



Media Release

Embargoed until 6 September 2022

Mount Barker – hip to be square

At their meeting on Monday night Mt Barker Council, together with Burke Urban Investments, reaffirmed their commitment to develop an integrated, mixed use development on a long underused piece of land in the CBD.

Set amongst high quality, medium-rise buildings and surrounded by a variety of shops, cafes, and community facilities, the proposed town square will be a focal point of social activity and medium sized community events.

Mt Barker Council General Manager Planning and Community, Marc Voortman said that the council will be engaging further with the community and stakeholders to seek input and guidance on key elements of the square's design and use.

“The development of a civic and community Hub on the site will also be the subject of significant community input in 2023, Mr Voortman said.

“Community input will be critical to guiding Council's decision making on this part of the city centre project.”

One of the first things the council will do is establish a Community Reference Group to have input into the design and construction of the city centre developments.

During the caretaker period before the council elections, activities will be limited to improving the information that the council provides about the town square and city centre.

“We'll be making the information on the council website and Your Say page clear, concise, easier to find, and in plain English, Mr Voortman said.

“We're also working on an updated town square fact sheet and written and video content that can be easily shared on social media to better explain the planned developments and improve community understanding of the projects.

“Following the election we'll be holding meetings with key community and business groups to make sure we understand their issues, and they understand the benefits of the project.

“These meeting will also be an opportunity for us to understand their preferred ways of being engaged in the future.”

Council will seek expressions of interest for the Community Reference Group and set up meetings with community and business groups over the next 2 months.

During this time members will be provided with updated information with the ability to provide input into the projects following the council election in November.

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