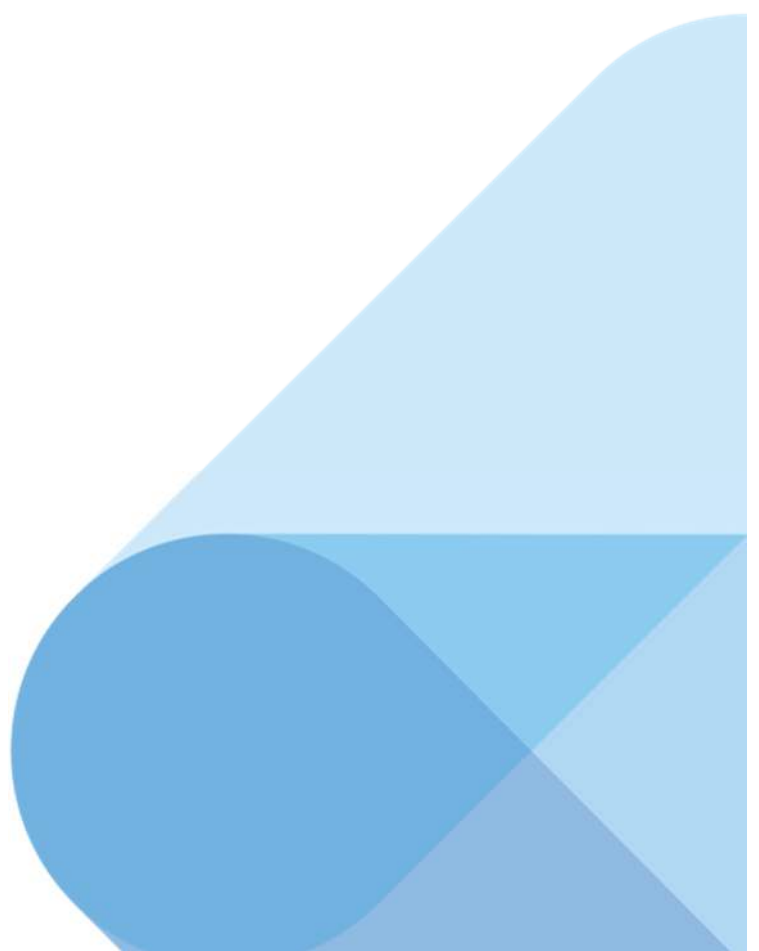




Community Engagement Feedback Report

**Draft Recreation, Open space and Sport
Strategy (ROSS)**



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1. Background

Alexandrina Council is currently developing a Recreation, Open space, and Sport Strategy (ROSS). This strategy aims to review the current supply and assess future demand for recreation, open space, and sports facilities within the Alexandrina Council area.

The goal of the ROSS is to:

- Create a comprehensive strategy that includes levels of service.
- Help guide the development of a future implementation plan for all recreation, open space, and sport assets.
- This strategy will be instrumental in shaping future asset management decisions, ensuring the sustainable development and maintenance of our recreation, open space, and sports facilities across the Alexandrina Council region.

Community consultation was conducted for the draft ROSS to seek feedback to help with future endorsement.

During the engagement process, we sought community support for the proposed service levels, with an opportunity to provide feedback.

2. Engagement Snapshot

During the consultation period from 23 April – 5 June 2026, **a total of 39 responses** were received across both the My Say platform and via email/hard copy. With 3 written submissions received after the closing date that have been included in this feedback report.



Who we heard from (My Say only):

29 x Ratepayer and ongoing resident

6 x Business Owner-Operator

3 x Resident (residential tenant)

1 x Frequent Visitor

2 x Interested Stakeholder

15 x Member or volunteer at a sporting, recreation or leisure group/club

2.1 Engagement communications

Audience	Channel	Results
Residents/ Ratepayers	Council website - Latest news article on home page of corporate website	Throughout consultation
	Social media (Instagram and Facebook) – at the start and midway through consultation	Facebook - Views: 3,584 - Link clicks: 8 - Interactions: 32 Instagram - Views: 906 - Reach: 530 - Interactions: 7
	Council office displays - entryways	Throughout consultation
	Community noticeboards	N/A
	My Say e-newsletter subscribers	23 April - Sent to 2,332 subscribers (45.9% open rate)
	Corflutes (large waterproof signage on site)	- Soldiers Memorial Strathalbyn - Commodore Reserve/Continental Reserve Port Elliot - Bristow Smith Reserve, Goolwa - Mount Compass Rec Park - Goolwa Bike Park - Strathalbyn Skate Park
	Face-to-face drop-in sessions	8 May – Strathalbyn, Strathalbyn Woolworths, 11am – 1pm (28 attendees) 18 May – Goolwa, Goolwa Shopping Centre, 1:30-4:30pm (7 attendees)
Government and key agencies	Direct email	- Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation - Department for Environment and Water - Members of Parliament
Section 41 Committees / Advisory Committees/	Out of session email	- Agricultural Advisory Group - Climate Emergency and Environment Advisory Group

Audit and Risk Committee	Presented at request to Lot 10 Committee meeting 26 May 2026	• Heritage Advisory Group • Ratalang Basham Beach and Horseshoe Bay Advisory Group • SA Wooden Boat Festival Committee • Strathalbyn Recreation Precinct (Lot 10) Advisory Group
Community groups, resident and ratepayer associations	Direct email	• Alexandrina Residents and Ratepayers Acton Group • Clayton Bay Community Association • Langhorne Creek Progress Association • Hope Forest Residents Association Inc. • Middleton Community Association Inc. • Milang and District Community Association Incorporated • Mount Compass War Memorial Community Association • Port Elliot Town and Foreshore Association • Sporting clubs within the Alexandrina region. • To all whom have requested updates through the current My Say Page
Media	Fleurieu Sun & The Southern Argus	23 April 2026  ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL Community Consultations Council seeks community feedback on the following three (3) consultations. Please direct all written submissions via mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au, email alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au or by post to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 21, Goolwa SA 5214. For further information, contact Council on 8555 7000. Draft Community Engagement Policy Council seeks feedback on the Draft Community Engagement Policy. The Policy has been developed to be in line with the State Government's Community Engagement Charter and the Local Government Act 1999. Submissions will be accepted by Council until 5 pm, Friday 15 May 2026. Future Planning for Goolwa Main Street Trees Council seeks feedback on the six (6) proposed options to plan for the Cadell Street avenue of trees. This follows consistent community feedback that the trees along Cadell Street (from Gardiner Street to Goolwa Terrace) are causing nuisance to both property and infrastructure. Community feedback will help to define the next steps for management of these trees. Submissions will be accepted by Council until 5 pm, Friday 22 May 2026. Draft Recreation Open space and Sport Strategy 2026-2036 (ROSS) Council seeks feedback on its first ROSS 2026-2036. The draft Strategy aims to guide the future development of recreation, open space and sport facilities across the Council district. Submissions will be accepted by Council until 5 pm, Friday 5 June 2026.

Internal staff	Connect Intranet Announcement	Published 24 April 2026
Council Members	Briefing to Council Members via Council Report, CM Portal, email, Council Information Session	• Council Report - 20 April 2026 • Council Information Session – 24 November 2025 7 July 2025 5 May 2025 • CM Portal update

3. Consultation Response Overview

3.1 Evaluation

Feedback summary:

Question 3 - Overall connection to the Alexandrina community was noted at (NB could choose more than one):

- Rate payer and ongoing resident 87.88%
- Business owner 18.18%
- Resident (residential tenant) 9.09%
- Frequent visitor 3.03%
- Interested stakeholder 6.06%
- Member or volunteer at a sporting, recreation or leisure group/club 45.45%

Outcome: Feedback is largely from engaged local residents and active community/sport users.

Question 4 – Do you support adopting the Draft ROSS document as the first official strategic documentation for all Recreation, Open Space and Sport Infrastructure within Alexandrina Council.

Majority support for adopting ROSS (64% support; 15% opposed; 21% unsure)

- ☒ Yes: 64%
- ☒ No: 15%
- ☒ Unsure: 21%

Outcome: The engagement results indicate majority community support for adopting the Draft ROSS as Alexandrina Council's first official strategic document for recreation, open space and sport infrastructure. While the 64% support level demonstrates a clear mandate to progress the strategy, the 15% opposed and 21% unsure responses show that further communication is required to explain how community feedback has shaped the final document, how priorities will be assessed, and how implementation will be staged and funded.

Question 5 -How satisfied are you with the draft strategy

Participants were asked to rate their satisfaction with the draft strategy using a thumbs up scale, (1 thumbs up = not satisfied to 5 thumbs up = very satisfied).

- 5 = 13.04% 
- 4 = 47.83 % 
- 3 = 21.74% 
- 2 = 8.70% 
- 1 = 8.70% 

Average rating: **3.48 / 5**

This informed us that there is moderate overall satisfaction with an average of 3.48 thumbs up out of 5 and 82.61% between 3-5 thumbs up, which would convert to neutral to very satisfied, and 60.87% between 4-5 thumbs, which is satisfied to very satisfied.

Question 6 - further feedback

Top Themes

- Strongest positives:
 - Comprehensive and data-driven approach
 - Long-term vision
- Key issues:
 - Overemphasis on new facilities vs upgrading existing
 - Missing environmental and climate considerations
 - Perceived imbalance across townships

Question 7 – Do you agree with the implementation plan priorities

- ☒ Yes: 59%
- ☒ No: 16%
-  Unsure: 25%

Outcome: There is overall support for the proposed implementation plan priorities, with 59% of respondents agreeing. However, the level of uncertainty and opposition indicates that Council should strengthen transparency around prioritisation, affordability, delivery timing and decision-making criteria. Future implementation should clearly demonstrate how projects are selected, how funding will be considered, and how priorities align with demonstrated community need, growth, asset condition and available resources.

Question 8 - Further feedback

Top themes

- Support for direction, but concerns about:
 - Funding and affordability
 - Prioritisation transparency
 - Perceived “pre-determined” projects
- Objections to:
 - Potential sale of community land
 - Spending on studies vs delivery
 - Creation of new staff roles

Question 9 – Do you support the service levels for Recreation

- ☒ Yes: 79%
- ☒ No: 9%
- ☐ Unsure: 12%

Outcome: Feedback shows strong support for the proposed Recreation service levels, with 79% of respondents in favour. This confirms community interest in unstructured, accessible and inclusive recreation opportunities, particularly for youth, families and everyday informal use. Future planning should continue to prioritise equitable access to facilities such as skate parks, bike parks, outdoor gyms, play spaces and trail connections, while using population growth, participation trends and asset data to guide investment decisions.

Question 10 – further feedback

Top themes

- Strong support for:
 - Unstructured recreation (youth, informal use)
 - Inclusion and accessibility
- Key feedback:
 - Need more:
 - Skate parks, bike parks, outdoor gyms
 - Trail connections between areas
 - Facilities must reflect:
 - Population growth
 - Changing demographics

Question 11 – Do you support the service levels for Sport

- ☒ Yes: 73%
- ☒ No: 12%
-  Unsure: 15%

Outcome: The Sport service levels received strong community support, with 73% of respondents in favour. Feedback supports the direction of planning for multi-use facilities, sporting hubs and shared-use outcomes, while also highlighting concerns about equitable distribution, capacity pressures and Council's role in supporting clubs. Future implementation should continue to balance investment in major hubs with township-level needs, ensuring decisions are informed by participation, population growth, facility condition, club capacity and partnership opportunities.

Question 12 - Further feedback

Top themes

- Support for:
 - Multi-use facilities
 - Sporting hubs
- Concerns:
 - Over-focus on Goolwa & Strathalbyn hubs
 - Need for equitable distribution
 - Capacity issues (e.g. need for new ovals)
 - Councils becoming too involved in club operations

Question 13 – Do you support the service levels for Open Space

- ☒ Yes: 73%
- ☒ No: 18%
-  Unsure: 9%

Outcome: The Open Space service levels were strongly supported, with 73% of respondents in favour. Feedback confirms the importance of open space for amenity, wellbeing, accessibility, tourism and community connection. However, respondents also identified a need to strengthen environmental, biodiversity, coastal protection and climate adaptation outcomes within the strategy. Future refinement of the ROSS should make these environmental considerations more explicit within open space planning, service levels and implementation actions.

Top themes

- Strong value placed on:
 - Open space for amenity, wellbeing, tourism
- Major concerns:
 - Lack of environmental / conservation focus
 - Biodiversity
 - coastal protection
 - climate adaptation
 - Issues with:
 - 1 km spacing rule (should be maximum)
 - Limiting regional spaces to only two towns
- Conflicting views:
 - Dog parks (high demand vs opposition)

There was strong support for all service levels:

- Recreation: ~79% support
- Sport: ~73% support
- Open Space: ~73% support

Summary:

Through reading the statistics it confirms that there is community support for the adoption of the ROSS, especially the services levels for Recreation, Open Space and Sport which are:

Recreation LoS are:

- Deliver more unstructured recreation for youth with the inclusion of an additional skate park and bike park facilities.
- Support equitable unstructured recreation access across townships.
- Maintain Council-owned recreation facilities by undertaking regular inspections and risk assessments to ensure they meet compliance and future developed service standards, whilst utilising this information to help guide future operational, renewal or upgrade needs.

Open Space LoS are:

- Plan to have 1km distance between open spaces that are either a Reserve or Environmental function within largely populated areas with over 500 people population within a defined township boundary, or where possible.
- Maintain two regional open spaces within the Council area, which are Goolwa (Bristow Smith) and Strathalbyn (Soldiers Memorial Gardens, including Strathalbyn Lions Park playground on Colman Terrace).
- Plan to develop a framework to help guide future dog park provision within Alexandrina.

- Design reserves to be welcoming, inclusive, intergenerational and reflective of local character and apply universal design principles to promote accessibility and comfort for all users.
- Maintain accurate open space asset data by conducting inspections, audits, and valuations, and utilise this information to help guide future operational, renewal or upgrades priorities.
- Maintain reserves as per service standards for Parks and Reserves.

Sport Los are:

- Plan to maintain Sporting Hubs within Goolwa and Strathalbyn.
- Maintain Council-owned sports facilities to ensure they meet grassroots needs, including future developed service standards, while also promoting inclusivity and multi-use.
- Review facility provision in alignment with population growth, participation rates and catchment demand.
- Plan for shared use between schools, clubs, and community groups through multi-use facility design to maximise utilisation.
- Maintain sports facility data by undertaking regular inspections, audits and valuations and utilise this information to help guide future operational, renewal or upgrade requirements.

Key Takeaways

-  Strong overall support for having a ROSS strategy
-  Perceived imbalance (sport vs environment/open space)
-  Equity across all towns is critical
-  Strong demand for both upgrades and new facilities
-  Delivery and funding require consideration
-  Environmental outcomes need stronger integration
-  Partnerships with clubs are a major opportunity

Theme	Summary of Feedback	Evaluation
Environmental Reserves	That the strategy could be too sport/recreation focused. That it underrepresents environmental reserves and conservation outcomes Provides a limited representation for green infrastructure like trees, shade and biodiversity.	Therefore, requiring the need to review how we can incorporate additional information regarding environmental reserves in conjunction with better recognising conservation land especially coastal environments within the ROSS documentation. Outcome: Updated Open Space LoS and additional actions within the Implementation Plan
Perceived inequity	Other townships other than Goolwa and	Council acknowledges community concern regarding a perceived geographic focus on

	Strathalbyn could be more represented. The possibility that investment should reflect population, usage and need, not location.	Goolwa and Strathalbyn. The ROSS already applies an evidence-based approach to planning and prioritisation, considering factors such as population, projected growth, usage, participation, catchment demand, asset condition and identified community need. The greater focus on Goolwa and Strathalbyn reflects their current and projected role as the largest population and growth centres within Alexandrina, as well as their function as regional service hubs. This does not preclude investment in smaller townships; rather, future priorities will continue to be assessed across all communities using transparent criteria that balance population, need, usage, growth, equity and available resources.
Multi-use indoor/outdoor facilities	The feedback reiterates the need for multi-use indoor/outdoor facilities especially Strathalbyn.	This feedback is noted and aligns with existing ROSS directions. The strategy already supports multi-use and shared facility planning through actions that promote shared use between schools, clubs and community groups, review facility provision against population growth and participation rates, and utilise asset data, inspections and service standards to guide future renewal and upgrade priorities. The specific reference to Strathalbyn is consistent with its role as a key sporting hub and identified growth area. Importantly, the feedback reflects a demonstrated gap in indoor sporting provision, particularly the need for indoor basketball courts, which has been directly recognised within the ROSS implementation plan. The implementation plan includes actions to continue planning for the Strathalbyn Recreation Precinct (Lot 10), with indoor basketball court facilities identified as a high priority. It also identifies opportunities to partner with schools and neighbouring councils in the short term to help address capacity constraints in indoor court provision.
New or upgraded Ovals	The need for new or upgraded ovals (Goolwa growth pressures)	This feedback is acknowledged and aligns with the strategic direction of the ROSS. Goolwa is identified as a key growth area, and increased demand for oval capacity is

		recognised in line with population growth and participation trends. The ROSS and Implementation Plan include actions to review and plan sporting infrastructure provision based on demonstrated need, while prioritising upgrades, increased capacity and improved utilisation of existing facilities. This includes maximising the use of existing assets, improving their functionality, and ensuring investment decisions are guided by asset data, inspections and service standards.
Youth facilities like skate parks, BMX/bike facilities	The need for more access to youth facilities like skate parks and BMX/bike facilities	The need for youth-focused facilities such as skate parks, BMX and bike facilities is strongly reflected within the ROSS, particularly through the Recreation Level of Service (LoS). The strategy explicitly identifies the importance of providing unstructured recreation opportunities for young people, including the provision of additional skate parks and bike park facilities to support active lifestyles and informal participation. This is further reinforced through the ROSS Implementation Plan, which includes actions to assess existing provision, respond to population growth and participation trends, and prioritise investment using asset data and service standards. Importantly, the ROSS includes several township-specific actions that directly respond to identified gaps in youth recreation infrastructure. These include the development of new bike facilities at Clayton Bay (Action 31), where community engagement will inform the type of facility required prior to construction, and the review of the Milang tennis courts (Action 38), which includes consideration of consolidating and repurposing existing courts into multi-use facilities incorporating activities such as basketball and other recreational opportunities. The strategy also includes an action to review suitable locations for a new skate facility in Middleton (Action 36). Together, these actions demonstrate Council's commitment to expanding and improving youth-focused recreation opportunities across the region, while

		ensuring future investment is informed by local needs, participation trends and community feedback.
Walking/cycling trail connections between townships.	The need to develop walking and or cycling trails that connect through each township.	Walking and cycling trail connections between towns is reflected within the draft ROSS through its focus on connectivity, accessibility and active recreation. Community feedback has identified the importance of improving trail links between towns and residential areas. This is further supported through the Recreation and Open Space directions, which emphasise improving access and connectivity across the network and supporting unstructured activities such as walking and cycling. Furthermore, through the Implementation Plan, by identifying the need to develop a master plan for shared use trails to help review any gaps, planning of new connections where needed, and prioritising investment based on growth and demand.
Dog parks	Mixed feedback with some in support and some opposed.	The provision of dog parks is identified in the draft ROSS as part of the broader Open Space Level of Service, which includes an action to develop a framework to guide future dog park provision across Alexandrina which received over 70% acceptance through engagement. Furthermore, with an action noted within the implementation plan for consideration for a dog park within Strathalbyn (lot 10) in line with previous feedback.
Public toilet and upgrades	Community responses identified a need for improved availability, accessibility and condition of public toilet facilities, particularly in high-use recreation areas and growing townships.	Within the ROSS, this is addressed through broader service level directions focused on maintaining and improving open space assets to ensure they are functional, safe and meet community expectations. This includes ongoing inspections, audits and the use of asset data to prioritise renewal and upgrade works noting that we already have an endorsed public toilet management plan.
Multi-functional and contemporary open spaces	Community has expectations towards more inclusive, multi-	The Draft ROSS responds to community expectations for more inclusive, multi-functional and contemporary open spaces

	functional and contemporary open spaces, reinforcing the need for facilities like outdoor gyms and modern play areas that support everyday use by a wide cross-section of the community.	through its Recreation and Open Space Levels of Service, which places a strong emphasis on unstructured recreation, inclusivity and universal design. The strategy specifically promotes the creation of spaces that are welcoming, intergenerational and accessible to all users, ensuring facilities cater to a broad range of ages, abilities and interests. This directly supports the inclusion of features such as modern play spaces and outdoor gym equipment, which provide flexible, informal recreation opportunities beyond traditional sport. Through the Implementation Plan, these directions are translated into actions that prioritise upgrading ageing assets, improving the functionality of open spaces, and delivering contemporary facilities based on demand, population growth and community need.
Lot 10	Feedback consistently identified Lot 10 as a key opportunity site for future recreation and community infrastructure in Strathalbyn. There was strong interest in activating and progressing development of the site to better meet current and future demand. The most prominent theme was the need for multi-use indoor facilities, particularly driven by demand for indoor basketball courts. This was raised as part of broader requests for improved indoor recreation capacity and more flexible, year-round facilities.	The Draft ROSS directly responds to this feedback through its strategic emphasis on strengthening sporting hubs, planning for growth, and delivering multi-use, shared facilities based on demonstrated demand. Lot 10 is identified within the Implementation Plan as a high-priority project, with specific actions to progress the precinct and deliver key infrastructure, including indoor basketball courts and potential soccer facilities. Supporting actions further reinforce this direction through partnership opportunities, shared use with schools, and evidence-based planning to guide staging and investment. Overall, the feedback aligns strongly with the intent of the ROSS, confirming Lot 10 as a critical project for addressing infrastructure gaps and delivering long-term, multi-functional recreation outcomes for the Strathalbyn community.

Maintenance, asset management & service delivery	Community feedback identified a need to shift from reactive maintenance toward a more planned, proactive approach, supported by improved inspections, reliable asset data and risk-based maintenance planning. This was raised alongside concerns about limited staffing and resourcing capacity, particularly given the age and condition of existing infrastructure.	This feedback is reflected in the draft ROSS through its focus on sustainable asset management, service levels and evidence-based decision-making. The strategy supports a shift from reactive maintenance to a more planned and risk-based approach by using inspections, audits, valuations and reliable asset data to guide future operational, renewal and upgrade priorities. The Implementation Plan gives effect to this through actions such as open space and recreation asset audits, sport and recreation facility mapping, 20-year implementation planning, service standards, building condition audits and wheeled park maintenance inspections. However, delivery will depend on available staffing, funding and operational capacity, particularly given the age of existing infrastructure and the need to prioritise higher-risk assets.
Clubs, partnerships and community use	Feedback indicated strong support for greater collaboration between clubs and Council, including opportunities for clubs to play a more active role in delivery and activation. Clubs also sought greater involvement in planning processes, potential partnership opportunities, clearer recognition and support, and reduced administrative burden.	This feedback is strongly reflected in the draft ROSS through its focus on partnerships, shared use, community-owned facility support, club development and capacity building. The strategy recognises that clubs play an important role in delivering sport and recreation outcomes and identifies the need for clearer, more consistent support arrangements, improved communication, and stronger collaboration between Council, clubs and other partners. The Implementation Plan directly responds to this through actions for community and private-owned facility guidelines, review of sporting club grants and funding access, sport and recreation facility frameworks, community access requirements, partnership development and promotion of sport and recreation. Most importantly, it identifies the need for a dedicated Recreation Planner position to specialise in planning, coordinating and supporting sport and recreation clubs, including club development, annual club surveys, maintaining club data and monitoring trends to better support participation and community wellbeing.

Financial concerns & deliverability	Community feedback raised questions about how projects will be funded, Council's affordability and debt levels, and how priorities will be determined to ensure value for money. Concerns were also raised about the balance between spending on studies and delivering tangible outcomes, as well as the creation of new staff roles.	This feedback is addressed through the ROSS by positioning the strategy as an informing plan that supports evidence-based prioritisation rather than committing Council to unfunded delivery. The ROSS uses community feedback, asset data, condition audits, service levels, population growth, participation trends and benchmarking to guide which projects should progress, helping ensure future investment is based on demonstrated need, affordability and value for money. The Implementation Plan also responds to deliverability concerns by identifying timeframes, indicative costs, Council's role and whether actions are business-as-usual, partly funded, or require further budget consideration. All outcomes of the ROSS Implementation Plan have been reviewed against the current A2040 program, ensuring proposed actions are considered alongside Council's broader financial planning, existing commitments and delivery capacity. Concerns about studies and new roles are also reflected through actions that support better planning, governance and implementation, including the Recreation Planner role, which would help coordinate club support, partnerships, data, prioritisation and delivery readiness.
Open Space planning	Feedback highlighted the importance of protecting existing open space while improving access, connectivity and walkability across the network. It also noted that the 1km service level should be treated as a maximum distance to open space, rather than a minimum standard.	This feedback is reflected in the draft ROSS through its focus on protecting and planning open space based on function, hierarchy, access, connectivity and community need. The strategy recognises open space as an important community asset and uses gap analysis, township-level planning and service levels to guide future decisions about where open space should be retained, improved or rationalised. The 1km service standard is not intended to operate as either a strict maximum or minimum distance. Rather, it provides an overall planning distance to help assess access to Reserve and Environmental open space within larger townships, where possible. This is reinforced through the

		Implementation Plan, which includes an action to review open space provision across the network against established service level benchmarks and the 1 km walking distance objective. This approach supports strategic, evidence-based planning while taking into account local context, connectivity, walkability and the value that individual open spaces provide to their communities.
Environment, climate and biodiversity	Community feedback showed strong support for biodiversity corridors, greening, shade and climate resilience, while also emphasising the need to protect sensitive coastal and environmental areas. This highlights the importance of strengthening environmental outcomes within the ROSS service levels.	This feedback is partially reflected in the draft ROSS through the recognition of Environmental open space as a distinct function, the emphasis on native vegetation, shade and natural character within open space survey outcomes, and the broader A2040 alignment to climate resilience, biodiversity and sustainable land management. However, the ROSS could more clearly elevate environmental outcomes within the Levels of Service so that biodiversity, greening, shade, climate resilience and protection of sensitive coastal and environmental areas are more explicitly considered alongside recreation, access and asset condition. This could be strengthened by adding the following to the Open Space Levels of Service: Strengthen environmental outcomes across open space planning and management by supporting biodiversity, greening, shade, climate-resilient planting and the protection of sensitive coastal and environmental areas. Then, including an action within the Implementation plan to undertake mapping of biodiversity, sensitive coastal environmental areas requiring protection. Undertake mapping of possible locations for potential greening/shade opportunities. Ensure future open space style guides include climate-resilient planting, shade, habitat values and environmental protection principles. These additions would help demonstrate that environmental outcomes are embedded in planning, renewal and prioritisation decisions, rather than being treated as secondary to sport and recreation outcomes.

Recreation facilities access, inclusion & community wellbeing	Feedback indicates a strong desire for improved facilities and opportunities for youth, seniors, and women and girls in sport. Feedback also highlights the need for greater access to low-cost recreational activities, more evenly distributed across townships. Importantly, respondents recognise the significant role recreation plays in supporting mental health, wellbeing, and social connection.	This is reflected throughout the ROSS through a focus on inclusive and accessible recreation opportunities for all ages and abilities. The strategy identifies the need for additional youth recreation infrastructure, including skate parks, BMX and bike facilities, while also recognising the growing participation of women and girls in sport and the need for supporting infrastructure such as upgraded change rooms and lighting. The ROSS also promotes equitable access to recreation across townships through its Levels of Service and township-based actions, including new bike facilities in Clayton Bay, investigation of a skate facility in Middleton, and the review of multi-use recreation opportunities at Milang. More broadly, the strategy recognises the important role recreation, open space and sport play in supporting wellbeing, social connection and community participation.
Engagement and trust	Feedback indicates that some respondents perceive decisions to be predetermined, with community input not always clearly reflected in outcomes. As a result, there is a desire for more transparent engagement processes, including clearer communication of how feedback informs decisions and greater ongoing community involvement in the planning and delivery of projects.	The Draft ROSS demonstrates a clear commitment to community engagement, with processes such as Village Conversations, surveys, and stakeholder input forming a key foundation of the strategy. It emphasises that planning is informed by community feedback and includes mechanisms such as Levels of Service to support transparency, consistency, and accountability in decision-making. Ongoing engagement is also reflected through future actions, including further consultation, partnerships, and continued data collection to inform planning and delivery. It is also important to note that some projects, such as the Clayton Bay bike/pump track and elements within the Lot 10 Strathalbyn Recreation Precinct, were already progressing as a result of earlier engagement processes, with the Draft ROSS reinforcing and validating the need for these initiatives.

Meeting outcomes with Racing SA (Thursday 14 May 2026)

Discussed the following

- They have recently purchased land adjacent to the Strathalbyn Racing Club to support future redesign of the site and attract equine-related users to the area, particularly those being displaced from Morphettville due to increased medium and high density development.
- Currently the Strathalbyn location is only utilised for 6 months of the year due to drainage issues but would like to turn it into a all year round utilised facility.
- They are currently developing a timeline for infrastructure upgrades with a defined timeline and scope to be developed further in 2026/27.
- They will send through data for Strathalbyn.
- They will send through a high-level timeline for redesign and potential upgrades.
- Discussed that the Harness Racing Club are looking for a home and have funding.
- They will send through possible multi use opportunities with discussions of possible RV supporting infrastructure, soccer pitches or courts.

Received an Association survey response from Racing SA with feedback utilised in an update to the ROSS Appendices document and informed us that:

- They are based in North Plympton, with an infrastructure-focused role.
- The primary activity is horse riding and racing, representing a regional-level sporting body.
- That participation has increased over the past five years, indicating growing demand within the sector.
- Identifies an opportunity to better integrate racing and equine activities into Council planning to support participation, infrastructure development, and regional economic growth.
- Key gaps include limited planning recognition, insufficient infrastructure investment, and a lack of accessible, multi-use equine facilities to support both racing and broader community use.
- Highlights the need for multi-use equine infrastructure that benefits both industry participants and the wider community.
- Strategic priorities include:
 - Enhancing race day experiences and club strength
 - Supporting and promoting the reputation of racing
 - Attracting and retaining participants and audiences
 - Ensuring financial sustainability and revenue growth
 - Developing a skilled and sustainable workforce
- Indicates willingness to partner with Council through co-investment, planning support, and collaborative program delivery.
- Emphasises that horse racing and equine activities contribute to economic, social, and community outcomes, particularly in regional areas.
- Notes the sector's role in supporting local employment, tourism, and volunteer networks.

Meeting outcomes with Strathalbyn Racing Club (Tuesday 26 May 2026)

- Overview of the Draft ROSS was provided, with stakeholder input acknowledged.
- Feedback highlighted growing participation and membership within the racing and equine sector, including increased involvement from women.
- Identified opportunities to support economic development, tourism, and job creation through expanded facilities and complementary uses.
- Noted demand for additional supporting infrastructure such as accommodation and multi-use facilities.

- Strong interest in multi-use outcomes, including use of existing sites for broader recreation (e.g. infield activation, potential golf driving range).
- Opportunities identified to integrate recreation, sport, and tourism (e.g. links with rail and visitor experiences).
- Recognition of regional growth in equine activity, with potential for increased capacity and facility expansion.
- Over 500 members (48% growth) so the field is expanding. (especially female Jockeys)
- Emphasis on collaboration, with willingness to partner with Council and other clubs to maximise shared outcomes.
- Broader community benefits highlighted, including emergency response capability, events, and social uses (e.g. functions, conferences).
- General support expressed for the Draft ROSS direction and long-term planning approach.

This additional information from both Racing SA and Strathalbyn Racing Club has updated both information within the ROSS Appendices and Main ROSS document with actions within the Implementation Plan.

Presentation to the Strathalbyn Recreation Precinct (Lot 10) Advisory Group. (Tuesday 26 May 2026)

- Provided an overview presentation of the Draft ROSS to the advisory group, including its development, structure (two documents), and key actions linked to the Lot 10 project.
- A representative from the Strathalbyn Racing Club (advisory group) confirmed completion of the club survey, with follow-up to include updated membership details in the appendices.
- Identified a gap in stakeholder records, with the Model Air Craft Club not currently listed; they will be added and invited to complete the survey to ensure their details are captured.

Club survey returned from the Strathalbyn Aircraft Club

- Submission received from Strathalbyn Model Aircraft Club, located at Lot 10, Strathalbyn.
- Activity identified as radio-controlled aircraft flying, representing a niche and specialised recreational use.
- Club is affiliated with Model Aerosport SA (MASA) and the Model Aeronautical Association of Australia (MAAA).
- Membership of approximately 45 members, predominantly senior, with limited junior and female participation; membership has remained stable over time.
- Club operates as a self-sufficient organisation, supported by volunteers and able to meet operational costs and contribute to facility improvements.
- Maintains a positive working relationship with Council, with governance structures and a strategic approach in place.
- Limited shared use of the site, with only occasional interaction with other users (e.g. hot air balloon group).

Facilities and operations:

- Site is owned by Council and managed by the club under current arrangements.
- Facilities are considered well maintained, with fees regarded as reasonable.
- Existing facilities are generally appropriate for current needs.
- Identified need for greater certainty around lease arrangements to support future investment in facilities.

- Additional facilities are accessed externally, including indoor flying at Cornerstone College (Mt Barker) due to specialised requirements.
- Indoor flying requires large, stadium-type facilities, highlighting gaps in local provision.

Club development and participation:

- Key factors for attracting and retaining members include:
 - Quality facilities
 - Social opportunities and events
 - A friendly, welcoming club culture
- Future development priorities focus on improved playing/flying facilities.
- Identified need for adequate leased space to support flying activities and future growth.

Support from Council:

- Primary support required is the provision of appropriate and adequate facilities.
- Broader opportunities exist for support in facility planning, lease arrangements, and access to suitable spaces for specialised activities.

General observations:

- Highlights the importance of recognising and planning for niche and non-traditional recreation groups.
- Demonstrates the need for flexible and multi-location facility access for specialised activities.
- Reinforces the value of incorporating a diverse mix of recreational users within open space and infrastructure planning.

Additional information was received from the Strathalbyn Model Aircraft Club with updates to the ROSS main document (Implementation Plan action) and Club information within the ROSS appendices document.

Letter received from the Goolwa SLSC – Doc set 6191283

- Submission received from Goolwa Surf Life Saving Club (GSLSC), expressing strong support for the Draft ROSS direction.
- Recognition of Council's support and emphasis on continued collaboration with Council and community stakeholders.
- Strong alignment with ROSS themes including wellbeing, inclusive participation, youth engagement, shared-use facilities, and community connection.
- Identified evolution of surf clubs into year-round, multi-use community hubs, beyond traditional seasonal operations.
- Highlighted opportunities to expand community programs, social activities, and low-barrier recreation opportunities.
- Emphasised the importance of the coastal environment in supporting recreation, tourism, identity, and wellbeing.
- Strong support for increased activation of facilities and coastal spaces, particularly during off-peak periods.

Youth and community development:

- Focus on developing confident, capable young people connected to their community and environment, beyond competition pathways.
- Identified need to strengthen youth retention and engagement, particularly for ages 14–18.

- Opportunities to expand youth pathways to include leadership, mentoring, volunteering, and social connection.
- Support for partnerships with schools and youth organisations to improve participation and belonging.
- Emphasis on place-based youth development, building resilience, safety awareness, environmental understanding, and community connection.

Health, wellbeing and active ageing:

- Recognised opportunity to contribute to community wellbeing and active ageing outcomes.
- Identified benefits of coastal recreation for low-impact physical activity, social connection, and mental wellbeing.
- Suggested inclusive programs (e.g. “Silver Salties”) to support older residents through social and recreational activities.
- Acknowledged broader community trends seeking connection, belonging, and informal recreation opportunities.

Environmental stewardship and identity:

- Strong emphasis on integrating environmental stewardship with recreation.
- Highlighted the coast as a key asset for education, connection to place, and environmental awareness.
- Recognised opportunities to promote cultural and environmental understanding, including First Nations connection to Country.
- Supported increased collaboration between clubs, schools, environmental groups, and Council.

Future direction and partnerships:

- Strong alignment with ROSS priorities including inclusive recreation, youth participation, year-round activation, environmental connection, and community resilience.
- Identified opportunity for GSLSC to play a greater role in community life while maintaining core surf lifesaving functions.
- Expressed willingness to continue partnering with Council and stakeholders to deliver community outcomes.

Feedback received outside of the Engagement period.

Email received from the Strathalbyn Model Aircraft Club 12 June 2026

The Strathalbyn Model Aircraft Club (SMAC) expressed strong support for the draft Recreation, Open Space and Sport Strategy (ROSS), describing it as a comprehensive and suitable approach to meeting the recreation, sport and open space needs of the Alexandrina region.

The club's primary feedback was that model aircraft clubs were omitted from the draft strategy's list of sporting and recreation clubs. SMAC noted that there are two radio-controlled aircraft clubs operating within Alexandrina, being SMAC at Strathalbyn and the South Coast Model Aerosport Club (SCMAC) at Clayton Bay.

SMAC highlighted its long-standing presence in the district, having operated in the Strathalbyn area since the 1970s and on its current site at Lot 10, Langhorne Creek Road, since 1997. The club submitted that radio-controlled model aircraft activities are both recreational and sporting in nature, aligning with CASA's classification of recreational users and including organised competitions and events.

SMAC requested that radio-controlled aircraft clubs be recognised and included within the ROSS, noting their contribution to the recreational, sporting, social and cultural life of the region.

Email received from the Mount Compass Tennis Club on 16 June 2026

Confirmation was requested of engagement with the club throughout the development and engagement of the draft ROSS and informed us that while he considers the draft to be well done overall, but believes the reported total of 32 tennis courts is misleading as it does not reflect court condition, playability, or the concentration of quality courts in Strathalbyn.

Email received from Cr Miller on behalf of resident on 30 June 2026

Email provided feedback on the accuracy of the draft ROSS open space analysis, including open space provision figures, population forecasts and the conclusion that Alexandrina has a surplus of functional open space. They sought clarification on the land types included in the calculations and whether township-level analysis would provide a more meaningful measure of accessibility. Concerns were also raised about access to open space in some areas, particularly Strathalbyn, the potential implications of identifying surplus Crown land, and the management and use of Council's Open Space Fund, including the application and expenditure of developer contributions.

Conclusion

The community engagement undertaken for the Draft Recreation, Open Space and Sport Strategy (ROSS) demonstrates strong overall support for the development of Alexandrina Council's first integrated strategic framework for recreation, open space and sport infrastructure. Feedback indicated majority support for adoption of the ROSS, with particularly strong support for the proposed Levels of Service for Recreation (79%), Sport (73%) and Open Space (73%). Participants supported the strategic direction, long-term planning approach and evidence-based decision-making framework proposed within the draft strategy.

The engagement process also provided valuable insights into community priorities and areas requiring further refinement. Key themes included the importance of equitable investment across all townships, improved transparency around prioritisation and funding, greater recognition of environmental and biodiversity outcomes, continued support for youth and unstructured recreation opportunities, enhanced trail connectivity, and ongoing collaboration with sporting clubs and community organisations. Respondents emphasised the need to balance the development of new facilities with the maintenance and renewal of existing assets, while ensuring future decisions remain informed by population growth, community need, participation trends, asset condition and financial sustainability.

The stakeholder submissions and meetings further strengthened the strategy by identifying opportunities relating to equine infrastructure, youth development, environmental stewardship, club partnerships, multi-use facilities and specialised recreation activities. As a result of the engagement process, updates have been incorporated into the main ROSS and ROSS Appendices documents to better reflect community and stakeholder feedback, strengthen environmental outcomes, recognise diverse recreation users, and provide greater clarity around future priorities and delivery.

Overall, the feedback received confirms broad community support for the strategic direction of the ROSS and provides Council with a strong foundation to progress the final strategy. The outcomes of this engagement will assist Council in making informed, transparent and evidence-based decisions that support accessible, inclusive and sustainable recreation, open space and sport opportunities for current and future generations across the Alexandrina region.

4. Self-nomination to participate

It is important to acknowledge that involvement in the public consultation process is voluntary, with participants self-nominating to contribute. As a result, the feedback gathered should not be regarded as statistically representative of all perspectives.

5. Consultation images



Strathalbyn drop-in session



Goolwa drop-in session