



Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula, Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association, and Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board

**REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN**

*V7 March 2018*

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**ACRONYMS**

The following acronyms are used in this report:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ABS** | Australian Bureau of Statistics |
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| **CEO** | Chief Executive Officer |
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| **DEWNR** | Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources |
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| **DIDO** | Drive-in-drive-out |
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| **EPICCA** | Eyre Peninsula Integrated Climate Change Agreement |
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| **EPLGA** | Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association |
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| **EPNRM** | Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board |
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| **FIFO** | Fly-in-fly-out |
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| **GRP** | Gross Regional Product |
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| **LGA** | Local Government Association |
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| **LGASA** | Local Government Association of South Australia |
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| **NDIS** | National Disability Insurance Scheme |
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| **NRM** | Natural Resources Management |
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| **RDSA** | Regional Development South Australia |
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| **RDAWEP** | Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula |
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| **TAFE** | Technical and Further Education |





**PREFACE**

Preface to be prepared by the Board Chairs when the Regional Strategic Plan has been endorsed.

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| **Bryan Trigg**  **Chairperson**  **Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula** | **Diana Laube**  **Presiding Member**  **Eyre Peninsula Natural resources Management Board** | **Bruce Green**  **President**  **Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association** |

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula (RDAWEP), the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association (EPLGA), and the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management (EPNRM) Board are lead agencies in the Eyre and Western Strategic Planning Region. These organisations have region-wide planning responsibilities.

The three organisations see great opportunity in gaining improved regional development outcomes through establishing a Joint Planning Board to drive regional governance. The preparation of a new *Regional Strategic Plan* is critical to this initiative. The Plan will enable the organisations to advocate collectively with a single voice, and take a collaborative approach to achieve more effective long-term regional development outcomes.

The Plan proposes whole-of-region strategies to support the regional governance arrangement. The strategies are presented with summary rationale about their purpose and need, along with actions required to achieve the outcomes.

**Strategy Identification Process**

The strategies were derived by identifying priority alignment across the lead planning documents of the three organisations – i.e. the RDAWEP *Regional Plan 2014-16* and *Business Plan 2016-17*; EPNRM *Strategic Plan for the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Region 2017-2027*; and EPLGA *Corporate Plan 2016-19*. These plans were determined by extensive stakeholder engagement processes.

The alignment matches were adapted into comprehensive strategic statements to produce synergies for more effective inter-agency collaboration. The strategies, rationale and actions were reviewed and refined by the respective CEOs. Output area gaps were identified during this process, with new strategies and actions determined to cover omissions.

The Plan is structured in accordance with the four taskforce output areas proposed in the Joint Planning Board governance model – i.e. Community and Social Development, Economic Development, Governance and Operational Development, and Natural Resources Management.

**Regional Analysis**

The *Regional Strategic Plan* will be supported by a comprehensive *Regional Analysis* to provide the evidence base about the region’s development needs. The *Analysis* will be finalised when Expanded Community Profile data from the *2016 Census of Population and Housing* become available.

**Strategic Plan Implementation**

This *Draft Regional Strategic Plan* (Version 6) is prepared for consideration by the respective RDAWEP, EPLGA and EPNRM Boards and other key stakeholder parties. This version has been updated with the inclusion of relevant stakeholder feedback from the previous draft, and includes refinements to strategies that were identified during the process of preparing the format for the RDAWEP Performance Report on Outcomes.

Once the Plan is adopted by the three Boards, the regional organisations – under the guidance of the Joint Planning Board – will prepare action timeframes, budgets and resource requirements to implement the Plan. It is proposed that the three organisations will use a single format to report on the implementation progress. The reporting timeframes will comply with existing arrangements for each organisation.

The Plan will be reviewed every 5 years. This will synchronise with ABS Census timeframes and ensure that the latest demographic data are used to inform planning decisions.

**2. REGIONAL STRATEGIES, RATIONALE and ACTIONS**

**2.1 Community and Social Development**

**KEY TERMS:** Skills training, workforce development, employment creation, Aboriginal development, workforce attraction, migration, decentralisation of government services, liveability, amenity, community infrastructure, NDIS, tertiary education, telecommunications.

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| **STRATEGIES** | **RATIONALE** | **ACTIONS** |

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| ***Employment and Skills*:**  **Support labour force participation and workforce development.** | Training programs are needed to provide human capital with the skills and capabilities required by industry for current operations and future growth.  The employment in some industries is predominantly part-time, seasonal and short-term. There is consequently a need to provide under-employed people with cross-industry and transferable skills to increase their employment hours across multiple industries.  The region has a relatively small population and an ageing workforce. Due to the pending retirement of ‘baby boomers’ and migration of young people to Adelaide for study and employment, the region does not have a sufficient population to provide the workforce needed for anticipated industry and economic growth. | * Maintain industry-based skills and employment networks in Port Lincoln, Whyalla and Ceduna to monitor and assess the skills needs of employers. |
| * Provide targeted training through RDAWEP skills and workforce development programs. |
| * Align the training provision with State Government employment creation priorities to enhance access to funding from government programs. |
| * Provide Career Development Services from Whyalla and Port Lincoln to enhance the work-readiness of unemployed and under-employed people. |
| * Pursue opportunities to attract and retain a skilled workforce. |

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| ***Indigenous Development:***  **Implement proactive strategies to enhance Aboriginal well-being, labour force participation, and economic development.** | In 2016, Aboriginal people comprised 5.6% of the regional population, which is notably above the proportions in South Australia (2.0%) and Australia (2.8%) The greatest concentration was in Ceduna, where Aboriginal people comprised 21.7% of the district population.  The region’s Aboriginal profile is consistent with studies about Aboriginal disadvantage which indicate that, compared with the non-Indigenous population, Aboriginal well-being is adversely affected by lower levels of educational attainment, lower labour force participation, higher levels of entrenched unemployment, and a disproportionately high percentage of unskilled and semi-skilled workers in the labour force.  Proactive strategies are required to reverse Aboriginal disadvantage, and improve the well-being of Aboriginal people. | * Support initiatives to improve Aboriginal community development, organisational development and governance. |
| * Provide opportunities to develop Aboriginal business enterprises, with a focus on tourism, cultural and land-related initiatives. |
| * Develop caring for country projects for Aboriginal people and communities. |
| * Support native title groups, traditional owners and Aboriginal communities to co-manage public land, manage natural resources, and record and manage sites of Aboriginal cultural significance. |
| * Support awareness raising activities about Aboriginal cultural knowledge and law. |

**2.1 Community and Social Development (Cont’d)**

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| **STRATEGIES** | **RATIONALE** | **ACTIONS** |

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| ***Social and Community Development*:**  **Develop social and community infrastructure and services.** | There is a need to improve the functionality and quality of recreational and cultural infrastructure, particularly in larger regional centres.  Improved community infrastructure and services will also enhance the liveability and amenity of townships and help to attract workforce families to the region.  Solutions need to be found to resolve Internet and mobile connectivity blackspots in the region. The lack of digital communication in some areas is impeding community functioning and access to online government and other services – including emergency services – and is preventing the use of social media platforms by the community and tourists. | * Assist Local Government and community groups to prepare business cases and grant applications for capex funding from government infrastructure programs. |
| * Encourage the development of multi-purpose community facilities providing civic, recreation, information, tourism, arts and cultural heritage services. |
| * Assist Local Government with initiatives to improve the functionality and amenity of regional towns including street scaping, signage, foreshore development, walking trails and the upgrade of town entrances. |
| * Work with government and telecommunications providers to improve mobile and Internet connectivity across the region. |
| * Encourage and support the delivery of strategic community events and activities, particularly in areas with high levels of tourism attraction. |

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| ***Tertiary Education*:**  **Pursue opportunities to grow tertiary education facilities and expand course provision.** | There is a trend to centralise tertiary education facilities and courses in Adelaide at the expense of the regions. The consequence is that more regional students now need to travel to Adelaide to study some courses and regional educational facilities are being underutilised. This is potentially detrimental to building regional capability because it is generally understood that regional students have much higher retention and pass rates when they do not need to travel to Adelaide for study.  The provision of better education facilities and greater course diversity will enhance the region’s tertiary education participation rates, which are low in comparison with the Adelaide population.  Improved ability to undertake tertiary courses locally, or online, may also help stem the migration of young people from the region. | * Liaise with the University of SA and Adelaide University about options to expand tertiary facilities and course provision in Whyalla. |
| * Collaborate with education providers in Whyalla to facilitate international student enrolment. |
| * Liaise with TAFE SA about options to expand facilities and course provision at the Whyalla, Port Lincoln, Ceduna and Wudinna TAFE campuses. |
| * Negotiate with TAFE SA about opportunities to provide employment-related, NRM and other training in smaller regional towns. |
| * Liaise with tertiary institutions about options to expand remote access to courses online. |

**2.1 Community and Social Development (Cont’d)**

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| **STRATEGIES** | **RATIONALE** | **ACTIONS** |

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| ***Health Services:***  **Facilitate collaborative approaches for the development and delivery of health, aged care, child care and disability services.** | Issues impacting on the delivery of health, aged care, child care and disability services need to be addressed, especially for disadvantaged sectors of the community.  This should include proactive initiatives to support community groups, facilitate increased community participation in decision making, and drive preventative health programs.  The formation of Disability Workforce Hubs in partnership with the State Government and other RDAs should be pursued as part of the NDIS roll-out to create employment and investment opportunities. | * Deliver targeted projects to support health, aged care, child care and disability services. |
| * Support the implementation of Public Health Plans to address emerging health issues, facilitate preventative health programs, and promote community connectivity and well-being. |
| * Support the implementation of the State and Local Government *Community Well-being Alliance* to promote the health and well-being of communities. |

**2.2 Economic Development**

**KEY TERMS:** Resource development, transport and communication infrastructure development, market access, industry and product diversity, value-adding, business sustainability.

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| **STRATEGIES** | **RATIONALE** | **ACTIONS** |

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| ***Infrastructure*:**  **Promote investment to develop strategic infrastructure and foster sustainable business.** | The provision of improved and new transport and communications infrastructure is essential to ensure that business operations are globally competitive and sustainable.  Substantial government and private sector investment is necessary to make supply chain infrastructure efficient and effective, provide access to new markets, and create new export opportunities.  Improved communication infrastructure is essential to enable business to develop online markets and operate competitively in the digital economy.  A proposed Ultra High Speed Broadband project in Whyalla will connect businesses to UniSA’s AARNet high speed optic fibre cable network. This will provide businesses with the capability to access Department of Defence and other project supply chains which utilise large data files. | * Facilitate infrastructure investment with government agencies and private sector companies. |
| * Prepare a regional transport strategy to develop road, rail, port and airport infrastructure. |
| * Facilitate the development of a multi-user Cape-class port facility. |
| * Facilitate the provision of container facilities in strategic locations. |
| * Connect the Eyre Peninsula to the national standard gauge rail network. |
| * Prepare a road infrastructure strategy to enhance road-train market access, and improve road safety for the community and tourists. |
| * Progress the upgrade of Ceduna, Port Lincoln and Whyalla airports to provide direct interstate connection capability for passengers and exports. |
| * Work with telecommunications providers and government to improve mobile and Internet connectivity and enhance online business operations. |

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| ***Business Diversity*:**  **Strengthen, foster and promote business diversity and productivity.** | The regional economy is extremely diverse, with numerous industries contributing to employment, exports and GRP. Greater diversity should be pursued to enhance and promote the region’s comparative advantages, provide resilience to global price impacts, and minimise the challenges of climate change.  This should include activities to strengthen the viability of existing industries – such as agriculture and manufacturing – and the development of new enterprises to showcase distinctive regional attributes - such as niche grain products; Aboriginal businesses; land and sea nature-based tourism initiatives; premium seafood and wines; and quality mineral resources. | * Pursue solutions to improve business innovation, skills development and viability. |
| * Work with Councils to introduce new businesses and product diversity and reduce economic dependence on traditional key industries. |
| * Support business, community and environmental value-adding initiatives. |
| * Pursue niche market opportunities with business and industry sectors. |
| * Facilitate and promote shared procurement initiatives to reduce recurrent operational costs and enhance competitiveness. |
| * Strengthen whole-of-region branding to promote the region’s diversity and unique characteristics. |

**2.2 Economic Development (Cont’d)**

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| **STRATEGIES** | **RATIONALE** | **ACTIONS** |

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| ***Tourism:***  **Facilitate sustainable development of the visitor economy.** | The tourism industry is substantially driven by the attraction of the coastline, sea and parks. The demand for nature-based experiences by tourists and local people provides opportunities for commercial development, however increasing user pressure risks degrading the condition of natural resources.  There is a need to proactively manage the use and development of natural resource destinations to ensure they remain attractive and in excellent condition.  Commercial development of the coast and parks needs to be sensitive and balanced with conservation, to ensure that natural resources are sustained in prime condition for future enjoyment by the community and visitors. | * Support local and regional partners implement tourism strategies, including the identification of areas for biodiversity protection, commercial development, and visitor use. |
| * Implement on-ground works to manage human impacts and enhance natural resources including fencing, signage, revegetation, erosion and pest controls, and access track rationalisation. |
| * Improve sustainable commercial and recreational use of tourism locations through the provision of visitor amenity infrastructure including camping sites, toilet facilities and walking trails. |
| * Raise awareness about the human impact on natural resources through education and interpretive signage. |
| * Partner with the tourism industry, Local Government and DEWNR to facilitate the sustainable growth of tourism. |

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| ***Water Resources*:**  **Manage and develop water resources to provide abundant quality supply for community and economic use.** | Water security is a key issue for the Eyre Peninsula due to limited supply from ground water basins and the River Murray.  There is a need to develop and manage water allocation plans to provide water supply security.  Water allocation planning should exceed the demand thresholds needed for survival, and aim to supply a sufficient quantity of water to catalyse economic development and population growth. | * Pursue water resources monitoring, planning and management via the Eyre Peninsula Water Taskforce. |
| * Support investigations to assess the technical viability and economic feasibility of augmenting the Eyre Peninsula’s water supplies. |
| * Liaise with government and private sector companies about water efficiency measures and alternative water supply solutions and technologies. |
| * Identify strategic water supply locations to maximise economic, community and environmental benefits. |
| * Pursue synergies by linking water supply solutions with regional energy planning strategies. |
| * Partner with Local Government on urban stormwater and waste water planning and implementation. |

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| ***Energy*:**  **Pursue solutions to provide a cost effective and secure power supply, and develop a low carbon economy.** | Energy security is a critical issue on the Eyre Peninsula, due to a low capacity power transmission system which does not provide sufficient supply to meet existing industry and community needs. The transmission infrastructure has also reached end of life predictions and needs to be replaced.  Numerous energy solutions are being explored, with preference for renewable generation and storage systems using solar, pumped hydro, and wave and wind energy. | * Prepare a regional energy strategy. |
| * Facilitate the replacement of the Eyre Peninsula power transmission system. |
| * Liaise with government and private sector companies about power supply solutions and alternative energy technologies. |
| * Support the development of renewable energy projects in strategic locations to maximise economic, community and environmental benefits. |

**2.2 Economic Development (Cont’d)**

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| **STRATEGIES** | **RATIONALE** | **ACTIONS** |

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| ***Mining – Mineral, Oil and Gas Resources*:**  **Facilitate the development of strategic mineral, oil and gas resource projects.** | The region has plentiful deposits if high quality mineral resources including magnetite, graphite, zircon and kaolin. Oil and gas exploration is also being undertaken on the land and sea. Mineral, oil and gas projects provide opportunities to diversify the regional economy, create employment, and bring flow-on economic and community development benefits to businesses and townships.  Mineral, oil and gas resource projects need careful assessment to ensure they do not pose irrevocable risk to the sustainable management of ecosystems and natural resources, or negatively impact on the productivity of industries that depend on pristine environmental conditions for their viability – e.g. agriculture, fishing, aquaculture and tourism. | * Assess the impact and benefits of proposed mineral, oil and gas projects. |
| * Inform the Agenda of the Eyre Peninsula Mineral and Energy Resources Community Development Taskforce. |
| * Prepare submissions as required to the Australian and South Australian Governments about the impact and benefits of mineral, oil and gas projects on the economy, community and the environment. |
| * Facilitate the improvement of supply chain, energy and water infrastructure to support resource projects that will bring long-term development benefits to the region. |
| * Make the health of the region’s ecosystems a primary consideration in economic development planning and deliberations of the Eyre Peninsula Mineral and Energy Resources Community Development Taskforce. |

**2.3 Governance and Operational Development**

**KEY TERMS:** Regional Planning Board, Regional Strategic Plan, partnerships, collaboration, joint projects, advocacy, value-adding services, effective regional development outcomes.

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| **STRATEGIES** | **RATIONALE** | **ACTIONS** |

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| ***Regional Governance*:**  **Implement regional governance initiatives to achieve better and longer-term regional development outcomes.** | Existing modes of government services delivery do not adequately address the development needs of South Australia’s regions.  Regional areas are typically comprised of numerous LGAs with an RDA responsible for regional economic development planning.  However, most of the Councils have small populations and thereby lack the critical mass and policy leverage to influence State and Australian Government decision-making. The consequence is that regional aspirations are often not heard, and regional development needs are not being met.  This dilemma is exacerbated in Councils with shrinking populations.  The intention of the regional governance initiative is to form a single Planning Board to drive the collective and agreed priorities of RDAWEP, EPLGA, and EPNRM and the 11 Councils and 58,000 people that occupy the Eyre Peninsula.  This will enable the region to advocate collectively with a single voice; better exploit its comparative advantage, and develop synergies to achieve more effective and longer-term regional development outcomes. | * Facilitate and support the establishment and operation of the Eyre and Western Region Joint Planning Board. |
| * Develop and manage partnerships with regional organisations, Local Government, and the Australian and State Governments. |
| * Facilitate collaborative regional planning initiatives with government, business and community stakeholders. |
| * Align the region’s development needs with Australian and State Government planning and economic priorities to improve access to funding from government programs. |
| * Implement collaborative project initiatives. |
| * Maintain and develop regional communication and engagement via marketing strategies, consultation plans, and performance measurement. |

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| **Advocate regional governance principles to government, business and community sectors.** | The regional governance approach for community and economic development proposes a new method of service delivery that may be challenging for some stakeholders.  The establishment process will require ongoing advocacy and marketing to increase understanding of the need for, principles and benefits of adopting regional governance. | * Provide presentations about the benefits of regional governance and regional planning at EPLGA, RDSA and LGASA meetings, conferences, and meetings with individual Councils. |
| * Give regional governance presentations to industry, business and community groups. |
| * Provide regional governance information and performance reports via links on the RDAWEP, EPNRM and EPLGA websites. |

**2.3 Governance and Operational Development (Cont’d)**

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| **STRATEGIES** | **RATIONALE** | **ACTIONS** |

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| **Develop value-adding Council services in liaison with LGASA.** | South Australia has six Regional Local Government Associations with different needs. The LGASA *Value Added Services Program* aims to accommodate tasks, address issues and achieve objectives that are particular to each Local Government Association.  The program requires Local Government Associations, Councils and the LGASA to work collaboratively and introduce new services to produce more effective outcomes in each region. | * Support improved regional delivery of services to LGA member Councils including procurement, education, training and risk services, and Local Excellence Reform initiatives. |
| * Work with Councils and the LGA to identify and scope new services to achieve efficiencies and more effective long term outcomes. |
| * Facilitate stronger Council collaborative projects. |
| * Coordinate and manage shared services initiatives including research, proposal development, and preparation of funding applications and joint tenders. |
| * Support the delivery of regional strategic and business plans to enhance regional decision making. |

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| **Pursue regional funding opportunities through a dedicated cross-agency grants and investment team.** | Organisations and Councils in regional areas are experiencing a long-term trend of increasing operational costs and growing dependence on government support from grants and subsidies. Government funding dependence is heightened with larger development projects, because regional areas typically lack the population base to raise sufficient revenue to cover project capex. Regional organisations are consequently competing against each other for limited funding from government programs.  However, access to government funding is highly competitive and becoming increasingly more difficult. Thresholds for evidence-based supporting documentation are being raised, and partner funding contribution requirements are being tightened.  To have any chance of funding success from government programs, organisations are now required to invest considerable human and financial resources into the preparation of high quality, professional grant applications.  There is a need to support stakeholders to obtain funding from government programs and increase the level of investment in the region. The provision of a cross-agency team will broaden the expertise base and maximise opportunities for investment attraction. | * Establish a dedicated cross-agency grants and investment team. |
| * Identify grant funding opportunities and communicate grant program information to stakeholders. |
| * Implement a Project Tracking mechanism to monitor stakeholder project proposals. |
| * Assess the grant readiness of project proposals. |
| * Provide advice to stakeholders about options to make projects grant ready. |
| * Support stakeholders to access government funding programs through assistance with business cases, project management plans and grant applications for key projects. |
| * Provide feedback and advice to government departments about options to improve grant program processes. |

**2.4 Natural Resources Management**

**KEY TERMS:** Natural resources management, ecosystem sustainability, conservation, climate change, economic productivity, change practices, monitoring and evaluation, community understanding and participation.

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| **STRATEGIES** | **RATIONALE** | **ACTIONS** |

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| **Facilitate sustainable management and use of land and sea ecosystems by balancing conservation and economic development needs.** | Healthy and functioning ecosystems underpin the regional economy and the quality of life of regional communities. A pristine natural environment is also a critical component of the regional brand, and needs to be safeguarded.  New economic and employment initiatives – such as housing and tourism developments, mining, transport and energy projects – are needed to drive the regional economy. However, the region’s ecosystems have been substantially modified by past practices through land clearance, altered hydrology, changed fire regimes and introduced species. This has decreased species diversity and impacted on habitats.  Proactive conservation actions are necessary to reverse these trends and ensure that new development projects do not pose irrevocable risk to the sustainability of natural resources. | * Make the health of the region’s ecosystems a primary consideration in economic development planning and deliberations of the Eyre Peninsula Mineral and Energy Resources Community Development Taskforce. |
| * Maintain and manage partnerships between government, environmental and economic agencies to achieve synergies and more effective economic and environmental development outcomes. |
| * Implement collaborative economic and environmental approaches in the planning and implementation of development projects. |
| * Utilise biodiversity mapping and research to support project and land development applications. |
| * Ensure that new development proposals, particularly in coastal areas, give appropriate consideration of the potential impacts of climate change and include adaption initiatives to minimise risks. |

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| **Support landholders and industry to sustainably manage natural resources while improving productivity.** | There is need to support landholders and industry to continuously improve operational practices in the face of ongoing and emerging challenges. These include economic constraints which are reducing profitability, and environmental challenges of soil degradation, pest impacts, rising salinity levels and climate change.  The facilitation of change practices should include the provision of information and technical expertise with the application of research and new technologies to maximise production and minimise environmental impacts. | * Facilitate and promote change practices to restore, improve and manage dryland salinity, soil acidity, soil erosion, water quality, habitat protection, native vegetation and enhance drought readiness. |
| * Provide practice change information, technical expertise and biodiversity research via EPNRM and DEWNR through workshops, meetings and other stakeholder forums. |
| * Support research and development at Minnipa Agricultural Centre and tertiary educational institutions into broad scale practices to improve natural resources management and sequester carbon. |
| * Partner with the agriculture, seafood, mining and civil construction industries to maximise biodiversity outcomes from business operations. |

**2.4 Natural Resources Management (Cont’d)**

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| **STRATEGIES** | **RATIONALE** | **ACTIONS** |

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| **Improve understanding and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems in a changing climate.** | Healthy functioning ecosystems and natural resources are fundamental to regional amenity and livelihoods. However, past practices have negatively impacted ecosystem sustainability, and there is a need to focus on habitat protection and restoration and address threats to increase ecosystem resilience.  Conservation actions require ongoing monitoring and evaluation of natural resources condition to build new knowledge about ecosystem complexity.  Climate change, in particular, has the potential to negatively impact on the economy and liveability of the Eyre Peninsula - notably for industries which rely on pristine environmental conditions for production and sustainability e.g. agriculture, aquaculture, fishing and tourism.  Opportunities need to be pursued to better inform the community about the challenges of climate change and strategies needed to minimise potential impacts. | * Develop holistic understanding of the region’s complex ecosystems. |
| * Monitor and evaluate natural resources condition and trends to determine appropriate management actions. |
| * Improve data collection methods to identify and address ecosystem information gaps. |
| * Encourage community participation in ecosystem science initiatives to increase understanding of natural resources management. |
| * Facilitate the implementation of the EPICCA *Regional Climate Change Adaption Plan for the Eyre Peninsula*. |
| * Communicate natural resources management and climate change information to the community and industry via forums, the RDAWEP, EPLGA and EPNRM websites, and regular articles in the media and Regional Newsletters. |

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| **Create opportunities for active community engagement in natural resources management.** | Natural resources management is a shared responsibility and all of the region’s communities, organisations, businesses and individuals have a role to play in maintaining and monitoring sustainable ecosystems. To do this effectively requires a knowledgeable, capable and committed workforce of both professionals and volunteers.  Support is needed to facilitate community participation and networking and build the skills, knowledge and capability to undertake NRM initiatives. | * Undertake education initiatives to build knowledge about NRM issues and create network relationships between community and NRM stakeholders. |
| * Support volunteers and community groups to undertake NRM activities and engage in NRM decision making. |
| * Partner with schools to encourage children to learn about NRM issues and participate in NRM activities. |
| * Support traditional owners and Aboriginal communities to care for country. |
| * Monitor and evaluate trends in community NRM capacity and engagement. |

**3. CONCLUSION**

The RDAWEP, EPNRM and EPLGA collaborative initiative is proposing that a single *Regional Strategic Plan* is prepared to capture the aspirations of the Eyre Peninsula community, and that a Joint Planning Board is established as the decision making body to drive strategic development. Numerous benefits will be achieved by this arrangement.

**Improved Stakeholder Representation**

RDAWEP, EPNRM and the EPLGA prepare their lead planning documents in consultation with relevant stakeholders and network groups. RDAWEP engages directly with industry and government agencies, and has advisory groups and a consultation network in place to gather intelligence. The EPLGA engages with the region’s 11 Councils and the Local Government Association of SA, primarily about matters concerning Local Government service delivery. EPNRM, due to ongoing liaison with local Councils and government agencies, and proactive encouragement of grass-roots community participation in natural resources management, arguably implements a more inclusive stakeholder engagement process.

Collectively, however, the three organisations will engage with a much broader cross section of the community than if operating as individual organisations. This will provide a more comprehensive and balanced viewpoint about the development outcomes wanted by the Eyre Peninsula community.

**Efficiencies and Cost Savings**

The implementation of the collaborative model can be funded from the existing resources of the three organisations, so the initiative will not incur additional costs. On the contrary, the adoption of a single strategic plan and reporting format by the three organisations will generate cost savings and deliver greater efficiencies from a shared and smarter use of human resources.

**Synergy**

The collaborative approach has the potential to attract greater levels of development funding from government programs.

The underlying principle driving this initiative is that *the sum is much greater than the parts* – i.e. synergies will be created by representing the collective voice of the 58,000 people that live on the Eyre Peninsula. The region is already highly productive, generating GRP per capita of over $72,300 and rising, which is well above that for other major population centres in South Australia.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Local Government Area** | **Population 2014** | **Gross Regional Product** (GRP) (billion) | **GRP per Capita**  (‘000) |
| Adelaide (C) | 22,690 | 18,309 | - |
| Salisbury (C) | 137,310 | 5,864 | 42,706 |
| Onkaparinga (C) | 167,659 | 4,772 | 28,464 |
| **Eyre Peninsula** | **58,000** | **4,195** | **72,327** |
| Marion (C) | 82,292 | 3,091 | 37,561 |
| Playford (C) | 86,869 | 2,984 | 34,350 |
| Port Adelaide Enfield (C) | 122,206 | 2,909 | 23,804 |
| Tea Tree Gulley (C) | 98,575 | 2,343 | 23,769 |

**Table 1: Gross Regional Products for Selected LGAs across South Australia, 2013-14.** (Source: The SA Centre for Economic Studies, *Eyre Peninsula Economic Development Plan, Summary Report*, June 2016, p.4).

The collaborative approach will consequently create the population critical mass to exert policy leverage on government decision-making, and better position the region to have its development needs addressed.

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