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Media Release

All on track for Gather Round

With under two weeks to go until the AFL Gather Round game between Brisbane Lions and North Melbourne at the Summit Sport and Recreation Park, Mt Barker Council is on track with preparations to make the ground ready for game day.

A road connecting the Summit Sport and Recreation Park to Heysen Boulevard in the Aston Hills estate has been finished giving visitors to the sportsground a choice of two entryways in a move that will help with traffic flow for the upcoming AFL game.

The link road was included in the council's Annual Business Plan for this financial year with the project being brought forward several weeks following the announcement last December that a Gather Round game was to be scheduled for Mount Barker.

Mt Barker Council Mayor, David Leach said that the completion of this important section of road will help with traffic flow to and from the park.

"A concrete footpath next to the link road will also let pedestrians and cyclists enter the park and have access to our network of trails right into the heart of Mount Barker," Mayor Leach said.

The council worked with Lanser, developers of the Aston Hills estate, to complete the road and acknowledged the ongoing collaborative relationship they had with the developer at the official opening of the link road on Monday.

"While the new section of road will be an enormous benefit to the community, on match day we encourage people to take advantage of one of the public transport options available," Mayor Leach said.

"There will be extra buses coming up from Adelaide, but also within the town. People who live in Mount Barker and all the surrounding towns can drive to one of the designated locations in Mount Barker and catch a shuttle bus to the game."

The new link road is one of several projects that are underway in preparation for the Gather Round game on 15 April.

New national AFL standard goal posts, coach boxes and perimeter fencing have been installed and will remain as a permanent part of the fixture after the Gather Round game.

Temporary infrastructure organised by the AFL, including grandstands, are being put in place to help accommodate the 7,500 people who have tickets to the game between the Lions and Kangaroos.

In addition to the preparations for the AFL game at the Summit Sport and Recreation Park, the council has been working with SA Tourism, community groups, local businesses, and other partners to organise complementary activities throughout the district.

“With around 50 per cent of ticket holders coming from interstate, this is a fantastic opportunity to promote the district and showcase the region,” Mayor Leach said.

“Council is supporting local businesses to highlight how magnificent the district and Adelaide Hills region is to encourage visitors to stay longer and explore our townships over the duration of the AFL Gather Round weekend.”

A feature of the activities being organised by the council will be entertainment on Stephen Street in Mount Barker on the Friday before, and on the day of the AFL game.

Big screens will be installed in Stephen Street for visitors and the community to watch the Friday night and Saturday games.

Accompanying this will be free family entertainment including live performances by popular Hills’ musicians, Ella and Sienna on Friday night.

“This highly anticipated match will bring our local community closer together and we are putting in our best effort to create and harvest the benefits from the Gather Round. Mayor Leach said.

“The excitement is building in the community and we thank the AFL and the state government for giving us this opportunity to deliver a great event that showcases our region.”

Details of activities in and around Mount Barker during the Gather Round weekend can be found on the council’s website mountbarker.sa.gov.au/discover/afl-gather-round

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