

## **Top Five Infrastructure Priorities for Government Support**

{Ref. 22/14068}

### Preamble:

- Mount Barker is continuing to experience rapid growth, most recently around 2,500 additional residents per annum.
- To date, only 15% of the 1,300 hectares rezoned by the State Government in 2010 has been developed.
- Timely investment in essential infrastructure is required to enable Mount Barker to fulfill the role of the regional centre, as it advances to being the second largest city (to Adelaide) in South Australia.
- The following list of infrastructure priorities is not exhaustive and excludes many other priority needs such as capital investment in wastewater and recycled water.

### **Project A: Transport Infrastructure: Completion of the Heysen Boulevard, Mount Barker; and Mass Transit Corridor to Adelaide**

#### Brief Description:

The Heysen Boulevard is a key connector road that runs through the entire Mount Barker growth area (1,300 hectares) that was rezoned by the State Government in 2010. Only 53% of the road has been constructed. The State Government mechanism for delivery sees construction by multiple developers in piece meal fashion resulting in numerous sections of road that don't connect. This is inhibiting major retail and commercial development, impacts emergency service response times, puts community safety at risk and is preventing access to public transport.

#### Current Status:

The Premier and successive Transport Ministers have been briefed by Council. Just last week Infrastructure SA released a Study that recommends Government bring forward the completion of Heysen Boulevard. Council continues to seek a commitment from Government to provide the required cash flow to enable the remaining 47% of the road to now be constructed.

Council supports the Infrastructure SA Study recommendation that the Government undertake “a comprehensive study that considers all modes of transport, including freight, that identifies the preferred corridor solution to enable more efficient and reliable access to Adelaide from the Hills for all modes of transport”.

## **Project B: Mount Barker Town Square and Associated Community Facilities**

### Brief Description:

Council has developed a vision for a diverse and active mix of uses in the Mount Barker city centre. The vision for the precinct includes community services, activity hubs and places for people to gather along with commercial, residential and business opportunities to create and support ongoing employment growth in the city centre.

The project is forecast to create an additional 450 jobs within the Mount Barker City Centre. Council has intentionally sought to stimulate private investment through this project as a way of creating significant local employment opportunities and to promote further business and community activity within the City Centre.

### Current Status:

Council has entered into a Heads of Agreement (February 2021) with Burke Urban Investments to progress the development of the multi stage project.

Council is in the process of submitting the stage 1 elements of the project for grant funding through the Federal Government Building Better Regions Fund (round 6).

## **Project C: Regional Emergency Services Infrastructure**

### Brief Description:

The State Government has previously advised Council of an objective to establish a regional emergency services hub in Mount Barker to cater for the SA Metropolitan Fire Service, Country Fire Service, SA Ambulance Service and State Emergency Service. Required response times and proximity to the freeway are key location criteria.

### Current Status:

Council has made a submission to the Parliamentary Select Committee into Ambulance Services, advocating for significant increases in service levels. Council has made numerous approaches to successive Ministers for Emergency Services and Chief Executives of the SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission but still awaits information as to the State Government’s intentions for a regional emergency services hub and the associated timing.

## **Project D: Major Expansion of the Mount Barker District Soldiers Memorial Hospital**

### Brief Description:

Council strongly supports the need to provide the community with the best possible medical care, now and into the future. The current Hospital and emergency services require significant investment of resources and infrastructure to accommodate the needs for the significant population growth that has occurred over the last decade and will continue for the next 30 years.

### Current Status:

There are current plans and funding for a Mt Barker Hospital Emergency Department Redevelopment.

Council welcomes the proposed expansion of the emergency department. This alone will not address the provision of health related services and infrastructure to meet the needs being generated by the rapidly growing population. The community urgently needs improved and extended access to not only emergency facilities but expanded services and capacity at the Mount Barker District Soldiers Memorial Hospital.

## **Project E: Hahndorf Main Street Revitalisation Project**

### Brief Description:

The Hahndorf Main Street Revitalisation project includes footpath upgrades, new street lighting, additional outdoor dining and on-street car parking opportunities, street furniture, additional landscaping and provision for crime prevention measures.

An estimated 1,000,000 tourists visit Hahndorf each year with the main attraction being the State Heritage listed Main Street. The project will ensure continued prosperity and enjoyment for all by way of improving the visual amenity and safety of the public realm.

### Current Status:

The State / Federal Government have announced a \$250m infrastructure project for Hahndorf under the heading of Hahndorf Township Improvements and Access Upgrade.

Despite being well positioned for funding through this project, there is no firm commitment from the Federal / State Government to include Council's Hahndorf Main Street Revitalisation in the scope of work. Council continues to advocate for a broadened scope of work given the level of funding available to include other critical infrastructure issues for the region.