

Mount Barker District Community Plan

20
44



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Acknowledgement of country

Council would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands of the Mount Barker District. We respect the First Nations people and their spiritual relationship with their country and their cultural and heritage beliefs.

Our 2044 vision To be the most liveable region in South Australia.

Which means...

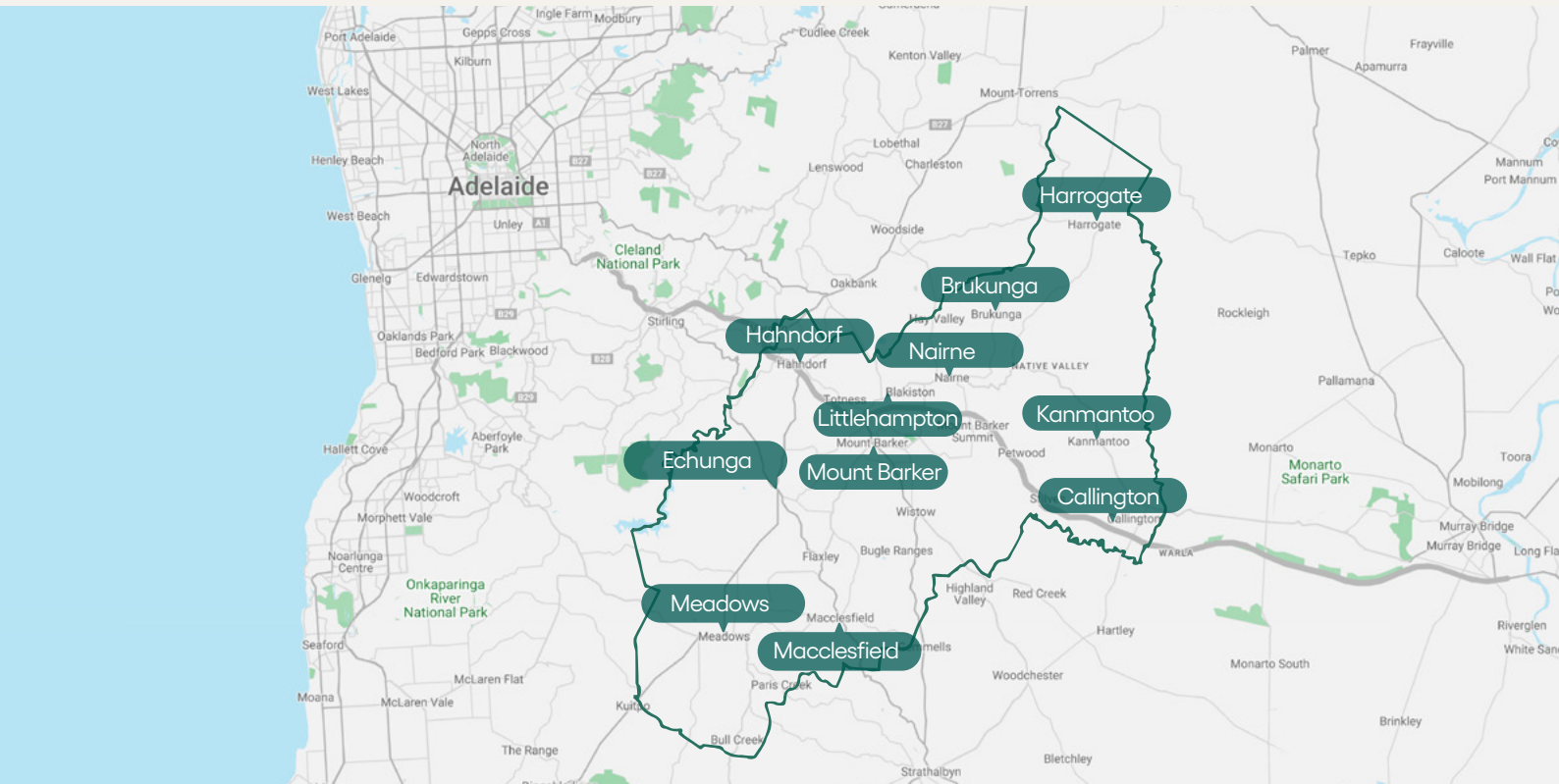
“A liveable place is somewhere that is: safe, attractive, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable; with affordable and diverse types of housing, public open space, local shops, health and community services, leisure and cultural opportunities; with opportunities for employment and education all accessible by convenient public transport, walking and cycling.”

— Australian Urban Observatory, 2024

Our 5 pillars to achieve this are



About us



Population growth

It's forecast that for the next 20 years (2024 - 2044) we will welcome on average a total of 927 people per year. Growing from a 2024 population of 44,772 to 63,321 people by 2044.

8 new homes a week

To keep pace with population growth 8 new homes a week need to be built. Growing from 17,562 homes in 2024 to 25,743 homes by 2044.



18.2%

More parents and homebuilders

The dominant age group is forecast to be 35-49-year-olds at over 18% of the total population.

Message from the Mayor

I am excited to present our Community Plan 2044, a testament to the remarkable growth and vibrancy of our District. As Mayor, I take pride in leading a community that stands as the fastest-growing metropolitan Local Government Area in South Australia and the 8th fastest in the nation.

At the heart of our plan is the concept of liveability—a term that encapsulates the very essence of our vision for Mount Barker.

Liveability, for us, is the compass guiding our strategies and themes. It's about crafting a future where every resident experiences a high quality of life, where our community is not just growing but thriving.

Our commitment to liveability is intricately woven into the five key pillars that shape this plan:

Pillar 1 – Environment

Pillar 2 - People

Pillar 3 - Place

Pillar 4 - Economy

Pillar 5 - Leadership

As we embark on this journey together, I am looking forward to shaping a district that not only grows but becomes the most liveable region in South Australia.

- Mayor David Leach

Message from the CEO

In 2024, close to 45,000 residents call our District home. By 2044, that figure is forecast to increase to 63,000 (an increase of 18,000). The largest proportion of that growth will occur in the Mount Barker Township growth area, which will see an additional 16,000 residents by 2044.

This accelerated growth brings with it unique challenges and opportunities, underscoring the importance of strategic planning to ensure our vibrant community remains cohesive, inclusive, and prosperous.

Our commitment to making Mount Barker the most liveable region in South Australia is at the heart of this Community Plan. Building on the successes and lessons of the past, we have crafted objectives under our five key pillars.

As we navigate the complexities of growth, we recognise the significance of sustainable development practices, preserving our natural assets, and fostering a sense of community that engages and supports every resident. The initiatives outlined in this plan are a road map toward a future where Mount Barker continues to thrive as a dynamic, liveable, and resilient community.

I would like to thank all our residents, businesses, and community organisations that actively participated in the consultation on this plan. Your insights and feedback were invaluable in shaping a vision that resonates with the aspirations of our diverse community.

The path ahead is both exciting and challenging, and I am confident that, as a united community, we will not only meet but exceed our goals.

- Andrew Stuart, CEO



Environment



The district is highly valued by the community for its natural assets that need protection and restoration. Council is dedicated to ensuring a thriving and sustainable future through intentional management of environmental assets including biodiversity, land, water and air. Our objectives are to:

- Adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change
- Conserve and restore nature and wildlife
- Ensure clean and plentiful water resources
- Increase urban greening
- Minimise waste and use resources efficiently

Environment Objectives

2044 Objective	Measure/s of success	How we will deliver the objective
1. Climate Change: Adapt and build resilience to the impacts of climate change and work towards reducing emissions in line with state and federal targets.	Lower Council and community emissions. Increase positive public perception in Council's efforts to manage climate change.	Strategy: Environment and Sustainability Action plan: Climate Change
2. Waste and Resource Management: Use resources carefully and efficiently, minimise waste and support the growth of the circular economy.	Reduce annual waste to landfill per capita. Increase positive public perception in Council's waste management services	Strategy: Environment and Sustainability Action plan: Waste to Resources
3. Greening: Establish high levels of canopy cover and biodiverse areas as part of our open space network and road reserves.	Increase canopy coverage.	Strategy: Environment and Sustainability Action plan: Greening
4. Nature and Wildlife: Protect, restore, connect and extend remnant vegetation and newly established native vegetation areas. Protect, restore and extend habitat for native species.	Increase quality and quantity of managed native vegetation areas.	Strategy: Environment and Sustainability Action plan: Biodiversity
5. Water: Conserve water and use it wisely. Implement water sensitive urban design practices to support the ecology, greening and liveability of urban areas.	Increase Council's recycled water reuse. Increase in the number of projects incorporating water sensitive urban design.	Strategy: Environment and Sustainability Action plan: Integrated Water Management





People



We understand that our people and the communities in which they live are by far our greatest asset. With many new residents moving to the district each year, creating connected, supportive and inclusive communities is an important focus for the Community Plan.

Our district is home to a diverse mixture of rural settlements and growing urban environments, so the need to build capacity in our communities to foster social inclusion, engage with young people and support those living with a disability has never been more important.

Council also recognises the need to support programs which allow our ageing residents to be active and engaged members of their communities and which provide opportunities to support ageing in place.

People Objectives

2044 Objective	Measure/s of success	How we will deliver the objective
6. Children and Youth: Our district will be an inclusive environment where children and young people can thrive, feel valued, heard and respected, and have the skills and resources to reach their full potential.	Reduced percentage of disengaged youth. Increase positive public perception in youth services provided within the district.	Strategy: Community Development Action plan: Children and Youth
7. Positive Ageing: We will have a range of community services, housing, support and programs which allow our seniors to live independently, be active and fully participate in our communities.	Increase positive public perception in services provided to seniors within the district.	Strategy: Community Development Action plan: Positive Ageing
8. Disability, Access and Inclusion: Ensure everyone in our community is supported to reach their full potential.	Increase positive public perception of disability, access and inclusion services / facilities within the district.	Strategy: Community Development Action plan: Disability, Access and Inclusion
9. First Nations People, Culture and Heritage: Recognise our First Nations people as Traditional Owners of the land.	Increase positive public perception in Council's recognition and respect for First Nations people.	Strategy: Community Development Action plan: Reconciliation
10. Community Connectedness and Diversity: Foster a sense of community and connectedness and celebrate diversity by promoting inclusivity, and creating opportunities for community to engage in meaningful dialogue, cultural exchanges and activities that celebrate the richness of diversity.	Increase positive public perception in access to festivals, events, art and cultural events.	Strategy: Community Development Action plan: All community development action plans
11. Volunteer Support and Recognition: Deliver, facilitate and support a diversity of volunteering opportunities and celebrate our volunteers for their valuable contributions.	Increase in the percentage of the population who volunteer. Increase positive public perception in volunteer support and recognition.	Strategy: Corporate Action plan: People
12. Safety and Resilience: Create an environment where people feel safe throughout the district and community resilience is supported and encouraged.	Increase positive public perception in community safety and emergency management.	Strategy: Corporate Action plan: Emergency Management





Place



Nestled in the Adelaide Hills, our district provides one of the most unique places in South Australia.

By preserving our natural landscapes and safeguarding our cultural heritage, we lay the groundwork for a vibrant community.

Through collaborative efforts with the government and private sectors, we aim to enhance our local surroundings, ensuring accessibility, and promoting community wellbeing.

We are dedicated to enriching our unique character while managing growth and development for the betterment of our community.

Place Objectives

2044 Objective	Measure/s of success	How we will deliver the objective
13. Housing: Ensure housing policies are current and provide diverse and affordable options that cater to the needs of all residents.	Increase in housing affordability. Increase in public perception for access to housing.	Strategy: Housing Action plan: Housing
14. Open Space and Public Realm: Enhance the accessibility and quality of public spaces for recreation, social interaction, wellbeing and environmental sustainability.	Reduction in the number of people who completed zero minutes of physical activity per week. Increase in public perception in playgrounds, parks and reserves.	Strategy: Open Space / Environment and Sustainability Action plan: Open space / Greening
15. Transport and Access: Develop a safe, integrated and efficient transport network that takes into account the current and future needs of the region including isolated rural communities.	Increase in walkability. Increase in regular transport access. Increase in public perception for traffic management and public transport access.	Strategy: Transport Action plan: All transport action plans
16. Community Facilities: Increase the use of community facilities to provide safe and accessible facilities which provide opportunities for social interaction and inclusion.	Increase in utilisation of community facilities. Increase in public perception for Council's playgrounds, parks and reserves.	Strategy: Property / Community Development Action plan: Property / All Community Development Action Plans Plans
17. Growth and Development: Ensure sustainable and balanced growth while preserving the unique character and natural assets of the district.	Increase in public perception in the management of responsible growth.	Strategy: All lead strategies of Council Action plan: All action plans of Council
18. Heritage: Safeguard and celebrate the cultural heritage and historical significance of the district.	Increase in number of heritage place enhancements funded through Council's Heritage Incentive Scheme. Increase in public perception for the preservation and promotion of local heritage places.	Planning Development and Infrastructure Act



Economy



A strong, diverse and growing economy provides the basis from which our community can prosper.

Supporting local businesses will create opportunities for growth and innovation, whilst producing quality local products and services.

Working in partnership with the government and the private sector we aim to attract investment that creates and sustains a thriving circular local economy that provides for a diverse range of local employment.

Our existing unique economic attributes will be strengthened whilst we explore new markets and opportunities for growth.

Together, we can build a resilient and dynamic economic landscape that leads us to a prosperous future.

Economy Objectives

2044 Objective	Measure/s of success	How we will deliver the objective
19. Local Employment and Skills Development: Cultivate a diverse and connected business environment where enterprises flourish. We aim to ensure local employment options provide residents with opportunities to live, learn, work and play in their community.	Decrease in local unemployment rate. Increase in total number of local jobs. Decrease in percentage of population that works outside the district.	Strategy: Economic Development Action plan: All Economic Development action plans
20. Growth and Productivity: Increase the scale and efficiency of local circular economic productivity, capturing new and expanding investment that creates a dynamic, resilient, sustainable and diverse local economy.	Increase in percentage share of State's Gross State Product. Increase in new business growth. Increase in annual Gross Regional Product.	Strategy: Economic Development Action plan: All Economic Development action plans
21. Events and Activation: Expand the existing events calendar to drive increased visitation, per capita spend, and to contribute to positive brand identity and community wellbeing.	Increase in total event attendance. Number of events supported or sponsored each year.	Strategy: Economic Development Action plan: Visitor Economy
22. Tourism: Enhance the local economy and community vibrancy by activating tourism through strategic investments in infrastructure, events and partnerships that showcase the region's unique attractions and cultural experiences.	Increase annual visitation spend.	Strategy: Economic Development Action plan: Visitor Economy
23. City Centre and Township Vibrancy: Support and develop a critical mass of business activation within key main street and employment precincts.	Reduction in vacancy rates.	Strategy: Economic Development Action plan: Small Business and Property
24. Infrastructure Development: Ensure the timely and effective delivery of critical infrastructure that supports the long-term growth and sustainability of the local economy.	Increase in Council's annual capital work program.	Strategy: Economic Development Action plan: All Economic Development action plans





Leadership



From inclusive decision-making and streamlined public services to fostering collaborations and continuous learning, our objectives are geared towards ensuring a responsive, accountable, and innovative Council that meets the needs of our community.

Leadership Objectives

2044 Objective	Measure/s of success	How we will deliver the objective
25. Leadership and Vision: Cultivate a culture of strong leadership within our organisation, including our Council Members, characterised by transparency, accountability and responsiveness to meet the diverse needs and aspirations of our community.	Increase in public perception in Council's leadership as well as a developed and communicated vision.	Strategy: Corporate Action plan: Governance / People / Communications
26. Transparent and Inclusive Decision-Making: Promote transparent and inclusive decision-making that ensures active engagement of diverse stakeholders and fosters trust and confidence in governance outcomes.	Increase in the number of community forums held and their attendance. Increase in public perception in Council's ability to listen to and respects community views.	Strategy: Corporate Action plan: Governance / Communications
27. Efficient Public Services: Enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of public services provided by Council ensuring timely delivery of services that meet the evolving needs of the community and provide value for money.	Increase in the public perception in value for money.	Strategy: Corporate Action plan: Business Information Systems / Customer Service
28. Collaboration and Partnerships: Foster collaboration and build strategic partnerships between Council and external stakeholders, including businesses, non-profit organisations and community groups, to address shared challenges and achieve common goals for the betterment of the community.	Increase in participation and number of community consultations undertaken.	Strategy: Corporate Action plan: Communications
29. Advocacy and Lobbying: Influence state and federal decisions which support Council's endorsed positions and increase incoming grant funding.	Increase in grant acquisition. Increase in public perception of advocacy and lobbying.	Strategy: Corporate Action plan: Advocacy
30. Continuous Learning and Innovation: Develop a culture of continuous learning and innovation within Council fostering creativity, adaptability, and excellence in service delivery and governance practices.	Total number of staff / Council Members participating in formal and informal professional development activities / training.	Strategy: Corporate Action plan: People



Summary of objectives to achieve our vision



Environment Objectives

1. Climate Change: Adapt and build resilience to the impacts of climate change and work towards reducing emissions in line with state and federal targets.

2. Waste and Resource Management: Use resources carefully and efficiently, minimise waste and support the growth of the circular economy.

3. Greening: Establish high levels of canopy cover and biodiverse areas as part of our open space network and road reserves.

4. Nature and Wildlife: Protect, restore, connect and extend remnant vegetation and newly established native vegetation areas. Protect, restore and extend habitat for native species.

5. Water: Conserve water and use it wisely. Implement water sensitive urban design practices to support the ecology, greening and liveability of urban areas.



People Objectives

6. Children and Youth: Our district will be an inclusive environment where children and young people can thrive, feel valued, heard and respected, and have the skills and resources to reach their full potential.

7. Positive Ageing: We will have a range of community services, housing, support and programs which allow our seniors to live independently, be active and fully participate in our communities.

8. Disability, Access and Inclusion: Ensure everyone in our community is supported to reach their full potential.

9. First Nations People, Culture and Heritage: Recognise our First Nations people as Traditional Owners of the land.

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Place Objectives

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14. Open Space and Public Realm: Enhance the accessibility and quality of public spaces for recreation, social interaction, wellbeing and environmental sustainability.

15. Transport and Access: Develop a safe, integrated and efficient transport network that takes into account the current and future needs of the region including isolated rural communities.

16. Community Facilities: Increase the use of community facilities to provide safe and accessible facilities which provide opportunities for social interaction and inclusion.

17. Growth and Development: Ensure sustainable and balanced growth while preserving the unique character and natural assets of the district.

18. Heritage: Safeguard and celebrate the cultural heritage and historical significance of the district.



Economy Objectives

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20. Growth and Productivity: Increase the scale and efficiency of local circular economic productivity, capturing new and expanding investment that creates a dynamic, resilient, sustainable and diverse local economy.

21. Events and Activation: Expand the existing events calendar to drive increased visitation, per capita spend, and to contribute to positive brand identity and community wellbeing.

22. Tourism: Enhance the local economy and community vibrancy by activating tourism through strategic investments in infrastructure, events and partnerships that showcase the region's unique attractions and cultural experiences.

23. City Centre and Township Vibrancy: Support and develop a critical mass of business activation within key main street and employment precincts.

24. Infrastructure Development: Ensure the timely and effective delivery of critical infrastructure that supports the long-term growth and sustainability of the local economy.



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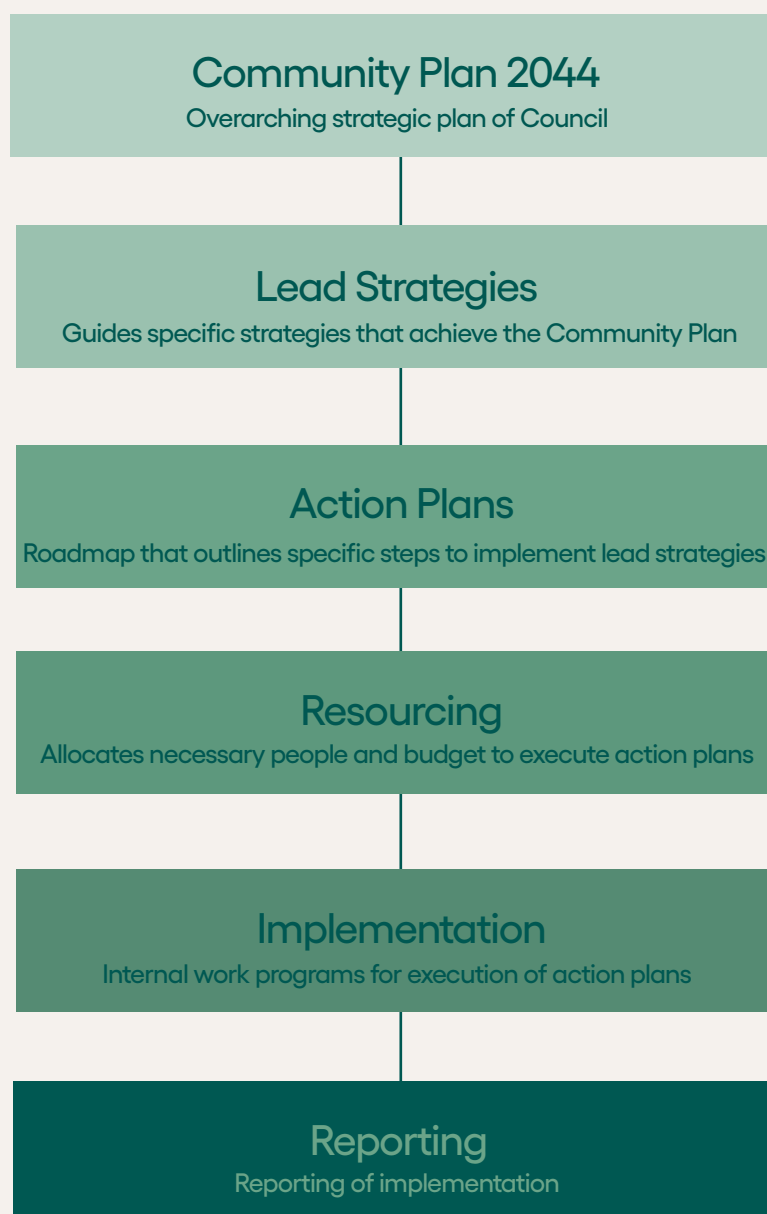
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Develop a culture of continuous learning and innovation within Council fostering creativity, adaptability, and excellence in service delivery and governance practices.

How we are delivering our vision



Your Council Members

At the time of producing this document your Council Members are detailed below. Their current term runs from 2022 to 2026.



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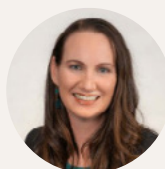
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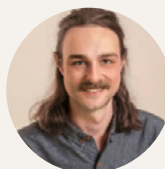
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