Connected and Active Communities Community Reference Group Terms of Reference

Context

The Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing's (ORSR) Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025 establishes a vision to create an active state, connected communities and to inspire performance. The strategic plan acknowledges the trends and barriers to active living while also recognising that new partnerships, from diverse sectors, will be required.

The Connected Active Communities (CAC) Program is intended to support and guide the delivery of regional pilot projects which will increase movement, activity and play through a co-designed, community-driven, strengths-based, place-based approach.

Design principles

Place-based. An approach that targets the specific circumstances of a place and engages local people as active participants in development and implementation, requiring government to share decision-making.
Strengths based. Building capacity through the development of strengths and community assets, not dictate interventions based on what is not available. Strengths can include elements such as people, places, spaces, clubs, schools, industry, culture and traditions.
Community-led. Local community members work together to identify goals that are important to them, develop and implement plans to achieve those goals, and create collaborative relationships with external actors – all while building on community strengths and local leadership
Co-designed. Community members and stakeholders are brought together in a design-led process to design local initiatives.
Multisector. Establishing cross-sector relationships that contribute to and help deliver sustainable, community-driven solutions.
Action learning. Testing the CAC model through initial small-scale implementation with a spirit of continuous learning, adaptation and evaluation. Piloting new approaches enables this action learning element.

Collaboration principles

Respect. All participants feel welcome and are treated with dignity and respect.
Equality. All participants have an equal voice and their contributions are afforded the same weight.

Safety. Participants feel safe and supported and do not fear retribution for contributing to the co-design process. Group input is not attributed to any individual member without permission.
Accessibility. The co-design process is accessible to all participants
Commitment. The organisers are genuinely committed to co-design throughout the duration of the project – from planning through to implementation and review.

Authenticity. The process is meaningful; it is designed and implemented in a way that ensures the input from participants is incorporated into the final product.
Confidentiality. The material shared by the organising body, and by group members throughout the co-design process, is treated confidentially and not discussed outside the group.
Acknowledgement. The skills and experiences of all participants are acknowledged and valued, including through consideration of payments or honorariums for people participating in a personal capacity.

Membership

The Community Working Group will comprise a range of stakeholders including:

1 x District Council of Loxton Waikerie Representative.
1 x Berri Barmera Council Representative.
1 x Renmark Paringa Council Representative.
2 x Community Members from the District Council of Loxton Waikerie.
2 x Community Members from the Berri Barmera Council.
2 x Community Members from the Renmark Paringa Council.

Ex-Officio – Connected and Active Communities Project Officer (Riverland).

Group tasks

The community working group will involve members from different sectors across the community and will work with ORSR and the regional partners to:

- Review and update the strengths report, local initiatives and workplan collaboratively with the regional partners.
- Ensure alignment with councils' strategic objectives, business plans and financial plans.
- Provide oversight and monitoring of the delivery of the workplan.
- Review and assess the success and impact of CAC initiatives.
- Be a catalyst for new innovative thinking.
- Be community champions for creating active and connected communities.

Any working group recommendations will be reviewed and endorsed by the partnering council/s.

Schedule of meetings

Community working group meetings will be held on the following dates and will cover the following topics (subject to change):

- MOVE Riverland
- Inclusive Sports Academy
- Riverland Rec, Sport & Leisure Expo
- Riverland Sporting Academy
- Gamechanger
- Hardship program to assist diverse & LSE kids to take part in sport
- Activating local venues & natural assets
- School-based registration days
- Alternative sport formats
- Volunteer promotion/training

Meeting dates:
June 2025
September 2025
December 2025
March 2026
June 2026
September 2026
December 2026
March 2027

Community working group members may be requested to review material and provide input outside of formal meeting times.

Format of meetings

Community working group meetings will be held every quarter at the District Council of Loxton Waikerie Meetings will require a quorum of a simple majority (50% plus one).

Term of the group

The community working group will commence in June 2025 and be completed by April 2027.

Secretariat

The Connected and Active Communities Officer will be the Secretariat and prepares agendas, other papers and notes on behalf of the group.