Barossa, Light and Lower Northern Region Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
Part B - State of Health Research Report
Report
Regional Public Health Plan – Part B State of Health
Client: Barossa, Light, Mallala and Gawler Councils
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1 Introduction

The Barossa Council, Town of Gawler, Light Regional Council and the District Council of Mallala are undertaking a regional approach to public health planning, in line with the provisions of the South Australian Public Health Act 2011¹.

Public health planning provides an opportunity for local Councils to develop a coordinated approach to promote the health of their communities. The SA Public Health Act 2011 recognises local Councils as the ‘Public Health Authority’ for their area. Under the Act, Councils are required to develop Regional Public Health Plans, which have regard to issues identified in the State Public Health Plan² and which respond to local priorities.

This Part A ‘State of Health Research Report’ responds to the requirement of the Act (Section 51 (8)) to ‘comprehensively assess the state of health of the Council area’, as part of the public health planning process. The report aims to present a ‘picture of the state of health’ across the region, adopting a ‘social determinants of health framework’. Information pertinent to each Council area is also highlighted.

2 National and State Context

Australians generally enjoy good health. Our life expectancy at birth has risen dramatically over the past 100 years and the physical health of older Australians is improving³. However, life expectancy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is much lower than for non-indigenous Australians (12 years less for males and 10 years less for females). Closing this gap is a national priority³.

The report of the National Preventative Health Taskforce targets obesity, tobacco and the excessive consumption of alcohol as the key modifiable risk factors driving around 30 per cent of the burden of disease in Australia⁴.

The Australian National Preventive Health Agency (the Agency), ‘State of Preventative Health Report 2013’, highlights the following statistics for South Australians⁵:

- Smoking: 17.4% (reported smoking on a daily basis)
- Alcohol: 18.2% (consumed more than 2 standard drinks per day)
- Overweight and Obesity: 66.1% (classified as being overweight or obese).

Environmental sustainability and climate change are also priorities at the Commonwealth level. The Commonwealth has invested in the National Climate Change Adaptation Program which has supported climate change adaptation planning at the State and regional level⁶.
At a State level, the report on the ‘State of Public Health for South Australia 2012’, highlights the need to maintain effective control of infectious diseases and deal with the growing wave of non-communicable conditions related to common risk factors (for example, overweight and obesity, reduced opportunities for physical activity, overabundance of energy-dense, nutrition poor foods in combination with poor access to nutritious foods). The first State Public Health Plan under the SA Public Health Act 2011 (‘South Australia: A Better Place to Live’) seeks to strengthen coordination of public health management in South Australia. The Plan establishes system-building actions for developing an effective public health planning framework across State and Local Government.

Four priority areas within the State Plan have been identified, including:

- Stronger and Healthier Communities and Neighbourhoods for All Generations.
- Increasing Opportunities for Healthy Living, Healthy Eating and Being Active.
- Preparing for Climate Change.
- Sustaining and Improving Public and Environmental Health Protection.

The Plan acknowledges that local Councils have always had a significant role in public health and are already strongly focused on how to improve community wellbeing.

3 Health and Wellbeing – a Regional Priority

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Barossa which encompasses the four Council areas of Barossa, Gawler, Light and Mallala Councils, recognises ‘health and wellbeing’ as a key priority for economic growth in the region. The importance of a preventative health approach and promoting the benefits of exercise, social interaction, arts and recreation in supporting vibrant communities, is recognised. The provision of health services to meet the demands of a growing population in the region, is also a key priority.

RDA Barossa’s vision for the region ‘is enhanced quality of life for all, derived through quality jobs in quality environments: cultural, social, ecological and economic’.

The Regional Public Health Plan will deliver a framework for regional ‘health and wellbeing’, in line with the following principles of the regional roadmap:

- Communities and townships are incubators for healthy populations.
- Connected communities thrive.
- Confident communities achieve.
- Innovative communities lead.
- Lives are enhanced by music and art and conviviality.
The Strategic Plans of each Council also incorporate strategic objectives for supporting healthy communities. The key policy elements of the four Council Strategic Plans, relevant to promoting community wellbeing are summarised in Figure 1.

Figure 1 – Council Strategy for Wellbeing
Research Scope

‘South Australia: A Better Place to Live’ sets the context for Councils to take a broader approach to promoting health and wellbeing. Councils contribute towards shaping the local social and physical environment to support community health. In addition to the traditional public health protection functions that Councils undertake, they influence the local social, economic and natural environment, critical to promoting healthier lifestyles.

This State of Health Research Report aims to consider the broader determinants of health in the Barossa, Light and Lower Northern Region and to guide the development of a holistic plan for promoting regional public health. The report does not cover all local factors that impact on public health. The research scope and choice of data categories assessed has taken into consideration the priorities outlined in ‘South Australia: A Better Place to Live’ and the various Council functions which impact on public health.

The research framework is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1 – State of Health Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community and Cultural Wellbeing</th>
<th>Economic Wellbeing</th>
<th>Natural and Built Environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Indicators</td>
<td>Economic Activity</td>
<td>Built Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and Lifelong Learning</td>
<td>Broadband</td>
<td>Natural Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Cultural Activity</td>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>Climate Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Strengths</td>
<td></td>
<td>Food Safety and Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Health</td>
<td></td>
<td>Water Resource Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childhood Health</td>
<td></td>
<td>Solid Waste Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information has been sourced from various regional studies, Council reports and plans and social determinant data published for Local Government Areas by the Public Health and Information Development Unit (PHIDU). Discussion of ABS data in some cases is based on Statistical Local Areas (SLAs). There are five SLAs (level one) across the region: Light, Mallala, Angaston, Barossa, Tanunda and Gawler.

A full list of references is provided in Section 7. The report also draws on the key issues raised at the regional stakeholder forums held for the development of the public health plan during November to December 2013.
5 Regional State of Health

5.1 Regional Overview

The Barossa, Light and Lower Northern region of Councils has a population of approximately 66,800 and is expected to grow to about 170,000 over the next 30 years. The region is diverse and incorporates sparsely populated coastal areas, prime broad acre cropping land and the wine producing Barossa Valley.

In 2012 the resident population in the Barossa region was 66,541 persons, representing approximately 4.0 percent of the State total of 1.65 million persons. The area has a relatively young population with above average school aged and younger children, above average numbers of people aged between 45 and 64 years and a high proportion of families with children.

Aboriginal people comprised 1.2% of the population at the 2011 Census, which was 11% less than the proportion in the metropolitan area overall (1.3%). The highest proportion was living in Mallala (2.0%), which was 16% above the average for Metropolitan Adelaide. The Aboriginal population across the region shows higher proportions at younger ages and lower proportions at older ages, a feature most noticeable in Gawler.

The 2006 and 2011 population and projected population growth by Council area is shown in Table 2.

Table 2 – Population by Council Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barossa</td>
<td>20,528</td>
<td>22,436</td>
<td>39,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gawler</td>
<td>18,862</td>
<td>20,939</td>
<td>40,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light</td>
<td>12,405</td>
<td>13,955</td>
<td>79,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallala</td>
<td>7,892</td>
<td>8,463</td>
<td>9,899</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Based on population projections for the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide.
5.2 Community and Cultural Wellbeing

Social Indicators

The Index of Relative Social Disadvantage (IRSD) measures the relative level of socio-economic disadvantage based on a range of Census characteristics. The index is derived from attributes that reflect disadvantage such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations. Map 1 shows the index of socio-economic disadvantage across the region. Scores are ordered from lowest to highest in the State. The lowest 10% of areas are given a decile number of 1. The highest 10% are given a decile number of 10.

Overall, Mallala and Gawler Councils have greater areas of disadvantage. Small areas of disadvantage exist within the Light and Barossa Council areas.
Map 1 – SEIFA Index of Disadvantage
**Education and Lifelong Learning**

Education increases opportunities for choice of occupation, income and job security. These are key factors that influence wellbeing throughout the life course.

**Childhood Education**

The Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) provides information on early childhood development outcomes and was undertaken nationwide in 2009. Information was collected on children in their first year of full-time school (average age of five years and seven months), using a teacher-completed checklist. The results from the AEDI provide communities and schools with information about how local children have developed by the time they start school measured across five areas (domains) of early childhood development: physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills (school-based) and communication skills and general knowledge⁹.

Less than one fifth of children (18.5%) in the Northern Regional Group in their first year of school were assessed under the AEDI measure as being developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains. This was lower than the metropolitan average of 23.0%. The highest proportion of this population group was for Light (22.0%) and the lowest was in Barossa - Tanunda SLA (6.8%)⁹.

**Secondary and Higher Education**

High school attainment is a key priority for the region¹³. The proportion (13.9%) of the 16 year old population in the region not in full-time secondary education was lower than the metropolitan average (16.2%). However, there was a difference in proportions across the region: from 17.9% of this age group living in Gawler who were not participating, to just 7.5% in Barossa – Tanunda SLA⁹.

A lower proportion of the region’s students, who attained a Year 12 qualification in 2012, enrolled in a South Australian university in 2013, relative to the metropolitan area overall (22.3% compared with 35.7%). The highest proportion was in Barossa - Tanunda SLA (36.6%)⁹.

Innovative Community Action Networks (ICAN) was rolled out across the Barossa, Light and Lower Northern region in mid 2011. ICAN is a school and community partnership program that focuses on finding solutions to local issues which prevent young people from participating in and completing their education. It targets young people from Grade 6 up until 18 years of age¹³.
Lifelong Learning Opportunities

Opportunities for lifelong learning are important for promoting community participation and for increasing educational attainment and employment choices.

Council libraries are recognised as important venues for encouraging equitable access to information as well as non-formal learning opportunities. They play a key role in developing literacy skills, particularly for persons from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. Libraries provide an avenue for community volunteering opportunities available within Council and other community programs.

Statistics for libraries in the region are provided in Table 3.

### Table 3 – Library Loans and Memberships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barossa</td>
<td>Angaston, Lyndoch, Mt pleasant, Nurioopta, Tanunda</td>
<td>232,349</td>
<td>16,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gawler</td>
<td>Gawler Library, Evanston Gardens Branch</td>
<td>130,000</td>
<td>13,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light</td>
<td>Kapunda, Freeling, Greenock</td>
<td>26,500</td>
<td>7,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallala</td>
<td>Two Wells, Mallala, Windsor Institute</td>
<td>26,181 (2012-2013)</td>
<td>1,960 (2012-2013)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Community Strengths**

Social participation, such as volunteering or being a member of a community group, can benefit individuals in areas such as improved health and wellbeing, social inclusion and reduced crime, improved local services and facilities and better educational outcomes.9

As highlighted in the Central Region Climate Change Vulnerability Report, volunteers in the State Emergency Services and Country Fire Service are a significant resource for emergency management and safety in the region 14,15. The region has a strength of community and has demonstrated capacity to support each other in times of crisis. These attributes of the region need to be recognised and supported.

Indicators of community strength and safety in the region (based on 2010 data), highlight that the majority of people consider that they are ‘able to get support in times of crisis (92.2%). Almost half the population (48.8%) were estimated to feel very safe or safe walking in their local area after dark; this proportion was higher than the metropolitan areas average of 43.5%, but varied from 42.7% in Gawler, to 52.2% in Barossa – Angaston9.

The percentage of the population involved in volunteer activities in 2006/2011 was14,15:

- Town of Gawler – 20% (2006), 19% (2011)
- Light Regional Council – 19% (2006),
• District Council of Mallala – 19% (2006), 18% (2011)

Arts and Cultural Activity

Vibrant public spaces and market places activated by art and music, facilitate connected and inclusive communities. This is supported in the Barossa RDA Roadmap where a key strategy for the health and wellbeing priority is the provision of a 'flexible public realm and infrastructure for the arts'.

The development of cultural and artistic activities is promoted throughout the region through support for art exhibitions, the South Australian Living Arts Festival (SALA) and musical and film events. The Barossa Council has a strong arts and cultural focus and the Barossa Regional Gallery is one of the key cultural services in the region. The Town of Gawler provided support for local Fringe Festival events in 2013 to stimulate activity and interest in the arts.

The RDA Barossa Roadmap proposes the development of an arts and cultural hub for the region and connecting arts and cultural activities as a growing industry cluster.

The cultural landscape in the region reflects the substantial influence of early British and German settlers. Cultural heritage is celebrated in the region through the preservation and promotion of heritage items and support for events such as History Week celebrations, fairs and Harmony Day.

In comparison with the metropolitan area overall, the percentage of residents born overseas is small. The proportion of the population born in Italy is highest in the District Council of Mallala (0.8%) but is less than half the rate for the metropolitan area (1.7%). Other populations represented include India and China but in much lower numbers compared to the metropolitan area. A small proportion (0.3%) of the overseas-born population reported in 2011 that they had poor proficiency in English and there was little variation across the region.

The proportion of Aboriginal people living in the region is smaller than the metropolitan area. Within the region, the highest proportion of Aboriginal people live in the District Council of Mallala. A number of initiatives that recognise and celebrate Aboriginal culture are supported or delivered in the region.
Council owned recreational and leisure facilities in the region range from local community halls to large multi-purpose facilities such as the Hewitt Community Centre and the Rex Barossa Aquatic and Fitness Centre. The Rex Centre recorded over 150,000 attendances in 2011-2012. Swimming facilities are also available at the Gawler Aquatic Centre. Gawler’s STARplex, operated by Trinity College on a not-for-profit basis, is another major recreation facility.

There are a number of skate facilities in the region and a new skate park in Gawler is in the development stages.

Council supported community events encourage community interaction and increased physical activity. These include street parades, Christmas celebrations, community and farm fairs, Australia Day celebrations and Citizenship ceremonies.

A number of suggestions and ideas were received during consultation relating to broadening the opportunities for recreation, leisure and increased physical activity in the region.

**Personal Health**

This Section considers data related to the health status of the regional population as well as health risk factors linked to preventable disease in Australia such as tobacco smoking, alcohol consumption, physical inactivity, obesity and being overweight. Summary information has been drawn from data published by the Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU) for Local Government Areas in South Australia.

The following regional information is taken from the summary of modelled estimates from the 2007-2008 National Health Survey:

- **Self-assessed health** - It is estimated that 15.5% of the population of the region assessed their health as ‘fair’ or ‘poor’, rather than as ‘good’, ‘very good’ or ‘excellent’. This was above the metropolitan average of 15.3%. Of the adults in Mallala, 17.9% were estimated to rate their health poorly, compared with 12.5% in the Barossa.

- **Type 2 Diabetes** - The proportion of the population of the region estimated to have type 2 Diabetes was 3.4%, which is below the metropolitan average of 3.5%. The highest prevalence was estimated to be in Mallala (3.6%).

- **Mental health problems** - Mental health problems were estimated to have affected 10.6% of males, consistent with the metropolitan average (10.7%). Estimated prevalence varied from 11.4% in Gawler to 9.6% in Barossa-Tanunda. The estimated rate of mental health problems among females was 11.9% (lower than the metropolitan average of 12.1%). Most areas had a prevalence rate consistent with or below the metropolitan average, but a 4% higher rate was estimated for Gawler.

- **Smoking** - The smoking rate (adults smoking on a daily basis) was estimated at 21.1%, which was higher than the metropolitan average of 18.9%.
• **Obesity** - The estimated obesity rate for males in the region was 18.1%, which was above the metropolitan area overall (17.3%). The LGAs of Mallala and Gawler both had the highest estimated obesity rate in the region of 20.1%. Light and each of the Barossa SLAs were estimated to be below the metropolitan average. The estimated obesity rate for females in the region was 17.5% and was above the metropolitan rate (16.7%). There was variation again in the estimated prevalence of female obesity, from 18.2% in Mallala to a lower 16.8% in Barossa-Tanunda, but all estimated rates were above the average for Metropolitan Adelaide.

• **Physical Inactivity** - The extent of physical inactivity among the adult population in the Northern Regional Group (35.4% of the adult population) was consistent with the estimated rate in the metropolitan area (35.1%). Mallala was the only area with a higher rate of 37.2%.

**Early Life and Childhood**

The region has a relatively young population and a higher proportion of families with children. The fertility rate for the region in 2011 was 2.05, which was higher than the rate for the metropolitan area overall (1.79). The highest fertility rate within the region was for Barossa-Tanunda (2.30).

Key childhood health data (based on the for the region is summarised below:

• **Smoking during pregnancy** - During 2008 to 2010, 15.7% of women reported smoking during their pregnancy. This was 21% above the metropolitan average rate of 13.0%. The rate of smoking in pregnancy varied from 9.5% for Barossa-Tanunda, to 19.1% in Mallala.

• **Immunisation** – Based on the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (2011 to 2012), the rate of immunisation at one year of age (94.4%) in the region was higher than the metropolitan average (92.2%). The proportion of children in the region who were fully immunised at five years of age (90.9%) was also higher than the metropolitan average (87.0%). The lowest proportion was in Mallala Council (87.2%).

• **Childhood obesity** – The extent of obesity among 4 year old boys (based on 2010 to 2012 data) was 3.7% compared to the metropolitan average of 5.3%. 2.5% of girls were assessed as being obese compared with the metropolitan average of 3.8%.

• **Child and adolescent mental health** - the rate of children aged 0-19 years who were clients of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) (based on 2008 to 2010 data) was 2% higher than the metropolitan area overall. Across the region, rates were 26% higher for Gawler and 9% higher for Mallala, indicating the important role these services play in the community.

With a young population, childhood health is a key priority for the region. The Gawler community is planning a bid to be recognised as a globally-accredited “child friendly community”. A group of parents, community leaders and organisations who work with children and young people are supporting the initiative to achieve formal recognition accreditation from international children’s charity UNICEF.
Health and Community Services

Health Services

Hospitals providing acute care in the region are located in Mallala, Kapunda, Tanunda, Angaston, Gawler and Mount Pleasant. All but Mallala are public facilities. A range of health services are provided through the Inner North Community Health Service of SA Health, with teams located at Kapunda, Angaston, Gawler, Tanunda and Nutiootpa. The distribution of these facilities throughout the region is illustrated in Map 2.

RDA Barossa has identified the need for a new regional health facility in view of the population growth in the region. The Regional Roadmap notes that the presence of health professionals and health clustering in the region would support a new fit for purpose regional health facility.

Other key planning issues identified in the Roadmap and raised during consultation included the following:

- Service implications of an increasingly ageing population profile
- Achieving equitable and effective distribution of health facilities and services
- Improving the accessibility within towns for an ageing population
- Improving transport access to health and treatment services.

Key data provided relating to the level of use and access to health services is summarised below:

- **Hospital admissions** - The rate of admission to a South Australian hospital for regional residents was 7% lower than the metropolitan average. However the lowest rate for Mallala, was 18% below this average, and that for Angaston was 6% higher.

- **Difficulty in accessing services** – This is measured using modelled estimates from the 2010 ABS General Social Survey, expressed as a rate per 100 population aged 18 years and over (age-standardised). In the region, difficulty in accessing services by people aged 18 years and over was estimated to be 19% higher than for the metropolitan area overall, with just under a third of the population estimated as facing such difficulties. Higher than average proportions were recorded for all areas except Gawler, which was consistent with Metropolitan Adelaide.

- **Community Mental Health** – This is expressed as an indirectly age-standardised rate per 100,000 population aged 18 years and over in 2009-2010. Slightly more people aged 18 years and over in the region are clients of government-funded community mental health services, with a rate just 1% above that across the metropolitan area overall. There were low rates across the region, with the exception of Gawler, which was 32% higher than that for Metropolitan Adelaide. This not only reflects demand for these important services, but also their availability locally as well as in Adelaide, where some residents would access them.

- **Residential Aged Care Places** (high-level and low-level care), expressed as a rate per 1,000 population aged 70 years and over in June 2011. This measure is used to help plan for the accommodation needs of older residents. The rate of residential aged care places in the region was 22% lower than the rate across the metropolitan area overall. However, there was considerable variation across the region, from a rate in Tanunda SLA which was 57% higher, to that in Barossa SLA which was 84% lower than Metropolitan Adelaide.
Map 2 – Hospitals and Health Services
Council Services and Carer Population

Local Councils in conjunction with local community agencies, provide a range of Home and Community Care (HACC) and Home Assist support services and programs to help people maintain their independence and remain living safely in their own home. Council services can include housework, personal care, maintenance, social support and transport. The Town of Gawler provides HACC services and Light Regional Council in partnership with The Barossa Council provides a range of Home Assist services. The District Council of Mallala provides transport help and SA Country Carers visits in Two Wells twice per month.

The proportion of the population providing unpaid assistance to persons with a disability, a long-term illness or problems related to old age (12.2%) was higher than the metropolitan areas overall (11.8%). Their distribution across the Group was relatively even, with the highest proportion in Tanunda (12.9%), which was 10% above Metropolitan Adelaide. This highlights the significant proportion of the population providing care and the need to support carers in the community.

The number of Home and Community Care (HACC) Program clients who live alone, as a proportion of the total client population, is an indicator of the level of need for support services. In 2010, less than a third of HACC clients in the region were living alone (29.9%), which was 20% lower than the proportion across the metropolitan area overall (37.2%). However, the proportion for Gawler (35.9%) was only 3% lower than the metropolitan area average.

Council Services – Immunisation

All Councils in the region promote the availability of immunisation services in their area. Barossa Council, in conjunction with the Barossa General Practice Network and other local health services, provides immunisation services to students at Nuriootpa High School and Faith Lutheran Secondary School, in accordance with the Australian Government’s Immunise Australia Program. A total of 1,362 vaccines were administered in the 2011 calendar year.

The Town of Gawler also provides community and school clinics. Gawler administered 4374 vaccines in the 2012/13 financial year. The Town of Gawler also provides a user-pays workplace immunization services to local businesses.

Since 2011, Light Regional Council has provided a school based immunisation program.

Immunisation participation in 2011/12 is shown in Table 4. The State government is aiming to improve immunisation rates in the pre-school (four to five year) age group through their ‘big help for little adventurers’ campaign, as well as for Aboriginal children.
Table 4 – Immunisation Participation 2011/12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>1 Year (Percent)</th>
<th>5 Years (percent)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barossa</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td>93.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gawler</td>
<td>93.9</td>
<td>87.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light</td>
<td>94.6</td>
<td>93.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallala</td>
<td>93.6</td>
<td>87.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.3 Economic Wellbeing

Economic Activity

Core industries of the Barossa, Light and Lower Northern Region, incorporate livestock and horticulture production, grain production and permaculture and world-renowned wine, regional food and farmer’s markets and associated tourism of the Barossa Valley. Current land uses in the region are shown in Map 3. ‘An important element of RDA Barossa’s focus over the past year has been to strengthen and diversify this economic base with growth in tourism, restaurant trade, branded produce and food products and locally generated services to these industries’.

Revitalising main streets and town centres has been a priority for supporting local businesses in the region through town centre master planning. Current key projects include: the Nurioopta Place Making Project, the Greenock Main Street Project, Kapunda Event Space Infrastructure, Murray Street upgrade in Gawler and the Two Wells town centre re-development.

The roll out of broadband is critical to economic development in the region. It is proposed that the National Broadband Network will be rolled out over the next 3 years to Tanunda, Nurioopta, Angaston, Penrice, Stockwell and Two Wells (this may be subject to policy change). Higher-speed fixed wireless and satellite infrastructure is planned for most of the region.

The NBN is considered of key importance for community and health care services in the region. RDA Barossa has developed an integrated Digital Economy Strategy ‘Digital Barossa’. As part of this strategy, the local health sector has been identified as a substantial beneficiary of the NBN roll-out. RDA Barossa has established a regional focus group to prepare for the effective utilisation of broadband in the region.

Employment

The top five employment sectors in the region in 2012 were manufacturing, retail trade, agriculture, forestry and fishing, health and community services and education and training.

In 2012 total employment in SA was 726,113 with the Barossa region accounting for approximately 3.0 percent of the total state employment. In 2012, the Barossa Region accounted for approximately 2.7 percent of the state economy.
The RDA Barossa road map identifies development of intensive horticulture production (supported by additional water infrastructure) as an employment growth opportunity for the region. Sectors which promote healthy lifestyles such as cycle tourism and culinary tourism have also been identified as growth opportunities.

Key employment statistics for the region are summarised below:

- **Work or full-time study** – In 2011, the proportion of 15 to 19 year olds population in the region engaged in full time work or study was 80.5%, was comparable to that in the metropolitan area overall (80.9%). The highest proportion was in Barossa - Tanunda (85.1%), and the lowest was in Gawler (79.2%).

- **Unemployment benefits** - In June 2011, fewer people in the region aged from 16 to 64 years were receiving unemployment benefits (a Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other)) from Centrelink than was the case across the metropolitan area overall: 3.8% compared with 4.7%.

- **Unemployed for longer than 6 months** - fewer people in the region had been unemployed for six months or longer (3.0%), compared with 3.6% in the metropolitan area overall. Gawler recorded the highest proportion (3.8%).

- **Unemployment benefits** - The population receiving a Newstart Allowance (and aged 15 to 24 years) or Youth Allowance (other) from Centrelink comprised 5.8% of the population aged 15 to 24 years in the region, which was lower than the metropolitan average of 6.4%. Gawler had the highest proportion of this population group (7.7%), which was higher than Metropolitan Adelaide.

Map 4 illustrates the location of employment for all residents in the region who are above 15 years of age. The City of Adelaide and the suburb of Elizabeth are the most common employment destinations outside of the region.

The region has been affected by the decline or consolidation of some manufacturing industries. Promoting the future of advanced manufacturing is a key priority of RDA’s Regional Roadmap. Manufacturing employment will potentially be impacted by the recently announced closure of the Holden Manufacturing Plant in Elizabeth (in the City of Playford). This highlights the importance of supporting skills development and planning for sustainable employment opportunities, in collaboration with northern Adelaide Councils.

The region has a number of support services and programs aimed at supporting youth and general community employment:

- **The Barossa Career Service and Skills for All Program** support at no cost to eligible residents with skills development to assist them to develop and enhance their career.

- **The Barossa Future Leaders Program** is a community led initiative to up-skill future community leaders. The program was designed in conjunction with Adelaide University’s Executive Education Unit and non-academics who are leaders in their field, and current community leaders from around the Barossa Region.
• **The Northern Adelaide Regional Collaboration** is a voluntary collaboration of five local government entities (City of Playford, City of Salisbury, Town of Gawler, Light Regional Council and District Council of Mallala), South Australian and Australian governments, and community and business organisations. The group shares a vision and commitment to a prosperous and sustainable future for the communities of northern Adelaide.
Map 3 – Generalised Land Use
Map 4 – Place of Work Destinations (for people living in the region above 15)
5.4 Natural and Built Environment

Built Environment

Regional Development

The Barossa RDA region is one of the most significant regions for future urban growth identified in The 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide. The 30 Year Plan indicates that 48% of the future population growth and 42% of the future employment growth of Greater Adelaide will be in the Barossa RDA region. This growth has already commenced with significant new urban development establishing in the region in the past 10 years.

The 30-Year Plan’s population and dwelling projections to 2038, propose 4,000 new homes in Gawler East and Evanston, population growth of 60,000 in Roseworthy and 500 in Freeling, significant growth in Two Wells as well as new development in Mt Pleasant. As the localities grow in size, strategies to mesh existing and new residents will be important to ensure strong connected communities in the future.

Providing social and community infrastructure in a timely manner for the growing communities is of critical importance. Issues include the need for integrated transport services and facilities, accessible health, community and education facilities and determining community focal points and potential locations that will best service the residents of townships and the surrounding communities.

More detailed planning for the redevelopment of the Two Wells Town Centre has been progressed within the context of the projected growth. A number of other Development Plan Amendments are also being progressed in the region to accommodate the projected growth. Lewiston, one of the State’s largest rural living areas is also experiencing growth. Protecting rural land use and character is important particularly given the diverse activities that occur within the Animal Husbandry Zone, including hobby farming, horse keeping and dog keeping.

Planning for agriculture is of key importance as the impacts of semi urban growth on premium farming land and farmers’ livelihoods needs to be carefully managed.

The Character Preservation (Barossa Valley) Act 2012 which came into effect in January 2013 aims to protect the Barossa from urban sprawl and protect adjacent agricultural practice. The legislation provides for a clear distinction between village style townships and the rural landscape, allowing a mix of uses and diverse farming practices which reinforce the existing pattern of development. Residential development outside the existing township boundaries in the Barossa and Eden Valleys will therefore be limited. There will also be an impact on areas within Light Regional Council.

The new legislation has had an uncertain impact on expansion to farming as well as tourism and winery infrastructure expansion. However, the protection of agriculturally productive land is important from a health perspective to ensure access to fresh food and to ensure that development is sensitive to food issues.

The region is rich in built heritage. The Development Plan for each Council area lists the properties and items which have been designated as Local and State Heritage Places, Contributory Places as well as Historic Conservation and Policy Areas. The Town of
Gawler and Light Regional Council also provide grants to support the preservation of heritage properties.

The majority of development applications approved by each Council relate to residential development in townships and rural living areas. Applications for horse keeping and dog kenneling development were also common in Mallala.

**Housing**

The new Rural Property Addressing system has been introduced to 2,500 rural properties, ensuring a uniform signage system in line with national standards.

Recent demand growth has reduced housing affordability in the region. State Government commitment has been given to encouraging affordable housing in Freeling, Mallala, Gawler and Lewiston.

Key housing affordability indicators are summarised below:

- **Mortgage stress** - Relatively more low income households were assessed as being under mortgage stress at the 2011 Census, with 9.1% in the region, compared with 8.4% in the metropolitan area overall. Proportions varied from 11.1% in Mallala to 4.4% in Barossa - Tanunda.

- **Rental stress** - The level of rental stress was also above the metropolitan average, with 27.2% of low income families in this category in the region, compared with 26.9% for Metropolitan Adelaide. The highest proportion, of 30.9%, was in the LGA of Gawler.

- **Social housing** - The proportion of the housing stock in the region rented from Housing SA at the 2011 Census was 60% below the metropolitan average (2.6% compared with 6.4%). Across the Group, the highest proportion was in Gawler (5.5%).

- **Rental assistance** - The proportion of households receiving rental assistance from the Australian Government in the region (14.0%) was lower than in the metropolitan area overall (14.6%). Relatively more households in Gawler (19.6%) were receiving rental assistance compared with the metropolitan average.

There is increasing demand for aged care facilities in several nodes of the region particularly Kapunda.

Local Councils have an important role in enforcing safe and suitable housing conditions. Mallala has employed a Development Compliance Officer to enforce development standards. A holistic approach to the complex nature of ‘severe domestic squalor’ and the associated causes, is now being sought through the South Australian Public Health (Severe Domestic Squalor) Policy 2013 (a policy under the SA Public Health Act 2011). A collaborative framework for addressing cases is a key element of the new policy.

Councils have a role in enforcing safety standards for household swimming pools. The State Government is considering a new legislative framework for swimming pool safety barriers.
Transport

One of the key infrastructure issues for the region is ensuring transport access which supports social and economic development. Concern has been raised regarding isolation of residents and difficulty in accessing services caused by limited transport options, particularly for public transport. Limited youth access to transport services is highlighted as a key issue in the Light Regional Council Social Plan. Key public transport routes are shown in Map 5. North-south transport links are considered reasonable but east-west linkages are poor.

The State Government released the Draft Integrated Transport and Land Use Plan in October 2013. Proposed "Solutions and Actions" for Outer Adelaide include initiatives for the Barossa Region. These include the revitalisation of the Adelaide to Gawler train line, extending and restructuring bus services to service growth areas including Two Wells, the preparation of the Regional Passenger Transport Plan for the Barossa and improving regional and township cycling networks.

Many transport routes in the region currently host significant commuter, freight and transport traffic and are experiencing increased demand. Transport tensions and conflicts largely occur as a result of the competing needs of freight, tourism, commuters and local and regional travellers.

Adelaide suburban rail services extend to Gawler. The train route services other major suburbs including Elizabeth, Salisbury and Munno Para. A new rail link from Gawler to Roseworthy is proposed in response to the projected growth in the area.

There are daily bus services to Adelaide from Gawler and the Barossa Valley provided by non-government coach services. Commuters to Adelaide from larger centres in the region are serviced by regular peak hour services but options outside of peak times are limited. Adelaide Metro provides a local bus service within Gawler which includes links to the railway station.

Barossa, Light and Mallala Councils provide or sponsor regular Community Bus Services predominantly for the frail aged and residents with a disability. Volunteers operate the services. In addition to the monthly Community Bus travelling to Elizabeth Shopping Centre, the District Council of Mallala contributes funding to the Mid North Community Passenger Transport Network, which provides medical transport services for the residents of the District. Due to demand, an additional vehicle has been purchased which will be stored at Mallala Community Hospital.

Barossa Council, in conjunction with Light Regional Council operates the Barossa Regional Community Transport Scheme which is available to those who are transport disadvantaged with no other options available. Volunteers provide transport by car or bus, generally to medical appointments in the local area or in Adelaide.

Commercial bus services and taxis are also available within each Council area. Dial A Ride offers a door to door service on weekdays between a number of townships.

Each Council acts as custodian to an extensive range of fixed community assets including road infrastructure encompassing thousands of kilometres of sealed and unsealed roads important to residents for accessing services and facilities.
Open Space

The development of the Regional Barossa, Light and Lower North Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Strategy is a key action for improved coordinated planning across the region and has resulted in multiple outcomes including better asset management and revitalised community spaces to meet current needs. The Strategy was prepared for the four member Councils, in conjunction with RDA Barossa, Office for Recreation and Sport (ORS) and the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) 2. Key open space and recreation assets are shown in Map 6.

The Plan identifies future strategic priorities for the development of open space, public realm and recreation facilities, taking into account the likely changes in demand as a result of population growth and changes in leisure trends.

Categorisation and spatial mapping of assets will improve strategic planning for new and existing facilities as well as help to improve asset management. Consistent GIS asset recording systems used by each Council will also assist regional planning at the State Government level.

A number of the Councils have also prepared local plans for managing local open space issues.

The open space in Mallala and Light is well above the benchmark of 9 hectares per 1,000, due to large unpopulated rural areas. Gawler and Barossa have supply levels of just over the benchmark. Population growth projected to 2036 indicates that open space at its current levels will fall below the benchmark for each Council apart from Mallala and reinforces the need for Councils to prepare and implement policy that will support the retention of 9 hectares as minimum provision.

A number of public and private schools in the region provide playing fields and opportunities exist to negotiate joint use arrangements to share these for community use. Light Regional Council also has similar opportunities with Adelaide University land situated in the vicinity of Roseworthy.

Cycling and Trails

Trails throughout the region are mostly shared use and cater to cyclists, horse riders, runners and walkers. The Barossa has 12 local trails and three national trails passing through it. Gawler and Mallala have one local trail each. The national Kidman Trail passes through Light Regional Council.

The majority of local trails are contained within The Barossa Council due to that area’s strong focus on tourism and wineries, and the nature of the topography and landscape but some pass through the neighbouring Light Regional Council. The 27 kilometre Jack Bobridge Track is a major shared path between Tanunda and Gawler which follows the North Para River corridor and railway line, with links to tourism venues and attractions.

Opportunities exist to further develop trails along disused and existing rail routes as these are direct in nature and offer opportunity for cycling and access to key townships. The need to ensure more connections between cycle and walking paths and motorised transport is also recognised in the RDA Barossa Roadmap.
The development of a Barossa Cycle Tourism Strategy 2012 is a region wide initiative of Regional Development Australia - Barossa in conjunction with The Barossa Council and other key stakeholders to capitalise on cycle tourism with existing and developing assets across the region. The Strategy identifies strengths and gaps in infrastructure, products, events and experiences, and contains short, medium and long term priorities to advance cycle tourism across the region. The Barossa Council has initiated a project to prepare a more traditional urban design framework for Tanunda which will provide guidelines for future public realm development including footpaths, street furniture and the like. An element of the project will be a master plan regarding land use and linkages between the Rex Centre, town centre and key pedestrian and cycle movement networks.
Map 5 – Public Transport
Map 6 – Open Space Provision in the Region\textsuperscript{11}
**Natural Environment**

The Barossa region runs some 80 kilometres from the shores of Gulf St. Vincent east to almost the watershed of the Mount Lofty Ranges. Over this watershed lies the western extremity of the Murray Darling catchment basin. From south to north the region extends from the boundaries of northern Adelaide, through the central Mount Lofty Ranges and up some 65 kilometres, encompassing quality broad acre cropping and wine growing land. The agricultural environment of the Barossa Valley is world renown in its capacity to produce premium wine.

On the coast are low-lying saltbush swamp and marshlands, a rich ecological and estuarine environment. To the south east, timbered ranges predominate as private grazing land, the Mount Crawford pine plantation, protected dam catchment areas and conservation areas.

The region is within the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management (AMLR NRM) Board and the Board planning sub regions of ‘northern coast and plains’ (to the west of the region) and ‘northern hills’ (to the east of the region). The main rivers in the region include the North Para, South Para, Gawler and Light rivers.

AMLR NRM Board planning priorities for these sub regions encapsulate: supporting biodiversity, water resource management and protection, management of remnant vegetation (roadside vegetation and grassy ecosystems) and habitats, facilitating integrated climate change adaption; restoring northern coast saltmarsh and shrubland system; formal protection of the Light River delta; coastal protection; improving the condition of the Barker Inlet and Gawler River estuaries; protection of migratory shorebirds habitat; promotion of sustainable land management practices, catchment management and biodiversity riparian zones (North Para, South Para, Light and Gawler Rivers) and protection of priority primary production areas.

The NRM Board funds a Coastal, Estuary and Marine (CEM) Officer who is hosted by Mallala Council. The CEM Officer works across Mallala, Playford, Salisbury and Port Adelaide Enfield Council areas.

The RDA Barossa Sustainable Environs Committee (BSEC) was established to research sustainable options for the Barossa region. Key focus areas are promoting sustainable energy and water use options and reducing residential and industrial waste. Protecting the region’s natural environment, promoting sustainable recreation activities (e.g. protecting vegetation from motor cycles), and integrating biodiversity promotion with recreation trails were key opportunity areas highlighted at the regional ‘Physical Environments for Health Forum’.
Climate Change

Accelerated climate change, caused by the enhanced accumulation of ‘greenhouse’ gas emissions in the atmosphere, has numerous potential impacts to the health and wellbeing of South Australian communities.

‘Changes in our climate are likely to have significant impacts on community and individual wellbeing...Direct and indirect impacts could include:

- Disruption of social networks, and forced migration
- Lack of information knowledge and skills
- Heat stress during heat waves
- Increased risks to life and property as a consequence of greater and more frequent extreme events such as bushfires and flood
- An increase in the frequency in vector-borne infectious diseases such as Ross River Virus
- An increase in air pollution (e.g. from dust and bushfire smoke) that may increase respiratory diseases and allergies
- An increase in the frequency of water and food-borne infectious diseases
- A reduction in food production and nutritional quality
- Physical and mental health consequences that occur as a result of some direct or indirect impacts, such as drought.

In South Australia, heat related deaths are likely to take the highest toll, particularly with an ageing population, which is generally less tolerant to heat.

There is also increasing evidence that communities and groups that are disadvantaged or vulnerable will be most impacted by the health impacts of climate change.

The Barossa, Light and Mallala Councils were part of the region covered in the Central Local Government Association’s Climate Change Vulnerability Study. The vulnerability assessment considered the exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity to climate change impacts across the region. The study considered the impacts of forecasted increase in temperature, reduced rainfall and sea level rise on the region. The study highlights both the direct and indirect social and public health impacts of climate change on the region. These include the direct impacts of extreme weather events such as heatwaves (in particular on more vulnerable groups in the community such as older people and lower socio-economic households). Gradual climatic changes and increased drought conditions has the potential to impact on agricultural productivity and the economic conditions and wellbeing of residents working in this sector. There is significant public health infrastructure in the region, such as wastewater treatment schemes, which need to be designed and managed to consider predicated climate conditions.

Coastal settlements in the region are also vulnerable to the impacts of sea level rise. The University of South Australia (UniSA), School of Natural & Built Environments was commissioned by the District Council of Mallala to undertake work on a Coastal Settlements Adaptation Study in May 2013. The aim of the study is to identify and evaluate potential sea level rise adaptation strategies for the coastal settlements in the Council. The intent is to clearly define the benefits, risks and estimated costs associated with realistic and achievable adaptation options.
Emergency Management

The region needs to be prepared for potential emergency events which may impact on the area. Potential emergency events recognised for the area include bushfires, flooding, extreme weather, fuel and electricity shortages, animal and plants diseases and public health risks (human epidemic/pandemic and food and drinking water contamination).

Environmental Health Protection

The regional Councils play an important role in undertaking environmental health protection functions to manage the risk of communicable diseases such as:

- Food-borne diseases - illnesses caused by eating food contaminated by bacteria, viruses or toxins such as salmonella or botulism.
- Vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Vector-borne diseases - transmitted to humans by an organism, such as a mosquito or tick, that carries disease-causing micro-organisms from one host to another.

Under the SA Public Health Act 2011 medical practitioners and diagnostic laboratories are required to notify SA Health of cases (including deaths) suspected of having or diagnosed with notifiable conditions (i.e. notifiable communicable diseases). The Department of Health and Ageing may call upon Environmental Health Officers to assist in the investigation of notifiable diseases within their Council area.

The State of Public Health for South Australia, reports the following with regard to communicable disease trends:

- There has been an overall increase in the number of communicable disease notifications to the Department for Health and Ageing, with an average of 12064 notifications per year during 2008-2012, compared to 6791 notifications per year during 2002 to 2007.
- In 2012, there were 6545 new notifications of sexually transmitted diseases and blood borne viruses. This figure represents a 27 per cent increase in the number of new notifications compared to notifications received in 2008.
- During 2011 the Department investigated over 260 communicable disease outbreaks including 17 suspected foodborne outbreaks.

Councils receive monthly confidential communicable disease reports for their areas. There is opportunity to request regional level reports on annual communicable disease statistics for use in future state of health assessments.
**Food Security and Safety**

Food security and safety is of key importance for supporting public health in the region. With potential for growth in intensive horticulture in the region, the District Council of Mallala and the City of Playford (in partnership with the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Board, PIRSA, and Regional Development Australia) have committed to the Virginia and Northern Adelaide Plains Horticultural Study. The study aims to promote the sustainability of the horticultural sector and to prevent interface issues between horticultural activity in the region and urban land use.

The region is renowned for its local quality food supply. Preserving clean and green food production in the region is important for sustaining the food production sector and associated tourism. Promoting access to healthy food options and further establishment of local farmers markets is considered a key public health opportunity for the region. Enforcing safe food standards, through the administration of the Food Act 2001, is a key role of Council Environmental Health Officers (EHOs). The growth in the popularity of food markets has resulted in an increase in the number of home based food preparation businesses established solely for the sale of items at market events. The notification of such businesses requires ongoing monitoring by EHOs.

Table 5 shows the number of food premises notified for each regional Council.

**Table 5 – Operating Food Premises**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Food Premises 2012-2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barossa</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gawler</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallala</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>732</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Water Resource Management**

Sustainable water resource management is important for supporting local agriculture, industry and amenity. Infrastructure for water distribution and re-use is critical to the development of the region. The Councils aim to support water re-use and minimise water used for irrigation.

The Barossa Valley is a prescribed water resource area under the *Natural Resource Management Act 2004*. The area’s annual extraction data for 2010-2011 indicates that half of the water used in the area is sourced from underground water (the upper, lower and fractured rock aquifers), with the other half obtained from surface water resources including surface water (11%) and watercourse water (39%). The Water Allocation Plan for the area prescribes limits on the location and volume of water held in farm dams to maintain adequate flows within the North Para catchment.

The Light Regional Council agreed to execute the Gawler River Water Project at its December 2013 Council meeting. This is a key regional project involving Commonwealth and State stakeholders as well as the four regional Councils. The project seeks to initially harvest approximately 2.2GL/annum of urban stormwater from the Gawler River and surrounding areas, making use of a Managed Aquifer Recovery bore field providing storage and retention prior to distribution back to Local Government Authority reserves in the region.
The $20M funding announcement for stage one of the project occurred in August 2012. Light Regional Council is also progressing development of the Supplementary Water Supply Schemes for Freeling and Kapunda (SWSSFK) project.

Mallala Council is investigating the opportunity to bring Bolivar water into the district during winter, through the Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme (NAIS) project. The NAIS project aims to provide recycled water infrastructure to receive over 12 GL of reclaimed water from the Bolivar and Two Wells wastewater treatment plants and deliver it to surface storage for a new 2000 ha Northern Irrigation Area. The scheme has the potential for creating an intensive horticulture industry that is in line with the State’s clean green food priority. The opportunity also exists for the NAIS project to connect to the Gawler River Water Project to further enhance water availability within the region.

Protecting public health and the environment through enforcing proper standards of wastewater management (in accordance with the SA Health On-Site Wastewater Systems Code) is a key role for EHOs in the rural Councils. EHOs manage on-site wastewater system applications and system inspections. Application numbers are provided in Table 6.

Table 6 – Waste Water System Applications/Inspections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Applications (2012/13)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barossa</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gawler</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallala</td>
<td>169 (inspections 2012-2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>491</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Council managed community wastewater management schemes are located in various towns across the region. New schemes are proposed for the Mallala and Two Wells townships in Mallala Council.

**Solid Waste Management**

Councils support public health through the provision of regular waste management services. Waste collection is important for maintaining amenable, safe and sanitary environments. Managing waste responsibly and minimizing waste to landfill through reduction, re-use and recycling is a key focus for all four Councils.

The Central Local Government Region of Councils developed a Regional Waste Management Strategy in 2008 to coordinate waste collection and disposal arrangements. The Central LGA Region includes Mallala, Light and Barossa Councils. Mallala Council is also currently preparing a Waste Management Strategy.

Addressing illegal dumping and supporting safe and sustainable waste management practices for the agricultural sector are also focus areas in the region. The Barossa, Light and Mallala Councils support the DrumMuster program (a recycling initiative for farm chemical drums). Each Council also supports recycling of electronic waste.

Waste transfer stations are located at Mallala, Two Wells and Springton.

Kerbside waste collection statistics are provided in Table 7.
### Table 7 – Kerbside Waste and Recycling Statistics 2012-13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Waste (tonnes)</th>
<th>Recyclables (tonnes)</th>
<th>Green Organics (tonnes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barossa</td>
<td>4544</td>
<td>2058</td>
<td>683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gawler</td>
<td>4511</td>
<td>1940</td>
<td>1487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light</td>
<td>2240</td>
<td>972</td>
<td>936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallala</td>
<td>1290</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12585</td>
<td>5523</td>
<td>3366</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 6 Considerations for the Public Health Plan

The Barossa, Gawler, Light and Mallala Councils are ideally placed to work with key community and government agencies, to provide a regional environment which supports good health. A review of the region’s social, economic, built and natural environment, through a public health lens, highlights a number of challenges and opportunities for promoting community health and wellbeing. These are summarised in the following sections.

#### 6.1 Community and Cultural Wellbeing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Opportunities*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Areas of high social disadvantage and remoteness within the region</td>
<td>Recognise areas of social disadvantage and remoteness in Council service and facilities planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education and Lifelong Learning</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attaining high school tertiary education</td>
<td>Advocacy and support for current youth education and employment programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equitable access to life-long learning</td>
<td>Promotion of current library based education: lifelong learning, literacy, volunteerism, digital access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Strengths</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting community strengths</td>
<td>Support and recognise volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Promote vibrancy - promotion of arts and cultural activities, events and places.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personal Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health and wellbeing- higher proportion rating their health poorly in Mallala, higher rate of mental health problems in Gawler</td>
<td>Assist to raise awareness of current mental health services in the region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic disease risk factors in the community – smoking, obesity, physical inactivity</td>
<td>Regional advocacy and partnerships with the Health Service Sector to facilitate access to lifestyle programs to address chronic disease risk factors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Planning urban environments to facilitate physical activity, access to healthy food and discourage smoking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advocacy for ‘healthy by design’ principles within planning reforms at a State level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review of Council workplace health policies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Challenges and Opportunities

#### Early Life and Childhood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Childhood health risk factors: smoking during pregnancy, obesity, achieving target immunisation rates (particularly for preschoolers)</td>
<td>Regional partnerships with the Health Service Sector to facilitate access to lifestyle programs to address childhood health risk factors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional partnerships with the Health Service Sector to facilitate access to lifestyle programs to address childhood health risk factors</td>
<td>Immunisation (see Health Services)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning urban environments to incorporate ‘child friendly’ considerations</td>
<td>Planning urban environments to incorporate ‘child friendly’ considerations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Health Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health service accessibility (perceived difficulty in accessing services).</td>
<td>Continue current regional advocacy with RDA Barossa: Regional health centre, broadband for the health sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health service implications of a growing population and an ageing population profile</td>
<td>Social infrastructure needs assessments for major developments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporating planning policy considerations for an ageing community</td>
<td>Incorporating planning policy considerations for an ageing community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Significant carer population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower immunisation rates for certain groups: pre-school, Aboriginal children</td>
<td>Recognition and support for carers in the community Regional review of immunisation services. Promote awareness campaigns for target groups (pre-schoolers, Aboriginal children)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These are draft opportunity statements to be considered by the Public Health Plan Project Team in developing strategies for the Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.*

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### 6.2 Economic Wellbeing

#### Economic Activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen and diversify the regional economic base</td>
<td>Partnership with RDA Barossa to implement Regional Roadmap priorities for economic diversification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote connections between potential economic growth sectors and health and wellbeing: local clean and green food production, recreation and sports based tourism</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-vitalising main streets and town centres</td>
<td>Incorporation of ‘health in planning’ principles in main street and town centre projects (recognise dual benefits to public health and local economy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadband access</td>
<td>Support for the NBN roll-out and utilisation by the health sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy for broadband access for economic development, community information access, life-long learning</td>
<td>Advocacy for broadband access for economic development, community information access, life-long learning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable employment opportunities</td>
<td>Continued support for regional youth and community employment programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of Council policies to support youth employment/work experience opportunities.</td>
<td>Review of Council policies to support youth employment/work experience opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment opportunities for northern Adelaide</td>
<td>Continued participation in the Northern Adelaide Regional Collaboration to build workforce opportunities for northern Adelaide</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These are draft opportunity statements to be considered by the Public Health Plan Project Team in developing strategies for the Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.*
### Natural and Built Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Opportunities*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environments for Physical and Mental Wellbeing</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addressing obesity, physical inactivity and mental wellbeing through supportive environments</td>
<td>Application of ‘healthy by design’ guidelines in urban planning projects: value green infrastructure, age friendly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing accessible open space, public realm and recreational facilities to meet regional growth</td>
<td>Regional Open Space and Public Realm Strategy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Protection and enhancement of the region’s natural environment | Ongoing partnership and programs with the AMLR NRM Board  
Road-side vegetation management and protection  
Regional promotion of natural assets  
Responsible recreation to protect the coastal environment |
| **Accessibility for All** |  |
| Accessibility of transport across the region | Community transport for health services  
Youth transport and mobile services  
Advocacy for transport services and infrastructure to meet population growth demand and improve east-west linkages |
| Accessibility for people with a disability | Disability access planning  
Asset management and urban planning to address needs of people with a disability |
| **Safe and Affordable Housing** |  |
| Mortgage and rental stress in some sectors of the community | Commitment to affordable housing provision in new urban developments |
| Management of housing conditions | Enforcement of development, public health and housing standards |
| **A Sustainable Environment for Health** |  |
| Regional water security | Promotion of water recycling (Revision 2045 Project)  
Regional water re-use projects e.g. the Greater Gawler Water Re-use Project |
| Minimise energy and resource use | Ongoing research and partnerships with industry in the region  
Energy use reduction for Council facilities and infrastructure |
| Waste generation, illegal dumping and safety | Regional strategy for waste management and recycling  
Enforcement of illegal dumping  
Promotion of safe agricultural waste management |
| **Environmental Health Protection** |  |
| Resources to maintain public health standards: food premises, cooling towers, wastewater systems, drinking water providers, communicable disease investigation | Regional approaches to environmental health education and procedures  
Advocate for standardisation of enforcement policies, procedures and reporting  
Education and training on new legislative requirements |
| **Preparing for the Public Health Impacts of Climate Change** |  |
| Public health risks associated with potential extreme weather events in the region | Integration of public health in emergency response planning |
| Public health impacts from gradual climatic changes in the region | Adaptation measures for vulnerable groups in the community (ageing, disabled, farming sector, coastal communities)  
Planning adaptation with key sectors  
Surveillance for potential changes to environmental health conditions in the region  
Protection of regional public health infrastructure |

*These are draft opportunity statements to be considered by the Public Health Plan Project Team in developing strategies for the Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.*
6.4 Regional Framework for Public Health

The need for improved regional partnerships for promoting health was a key priority highlighted in the stakeholder forums. Key opportunities raised were:

- Improvement of regional partnerships
- Collaboration on projects
- Information sharing
- Coordination of existing initiatives
- Shared service delivery

Council resourcing needed to manage increasing planning and enforcement responsibilities, may be partly addressed through regional coordination. A section addressing regional governance for public health is therefore recommended for the Public Health Plan.

7 References

1. South Australian Public Health Act 2011
9. Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU); Social Health Atlas of Australia, The University of Adelaide. These data are provided under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial Share Alike 3.0 Licence by attribution http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/


