



Media Release

Embargoed until 6 September 2022

Strategy for future transport in Mount Barker

A local council has affirmed that future transport systems and infrastructure must align with the growth that is occurring in the district, promote the use of public transport with consideration of the re-establishment of passenger rail, and encourage increased active means of transport.

Traffic congestion, upgrades of local roads, more off road trails and cycle-ways across the district, and narrow street parking management were just some of the issues raised by residents responding to Mt Barker Council's draft transport strategy.

Over the last decade the Mt Barker district has seen significant population growth which is expected to continue for the next 15-20 years.

The draft strategy has been developed to guide the development of the council's integrated transport plan and associated actions through the continuing period of population growth.

It also lays the groundwork for setting priorities for discussions with the state government and other partners in areas of transport provision and funding that the council cannot do alone.

Six transport related themes were presented for the public to give feedback on in May and June this year: road network management, active transport, road safety, parking, public transport, and technology and innovation.

Mt Barker Council's Manager Infrastructure Planning, Matthew Dawkins said the council received fewer submissions than expected given the sometimes very active commentary on social media relating to transport within our district.

"Nonetheless, we did receive a number of well-considered and well written submissions from individuals and organisations which will influence the development of our Integrated Transport Plan, Mr Dawkins said.

"Something that came out quite clearly from the consultation was a greater need for community engagement at a project level, and increased traffic modelling and management specifically for the Mount Barker CBD."

Feedback on the public transport theme also confirmed the success of the Keoride

on-demand public transport trial.

“This didn’t really come as a surprise as previous surveys done by the Department of Infrastructure and Transport have shown that it is a popular and well regarded service, Mr Dawkins said.

“Council has adjusted its objective in the final transport strategy to more definitively seek for this service to move from being a trial to become permanently established and be expanded to a wider area within the district.”

The council will now start to develop action plans from the themes in the transport strategy with broader consultation to make sure that the views and needs of the community are fully captured.

The draft action plans are expected to be ready for endorsement from Council Members in April 2023.

- ENDS -

MEDIA CONTACT:

Mount Barker District Council Communications Manager, Ian Hildebrand

P: (08) 8393 6470 | E: ihildebrand@mountbarker.sa.gov.au