OUR PLAN FOR STRONG VIBRANT COMMUNITIES
We acknowledge the Kaurna people as the Aboriginal traditional owners and custodians of the lands and waters in the area now known as the City of Onkaparinga.

We respect the spiritual relationships with country and stories here that have developed over tens of thousands of years.

We recognise that this rich cultural heritage is a living culture and remains important to Kaurna people, other Aboriginal people and our non-Aboriginal communities today.

The wellbeing and prosperity of Kaurna and other Aboriginal people is important to the strong, vibrant communities we strive for.
Onkaparinga 2035 is our plan for a strong and vibrant city. It builds on the strength of our Community Plan 2035, reflecting our collective aspirations for the future of our places where strong vibrant communities can prosper and grow.

Our plan respects the valued and extensive community engagement we have undertaken over the past five years to inform our strategic priorities and actions. It also recognises our many partners in government, business and our communities.

Onkaparinga 2035 builds on the strong progress being made to improve the function of our city and respond to our social, recreational, educational and employment needs. Our investment in integrated infrastructure such as Aldinga’s library, main street and town square or our delivery of programs in youth and active ageing are testament to our commitment to the communities we serve.

Thank you for sharing your positive, creative and challenging ideas. It is your collective effort that helps us continue to have a visionary plan for the future, guided by three themes of People, Place and Prosperity.

Now we need a collective effort to make these aspirations become reality. It requires commitment from all of us; individuals, households, community groups, business and government.

I encourage everyone who is fortunate enough to live, study, work, invest or spend time in this wonderful city to get behind our community’s vision for Onkaparinga 2035.

Lorraine Rosenberg
Mayor
We are a growing and changing city
• Our city is the largest South Australian council by population and is home to more than 173,000 people.
• We have beautiful landscapes that support diverse living and working opportunities.
• Population projections show that we are anticipated to grow by an additional 45,000 people over the next 20 years.
• Compared to the Adelaide average, our population is younger, with more children and young people, but our communities also continue to have a high proportion of older people.
• To support our growth and changing needs, new homes are being developed on smaller sites and in different forms including units, flats and townhouses.

We are a city of diverse landscapes
• Our city covers 518 square kilometres including 31 kilometres of coastline.
• The landscape changes dramatically from industrial areas in the north west of the city to rural landscapes and townships of the north east, central and southern areas, and urban areas along the coast from Port Stanvac to Sellicks Beach.
• 80 per cent of our population live in suburbs north of the Onkaparinga River, with 15 per cent along the central and southern coast, and the remainder in rural and township areas.
• More than three quarters of our city is used for productive purposes, encompassing vineyards, pastures and horticulture.
• Our city benefits from large areas of public open space and a network of recreational and conservation areas, including offshore reefs, river systems, trails and tracks.

We are a city with a long, rich and diverse cultural heritage
• The Kaurna Meyunna (People) have connections with the Onkaparinga region stretching back tens of thousands of years.
• They are recognised as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Yerta (Lands) including the sea, rivers, vegetation, wildlife and air.
• European settlement began in our region in 1837 with the settling of townships such as Willunga, Old Reynella and Clarendon. Horticulture and farming remain an important part of our identity.
• Our wineries and farms often serve as backdrops for concerts and festivals.
• Our creative sector is underpinned by many artists who reside here, supported by a growing awareness of the value of arts, music and cultural expression.

We are a city with diverse employment sectors
• We are home to some 9000 businesses located across a unique range of industrial areas, commercial precincts, primary production land and activity centres.
• More than 90 per cent of business is small – employing less than five people (including home businesses).
• Our current biggest employment sectors are retail (16%), manufacturing (14%), health related (14%), education (10%), construction (8%), accommodation and food services (7%) public administration and safety (4%) and agriculture (2%).
• More than half our working population leave our city to travel to work.
As we look to the future, we live in a dynamic global environment with an unprecedented level of change.

Change offers opportunity and we must all be equipped with the tools to realise our collective vision. There are challenges to be considered as we plan for the future including social isolation, cost of living, climate change, affordable housing and access to adequate job opportunities.

With a proven and diverse economy, good infrastructure, enviable lifestyles and resilient and resourceful communities, there are significant opportunities to achieve sustainable growth during the lifetime of this plan. An increased population will require more diverse forms of housing and better utilisation of our existing housing areas, centres and remaining large development sites. Respecting the quality of our existing neighbourhoods and seeking sensitive change is important.

Diverse and affordable housing will benefit the region and help support sustainable growth. An increased proportion of older people will lead to transformation in aged care housing and will redefine how all age groups use facilities, work and live. Encouraging active lifestyles and embracing opportunities for older people will enhance quality of living and provide economic benefits.

Local government will continue to be a driving force behind the delivery of community facilities, quality open spaces, community development and cultural and sporting events. These bring us together and foster a strong sense of place and community spirit. The unique blend of coastal environments, agricultural landscapes, old townships, natural spaces and recreational reserves attracts and keeps people in our city. We must continue to work to increase our share in the tourism market by making our destinations more accessible and appealing.

Our investment in the renewal and maintenance of our assets, new play spaces, main streets and centres, creeks and community facilities will serve us well. A changing climate and changing communities means that a strong focus on delivering environmentally sustainable and inclusive design should remain a high priority, whilst also paying attention to the rich Aboriginal cultural heritage here.
Our agricultural and horticultural areas are important generators of local and export income, and need protection from incompatible uses such as rural living. Helping producers to diversify their businesses and supporting efforts to reach further for new or expanded markets will deliver sustainable growth and employment.

The automotive sector is declining and there has been a gradual decline in manufacturing employment. However, new jobs growth is prevalent in the services sector, in particular in health. This growth will result in significant opportunities for a skilled and diverse workforce.

We will need to work with a range of government, private and education/research partners to help identify new job growth sectors and investigate ways to achieve maximum benefit for our city. This includes emerging research, technology and advanced manufacturing, and ensuring southern Adelaide benefits from investment in defence, innovation and research. Making sure we have a good mix of accessible, affordable and desirable land for industry will be critical.

As we implement our vision, we will need to consider and respond to the following factors of our future:

- **resilience** – the ability of our communities and environment to adapt to change
- **demographics** – particularly the needs of our growing older population and established younger populations
- **economic growth** – changes in our economic environment and resultant need for diversity and innovation
- **placemaking** – working to ensure our city is well planned, inviting, fun and exciting
- **integrated transport and movement** – providing equitable access and choice of transport for our communities
- **health and wellbeing** – enabling active lifestyles with interaction between people and nature
- **cost of living** – respecting the financial demands on our communities
- **environment** – planning for the needs of our changing environment and integrating nature into the built environment.
Onkaparinga 2035 is the lead document informing Council’s strategic planning work.

It guides Council decisions about services, assets, programs, advocacy and projects.

Our collective 20 year vision for ‘strong vibrant communities’ was formed as part of the engagement process for our preceding Community Plan 2035.

More recent community engagement reaffirmed the relevance of the vision, capturing our shared ambition for Onkaparinga now and into the future.

IMPLEMENTING THE VISION
VISION
Strong vibrant communities

THEMES
(1) People, (2) Place, (3) Prosperity

Our themes help us organise our plan and support strategic planning processes.

OBJECTIVES
Each theme is described by three objectives. Each objective joins with the next to guide decisions (from the significant to the day-to-day).

DESIRED OUTCOMES
Under each theme our desired outcomes help to explain what our objectives try to achieve.

FOCUS COMMITMENTS
Focus commitments identify areas for priority attention during the life of Onkaparinga 2035. They help Council prioritise its actions and show where resources will be directed.

POLICY PRINCIPLES AND CORPORATE VALUES
Our policy principles and values outline who Council is and how we will make decisions to achieve the vision in partnership with others.

DELIVERING ONKAPARINGA 2035
This vision is supported by an action-oriented document with a four year time horizon that outlines the significant actions to be undertaken to deliver the vision.
OUR VISION

STRONG VIBRANT COMMUNITIES
PEOPLE vibrant and resilient

OBJECTIVES

1. An active, creative and learning city.
2. A proud and positive city with people inspired to contribute and empowered to lead.
3. A diverse city that celebrates cultural expression, respecting past and embracing future.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Onkaparinga is friendly, inclusive and welcoming to people of all nations and cultures.
- Aboriginal communities in the Onkaparinga region are recognised for their long cultural heritage and are actively engaged in community life.
- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in the Onkaparinga region are engaged in a shared journey towards reconciliation.
- Onkaparinga is recognised for supporting local artists and providing opportunities for our communities to participate in the arts.
- Aspirational and confident leaders have a strong presence and initiate opportunities for others to contribute to decisions.
- Our ageing communities are supported with the services needed and are given opportunities to continue contributing to the region.
- Workers come to and stay in the region, develop their careers and share their skills and knowledge.
- People utilise creative ways of working based on new technology, including home-based industries.
- Local businesses actively invest in their employees to improve local skills.
- Top class education and training facilities attract students, families and commercial activity to the city.
- People here lead healthy and active lifestyles with access to high quality locally produced food, open space and recreational opportunities.
- Both passive and active recreation (including sport and opportunities to connect with nature) are an embedded part of life.
DESIRED OUTCOMES

• Our integrated network of regional, district and smaller centres are active hubs for gathering, shopping, business, health and community services, entertainment, living and education activities.

• Our centres are welcoming, friendly and can be open for business day or night and feel safe to everyone.

• Noarlunga Regional Centre is an important driver of our southern identity, providing continued jobs growth and living opportunities.

• Our townships and coastal villages, such as Clarendon, McLaren Vale, Willunga and Port Noarlunga, provide unique experiences of local character, heritage value, food, entertainment and culture.

• Places of particular importance in local Aboriginal culture are recognised and their cultural significance is respected.

• Our quality network of natural bushland, urban forests, recreation parks and coastal parks are well connected by trails and support a unique lifestyle for our residents, attract visitors and protect/improve the biodiversity of our area.

• There is good integration between our recreational, commuter and business transport networks.

• Quality major transport links such as the Southern Expressway, Main South Road and the Seaford railway line play an important role to connect us with the rest of Adelaide and with the Fleurieu Peninsula.

• The future rail link to Aldinga (and beyond) supports sustainable urban housing growth and efficient/equitable transport opportunities.

• Our suburbs and neighbourhoods, our hills, spectacular coast and townships are great places to live – places we are proud of and feel at home in.

• Our neighbourhoods offer an engaging and diverse lifestyle, including a range of affordable and varied housing choices, local employment and easily accessed recreation and entertainment opportunities.

• Multi-generational living is supported in our housing areas, comprising both our established areas and new areas, where diverse living opportunities are provided close to good public transport, quality open space and local services.

• Successful renewal of some established suburban areas has meant careful protection of valued qualities and amenity for existing residents.

• We are a green city where sustainable residential development is common-place and our streets are cool, green, pleasant places that sustainably manage stormwater.

• We maximise ‘smart’ technology that connects the city, encourages innovation and helps us adapt to change.

OBJECTIVES

4. A well-planned, managed and maintained green city that enables and promotes sustainable and healthy lifestyles.

5. A liveable and connected city with a rich mix of destinations, activities and experiences.

6. A fun, safe and inclusive city that is attractive to live in, work in and visit.
Our economy is adaptable and built on innovation and a strong service sector.

We have a diverse variety of land to cater for all business needs from lone artisans to large logistics operators.

Our region is widely recognised and promoted, particularly for food and wine, natural features, environmental industries, new technology, health and education.

Locally-based small and medium enterprises are thriving and underpin our economy.

Our environmental advantages drive investment in clean tech industries, nature-tourism, food and wine production, and research and development.

Businesses are sustainable, innovative and robust, prospering through broader economic cycles and have strong connections and networks with our local area and Adelaide.

We have embraced opportunities in our viticulture, food and primary production industries to generate further national and international acclaim that results in strong markets for our producers.

The city is recognised as a valuable destination for talented workers and investment.

The city is a ‘destination of choice’ with people coming to experience our lifestyle, unique food, wine, environment, heritage and events. Increased tourism leads to an increase in spend within our city.

Port Stanvac attracts a diverse mix of private investment and becomes a significant economic focus for the region.

Our natural environment is valued and we work together to preserve, protect and improve its condition and to manage any natural hazards and adapt to changes.

Aboriginal cultural connections to natural spaces in our region are valued and are an important factor in making decisions about those spaces.

Our communities’ energy, water, waste and food resources are managed and used efficiently and sustainably.

The city’s water is harvested from sustainable sources and a large percentage of our energy comes from renewable sources.

We are a low carbon and water sensitive city, and we are progressively becoming a zero waste city.
FOCUS COMMITMENTS

The vision for Onkaparinga 2035 is a long-term vision and this makes it difficult to decide what should be done and when.

To help Council deliver the long-term vision, we have set short-term focus commitments that guide actions during the life of the plan.

We apply a place-based approach to our strategic planning through seven geographical districts across our region.

Each district is comprised of whole suburbs.

Recognising the diversity of our region at a district level helps us to be locally responsive in our service delivery, considering local differences whilst being mindful of equity across the whole Onkaparinga region.

Focus commitments may be council-wide or at a district(s) level.

We will make progress on our response to each of the commitments over the next four years.

Community facilities - Meet the changing demands on our facilities and the people that use and manage them.

Diverse population - Consider and plan for the needs of our diverse population (particularly youth and ageing).

Active citizenship - Invest in ways that engage our communities to inform decisions, improve our services and support volunteers.

Transport - Advocate for improved connections between centres and isolated areas (such as our townships) and improve infrastructure to encourage walking and cycling.

Urban tree cover - Increase and enhance our urban tree cover with a focus on street trees and public spaces.

Recreation facilities - Improve our recreation facilities and enhance our open spaces, parks and playgrounds.

Noarlunga Regional Centre - Progress our vision for Noarlunga as our thriving regional city centre.

Other centres - Continue improving our centres with a focus on delivering agreed master plans.

Coast - Encourage the use of the coast while building a shared understanding of coastal processes and protecting its natural value.

Housing - Sustainably manage new housing development within growth areas and improve medium density outcomes.

Business - Support and help activate our main streets and traditional business districts.

Tourism - Attract an increased share of visitors and spend to our region through diverse and rich year-round experiences.

Food and drink - Support the success of our diverse productive rural landscape.

Resilience - Respond and adapt to our changing climate through the management of our natural and built assets.
Council cannot achieve the vision of Onkaparinga 2035 in isolation. Our role and responsibilities will change. Sometimes we will lead, other times we will partner, and other times we will advocate.

It is important that we make the most of the human and creative resources of everyone who makes up our city.

We will work closely and align ourselves with state and federal government when it is in the best interest of our communities. We also need to align with industry, not-for-profit organisations and the education sector.

Through all that we do, we will work to ensure that we:

- stay focused on our areas of responsibility
- use our resources efficiently
- effectively engage in partnerships with others where necessary.

Together, we can deliver our vision for strong vibrant communities.

**POLICY PRINCIPLES AND CORPORATE VALUES**

The City of Onkaparinga is an organisation with strong principles focussing on actions that strategically achieve our vision. In all things we consider if our direction aligns with the principles that define who we are.

**We believe in:**

- putting people first
- enabling equity
- promoting strengths
- seeking to understand
- being resourceful
- encouraging investment
- working strategically towards our vision.

Being led by our principles means that council staff will demonstrate the following professional values and supporting behaviours:

- Courageous
- Inspirational
- Curious
- Positive
- Connected
- Accountable.

Working in accordance with these values and principles will ensure we respond to the services our communities need and sustainably manage Council’s assets and finances.

More detailed descriptions of our roles and policy principles are provided on our website: www.onkaparingacity.com