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Media Release

Welcome upgrade for Hahndorf's Main Street

Mount Barker District Council has welcomed an announcement by Minister Tom Koutsantonis to help fund vital infrastructure improvements to the main street of South Australia's premier tourist destination of Hahndorf and the freeway interchanges at Mount Barker and Verdun.

Council has been advocating for the main street of Hahndorf to be upgraded since 2018, with final plans for a multi-million-dollar upgrade approved by Council in 2020.

"Council is very pleased that after four years of championing this project and Council committing to a funding contribution, the Hahndorf Main Street upgrade can now progress to the next phase of detailed design with the expectation of entering the construction phase next year," Mount Barker District Council chief executive Andrew Stuart said.

"Council is awaiting a briefing with further information and will continue to work with the government and advocate for further consultation and collaboration on workable solutions to ease heavy vehicle traffic flow on the main street of Hahndorf, particularly during peak periods."

The Hahndorf Main Street upgrade includes plans for new street seating, enhanced outdoor dining areas, upgrades to footpaths within high pedestrian zones, footpath extensions, interpretive signage and heritage plaques for buildings, along with planting of new trees and landscaping and new green gateway treatments with trees and plants that reflect the character of Hahndorf.

Mr Stuart said the upgrade aimed to improve the amenity, safety and experience for those using the main street in a way that supported Hahndorf to remain a thriving Adelaide Hills community and one of South Australia's most loved tourism destinations.

Around one million tourists visit Hahndorf annually, delivering significant economic activity and employment.

"Significant investment by all three spheres of government in critical infrastructure and community services such as the Hahndorf Main Street upgrade is essential to underpin the rapid population growth in this region," Mr Stuart said.

Currently at around 40,000 people, the population of the Mount Barker district is estimated to reach 60,000 in around 15 years and ultimately between 75,000 and 80,000.

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