
**Southern Fleurieu
Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy**



Final Report

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Suter & Associates Leisure & Tourism Planners

with Jensen Planning & Design

DISCLAIMER

The preparation of the Southern Fleurieu Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy is in no way a commitment from the South Australian Government or the three Local Councils in the region, i.e. Alexandrina Council, the City of Victor Harbor or Yankalilla Council to provide funds or make any contribution now or in the future.

PROJECT INPUT



Input and feedback has been provided by the Southern Fleurieu Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy Project Management Committee throughout the study. The members included:

Name	Organisation
Fraser Keegan, Project Manager	Office for Recreation and Sport
James Scheer	Planning SA
Ben Green	Alexandrina Council
Brian Doman	City of Victor Harbor
David Read	City of Victor Harbor
Brian Irvine	Yankalilla Council
Doug Stevenson	Fleurieu Health Service
Organisation input	Transport SA

Input to the Southern Fleurieu Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy has also been provided by Local Council staff and councillors, government agencies and representative groups, the Fleurieu Alliance Group, sport and community representatives and other stakeholders through the consultations.

The reports have been prepared by:

Suzanne Suter
Principal
Suter and Associates Leisure and Tourism Planners

The consultations, research and strategy development have been undertaken by:

- *Suter and Associates Leisure and Tourism Planners with*
- *Jensen Planning & Design*

Key Actions Progressed have been undertaken by both Suter and Associates Leisure and Tourism Planners and Jensen Planning & Design.

REPORT CONTENTS

The report contains three main components as follows:

1. The Strategy Plan
2. Background and Findings
3. Key Actions Progressed, i.e.:
 - Activity Node Plan
 - Guidelines for Open Space and Draft Statement of Intent for Plan Amendment Report
 - Southern Fleurieu Trails Plan

An Executive Summary is also provided (following this page).

The specific content and page numbers are included at the commencement of each component.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Reason for the Strategy

The Southern Fleurieu Region is a unique and diverse place that appeals to a range of age groups as a place to live and a place to visit. The coastal environment, natural resources, rural and coastal towns and many recreation and sport opportunities all contribute to the unique character and appeal of the region.

The character of the population is also diverse with the need to cater for an increasing number of residents, temporary residents in holiday homes and visitors. Whilst older people represent a large proportion of the population, young people and families are also significant groups.

The value of the environment, the diverse needs of the population, the continuing development of the region and the strong focus on recreation and sport are all key reasons for developing the Southern Fleurieu Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy.

The Strategy determines what is important to the region and what should be done in the future. It will contribute to enhancing the environment, meeting the needs and guiding the future provision for recreation and sport. Most importantly, the Strategy determines the future priorities for the region regarding recreation, sport and open space and encourages a coordinated approach to addressing the issues and opportunities.

The Main Issues

A number of issues have been identified for the region through consultation with the local councils, community, sport and recreation groups and state government bodies and other research. These are outlined in the Background and Findings and form the basis of the Strategy. The main issues relate to:

- The need to maintain and enhance natural resources including the coastline, the river systems, wetlands, Lake Alexandrina and bushland. This includes through managed recreation access and use.
- The desire to maintain the identity of towns and local government areas. This includes retaining land as a buffer between towns that are at risk of connecting through development.
- The need to improve amenities, infrastructure, signage, interpretation and trail systems in key recreation areas.
- The demand for significant facilities such as an indoor aquatic facility, health and fitness facilities, indoor sport and recreation centres and performing arts facilities. The main issue is the ability of the population size to sustain facilities.
- The need to cater for different age groups including older people, young people, children and young and middle aged adults. In addition, there is the issue of catering for temporary residents and visitors as well as permanent residents.
- Difficulties experienced by sport and recreation groups such as declining numbers of players and volunteers and increasing costs.
- Issues with access and transport and the need to link transport to significant facilities, open space and programs.
- The lack of resources to undertake projects, particularly for Yankalilla Council which has a small rate base.

Themes for the Region

The following themes provide a framework for addressing the issues and priorities that are of importance to the region. The themes are further explained in the 'Background and Findings'.

Theme 1 Natural Attractions

Maintain the quality and appeal of natural attractions through appropriate infrastructure and managed access.

Theme 2 Diversity with Connection

Maintain the uniqueness and diversity of the local government areas and townships but also establish linkages that strengthen the connections across the region.

Theme 3 Quality Facilities and Spaces

Achieve quality facilities and open spaces that are feasible, important to the community and appropriately located, with resources being allocated to the priorities.

Theme 4 Participation

Contribute to the lifestyle and well being of all groups in the community through the availability of a diversity of experiences and activity opportunities.

The Strategies and Actions

A small number of strategies have been developed for each theme to guide the focus for the Southern Fleurieu Region for the next 5 years or so regarding recreation, sport and open space. The strategies are summarised below and the related issues and rationale for each strategy are included in the Strategy Plan. A further strategy has been developed to guide 'Implementation'.

<i>1. Natural Attractions</i>	1.1 Manage and enhance the natural environment to maintain the appeal and values of the environment and support unique recreation opportunities
<i>2. Diversity with Connection</i>	2.1 Retain and establish open spaces, facilities and environments that define and enhance the character and identity of townships and surrounding areas 2.2 Strengthen the physical, social and economic links between the local council areas and towns associated with recreation, sport and open space
<i>3. Quality Facilities and Spaces</i>	3.1 Prioritise, develop and upgrade sport and recreation facilities that are sustainable 3.2 Plan for and establish quality multi-purpose facilities in key locations to cater for recreation and community needs (where feasible) 3.3 Adopt a proactive approach to planning for future recreation, sport and open space
<i>4. Participation</i>	4.1 Adopt a coordinated and consistent approach to providing a range of recreation based programs and events for priority groups in the community 4.2 Adopt practices that support people to participate in a range of sports and are consistent with the population profile and lifestyle trends in the region
<i>5. Implementation</i>	5.1 Develop across-region structures and processes that support a coordinated approach to the implementation of initiatives and achieve outcomes that will benefit the region

Actions have been developed for each strategy and these are included in the Strategy Plan.

The actions more specifically state:

- Facilities or facility types that require review, provision or upgrade.
- Open space that could be considered for enhancement.
- Further planning that is required to guide facility, open space and trail development.
- Directions for the allocation of land for recreation and buffers.
- Events, projects and programs that could be considered.
- Actions required for implementation.

A number of higher priority actions have been identified and each Local Council has considered their top 5 priorities. These are listed in the Strategy Plan.

It is important to note that the Strategy and Action Plan do not commit the local councils, state government or any other organisation or group to fund or resource a strategy or action. Instead they will guide organisations on priorities in the region as funds and resources are available.

Progressing Priority Actions

Three actions have been progressed as part of the Southern Fleurieu Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy.

These actions are:

- A plan for Activity Nodes, outlining regional and other activity nodes and providing guidelines for their future development - 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 – Action 3.3.1.
- A Trails Plan for the Southern Fleurieu Region that identifies key trails and priorities - Action 2.2.1.

Implementing the Strategy

The Southern Fleurieu Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy will require a coordinated approach to implementation. This will be more achievable if a Regional Implementation Group is established with representatives from the local councils, other relevant organisations and the community. Such a group will encourage greater communication across the region and reduce the risk of duplicating facilities and services.

The strategies and actions should also be reflected in other plans and resources should be allocated through budgets and other funding. Overall, a commitment from each of the local councils in the region and other key organisations will be required to enhance opportunities for recreation, sport and open space and to achieve significant and consistent outcomes for the Southern Fleurieu Region.