

District Council of

Grant



Advocacy Plan 2026



*Every dollar invested in the
District Council of Grant delivers
exponential returns: feeding the
nation, powering industry, and
inspiring visitors.*



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Introduction

The District Council of Grant is a strategic regional hub where agriculture, industry, and lifestyle intersect, underpinning South Australia's largest provincial city. Located midway between Adelaide and Melbourne, the region offers national connectivity, enabling efficient supply chains, and a strong regional influence, making it a pivotal base for investment, production, and growth.

Agriculture remains the backbone of the region, centered on by the Mount Gambier and District Saleyards — a significant economic drawcard and a hub of social cohesion for farming communities. This strength is matched by the largest rock lobster (crayfish) industry in the southern hemisphere, supported by tuna and abalone sourced from the pristine continental shelf. Plantation forestry, livestock, dairy, and grain industries, along with a growing viticulture base, contribute to a diverse and resilient food and fibre economy that drives the state's regional prosperity.

District Council of Grant's extraordinary natural assets anchor its tourism base. Dramatic sinkholes, world-renowned diving caves, vast forests, and an unspoiled coastline offer unforgettable visitor experiences, providing strong opportunities to expand both domestic and international visitor markets.

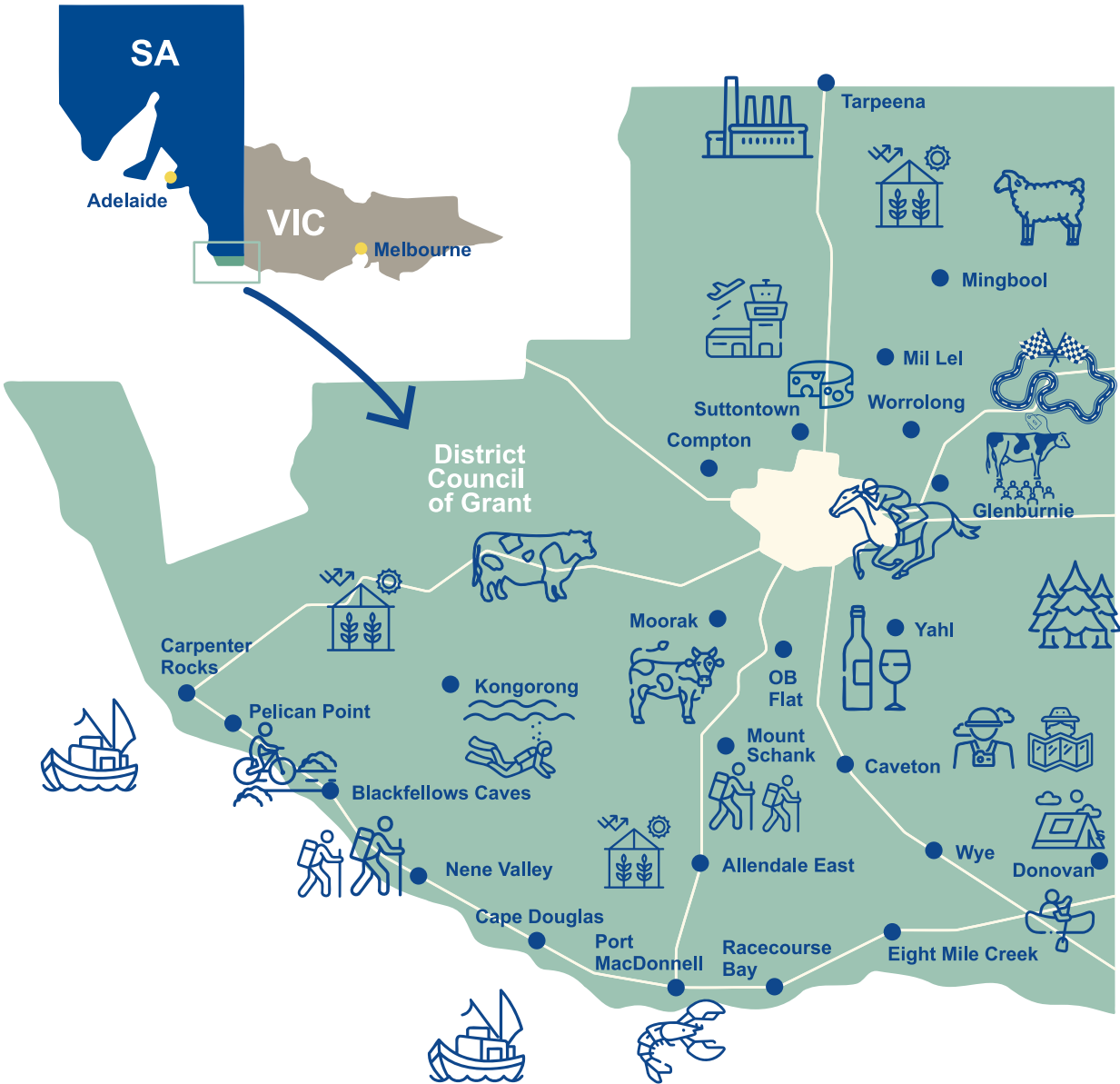


The Opportunity

The District Council of Grant is a region that feeds the nation, produces the timber that builds it, and exports food and fibre to the world. Its enabling infrastructure drives government and private investment multiples — the region is affordable, productive, and of national significance.

Every dollar invested grows, supporting a food and fibre powerhouse, a growing manufacturing base, and world-class visitor experiences. With the population projected to grow by 12.5 per cent by 2041, the district is affordable, liveable, and primed for growth.

Governments can secure the future of Australia’s food and fibre industries, create jobs, drive innovation in value-added manufacturing, protect valuable natural assets, build nationally significant tourism and lifestyle opportunities, all whilst strengthening national resilience and reducing sovereign risk.



Advocacy Plan

A blueprint for partnership, designed to support the region’s partners and decision-makers in delivering transformative projects.

	Request	Timeframe
Mount Gambier & District Saleyards	\$7.5M	Shovel ready
Mount Gambier Regional Airport Screening	\$1.5M CapEx \$1.37M OpEx	Shovel ready
Community Wastewater Management System (Donovans)	\$4M	Fit for Delivery
Sink Hole Master Plan	\$500,000	Primed
Connective Trails Master (Limestone Coast region)	\$200,000	Fund to Activate

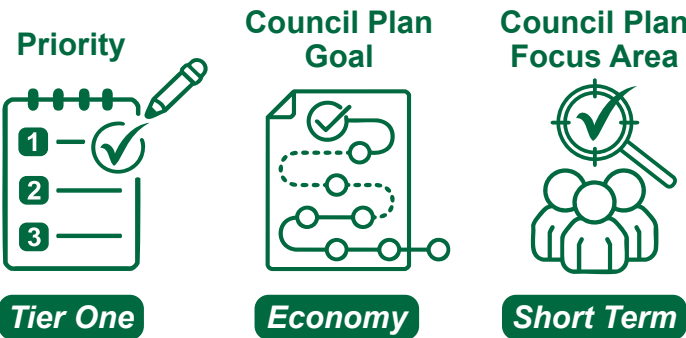


Mount Gambier & District Saleyards

Current Status

Ready for Implementation

Shovel-ready will commence once additional funding of **\$7.5 Million** is secured



Rationale

The Mount Gambier & District Saleyards are a vital regional asset, underpinning the livestock industry across the Limestone Coast and Western Victoria and supporting \$100 million in trade each year. The redevelopment will modernise facilities, enhance biosecurity and welfare standards. By upgrading the facility, the project will ensure the long-term sustainability of a critical regional supply chain hub, supporting agriculture, transportation, and export trade.

Objectives

The project will enhance biosecurity, animal welfare, and traceability standards, strengthen the livestock supply chain and support primary production and export readiness. It will also future-proof regional infrastructure to ensure long-term compliance with evolving national standards.

Economic Benefits

- Supports more than 126 jobs through construction and ongoing operations.
- Generates significant flow-on benefits for transport, feed suppliers, and regional businesses.
- Strengthens the region’s position as a central cross-border agribusiness hub.
- Drives economic resilience and regional growth through improved infrastructure efficiency.

Call To Action

Secure federal funding to modernise the region’s livestock exchange and safeguard the future of South Australia’s premier agricultural hub.

Social/Community Benefits

- Enhances animal welfare and safety of staff, facility users, producers and visitors.
- Improves operational efficiency and user experience for producers and buyers.
- Builds community confidence in sustainable, modern agricultural practices.
- Reinforces the role of Mount Gambier as a regional employment and service centre.



Alignment

Alignment with the South Australian Regional Development Strategy, Limestone Coast Regional Growth Plan, and the National Agricultural Traceability Strategy 2023. Supports regional infrastructure priorities under the Growing Regions Program and Future Made in Australia policies.

The Risk of Not Investing?

Failure to invest in the saleyards upgrade will risk non-compliance with evolving national animal welfare and biosecurity standards, undermining producer confidence, regional market competitiveness and export trade. Without this investment, the region’s position as a premier cross-border livestock selling hub will erode, resulting in diminished returns for local producers and transport operators, as well as reduced employment and growth opportunities across the agricultural supply chain.

“ This investment will provide producers with confidence that their animals are treated ethically and support buyers in supplying both domestic and international customers with a product that upholds the highest welfare and quality standards, securing supply chain confidence. Modernised saleyards are critical to securing the long-term future of these facilities and the broader red meat industry, securing the future for our local farmers. ”

Chair Mount Gambier Combined Agents
- Andrew Whan

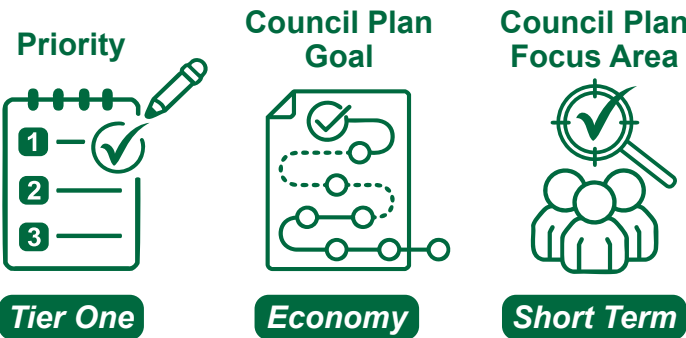


Mount Gambier Regional Airport - Screening

Current Status

Ready for Implementation

Shovel-ready will commence with the funding of
\$1.5 Million Capital
\$1.37 Million Recurrent



Rationale

Mount Gambier Regional Airport is the key aviation hub for the Limestone Coast, providing essential links for business, tourism, and emergency services. Installation of compliant security screening infrastructure is required to meet federal aviation standards and sustain commercial passenger operations. Without this investment, the region faces the risk of disrupted air services and reduced connectivity, both critical to its economic and social well-being.

Objectives

Ensure compliance with Commonwealth aviation security regulations / Sustain regional air services / Strengthen resilience of local tourism, manufacturing, and freight networks.

Economic Benefits

- Secures the continued operation of commercial air services, which are vital for business and tourism.
- Protects local jobs and supports aviation, freight, and visitor economies.
- Avoids costly disruptions and maintains investor confidence in regional logistics.
- Stimulates construction and service-sector activity linked to airport operations.

Call To Action

Fund and deliver compliant security screening to protect the Limestone Coast's air connectivity and regional economic lifeline.

Social and Community Benefits

- Retains reliable regional air access for residents, businesses, and emergency services.
- Improves passenger, community and staff safety and confidence.
- Supports equitable access to transport for regional communities.
- Sustains tourism growth and community connectivity across the Limestone Coast.



Alignment

Alignment with the Aviation White Paper 2024, South Australian Strategic Infrastructure Plan, and Limestone Coast Regional Transport Strategy. It is also consistent with national objectives for equitable regional access and aviation security compliance.



The Risk of Not Investing?

Failure to secure funding for airport screening infrastructure will jeopardise commercial air services and compromise regional connectivity. The withdrawal or downgrading of passenger flights would isolate the Limestone Coast from key business, health, and tourism networks, eroding investor confidence, increasing travel costs, and limiting access to essential services for regional communities.



The LCLGA recognises the Mount Gambier Regional Airport as a key piece of transport infrastructure with regional significance. It is a vital gateway to the Limestone Coast for industry, tourism, and the community. Strong, prosperous communities are safe and connected communities. Connecting our region by air is crucial to our social and economic prosperity. Still, that connection brings the unavoidable safety risks that come with nationally connected passenger air services. The LCLGA believes that the financial costs associated with risk management of a nationally integrated network should be addressed at a national level. As we look to grow South Australian regional population hubs, the viability of regional airports shouldn't even be in question.

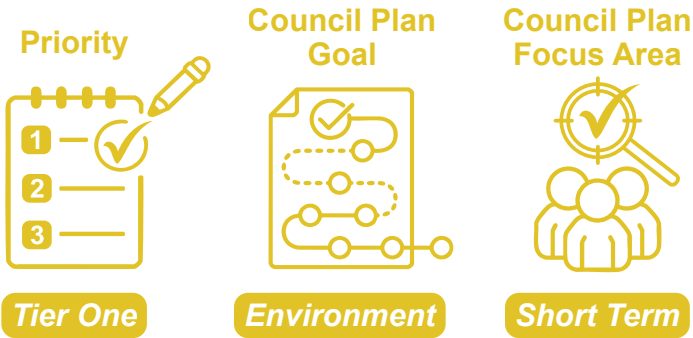
Lynette Martin OAM
President | Limestone Coast LGA

Community Wastewater Management System (Donovans)

Current Status

Ready for Implementation

Shovel-ready will commence with the funding of **\$4.5 Million Capital**



Rationale

The Donovans Shacks CWMS project addresses critical environmental and health risks from unmanaged wastewater systems along the Glenelg River. The initiative proposes a compliant, low-impact wastewater solution serving Donovans Landing, Dry Creek and Reed Bed, ensuring the long-term sustainability of shack tenure while protecting sensitive river ecosystems and water quality.

Objectives

The project will protect the water quality and environmental health of the Glenelg River while enabling secure tenure for shack owners. It supports compliance with State and EPA standards and enhances the community’s overall liveability and public safety.

Economic Benefits

- Ensures tenure arrangements and confidence for shack owners
- Stimulates local construction and contracting activity during the build phase.
- Improves the value and sustainability of shack assets.
- Supports regional tourism by protecting environmental amenity.

Call To Action

Invest in critical wastewater infrastructure to protect the Glenelg River and secure sustainable shack communities.

Social Benefits

- Protects river health and biodiversity through improved wastewater management.
- Enhances public health outcomes for residents and visitors.
- Provides security for shack owners through tenure compliance.
- Demonstrates environmental leadership in small-community infrastructure delivery.



Alignment

Alignment with the South Australian CWMS Program, SA Water Industry Act 2012, and Limestone Coast Regional Wastewater Strategy. Supports sustainable regional infrastructure goals under the State Infrastructure Strategy 2020.



Failure to Invest

Failure to deliver the CWMS project will prolong environmental and public health risks to the Glenelg River and surrounding communities. Non-compliance with State and EPA regulations could trigger enforcement action, threaten the security of shack tenure, and damage the Council’s reputation for responsible environmental management, while undermining the long-term sustainability of riverfront tourism and recreation. Without investment, this community will be lost.



This project is about safeguarding the future of the Glenelg River and the community that’s grown around it. A modern, compliant wastewater system will protect our river, secure tenure for these iconic shacks, and give families the confidence to continue investing in and enjoying this special place for generations. We urge the South Australian Government to help us and fund this essential infrastructure – it’s an investment in both environmental protection and regional heritage. We have groundswell support from the southeast community, and our association is made up of passionate members who need to have wastewater services to ensure long-term leases.

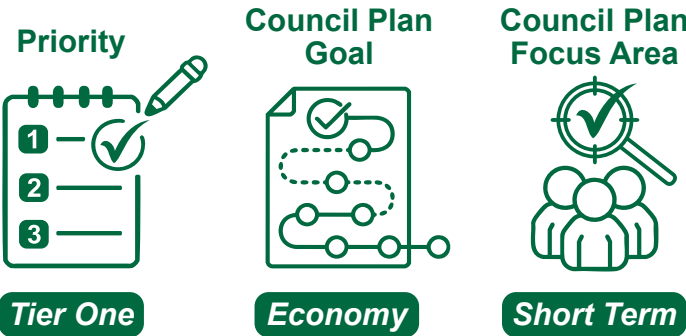
Brett Orr
President | Glenelg Shack Owners Association

Sink Hole Master Plan

Current Status

Ready for Implementation

Shovel-ready will commence with the funding of **\$500,000**



Rationale

The Sinkhole Masterplan will deliver a coordinated framework to protect, manage, and activate the region’s world-class sinkholes and karst landscapes, with a priority focus on the amenity of Little Blue Lake. By enhancing access, safety, and interpretation, the plan will position the Limestone Coast as a premier nature-based tourism destination, while supporting environmental conservation and community education.

Objectives

The project will leverage the region’s unique natural assets to strengthen the visitor economy, protect and manage its environmental heritage, and attract private investment through coordinated and sustainable destination development.

Economic Benefits

- Stimulates private investment in eco-tourism infrastructure.
- Diversifies the regional tourism economy beyond traditional sectors.
- Creates local employment in tourism, design, and environmental management.
- Enhances long-term regional economic resilience through visitor growth.

Call To Action

Fund the masterplan to unlock the Limestone Coast’s world-class sinkhole network as a leading nature-based tourism destination.

Social Benefits

- Encourages community pride and stewardship of natural assets.
- Improves visitor experience, safety, and accessibility.
- Promotes environmental awareness and education.
- Fosters sustainable tourism consistent with conservation principles.



Alignment

Alignment with the South Australian Visitor Economy Plan 2030, Limestone Coast Destination Development Plan, and Infrastructure SA Regional Strategy / Supports the Growing Regions and Nature-Based Tourism Investment Frameworks.



“ Right now, the lack of facilities is creating real health and safety risks. Toilets are not a luxury – they are an essential part of making sure this attraction can cope with the number of visitors it welcomes. Sustainable tourism doesn’t mean compromising the environment. This plan will ensure the sinkholes are protected, while enabling people to experience these special places safely and responsibly. ”

Graham Kilsby
Kilsby Sinkhole

Failure to Invest

Without investment in the Sinkhole Masterplan, the region risks unmanaged visitor activity, environmental degradation, and the loss of significant economic opportunities tied to nature-based tourism. Failure to act will weaken the Limestone Coast’s competitive advantage as a unique geological destination, limiting private investment and employment potential in the eco-tourism and conservation sectors.

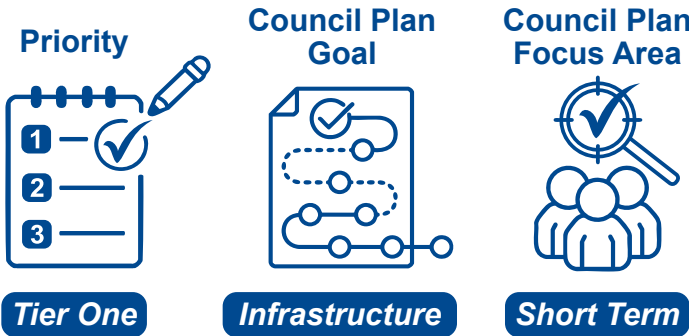


Connective Trails Master Plan (Limestone Coast)

Current Status

Ready for Implementation

Detailed design will commence with funding of **\$250,000**



Rationale

The Coonawarra to Port MacDonnell Trail will establish a coastal trail corridor linking key communities and attractions. The project promotes active transportation, healthy lifestyles, and regional tourism, providing new opportunities for small towns to benefit from the growth of eco-tourism.

Objectives

The project will enhance regional connectivity through new active transport links, stimulating local tourism and business opportunities while improving community wellbeing and overall liveability across the Limestone Coast.

Economic Benefits

- Expands the visitor economy through cycle tourism.
- Encouraging longer stays and higher yield by promoting multi-day touring and trail-based itineraries.
- Supports local businesses in accommodation, retail, and hospitality.
- Strengthens cross-council collaboration and planning consistency.
- An activation project aligned to the Limestone Coast Regional Trails strategic objectives.
- Lays the foundation for future investment in the regional trail network.

Call To Action

Support planning investment to connect coastal communities and build a signature trail for the region.

Social Benefits

- Encourages active lifestyles and well-being for residents and visitors.
- Improves connectivity between coastal communities.
- Enhances access to natural and cultural attractions.
- Builds community identity and pride through shared regional infrastructure.



Alignment

Alignment with the South Australian Cycling Strategy 2030, Limestone Coast Regional Trails Master Plan, and National Active Transport Strategy. Supports regional health, recreation, and tourism priorities.



Failure to Invest

Failure to invest in the connective trails will mean the region misses a generational opportunity to grow its cycling and eco-tourism markets. Without a coordinated coastal route, small towns will continue to lose visitor spending and connections, and the Limestone Coast will fall behind comparable regions that are capitalising on active transport and recreation investments.



“ A connected coastal trail will bring people to our cafes, accommodation and attractions – it’s an investment that will support keeping visitors in our region longer. ”

Ashlee Brion
Tide Espresso Café Owner





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