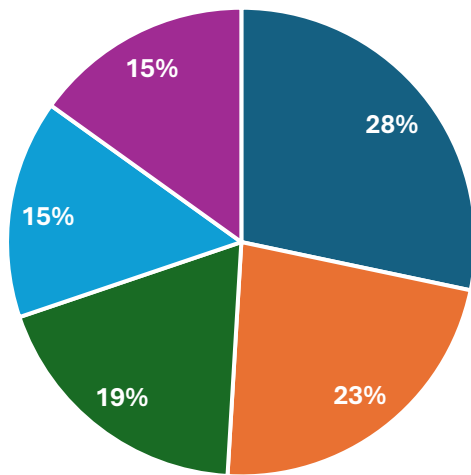
To date pre-workshop engagement activities, designed to inform councils, state agencies and key industry representatives, have been conducted by the Department and its consultants. The Murray Mallee Visioning Workshops were held on 21 (Berri) and 31 (Murray Bridge) October 2024, where representatives from the local councils, key industry organisations, departments and progress associations were present.

The workshops were led by the State Planning Commission and Planning and Land Use Services. In total 66 key stakeholders were in attendance and provided invaluable knowledge of the Murray Mallee region, by exploring how the various communities will be shaped, live, and grow over the next 30 years. The information collected during the Visioning Workshops will play a critical role in shaping the Murray Mallee Regional Plan.

What we heard

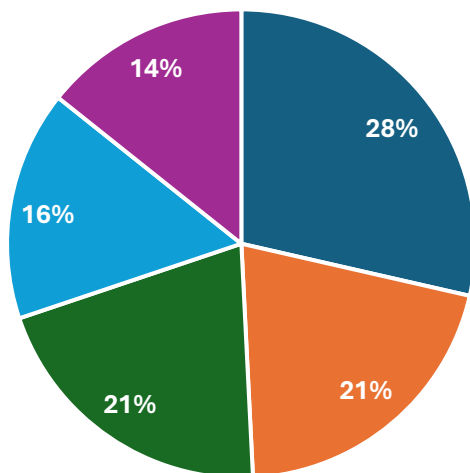
The Murray Mallee Visioning Workshop participants were asked to identify key vision issues that they felt should be reflected in the Murray Mallee Regional Plan. Each of the vision issues were grouped under themes, as reflected in the pie graph below, and a voting process took place to identify key priority areas.

Berri Workshop - Top 5 Key Issues



- Water availability in a drying climate
- Cost of infrastructure - lack of services in regions and cost of unlocking residential land is prohibitive
- Infrastructure to activate residential land (CWMS, water, roads, electricity and stormwater)
- Cost of production - land and construction costs exceed market value i.e. lack of development
- Digital connection - mobile phone - bandwidth - satellite and Starlink

Murray Bridge Workshop - Top 5 Key Issues



- Public transport
- River health
- Infrastructure availability - power, water, sewer - ahead of growth
- Technology to ensure that rural areas have the same reliable access to digital services
- Remove heavy trucks and reinstate train freight lines in regions

Workshop participants at the Murray Mallee Visioning Workshops were then asked to consider each vision theme and identify the spatial issues that should be addressed in the Murray Mallee Regional Plan. Further, workshop participants identified a number of “enablers” across the short, medium, and long term that are required to achieve the vision sought for the Murray Mallee region.

Priority themes emerging at Berri workshop



Figure 1 & 2: Key stakeholders engaged in the Berri Visioning Workshop held on 21 October 2024.

Productive Economy

The top five rated comments relating to the Productive Economy theme were as follows:

#	Comment	In support
1	Aging and unfunded infrastructure of essential services	6
2	Clear planning guidelines for horticultural zoned areas (avoiding ad hoc housing allotments on large blocks, thus rendering land unusable)	6
3	Value added agriculture	6
4	Empty commercial properties - incentives?	6
5	Electricity supply - Stable grid power to support advanced manufacturing	4

Other key comments have been collated into 'aligned' sub-themes below:

- Employment accessibility
- Interface Management
- Circular Economy
- Infrastructure Constraints
- Diversification / Value Add Industry
- EFPA for the Riverland
- Planning and Design Code.

Natural Resources, Environment & Landscapes

The top five rated comments relating to the *Natural Resources, Environment & Landscapes* theme were as follows:

#	Comment	In support
1	Water availability in a drying climate	15
2	Lake Bonney water health and salinity	7
3	Nature-based tourism - parks, dark sky res.	6
4	Lack of strong policy on setback to Crown land from development results in encroachment on Crown land	4
5	Ramsar Reserve Management	4

Other key comments have been collated into 'aligned' sub-themes below:

- Resource and environment management
- Policy framework around crown land and native title claims
- Water is an asset
- Flood mapping
- Tourism.

People, Housing, Liveability

The top five rated comments relating to the *People, Housing, Liveability* theme were as follows:

#	Comment	In support
1	Infrastructure to activate residential land (CWMS, water, roads, electricity and stormwater)	10
2	Cost of production - land and construction costs exceed market value i.e. lack of development	8
3	Affordable, low maintenance housing	7
4	Small business: attract, retain and infrastructure needed	6
5	Lack of diversity in housing stock particularly rental accommodation	6

Other key comments have been collated into 'aligned' sub-themes below:

- Worker Accommodation
- Affordability / Availability
- Diversity
- Supporting Infrastructure
- Environment.

Transport & Infrastructure

The top five rated comments relating to the *Transport & Infrastructure* theme were as follows:

#	Comment	In support
1	Cost of infrastructure - Lack of services in regions and cost of unlocking residential land is prohibitive	12
2	Digital connection - Mobile phone - Band width - Satellite and star link	8
3	Dual lane highway from Gawler to Mildura	8
4	Community wastewater capacity (CWMS) (existing/new)	7
5	Transport - No public train - Freight Route - Highway # use - Quality	7

Other key comments have been collated into 'aligned' sub-themes below:

- Road / Freight
- Wastewater
- Electricity supply
- Water and stormwater infrastructure
- Social Infrastructure
- Communications
- Cost of delivery.

Priority themes emerging at Murray Bridge workshop:



Figure 3 & 4: Key stakeholders engaged in the Murray Bridge Visioning Workshop held on 31 October 2024.

Productive Economy

The top five rated comments relating to the *Productive Economy* theme were as follows:

#	Comment	In support
1	Infrastructure availability - Power, water, sewer - ahead of growth	13
2	Technology to ensure that rural areas have the same reliable access to digital services	10
3	Subregional growth infrastructure plan for Murray Bridge area	6
4	Protection of food production areas - this includes a focus on freight corridors to assist with future viability	6
5	Protecting food production land from urban sprawl - Berri and Murray Bridge	6

Other key comments have been collated into 'aligned' sub-themes below:

- Diversification of farming and the economy
- Tourism
- Interface management
- Infrastructure
- Residential and employment land supply
- Technology.

Natural Resources, Environment & Landscapes

The top five rated comments relating to the *Natural Resources, Environment & Landscapes* theme were as follows:

#	Comment	In support
1	River health	13
2	Dark sky	9
3	Biodiversity protection - river - native veg - retain and link	8
4	Effective land use controls for dark sky reserve	5
5	Considering cumulative impacts of development	5

Other key comments have been collated into 'aligned' sub-themes below:

- Climate change
- Water management
- Biodiversity
- Green transition
- Flooding / river
- Dark sky / tourism
- Infrastructure
- Interface management.

People, Housing and Liveability

The top five rated comments relating to the *People, Housing and Liveability* theme were as follows:

#	Comment	In support
1	Housing to support recruitment of workers to the community (international, interstate, inter community workers)	8
2	Social infrastructure - ensuring schools, recreation facilities, open space	8
3	Affordable housing and sustainable housing	6
4	Greater Indigenous people's role in land use planning - embrace the way traditional owners view land, water, etc.	6
5	Affordable / community housing	5

Other key comments have been collated into 'aligned' sub-themes below:

- Worker's accommodation
- Accessibility / affordability
- Infrastructure
- Housing and employment land supply
- Diversity.

Transport and Infrastructure

The top five rated comments relating to the *Transport and Infrastructure* theme were as follows:

#	Comment	In support
1	Public transport	18
2	New hospital for hub - Murray Bridge - more beds and specialist services - purpose built maternity services/unit	11
3	Remove heavy trucks and reinstate train freight lines in regions	9
4	Fast rail connection to Murray Bridge	7
5	Energy security - Prioritise reliability and price (low and affordable) to enable diverse and more sophisticated economy	5

Other key comments have been collated into 'aligned' sub-themes below:

- Road and freight
- Public transport
- Strategic planning / co-ordination
- Wastewater
- Electricity supply
- Social infrastructure
- Flood mitigation
- Communication.

Next steps

A draft Murray Mallee Regional Plan will be prepared **early 2025**, having consideration to the range of feedback received in the initial phase of engagement. Public consultation will be undertaken on the draft regional plan in **early 2025** and engagement activities will be developed to support wide-ranging participation by the community and stakeholders, with opportunities for in person and online feedback. Details of these engagement activities will be developed once the draft Murray Mallee Regional Plan has been prepared.

Contact

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