LIMESTONE COAST CONNECTIVE TRAILS STRATEGY

INVESTING IN CONNECTIONS

OCTOBER 2026



LCLGA
Limestone Coast
Local Government
Association

Regional Development Australia
LIMESTONE COAST

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Acknowledgement of Country

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We acknowledge and respect Aboriginal people as the State's first people and nations, and recognise Aboriginal people as the traditional owners of the land and occupants of South Australian land and waters.



Robe Obelisk

Table of Contents

Executive Summary iv

1. Introduction 1

2. Consultation 13

3. Opportunities and Challenges 17

4. Connective Trail Network 20

5. Strategic Direction 34

6. Economic Profiling and Investment Analysis 55

7. Accessible and Inclusive Trail Experiences 58

Image Credits 60

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- Key stakeholders consulted during the strategy development

Cover Photo: Robe Coastal Trail, Tredwell

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Executive Summary

The Limestone Coast Connective Trails Strategy provides a long-term vision and strategic framework to create a connected regional trail network that links communities, landscapes, visitor attractions and tourism experiences across the Limestone Coast. Developed on behalf of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association in partnership with the Regional Development Australia - Limestone Coast, the region's constituent councils and other key stakeholders, the Strategy seeks to strengthen recreation opportunities, support healthy and active lifestyles, grow the visitor economy and enhance regional liveability through investment in interconnected walking, cycling, driving and multi-day touring experiences.

The Limestone Coast is uniquely positioned to become one of Australia's premier regional trail destinations. The region's internationally recognised natural assets, including volcanic landscapes, sinkholes, caves, wetlands, coastlines, conservation parks and wine regions, provide a foundation for distinctive trail experiences that cannot be replicated elsewhere. Combined with strong cultural heritage, food and wine tourism, and its strategic location between Adelaide and Melbourne, the region has significant potential to attract both recreational users and high-value visitors seeking authentic nature-based experiences.

The Strategy builds on the achievements of the 2015 Limestone Coast Regional Trails Master Plan and responds to emerging recreation and tourism trends, including growing participation in walking, cycling and outdoor recreation, increasing demand for nature-based tourism, the rise of e-bikes, and visitor expectations for high-quality infrastructure, digital information and seamless destination experiences. Stakeholder consultation identified overwhelming support for improved regional connectivity, stronger links between existing attractions, enhanced wayfinding and promotion, and development of regionally significant trails capable of encouraging longer stays and greater visitor dispersal.

Central to the Strategy is the creation of a connected regional spine comprising existing and proposed signature trail experiences including the Naracoorte to Kingston Rail Trail (Caves to Coast), Limestone Wonders Trail, Naracoorte to Penola Rail Trail, Naracoorte to Wolseley Rail Trail, Potential Coastal Trail, Mount Gambier Rail Trail, Aussie Camino Trail, Gold Escort Route and Golden Trail. Together, these projects establish a framework that connects major visitor destinations including the Naracoorte Caves World Heritage Area, various Wine Regions, Mount Gambier's crater lakes and Southern Limestone Coast's sinkholes, Port MacDonnell, Robe, Kingston SE, Tatiara area and numerous local trails, conservation parks and cultural attractions.

The Strategy recognises that local trails remain the foundation of the broader network. Accordingly, it identifies a range of priority local trail projects across all council areas focused on maintaining existing assets, upgrading visitor experiences and expanding trail connectivity. The proposed actions support a coordinated approach to trail development while allowing individual councils to deliver projects that contribute to a broader regional vision.

Investment in the Limestone Coast Connective Trails Network will deliver substantial economic, social and community benefits. The region currently attracts more than 807,000 overnight visitors and 656,000 day visitors annually, generating approximately $662 million in visitor expenditure. By creating an integrated network that encourages visitors to travel further, stay longer and engage with multiple destinations, the Strategy has the potential to increase tourism expenditure, stimulate private sector investment, support local businesses, create employment opportunities and strengthen regional identity. At the same time, improved trail infrastructure will enhance community health and wellbeing, support active recreation and strengthen connections between towns and natural environments.

The Strategy is strongly aligned with Commonwealth, State, regional and local policy objectives, including THRIVE 2030, the South Australian Statewide Trails Strategy, the South Australian Tourism Plan, the Limestone Coast Destination Management Plan and the Limestone Coast Regional Growth Strategy. It also recognises the importance of accessibility, environmental stewardship, cultural heritage protection and collaboration with Traditional Owners, government agencies, trail user groups and tourism operators.

Through a coordinated and staged approach to planning, investment and partnership development, the Limestone Coast Connective Trails Strategy establishes a roadmap for delivering a connected, accessible and distinctive trail network that will enhance the region's competitiveness as a visitor destination while creating lasting benefits for communities throughout the Limestone Coast.

1. INTRODUCTION



Blue Lake/Warwar, Mount Gambier

Project Background and Scope

The Limestone Coast Connective Trails Strategy (LCCTS) will establish a region-wide strategic framework to guide the planning, development and promotion of an integrated network of walking, cycling, driving and multi-day touring routes across the Limestone Coast. The Strategy seeks to strengthen connectivity between townships, natural landscapes, visitor attractions and tourism experiences, supporting both local communities and visitors while contributing to regional economic development.

The Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) is leading the development of the LCCTS to provide local governments, stakeholders and the broader community with a long-term framework for the planning, development, management and promotion of trails across the region. The Strategy will establish a coordinated vision for a connected regional trail network that enhances liveability, supports healthy and active lifestyles, strengthens community connections and positions the Limestone Coast as a premier trail based tourism destination.

The Limestone Coast is uniquely positioned to capitalise on trail based tourism, with its diverse landscapes encompassing volcanic craters, sinkholes, caves, wetlands, rugged coastlines, native forests, national parks and internationally recognised wine regions. A connected network of shared use trails has the potential to unlock these significant natural, cultural and heritage assets by linking destinations through an integrated system of walking, cycling, driving and multi-day touring routes. By transforming the visitor experience from a collection of individual attractions into a seamless regional journey, the LCCTS will encourage extended visitor stays, increased expenditure, greater dispersal across the region and stronger economic outcomes for local communities.

Building on the existing 2015 Limestone Coast Trails Master Plan, the project will consolidate previous work into a contemporary, visually accessible regional trail network that reflects current priorities, emerging opportunities and future investment needs. The LCCTS will identify new trail opportunities, recommend upgrades to existing infrastructure, address connectivity gaps and barriers, and establish a prioritised implementation program based on strategic need, community benefit, visitor demand and economic potential.

Project Methodology

The project's six stage methodology, outlined below, was developed to ensure that the project incorporates relevant consultation, research and planning processes whilst meeting the project brief requirements.

The six stages include:

Stage 1: Project Start-up & Background Review

Stage 2: Key Stakeholder Engagement

Stage 3: Issues & Opportunities Analysis (with Site Visits and Mapping)

Stage 4: Economic Profiling & Investment Alignment

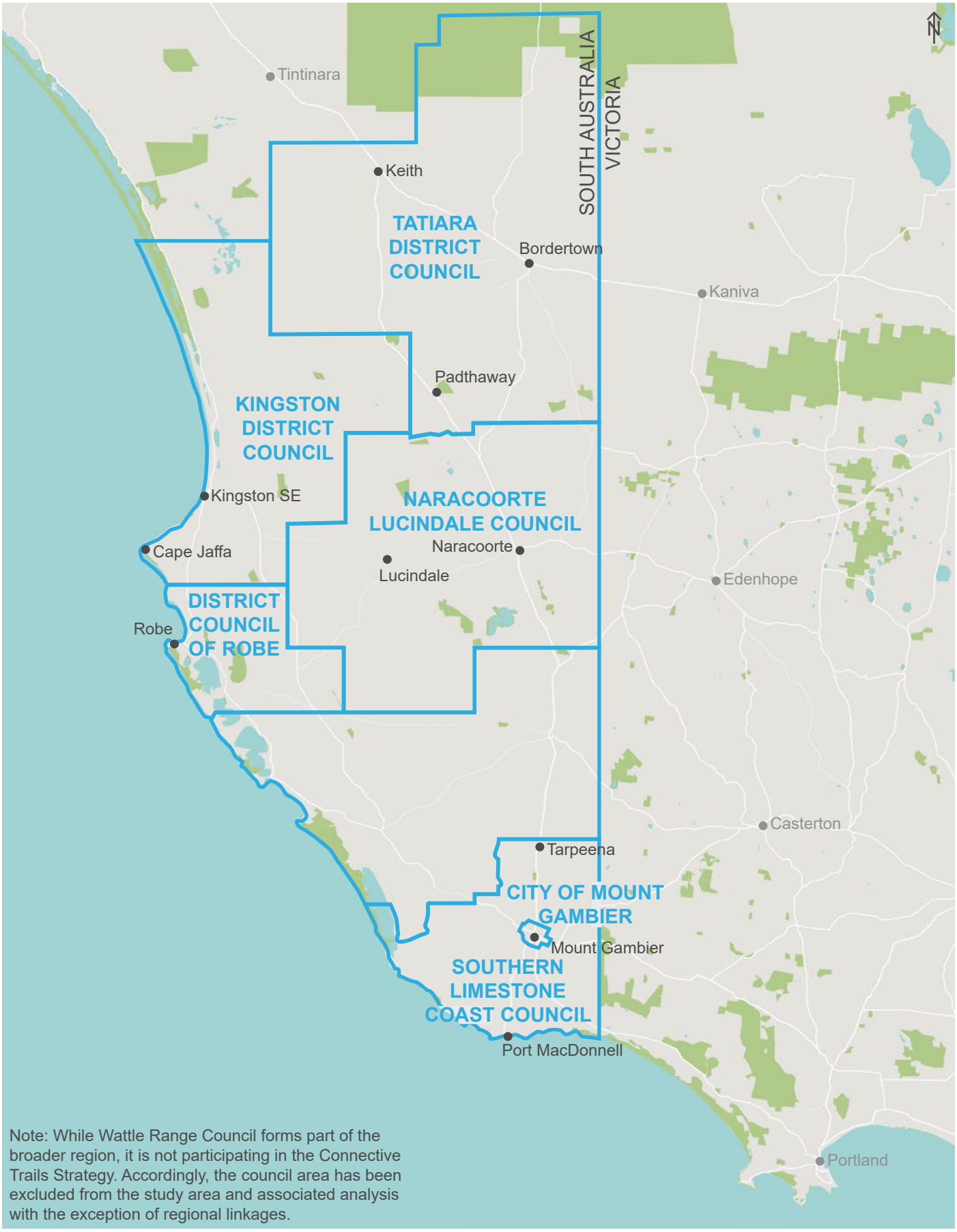
Stage 5: Draft Limestone Coast Connective Trails Strategy

Stage 6: Final Strategy, Funding Pathways & Handover



Mount Gambier Rail Trail

Limestone Coast Region Map



Note: While Wattle Range Council forms part of the broader region, it is not participating in the Connective Trails Strategy. Accordingly, the council area has been excluded from the study area and associated analysis with the exception of regional linkages.

Literature Review Overview

A comprehensive review of relevant background documentation was undertaken to inform the development of the LCCTS and ensure alignment with national, state, regional and local strategic directions. The key documents reviewed are summarised below.

National Level Documents

- The WELCOME Framework - Guidance for accessible and inclusive tourism businesses, (2024)
- National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030
- THRIVE 2030 - Australia's Visitor Economy Strategy
- National Road Safety Strategy 2021-30

State Level Documents

- Statewide Trails Strategy 2023 - 2033
- South Australia Tourism Plan (2030)
- South Australia's Road Safety Strategy to 2031

Regional Level Documents

- Limestone Coast Destination Management Plan 2025 - 2030 DRAFT
- Limestone Coast Regional Growth Strategy 2025 - 2030
- Limestone Coast Regional Trails Master Plan (2015)
- Limestone Coast Regional Plan (2026)
- Limestone Coast Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021 - 2026

Local Level Documents

Tatiara District Council

- Strategic Plan 2024 - 2034
- Tatiara Local Action Plan Strategic Vision 2025 - 2030
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2026-2030
- Strategic Pathway Plan for the Tatiara

Naracoorte Lucindale Council

- Strategic Plan, Strategic Directions 2023 - 2033 & Priority Actions 2023 - 2028
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029

City of Mount Gambier

- Mount Gambier 2035 - A community vision for our regional capital
- Strategic Plan 2024 - 2028
- Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy (2021)
- Crater Lakes Trails Plan (2023)
- Crater Lakes Trails Quick Reference Guide (2023)
- Craters Lakes Park - Trails Sign Plan (2023)
- Shared Path Masterplan (2024)

Southern Limestone Coast Council

- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 Southern Limestone Coast Council
- Strategic Plan 2024 - 2034
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2026-2030
- Advocacy Plan 2026
- Growth, Investment and Visitor Economy Framework 2025-2030
- Inner Townships Master Plan
- Sinkholes Master Plan & Little Blue Lake Concept Design Master Plan (in development)

District Council of Robe

- Strategic Plan 2024 - 2028
- Robe Trail Strategy 2026 - 2036
- Robe Mountain Bike Trail Network Analysis and Concept Plan (2015)
- Beacon Hill Mountain Bike Trails General Alignment (2026)
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2026-2030

Kingston District Council

- Strategic Plan 2023 - 2027
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

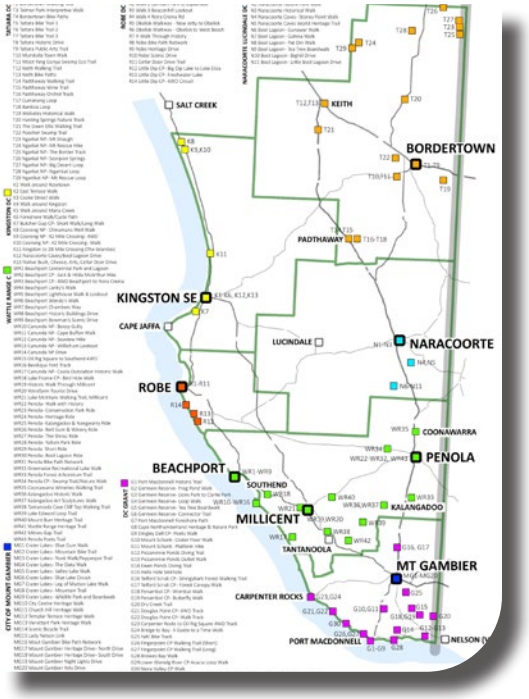
Concepts/proposals/submissions from community members and groups have also been reviewed as part of the community consultation process.

Review - Limestone Coast Regional Trails Master Plan (2015)

The *Limestone Coast Regional Trails Master Plan* (LCRTMP) in 2015 identified a network of 188 trails across the region, comprising cross-regional and interstate trails, walking trails, on-road cycling routes, mountain bike trails, horse riding trails, two-wheel drive (2WD) and four-wheel drive (4WD) touring routes, dive trails, and canoe/kayak trails.

To guide the planning, development and management of this network, the LCRTMP established a comprehensive Strategy and Action Plan. The table below summarises each strategy and action, together with its current implementation status, categorised as:

- Completed
- In Progress,
- Not Commenced
- No Longer Applicable.



#	Activity	Completed	In Progress	Not Commenced	No longer Applicable
1	Focus trail development and enhancement within the Key Trail Activity Areas throughout the Limestone Coast region		●		
2	Develop an integrated trail planning framework for the Limestone Coast region				
	• Establish a Limestone Coast Trails Reference Group		●		
	• Encourage, advocate and seek funding for the SELGA constituent. Councils to have a designated trail planning & development officer			●	
3	Enhance and continually develop existing popular and sustainable trails				
	• City of Mount Gambier – continue to maintain and enhance Crater Lakes trails. Investigate opportunities to extend the mountain bike trail to establish a loop trail		●		
	• Naracoorte Lucindale Council – support DEWNR with upgrade of Tea Tree Boardwalk at Bool Lagoon Reserve				●
	• DC Robe – address issues of informal access points through the coastal dune down to the beach		●		
	• DC Robe – upgrade marketing material/promotion of Robe's Heritage trail (A Walk through History) to incorporate and reinforce Robe's connections with Mary Mackillop, The Golden Trail and Shipwreck Trails	●			
	• Tatiara DC – undertake a review of the local road network around Bordertown to establish safe on road cycle loops around the area and consider required additional infrastructure, such as road widening, surface upgrades and signage		●		

#	Activity	Completed	In Progress	Not Commenced	No longer Applicable
4	Develop trails, linkages and networks to meet current and forecast demand – Cross Regional Trails/Major Trails Projects				
	• Major Project – Undertake a study to establish the feasibility of developing the Coastal Trail – Kingston to Beachport and Nelson to Port MacDonnell (priority sections)			●	
	• Major Project – Environment Trail – Cross-Regional Vehicle Touring Route. Utilising the Environment Trail concept, develop a more concise trail brochure			●	
	• Undertake a study to establish the feasibility of developing a trail based around the concept of the 'Aussie Camino' (Mackillop-Woods Way)	●			
5	Develop trails, linkages and networks to meet current and forecast demand – other trails projects				
	• Kingston DC/DC Robe – explore opportunities to develop authorised mountain bike trails in the area	●			
	• DC Grant/Wattle Range Council – councils to collaborate with DEWNR & FSA to address issues including formalisation/promotion of mountain bike & horse riding trails and unauthorised trail bike use			●	
	• Naracoorte Lucindale Council – Continue to progress with Trailhead and Local Heritage Trail project – potential to develop into a Regional trail (in association with other local trail projects)	●			
	• Naracoorte Lucindale Council – Progress plans for shared use path connecting Naracoorte with World Heritage Site – potential to develop into a Regional trail (in association with other local trail projects)	●			
	• DC Robe – develop a Cellar Doors Drive trail				●
	• Wattle Range Council / DC Grant – continue to investigate development of trail infrastructure at Lake Bonney, including canoe trail feasibility, in line with emerging environmental values and enhancement of water quality			●	
6	Ensure the management structures for all current and future regional trails are clearly defined		●		
7	Improved mapping and identification of trails throughout the Limestone Coast region		●		
8	Increased promotion and marketing of trail opportunities within the Limestone Coast region		●		
9	Use trail development and provision as an economic and community development tool		●		

Target Audiences - Statewide

The *South Australian Statewide Trails Strategy* identifies a range of key markets that influence trail planning, development, promotion and activation across the State.



Community - a diverse range of people, from volunteers (such as Friends of Groups) and trail maintenance teams to First Nations groups who have cared for the land for thousands of years, as well as clubs and individuals who use the trails. The community also plays a key role in promoting, maintaining and raising awareness of the environmental, recreational and health benefits.



Education - nature, sport, engineering, product development, and trail development and maintenance are key focus areas. Partnerships with educational institutions will support the strategic vision by engaging children and young adults with trails, developing skills for the growing trail industry, and increasing knowledge, appreciation and participation in the natural environment.



Recreation and Sport – key markets include local communities, schools, families, recreational users, clubs, and national and international training camps. Investment in high quality trail infrastructure will support health and wellbeing, enhance participation and recreation opportunities, strengthen athlete development pathways, and attract major events and tourism.



Tourism - local, intrastate, interstate and international visitors are key markets. The Statewide Trails Strategy aims to position South Australia as a leading trails destination through coordinated marketing that promotes the State's competitive advantages and increases visitor numbers.

Target Audiences - Limestone Coast

The *Limestone Coast Destination Management Plan 2025 -2030* identifies significant opportunities to grow the visitor economy by attracting high contribution visitors who seek authentic, sustainable and immersive experiences. The Plan highlights the importance of developing place based tourism experiences that showcase the region's unique natural, cultural and food and wine assets.



Intrastate - building on the strong Adelaide and regional South Australian market through short breaks, seasonal experiences and events.

Interstate - encouraging longer stays by positioning the Limestone Coast as a multi-night destination within the Melbourne–Adelaide touring route.



International - growing demand through nature-based and premium experiences, supported by internationally ready tourism products.



Special Interest Markets - the Limestone Coast has a diverse and distinctive offering that lends itself to special interest, high-yield markets capable of delivering strong dispersal benefits.



- Adventure and Nature-Based Tourism
- Agritourism and Provenance
- Cultural and Heritage Tourism
- Sport
- Business Events
- Travel



Key Tourism Insights

The *South Australian Tourism Commission Limestone Coast Regional Profile* (year ending Dec 2024) identifies tourism trends that support continued investment in the regional trail network.

- The Limestone Coast welcomed 807,000 overnight visitors and 656,000 day visitors, contributing $662 million to the regional economy. The region attracts a balanced domestic market, with 49% of overnight visitors from within South Australia and 47% from interstate, demonstrating the importance of both local and drive tourism markets.
- Holiday travel is the primary purpose of visitation, accounting for 54% of overnight visitors, while visiting friends and relatives and business travel provide additional opportunities to encourage participation in trail based experiences.
- The Limestone Coast's strongest domestic source markets are Regional South Australia (28%), Adelaide (23%) and Victoria (35%), reinforcing the importance of accessible, high quality trail experiences for both local residents and interstate visitors.
- Self-drive travel dominates visitation, with 93% of visitors travelling by car, highlighting the need for well connected trailheads, wayfinding, parking and supporting visitor infrastructure.
- The most popular visitor activities closely align with trail based recreation, including going to the beach, sightseeing, visiting national parks, bushwalking, wineries and heritage attractions, demonstrating strong demand for walking, cycling and nature based trail experiences.
- Visitation is seasonal, with peaks during January, April and December, indicating opportunities to develop trail experiences and events that encourage visitation during shoulder and off-peak periods.
- Regional perception research identifies the Limestone Coast's natural landscapes including its caves, beaches, sand dunes and volcanic landscapes as major tourism strengths. It also highlights opportunities to encourage longer stays, develop multi-day itineraries, and promote experiences during the cooler months, all of which can be supported by an expanded regional trail network.











Active Participation

Trails play a vital role in supporting physical activity across the Limestone Coast. As shown in the table below, recreational walking, running/jogging, bushwalking and cycling are four of the six most popular physical activities, all of which rely on access to a well planned and connnected trail network.

AusPlay Sport Participation Table, Top 10 Adult Activities, Jan 2025 - Dec 2026

Rank	Activity	SA Adult Participation Rate	Estimate ('000)
1	**Walking (Recreational)**	**51.6%**	**815,506**
2	Fitness/Gym	31%	490,202
3	**Running/jogging**	**15.5%**	**245,678**
4	**Bushwalking**	**15.4%**	**243,246**
5	Swimming	11.8%	187,064
6	**Cycling**	8.4%	132,256
7	Pilates	6.3%	98,933
8	Football/soccer	5.1%	80,318
9	Tennis	4.6%	73,370
10	Golf	4.1%	64,779

Strava Year In Sport, Dec 2024

Global Trend	Why it matters for the Limestone Coast
 **Running** continues to grow globally, with a 9% increase in marathons, ultra marathons and endurance rides.	• Supports investment in long distance trails, recreational running routes and event based tourism.
 People are increasingly exercising for **social connection** rather then competition.	• Highlights the importance of trails that connect towns, cafés, wineries and visitor attractions, rather than simply providing exercise opportunities.
 **Outdoor recreation** remains one of the **fastest growing** recreation sectors.	• Reinforces demand for diverse trail experiences across coastal, forest and rural landscapes.
 **Community** is a major motivator. More than half of users say they are motivated by exercising with friends or family rather than elite performance.	• Supports investment in accessible, family friendly and community oriented trails.
 **Route discovery** is increasingly important. Strava continues to invest heavily in route planning, mapping and trail discovery features because people activity seek new places to explore.	• Highlights the value of well mapped, signed and digitally promoted trails throughout the Limestone Coast.

Trends

Society, and the trails sector, are continually evolving. Trail planning and management needs to consider the changes that are occurring and lie ahead. Understanding trends will help ensure that the regional trail network appeals to future users. Key relevant trends are highlighted below.

Popularity of nature-based tourism

As societies around the globe become increasingly urbanised, people may suffer from a phenomenon known as 'nature deficit'. Research from Tourism Australia into the Australian travel mindset found that getting away from crowds is more important than ever before, as holidays provide the opportunity for people to take the time to reconnect with the natural world. Nature-based tourism, where people can immerse themselves in the natural environment, is a key tourism draw card. Recreational trails enable people to 'escape crowds' and reconnect with the natural environment.

Ageing population is increasingly active

Populations across Australia, and the world, are increasingly ageing. Australians between 60-64 years are a standout group for their elevated participation rates in trail-based activities, particularly bushwalking. Opportunities for recreation and physical activity will need to be diversified and expanded to meet the needs of the growing cohort of older Australians. For example, trails that clearly identify their level of difficulty so that potential users can assess their suitability.

Increasing participation in individualised activities

Increasingly busy, time fragmented lifestyles mean that people are becoming more involved in individualised recreational activities (such as walking, jogging, cycling, hiking) rather than traditional, structured sports. Trail activities can generally occur at any time of day, individually or in groups. It is important for governments and planning agencies to be aware of this shift to ensure that reserves, trails and associated infrastructure can sustainably cater for projected increases in demand.

Technology advancements

Use of trails is continually diversifying in line with technology advancements. Social technologies have created online communities (e.g. Strava, Alltrails, Trailforks) and fitness tracking technologies (e.g. Garmin, Apple Watches, Fitbits), and users are able to share their experiences in various formats (e.g. YouTube, Instagram, Tiktok). Technology is allowing people to 'virtually' walk trails across the world and discover new places.

Increasingly high standards and expectations

Today's society places high expectations upon community facilities including recreational trails and associated infrastructure and there are increasing standards for public safety, risk mitigation and environmental/cultural management measures. Trail managers are required to exercise due diligence relating to trail planning, maintenance and management. There is increasing pressure to provide high quality trail experiences which meet expectations and are compliant with Australian Standards, manage risk, protect the natural and cultural values, and respectfully interpret the stories and connections of Traditional Owners.

E-Bikes

Bikes, and the ways people use them, are changing rapidly as technology advances. The latest electric bikes (e-bikes) can generate tremendous power. Sales of e-bikes are increasing every year, and the technology behind them is advancing rapidly.

E-bikes (including e-road, e-mtb and e-gravel) make cycling more accessible to riders who may be less experienced and/or physically fit, and increase ride duration for more experienced riders. This is likely to increase rates of participation and trail usage. It is important that trail planning and management is responsive to this change.

Trends

People seeking experiences over products, and transformational travel

There is a consumer, societal, demographic and cultural megatrend towards the rising demand for experiences over products and the rising importance of social relationships. Experiences rather than things/products are the key to travel. Stories help create the experience and personalise and customise it, to make a place relevant to each individual. Visitors want to connect with locals, know they are welcome and feel their trip was positive for the community. For example, the strong trends toward 'live like a local' and 'fostering connections'. Visitors are increasingly seeking an experience that encourages personal reflection and change, such as a long-distance hike or long-distance road trip to celebrate a life milestone such as significant birthdays, overcoming illness, or retirement.

Boutique food and wine tourism

Boutique food and wine tourism adds value to the tourism experience and has become a focal element of tourists interests when travelling. Visitors are increasingly searching for boutique food and wine experiences when travelling, which suggests the growing evidence of a tourism market trend.

Due to their contributions to regional and local development, food, wine and other local products are increasingly acknowledged as central to unique and immersive rural tourism experiences. It is today recognised that food and wine tourism in rural areas is more than a niche market phenomenon, adding value to the discovery of rural areas and the uniqueness and identity to visited places, which may be an interesting and appealing factor to many travellers that are generally interested in exploring rural regions, landscapes, hospitality and culture, together with their food and wine. It is becoming common place to link food and wine attractions through trails.

Recognising trails as achieving numerous policy objectives

Governments (federal, state and local level) and companies are increasingly utilising recreational trails to achieve various policy objectives, such as to help address a range of issues from childhood obesity through to social inclusion, as well as economic development, tourism and conservation. Trails can be used as a tool to engage wider sectors of the community. Programs involving trail-based activities can stimulate interest in topics such as active lifestyles, protection of natural areas, cultural heritage values and wider social inclusion.



Big Lobster, Kingston SE

Achieving Policy Objectives

Limestone Coast Destination Management Plan – Draft (2025 – 2030)

Regionally Significant Projects

1.2 Crater Lakes Precinct

- The Crater Lakes are Mount Gambier's most iconic and enduring natural features.
- The implementation of low-impact trails and a connected track network would allow for immersive visitor experiences that minimise disturbance while deepening appreciation of place.

Project Status:

- Over 2024–28, Council intends to deliver trail networks, ecological management, and explore experience opportunities.
- Major works hinge on securing the flagged $5+ million investment and forming strong public-private partnerships.

1.4 Regional Trails Network

- Build on the connected and distinctive Limestone Coast Regional Trails Network to link towns, landscapes, and attractions, to create world-class walking, cycling, and touring experiences that drive dispersal, yield, and year round visitation.
- The Limestone Coast's diverse landscapes, volcanic craters, sinkholes, caves, wetlands, coastlines, forests, and wine regions make it uniquely suited to trail-based tourism. A network of connected shared use trails would unlock these natural and cultural assets by connecting them through a coordinated system of walking, cycling, driving, and multi-day touring routes.
- This network has the potential to transform the visitor journey from isolated attractions to a cohesive regional experience, inspiring visitors to travel further, stay longer, and spend more.
- This project also presents a great opportunity for LGAs to collaborate on a unifying project that delivers benefits across the entire region. While each council faces differing budgets, priorities, and community needs, the trail network provides a flexible framework where local projects can contribute to a larger regional story.

Next Steps

- Regional Trails Network partners to review and update the Regional Trails Masterplan, building on existing Limestone Coast Regional Trails Strategy (2015) and rescope the potential for development of a cohesive and connected trails experience across the region.
- Discussion to include potential for infrastructure development, marketing, and for bookable product and experiences that leverage the trail asset once established.

Impacts

Delivery of high-quality recreation infrastructure that boosts local pride and active lifestyles, enables town to town connectivity, and creates platforms for hosting events (marathons, cycling festivals, walking weekends) and drives visitation for immersive, low-impact eco-adventures.

2.1 Coastal Visitor Impact Framework

- Create connected visitor shared-use trails linking coastal towns, nature reserves, and food/wine experiences along the Coast.

2. CONSULTATION



Bordertown to Mundulla Shared Use Path

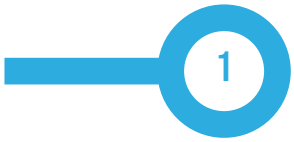
Key Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement was a key component of the LCCTS development process. A regional consultation program was undertaken between April and May 2026, enabling the contact with each of the six constituent councils across the Limestone Coast. Recognising that each council has different consultation preferences, engagement was tailored accordingly. Some councils preferred meetings with relevant staff, while others elected to participate in workshop style sessions.

The consultation program also included meetings with a range of key regional stakeholders representing the tourism industry, State Government and wine sector, together with site visits to key trails, trailheads and visitor destinations throughout the region. Additional stakeholders were invited to contribute throughout the project to ensure a broad range of perspectives informed the LCCTS. This section provides a summary of consultation findings.

Key Opportunities

Stakeholders consistently emphasised the region's strong natural assets, tourism potential, and community appetite for improved trail experiences. The project brief notes that a connected network would "transform the visitor journey from a series of isolated attractions into a cohesive regional experience". Across councils and sectors, there is clear support for regional scale connections, activation of existing trails, and better signage, maintenance and marketing.



Regional Spine and Strategic Connections

- Strong support for Naracoorte–Kingston (Rail Trail), Naracoorte–Penola/ Coonawarra, and Mount Gambier–Port MacDonnell–Robe connections.
- Robe stakeholders proposed a full regional loop: "Kingston to Naracoorte to Penola to Mount Gambier" (DC Robe).
- Opportunities to link iconic assets:
  - Naracoorte Caves World Heritage Site ("the most booked tourism experience in the Limestone Coast").
  - Crater Lakes, Little Blue Lake, sinkholes, Bool Lagoon, coastal landscapes, wine regions.



Tourism and Experience Development

- Cruise ship day-trip potential from Robe.
- Lighthouse tourism, heritage/historic homes drive trails, and nature-based experiences.
- Events such as Woof & Wine, Robe Run, and trail runs at Naracoorte Caves provide activation platforms.



Wine and Food Trails

- Coonawarra most suitable for walking/cycling access; wineries see value in trails that increase visitation and overnight stays.
- Potential for family-friendly offerings (Margaret River model).
- Need to manage biosecurity risks (e.g. phylloxera).

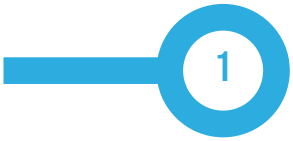


Adventure and Niche Markets

- Mountain biking (Robe, Mount Gambier), gravel riding, canoe trails (drain network), and long-distance walking (Aussie Camino).
- Geo-park potential (Kanawinka model).

Key Barriers and Constrains

Stakeholder consultation identified a range of barriers and constraints that will influence the planning, delivery and long-term management of the Limestone Coast regional trail network. While the region has significant opportunities to enhance trail connectivity and grow trail-based recreation and tourism, several challenges must be addressed, including funding limitations, governance and land tenure complexities, infrastructure gaps, environmental and biosecurity considerations, and market constraints. Stakeholders also identified a number of key enablers that will support successful implementation of the LCCTS, including strong inter-agency collaboration, strategic alignment with State and regional planning, improved data collection to inform investment decisions, and coordinated regional marketing and promotion.



Funding and Resourcing

- All councils have limited financial capacity.
- ORSR funds only “1–2 trails each year across SA” (ORSR meeting).



Biosecurity

- High sensitivity around vineyard access; risk of phylloxera spread “by boots or machinery” (Wine Council).
- All trails in natural areas need to be assessed for biosecurity risks.



Infrastructure Gaps

- Poor signage, limited wayfinding, and maintenance issues (Robe, Aussie Camino).
- Lack of loop trails; many one-way routes.
- Bool Lagoon boardwalk closed.
- Major high speed roads throughout the region with significant heavy vehicle traffic.



Governance & Land Tenure

- DIT control of former rail corridors is a major dependency.
- Need for councils to consider formally adopting (where feasible) and promoting trails (Aussie Camino).

Market Limitations

- Limited tour operators; low winter usage; mobile reception issues in parts of the regions.

Dependencies and Enablers

- Alignment with ORSR Strategic Plan and Limestone Coast Regional Plan.
- Collaboration with DEW/NPWS, DIT, Vine Health, tourism bodies, and local cycling/walking groups.
- Data collection (counters, Strava heat maps) to support funding bids.
- Regional marketing and consistent trail information.

Early 'Quick Wins'

Stakeholder consultation identified a range of practical, short-term initiatives that could be implemented to enhance the regional trail network. These "quick wins" focus on low-cost, high-impact improvements that can deliver immediate benefits for residents and visitors while laying the foundation for longer-term strategic investment. Key priorities include improving signage and wayfinding, activating and promoting existing trail assets, addressing maintenance issues, strengthening local trail connections and fostering greater collaboration between key stakeholders and land managers.



3. OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES



Mount Gambier Rail Trail

Opportunities

Growing Demand for Trails Based Recreation

AusPlay identifies recreational walking, running/ jogging, bushwalking and cycling are among Australia's most popular physical activities. Strava also reports continued growth in outdoor recreation, driven by demand for nature based experiences, social activities and exploring new places.

» Continue investing in a diverse, high quality trail network that caters for walking, running, bushwalking and cycling, while providing experiences that encourage both local participation and trail tourism.

Strong Nature Based Tourism Market

The Limestone Coast attracts more than 807,000 overnight visitors and 656,000 day trips annually, generating more than $662 million in visitor expenditure. The region's unique landscapes, coastlines and geological attractions provide a strong foundation for trail based tourism.

» Expand and promote trail experiences that encourage longer visitor stays, increase dispersal across the region and strengthen links between townships, visitor attractions, wineries, accommodation and local businesses.

Supportive Strategic Policy Environment

State and regional strategies consistently identify trails as important infrastructure that contributes to recreation, tourism, community wellbeing, economic development and environmental stewardship.

» Align future trail investment with State and regional priorities to strengthen funding opportunities and deliver coordinated outcomes across councils and agencies.

Regional Connectivity

The Limestone Coast's dispersed townships and significant natural attractions present opportunities to improve connections between communities and destinations.

» Develop an integrated regional trail network that links towns, public open spaces, tourism destinations and existing trail assets to create seamless recreation and tourism experiences.

Visitor Expectations

Modern trail users increasingly expect quality infrastructure including clear wayfinding, digital mapping, accessible trailheads, amenities and interpretive experiences.

» Improve trail infrastructure, signage, digital information and supporting facilities to enhance the overall visitor experience and encourage repeat visitation.

Environmental and Cultural Values

The region contains nationally significant coastal environments, conservation areas, wetlands, unique geological features and Aboriginal cultural heritage that contribute to the region's identity and visitor appeal.

» Design and manage trails to protect environmental and cultural values while improving access to nature through sustainable and well planned trail infrastructure.

Competitive Tourism Destination

Trail tourism continues to grow across Australia, with many regions investing heavily in destination trails and iconic visitor experiences.

» Position the Limestone Coast as one of Australia's premier regional trail destinations by developing distinctive signature experiences, strengthening regional branding and investing in high quality trail infrastructure.

Challenges

Regional Scale

The Limestone Coast covers a large geographic area with dispersed communities and visitor destinations.

» Prioritise trail investment to maximise regional connectivity while recognising that delivering and maintaining an extensive trail network requires significant resources.

Fragmented Trail Network

Many existing trails operate as standalone assets with limited connections between towns, attractions and recreation destinations.

» Focus investment on improving trail connectivity and closing strategic gaps to create a more integrated regional network.

Environmental and Cultural Values

The region contains nationally significant coastal environments, conservation parks, unique geological features such as craters, caves and sinkholes, wetlands and Aboriginal cultural heritage.

» Ensure trail planning and development carefully balances improved access with the protection of environmental and cultural values in line with community expectations and legislative responsibilities.

Multiple Land Managers

Trails traverse land managed by councils, State Government agencies, private landholders and Traditional Owners.

» Continue to strengthen partnerships and coordination to facilitate trail planning, approvals, delivery and long-term management.

Funding and Maintenance

Developing and maintaining a regional trail network requires ongoing investment beyond initial construction.

» Prioritise projects that demonstrate strong community, tourism and economic benefits while establishing sustainable funding and maintenance arrangements.

Road Safety

Limited road shoulders and high-speed rural roads can create barriers for cyclists and pedestrians.

» Investigate opportunities to provide off-road trail connections and improve safety where trail users interact with the road network.

Visitor Expectations

Trail users increasingly expect high-quality infrastructure, digital mapping, wayfinding and supporting amenities.

» Upgrade existing infrastructure to improve the overall trail experience and ensure the network remains competitive as a regional tourism destination.

Climate and Natural Hazards

Coastal erosion, flooding, bushfire and extreme weather can impact trail infrastructure and accessibility.

» Incorporate resilient design and asset management practices to improve the long-term sustainability of the trail network.

4. CONNECTIVE TRAIL NETWORK



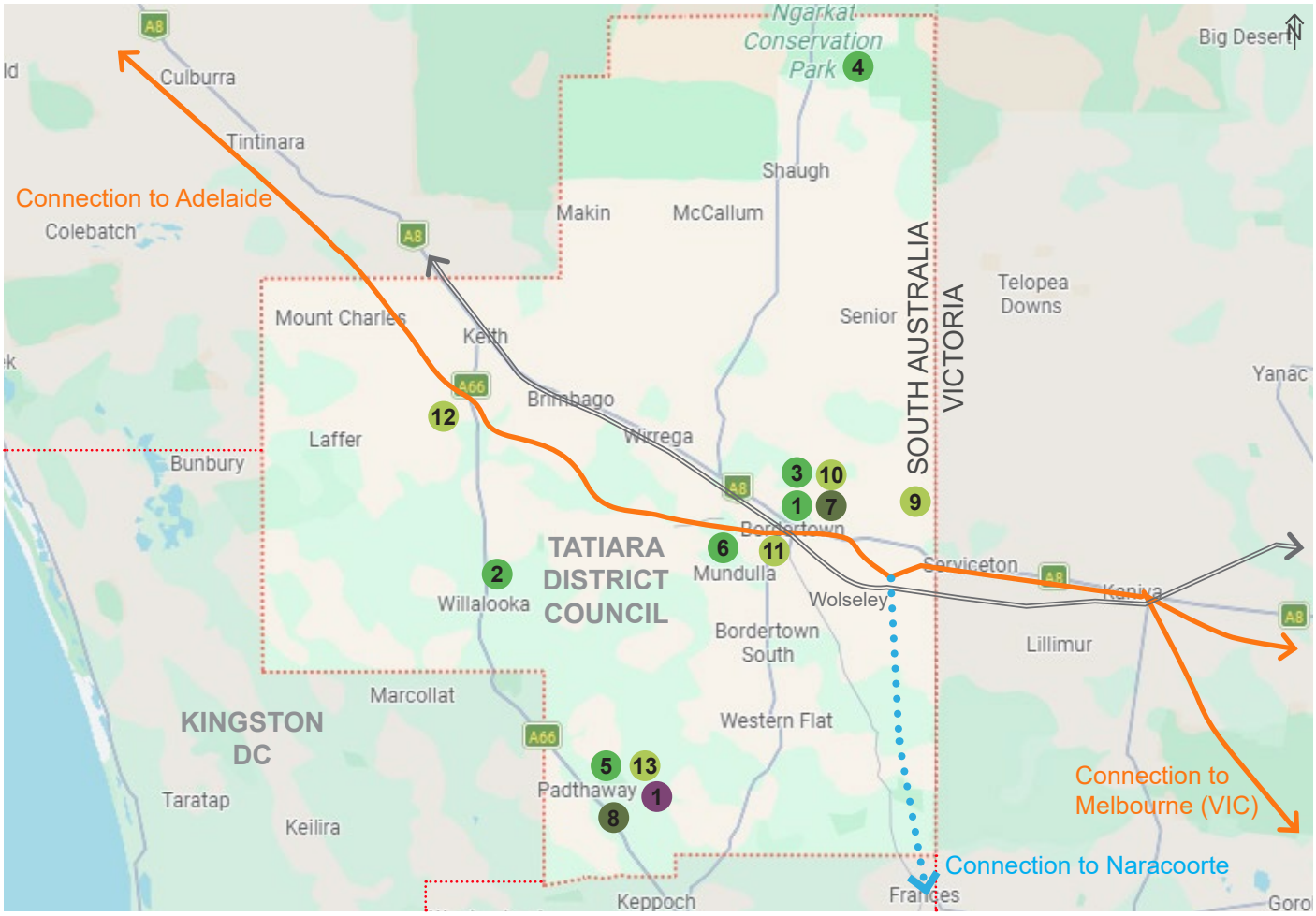
Little Blue Lake

Regional Trails That Connect



Note: While Wattle Range Council forms part of the broader region, it is not participating in the Connective Trails Strategy. Accordingly, the council area has been excluded from the study area and associated analysis with the exception of regional linkages.

Tatiara District Council



LEGEND

- Potential Rail Trail (Multi-Use)
- Gold Escort Route (Multi-Use)
- Live Railway Line
- Council Boundary

1. Natural Attraction: Bordertown Wildlife Park
2. Natural Attraction: Christmas Rocks Conservation Park
3. Natural Attraction: Moot Yang Gunya Swamp and Jimmy's Waterhole
4. Natural Attraction: Ngarkat Conservation Park
5. Natural Attraction: Padthaway Conservation Park
6. Natural Attraction: Poocher Swamp
7. Cultural/Heritage Attraction: Bob Hawke Gallery
8. Cultural/Heritage Attraction: Padthaway Estate
9. Local Trail: Border Track (4WD)
10. Local Trail: Bordertown Recreation Lake Walking Trail
11. Local Trail: Bordertown to Mundulla Shared Use Path
12. Local Trail: Mount Monster Conservation Park Trails
13. Local Trail: Padthaway Conservation Park Trails



Natural Attraction: Bordertown Wildlife Park



Natural Attraction: Christmas Rocks Conservation Park



Natural Attraction: Moot Yang Gunya Swamp and Jimmy's Waterhole



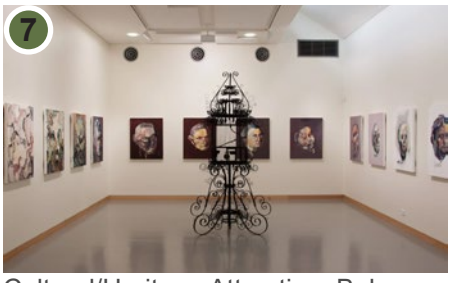
Natural Attraction: Ngarkat Conservation Park



Natural Attraction: Padthaway Conservation Park



Natural Attraction: Poocher Swamp



Cultural/Heritage Attraction: Bob Hawke Gallery



Cultural/Heritage Attraction: Padthaway Estate



Local Trail: Border Track (4WD)



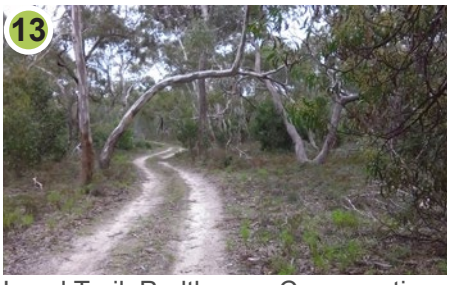
Local Trail: Bordertown Recreation Lake Walking Trail



Local Trail: Bordertown to Mundulla Shared Use Path

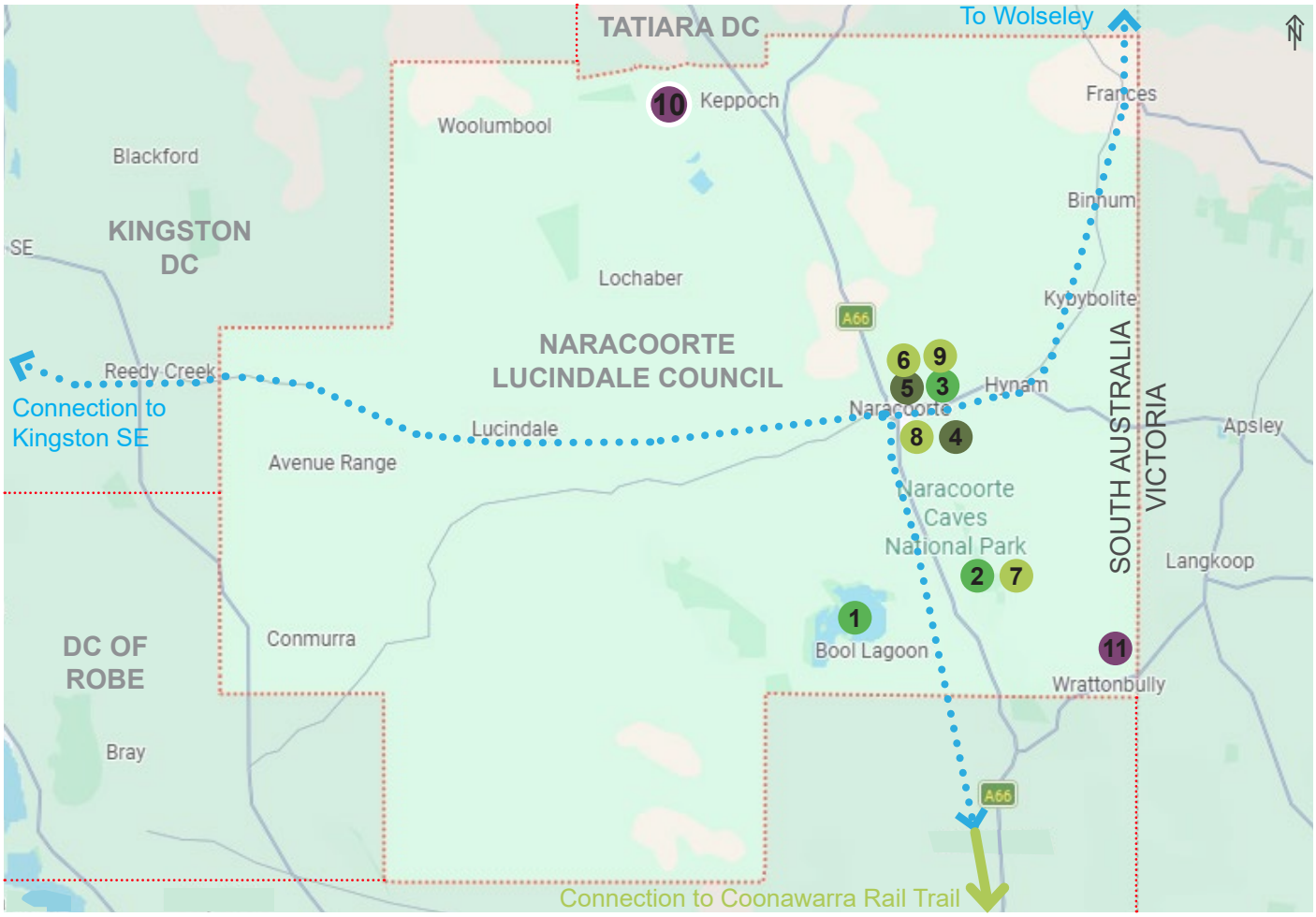


Local Trail: Mount Monster Conservation Park Trails



Local Trail: Padthaway Conservation Park Trails

Naracoorte Lucindale Council



LEGEND

- Potential Rail Trail (Multi-Use)
- Coonawarra Rail Trail (Multi-Use)
- Council Boundary

1. Natural Attraction: Bool Lagoon
2. Natural Attraction: Naracoorte Caves National Park
3. Natural Attraction: Naracoorte Swimming Lake
4. Cultural & Heritage: Naracoorte Regional Art Gallery
5. Cultural & Heritage: Sheep's Back Museum
6. Local Trail: Naracoorte and Surrounds Art Trail
7. Local Trail: Naracoorte Caves NP Trails
8. Local Trail: Naracoorte Caves Trail
9. Local Trail: Naracoorte Creek Walk
10. Food and Wine: Padthaway Wine Region
11. Food and Wine: Wrattonbully Wine Region



Natural Attraction: Bool Lagoon



Natural Attraction: Naracoorte Caves National Park



Natural Attraction: Naracoorte Swimming Lake



Cultural & Heritage: Naracoorte Regional Art Gallery



Cultural & Heritage: Sheep's Back Museum



Local Trail: Naracoorte and Surrounds Art Trail



Local Trail: Naracoorte Caves NP Trails



Local Trail: Naracoorte Caves Trail



Local Trail: Naracoorte Creek Walk



Food and Wine: Padthaway Wine Region



Food and Wine: Wrattonbully Wine Region

City of Mount Gambier



LEGEND

- Aussie Camino Trail (Multi-Use)
- Mount Gambier Rail Trail (Multi-Use)
- Proposed Mount Gambier Rail Trail (Multi-Use) Extension
- Potential Limestone Wonders Trail
- Council Boundary

1. Natural Attraction: Cave Garden/Thugi
2. Natural Attraction: Engelbrecht Cave
3. Natural Attraction: The Crater Lakes
4. Natural Attraction: Umpherston Sinkhole/Balumbal
5. Cultural & Heritage: Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre
6. Local Trail: City Heritage Walk
7. Local Trail: Crater Lakes Trails



Natural Attraction: Cave Garden/ Thugi



Natural Attraction: Engelbrecht Cave



Natural Attraction: The Crater Lakes



Natural Attraction: Umpherston Sinkhole/Balumbal



Cultural & Heritage: Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre

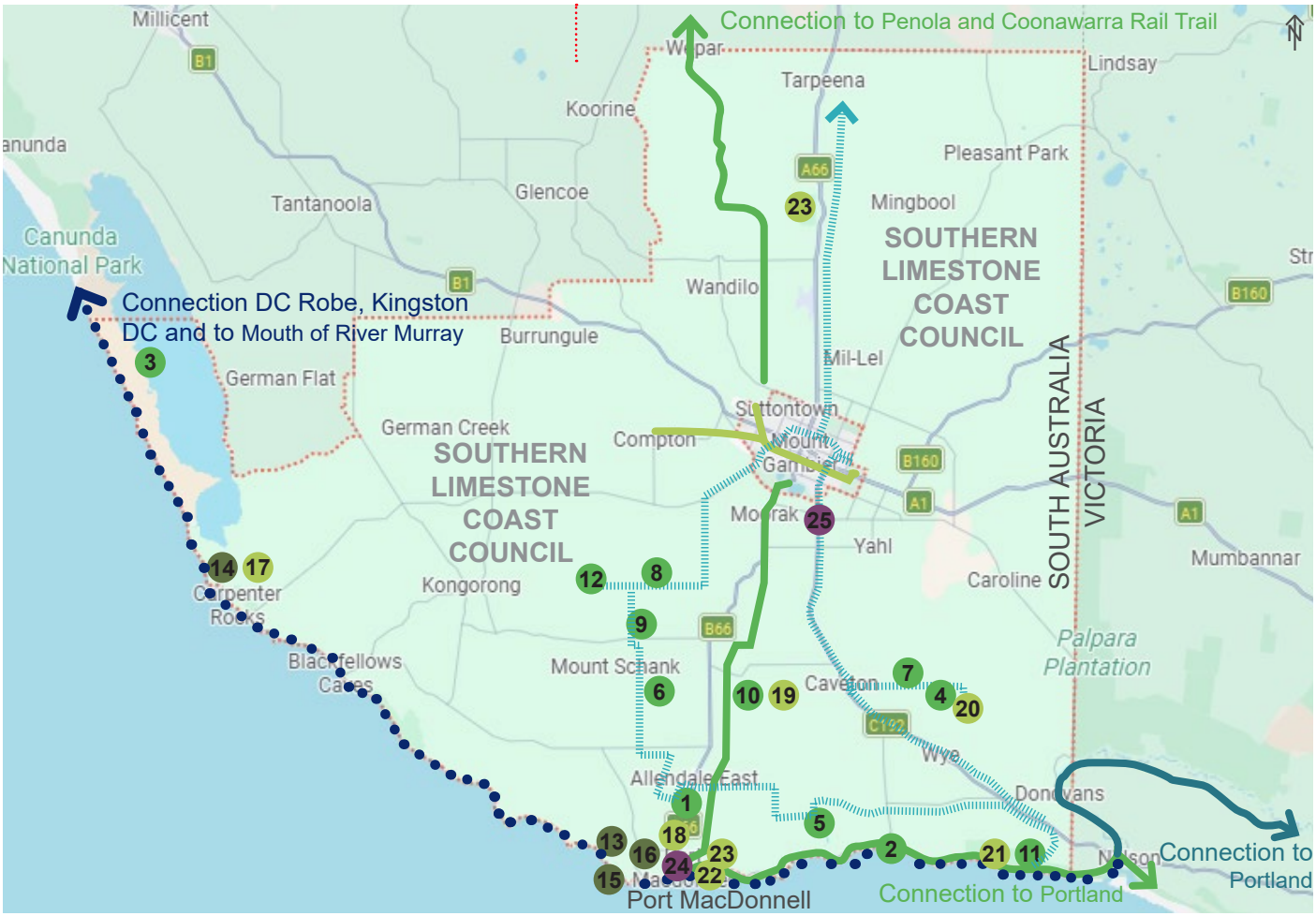


Local Trail: City Heritage Walk



Local Trail: Crater Lakes Trails

Southern Limestone Coast Council



LEGEND

- Potential Coastal Trail (Multi-Use)
- Great South West Walk
- Aussie Camino Trail (Multi-Use)
- Mount Gambier Rail Trail (Multi-Use)
- Potential Limestone Wonders Trail
- Council Boundary

1. Natural Attraction: Allendale East Cave
2. Natural Attraction: Brown Bay
3. Natural Attraction: Canunda National Park
4. Natural Attraction: Caroline Sinkhole
5. Natural Attraction: Ewens Ponds
6. Natural Attraction: Gouldens Sinkhole
7. Natural Attraction: Hells Hole
8. Natural Attraction: Kilsby Sinkhole
9. Natural Attraction: Little Blue Lake
10. Natural Attraction: Mount Schank
11. Natural Attraction: Piccaninnie Ponds
12. Natural Attraction: The Sisters Sinkholes
13. Cultural & Heritage Attraction: Bicentennial Turrett and Lookout
14. Cultural & Heritage Attraction: Cape Banks Lighthouse
15. Cultural/Heritage Attraction: Cape Northumberland incl. Lighthouse/Nature Park
16. Cultural/Heritage Attraction: Port MacDonnell Maritime Museum
17. Local Trail: Capenter Rocks Walking Trails
18. Local Trail: Germain Reserve Trails
19. Local Trail: Mount Schank Crater Rim Walk
20. Local Trail: Penambol Conservation Park Trails
21. Local Trail: Piccaninnie Ponds Walk
22. Local Trail: Port MacDonnell Foreshore Shared Use Path
23. Local Trail: Telford Scrub Conservation Park Trails
24. Food and Wine: Five Star Seafoods
25. Food and Wine: Mount Gambier Wine Region



Natural Attraction: Allendale East Cave



Natural Attraction: Brown Bay



Natural Attraction: Canunda National Park



Natural Attraction: Caroline Sinkhole



Natural Attraction: Ewens Ponds



Natural Attraction: Gouldens Sinkhole



Natural Attraction: Hells Hole



Natural Attraction: Kilsby Sinkhole



Natural Attraction: Little Blue Lake



Natural Attraction: Mount Schank



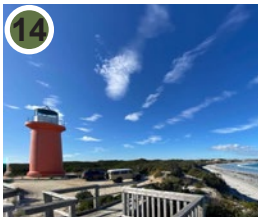
Natural Attraction: Piccaninnie Ponds



Natural Attraction: The Sisters Sinkholes



Cultural & Heritage Attraction: Bicentennial Turrett and Lookout



Cultural & Heritage Attraction: Cape Banks Lighthouse



Cultural/Heritage Attraction: Cape Northumberland incl. Lighthouse/Nature Park



Cultural/Heritage Attraction: Port MacDonnell Maritime Museum



Local Trail: Carpenter Rocks Walking Trails



Local Trail: Germain Reserve Trails



Local Trail: Mount Schank



Local Trail: Penambol Conservation Park Trails



Local Trail: Piccaninnie Ponds Walk



Local Trail: Port MacDonnell Foreshore Shared Use Path



Local Trail: Telford Scrub Conservation Park Trails



Food and Wine: Five Star Seafoods



Food and Wine: Mount Gambier Wine Region

District Council of Robe



LEGEND

- Potential Coastal Trail (Multi-Use)
- The Golden Trail (Multi-Use)
- Council Boundary

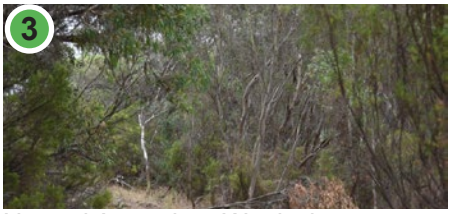
1. Natural Attraction: Lake Fellmongery
2. Natural Attraction: Long Beach
3. Natural Attraction: Woakwine Conservation Park
4. Cultural & Heritage Attraction: Pai Fang Chinese Monument
5. Cultural & Heritage Attraction: Robe Obelisk
6. Cultural & Heritage Attraction: Robe Old Gaol Ruins
7. Local Trail: Beacon Hill Trails and Lookout
8. Local Trail: Little Dip Conservation Park Walks
9. Local Trail: Robe Coastal Trail
10. Local Trail: Robe's Tasting Trail
11. Local Trail: Robe's Town Heritage Trail
12. Local Trail: Woakwine Trail (proposed)
13. Food and Wine: Loophole Brewery
14. Food and Wine: Robe Town Brewery
15. Food and Wine: Robe Wine Region
16. Food and Wine: Mount Benson Wine Region



Natural Attraction: Lake Fellmongery



Natural Attraction: Long Beach



Natural Attraction: Woakwine Conservation Park



Cultural & Heritage Attraction: Pai Fang Chinese Monument



Cultural & Heritage Attraction: Robe Obelisk



Cultural & Heritage Attraction: Robe Old Gaol Ruins



Local Trail: Beacon Hill Trails and Lookout



Local Trail: Little Dip Conservation Park Walks



Local Trail: Robe Coastal Trail



Local Trail: Robe's Tasting Trail



Local Trail: Robe's Town Heritage Trail



Local Trail: Woakwine Trail (proposed)



Food and Wine: Loophole Brewery



Food and Wine: Robe Town Brewery



Food and Wine: Robe Wine Region



Food and Wine: Mount Benson Wine Region

Kingston District Council



LEGEND

- Potential Coastal Trail (Multi-Use)
- Potential Rail Trail (Multi-Use)
- Council Boundary

1. Natural Attraction: Bernouilli Conservation Park/ Old Lighthouse Cottage Ruins
2. Natural Attraction: Jip Jip Conservation Park
3. Natural Attraction: Long Beach
4. Natural Attraction: Mount Scott Conservation Park
5. Natural Attraction: Pinks Beach
6. Natural Attraction: The Granites
7. Natural Attraction: Wyomi Beach
8. Cultural & Heritage Attraction: Cape Jaffa Lighthouse
9. Cultural & Heritage Attraction: The Big Lobster
10. Local Trail: Butcher Gap Conservation Park Walks
11. Local Trail: Foreshore Shared Use Path to Pinks Beach
12. Food and Wine: Lacepede Seafood
13. Food and Wine: Mount Benson Wine Region



Natural Attraction: Bernouilli Conservation Park/Old Lighthouse Cottage Ruins



Natural Attraction: Jip Jip Conservation Park



Natural Attraction: Long Beach



Natural Attraction: Mount Scott Conservation Park



Natural Attraction: Pinks Beach



Natural Attraction: The Granites



Natural Attraction: Wyomi Beach



Cultural & Heritage Attraction: Cape Jaffa Lighthouse



Cultural & Heritage Attraction: The Big Lobster



Local Trail: Butcher Gap Conservation Park Walks



Local Trail: Foreshore Shared Use Path to Pinks Beach

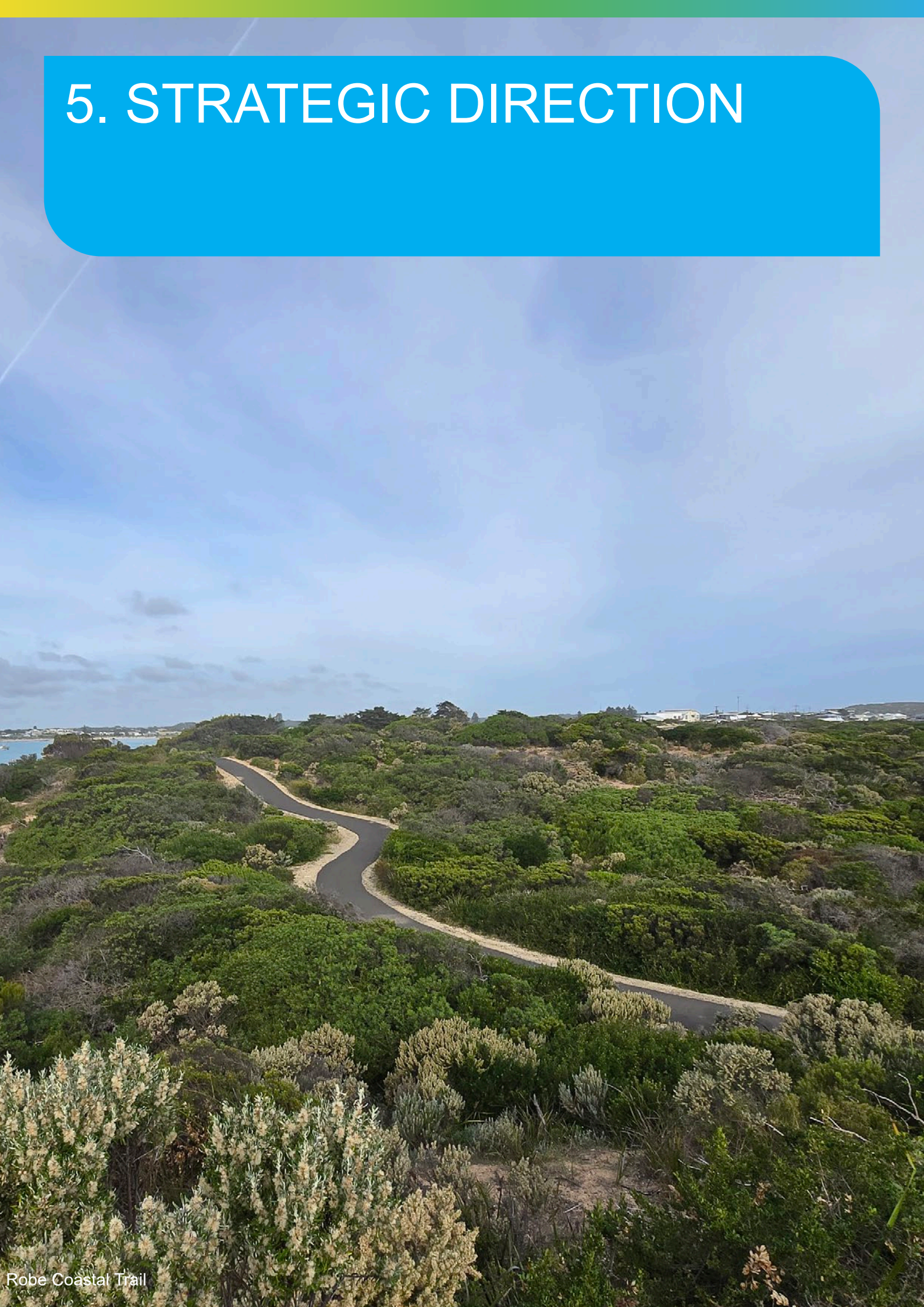


Food and Wine: Lacepede Seafood



Food and Wine: Mount Benson Wine Region

5. STRATEGIC DIRECTION



Robe Coastal Trail

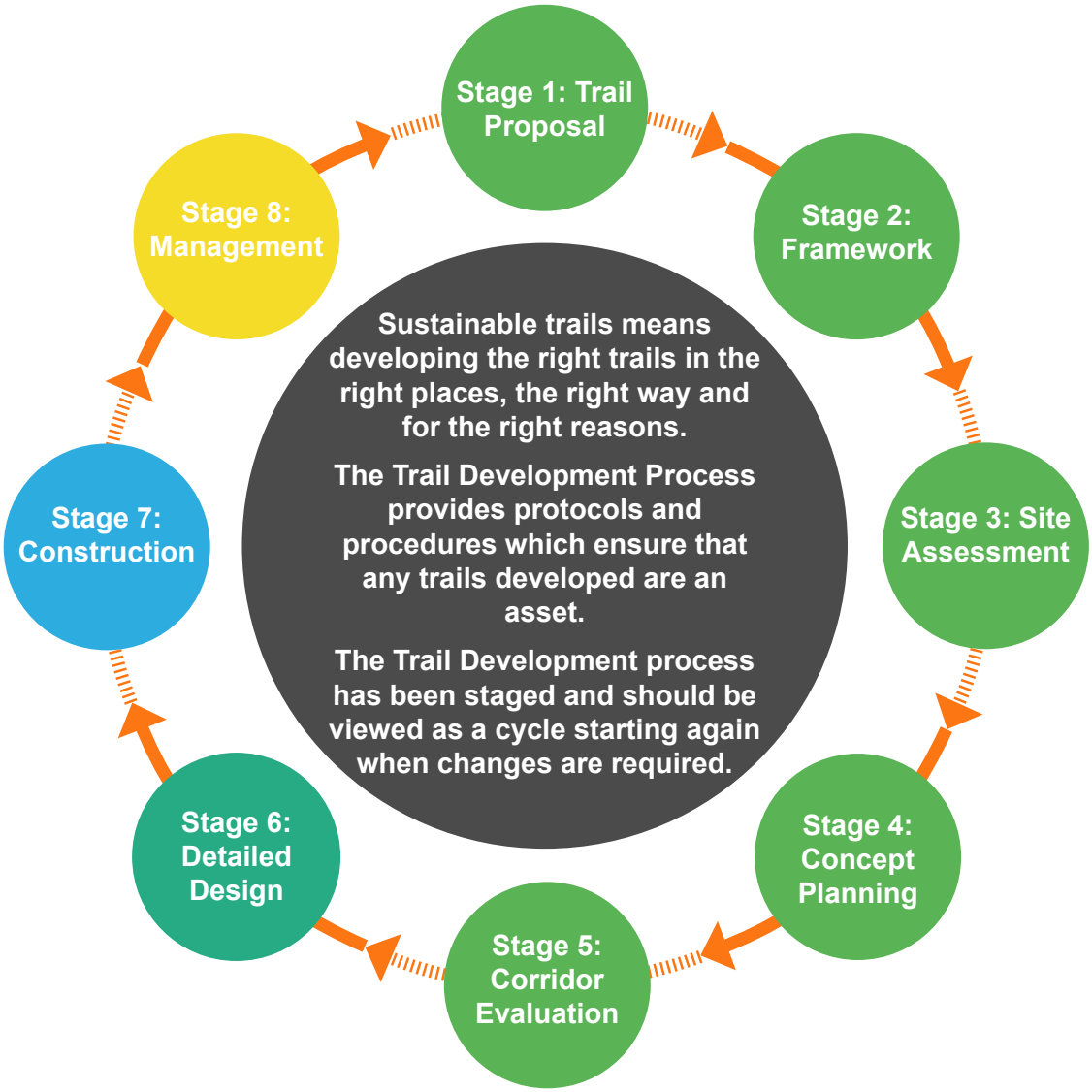
Vision

'The Limestone Coast Connective Trails Strategy represents a long term vision to create a more connected region through an integrated network of trails linking communities, landscapes and visitor destinations. Developed through extensive community engagement, stakeholder consultation, trail audits and strategic analysis, the proposed network responds to identified needs and opportunities while enhancing recreation, tourism, economic development, health and wellbeing throughout the Limestone Coast.'

Eight Stage Trail Development Process

Tracks and trails are like any other asset or facility development and as such, are subject to a formal planning and approval process. A robust trail development process moves trail development away from a purely design and construction approach to a more considered and planned approach. Working within a standardised methodology is especially important for trails with numerous stakeholders and those in high conservation areas. Building rigour into the development process will ensure that project proposals are transformed into professionally built and sustainable assets.

The Trail Development Process encompasses a constant evaluation, review and improvement process as trails are being developed, maintained, extended or renewed.



Source: *Trails Development Series* (WA Government, 2019)

Strategic Action Plan

The Strategic Action Plan as detailed on the following pages outlines the key strategic initiatives and relevant action statement.

① Each action has been allocated a reference to enable identification on the relevant map above.

② The trail name identifies the trail, while the location identifies the relevant Limestone Coast council area.

③ A brief overview of the trail, including its key characteristics and notable features.

④ The key implementation activity identified to improve the trail or network connectivity.

⑤ An overall priority rating based on the trails need/demand, feasibility, location and benefit:

- High = 1-5 years
- Medium = 6-10 years
- Lower = 10+ years

⑥ Partners:

- Tatiara District Council (TDC)
- Naracoorte Lucindale Council (NLC)
- City of Mount Gambier (CMG)
- Southern Limestone Coast Council (SLCC)
- District Council of Robe (DCR)
- Kingston District Council (KDC)
- Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA)
- Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR)
- SA Department for Environment and Water (DEW)
- SA Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT)
- Regional Development Australia - Limestone Coast (RDALC)
- Traditional Owners (TO)
- Trail Tourism Businesses (TTB)
- Trail User Groups (TUG)

⑦ A cost estimate to support budget development and funding considerations:

- Lower < $1 million
- Medium = $1-5 million
- Major Project = $5+ million

Example Strategy

① Ref.	② Trail Name and Location	③ Description	④ Action	⑤ Priority	⑥ Partners	⑦ Cost Range
No.	Trail Name *Location*	Brief overview of the trail	Proposed action or initiative	High	TDC	Major Project

Potential Regional Trail Opportunities

Ref.	Trail Name and Location	Description	Action	Priority	Partners	Cost Range
Regional Map	Naracoorte to Kingston Rail Trail - Caves to Coast (Shared Use) *Naracoorte Lucindale Council* *Kingston District Council*	The first railway in the South East commenced in 1876 and connected the port of Kingston SE inland via Lucindale to Naracoorte agricultural region. It ceased operation in 1990. This alignment presents an opportunity to link key Limestone Coast attractions including the Naracoorte Caves, the township of Lucindale and the coastal town of Kingston SE.	Investigate the feasibility of developing a staged rail trail along the disused railway corridor between Naracoorte and Kingston creating a regionally significant trail that connects key tourism and heritage destinations. Key consideration: 1. Celebrate the corridor's railway heritage through interpretation, restoration of historic rail infrastructure and storytelling at key locations. 2.Connect key visitor attractions including the Naracoorte Caves, Lucindale Township and Kingston Coastline.	High	NLC KDC LCLGA ORSR DEW DIT RDALC TO TTB TUG	Major Project
Regional Map	Limestone Wonders Trail *Naracoorte Lucindale Council* *City of Mount Gambier* *Southern Limestone Coast Council* *District Council of Robe*	The proposed Limestone Wonders Trail would expand and rebrand the existing Sinkholes Trail into a flagship regional touring experience that showcases the Limestone Coast's globally significant sinkholes, caves, volcanic landscapes, wetlands and freshwater springs. The enhanced trail would connect key destinations across multiple council areas through a coordinated self-drive, walking and recreational tourism network, with consistent branding, signage, interpretation and visitor infrastructure. In addition to the region's iconic sinkholes, the trail would incorporate major cave attractions such as Engelbrecht Cave and potentially the Naracoorte Caves, providing visitors with a richer geological and cultural journey.	Prepare a Trail Development Plan for the enhanced Limestone Wonders Trail which would benefit the region by linking attractions, towns, accommodation, recreation opportunities and cultural experiences into a cohesive destination experience. It would also provide a platform for First Nations storytelling, geological interpretation, accessibility improvements and integration with complementary initiatives such as the Aussie Camino Trail, ultimately positioning the Limestone Coast as a world-class nature-based tourism destination. Note the proposed "Limestone Wonders" trail name needs to be agreed by all key stakeholders and undergo market testing.	High	NLC CMG SLCC LCLGA ORSR DEW DIT RDALC TO TTB TUG	Major Project

Ref.	Trail Name and Location	Description	Action	Priority	Partners	Cost Range
Regional Map	Naracoorte to Penola Rail Trail (Shared Use) *Naracoorte Lucindale Council*	This section is part of the former Mount Gambier to Wolseley railway which connected the Limestone Coast region to the broad gauge Melbourne to Adelaide railway, resulting in a break of gauge junction at Wolseley. There is an existing rail trail between Coonawarra and Penola which is around 17km in length. Extending this connection from Coonawarra through to Naracoorte would enable a link through to the Naracoorte attractions including Bool Lagoon and the Naracoorte Caves.	Investigate the feasibility of extending the existing Coonawarra Rail Trail to Naracoorte, creating a continuous regional trail linking Penola and Naracoorte. Key considerations: 1. Position the trail as a gateway to the Coonawarra Wine Region, enhancing access to one of Australia's premier wine regions (approx. 50kms from Naracoorte) 2. Connection to the Naracoorte Caves National Park and Bool Lagoon.	Medium	NLC LCLGA ORSR DEW DIT RDALC TO TTB TUG	Major Project
Regional Map	Naracoorte to Wolseley (Bordertown) Rail Trail - Tatiara - Good Country Rail Trail (Shared Use) *Naracoorte Lucindale Council* *Tatiara District Council*	This section is also part of the former Mount Gambier to Wolseley railway which connected the Limestone Coast region to the broad gauge Melbourne to Adelaide railway. Extending this connection north through to the Tatiara DC would link attractions in this area.	Investigate the feasibility of developing a staged rail trail along the disused railway corridor between Naracoorte and Wolseley (Bordertown) creating a regionally significant trail that connects key tourism and cultural heritage destinations. Key considerations: 1. Celebrate the corridor's railway heritage through interpretation, restoration of historic rail infrastructure and storytelling at key locations. 2. Connect key visitor attractions including the Naracoorte Caves, Naracoorte Township and Tatiara region.	Lower	TDC NLC CMG SLCC DCR KDC LCLGA ORSR DEW DIT RDALC TO TTB TUG	Major Project

Ref.	Trail Name and Location	Description	Action	Priority	Partners	Cost Range
Regional Map	Potential Coastal Trail (Multi-use) *Limestone Coast Council* *District Council of Robe* *Kingston District Council*	The proposed coastal trail would link the major coastal communities of Kingston SE, Cape Jaffa, Robe and Port MacDonnell by connecting existing vehicle accessible coastal tracks, beaches, trails and local path networks into a single, regionally significant corridor. The trail would provide a multi-use recreation and tourism experience, supporting walking, cycling, nature-based tourism and, where appropriate, continued vehicle access on designated sections. The route would showcase the Limestone Coast's nationally significant coastal landscapes, fishing villages, conservation areas, heritage attractions and visitor destinations while improving connectivity between towns and encouraging extended visitor stays. The concept aligns with the broader vision of a regional trail network that strengthens recreation, tourism and community access across the Limestone Coast.	Undertake a staged feasibility, planning and implementation program to establish a fully connected coastal trail between Kingston SE and Port MacDonnell, utilising existing coastal tracks and trail infrastructure wherever possible. The project should identify missing links, assess environmental and land tenure constraints, define appropriate trail uses, secure partnerships and funding, and progressively deliver priority sections to create a continuous iconic coastal trail experience for residents and visitors.	Lower	KDC DCR SLCC LCLGA ORSR DEW DIT RDALC TO TTB TUG	Major Project

Existing Regional Trail Enhancements

Ref.	Trail Name and Location	Description	Action	Priority	Partners	Cost Range
Regional Map	The Aussie Camino Trail (Hiking) *Southern Limestone Coast Council* *City of Mount Gambier*	The Aussie Camino is a 160+ kilometre pilgrimage tracing the historic footsteps of Australia's first Saint Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods. Stretching between Portland in Victoria and Penola in South Australia, the trail offers walkers a quiet, reflective, and scenic journey through the Limestone Coast. While several providers walk the whole trail, there is a commercial operator who conducts walks commencing from Port MacDonnell.	Investigate opportunities to integrate the The Aussie Camino (hiking trail) with the Coonawarra Rail Trail and proposed extension, creating complementary long-distance walking experiences and strengthening regional trail connectivity between Victoria (Portland, Nelson), Port MacDonnell, Mount Gambier, Penola and ultimately Naracoorte and Bordertown.	High	CMG SLCC LCLGA ORSR DEW DIT RDALC TO TTB TUG	Medium
Regional Map	Mount Gambier Rail Trail *City of Mount Gambier* *Southern Limestone Coast Council*	The Mount Gambier Rail Trail is a fully sealed, flat shared-use path spanning 12.4 kilometres east-west through the centre of Mount Gambier. There is also a spur line connection that goes out to Compton in the Southern Limestone Coast Council area. Built on a re-purposed historical railway corridor, it provides an accessible, family friendly route for walking, running, cycling, and pram or wheelchair use.	Strengthen the Mount Gambier Rail Trail as a key east–west spine in the regional trail network by enhancing wayfinding, connectivity and promotion of its fully sealed shared-use corridor. Leverage its accessible, family friendly design and historical railway heritage to in-crease local and visitor use, improve links to surrounding paths and destinations, and position it as a flagship urban trail within the Limestone Coast. Rail Trail extensions into the SLCC are proposed to extend the east and west of the existing Mount Gambier Rail Trail; west from Cafpirco Rd to Burnda Rd (to add an additional 3.5km approximately), and east behind the showgrounds to Glenburnie Racecourse.	High	CMG SLCC LCLGA ORSR DIT RDALC TO TTB TUG	Medium

Ref.	Trail Name and Location	Description	Action	Priority	Partners	Cost Range
Regional Map	Gold Escort Route (4WD) *Tatiara District Council*	The historical Gold Escort Route stretches between Adelaide and the Mount Alexander goldfields (Castlemaine/Bendigo) in Victoria. Established in 1852 by Police Commissioner Alexander Tolmer to transport miners' gold back to SA, the route covers some of the oldest original interstate tracks still drivable today.	Enhance and activate the historic 1852 Gold Escort Route as a cross border heritage corridor by developing interpretive nodes at verified historic sites, digitising original survey tracings into a public Story Map, and collaborating with regional partners to create a multi-day touring experience that integrates seamlessly with the Limestone Coast trail network.	Medium	TDC LCLGA DEW DIT RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower
Regional Map	The Golden Trail (cycling) *District Council of Robe*	A cycling route from Robe to Bendigo that follows the route of the Chinese gold miners that passes through places of cultural and environmental significance as well as avoiding busy roads where possible.	Advance the Golden Trail as a signature cross border cycling route from Robe to Bendigo by completing detailed mapping of the historic Chinese gold mining journey, identifying culturally and environmentally significant sites, and designing a safe, low traffic alignment. Increase awareness through coordinated regional storytelling, digital mapping tools and targeted promotion to position the route as a nationally significant heritage cycling experience.	Lower	DCR LCLGA ORSR DIT RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower

Existing Local Trail Opportunities

Action Type Explanation

Action Type 1: Maintain and Promote

Objective: Preserve existing trail functionality and user experience through ongoing maintenance, minor improvements and continued promotion.

Example Actions:

- Routine inspection and maintenance of trail surfaces, drainage, vegetation and infrastructure.
- Minor upgrades to improve safety, accessibility and user comfort.
- Replacement or renewal of existing signage where required.
- Ongoing trail marketing through visitor information centres, tourism websites and local promotional materials.
- Monitoring trail use, visitor satisfaction and maintenance requirements.
- Protection of environmental and cultural heritage values along the trail corridor.

Suitable For: Trails that are well established, functioning effectively, and meeting current user needs, where only limited intervention is required to maintain their quality and appeal.

Action Type 2: Upgrade and Enhance

Objective: Improve the visitor experience, visibility and functionality of existing trails through targeted investment in infrastructure, promotion and wayfinding.

Example Actions:

- Development of enhanced trail branding and coordinated marketing campaigns.
- Installation of improved directional signage, interpretive signage and wayfinding systems.
- Upgrades to trailheads, including maps, orientation information, seating, shelters, bike parking and visitor facilities.
- Surface improvements, accessibility enhancements and minor route refinements.
- Expansion of digital information resources including websites, downloadable maps and trail applications.
- Improved links to nearby attractions, town centres and supporting tourism infrastructure.

Suitable For: Trails with strong recreation and tourism potential that would benefit from increased visitation, improved navigation and enhanced visitor facilities.

Action Type 3: Transform and Expand

Objective: Achieve substantial improvements in connectivity, trail quality and visitor experiences through major infrastructure investment and strategic network development.

Example Actions:

- Significant trail realignments to improve safety, accessibility, environmental outcomes or visitor experiences.
- Extension of trail networks to connect destinations, communities, natural attractions and regional trail systems.
- Construction of new trail sections and supporting infrastructure.
- Comprehensive upgrades to signage, interpretation, wayfinding and trailhead facilities.
- Development of destination quality trail experiences and supporting visitor infrastructure.
- Land acquisition, easement negotiations or partnership arrangements to improve trail connectivity.
- Integration with regional tourism initiatives and broader active transport networks.

Suitable For: Priority trails with high strategic, recreational, tourism or economic value where major investment will deliver significant regional benefits and strengthen the Limestone Coast's connective trail network.

Existing Local Trail Opportunities - Tatiara District Council

Ref.	Trail Name and Location	Description	Action	Priority	Partners	Cost Range
TDC Map (12)	Mount Monster Conservation Park Trails	Mount Monster Conservation Park offers a short but striking trail experience centred on one of the Limestone Coast's most distinctive landforms. The walking track ascends the park's namesake volcanic rise, providing expansive views over surrounding farmland, remnant coastal heath and the broader Tatiara landscape. Key attractions include the exposed limestone cliffs, diverse native vegetation communities, birdlife, and the park's unique geological story as an isolated volcanic feature. Although compact, the trail delivers a strong sense of elevation, landscape contrast and natural character, making it a valuable niche asset within the region's broader connective trail network.	Type 1: Maintain and Promote	High	TDC LCLGA ORSR DEW RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower
TDC Map (11)	Bordertown to Mundulla Shared Use Path	The Bordertown to Mundulla Shared Use Path provides a safe, accessible connection between the two townships while showcasing the area's rural character and open landscapes. Following the rail corridor and local road reserves, the path offers an easy, family friendly route suitable for walking and cycling, with points of interest including views across productive farmland, remnant native vegetation pockets, and interpretive elements that highlight local history and the region's strong sporting and agricultural identity. As a key local connector, it strengthens active transport links, supports everyday recreation, and forms an important component of a broader regional trail network.	Type 3: Transform and Expand	High	TDC LCLGA ORSR DIT RDALC TO TTB TUG	Medium
TDC Map (13)	Padthaway Conservation Park Trails	Padthaway Conservation Park offers a gentle, nature rich trail experience through one of the Limestone Coast's most intact areas of remnant vegetation. Walking tracks weave through diverse woodland and heath communities featuring blue gums, pink gums and desert stringybark, with seasonal wildflowers adding colour across spring and early summer. Key attractions include opportunities for birdwatching, encounters with kangaroos and other native wildlife, and interpretive insights into the park's ecological significance as part of the broader Naracoorte Coastal Plain. The trails provide a quiet, immersive bushland experience that complements the region's larger landscape based trail destinations.	Type 1: Maintain and Promote	High	TDC LCLGA ORSR DEW RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower

Ref.	Trail Name and Location	Description	Action	Priority	Partners	Cost Range
TDC Map (9)	Border Track (4WD)	The Border Track is one of the Limestone Coast's most iconic long-distance four wheel driving trail experiences, running along the SA–Victoria border through the remote expanses of the Ngarkat Conservation Park. The route showcases vast mallee landscapes, sweeping sand dunes, rich biodiversity and significant conservation areas, with opportunities to encounter wildlife such as kangaroos, emus and diverse bird species. Key points of interest include the park's fire recovery zones, heritage sites linked to early settlement and grazing, and panoramic dune-top views that highlight the region's unique ecological character. As a multi-day four wheel driving, rugged adventure trail, the Border Track offers a distinctive wilderness experience within the broader regional network.	Type 2: Upgrade and Enhance	Medium	TDC LCLGA ORSR DEW DIT RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower
TDC Map (10)	Bordertown Recreation Lake Walking Trail	The Bordertown Recreation Lake Walking Trail is a popular and accessible recreational trail that loops around the scenic Bordertown Recreation Lake, providing opportunities for walking, nature appreciation, birdwatching, fishing and passive recreation. Originally created as part of the redevelopment of a former quarry site, the lake has become a key community and visitor destination featuring walking trails, public art installations, picnic facilities, camping, boating and lakeside recreation.	Type 2: Upgrade and Enhance	Lower	TDC LCLGA ORSR RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower

Existing Local Trail Opportunities - Naracoorte Lucindale Council

Ref.	Trail Name and Location	Description	Action	Priority	Partners	Cost Range
NLC Map (8)	Naracoorte Caves Trail	The Naracoorte Caves Trail provides an accessible, landscape rich link between Naracoorte township and the Naracoorte Caves National Park, offering a gradual transition from townscape to the region's internationally significant karst environment. The route highlights key attractions including open farmland vistas, pockets of native vegetation, interpretive elements that introduce the area's geology and megafauna heritage, and arrival at the World Heritage listed cave precinct with its renowned fossil sites and walking experiences. As a safe, family-friendly active transport corridor, the trail strengthens connections to one of the Limestone Coast's premier natural and cultural destinations.	Type 2: Upgrade and Enhance	High	NLC LCLGA ORSR DEW DIT RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower
NLC Map (9	Naracoorte Creek Walk	The Naracoorte Creek Walk is a picturesque 5 km shared-use trail that follows Naracoorte Creek through the heart of Naracoorte, connecting key community, recreation and natural assets including the Naracoorte Nature Park. Suitable for walking, cycling and mobility scooters, the trail offers an accessible and low impact recreation experience through shaded creek corridors, open green spaces and areas of native vegetation. The route provides opportunities to experience local biodiversity, heritage features and passive recreation, with picnic facilities and rest areas located along the trail.	Type 1: Maintain and Promote	High	NLC LCLGA ORSR DIT RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower
NLC Map (6)	Naracoorte and Surrounds Art Trail	The Naracoorte and Surrounds Art Trail links a series of public artworks, murals and cultural landmarks that celebrate the region's creative identity and strong connection to landscape, heritage and community. The trail guides visitors through Naracoorte's town centre and nearby precincts, highlighting key attractions such as large scale murals depicting local stories, sculptures inspired by the area's geology and megafauna, and installations created by regional artists. Together, these sites form an accessible, family friendly cultural experience that complements the region's nature based trails and strengthens Naracoorte's role as a creative hub within the Limestone Coast.	Type 1: Maintain and Promote	Medium	NLC LCLGA DIT RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower

Ref.	Trail Name and Location	Description	Action	Priority	Partners	Cost Range
NLC Map (7)	Naracoorte Caves NP Trails	Naracoorte Caves National Park offers a diverse network of short walking trails that immerse visitors in the region's globally significant karst and fossil landscape. Paths connect key attractions including the Wonambi Fossil Centre, cave entrances, limestone outcrops, and interpretive sites that explain the area's megafauna history and geological evolution. Trails traverse open woodland, native grasslands and shaded cave precincts, with regular opportunities for wildlife viewing and learning about the park's conservation values. Together, these trails provide an accessible, family friendly experience that complements the deeper cave tour offerings and strengthens the Limestone Coast's nature based trail network.	Type 1: Maintain and Promote	Medium	NLC LCLGA ORSR DEW RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower

Existing Local Trail Opportunities - City of Mount Gambier

Ref.	Trail Name and Location	Description	Action	Priority	Partners	Cost Range
CMG Map (7)	Crater Lakes Trails	The Crater Lakes Trails provide one of the Limestone Coast's most recognisable and accessible walking experiences, circling the vibrant volcanic lake and showcasing Mount Gambier's unique geological story. The sealed trail network offers a mix of short loops and longer circuits with panoramic views across the Blue Lake's/Warwar's crater walls, interpretive signage explaining its colour changes and hydrology, and connections to nearby landmarks such as the Pumping Station, Rotary Lookout and the Leg of Mutton/Yatton Loo and Valley Lake/Ketla Malpi precincts. With high amenity, year round accessibility and strong visual appeal, the Blue Lake Trails form a signature destination within the region's connective trail network.	Type 3: Transform and Expand	High	CMG LCLGA ORSR DEW DIT RDALC TO TTB TUG	Medium
CMG Map (6)	City Heritage Walk	The Mount Gambier City Heritage Walk leads visitors through the city's historic heart, highlighting its rich volcanic origins, early settlement patterns and distinctive built form. The route connects key attractions such as heritage limestone buildings, churches, civic landmarks, and interpretive sites that explain the city's development around its crater lakes and unique topography. With stops including the Old Courthouse, Jens Hotel, the former Town Hall and views toward the Blue Lake precinct, the walk offers an accessible cultural experience that complements Mount Gambier's broader trail network and reinforces its role as a regional heritage hub.	Type 1: Maintain and Promote	Medium	CMG LCLGA ORSR RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower

Existing Local Trail Opportunities - Southern Limestone Coast Council

Ref.	Trail Name and Location	Description	Action	Priority	Partners	Cost Range
SLCC Map (19)	Mount Schank Crater Rim Walk	The Mount Schank Crater Rim Walk offers a dramatic volcanic landscape experience, taking visitors up and around one of the region's most striking maar craters. The trail climbs steadily to the rim, revealing expansive views across the surrounding pastoral land, the crater's steep inner walls, and the broader volcanic field that defines the areas geology. Key attractions include the crater's distinctive circular form, exposed basalt features, interpretive insights into its eruption history, and opportunities for birdwatching along the rim. As a short but rewarding summit walk, it provides a signature volcanic viewpoint within the Limestone Coast trail network.	Type 2: Upgrade and Enhance	High	SLCC LCLGA ORSR DEW RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower
SLCC Map (22)	Port MacDonnell Foreshore Shared Use Path	The Port MacDonnell Foreshore Shared Use Path offers a scenic coastal experience that highlights the township's maritime heritage and rugged Southern Ocean coastline. The path connects key attractions including the town's historic jetty, the maritime museum precinct, sheltered beaches, and lookouts with views toward Cape Northumberland, the southernmost point of South Australia. Interpretive elements share stories of local fishing culture, shipwreck history and coastal ecology, while opportunities to observe birdlife, coastal vegetation and dramatic ocean conditions add to the trail's appeal. As an accessible, family-friendly route, it strengthens Port MacDonnell's role as a coastal gateway within the Limestone Coast trail network.	Type 1: Maintain and Promote	High	SLCC LCLGA ORSR DEW RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower
SLCC Map (21)	Piccaninnie Ponds Walk	The Piccaninnie Ponds Walk offers a short, tranquil coastal-wetland experience that leads visitors through one of the Limestone Coast's most pristine and internationally recognised freshwater environments. The trail connects key attractions including the crystal clear ponds, coastal springs, wetland boardwalks, and views toward the Southern Ocean, with interpretive signage explaining the site's unique hydrology, conservation significance and globally renowned cave diving features. Surrounded by coastal vegetation and abundant birdlife, the walk provides an accessible, nature rich experience that complements the region's broader coastal and karst landscape trail network. Piccaninnie Ponds is a popular site for snorkelling, cave diving, bird watching and a listed Ramsar site.	Type 1: Maintain and Promote	High	SLCC LCLGA ORSR DEW RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower

Ref.	Trail Name and Location	Description	Action	Priority	Partners	Cost Range
SLCC Map (17	Capenter Rocks Walking Trails	The Carpenter Rocks Walking Trail provides a scenic coastal walking experience that showcases the dramatic landscapes, maritime heritage and natural environments of the Southern Limestone Coast. The trail network links the township of Carpenter Rocks with coastal attractions including Cape Banks Lighthouse, rugged limestone cliffs, sheltered bays, dunes and sections of Canunda National Park, offering opportunities for walking, nature appreciation, birdwatching, photography and heritage interpretation.	Type 1: Maintain and Promote	High	SLCC LCLGA ORSR DEW RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower
SLCC Map (23)	Telford Scrub Conservation Park Trails	The Telford Scrub Conservation Park Trails provide one of the Limestone Coast's most distinctive forest based walking experiences, offering visitors the opportunity to explore remnant native woodland within a region that has been extensively cleared for agriculture and plantation forestry. The trail network includes the popular Forest Canopy Walk and Stringybark Forest Hike, featuring a 100 metre elevated boardwalk that allows visitors to experience the forest canopy from above while observing native birdlife, koalas, orchids and other biodiversity values. The trails combine recreation, environmental education and nature appreciation through well developed interpretive signage and diverse walking experiences suitable for a broad range of users.	Type 1: Maintain and Promote	High	SLCC LCLGA ORSR DEW RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower
SLCC Map (18)	Germain Reserve Trails	The Germein Reserve Trails provide one of the Limestone Coast's premier accessible nature-based walking experiences, showcasing a rare remnant wetland and native vegetation ecosystem near Port MacDonnell. The reserve features a network of easy walking trails ranging from approximately 750 metres to 1.25 kilometres, including boardwalk sections and wheelchair accessible paths through wetlands, woodlands and areas of natural regeneration. The trails offer excellent opportunities for birdwatching, wildlife observation, environmental education and nature appreciation, supporting a diverse range of visitors including families, school groups and eco-tourists.	Type 2: Upgrade and Enhance	Medium	SLCC LCLGA ORSR DEW RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower

Ref.	Trail Name and Location	Description	Action	Priority	Partners	Cost Range
SLCC Map (20)	Penambol Conservation Park Trails	The Penambol Conservation Park Trails offer a unique nature-based and educational walking experience that combines biodiversity, geology and cultural heritage within one of the Limestone Coast's important conservation areas. The park's walking trail network, including the popular Wombat Walk and Butterfly Walk, provides opportunities for wildlife observation, environmental education and nature appreciation through areas of remnant native vegetation, woodland and habitat supporting wombats, butterflies, birdlife and other native fauna. The park also incorporates significant geological features, including the Caroline Sinkhole, and contains evidence of historical occupation by the Boandik Peoples, providing strong opportunities for geological and cultural interpretation.	Type 2: Upgrade and Enhance	Medium	SLCC LCLGA ORSR DEW RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower

Existing Local Trail Opportunities - District Council of Robe

Ref.	Trail Name and Location	Description	Action	Priority	Partners	Cost Range
DCR Map (9)	Robe Coastal Walk	The Robe Coastal Walk offers a highly scenic journey along one of the Limestone Coast's most recognisable shorelines, linking Robe's historic township with its rugged coastal landscapes. The trail features key attractions including the iconic Obelisk, dramatic limestone cliffs, sheltered bays, sweeping ocean views, and interpretive points that highlight Robe's maritime history, shipwreck heritage and coastal ecology. With varied terrain, high visual appeal and strong connections to town amenities, the walk provides an accessible, signature coastal experience within the region's broader trail network.	Type 3: Transform and Expand	High	DCR LCLGA ORSR DEW RDALC TO TTB TUG	Medium
DCR Map (7)	Beacon Hill Trails and Lookout	The Beacon Hill Trails and Lookout in Robe offer a compact coastal-ridge walking and mountain biking experience with elevated views across the township, nearby lakes and the sweeping Southern Ocean coastline. Short loop trails climb through coastal heath and low woodland to the hilltop lookout, where visitors can take in panoramic vistas toward Long Beach, the Robe township, and the surrounding dune systems. Key attractions include interpretive elements on local ecology and history, opportunities for birdwatching, and the site's role as an easily accessible scenic vantage point that complements Robe's broader coastal trail network.	Type 2: Upgrade and Enhance	High	DCR LCLGA ORSR DEW RDALC TO TTB TUG	Medium
DCR Map (10)	Robe's Tasting Trail	The Robe's Tasting Trail is a signature food and beverage tourism experience that showcases the premium wines, craft beer, local produce and artisanal food offerings of the Robe, Mount Benson and Cape Jaffa region. The trail connects cellar doors, breweries, food producers and gourmet experiences, allowing visitors to explore the region's renowned cool climate wine industry while enjoying locally produced food, chocolate, craft beer and specialty products. The trail supports self drive tourism and encourages visitors to spend more time in the region through immersive food, wine and agricultural experiences.	Type 1: Maintain and Promote	High	DCR LCLGA RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower

Ref.	Trail Name and Location	Description	Action	Priority	Partners	Cost Range
DCR Map (12)	Woakwine Trail (proposed)	The proposed Woakwine Trail is identified as a priority initiative within the Robe Trails Strategy 2026 and would create a significant nature based recreation corridor connecting the landscapes between Robe, Woakwine Conservation Park and the broader lake, wetland and drainage environments of the region. The trail is envisioned as a shared-use recreational route that showcases the area's unique environmental, engineering and cultural heritage values, including views of the internationally significant wetlands, drainage networks and the iconic Woakwine Cutting, widely regarded as one of Australia's most remarkable rural engineering achievements. The trail would provide opportunities for walking, cycling, nature appreciation and interpretation, while strengthening connections between Robe's coastal attractions and inland conservation areas.	Type 2: Upgrade and Enhance	High	DCR LCLGA ORSR DEW DIT RDALC TO TTB TUG	Medium
DCR Map (11)	Robe's Town Heritage Trail	The Robe Town Heritage Trail is a self-guided walking experience that showcases the rich maritime, cultural and colonial history of the historic township of Robe, one of South Australia's most important nineteenth century ports. The trail connects a collection of significant heritage places including the Customs House, Robe Institute, Old Telegraph Station, churches, cottages, former government buildings and other historic landmarks that interpret the town's role as a major wool exporting port and gateway for Chinese migrants travelling to the Victorian goldfields during the 1850s. The trail provides an accessible and engaging way for visitors to explore Robe's unique history while experiencing the character of its streetscapes and heritage buildings.	Type 2: Upgrade and Enhance	Medium	DCR LCLGA RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower
DCR Map (8)	Little Dip Conservation Park Walks	Little Dip Conservation Park offers a rugged coastal walking experience that showcases the Limestone Coast’s wild shoreline, dune systems and diverse wetland habitats. Trails weave through windswept limestone cliffs, coastal heath, freshwater lakes and secluded beaches, with key attractions including Lake Eliza, the coastal dunes near Long Gully, and panoramic views across the Southern Ocean. The walks provide opportunities to observe birdlife, unique coastal vegetation and the park’s striking geological formations, delivering an immersive nature based experience that complements the region’s broader coastal and conservation focused trail network.	Type 1: Maintain and Promote	Lower	DCR LCLGA ORSR DEW RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower

Existing Local Trail Opportunities - Kingston District Council

Ref.	Trail Name and Location	Description	Action	Priority	Partners	Cost Range
KDC Map (11)	Foreshore Shared Use Path to Pinks Beach	The Foreshore Shared Use Path to Pinks Beach in Kingston SE provides a relaxed, family friendly coastal experience linking the town's foreshore with one of its most popular swimming beaches. The path follows the shoreline past key attractions including the jetty, Norfolk pine lined reserves, coastal lookouts and interpretive elements that highlight Kingston's maritime heritage and coastal ecology. With open ocean views, easy access to picnic areas and seamless connection to Pinks Beach's wide sandy shoreline, the route strengthens Kingston SE's role as an accessible coastal gateway within the Limestone Coast trail network.	Type 1: Maintain and Promote	Medium	KDC LCLGA ORSR DEW RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower
KDC Map (10)	Butcher Gap Conservation Park Walks	Butcher Gap Conservation Park offers a quiet coastal-wetland walking experience that highlights the ecological diversity of the Robe–Kingston coastline. Trails pass through coastal heath, saline wetlands and low dune systems, with key attractions including expansive views across the coastal lakes, opportunities to observe migratory and resident birdlife, and interpretive elements that explain the park's role as an important habitat corridor. The walks provide an easy, family friendly nature experience that complements nearby coastal trails and strengthens the Limestone Coast's broader conservation focused trail network.	Type 1: Maintain and Promote	Lower	KDC LCLGA ORSR DEW RDALC TO TTB TUG	Lower

6. Economic Profiling and Investment Analysis



Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park

The Limestone Coast region is strongly positioned to capitalise on the continued growth of trail-based and nature-based tourism through the development of an interconnected regional trail network linking major visitor destinations, townships, natural attractions and cultural experiences. The proposed Limestone Coast Connective Trails Network aligns directly with the strategic objectives of the Limestone Coast Regional Growth Strategy 2025-2030, which identifies the visitor economy as a key driver of regional prosperity and seeks to create "a region people love to visit" through investment in tourism experiences, infrastructure and regional collaboration.

The investment case for regional trail development is supported by national tourism and cycling trends. Tourism Research Australia reports that trips involving cycling activities generated 4.6 million trips, 42 million visitor nights and $6 billion in visitor expenditure across Australia in 2024, with approximately 70% of those trips occurring in regional Australia. Rail trail tourism alone generated more than $862 million in visitor expenditure nationally, demonstrating the growing economic value of connected trail destinations. Importantly, cycling visitors typically stay longer, spend more and participate in a broader range of tourism experiences including accommodation, food and beverage, heritage attractions, wineries, shopping and nature-based activities.

The Limestone Coast already possesses many of the attributes associated with successful trail destinations. The region attracts more than 807,000 overnight visitors and 656,000 day visitors annually, generating approximately $662 million in visitor expenditure. Visitors are primarily attracted by the region's natural landscapes, wineries, beaches, caves, national parks, heritage attractions and outdoor recreation opportunities, all of which are highly compatible with trail-based tourism experiences. The region's strong self-drive market, accounting for approximately 93% of visitation, further supports the development of connected walking, cycling and touring routes that encourage exploration beyond traditional visitor hubs.

The proposed regional spine trails, including the Naracoorte to Kingston Rail Trail (Caves to Coast), Naracoorte to Penola Rail Trail, Naracoorte to Wolseley Rail Trail, Mount Gambier Rail Trail, Aussie Camino, Golden Trail, Potential Coastal Trail and Limestone Wonders Trail, provide a unique opportunity to transform the visitor experience from a collection of individual attractions into an integrated regional journey. These connections would link internationally recognised destinations such as the Naracoorte Caves World Heritage Area, Tatiara's "Good Country" landscapes, the various Wine Regions, Mount Gambier's and Southern Limestone Coast's volcanic and sinkhole landscapes, Robe and Kingston's coastal experiences, and the broader network of local trails, conservation parks, heritage attractions and food and wine experiences throughout the region.

Experience elsewhere demonstrates the potential economic return on such investment. The Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, Australia's longest rail trail, attracted significant growth in visitation following completion, stimulated major increases in accommodation investment, supported new tourism operators, increased visitor spending, and created employment opportunities across local communities. Visitor research found that scenery, outdoor recreation and adventure experiences were the primary motivations for travel, while local businesses reported substantial increases in trade directly attributable to trail users.

Investment in the Limestone Coast Connective Trails Network is also strongly aligned with Commonwealth and State Government policy directions. At a national level, THRIVE 2030 identifies nature based tourism, regional dispersal, sustainable visitor experiences and increased visitor yield as priority outcomes for Australia's visitor economy. The National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030 supports investment in infrastructure that encourages physical activity and active recreation. At the State level, the South Australian Statewide Trails Strategy 2023-2033 seeks to establish South Australia as a leading trails destination through connected, high quality trail infrastructure, while the South Australian Tourism Plan 2030 prioritises regional tourism development, destination experiences and increased visitor dispersal.

The proposed network also directly supports priorities within the Limestone Coast Destination Management Plan and Regional Growth Strategy, both of which identify trails as important economic, tourism, health and community infrastructure.

Collectively, enhancement, extension and integration of the Limestone Coast's trail assets would create a regionally significant tourism product capable of increasing visitation, extending length of stay, encouraging travel throughout the region, stimulating private sector investment, supporting local businesses and strengthening regional identity. By connecting local attractions, existing trails, town centres, wineries, accommodation providers and nationally significant natural assets through a unified network, the Limestone Coast can position itself as one of Australia's premier regional trail destinations while delivering enduring economic, social and community benefits across all participating Council areas.

Trail Based Events and Activities

A key opportunity for the Limestone Coast is to position itself as a leading trail-based recreation and event destination by leveraging its diverse network of walking, running, cycling and mountain bike experiences to attract visitors, increase overnight stays and stimulate local economic activity. The region already hosts a number of established trail-related activities and events that demonstrate the growing demand for active, nature-based experiences, including regular Parkrun events in Mount Gambier, Kingston SE, Naracoorte and Mundulla, which provide consistent weekly activation of local trail and path networks. The increasingly popular Robe Run attracts hundreds of participants annually to experience the region's coastal landscapes and trails, while trail running events associated with the Naracoorte Caves further showcase the region's unique natural assets. The region is also emerging as a significant mountain biking destination, with Mount Gambier hosting major competitions such as the 2026 South Australian Downhill Mountain Bike State Championships at the Valley Lakes precinct, attracting approximately 300 riders and spectators from across South Australia and interstate.

With continued investment in trail connectivity, supporting infrastructure, event development and destination marketing, the Limestone Coast is well placed to attract additional trail running, cycling, mountain biking and walking events that capitalise on the region's internationally recognised landscapes, strengthen year-round visitation and reinforce its reputation as one of Australia's premier regional trail destinations. This aligns with the Strategy's vision of transforming individual trail experiences into a connected regional network that supports recreation, tourism, community wellbeing and economic growth.

7. Accessible and Inclusive Trail Experiences



Padthaway

Accessible and Inclusive Trail Experiences

Providing accessible and inclusive trail experiences is an essential component of the LCCTS and aligns strongly with Commonwealth, State and local government policy directions. Accessible trails ensure that people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds can participate in recreation, tourism and community life, while also expanding the potential visitor market and improving the overall quality of the visitor experience.

The Australian Government's WELCOME Framework – Guidance for Accessible and Inclusive Tourism Businesses promotes accessibility as both a social responsibility and a significant tourism opportunity. The Framework recognises that accessibility extends beyond physical infrastructure and includes welcoming environments, accessible information, clear communication, connected services, inclusive operations and visitor centred experiences. It encourages tourism operators and destination managers to remove barriers to participation and ensure visitors can confidently access and enjoy tourism products and experiences.

For the Limestone Coast, this means that future trail development should consider universal design principles wherever practical, including accessible trailheads, parking, toilets, seating, rest areas, wayfinding, digital mapping, interpretive information and gradient appropriate trail sections. The provision of clear and accurate accessibility information is particularly important, enabling visitors to make informed decisions based on their individual needs and abilities.

Investment in accessible trails directly supports the objectives of THRIVE 2030 – Australia's Visitor Economy Strategy, which identifies accessible tourism as an important opportunity to grow participation and ensure that tourism experiences are available to as many Australians and visitors as possible. The South Australian Tourism Plan 2030 and South Australian Statewide Trails Strategy similarly recognise the importance of increasing participation, improving access to recreation and nature-based tourism, and creating welcoming experiences for diverse user groups.

At the local level, all Limestone Coast councils have adopted Disability Access and Inclusion Plans, demonstrating a commitment to improving accessibility, participation and inclusion within their communities. The LCCTS provides an opportunity to translate these commitments into tangible outcomes through trail infrastructure that enhances access to natural environments, visitor attractions, recreation opportunities and active transport links. Accessible trails are particularly important for older adults, people with disability, families with young children, and visitors with temporary mobility limitations, all of whom represent growing segments of the tourism and recreation market.

Importantly, accessible trail design benefits all users, not only people with disability. Features such as high-quality path surfaces, clear signage, resting points, shade, trail information, digital navigation tools and accessible amenities improve comfort, safety and usability for every visitor. By embedding accessibility and inclusion principles into the planning, enhancement and promotion of regional trails, the Limestone Coast can strengthen its reputation as a welcoming and inclusive destination, increase participation in trail-based recreation and tourism, and align with contemporary best-practice standards for destination development.

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Page	Image - Credit / Source
ii	Asset ID 1079436 Robe Obelisk, Limestone Coast, SA Tourism Commission
8	Pathaway Wine Region (John Montesi/SATC)
11	Asset ID 115696 The Big Lobster, Limestone Coast, SA Tourism Commission
20	Asset ID 254260 Little Blue Lake, Limestone Coast, SA Tourism Commission
23	Tatiara District Council
	1 - Tatiara Toursim
	2 - Weekend Notes
	3 - Tatiara District Council
	4 - NPWSSA
	5,6,7,8 - Visit Limestone Coast
	9 - Hema Maps
	10 - Free to Explore
	12,13 - Walking SA
25	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
	1,3 - Visit Limestone Coast
	2 - Southaustralia.com
	4 - Wild Game Wine
	5 - thesheepsbackmuseum.org.au
	6,8 - Naracoorte Lucindale Council
	9 - Southaustralia.com
	10 - Wine Selectors
	11 - Wine Australia
27	City of Mount Gambier
	1,4,5 - Visit Limestone Coast
	2,7 - Visit Mount Gambier
	6- All Trails
33	Kingston District Council
	1,2,4,6,13 - Kingston DC
	3 - Beaches Searcher
	5,8 - Visit Limestone Coast
	7 - Camping Australia
	9 - Assett ID 115696, The Big Lobster, Limestone Coast, SA Tourism Commission
	10 - Trails SA
29	Southern Limestone Coast Council
	1 - Diving Adelaide
	2 - Sandee
	3 - NWSSA
	4, 14, 18 - Visit Mount Gambier
	5 - We Are Explorers
	6 - Facebook, Trackin About - https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064284782516
	7, 16, 23 - Visit Limestone Coast
	8 - Asset ID 1071423, Dive Experience, Limestone Coast, SA Tourism Commission
	9 - Asset ID 254260, Little Blue Lake, Limestone Coast, SA Tourism Commission
	10 - Asset ID 1079448, Mount Schank, Limestone Coast, SA Tourism Commission
	11 - Asset ID 259109, Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park, Limestone Coast, SA Tourism Commission
	12 - Instagram
	13 - TripAdvisor, Bi-centennial Turret
	17 - AllTrails
	19, 20 - Walking SA
	21 - Swimming Hole Heaven
	22 - Southern Limestone Coast Council
	24 - Five Star Seafoods
	25 - Herbert Vineyard
31	District Council of Robe
	1 - Robe Holiday Park
	2 - DC of Robe
	4 - Atlas Obscura
	5 - Asset ID number 1079436, Robe Obelisk, Limestone Coast, SA Tourism Commission
	6 - DC of Robe
	7 - Exploring South Australia
	8, 11 - Walking SA
	10, 14 - Visit Limestone Coast
	12 - Travel Around the Country
	13 - Cape Jaffa Wines
	15 - Wine-Searcher
	16 - Wine Australia
55	Asset ID 259109 Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park, Limestone Coast, SA Tourism Commission
58	Asset ID 254163 Padthaway, Limestone Coast, SA Tourism Commission

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