Southern Fleurieu
Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy

Background and Findings

May 2004

Suter & Associates Leisure & Tourism Planners
with Jensen Planning & Design
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BACKGROUND

About the Study

The Southern Fleurieu Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy is an important study that will assist the local councils, state government and other organisations to appropriately plan for and allocate resources to recreation, sport and open space in the future.

The study aims to:

- Guide the future provision of recreation, sport and open space facilities and opportunities in the region.
- Determine the priorities from a regional perspective and provide a framework for achieving the priorities.
- Encourage a coordinated approach to achieving the initiatives and priorities at the community, local council and state government level.

The study was commissioned by the three local councils in the region, i.e. Alexandrina Council, the City of Victor Harbor and Yankalilla Council, together with the Office for Recreation and Sport and Planning SA. The study reflects the commitment to regional planning and recreation, sport and open space by these organisations.

Other organisations such as the Fleurieu Alliance Group, the Fleurieu Regional Development Board, the Southern Fleurieu Health Service, the Department of Environment and Heritage and Transport SA have also played a key role in the study and recognise the importance of planning at a regional level to best serve the community.

Overall, the Fleurieu Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy will assist organisations to work together to enhance recreation, sport and open space in the region and allocate resources effectively. A regional approach will result in a consistent and coordinated approach to addressing issues and achieving outcomes. Ultimately the Strategy will support the community and visitors to achieve quality lifestyle and unique recreation experiences and contribute to the social, environmental and economic well being of the region.
The Study Area

As shown on the map on page 3, the Southern Fleurieu includes the Alexandrina, City of Victor Harbor and Yankalilla local government areas and covers an area of close to 300,000 ha. The region is adjoined by McLaren Vale, the Adelaide Hills and the Murray lands to the north and bordered by the Gulf St Vincent to the west, Encounter Bay to the south and east and Lake Alexandrina to the east.

Key features of the Southern Fleurieu Region include:

- The coastline and beaches
- Lake Alexandrina
- The Coorong
- Hindmarsh Island
- Myponga Reservoir
- The diversity of coastal and rural townships
- The hilly and rural topography, including the southern section of the Mount Lofty Ranges
- A number of river systems
- A number of conservation parks
- A number of key trails, including the Heysen Trail

In general, the Southern Fleurieu Region is a unique and highly valued area of South Australia that provides accessible recreation and sport opportunities for people living in the region and the many visitors that travel to the Southern Fleurieu.

The Southern Fleurieu Region is a particularly appealing place for people to live and retire due to the relaxed lifestyle, climate and environment. The region is also a prime visitor location in South Australia due to its proximity to the Adelaide metropolitan area and the appealing coastline, environment, culture and activity opportunities.

Further information on the region, its visitors and the population is included in the section ‘About the Region’.
(Include map of the region)
The Study Scope and Approach

Study Scope

The Southern Fleurieu Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy relates to recreation, sport and open space. For the purpose of this study, these are defined as follows:

- Recreation – activities that are non competitive or non membership based. This could include informal recreation activities (e.g. walking, bike riding) and organised recreation activities (e.g. a school group undertaking rowing or camping).
- Sport - activities that are of a competitive, membership and organised nature such as a team game of sport such as soccer or an individual pursuit such as golf.
- Open space - land that is available or potentially available to the public for recreation or sport, or has a conservation, aesthetic or buffer purpose.

The scope of the study does not enable a major focus on arts and culture, e.g. performing arts, visual arts and heritage, due to the diversity and depth of this aspect of lifestyle. However, due to the priority placed on art and culture across the region, some key needs and issues are highlighted in the Strategy.

Tourism is considered in the study as it relates to most aspects of recreation, sport and open space. In addition, the environment is a key recreation resource and therefore considered within the study. However, the main focus in this study is on recreation needs and issues on the basis that conservation will be addressed within other regional studies and legislations.
**Study Approach**

The study approach has involved consultation with the local councils, the Fleurieu Alliance Group, state government bodies, other agencies, sport and recreation groups and the broader community. This includes ongoing consultation with a Project Steering Committee and sessions with sporting groups, community representatives and other stakeholders.

The study was divided into four main components, as follows:

- Understand the Issues and Opportunities
- Develop Strategies
- Develop Key Initiatives
- Produce the Report

The main tasks undertaken in the study included:

- Review of background information and reports
- Consultation with a range of groups including:
  - Local councils
  - State government bodies
  - Community and sporting groups
  - Other stakeholders
- Demographic analysis
- A survey of sport and recreation groups
- Site visits and assessments
- Development of a facility inventory
- Preparation of an issues and opportunities paper
- Development of key initiatives/actions
- Development of the Strategy
- Writing the reports
Report Approach

The report has three main components as follows:

- The Strategy Plan
- Background and Findings
- Key Initiatives

The Strategy Plan provides a strategic plan for the future, with specific strategies and actions for implementation. It is intended to be a working document that will guide future partnerships and resource allocation.

The Background and Findings provides background information and outlines the needs and issues identified in this study. This information and the findings provide the basis for the Strategy Plan.

The Key Initiatives includes a small number of ‘key initiatives’, which are actions that have been progressed further in this study. The key initiatives include:

- A plan for Activity Nodes, outlining regional and other activity nodes and providing guidelines for their future development - refer Action 1.1.2 and Action 3.2.1.
- A draft guideline for open space that outlines quality, type and location requirements to guide developers and Local Councils. A Statement of Intent will also be developed as a first step to a Regional Plan Amendment Report (PAR) to enable inclusion of the guidelines in each Council’s Development Plan – refer Action 3.3.1.
- A Trails Plan for the Southern Fleurieu Region that identifies key trails and priorities - refer Action 2.2.1.
ABOUT THE REGION

Diversity of the Region

The Southern Fleurieu region is diverse in its topography, the character of the towns and the provision of recreation and sport opportunities. The region includes coastal areas, rural areas, forests and conservation areas, river and lake systems, a diversity of large and small towns, towns with stable populations and towns with larger proportions of holiday homes and seasonal residents.

Each Council area has a distinct character that the Councils and communities are keen to retain. There is also diversity within the Council areas themselves as shown below.

Alexandrina Council

Alexandrina Council covers a large geographical area of 183,000 ha. The Council area has 13 towns of varying character and function and a number of unique and diverse features including Lake Alexandrina, part of The Coorong, Hindmarsh Island, sand dunes and wetlands and a number of river systems. The area includes major and smaller rural townships with Strathalbyn providing a focus for a number of communities, and concentrated development in Goolwa, Middleton and Port Elliot along the coastline. Boating and water activities are a key focus in the Goolwa, Middleton and Port Elliot area, sport, community activity and equestrian activities are of importance in the rural areas such as Strathalbyn and Mt. Compass and unique conservation, heritage and visitor attractions are found in towns like Milang and Clayton, which are linked to Lake Alexandrina.
City of Victor Harbor

The City of Victor Harbor covers a smaller geographical area of 34,463 ha. It incorporates Victor Harbor, which is the largest town in the region and a significant service and shopping centre. The area has a diverse topography with flat and undulating developed areas, town beaches, cliffs around the Bluff and to the north west, hills and farmland and river systems, i.e. the Hindmarsh River and Inman River. The City of Victor Harbor also has various local and visitor attractions such as Granite Island, the Bluff, the Causeway and Hindmarsh Falls. As well as providing a focus for local residents, the town of Victor Harbor is a destination for visitors and a range of unique events and activities are held each year.

Yankalilla Council

Yankalilla Council covers a geographical area of 74,000 ha. The area is the least developed of the three Council areas and includes a unique and attractive undulating rural landscape, a visually dominating coastline with cliffs, sand dunes and isolated beaches, a number of creek systems, conservation parks and forests including Deep Creek Conservation Park, small rural towns such as Parawa and Inman Valley, the larger rural town of Myponga, and less developed coastal towns such as Cape Jervis and Rapid Bay. There is a concentration of development around Normanville, Carrickalinga and Yankalilla, including holiday homes. The Gulf St Vincent waters are relatively sheltered and are particularly valued for diving, canoeing, kayaking and fishing, as well as swimming.
Recreation Potential

The Features

The recreation and sport potential of the Southern Fleurieu Region is highly significant due to the diversity of the region, the range of activity opportunities and the proximity of the region to metropolitan Adelaide. In particular the region provides:

- A unique range of topography and environments for outdoor recreation activities. Features include the conservation parks and forests, undulating rural areas, the coastline, Lake Alexandrina, The Coorong and river systems that support walking, cycling, horse riding, camping, adventure activities and a range of other outdoor activities.
- Unique water resources in the way of the ocean with surf beaches and calmer waters, Lake Alexandrina, The Coorong and river systems that collectively cater for a range of water activities including boating, surfing, windsurfing, canoeing, kayaking, diving, fishing, swimming and other water activities.
- Unique towns and areas with different topography, industries, attractions and characteristics.

The region is far enough from metropolitan Adelaide to retain its identity but close enough to be easily accessible for day visits, as a holiday destination and as a place to live, e.g. close enough to retire and not be isolated from family and friends. The above characteristics make the Southern Fleurieu region an appealing place to live and visit as evidenced by its growth in recent years.

The Implications

The recreation and sport potential of the region has both positive and negative implications.

Positive implications include:
- The potential for tourism
- Increased rate base and economic growth
- Increased community diversity as new people move to the area

The main negative implications are:
- The potential impact on the resource (natural and built)
- The increased demand for facilities as the population grows
- The cost of providing facilities to meet demand

The high potential of recreation and sport increases the need to appropriately plan for and manage facilities and resources that support recreation and sport.
Facility Provision

Sporting Facilities

The larger towns and a number of smaller towns in the region provide sporting facilities. Details of the facilities are outlined below for each local council area.

Alexandrina Council

The Alexandrina Council area has a number of sporting grounds including:

- Goolwa
  - Sports ground catering for football, cricket and hockey
  - Netball courts (3 asphalt courts with lights)
  - Lawns bowling and croquet facility
  - Tennis court facility (4 asphalt courts), although poor access and condition with vandalism

- Strathalbyn
  - Sports ground catering for football and cricket (turf)
  - Tennis courts linked to oval (8 courts of which 6 are dual use with netball)
  - Additional tennis facility (8 courts)
  - Lawn bowling facility

- Port Elliot
  - Sports ground catering for soccer and cricket
  - Netball courts (2 courts)

- Mount Compass
  - Sports ground catering for football and cricket
  - Netball and tennis courts (4 tennis courts and 2 netball/tennis courts)
  - Basketball court (1 court)
  - Separate oval catering for soccer

- Langhorne Creek
  - Sports oval catering for football and cricket (turf)
  - Cricket nets
  - Court complex with 2 tennis, 3 tennis and netball and one multi-use (tennis, netball and basketball)
  - Lawn bowling facility

- Milang
  - Oval catering for football and cricket (2 cricket nets)
  - Netball courts linked to oval (2)
  - Tennis complex (5 courts)
  - Lawn bowling facility

- Ashbourne
  - Sports oval catering for cricket
Other facilities and activities include:

- **Goolwa**
  - Pony club facility
  - Goolwa pistol and shooting
  - Clay target shooting at picnic race track (opposite Goolwa Airport)

- **Middleton**
  - 2 tennis courts

- **Strathalbyn**
  - Harness racing facility
  - Racecourse
  - Greyhound facility
  - Strathalbyn Polo Grounds (catering for a range of equestrian groups)
  - Archery facility
  - Go Kart facility

- **Port Elliot (Horseshoe Bay)**
  - Lawn bowling facility
  - Croquet facility

- **Port Elliot Showground**
  - Hall used for badminton

- **Surf Lifesaving at Chiton Rocks and Port Elliot**

In addition, town halls provide venues for table tennis and other recreation activities such as martial arts.

**Golf courses are located in:**

- **Goolwa (2)**
- **Mount Compass**
- **Strathalbyn**
- **Ashbourne**

Langhorne Creek Oval, Alexandrina Council
City of Victor Harbor

The sporting facilities in the City of Victor Harbor include:

- Victor Harbor Oval which caters for football and cricket (the facility is jointly used by the High School)
- Tennis and netball courts linked to oval (8 tennis courts and 6 netball)
- Encounter Bay Recreation Ground which caters for:
  - Hockey (2 fields)
  - Football and cricket (turf)
  - Netball and tennis (4 netball courts, 4 netball and tennis)
  - Lawn bowling
- Sporting ground at Back Valley with 4 tennis courts

There are no soccer or baseball facilities in the City of Victor Harbor due to the rigid design of the Australian Rules football ovals. These sports must rely on facilities outside of the Council area.

Other facilities include:

- 3 netball and tennis courts linked to Investigator College
- Lawn bowling, petanque, croquet and tennis court facilities on Bridge Terrace Foreshore Reserve. The tennis courts are in poor condition and the overall area would ideally be upgraded with the removal of some structures that are in poor condition.

In addition, town halls provide venues for table tennis and other recreation activities such as martial arts.

There are three golf courses in the City of Victor Harbor, i.e:
- McCracken Golf Course
- Victor Harbor Golf Course
- Glacier Rock Public Golf Course
**Southern Fleurieu Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy – Background and Findings**

Yankalilla Council

Sporting grounds and facilities are as follows:

- **Yankalilla**
  - Yankalilla Memorial Park catering for football and cricket
  - Hockey fields
  - Lawn bowling facility
  - Netball and tennis courts (3 courts)

- **Normanville**
  - Tennis courts (4 courts, patched and cracking, no lights)

- **Myponga**
  - Myponga sports complex catering for football and cricket (including 2 cricket nets)
  - Lawn bowling facility
  - Tennis and netball courts (3 courts)

- **Rapid Bay**
  - Sporting oval catering for cricket

- **Cape Jervis**
  - Reserve

- **Parawa**
  - Tennis courts

- **Inman Valley**
  - Tennis courts

Other facilities and activities include:

- **Yankalilla Showground and Pony Club**, catering for the Fleurieu Horse and Pony Club
- **Myponga pistol club**

In addition, town halls provide venues for table tennis and other recreation activities such as martial arts.

**Golf courses are located in:**

- **Yankalilla**
- **Links Lady Bay**
- **Wirrina Cove** (future of facility is uncertain)
Indoor Recreation and Sport Facilities

Indoor recreation and sport centres are located in:

- Victor Harbor – two courts, general purpose hall and music room adjacent to school
- Goolwa – one court adjacent to school
- Strathalbyn – one court within school grounds

Swimming Pool Facilities

A small enclosed swimming pool (18m) is located in the Victor Harbor R-7 School

Other indoor pools are located within tourist complexes including:
- McCracken Country Club (25m with sauna and spa). People need to be a member of the gym to use this facility.
- Wirrina Cove Resort (currently not available to public and future of facility is uncertain)

Outdoor pools include:

- 50m pool at Strathalbyn

Overall the region is lacking quality swimming pool facilities.

Other Aquatic Facilities

Boating is a significant activity in the region and a number of jetties, mooring areas, boat ramps and clubs are located around the region. In particular:

- Alexandrina Council has nine boat ramps. However all are linked to the river and lake and access to the ocean is becoming increasingly difficult due to silting. The Council area supports boating/sailing clubs at Clayton, Milang and Goolwa, a marina on Hindmarsh Island a surf life saving and aquatic club at Port Elliot and a surf lifesaving club at Chiton Rocks.
- The City of Victor Harbor has two existing boat ramps, the Causeway (Victor Harbor Foreshore) and one in Encounter Bay. The Council area supports the Victor Harbor Yacht Club.
- Yankalilla Council has three boat ramps. Diving clubs also utilise the area and particularly the diving trails at Rapid Bay Jetty and Second Valley Jetty and the HMAS diving site in Yankalilla Bay.
Youth Facilities

A number of youth facilities are located across the region, including:

- A skate complex adjoining the Goolwa Recreation Centre in Goolwa. This facility is relatively new and excellent quality. Some additional shade and seating could enhance the facility further.

- A separate BMX area in Goolwa. It would appear that this area is not well used.

- A skate ramp in Middleton.

- A skate ramp facility in Strathalbyn. This facility is relatively basic, in an isolated location, in poor condition, lacking shade and seating and in need of review.

- A skate complex at Yankalilla. This facility is relatively new, good quality and well used. Some additional shade and seating could enhance the facility further (as for Goolwa). A BMX facility is also provided at this site, but this is in relatively poor condition.

- A skate ramp and BMX area adjoining the Victor Harbor Oval in Victor Harbor. The skate ramp is soon to be replaced by a skate Park on the Bridge Terrace Foreshore Reserve. The BMX area is in poor condition and raises safety issues. The relocation or upgrade of this facility should be considered.
Walking and Cycle Tracks

A range of walking and cycle tracks are located across the region. The main trails are:

- The Heysen Trail
- The Encounter Bikeway between Victor Harbor (The Bluff) and Goolwa
- Trails around Lake Alexandrina in the towns of Milang and Clayton
- Trails along river systems such as the Angus River in Strathalbyn and the Inman and Hindmarsh Rivers in Victor Harbor
- A number of trails in the conservation parks and forests, e.g. Deep Creel Conservation Park
- The Battunga Trails

Trails will be further assessed as part of the Strategy Plan.

Encounter Bikeway, Basham’s Beach

Carrickalinga to Normanville Bike Trail
Equestrian Facilities

• The Polo Ground in Strathalbyn provides an activity area and club for a range of equestrian users including a polo club, a dressage club, pony club, show jumping club and tent pegging association. The main issue is the poor standard of the toilet facilities.
• Strathalbyn also supports a trotting/greyhound facility and a racecourse.
• The Fleurieu Pony Club is located in Yankalilla linked to the showground. This is a basic facility with galvanised iron sheds and shelter.
• A trotting facility managed by the Victor Harbor Trotting Club has been developed at Morgan Park in Victor Harbor. This facility requires amenities and other improvements to operate commercially, which is to be resourced by the Victor Harbor Trotting Club.
• The City of Victor Harbor provides an equestrian ground used by a pony club, Riding for the Disabled and a carriage club (separate to Morgan Park).
Visitor Characteristics

The South Australian Tourism Commission produces a profile for the Fleurieu Peninsula, which highlights the following visitor characteristics for the region:

- The total number of visitors to the region for 2002 were:
  - 2,213,000 domestic day trips
  - 670,000 overnight visitors staying 1,802,000 nights

- The majority of the overnight visitors are visiting the region for holiday, leisure or visiting friends and relatives (622,000 visitors and 1,704,000 nights).

- 535,000 overnight visitors are Intrastate, 75,000 are Interstate and 12,000 are International.

- The age breakdown of overnight visitors on holiday/leisure/VFR is:
  - 15-24 years – 19%
  - 25-44 years – 37%
  - 45-64 years – 28%
  - 65+ years – 16%

- Around 30% of overnight visitors on holiday/leisure/VFR travelled with children (29%). The remainder were adult couples (38%), VFR without children (21%) or travelling alone (12%).

- The type of holiday of overnight visitors on holiday/leisure/VFR is mainly:
  - Weekend away – 26%
  - Beach holiday – 23%
  - VFR – 21%

- Of the overnight visitors on holiday/leisure/VFR surveyed:
  - 33% stayed in the home of a friend or relative
  - 17% stayed in a caravan park
  - 17% rented a house or apartment
  - 14% stayed in a hotel/motel
  - 12% used their own home for accommodation

- Recreation is a key activity of overnight visitors on holiday/leisure/VFR as shown below:
  - Go to beach – 49%
  - Eat out/restaurants – 49%
  - Walk/drive around/sightsee – 48%
  - Picnics/BBQ’s – 15%
  - Other outdoor activities – 13%
  - Bushwalking – 12%
  - Go fishing – 11%

- Visitation to two recreation related attractions surveyed for the period 2002/03 were:
  - Victor Harbor Horse Tram – 155,000
  - Deep Creek Conservation Park – 32,000
The main implications of the visitor characteristics are as follows:

- It will be important to provide infrastructure to support the large numbers of visitors, including day visitors who may have less economic value for the region.

- People travelling to the region for one day are likely to have limited time and could focus on the key attractions such as the foreshore, the beaches and high profile attractions such as Granite Island.

- The larger proportion of young and middle aged adults visiting the area could increase the demand for active recreation such as walking and boating. This demand could be increased further by the large proportion of adults travelling without children.

- Although the large majority of overnight visitors are travelling without children, it is possible that a greater proportion of day visitors will have children. As such, there will be a need for facilities to cater for families such as playgrounds and grassed areas.

- The beaches are clearly a key attraction for visitors and therefore should be a priority when providing infrastructure, including trails, amenities, signage and interpretation.

- There is a need for places for people to eat including picnic and barbecue areas and commercial cafes and kiosks.
The Population

Population Size

The Southern Fleurieu Region had a population of 31,700 as at June 2001. This figure is based on ABS Census data and does not include holiday makers outside of the Census night. As such, the 'true' population that influences the requirements for sport, recreation and open space facilities will be greater, particularly in the summer months.

The region’s population in 1996 and 1991 was 27,646 and 24,211 respectively, which is an increase of 14.66% and 30.93% and highlights an increasing population trend. The population size of each Council and the change from 1991 and 1996 is shown below.

Population Size and Change in Council Areas
Source: ABS Census Data, CData 2001

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Council Area</th>
<th>Population Size 2001</th>
<th>% Change since 1996</th>
<th>% Change since 1991</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexandrina Council</td>
<td>17,495</td>
<td>+13.22%</td>
<td>+27.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Victor Harbor</td>
<td>10,561</td>
<td>+22.01%</td>
<td>+46.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yankalilla Council</td>
<td>3,644</td>
<td>+3.00%</td>
<td>+12.96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The population size of the larger urban centres and postcodes is provided below to show the spread of the population. This only reflects the permanent population and areas such as Middleton, Port Elliot, Carrickalinga and Normanville are likely to also have significant numbers of temporary ‘holiday’ residents.

Population Size for Urban Centre Localities
Source: ABS Census Data, CData 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Urban Centre Locality</th>
<th>Population Size 2001</th>
<th>% of Region</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goolwa (Alexandrina)</td>
<td>4,345</td>
<td>13.71%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middleton (Alexandrina)</td>
<td>887</td>
<td>2.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Elliot (Alexandrina)</td>
<td>1,527</td>
<td>4.82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strathalbyn (Alexandrina)</td>
<td>3,217</td>
<td>10.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victor Harbor</td>
<td>8,968</td>
<td>28.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrickalinga (Yankalilla)</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>1.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normanville (Yankalilla)</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>2.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yankalilla (Yankalilla)</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>1.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>20,395</td>
<td>64.35%</td>
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Population Size for Postcodes
Source: ABS Census Data, CData 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postcodes</th>
<th>Population Size 2001</th>
<th>% of Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goolwa (postcode 5214)</td>
<td>5,151</td>
<td>16.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middleton (postcode 5213)</td>
<td>1,305</td>
<td>4.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Elliot (postcode 5212)</td>
<td>1,527</td>
<td>4.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strathalbyn (postcode 5255)</td>
<td>6,250</td>
<td>19.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victor Harbor (postcode 5211)</td>
<td>10,804</td>
<td>34.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrickalinga and Normanville (postcode 5204)</td>
<td>2,112</td>
<td>6.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yankalilla (postcode 5203)</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>2.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myponga and Myponga Beach (postcode 5202)</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>1.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>28,424</td>
<td>89.67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1996, 3,606 people lived in the rural Strathalbyn area and 1,821 people lived in the rural Port Elliot / Goolwa area. This highlights the spread of the population and the relatively large proportion of people who could own horses that require tracks and facilities, particularly around Strathalbyn.
Age Profile

The Southern Fleurieu Region supports a large proportion of older people, with 21.4% aged 65 years and over compared to 14.4% for South Australia. The City of Victor Harbor has the largest proportion of older people with 29.6% of its population aged 65 years and over. This compares to 17.5% for Alexandrina Council and 16.7% for Yankalilla Council.

The region also has reasonable proportions of children and young people, with 6.3% aged 59 years, 7.1% aged 10-14 years and 5.7% aged 15-19 years. This compares with 6.7%, 6.8% and 6.9% respectively for South Australia. The proportions of children and young people are greater for the Alexandrina and Yankalilla Councils as shown on the graph on the following page.

The age breakdown of the population is provided below for the region and each Council area compared to South Australia.

*Age Breakdown Compared to South Australia*
*Source: ABS Census Data, CData 2001*
The main implications of the age profile for recreation, sport and open space in the Southern Fleurieu region are as follows:

- The larger proportion of older people will create greater demand for facilities and programs that support lower impact and health related activities such as:
  - Walking tracks and walking groups
  - Warm water activity opportunities (water aerobics, water movement, hydrotherapy)
  - Gyms and low impact fitness classes
  - Art and craft and other cultural opportunities, e.g. performing arts, library use
  - Places for older people to meet and socialise, including with other age groups
  - Facilities for families and grandchildren, e.g. cycle tracks, playgrounds, parks

- The reasonable proportions of children and young people highlight the need to provide informal and organised activity opportunities such as:
  - Skate, BMX, bike riding and adventure play facilities
  - Sports facilities and clubs
  - Water sport opportunities, e.g. surfing, skiing
  - Outdoor activity opportunities, including adventure and camping based activities, e.g. scouts
  - Dance and other physical movement opportunities
  - Art, craft, performance and music opportunities
  - Places for young people to meet and socialise

- The reasonable proportions of middle aged adults creates a particular need for:
  - Informal recreation activity opportunities such as walking and cycling
  - Parks and facilities for social interaction
  - Health and fitness opportunities, including access to warm water (indoor)
  - Water sport opportunities, e.g. boating, canoeing, diving

Other particularly relevant population characteristics for the region and the implications for recreation and sport are outlined on the following pages.
Cultural Diversity

- 268 people in the region are Indigenous persons, which represents 0.8% of the population (this compares with 1.6% for South Australia and 1.0% for the Adelaide metropolitan area).
- 78.6% of the population was born in Australia, compared to 74.9% for South Australia.
- The main places of birth outside of Australia are United Kingdom (11.4%), Germany (0.9%), Netherlands (0.7%) and New Zealand (0.7%).

The Implications
- There will be an interest in protecting Aboriginal sites and culture.
- Language barriers and cultural differences are unlikely to be a significant issue.
- Demand for outdoor and water sports could be higher, being key activities as part of the “Australian outdoor culture”.

Family Type

- A very large proportion of families, i.e. 52.8%, are ‘couple families without children’ and only 34.9% of families are ‘couple families with children’. This compares with 38.7% and 44.1% respectively for South Australia and is consistent with the large proportion of older people in the region.
- The couples without children figure is 48.7% for Alexandrina Council, 59.2% for the City of Victor Harbor, and 53.3% for Yankalilla Council.
- 11.4% of families are one parent compared to 15.6% for South Australia.
- 11.2% of persons are ‘lone persons’. This is similar to South Australia for which the figure is 11.0%.

The Implications
- The data suggests that there could be lower demand for sport and family activity. However, facilities and places for families will still be required by local families with children and there will be a need to cater for the families of older people without children, e.g. visiting children and grandchildren.
- The need to provide opportunities for people without children to socialise with others could be greater, i.e. giving people the opportunity to have contact with others particularly if their families do not live nearby.
Income and Employment

- Relative to the state average, the region is lower to average income earning as shown in the chart below.

**Weekly Income of Individuals (15 years +)**
Source: ABS Census Data, CData 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income level</th>
<th>Southern Fleurieu Region</th>
<th>South Australia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $200 per week</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200-$399</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$400-$599</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$600 or more</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The unemployment rate is 6.8% of the labour force compared to 7.6% for South Australia
- 46.8% of the population is not in the labour force compared to 38.2% for South Australia. The figure is 42.6% for Alexandrina Council, 54.4% for the City of Victor Harbor and 44.0% for Yankalilla Council

**The Implications**
- The need for facilities and programs to be affordable will be greater.
- A greater proportion of people in the population will have more time for recreation and leisure. This will increase the demand for recreation facilities and programs, although they would need to be affordable due to the lower income nature of the region.

Transport

- A large majority of households have access to a motor vehicle with only 6.0% having no motor vehicle (compared to 9.9% for South Australia).
- 42.8% of households have one motor vehicle and 46.4% have 2 or more (figures are 38.5% and 46.6% for South Australia)

**The Implications**
- People should generally have the capacity to access facilities and programs that are located beyond walking distance, including in other towns.
- Individuals in households that only have one motor vehicle, which is a relatively large proportion of households, could have greater constraints to accessing a motor vehicle and as such facilities. However, a large proportion of households are couples without children and the issue should not be as great for these households.
- High personal vehicle use, ownership and dependence could impact on road quality, the environment and decision making relating to public transport and non-vehicular infrastructure.
THEMES FOR THE REGION

The Southern Fleurieu Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy has identified four key themes that reflect what is important to the community, the local councils and other organisations. These themes and the basis for each theme are outlined below and used as a framework for presenting the issues, opportunities, strategies and actions in the Strategy.

A further priority will be to adopt a regional approach to implementation and this will be relevant to each theme and presented as an overriding direction in the Strategy.

Enhancing Natural Attractions

The natural attractions such as the coast, beaches, rivers, lake, wetlands, conservation parks and bushland areas are highly valued and key reasons for people residing in and visiting the region. It will be important to maintain the quality of these natural attractions and continue to provide opportunities for people to access, appreciate, understand and respect these resources. This will include providing infrastructure as well as management approaches to maintain the quality of resources.

Maintaining Diversity with Connections

The Council areas and townships have unique features and characteristics that are appreciated by local communities and visitors. There is a desire to maintain this diversity and continue to provide unique activity and visitor experiences across the region. However, there is also potential to strengthen the link between the council areas and the towns physically, socially and economically. This could involve improving linkages through trail systems and developing events and promotions that link the region.

Planning Quality Facilities and Spaces

There is demand for a range of quality facilities, infrastructure and open spaces to support recreation and sport and contribute to the appeal of the region as a place to live and visit. However, this should occur within the context of what is important to the region and what is feasible to ensure the best use of available resources.

Supporting Participation

The larger proportion of older people and the large proportion of young people and families in the region require support to participate in activity and lead quality lifestyles. There is potential to support participation by community groups and visitors through the natural attractions, quality and accessible facilities and activity opportunities, and unique and diverse outdoor recreation opportunities.
The main recreation, sport and open space issues and needs are presented below for the three Council areas in the Southern Fleurieu Region. These issues and needs have been identified through the consultations, research and site visits undertaken for each area.

As shown in the column ‘relevance to the region’ a number of the issues and needs are consistent across the region. However, some issues and needs are unique or more relevant to one council area and highlight the need for a differentiated approach to supporting the region for some items.

**Alexandrina Council Area**

**Theme: Natural Attractions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Issue or Need</th>
<th>Relevance to the Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coastline</td>
<td>The value of the coastline is high and the need to maintain and enhance this resource is an important priority. Particular coastal areas of value include:  • Basham’s Beach Regional Park  • Tokuremoar Reserve  • The surfing and other beaches  • Foreshore areas in towns Management controls are required such as control of the development of jetties and control of cars on beaches.</td>
<td>The coastline and natural features along the coastline are a priority in each Council area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Environment</td>
<td>The need to enhance and rehabilitate natural resources is a priority. This includes:  • Lake Alexandrina and the related wetlands  • The creek systems  • Inlets and wetlands along the coastline  • Bushland and coastal reserves</td>
<td>Retaining and enhancing the natural environment is a priority in each Council area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Quality</td>
<td>Water quality in the rivers is considered to be poor, with particular issues being:  • High salinity  • Low water levels, resulting in poor access for boats to the ocean. The risk is that people will not use the area for boating and this would have economic impacts on the area</td>
<td>Poor water quality is an issue in each Council area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Management</td>
<td>The need to consider water restrictions and develop environmentally sensitive systems linked to facilities and sports grounds, e.g. the use of grey water.</td>
<td>This issue will be relevant across the region.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Theme: Diversity with Connections**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Issue or Need</th>
<th>Relevance to the Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identity of towns</td>
<td>The Council and community are keen to maintain the 'green land' between the towns as useable open space to help distinguish and maintain the identity of individual towns (particularly along the Goolwa, Middleton and Port Elliot 'strip'). The need to support smaller towns and retain the identity and heritage of towns such as Milang, Clayton and Mount Compass has also been raised. The Council area has 13 towns and each has its own unique character and potential.</td>
<td>This need is a particular priority for the Alexandrina Council area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Community Hubs        | Alexandrina Council has two main community hubs, i.e. Strathalbyn and Goolwa and the connecting coastal areas (Middleton and Port Elliot). Strathalbyn is around 40kms from Goolwa, provides a focus for surrounding smaller towns and tends to have a closer connection to Mt Barker than Goolwa. The main issues that this raises are:  
  - The demand for substantial facilities such as indoor sports facilities and swimming pools in two areas and the capacity of the Council to provide these facilities.  
  - Competition for resources from the two areas.  
  - The risk of facilities in Strathalbyn being less viable due to its smaller population size compared to Goolwa, Middleton and Port Elliot combined. | The need to support two community hubs is unique to Alexandrina Council.                |
| Road Reserves         | The risk of losing road reserves has been raised as a concern in relation to the future provision of horse, walking and cycle trail networks.                                                                | This issue will be relevant to all council areas.                                         |
### Theme: Quality Facilities and Spaces

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Indoor Aquatic and Fitness Facility** | There is demand for an indoor swimming pool and health and fitness facility in the Goolwa, Middleton and Port Elliot area. In particular, there is demand for:  
- Warm water program opportunities for older people and children (e.g. water aerobics, learn to swim)  
- A good sized and affordable gym and health facility | The demand for an indoor aquatic facility is also high for City of Victor Harbor. |
| | People are keen for the facility to be accessible to the three communities (Goolwa, Middleton and Port Elliot). Whilst a regional facility that also caters for the City of Victor Harbor is supported, the central location of such a facility would be crucial to adequately cater for the Alexandrina Council coastal areas.  
Overall, the cost and viability of an indoor aquatic centre is a key issue. The population size of the area does not currently justify the provision of a significant indoor centre. | |
| **Indoor Sports Facility** | There is demand for a two court indoor sports centre linked to health and fitness facilities in Strathalbyn. Currently the community relies on one court that is linked to the High School. Issues with the existing facilities include:  
- Community access to the indoor court can be difficult, with the school having first priority  
- Cost is considered to be high  
- One court does not adequately meet the needs of the community  
- A private gym is located in a ‘home shed’ on the outskirts of the town. This facility is not considered to adequately meet community needs | Whilst the demand is district level, the issue of providing key facilities across the region is regional, i.e. the appropriateness of providing substantial facilities in a number of locations. |
| | A Feasibility Study for a recreation and sport complex including an indoor pool and indoor sports centre was undertaken in May 1996 and it was found that the capital and operational cost would be high (around $6m capital with aquatic and around $4m capital without). There is some disappointment in the community that the provision of a facility has not progressed. | |
| **Sports Complex in Strathalbyn** | A 33ha site on Langhome Creek Road has been set aside for recreation and sport but not developed. The Strathalbyn Soccer Association has been offered the use of part of the land but does not have the resources to develop a ground.  
Council and the community are seeking a direction on the future of this land and whether it would be appropriate to establish a sports complex. A direction on the future of the existing sportsground located near the city centre is also required. | The complex could incorporate facilities of a regional significance due to the size of the land. |
### Theme: Quality Facilities and Spaces (cont)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Issue or Need</th>
<th>Relevance to the Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Sports Facility Requirements | The main sport facility needs raised in the consultations and survey are:  
- Provision of rowing shed in Goolwa to service the rowing club.  
- Upgrade of netball courts at Mt Compass and consider improvements to club facility.  
- Resurface of 7 tennis courts at Mt Compass Tennis Club.  
- Upgrade of archery facility at Forest Road Strathalbyn, e.g. power, improve club house, irrigation with recycled water.  
- Provision of model boating facility.  
- Provision of own grounds for Soccer club.  
- Extension to jetty by Goolwa Vintage Boat Club.  
- Training lights by Milang Football Club.  
- Improved slope and drainage of ground by Mt Compass Football Club.  
- Funding to progress proposed upgrade to South Lakes Golf Club (to implement Course Master Plan).  
- Improved stables and jumps by Strathalbyn Show Jumping Club.  
- Court resurface and disabled facilities at Goolwa tennis Club.  
- Lighting of 4 courts at John Westley Tennis Club (Strathalbyn).  
- Improve lighting in table tennis facility Tooperang Hall).  
- Improve Currency Creek community hall for table tennis.  
*It should be noted that not all sports have been consulted and as such there could be other local needs. Also, the expressed needs have not necessarily been verified in the study.* | The facility needs are generally local, although the rowing shed is likely to cater for people outside of the Council area due to the wider catchment of the activity. |
| Equestrian | The rural nature of Strathalbyn and the surrounding area creates a high demand for facilities and places for horse riding and organised equestrian activities. The Polo Ground located on the edge of Strathalbyn is used by a range of groups, including from outside the Council area. The main issues are:  
- The demand for the Polo Ground to be upgraded (e.g. better quality toilet facilities) and the lack of funds available to achieve this.  
- The need for horse riding trail opportunities and the relative lack of provision. | The need for horse riding and particularly trail opportunities is also relevant for the Yankalilla Council area and the rural parts of the City of Victor Harbor. |
Theme: Quality Facilities and Spaces (cont)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Issue or Need</th>
<th>Relevance to the Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scouts</td>
<td>The Strathalbyn Scout Association has raised the need for an outdoor area that can be allocated for scout activities, e.g. an area with bushland and an environment suitable for camp type activities close to town.</td>
<td>This is a district need, but the provision of outdoor opportunities for young people could be pursued across the region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performing Arts Facilities</td>
<td>There is demand for a performing arts facility. No facilities are provided in the region and larger performances are held elsewhere (e.g. Noarlunga). Performing arts and culture are considered to be important recreation needs by the community.</td>
<td>This has been raised as a priority need in each Council area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Theme: Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Issue or Need</th>
<th>Relevance to the Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Older People</td>
<td>The need to cater for older people given that the area is potentially ageing. This includes the need for physical activity opportunities, warm water/hydrotherapy, health and fitness and social opportunities.</td>
<td>This is relevant across the region and particularly for the City of Victor Harbor.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Young People | Providing for young people is a priority. For example:  
• A youth coordinator based in Goolwa works with young people across the region.  
• A skate park has been established in Goolwa near the recreation centre.  
• There is a desire to replace the existing skate park in Strathalbyn. The facility is made up of metal segments and is in a relatively isolated location (on the edge of town).  
• Young people are supported in smaller towns, e.g. activities and meeting opportunities through the Milang Community Centre.  
• Young people are involved in region wide planning through a regional Youth Advisory Group. | Young people are a priority across the region. |
| Sports       | Participation numbers in sporting clubs are generally declining. Work and life commitments are making it harder for young people to commit to sport.                                                                 | This is relevant across the region. |
| Management   | Declining numbers and increasing costs are making it difficult for sports to operate, e.g. insurance costs, facility maintenance costs.                                                                      | This will be relevant across the region.                      |
| Volunteers   | It is becoming increasingly difficult to involve people and particularly younger people as volunteers. This is not such an issue for the smaller towns where groups such as Milang 2005 have been formed to undertake projects, raise funds and guide planning. | The involvement of the community as volunteers is less an issue in small towns and in the Yankalilla Council area where the population is small and there is high reliance on the community. |
| Sponsorship  | Sponsorship opportunities are becoming increasingly difficult. Businesses have limited scope to sponsor communities and community demands are increasing.                                                             | This issue is likely to be relevant across the region.       |
### City of Victor Harbor Area

#### Theme: Natural Attractions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Issue or Need</th>
<th>Relevance to the Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural Environment</td>
<td>The protection and enhancement of the natural environment is a high priority for the City of Victor Harbor. This includes the coastline, river systems, wetlands and bushland.</td>
<td>The natural environment is important across the region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Quality</td>
<td>Poor water quality and high levels of salinity in the River Murray and the Inman and Hindmarsh Rivers has an impact on the natural environment and water based activities.</td>
<td>The issue of water quality is relevant across the region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boating</td>
<td>There is a lack of easy access points to the ocean and boat mooring facilities. Whilst a boat ramp is being considered for the Victor Harbor Foreshore, there are concerns that this will impact on the quality of the beach and the coastal environment. An upgrade to the existing Encounter Bay boat ramp is also being considered as an option. A Working Party has been established to guide the planning.</td>
<td>The need to improve boat ramps to the ocean has also been raised for the Yankalilla Council area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Theme: Diversity with Connections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Issue or Need</th>
<th>Relevance to the Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identity of towns</td>
<td>The need to retain green space around the towns such as along the coastline and between Victor Harbor and Port Elliot was raised.</td>
<td>This is relevant to all Council areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking and Cycle Tracks</td>
<td>The importance of walking and cycle tracks in Victor Harbor was raised by the community and is also evident in the high use of the walking track along Encounter Bay. The development of tracks along the two rivers and the coastline was considered to be the greatest priority. Improving footpaths was also a priority as well as the need to provide off leash areas to walk dogs. Whilst the idea of allowing cycling across to Granite was raised, the constraints regarding the width of the bridge and the potential impacts on the Island were also recognised.</td>
<td>The value of existing tracks and the need to extend the track system has been raised as a priority in each Council area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Theme: Quality Facilities and Spaces

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Issue or Need</th>
<th>Relevance to the Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sports Facility Provision</td>
<td>The main issues relating to sports facilities are:</td>
<td>The sports facility issues are relatively locally based. However, ground inflexibility is an issue that is relevant across the region. Demands for sport are changing and fenced ovals make it difficult to support other sports and provide a diversity of activity opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The provision of two sports complexes in relative close proximity to each other and whether there is duplication of some facilities, e.g. two Australian Rules Football ovals.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The relative inflexibility of the sportsgrounds provided, e.g. the inability to cater for soccer and baseball.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The loss of one hockey field due to the ring road development and the tightness of that site.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The appropriateness of sports facilities located along the Foreshore.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The need to upgrade the tennis courts on the Foreshore if they are retained. The view by those consulted was that the courts should be retained and provided for free casual use.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Desire for upgrade of Encounter Bay Football Club facilities, e.g. improve entrance, oval surface, irrigation system, access road around oval.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Desire for hockey facility upgrade, e.g. club room upgrade and disability facilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Need for improved lighting at Victor Harbor Netball Club facilities.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Desire for shelter over playing area and rainwater tank by Petanque club.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Desire for small area for children to play linked to Back Valley Tennis Club facility.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Desire for more public toilets and parking by Victor Harbor Triathlons and Fun Run Club.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Desire for separate entry to stadium by Victor Volleyball Association.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>It should be noted that not all sports have been consulted and as such there could be other local needs. Also, the expressed needs have not necessarily been verified in the study.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Theme: Quality Facilities and Spaces (cont)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Issue or Need</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Indoor Aquatic Facility | The demand for an indoor aquatic facility is high. The Primary School has an 18m 4 lane indoor pool that is well used by the community, but is not considered to be adequate to meet the needs. The demand is for an 8 lane 25m indoor pool as a minimum. Particular needs include:  
  • Lap swimming  
  • Warm water programs (learn to swim, health and fitness)  
  • Catering for older people, children and families  
   Various studies have been undertaken over the years and a Council committee has recently been established to further plan for a facility.  
   Overall, the cost and viability of an indoor aquatic centre is a key issue. The population size of the area does not currently justify the provision of a significant indoor centre. | The demand is also high for Alexandrina Council. |
| Equestrian Facilities     | The Victor Harbor Trotting Track has been partially upgraded, with work on the track completed. However, toilets, change rooms and steward rooms still need to be developed and as such the facility is not being used for events. The Victor Harbor Harness Racing Club is planning these additional works (and will resource the works).  
   The question of whether there is demand for two tracks in the Fleurieu region (a facility is also located in Strathalbyn) and concerns that the industry is in the process of closing country tracks due to declining spectators have been raised.  
   There was previously talk of relocating the equestrian facility in Victor Harbor (Riding Club facility) to the land adjoining the Trotting Track in Morgan Park. However, this was resisted by the Riding Club and other users and a 21 year arrangement has recently been made for the existing Victor Harbor Riding Club grounds. The Victor Harbor Harness Racing Club now aims to sell this land to fund the additional works at the Trotting Track. | This is a regional issue because of the existence of two tracks and the capacity of such a facility to draw from and beyond the region. |
| Performing Arts and Culture | There is demand for improved cultural facilities, including:  
  • Performing arts facility  
  • Cultural/ performance facility that supports young musicians and performers  
  • Quality library | The need to cater for performing arts has been raised in all three Council areas. |
<table>
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</table>
| Provision and Development of Recreation Zoned Land | The need to protect recreation zoned land and adopt a consistent and coordinated approach to the provision and development of recreation land has been raised by Council planning staff. This is particularly relevant for:  
  - Foreshore zoned land, where the appropriateness of sporting facility and commercial recreation development needs to be considered.  
  - Recreation zoned land owned by DECS, for which a TAFE complex has been proposed. The main concerns are that existing development controls allow such development and there is a loss of potential open space and future land banking for recreation uses.  
  - Retaining hills face land for aesthetic and recreation value. | This has been raised as a particular issue by the City of Victor Harbor. However, the need for a Plan Amendment Report (PAR) to guide the development of recreation zoned land could be relevant to other Council areas. |
### Theme: Participation

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Older People</td>
<td>The need to cater for older people. This includes the need for physical activity, warm water and health and fitness activities, social connectiveness opportunities and learning opportunities (e.g. through University 3A).</td>
<td>This is a regional issue but particularly relevant to the City of Victor Harbor due to area’s attraction to retired people.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Young People       | The need to cater for young people and in particular provide entertainment opportunities and improve outdoor activity and meeting opportunities is a priority.  
In particular, an existing BMX facility has been identified as a risk and safety issue and in need of replacement and the skate facility linked to the Victor Harbor Sports Complex and BMX could be better located and a higher standard. Council is developing a Youth Park on the foreshore including a skate park and teenager playground. | The need to cater for young people is a priority across the region.                     |
| Sports Participation| Whilst the demand for junior sport is considered to be strong, participation in senior level sport is declining.                                                                                              | This is relevant across the region.                                                        |
## Yankalilla Council Area

### Theme: Natural Attractions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Issue or Need</th>
<th>Relevance to the Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Character and Environment</td>
<td>The protection and enhancement of the unique character of the area and the natural resources (particularly the coastline) is a high priority. The main issue is a lack of strategic planning and a lack of funding to achieve this objective.</td>
<td>The value of the unique character and natural resources is high for each Council area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastline Management</td>
<td>A Coastal Management Plan had not been developed for the Yankalilla Council area at the commencement of the study, resulting in a risk of ad hoc development and longer term impacts on the coastline and the tourism potential of the area. However, this is now being undertaken.</td>
<td>Yankalilla Council area was the only area in the region that did not have a plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Quality</td>
<td>The creeklines around Cape Jervis and Second Valley are considered to be poor quality.</td>
<td>Water quality is an issue across the region.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Theme: Diversity with Connections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Issue or Need</th>
<th>Relevance to the Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open space around towns</td>
<td>There is a need to protect the green areas around towns to retain the identity of the towns, the aesthetics and the activity opportunities.</td>
<td>This is relevant to all Council areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>There is a need to upgrade the existing trail system before developing new systems. However, the potential for additional trails along the rivers and coastline was also highlighted.</td>
<td>Trails are relevant to all Council areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Theme: Quality Facilities and Spaces**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Issue or Need</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>The greatest issue for Yankalilla Council is the limited resources available to provide infrastructure and create change, due to the small rate base of the area.</td>
<td>Whilst no Council area in the region has a significant population or rate base, the severity of the issue is greater for Yankalilla.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of the Area</td>
<td>The Yankalilla, Normanville and Carrickalinga township area is experiencing growth with new developments proposed, e.g. Sunset Cove. There is a risk that the development will occur without adequately planning for open space, including larger areas of open space that provide a focus for informal recreation and events.</td>
<td>The need to plan for open space in developing areas is relevant across the region. However, in other Council areas there are existing large tracts of open space that can help service new communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Stability</td>
<td>A relatively large number of holiday homes are established in the coastal towns in the Council area. As a result, the population size fluctuates, increasing from a base population of around 3,600 to around 12,000 in summer. This creates additional facility requirements in the summer months.</td>
<td>The issue of temporary population demands is particularly relevant to Alexandrina Council but also to the City of Victor Harbor.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Maintaining Roads           | Yankalilla Council is struggling to maintain roads due to the high level of use by visitors and the low rate base for funding. For example the road to Cape Jervis is not considered to be adequate to cater for the increasing traffic to the Kangaroo Island Ferry. This creates two issues as follows:  
  - The travel around the area for recreation by visitors and residents may be less appealing and less safe.  
  - Funds are not available for recreation facilities and structures (due to the need to commit to roads). | This issue would be experienced by other Councils, but is particularly an issue for Yankalilla due to the increasing travel to the Kangaroo Island Ferry and the lower rate base. |
| Open space along coastline  | There is a lack of 'coastline green space' in Normanville and Carrickalinga. The coastline in these towns is dominated by housing, roads and car parking. Most of the undeveloped land along the coastline in the Normanville and Carrickalinga area is sand dune. There are limited access points to the beach to protect the sand dunes and as such a concentration of use where there is access. | The lack of green space is a localised issue but impacts on the character of key towns in the region. The need to protect the sand dunes and issues with concentrated use is a region wide issue. |
### Theme: Quality Facilities and Spaces (cont)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Infrastructure</td>
<td>Infrastructure such as amenities, seating and shade is lacking in key open space and potential visitor areas, particularly along the coastline.</td>
<td>This issue is unique to the Yankalilla Council area and reflects the limitations of resources.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Sports Facility Provision   | The sports facilities provided are generally considered to be adequate. However, some issues are:  
• The fact that facilities are dispersed across the area and often draw from a wide catchment (with people travelling long distances).  
• The need for toilet facilities for netball courts in Yankalilla (one ladies toilet services around 100 players).  
• The need to retain a family focus at sporting facilities, e.g. netball linking to football.  
• Desire to upgrade shelters and the surrounding fence at the Myponga Bowling Club.  
It should be noted that not all sports have been consulted and as such there could be other local needs. Also, the expressed needs have not necessarily been verified in the study. | Travel is particularly an issue for the Yankalilla Council area due to the size of the area and the smaller number of main towns. |
| Indoor Sports Facility      | There is a desire to establish an indoor centre for sport in Myponga. The school does not have a hall and the existing community hall is not suitable. However, the population size is unlikely to sustain such a facility. | Whilst this is a district facility issue, it highlights a regional issue of whether it is appropriate to establish facilities in smaller towns and the best approach if facilities are to be provided. |
| Performing Arts             | The Yankalilla Area School is investigating opportunities to establish a performing arts facility linked to the school.                                                                                       | The importance of art and culture and the need for performing arts facilities has been raised in each Council area. |
| Community Contribution to Sport | The communities are heavily relied on to establish, improve and manage sporting facilities. Communities are finding this increasingly difficult, yet the Council does not have the resources to take on this role. | This an issue for the Yankalilla Council area due to the small rate base of the area.                      |
| Priorities                  | There is a view that Yankalilla Council is struggling to maintain existing facilities let alone provide new facilities. Some believe that the emphasis should be on enhancing existing facilities before establishing any new facilities, e.g. upgrading existing trails before developing new trails. | This issue is particularly relevant to Yankalilla Council due to the limited resources to undertake works.  |
### Theme: Participation

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young People</td>
<td>The need to cater for young people and provide social, activity, and learning opportunities has been identified as a high priority. A youth park has been established in Yankalilla and a committee is in the process of seeking funding for a youth and community centre linked to the youth park and Yankalilla Area School. ‘The Edge’ Youth centre linked to a church is not considered to be appropriate and the coordinator of that service has requested that a new building be considered for a community youth centre, with staffing. Due to the relative isolation and lack of entertainment facilities in the area there is need for a place that can provide an activity, social and learning focus for young people. The cost and viability of a facility is an issue.</td>
<td>The need to cater for young people is a priority across the region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Participation</td>
<td>Membership numbers are declining in sports. Some reasons include people not wanting to commit, the availability of more choices and work practices.</td>
<td>This issue is relevant across the region. It reflects a National trend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>The need for improved transport around the area was raised. In particular, it is considered to be difficult for visitors to get around the area when they arrive by bus.</td>
<td>This issue is relevant across the region, but greater for the Yankalilla Council area due to its size and relative isolation from the other developed areas (e.g. Victor Harbor).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Issues and Needs

Other issues and needs raised in the study are outlined below.

Natural Attractions

- The need to support and manage water based activities was raised in each Council area. Boating and surfing are a particular priority in the Alexandrina Council Area (coastal areas) as well as in the City of Victor Harbor. Activities that require more ‘peaceful’ waters such as diving, canoeing and kayaking are popular in the Yankalilla Council area and an important tourist attraction. The Ex-HMAS Hobart and caves along the coastline provide unique diving experiences in the region. Fishing is also a popular activity, particular around the southern end of the region, e.g. Cape Jervis.

- The forests, conservation areas and existing ‘long’ trails including the Heysen Trail are key features of the region and significant as a visitor and local community resource. Retaining the quality and appeal of these resources will be vital to maintain the visitor appeal of the area and contribute to the economics of the region.

Quality Facilities and Spaces

- There is a high level of reliance on community groups to contribute to facility provision and management and undertake projects. Examples include the Mt Compass community resourcing the local oval and facilities through community initiatives, the Milang community establishing Milang 2005 to undertake a number of conservation and community projects, communities in the Yankalilla Council area being primarily responsible for developing and managing sporting facilities, the Dune Care/Coast Care Group being relied on for funding a range of projects resourced through a community market and service groups playing a key role in planning for and providing recreation, sport and community facilities. Whilst this is a positive characteristic of the region and highlights good practice models, there could be issues in the future such as groups experiencing financial difficulties and requiring greater support from Councils or concerns being raised about equity, e.g. less engaged communities relying more on Council funding.
There is a need to better guide the type and quality of open space provided as part of new developments. Land offered by developers in the past has tended to be less usable for recreation, such as gullies and drainage areas and Councils have to work hard to obtain quality land. A guideline that is formalised in Development Plans to give Councils a strong argument for requiring specific land is required. It is also believed by the Councils that the dollar amount required in legislation as a cash contribution in lieu of the 12.5% land allocation is not an appropriate compensation given the land value in the area. Obtaining access to this funding through the Planning SA funding scheme is also an issue.

**Participation**

- The need for opportunities for both physical activity and social connectiveness was raised by the Fleurieu Health Services, particular for older people who have moved into the region away from families and friends. This highlights the potential for health and well being programs linked to recreation that are supported at the local community and regional level.

- There is demand for community centres that provide activity opportunities, a place to socialise and a meeting place for a range of age groups. This need was raised in each Council area and highlights the importance of multi-purpose facilities that can cater for more than one group and type of use, particularly where communities are smaller. The need for a new library in Victor Harbor was also raised.
Consistent Needs and Issues

A number of the issues and needs were raised in more than one Council area as summarised below.

Natural Attractions

- The need to retain and enhance the natural environment, including the coastline, river systems, wetlands and bushland.
- The issue of poor water quality, salinity and lowering flows in the river systems.
- The need to support and manage water sports such as boating, surfing, diving, canoeing, fishing.

Diversity in the Region

- The need to retain and provide green spaces to enhance the character and appeal of the region, maintain the identity of towns and provide activity opportunities.
- The need to plan for a system of trails to cater for walking, cycling and horses.

Quality Facilities and Spaces

- The need for an indoor aquatic facility, including health and fitness components.
- The issue of increasing populations and demands in the summer months, due to the holiday nature of the region and the development of holiday homes in coastal areas.
- The need for some upgrades to sporting facilities.
- The demand for performing arts facilities and community centres.
Participation

- The importance of catering for young people.
- The need to place an emphasis on catering for older people through facilities and activity and social opportunities.
- The issue of declining participation in sports, particularly at the senior level and with young people.

A number of other issues and needs will be relevant to more than one Council area, even if they were not raised in the consultations.
Differences in the Region

Yankalilla Council

The greatest ‘difference’ in the region exists for the Yankalilla Council area, which has unique circumstances compared to the other two Council areas. In particular, the Council area has a small population and a low rate base. This creates a range of issues and needs including the inability to improve and establish infrastructure, the lack of resources for strategic planning and a greater reliance on local communities. Without proper planning and the availability of resources to improve facilities and towns there is a risk that the features of the area that appeal to residents and visitors could be lost in the future.

Alexandrina Council

Alexandrina Council has the distinct issue of having two community hubs, which raises greater demands for facilities. For instance, the Strathalbyn community is seeking an indoor sports centre, an outdoor complex and a performing arts facility. Usually such facilities would only be provided in one location in a Council area, particularly where the total population is only around 17,000. A further unique issue for the area is the spread of development that has occurred along the coastline and the need to manage this development and retain ‘green space’ to maintain the identity and uniqueness of the individual towns and to differentiate the Council area with the City of Victor Harbor.

City of Victor Harbor

The City of Victor Harbor is differentiated by the particularly large proportion of older people living in the area. This characteristic increases the risk of social isolation and health issues but also increases the potential for volunteerism and community based projects. In addition the town of Victor Harbor attracts a large proportion of visitors, particularly around the town centre and Granite Island area.
OPPORTUNITIES

The opportunities outlined on the following pages have been identified through the consultations and research. A number of the opportunities respond to the issues and needs outlined in the previous section. Others reflect ideas raised by community and Council representatives.

The opportunities are considered for each theme together with the further priority of adopting a coordinated approach to implementation.

The opportunities, together with the needs and issues in the previous section, form the basis of the strategies and actions in the Southern Fleurieu Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy, outlined in the Strategy Plan.
Natural Attractions

Enhancing and Managing Natural Resources

- The coastline and the region’s natural resources are highly significant from a lifestyle, tourism and landscape perspective and maintaining the quality of these resources is important to each Council area. There is potential for the Councils and the State government to work together on projects that further enhance and manage the use of these resources. This includes providing infrastructure and enhancing natural resources as appropriate and in accordance with previous planning and guiding the use and accessibility of the natural resources.

- Coastal and natural resources that have a regional value and could be enhanced to improve the recreation opportunities include:
  - Lake Alexandrina foreshore and wetlands. Whilst works have been undertaken in Milang and Clayton with boardwalks, tracks and wetland rehabilitation, there is potential for further enhancement and provision for water sports.
  - Tokuremoar Reserve. A Management Plan has been developed for the reserve that highlights the Indigenous and cultural significance of the site, the importance of protecting the area and the potential for low impact passive recreation, interpretative and nature based tourism experiences.
  - Alexandrina Coastal Park. This park includes the cycle track and council owned land from the border in Port Elliot through to the Murray Mouth. It includes sections of Basham’s Beach Regional Park and Tokuremoar Reserve. A concept plan has been developed and more specific planning and works is required to meet plan objectives.
  - Basham’s Beach Regional Park. This area has been developed to include a track, seating and interpretation material. There is potential for further enhancement of the area, and this can be achieved through the management Trust.
  - The proposed Victor Harbor Railway Precinct. Plans have been developed to guide the re-development of the railway precinct so that there is greater support of commercial and visitor activity in this historically significant precinct.
  - The proposed Victor Harbor Foreshore Coastal Park. Planning has been undertaken to guide the management and enhancement of the foreshore as a natural asset and an interface with the Encounter Bay Marine Reserve. The proposed area extends from Chiton Rocks in the east to Kings Head in the west, connecting to the Heysen Trail cliff top walking trail west to Newland Head Conservation Park. Recreation opportunities include the rehabilitation of areas, the development of trails and the provision of infrastructure to support recreation activity.
  - The Inman River Estuary and the Hindmarsh River Estuary, which are on the Australian Heritage Register and provide water based and land based recreation opportunities.
  - The National Parks, Conservation Parks and State Forests located across the region such as the Coorong National Park, Deep Creek Conservation Park, Second Valley Forest and Newland Head Conservation Park.

There will be other regional resources that can be identified. For example, in Yankalilla Council there is Deep Creek Conservation Park which provides a focus for camping, walking and other recreation activities, Yankalilla Bay Dunes and sections of the coastline linked to towns such as Rapid Bay, Second Valley and Cape Jervis. These and other items should be considered following coastal planning that is being undertaken for Yankalilla Council.

There may be potential to enhance towns as visitor destinations as well as providing infrastructure to support recreation such as tracks, boating facilities and amenities.
Diversity with Connections

Retaining the Region’s Diversity and Uniqueness

- The Southern Fleurieu Region has the potential to remain a unique and diverse environment that is highly valued for its natural resources, quality of lifestyle and diversity of recreation and visitor experiences. With commitment from the three Councils and support from the State government, the region can continue to enhance its natural resources, manage development to retain the unique character of the area and provide quality lifestyle and recreation opportunities. This is an overall opportunity and challenge for the region.

- There is potential to identify land within and around towns that is considered to be valuable to the identity of townships and the character of the region and should be retained for open space. This land should be formally identified and protected within Development Plans through a Plan Amendment Report process and appropriately zoned to maintain the open space character of the land.

Enhancing Trails and Linkages

- There is an opportunity to establish and enhance key trails across the region that support walking, cycling and horse riding activities linking natural attractions and townships. The trails would provide an important recreation resource for people living in metropolitan Adelaide and the surrounding areas, as well as people living in the region. Some ideas that have been raised in the study include:
  - Identifying and retaining road reserves to enable the development of trails in the future (there is a concern that road reserves will be sold off and opportunities will be lost). Alexandrina Council has already undertaken a study to identify and determine the management of undeveloped road reserves.
  - Improved directional and interpretive signage.
  - Additional tracks that are suitable for horse riding, linked to recreation destinations and equestrian facilities. The rural character of the area and the existence of road reserves could provide a number of opportunities for safe off road horse riding.
  - Improvements to the Encounter Bikeway, including signage, some off road sections to replace on road and the potential to extend this bikeway to link to the Mawson Trail.
  - The upgrade of various existing trails linked to natural areas such as sections of the Heysen Trail and trails in the Deep Creek Conservation Park.
  - More clearly identifying the commencement of the Heysen Trail at Cape Jervis.
  - A review of land ownership and future access to the Heysen Trail.
  - The integration of the Battunga Trails within a trail network.
  - Trails along the river systems, including Hindmarsh River and Inman River with a connection loop between the two rivers.
  - A pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the Inman River near Kent Reserve.
  - A track from the Bluff to Kings Beach Road to link to the Heysen Trail.
  - Adoption of other trails recommended in the Victor Harbor Foreshore Coastal Park Plan.
  - Extension of the track along the Angus River in Strathalbyn.
  - Potential coastland trail linked to Yoho Creek (Yankalilla Council area).
  - Tracks linked to urban areas, such as in Carrickalinga along the coastline.
  - A linear park connecting Yankalilla and Normanville to Bungala Creek (Bungala Linear Park).
Quality Facilities and Spaces

Planning for Aquatic and Indoor Facilities

• There could be potential to establish an indoor aquatic centre in the vicinity of Victor Harbor through to Goolwa. However, the cost of developing a facility and the cost of operations may not be sustainable due to the population size and the spread of the population. Normally an indoor aquatic centre would require a population of between 20,000 and 50,000 to be viable, depending on the size of the facility and the components included (usually health and fitness components are used to subsidise pool operations). The City of Victor Harbor only has a population of 10,561. Whilst the population between Victor Harbor and Goolwa is around 18,000 and could possibly sustain a facility (that is designed or staged to reflect the demand), there is no guarantee that people will travel from Goolwa to Victor Harbor if a facility is located in Victor Harbor and visa versa is a facility is located in Goolwa. Whilst temporary residents and visitors can be considered, this population can not be relied on to sustain a facility all year round. Temporary residents and visitors should be seen as a ‘bonus’ market rather than part of the base catchment.

With the above in mind, the viability of an indoor aquatic centre in the region remains a key issue and it would not be appropriate for this Strategy to recommend a facility without a clear understanding of the appropriate location and feasibility. All this study can do is recognise the desire for a facility in the region and support further analysis to determine an approach that is feasible. The City of Victor Harbor has established a committee to further investigate the need and options are being considered by Alexandrina Council. Any planning should involve both councils. One thing to consider in further planning is that the population in Victor Harbor and Goolwa is expected to increase and as such a facility could be feasible in the future. The main issues will then be where to locate the facility to achieve greatest use and cater for as many people as possible, and the need to avoid duplication of provision by the City of Victor Harbor and Alexandrina Council. Future planning should also consider possible partnerships with the Department of Education and Children’s Services (DECS) and other relevant organisations such as health services.

• There is demand for health and fitness facilities in the region with existing facilities being small or not easily accessible. Health and fitness facilities provide an additional opportunity for people to exercise and are particularly valuable for young people, middle aged people and older people. If an aquatic facility is established in the region, there could be potential to integrate a health and fitness facility and contribute to subsidising the operations of a pool through such a facility.

• There is a need and potential to plan for indoor recreation and sport centres at a regional level and consider the appropriate level of provision linked to districts and the appropriateness of linking with schools. This could involve working with the Department of Education and Children’s Services (DECS) at the regional level to achieve consistency in facility provision, management and use where facilities are linked to schools. Some particular opportunities identified in the consultations include:
  - Potential redevelopment of Port Elliot Primary School and the Port Elliot Showgrounds site (which could include an indoor facility and sporting grounds).
  - The suggestion to consider selling and relocating the Strathalbyn public schools to link to a new sportsground and indoor recreation and sport centre as part of the Langhorne Creek Road site development.

• There is a need and potential to plan in a coordinated manner for performing arts at the regional level, otherwise facilities that are not viable could be located across the region due to pressure from individual communities. This could include establishing a hierarchy of facilities, where multi-purpose community and recreation centres are planned to have the capacity to cater for a certain level of performing arts activity.
Providing a Focus for Equestrian

- There is potential to strengthen the equestrian focus of the region, particularly in Strathalbyn. This could be achieved by enhancing the Polo Ground in Strathalbyn through the Management Trust, establishing a number of key horse riding trails around the region and building the range and profile of equestrian events in the region, including through the trotting and racing facilities.

Retaining Recreation Zoned Land

- The need to retain recreation zoned land has been raised as a particular concern for the City of Victor Harbor, where there is a proposal to develop a TAFE campus on a key section of recreation zoned land. Whilst the development of an education precinct is supported within the Council, the loss of key recreation land has also been raised as a concern. One solution could be to allocate a section of land along the river (say within the 1:100 year flood zone) that will remain for recreation and additional key recreation facilities could be incorporated within the TAFE development. Overall, an integrated approach to education and recreation provision could be adopted. Whilst this issue relates to the City of Victor Harbor, the broader issue of developing recreation zoned land will be regional and there could be potential to establish a regional guideline.

Guiding Open Space Provision in New Development

- There is need for a formal guideline that clearly states the type and quality of land that should be allocated for open space as part of new developments. One guideline could be developed for the whole region and included in the Development Plan of each Council. This also highlights the potential to undertake a PAR (Plan Amendment Report) at the regional level to achieve a consistent and formalised approach to open space provision and the allocation of recreation zoned land. There are a number of examples of existing guidelines that could be drawn on at the operational level. For example, Western Australia Department of Planning may have a ‘Liveable Neighbourhood Code’ that could be further investigated.
Participation

Addressing Participation Issues

- Declining numbers of players and sporting clubs facing financial difficulty due to this and rising costs are issues across the region. Sporting groups could work together to discuss the issues and develop strategies that will assist clubs to build their membership and their financial situation. A regional approach could be adopted to address the issue and groups could consider changes in practices, linking together to hold and promote events and combining operations where appropriate.

- A regional approach could be adopted to encourage greater levels of physical activity, particularly by older people, and to support social connectiveness across the region. This could include establishing and promoting a number of participation and community involvement projects that are provided at the local level but have a regional theme and purpose. There could be a number of regular activity events that target local communities.
Coordinated Implementation

Strengthening Cooperative Planning and Provision

- There is potential for the local Councils to continue to work together on planning and projects. This already occurs with a regional coordinator for young people and a number of projects that have been jointly contributed to in the past. The relationship could be further strengthened, with Councils considering a financial contribution to facilities located in another Council area, e.g. if there can be a regional aquatic and fitness centre that caters for the City of Victor Harbor and the coastal areas of Alexandrina Council.

Linking to Strategic Planning

- There is potential to reflect open space and recreation needs and opportunities as part of the strategic planning process undertaken in each Council area. This includes the potential to reflect the findings of this study in Plan Amendment Reports relating to urban development or recreation provision. Whilst this would most likely be undertaken at the local council level, Plan Amendment Reports that place an emphasis on future open space and recreation provision would have a regional implication. Yankalilla Council is about to develop a Plan Amendment Report (PAR) to guide future new development and this should include the appropriate provision of open space. This study has the potential to influence that PAR.

Working with Communities

- There is a strong sense of community in a number of towns across the region and potential to work in partnership with the communities. This is particularly apparent in the smaller towns and in the Yankalilla Council area. The community interest and potential partnership can be linked to regional as well as local projects, such as the Dune Care/Coast Care Group supporting regional and local projects with grant funding. Incentives, assistance and recognition could be provided by both local councils and state government to support motivated communities.

Seeking Funding Opportunities

- Given the lack of resources available to Yankalilla Council for developing infrastructure, it may be possible for the Council to obtain State government grant funding with a smaller contribution from the Council. This request could be supported by the other Councils on the basis that the enhancement of resources and areas in Yankalilla Council will contribute to the positive image of the region and the provision of a greater diversity of recreation opportunities and visitor experiences.

- The idea of obtaining developer contributions to contribute to the development of recreation facilities (in terms of the provision of land) was raised as an opportunity. People believe that a greater emphasis should be placed on achieving developments that have a social benefit and add to quality of life and that developers should play a lead role in achieving this.

- Higher levels of State government funding could be sought across the region where projects and resources are supporting visitors as well as local residents. It could be argued that local rate payers should not fund all facilities that support visitors. Whilst visitors bring an economic benefit to a region, the issue for the Southern Fleurieu is the proximity to metropolitan Adelaide and the fact that a large proportion of day visitors are attracted to the region and expenditure by these people is less.